



**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Date:** 9/24/2024  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Locations:** [Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – ID# 832 1285 7140 and  
City Council Chambers  
751 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

**City Councilmember Doerr will be participating from:**  
**395 Broadway, 13B**  
**New York, New York 10013**

Members of the public can listen to the meeting and participate using the following methods. If you have issues viewing the meeting, please email the city clerk at [jaherren@menlopark.gov](mailto:jaherren@menlopark.gov).

How to participate in the meeting

- Submit a written comment online up to one-hour before the meeting start time:  
[city.council@menlopark.gov](mailto:city.council@menlopark.gov)
- Attend in person in the City Council Chambers
- Access the meeting real-time online at:  
[Zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) – Meeting ID 832 1285 7140
- Access the meeting real-time via telephone at:  
(669) 900-6833  
Meeting ID 832 1285 7140  
Press \*9 to raise hand to speak

Watch meeting:

- Cable television subscriber in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton and Palo Alto:  
Channel 26 (Uverse channel 99)

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**Regular Session**

- A. Call To Order**
- B. Roll Call**
- C. Agenda Review**
- D. Public Comment**

Under “Public Comment,” the public may address the City Council on any subject not listed on the

agenda. Each speaker may address the City Council once under public comment for a limit of three minutes; in some instances, speaker time may be limited. You are not required to provide your name or City of residence, but it is helpful. The City Council cannot act on items not listed on the agenda and, therefore, the City Council cannot respond to non-agenda issues brought up under public comment other than to provide general information.

#### **E. Presentations and Proclamations**

E1. Proclamation: National Recovery Month ([Attachment](#))  
Not a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) project.

E2. Proclamation: Suicide Prevention Month ([Attachment](#))  
Not a CEQA project.

#### **F. Consent Calendar**

F1. Accept the City Council meeting minutes for August 27, 2024 ([Attachment](#))  
Not a CEQA project.

F2. Authorize the city manager to execute a maintenance agreement with Environmental Systems Inc. for the preventative maintenance and repair services for heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems preventative maintenance services and repairs and approve an appropriation of \$25,000 in unassigned funds from the general fund ([Staff Report #24-167-CC](#))  
Not a CEQA project.

F3. Approve advisory body annual work plans for the Complete Streets Commission, Environmental Quality Commission, Finance and Audit Commission, Housing Commission, Library Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission ([Staff Report #24-168-CC](#))  
Not a CEQA project.

F4. Authorize the Mayor to sign the City's response to the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury Report, "Assessing and Reporting Internal Controls in San Mateo County Agencies and School Districts" ([Staff Report #24-169-CC](#))  
Not a CEQA project.

F5. Adopt a resolution amending City Council Policy CC-19-002 Travel, Meal and Lodging Policy ([Staff Report #24-172-CC](#))  
Not a CEQA project.

F6. Adopt a resolution to authorize the city manager to execute a loan agreement, secured promissory note, deed of trust – leasehold, and below market rate housing agreement and declaration of restrictive covenants, each substantially in the form attached, with MidPen Housing Corporation with respect to a loan in the amount of \$2 million from the below market rate housing special revenue fund (Fund 222) for the construction and development of affordable housing at 795 Willow Rd., and approve the appropriation of \$2 million from the below market rate housing special revenue fund (Fund 222) in the fiscal year 2024-25 budget for the construction and development of affordable housing at 795 Willow Rd. ([Staff Report #24-173-CC](#))  
Not a CEQA project.

## **G. Public Hearing**

- G1. Consider and adopt resolutions amending the General Plan to include an Environmental Justice Element and to update the Safety Element ([Staff Report #24-165-CC](#)) ([Informe de Personal #24-165-CC](#))  
Determine the actions are addressed in a previously-certified subsequent environmental impact report under the CEQA.
- G2. Consider and adopt a resolution approving a variance to reduce the subdivision ordinance front setback requirement for an addition to an existing two-story, single-family residence at 600 Kenwood Dr. ([Staff Report #24-166-CC](#))  
Not a CEQA project.

## **H. Regular Business**

- H1. Adopt resolutions to approve side letters of agreement amending the memoranda of understanding between the City of Menlo Park and the Service Employees International Union Local 521, American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees Local 829, Menlo Park Police Officers' Association, and Menlo Park Police Sergeants' Association to modify medical premium contributions for 2025 ([Staff Report #24-170-CC](#))  
Not a CEQA project.

## **I. Informational Items**

- I1. City Council agenda topics: October 2024 ([Staff Report #24-174-CC](#))  
Not a CEQA project.
- I2. Communitywide electrification program: Home Upgrade Services progress report ([Staff Report #24-171-CC](#))  
Not a CEQA project.

## **J. City Manager Report**

## **K. City Councilmember Reports**

## **L. Adjournment**

At every regular meeting of the City Council, in addition to the public comment period where the public shall have the right to address the City Council on any matters of public interest not listed on the agenda, members of the public have the right to directly address the City Council on any item listed on the agenda at a time designated by the chair, either before or during the City Council's consideration of the item.

At every special meeting of the City Council, members of the public have the right to directly address the City Council on any item listed on the agenda at a time designated by the chair, either before or during consideration of the item. Special meetings of the City Council do not provide the opportunity for public comment on items not on the agenda (Cal. Gov. Code §54956.)

If you challenge any of the items listed on this agenda in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or before, the public hearing.

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# Proclamation

## Recognizing September as National Recovery Month

**WHEREAS**, National Recovery Month, recognized annually in September, spreads the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health; and

**WHEREAS**, treatment and prevention providers across the communities of San Mateo County have dedicated themselves to promoting recovery, saving lives, destigmatizing and educating the public about substance use and co-occurring disorders; and

**WHEREAS**, every day, in Menlo Park, community members and neighbors of all ages seek treatment for substance use and mental health disorders and begin the road to wellness and recovery in a system that emphasizes behavioral health as an essential part of overall health; and

**WHEREAS**, San Mateo County continues to support Recovery Month's mission to improve the lives of those living with these disorders, to celebrate individuals in recovery and to acknowledge those working to provide integrated recovery services; and

**WHEREAS**, prevention works, treatment is effective, and recovery is possible; and

**WHEREAS**, while the road to recovery may be difficult, the benefits of preventing and overcoming substance use and co-occurring disorders are significant and valuable to individuals, families, and communities. People can and do recover; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, the national theme, "Every Person. Every Family. Every Community." highlights the ways integrated care, a strong sense of community, sense of purpose and leadership all play a role in recovery; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Cecilia Taylor, Mayor of the City of Menlo Park, on behalf of the City Council and the City, do hereby proclaim September 2024 as Recovery Month. Let us remember there are multiple pathways to recovery and let us remember everyone's journey results in their own unique experience of recovery.

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Cecilia Taylor, Mayor  
September 24, 2024

# Proclamation

## Recognizing September as Suicide Prevention Month

**WHEREAS**, Menlo Park has joined the county, state, and country in honoring Suicide Prevention Month in September, which included National Suicide Prevention Week from September 8 – 14 and World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10, to spread the message that suicide can be prevented; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, over 10,000 calls were received by the San Mateo County Crisis Line run by StarVista Crisis Center; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is a preventable national and state public health problem with no single cause and suicide most often occurs when stressors exceed the coping abilities of a person struggling with a mental health condition; and

**WHEREAS**, no single suicide prevention program or effort is appropriate for all populations or communities and therefore we must also acknowledge and address the disparity in access to mental healthcare for underrepresented groups and advocate for ending these disparities by encouraging culturally informed and evidence-based mental healthcare and services; and

**WHEREAS**, residents can play a role in suicide prevention by supporting local Suicide Prevention Month every September and working within their communities to learn how to discuss suicide without increasing the risk of harm; and

**WHEREAS**, Menlo Park residents are also urged to play a role in supporting each other and preventing suicide by knowing the signs of suicide, finding the words to communicate, and reaching out to local 24/7 resources, including our local San Mateo County StarVista Crisis Hotline (650-579-0350) or National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988 or 1-800-273-TALK); and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Cecilia Taylor, Mayor of the City of Menlo Park, on behalf of the City Council and the City, do hereby designate September 2024 as Suicide Prevention Month and call upon everyone in our community to find their role in suicide prevention.



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT**

**Date:** 8/27/2024  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Locations:** Teleconference and  
City Council Chambers  
751 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

**Regular Session**

**A. Call To Order**

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

**Present:** Combs, Doerr, Nash, Taylor  
**Absent:** Wolosin  
**Staff:** City Manager Justin I. C. Murphy, Assistant City Manager Stephen Stolte, City Attorney Nira F. Doherty, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk Judi A. Herren

**C. Agenda Review**

The City Council reordered the agenda moving items G1. before E1.

**D. Public Comment**

- Greg Conlon spoke on their experience on the Town of Atherton Rail Committee.
- Leah Rogers spoke in support of the West Menlo Triangle annexation.
- Kevin Kranan spoke in support of the approved Housing Element and impacts to currently approved projects.
- Greg Faris with donated time from Andrea Beylen and Robert Faris spoke in support of the West Menlo Triangle annexation (Attachment).
- Jenny Michel spoke on suicide prevention month in September.
- John Butler spoke on suicide prevention month in September (Attachment).
- Henry Riggs spoke on maintenance issues brought to staff in years past (Attachment).
- Menlo Spark Executive Director Brian Schmidt spoke on full electrification for affordable housing in San Mateo County.
- Hauke Schmidt spoke in support of the West Menlo Triangle annexation.
- Regine Schmidt spoke in support of the West Menlo Triangle annexation.
- Ethan Edwards spoke in support of the West Menlo Triangle annexation
- Ron Snow spoke in support of the West Menlo Triangle annexation.
- Ray Mueller spoke in support of the West Menlo Triangle annexation.

The City Council received clarification on the status of the West Menlo Triangle annexation.

The City Council reordered the agenda.

## **G. Public Hearing**

- G1. Consider a City Council call-up of the Planning Commission’s approval of a use permit and architectural control permit to demolish an existing service station and construct a new service station, including a convenience store and car wash for Chevron, and a use permit to allow concurrent sale of beer and wine for off-premises consumption (Type 20 Alcoholic Beverage Control License) with motor vehicle fuel and 24-hour operations for the fueling pumps and limited 24-hour operations for the convenience store in the C-2-S (Neighborhood Commercial, Special) zoning district at 1399 Willow Rd. (Staff Report #24-150-CC)

Vice Mayor Combs was recused and exited the meeting.

Call-up requester Mayor Taylor made a presentation.

Senior Planner Chris Turner made a presentation (Attachment).

- Pam Jones spoke on concerns to the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements and pending updates to heritage tree ordinance and impacts of the removal of trees for the project.
- Marlene Santoya spoke on concerns to the neighboring residents from the construction of the project and community engagement and in support of removing the alcohol permit.
- Dennis spoke on concerns to the neighboring residents from the construction of the project and community engagement and suggested alternatives to the Hamilton Avenue reconfiguration.

The City Council received clarification on mitigation measures for impacted residents.

The City Council discussed the engagement with Chevron (applicant) and members of the public, additional opportunities for community engagement and the tree canopy.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Nash/ Taylor), to adopt a resolution denying a City Council call-up and modifying the Planning Commission's approval of a use permit and architectural control permit to construct a new service station, including a fueling pump canopy, convenience store, and drive-through carwash and a use permit for 24-hour operation of the fueling station and limited 24-hour operation of the convenience store and to remove the approval of the use permit for the concurrent sale of beer and wine between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. in the C-2-S (neighborhood commercial district, special) zoning district of a project located at 1399 Willow Rd, 3-0 (Combs recused and Wolosin absent).

The City Council took a recess at 7:32 p.m.

The City Council reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

Vice Mayor Combs rejoined the meeting.

## **E. Study Session**

- E1. Review and provide feedback on the affordable housing on City-Owned Downtown Parking Lots Feasibility Study and guidance on the next steps to implement Housing Element program H4.G (Staff Report #24-151-CC)

Principal Planner Tom Smith made the presentation (Attachment).



- Jenny Michele spoke in support of the Housing Element and affordable housing on City-owned downtown parking lots.
- Cheeky Monkey Owner Anna Chow spoke in support of downtown vibrancy and consideration of businesses and their need for parking and access for deliveries.
- Ruby O. spoke in support of affordable housing in downtown Menlo Park.
- Menlo Together representative Adina Levin spoke in support of affordable housing on City-owned downtown parking lots and studying parking and parking management.
- Ernesto Reyes spoke on concerns to City infrastructure for the needs of additional housing.
- Pam Jones spoke in support of affordable housing on City-owned downtown parking lots and development of parking structures in parallel.
- Jeff Schmidt spoke in support of accelerating the process through a request for qualifications (RFQ).
- Randy Avalos spoke on concerns regarding the sale of public land to private organizations.
- Bruce Naegel spoke on concerns to infrastructure from additional housing and electric vehicle (EV) charging for multifamily.
- Karen Grove spoke in support of affordable housing on City-owned downtown parking lots and clarifying that developers should be encouraged to utilize the City’s affordable housing overlay (AHO).

The City Council received clarification on Surplus Land Act exemption types, re-pavement of parking plazas timeline, current area median income (AMI) for San Mateo County, surplus land designation in relation to leasing/selling City-owned land, developer solicitation methods, pocket parks and resident accessibility to greenspace and funding and development phasing options.

The City Council discussed concerns on removal of parking, business community impacts, transfer of public land to private land, AMI limit options and requirements, developers with experience in community outreach (both residents and businesses), smaller scale projects completion timeline and retaining parking near Santa Cruz Avenue for retailers.

The City Council directed a disposition process moving forward with Surplus Land Act “exemption A,” interest in maintaining parking for residents, employees and downtown shoppers as part of the request for proposals/qualifications/information, highlighting and seeking partner with experience in community outreach and involvement with specialty development on these sites and generating as many affordable units as possible.

The City Council took a recess at 9:12 p.m.

The City Council reconvened at 9:24 p.m.

## **F. Consent Calendar**

- F1. Accept the City Council meeting minutes for August 12 and 13, 2024 (Attachment)
- F2. Adopt a resolution updating the event sponsorship policy (Staff Report #24-142-CC)
- F3. Adopt resolutions authorizing staff to submit applications to the San Mateo County Transportation Authority for Measures A & W Pedestrian and Bicycle Program (Staff Report #24-147-CC)

The City Council discussed seeking funds for city projects.

- F4. Adopt a resolution authorizing staff to submit an application to the San Mateo County Transportation Authority for Measure A Alternative Congestion Relief and Measure W Transportation Demand Management Program Funding (Staff Report #24-144-CC)

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Doerr/ Combs), to approve the consent calendar, 4-0 (Wolosin absent).

## H. Regular Business

- H1. Adopt a resolution to amend the 2030 climate action plan to include an implementation scope of work for 2025-2030 (Staff Report #24-149-CC)

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer made the presentation (Attachment).

- Menlo Spark Executive Director Brian Schmidt spoke in support of adopting an energy performance standard for new construction.
- Jeff Schmidt spoke in support of the scope of work.
- Susannah Hill spoke in support of the scope of work.
- John McKenna spoke in support of Climate Action Plan (CAP) strategy No. 1 Option 2.
- Bruce Naegel spoke in support of CAP strategy No. 1 Option 2 and frequently measured goals.
- Angela Evans spoke in support of CAP strategy No. 1 Option 2.
- Adina Levin spoke in support of CAP strategy No. 1 Option 2 and the correlation between buildings and traffic and transportation.

The City Council received clarification on 2025 State code effective date and implications to the city, cost analysis, performance model, rewiring homes related to Option 1 for Action 1.1, timeline, sea level rise funding from commercial properties, and an interest in additional bike racks.

The City Council discussed City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) committee vacancies, the Dumbarton bus express hours, EV city fleets, engaging community on biking with a bike share program, approaches across other cities, pursuing performance energy code and school considerations.

The City Council directed engaging community on biking with a bike share program and exploring bike, car and scooter shares under Strategy 4.10.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Doerr/ Nash), to adopt a resolution to amend the 2030 climate action plan to include an implementation scope of work for 2025-2030, and directing staff to pursue Option 1 pre-wiring, review the 2025 State code for potential amendment opportunities, include the bike, car and scooter shares under Strategy 4.10 and safe routes for all schools, 4-0 (Wolosin absent).

**ACTION:** By acclamation, the City Council extended the meeting past 11 p.m.

- H2. Adopt a resolution to approve the successor agreement between the City of Menlo Park and the Menlo Park Police Officers' Association expiring Aug. 31, 2027 (Staff Report #24-140-CC)

Administrative Services Director Brittany Mello made a presentation.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Combs/ Doerr), to adopt resolution to approve the successor agreement between the City of Menlo Park and the Menlo Park Police Officers' Association expiring Aug. 31, 2027,

and appropriate the additional funds from unassigned General Fund balance in the fiscal year 2024-25 budget, 4-0 (Wolosin absent).

- H3. Adopt a resolution to approve amendments to the Management Compensation Plan document for unrepresented management classifications effective Sept. 8, 2024 (Staff Report #24-145-CC)

Administrative Services Director Brittany Mello made a presentation.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Nash/ Combs), to adopt resolution to approve amendments to the Management Compensation Plan document for unrepresented management positions effective Sept. 8, 2024, 4-0 (Wolosin absent).

- H4. Adopt a resolution to amend the salary schedule effective Sept. 8, 2024 (Staff Report #24-146-CC)

Administrative Services Director Brittany Mello made a presentation.

The City Council discussed updating child care teacher wages.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Nash/ Combs), to adopt a resolution to approve the following amendments to the City of Menlo Park salary schedule effective Sept. 8, 2024:

1. Salary adjustments related to the successor memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the City and the Menlo Park Police Officers' Association;
2. Corresponding salary adjustments to the Menlo Park Police Sergeants' Association to retain a set salary differential with POA as required by the PSA MOU; and
3. Salary adjustments related to the unrepresented management group, 3-1 (Taylor dissenting and Wolosin absent).

## I. Informational Items

- I1. City Council agenda topics: September 2024 (Staff Report #24-148-CC)
- I2. Police department quarterly update – Q2 April – June 2024 (Staff Report #24-141-CC) (Informe de Personal #24-141-CC)
- I3. Tesla police patrol vehicle pilot update (Staff Report #24-143-CC)

## J. City Manager Report

City Manager Justin Murphy reported on the conclusion of the 2024 summer concert series, Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) and Burgess campus pool open house and the opening of fall recreation class registration.

## K. City Councilmember Reports

City Councilmember Doerr reported out on meeting with resident Greg Faris related to the Triangle annexation.

City Councilmember Nash reported out on Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) meeting.

Mayor Taylor reported out on Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) members and staff work on the CAP and CAP implementation.

**L. Adjournment**

Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:16 p.m.

Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi Herren



## STAFF REPORT

### City Council

Meeting Date:

9/24/2024

Staff Report Number:

24-167-CC

### Consent Calendar:

**Authorize the city manager to execute a maintenance agreement with Environmental Systems Inc. for the preventative maintenance and repair services for heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems preventative maintenance services and repairs and approve an appropriation of \$25,000 in unassigned funds from the general fund**

### Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the city manager to execute a three-year maintenance agreement with Environmental System Inc. (ESI) for the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC) preventative maintenance services and repairs for up to \$114,315 in fiscal year 2024-25, \$153,540 in fiscal year 2025-26, and \$158,717 in fiscal year 2026-27, for a total amount not to exceed \$426,572, with the option to extend the agreement for up to three additional one-year terms (Attachment A), and approve a \$25,000 appropriation for fiscal year 2024-25 from the unassigned fund balance of the general fund.

### Policy Issues

This action is consistent with the City's goal of maintaining its municipal infrastructure and extending the life and safety of its HVAC network.

### Background

In an effort to maintain cost-effectiveness and provide adequate servicing of city buildings, the city relies on contract services for HVAC preventative maintenance and repairs. HVAC maintenance is very specialized, and staff do not have the certifications required for the work. On June 27, 2023, the City Council authorized the city manager to enter into an agreement with ADVNC Air Technologies (now Accel Air Systems) for approximately \$89,988 a year inclusive of both routine HVAC maintenance and repairs. At the time that the agreement was executed, the Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) was still in construction and was not included in the contract. When the building was in the final stages of construction, staff requested a price addendum to include BHCC. On May 16, Accel Air Systems sent staff a price addendum for \$246,711 a year for all city buildings, \$174,723 (160%) more than the cost of the original agreement. On June 14, as staff engaged in negotiations for a lower price, Accel Air Systems submitted a notice to cancel the agreement effective Oct. 12, citing financial losses on the contract.

Pending the cancellation by Accel Air Systems, staff published a request for proposals (RFP) for HVAC preventative maintenance and repair services of the City's 13 buildings. The scope of work also included the ability to respond to emergencies within two hours and the provision of engineering and related services when needed. While the original contract with Accel Air Systems was based on an all-inclusive cost for both routine maintenance and emergency repairs, the RFP issued by staff requested a separate bid for routine

maintenance and hourly rates for as-needed repairs to allow for better tracking of the costs and services.

**Analysis**

On Aug. 30, staff received four proposals and selected the most qualified contractor based on the following criteria:

- Ability to perform the specific tasks;
- Qualifications of the specific individuals who will work on the project;
- Specific method or techniques to be used;
- Reasonableness of the schedule to complete each task element;
- Experience working with local public agencies within the County of San Mateo;
- Overall cost of the proposal; and
- Local office shall be within 40 miles of City of Menlo Park City Hall

Routine maintenance costs

Table 1 summarizes the proposal costs received for routine maintenance services, with the lowest bid provided by ESI. The bids varied significantly in price, with the second lowest bid 66% higher than the lowest. ESI offered the lowest base price and has contracts with other cities in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. ESI also has prior experience with the City, as they installed the HVAC system at the Onetta Harris Community Center in 2018. While Mechanical Services and Palms Mechanical met the qualifications, their references were for agencies outside of San Mateo County and they quoted higher prices. Because Cool Tech Mechanical, Inc. did not meet the submittal requirements, their proposal was deemed as incomplete.

Table 1: Proposals received for routine maintenance				
Estimated annual cost for maintenance	Environmental Systems, Inc.	Mechanical Services	Palms Mechanical	Cool Tech Mechanical, Inc.
Year 1: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025	\$103,540	\$155,480	\$441,720	Incomplete
Year 2: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026	\$103,540	\$160,144	\$535,983	
Year 3: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027	\$108,717	\$164,949	\$650,362	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$315,797</b>	<b>\$480,573</b>	<b>\$1,628,065</b>	

As-needed and emergency repair costs

The selected contractor would be responsible for addressing any as-needed and emergency repairs on approximately 215 components of HVAC equipment beyond routine maintenance. The costs to address as-needed repairs can vary greatly, depending on the nature of the issue. Because the agreement with Accel Air Systems was inclusive of both routine maintenance and repair work, the City does not have a breakdown of the costs that have been spent on the services for work beyond routine. On average, however, the HVAC contractor has typically completed six small repair jobs a year. To ensure sufficient funds are available for unexpected repairs, staff believes an additional \$50,000 per year may be needed for a total annual cost of \$153,000.

Total costs and recommendation

In total, the annual costs for HVAC services would increase from approximately \$89,000 a year for both routine and as-needed / emergency repairs, to approximately \$153,000 a year. While the new services

include an additional building, the increase in costs reflects the challenging market conditions. The \$153,000 a year, however, is significantly lower than the price provided by the current HVAC contractor as shown in Table 2. By issuing a new RFP, the City was able to obtain a lower cost for the services.

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the city manager to execute a three-year maintenance agreement with the option to extend three one-year terms with ESI for the HVAC preventative maintenance services and repairs. ESI provided the lowest base bid, has experience in Menlo Park and for other agencies in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, and has a local office less than 20 miles from the City. ESI’s hourly rates for repair service calls range from \$195 to \$300 depending on the time and day.

Description	Accel Air Systems	ESI
Fiscal year 2024-25: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	\$264,711	\$103,540
Repairs	Included	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$264,711</b>	<b>\$153,540</b>

**Impact on City Resources**

The fiscal year 2024-25 operating budget has approximately \$90,000 in remaining budget for HVAC services, which is funded by the general fund. This remaining balance accounts for the costs incurred until October by the current HVAC contractor. Table 3 summarizes ESI’s cost proposal prorated to eight and a half months and the additional budget requested for repairs for the current fiscal year, and the full cost for the future years. To ensure sufficient funds, staff is requesting an appropriation from the unassigned fund balance of the general fund for the current fiscal year.

For future years 2 and 3, staff will request the funds through the annual budget adoption process. After the budget is adopted by City Council, sufficient funds would be available starting July 1 for each of the future years of the agreement. If the contract is extended past the first three years, the price increase would not exceed the California Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers.

Date	Cost of maintenance	Budget for repairs	Estimated total
Year 1: Oct. 13, 2024 – June 30, 2025 (prorated based on eight and half months)	\$74,315	\$40,000	\$114,315
Year 2: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026	\$103,540	\$50,000	\$153,540
Year 3: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027	\$108,717	\$50,000	\$158,717
<b>Total cost for three years</b>			<b>\$426,572</b>

**Environmental Review**

This action is not a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §§15378 and 15061(b)(3) as it will not result in any direct or indirect physical change in the

environment.

**Public Notice**

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

**Attachments**

A. Maintenance agreement

Report prepared by:  
Joanna Chen, Management Analyst II

Reviewed by:  
Azalea Mitch, Public Works Director



**MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

City Manager's Office  
 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025  
 tel 650-330-6620



<b>Agreement #:</b>
<b>AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF MENLO PARK AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS, INC.</b>
THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into at Menlo Park, California, this _____, by and between the CITY OF MENLO PARK, a Municipal Corporation, hereinafter referred to as "CITY," and ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS, INC., hereinafter referred to as "FIRST PARTY."
<p>WITNESSETH:</p> <p>WHEREAS, CITY desires to retain FIRST PARTY to provide certain professional services for CITY in connection with that certain project called: HVAC maintenance and repair services</p> <p>WHEREAS, FIRST PARTY is licensed to perform said services and desires to and does hereby undertake to perform said services.</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE MUTUAL COVENANTS, PROMISES AND CONDITIONS of each of the parties hereto, it is hereby agreed as follows:</p>
<b>1. SCOPE OF WORK</b>
In consideration of the payment by CITY to FIRST PARTY, as hereinafter provided, FIRST PARTY agrees to perform all the services as set forth in Exhibit "A," Scope of Services.
<b>2. SCHEDULE FOR WORK</b>
<p>FIRST PARTY's proposed schedule for the various services required pursuant to this agreement will be as set forth in Exhibit "A," Scope of Services. CITY will be kept informed as to the progress of work by written reports, to be submitted monthly or as otherwise required in Exhibit "A." Neither party shall hold the other responsible for damages or delay in performance caused by acts of God, strikes, lockouts, accidents or other events beyond the control of the other, or the other's employees and agents.</p> <p>FIRST PARTY shall commence work immediately upon receipt of a "Notice to Proceed" from CITY. The "Notice to Proceed" date shall be considered the "effective date" of the agreement, as used herein, except as otherwise specifically defined. FIRST PARTY shall complete all the work and deliver to CITY all project related files, records, and materials within one month after completion of all of FIRST PARTY's activities required under this agreement.</p>
<b>3. PROSECUTION OF WORK</b>
FIRST PARTY will employ a sufficient staff to prosecute the work diligently and continuously and will complete the work in accordance with the schedule of work approved by the CITY. (See Exhibit "A," Scope of Services).

**4. COMPENSATION AND PAYMENT**

- A. CITY shall pay FIRST PARTY an all-inclusive fee that shall not exceed \$114,315 (of which \$40,000 are for as-needed repairs) for fiscal year 2024-25, \$153,540 (of which \$50,000 are for as-needed repairs) for fiscal year 2025-26, \$158,717 (of which \$50,000 are for as-needed repairs) for fiscal year 2026-27 for a total amount of \$426,572 as described in Exhibit "A," Scope of Services. All payments shall be inclusive of all indirect and direct charges to the Project incurred by FIRST PARTY. The CITY reserves the right to withhold payment if the City determines that the quantity or quality of the work performed is unacceptable.
- B. FIRST PARTY's fee for the services as set forth herein shall be considered as full compensation for all indirect and direct personnel, materials, supplies and equipment, and services incurred by FIRST PARTY and used in carrying out or completing the work.
- C. Payments shall be monthly for the invoice amount or such other amount as approved by CITY. As each payment is due, the FIRST PARTY shall submit a statement describing the services performed to CITY. This statement shall include, at a minimum, the project title, agreement number, the title(s) of personnel performing work, hours spent, payment rate, and a listing of all reimbursable costs. CITY shall have the discretion to approve the invoice and the work completed statement. Payment shall be for the invoice amount or such other amount as approved by CITY.
- D. Payments are due upon receipt of written invoices. CITY shall have the right to receive, upon request, documentation substantiating charges billed to CITY. CITY shall have the right to perform an audit of the FIRST PARTY's relevant records pertaining to the charges.
- E. FIRST PARTY Shall bill each month to City an original invoice for all Services performed and expenses incurred during the preceding month. Each such invoice shall contain the total agreement amount subtracting the invoices paid and billing. By submitting an invoice for payment under this Agreement, FIRST PARTY is certifying compliance with all provisions of the Agreement. FIRST PARTY shall not invoice City for any duplicate Services performed by more than one person. City shall independently review each invoice submitted by FIRST PARTY to determine whether the Services performed and expenses incurred are in compliant with the provisions of this Agreement. City will use its best efforts to cause FIRST PARTY to be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt of FIRST PARTY's correct and undisputed invoice, except as to any charges for Services performed or expenses incurred by FIRST PARTY which are disputed by City, or as provided in Section 6.3. In the event any charges or expenses are in dispute by City, the original invoice shall be returned by City to FIRST PARTY for correction and resubmission. Review and payment by City of any invoice provided by FIRST PARTY shall not constitute waiver of any rights or remedies provided herein or any applicable law. Consultant shall bill the City as services are complete. City reserves the right to deny payment to FIRST PARTY for any invoice submitted is more than 90 days after performance of Services or expenses incurred by FIRST PARTY.

**5. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

- A. FIRST PARTY, with regard to the work performed by it under this agreement shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, handicap, marital status or age in the retention of sub-consultants, including procurement of materials and leases of equipment.
- B. FIRST PARTY shall take affirmative action to insure that employees and applicants for employment are treated without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status or handicap. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation and selection for training including apprenticeship.
- C. FIRST PARTY shall post in prominent places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the provisions of this non-discrimination clause.
- D. FIRST PARTY shall state that all qualified applications will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status or handicap.
- E. FIRST PARTY shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and shall provide such reports as may be required to carry out the intent of this section.
- F. FIRST PARTY shall incorporate the foregoing requirements of this section in FIRST PARTY's agreement with all sub-consultants.

**6. ASSIGNMENT OF AGREEMENT AND TRANSFER OF INTEREST**

- A. FIRST PARTY shall not assign this agreement, and shall not transfer any interest in the same (whether by assignment or novation), without prior written consent of the CITY thereto, provided, however, that claims for money due or to become due to the FIRST PARTY from the CITY under this agreement may be assigned to a bank, trust company, or other financial institution without such approval. Notice of an intended assignment or transfer shall be furnished promptly to the CITY.
- B. In the event there is a change of more than 30 percent of the stock ownership or ownership in FIRST PARTY from the date of this agreement is executed, then CITY shall be notified before the date of said change of stock ownership or interest and CITY shall have the right, in event of such change in stock ownership or interest, to terminate this agreement upon notice to FIRST PARTY. In the event CITY is not notified of any such change in stock ownership or interest, then upon knowledge of same, it shall be deemed that CITY has terminated this agreement.

**7. INDEPENDENT WORK CONTROL**

It is expressly agreed that in the performance of the service necessary for compliance with this agreement, FIRST PARTY shall be and is an independent contractor and is not an agent or employee of CITY. FIRST PARTY has and shall retain the right to exercise full control and supervision of the services and full control over the employment, direction, compensation and discharge of all persons assisting FIRST PARTY in the performance of FIRST PARTY's services hereunder. FIRST PARTY shall be solely responsible for its own acts and those of its subordinates and employees.

**8. CONSULTANT QUALIFICATIONS**

It is expressly understood that FIRST PARTY is licensed and skilled in the professional calling necessary to perform the work agreed to be done by it under this agreement and CITY relies upon the skill of FIRST PARTY to do and perform said work in a skillful manner usual to the profession. The acceptance of FIRST PARTY's work by CITY does not operate as a release of FIRST PARTY from said understanding.

**9. NOTICES**

All notices hereby required under this agreement shall be in writing and delivered in person or sent by certified mail, postage prepaid or by overnight courier service. Notices required to be given to CITY shall be addressed as follows:

Azalea A. Mitch  
Public Works  
City of Menlo Park  
701 Laurel St.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
650-330-6740  
PWDirector@menlopark.gov

Notices required to be given to FIRST PARTY shall be addressed as follows:

Gene Infantino  
Environmental Systems, Inc.  
3353 De La Cruz Blvd.  
Santa Clara, CA 95054  
408-980-1711  
genfantino@esite.net

Provided that any party may change such address by notice, in writing, to the other party and thereafter notices shall be addressed and transmitted to the new address.

**10. HOLD HARMLESS**

The FIRST PARTY shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the CITY, its subsidiary agencies, their officers, agents, employees and servants from all claims, suits or actions that arise out of, pertain to, or relate to the negligence, recklessness, or willful misconduct of the FIRST PARTY brought for, or on account of, injuries to or death of any person or damage to property resulting from the performance of any work required by this agreement by FIRST PARTY, its officers, agents, employees and servants. Nothing herein shall be construed to require the FIRST PARTY to defend, indemnify or hold harmless the CITY, its subsidiary agencies, their officers, agents, employees and servants against any responsibility to liability in contravention of Section 2782.8 of the California Civil Code.

**11. INSURANCE**

- A. FIRST PARTY shall not commence work under this agreement until all insurance required under this Section has been obtained and such insurance has been approved by the City, with certificates of insurance evidencing the required coverage.
- B. There shall be a contractual liability endorsement extending the FIRST PARTY's coverage to include the contractual liability assumed by the FIRST PARTY pursuant to this agreement. These certificates shall specify or be endorsed to provide that thirty (30) days' notice must be given, in writing, to the CITY, at the address shown in Section 9, of any pending cancellation of the policy. FIRST PARTY shall notify CITY of any pending change to the policy. All certificates shall be filed with the City.
1. Workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance:  
The FIRST PARTY shall have in effect during the entire life of this agreement workers' compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance providing full statutory coverage. In signing this agreement, the FIRST PARTY makes the following certification, required by Section 18161 of the California Labor Code: "I am aware of the provisions of Section 3700 of the California Labor Code which require every employer to be insured against liability for workers' compensation or to undertake self-insurance in accordance with the provisions of the Code, and I will comply with such provisions before commencing the performance of the work of this agreement" (not required if the FIRST PARTY is a Sole Proprietor).
  2. Liability insurance:  
The FIRST PARTY shall take out and maintain during the life of this agreement such Bodily Injury Liability and Property Damage Liability Insurance (Commercial General Liability Insurance) on an occurrence basis as shall protect it while performing work covered by this agreement from any and all claims for damages for bodily injury, including accidental death, as well as claims for property damage which may arise from the FIRST PARTY's operations under this agreement, whether such operations be by FIRST PARTY or by any sub-consultant or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by either of them. The amounts of such insurance shall be not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in aggregate, or one million dollars (\$1,000,000) combined single limit bodily injury and property damage for each occurrence. FIRST PARTY shall provide the CITY with acceptable evidence of coverage, including a copy of all declarations of coverage exclusions. FIRST PARTY shall maintain Automobile Liability Insurance pursuant to this agreement in an amount of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for each accident combined single limit or not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for any one (1) person, and one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for any one (1) accident, and Three Hundred Thousand Dollars, (\$300,000) property damage.
  3. Professional liability insurance:  
~~FIRST PARTY shall maintain a policy of professional liability insurance, protecting it against claims arising out of the negligent acts, errors, or omissions of FIRST PARTY pursuant to this agreement, in the amount of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per claim and in the aggregate. Said professional liability insurance is to be kept in force for not less than one (1) year after completion of services described herein.~~
- C. CITY and its subsidiary agencies, and their officers, agents, employees and servants shall be named as additional insured on any such policies of Commercial General Liability and Automobile Liability Insurance, (but not for the Professional Liability and workers' compensation), which shall also contain a provision that the insurance afforded thereby to the CITY, its subsidiary agencies, and their officers, agents, employees, and servants shall be primary insurance to the full limits of liability of the policy, and that if the CITY, its subsidiary agencies and their officers and employees have other insurance against a loss covered by a policy, such other insurance shall be excess insurance only.
- D. In the event of the breach of any provision of this Section, or in the event any notice is received which indicates any required insurance coverage will be diminished or canceled, CITY, at its option, may, notwithstanding any other provision of this agreement to the contrary, immediately declare a material breach of this agreement and suspend all further work pursuant to this agreement.
- E. Before the execution of this agreement, any deductibles or self-insured retentions must be declared to and approved by CITY.

**12. PAYMENT OF PERMITS/LICENSES**

Contractor shall obtain any license, permit, or approval if necessary from any agency whatsoever for the work/services to be performed, at his/her own expense, before commencement of said work/services or forfeit any right to compensation under this agreement.

**13. RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY FOR SUB-CONSULTANTS AND/OR SUBCONTRACTORS**

Approval of or by CITY shall not constitute nor be deemed a release of responsibility and liability of FIRST PARTY or its sub-consultants and/or subcontractors for the accuracy and competency of the designs, working drawings, specifications or other documents and work, nor shall its approval be deemed to be an assumption of such responsibility by CITY for any defect in the designs, working drawings, specifications or other documents prepared by FIRST PARTY or its sub-consultants and/or subcontractors.

**14. OWNERSHIP OF WORK PRODUCT**

Work products of FIRST PARTY for this project, which are delivered under this agreement or which are developed, produced and paid for under this agreement, shall become the property of CITY. The reuse of FIRST PARTY's work products by City for purposes other than intended by this agreement shall be at no risk to FIRST PARTY.

**15. REPRESENTATION OF WORK**

Any and all representations of FIRST PARTY, in connection with the work performed or the information supplied, shall not apply to any other project or site, except the project described in Exhibit "A" or as otherwise specified in Exhibit "A."

**16. TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT**

- A. CITY may give thirty (30) days written notice to FIRST PARTY, terminating this agreement in whole or in part at any time, either for CITY's convenience or because of the failure of FIRST PARTY to fulfill its contractual obligations or because of FIRST PARTY's change of its assigned personnel on the project without prior CITY approval. Upon receipt of such notice, FIRST PARTY shall:
1. Immediately discontinue all services affected (unless the notice directs otherwise); and
  2. Deliver to the CITY all data, drawings, specifications, reports, estimates, summaries, and such other information and materials as may have been accumulated or produced by FIRST PARTY in performing work under this agreement, whether completed or in process.
- B. If termination is for the convenience of CITY, an equitable adjustment in the contract price shall be made, but no amount shall be allowed for anticipated profit on unperformed services.
- C. If the termination is due to the failure of FIRST PARTY to fulfill its agreement, CITY may take over the work and prosecute the same to completion by agreement or otherwise. In such case, FIRST PARTY shall be liable to CITY for any reasonable additional cost occasioned to the CITY thereby.
- D. If, after notice of termination for failure to fulfill agreement obligations, it is determined that FIRST PARTY had not so failed, the termination shall be deemed to have been effected for the convenience of the CITY. In such event, adjustment in the contract price shall be made as provided in Paragraph B of this Section.
- E. The rights and remedies of the CITY provided in this Section are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this agreement.
- F. Subject to the foregoing provisions, the CITY shall pay FIRST PARTY for services performed and expenses incurred through the termination date.

**17. INSPECTION OF WORK**

It is FIRST PARTY's obligation to make the work product available for CITY's inspections and periodic reviews upon request by CITY.

**18. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS**

It shall be the responsibility of FIRST PARTY to comply with all State and Federal Laws applicable to the work and services provided pursuant to this agreement, including but not limited to compliance with prevailing wage laws, if applicable.

**19. BREACH OF AGREEMENT**

- A. This agreement is governed by applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. Any material deviation by FIRST PARTY for any reason from the requirements thereof, or from any other provision of this agreement, shall constitute a breach of this agreement and may be cause for termination at the election of the CITY.
- B. The CITY reserves the right to waive any and all breaches of this agreement, and any such waiver shall not be deemed a waiver of any previous or subsequent breaches. In the event the CITY chooses to waive a particular breach of this agreement, it may condition same on payment by FIRST PARTY of actual damages occasioned by such breach of agreement.

**20. SEVERABILITY**

The provisions of this agreement are severable. If any portion of this agreement is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the agreement shall remain in full force and effect unless amended or modified by the mutual consent of the parties.

**21. CAPTIONS**

The captions of this agreement are for convenience and reference only and shall not define, explain, modify, limit, exemplify, or aid in the interpretation, construction, or meaning of any provisions of this agreement.

**22. LITIGATION OR ARBITRATION**

In the event that suit or arbitration is brought to enforce the terms of this agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to litigation costs and reasonable attorneys' fees. The Dispute Resolution provisions are set forth on Exhibit "B," 'Dispute Resolution' attached hereto and by this reference incorporated herein.

**23. RETENTION OF RECORDS**

Contractor shall maintain all required records for three years after the City makes final payment and all other pending matters are closed, and shall be subject to the examination and /or audit of the City, a federal agency, and the state of California.

**24. TERM OF AGREEMENT**

This agreement shall remain in effect for the period of October 13, 2024 through June 30, 2027 unless extended, amended, or terminated in writing by CITY.

**25. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

This document constitutes the sole agreement of the parties hereto relating to said project and states the rights, duties, and obligations of each party as of the document's date. Any prior agreement, promises, negotiations, or representations between parties not expressly stated in this document are not binding. All modifications, amendments, or waivers of the terms of this agreement must be in writing and signed by the appropriate representatives of the parties to this agreement.

**26. STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST**

Consultants, as defined by Section 18701 of the Regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission, Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations, are required to file a Statement of Economic Interests with 30 days of approval of a contract services agreement with the City of its subdivisions, on an annual basis thereafter during the term of the contract, and within 30 days of completion of the contract.

Based upon review of the Consultant's Scope of Work and determination by the City Manager, it is determined that Consultant IS NOT required to file a Statement of Economic Interest. A statement of Economic Interest shall be filed with the City Clerk's office no later than 30 days after the execution of the agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement on the day and year first above written.

**FOR FIRST PARTY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tax ID#

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nira F. Doherty, City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**FOR CITY OF MENLO PARK:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Justin I.C. Murphy, City Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**EXHIBIT "A" – SCOPE OF SERVICES****A1. SCOPE OF WORK**

FIRST PARTY agrees to provide consultant services for CITY's Public Works Department. In the event of any discrepancy between any of the terms of the FIRST PARTY's proposal and those of this agreement, the version most favorable to the CITY shall prevail. FIRST PARTY shall provide the following services:

Provide general consultant services for projects as determined by the CITY. The detailed scope of work for each task the CITY assigns the consultant shall be referred to as Exhibit A -1, which will become part of this agreement. A notice to proceed will be issued separately for each separate scope of work agreed to between the CITY and FIRST PARTY.

FIRST PARTY agrees to perform these services as directed by the CITY in accordance with the standards of its profession and CITY's satisfaction.

**A2. COMPENSATION**

CITY hereby agrees to pay FIRST PARTY at the rates to be negotiated between FIRST PARTY and CITY as detailed in Exhibit A-1. The actual charges shall be based upon (a) FIRST PARTY's standard hourly rate for various classifications of personnel; (b) all fees, salaries and expenses to be paid to engineers, consultants, independent contractors, or agents employed by FIRST PARTY; and shall (c) include reimbursement for mileage, courier and plan reproduction. The total fee for each separate Scope of Work agreed to between the CITY and FIRST PARTY shall not exceed the amount shown in Exhibit A-1.

FIRST PARTY shall be paid within thirty (30) days after approval of billing for work completed and approved by the CITY. Invoices shall be submitted containing all information contained in Section A5 below. In no event shall FIRST PARTY be entitled to compensation for extra work unless an approved change order, or other written authorization describing the extra work and payment terms, has been executed by CITY before the commencement of the work.

**A3. SCHEDULE OF WORK**

FIRST PARTY'S proposed schedule for the various services required will be set forth in Exhibit A-1.

**A4. CHANGES IN WORK -- EXTRA WORK**

In addition to services described in Section A1, the parties may from time to time agree in writing that FIRST PARTY, for additional compensation, shall perform additional services including but not limited to:

- Change in the services because of changes in scope of the work.
- Additional tasks not specified herein as required by the CITY.

The CITY and FIRST PARTY shall agree in writing to any changes in compensation and/or changes in FIRST PARTY's services before the commencement of any work. If FIRST PARTY deems work he/she has been directed to perform is beyond the scope of this agreement and constitutes extra work, FIRST PARTY shall immediately inform the CITY in writing of the fact. The CITY shall make a determination as to whether such work is in fact beyond the scope of this agreement and constitutes extra work. In the event that the CITY determines that such work does constitute extra work, it shall provide compensation to the FIRST PARTY in accordance with an agreed cost that is fair and equitable. This cost will be mutually agreed upon by the CITY and FIRST PARTY. A supplemental agreement providing for such compensation for extra work shall be negotiated between the CITY and the FIRST PARTY. Such supplemental agreement shall be executed by the FIRST PARTY and may be approved by the City Manager upon recommendation of the Department Head.

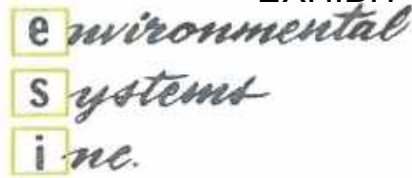
**A5. BILLINGS**

FIRST PARTY's bills shall include the following information: A brief description of services performed, project title and the agreement number; the date the services were performed; the number of hours spent and by whom; the current contract amount; the current invoice amount; Except as specifically authorized by CITY, FIRST PARTY shall not bill CITY for duplicate services performed by more than one person. In no event shall FIRST PARTY submit any billing for an amount in excess of the maximum amount of compensation provided in Section A2.

The expenses of any office, including furniture and equipment rental, supplies, salaries of employees, telephone calls, postage, advertising, and all other expenses incurred by FIRST PARTY in the performances of this agreement shall be incurred at the FIRST PARTY's discretion. Such expenses shall be FIRST PARTY's sole financial responsibility.

## EXHIBIT "B" - DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- B1.0** All claims, disputes and other matters in question between the FIRST PARTY and CITY arising out of, or relating to, the contract documents or the breach thereof, shall be resolved as follows:
- B2.0 Mediation**
- B2.1** The parties shall attempt in good faith first to mediate such dispute and use their best efforts to reach agreement on the matters in dispute. After a written demand for non-binding mediation, which shall specify in detail the facts of the dispute, and within ten (10) days from the date of delivery of the demand, the matter shall be submitted to a mutually agreeable mediator. The Mediator shall hear the matter and provide an informal opinion and advice, none of which shall be binding upon the parties, but is expected by the parties to help resolve the dispute. Said informal opinion and advice shall be submitted to the parties within twenty (20) days following written demand for mediation. The Mediator's fee shall be shared equally by the parties. If the dispute has not been resolved, the matter shall be submitted to arbitration in accordance with Paragraph B3.1.
- B3.0 Arbitration**
- B3.1** Any dispute between the parties that is to be resolved by arbitration as provided in Paragraph B2.1 shall be settled and decided by arbitration conducted by the American Arbitration Association in accordance with the Construction Industry Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association, as then in effect, except as provided below. Any such arbitration shall be held before three arbitrators who shall be selected by mutual agreement of the parties; if agreement is not reached on the selection of the arbitrators within fifteen (15) days, then such arbitrator(s) shall be appointed by the presiding Judge of the court of jurisdiction of the agreement.
- B3.2** The provisions of the Construction Industry Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association shall apply and govern such arbitration, subject, however to the following:
- B3.3** Any demand for arbitration shall be writing and must be made within a reasonable time after the claim, dispute or other matter in question as arisen. In no event shall the demand for arbitration be made after the date that institution of legal or equitable proceedings based on such claim, dispute or other matter would be barred by the applicable statute of limitations.
- B3.4** The arbitrator or arbitrators appointed must be former or retired judges, or attorneys at law with last ten (10) years' experience in construction litigation.
- B3.5** All proceedings involving the parties shall be reported by a certified shorthand court reporter, and written transcripts of the proceedings shall be prepared and made available to the parties.
- B3.6** The arbitrator or arbitrators must be made within and provide to the parties factual findings and the reasons on which the decisions of the arbitrator or arbitrators is based.
- B3.7** Final decision by the arbitrator or arbitrators must be made within ninety (90) days from the date of the arbitration proceedings are initiated.
- B3.8** The prevailing party shall be awarded reasonable attorneys' fees, expert and non-expert witness costs and expenses, and other costs and expenses incurred in connection with the arbitration, unless the arbitrator or arbitrators for good cause determine otherwise.
- B3.9** Costs and fees of the arbitrator or arbitrators shall be borne by the non-prevailing party, unless the arbitrator or arbitrators for good cause determine otherwise.
- B3.10** The award or decision of the arbitrator or arbitrators, which may include equitable relief, shall be final, and judgment may be entered on it in accordance with applicable law in any court having jurisdiction over the matter.



## SECTION 1: COVER LETTER

Environmental Systems Inc, of Northern California (ESI) home office is located at 3353 De La Cruz Blvd., Santa Clara, Ca. and has a satellite office located in Sacramento. Authority to bind contracts: V.C. Enfantino, [cenfantino@esite.net](mailto:cenfantino@esite.net), President and E.L. Enfantino, [genfantino@esite.net](mailto:genfantino@esite.net), Secretary/Treasurer. They can be reached at (408) 980-1711.

ESI is a S Corporation, incorporated in California and was Incorporated in 1975

ESI holds a B License, with the following classifications: B, C20, C36, C38, C43, C-4. License #422478.

Environmental Systems, Inc. staff includes approximately 100 employees. Our staff is very committed, with the majority of our team being employed by us long term.

Environmental Systems, Inc. is recognized as being a first-class Mechanical Contractor of the highest quality. ESI is a full-service mechanical contracting company with engineering and installation expertise in HVAC, Plumbing, Architectural Sheet Metal, Energy Management Controls, Service and General Contracting in Northern & Central California. ESI has extensive experience with City and County Municipalities, Schools (DSA), Colleges, Universities and Private Schools.

ESI is a union shop and bondable.

Proposer's point of contact is Ken Filice, [kfilice@esite.net](mailto:kfilice@esite.net), office phone (408) 980-1711 located at 3353 De La Cruz Blvd., Santa Clara, CA 95054

ESI has been in business for over 47 years. Since the inception of the Company ESI has been providing HVAC service and maintenance for Public Works entities.

ESI will demonstrate what makes us a good fit working with the City of Menlo Park. Our Service Department has maintained and serviced the, City of Milpitas, City of San Jose, County of Santa Clara, County of San Mateo, many school districts to name a few.

Environmental Systems, Inc. looks forward to working with you. If you have any questions or if we can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

**ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS, INC.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "V.C. Enfantino".

V.C. Enfantino  
President



CCL #422478

**SECTION 2:**

- ESI service employees will comply with Security Checks through the Menlo Park Police Department. Please note: presently All 15 of ESI service mechanics have been thru the DOJ background checks for other public agencies ESI contracts with. ESI presently services many public entities including schools, county, and city municipalities.
- ESI currently holds a C20 license, see attached.
- ESI currently employs eleven (11) full-time journeymen-level mechanical personnel and supplies our staff with agency uniforms and will wear photo identification tag with Contractor logo.
- ESI will provide Staffing levels that include staff that is certified and proficient in the complete maintenance and repair of chiller systems with reciprocating compressors, oil-free centrifugal chiller systems with Turbocore compressors, air handlers, pneumatic systems, and a variety of package HVAC units. Additionally, service levels shall provide the ability to respond immediately to situations involving the health and safety of employees and/or the public and the comfort and operational capability of any public meeting space. Routine repairs, service requests or other nonurgent tasks shall be completed by journey level staff within one (1) working day from the date of the request or assignment from a City Representative.
- ESI will obtain a Menlo Park business license
- If required, ESI will provide a Faithful Performance Bond and Material Payment Bond.
- Please see attached contractor's license.
- ESI is a union contractor and pays union wages.
- ESI DIR # is **1000001175**

EXHIBIT A-1



CONTRACTORS  
STATE LICENSE BOARD  
ACTIVE LICENSE



License Number **422478**

Entity **CORP**

Business Name **ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS INC**

Classification(s) **C20 C36 C38 C43 B C-4**



Expiration Date **05/31/2026**

[www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov)

**E.S.I. SERVICE and MANAGEMENT; KEY PERSONNEL for the CITY of MENLO PARK**

**Chase Fisher- Director of Service Operations**

Chase has been director of service operations for 15 years, with 25 years overall at E.S.I. He is responsible for all coordination project planning, and construction support interface of the service division of E.S.I.

Chase also oversees all service estimation and engineering for equipment replacement and performance modifications. He started in the HVAC trade as an apprentice in the mid 90's, through the Local 393's five-year training program. Chase ranked in the 90th percentile throughout his entire apprenticeship. He also achieved an associate degree from Foothill College, as well as several HVAC related credentials, during his training. He manages the daily operations of over 20 plus service technicians. The service department under Chase encompasses HVACR service, environmental chambers, and constructions service support.

**Kenneth Filice Senior Project Manager**

Ken Filice has 35 years of experience in the HVAC industry. Ken started his career as a field mechanic Union Local 393. Worked as an HVAC service manager for 10 years before becoming a project / construction manager. Worked as Construction Manager for UCSC and as Administrator Construction Manager for SJUSD. Manages projects as GC and Mechanical Prime contractor including a 5-year (\$45,000,000) HVAC / Control upgrade public works project. Works with all divisions of ESI for project coordination and project delivery.

**T.J. Kay- Energy Management Controls Division Manager**

T.J. Kay has 35+ years of experience in HVAC and controls installation, service and design. T.J. has installed over 500 control systems and serviced numerous others. He is experienced in data center technologies and energy services solutions, and energy analytics. T.J. and his team are proficient in Delta Controls, Johnson, and Novar.

**Doug Common- Energy Management Controls Division Manager**

Doug has a total of 20 + years of programming and design engineering experience with E.S.I. He heads a department fully proficient in AutoCAD and front-end user interface graphics. He is a critical part of the start-up and commissioning of HVAC projects. Doug serves as a technical consultant to engineers, mechanical contractors, and suppliers. He and his team have achieved the highest levels of controls manufacturers' certification. These include Honeywell, Johnson, and Pelican.

**Cale Fisher- HVACR- Mechanic / Service Account Manager Private**

Cale has been with E.S.I. for 6 years; and has been employed in the HVAC industry for 25 years. Cale has provided project management support for E.S.I. on our largest service accounts. He is certified to provide service on Toshiba frequency drives, Lochinvar controls and Honeywell Tridium Controls. Cale provides expertise training and guidance to the ESI Service dept. apprentice's chamber division. Cale is a member of Local 393.

**Nick Filice- HVACR-Mechanic / Service Account manager Public**

Nick has been with E.S.I. for 12 Years; and has been employed in the HVAC industry for 12 years. His service experience includes all types of HVAC, package equipment boilers and chillers. He has worked on clean rooms, chillers, cooling towers, boilers, refrigeration. For the past three years Nick; oversees all the ESI government service customers (local, city, county, school districts) Nick is a member of Local 393.

**WORK EXPERIENCE/REFERENCES***(Required)****Years the Company has been in the Trade*** 49 Years

Provide locations and contact information regarding three (3) projects or services that have been completed by your company in the last three (3) years within the Bay Area or San Joaquin Valley. Examples are to be of a similar type as type work you are bidding on and with a public agency.

Please provide a list of references of (3) on a separate sheet of paper if different than the ones listed below.

**PROJECT I**

LOCATION AND FOR AGENCY PERFORMED:	City of Milpitas
CONTACT PERSON AND PHONE NUMBER:	Samu Tiimalu Phone 408-586-2648
YEAR PERFORMED:	4 years
TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED:	HVAC / BMS Maintenance Service and Replacement
CONTRACT AMOUNT:	Over 1 million HVAC/BMS Service over 4 years

**PROJECT II**

LOCATION AND FOR AGENCY PERFORMED:	City of Campbell
CONTACT PERSON AND PHONE NUMBER:	David Fanucchi 408-866-2194
YEAR PERFORMED:	12 years
TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED:	HVAC / BMS Maintenance Service and Replacement
CONTRACT AMOUNT:	Over \$750K HVAC/BMS Service over contract duration

**PROJECT III**

LOCATION AND FOR AGENCY PERFORMED:	City of Salinas
CONTACT PERSON AND PHONE NUMBER:	Sean Schmidt 831-970-7644
YEAR PERFORMED:	5 years
TYPE OF WORK PERFORMED:	HVAC / BMS Maintenance Service and Replacement
CONTRACT AMOUNT:	Over \$650K HVAC/BMS Service over 5 years

Additionally, this section shall include a listing of any lawsuit or litigation and the result of that action resulting from (a) any public project undertaken by the Contractor or by its subcontractors where litigation is still pending or has occurred within the last five years or (b) any type of project where claims or settlements were paid by the contractor or its insurers within the last five years; Not applicable

**Work Experience**

Page 1 of 1



**PRICING SUMMARY**

City Manager's Office  
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025  
tel 650-330-6620

**Background**

The basis of award will be the sum of a three (3) year proposal. Prices are valid for 90 days from proposal due date and shall be all-inclusive for services specified in this proposal (Attachment B). The annual increase for the three (3) year proposal (which may extend for three (3) additional one-year terms) should not exceed the California Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Metropolitan Statistical Area (CPI-U).

The scope of work set forth herein is approximate only, being given as a basis for the comparison of bids. The City does not expressly or by implication agree that the actual amount of work will correspond therewith, and reserves the right to change the amount of any class or portion of the work or to omit portions of the work. The City reserves the right to increase or decrease scope of work as deemed necessary.

Prevailing Wages Workers employed in the work must be paid at rates at least equal to the current prevailing wage scale as determined by the State Director of the Department of Industrial Relations.

**Proposed Annual Cost for Programmed Maintenance**

**Include all labor, materials, and equipment necessary to perform the Scope of Work listed in the RFP.**

<b>Building</b>	<b>Annual cost for Year 1 July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025</b>	<b>Annual cost for Year 2 July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026</b>	<b>Annual cost for Year 3 July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027</b>
City Hall/Police	\$ 14,480.00	\$ 14,480.00	\$ 15,204.00
Council Chambers	\$ 2,160.00	\$ 2,160.00	\$ 2,268.00
Menlo Children's Center	\$ 6,840.00	\$ 6,840.00	\$ 7,182.00
Main Library	\$ 15,480.00	\$ 15,840.00	\$ 16,254.00
Arrillaga Family Gymnasium	\$ 13,440.00	\$ 13,440.00	\$ 14,112.00
Arrillaga Family Recreation Center	\$ 12,440.00	\$ 12,440.00	\$ 13,062.00
Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center	\$ 12,440.00	\$ 12,440.00	\$ 13,062.00
Burgess Pool	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 1,953.00
Corporation Yard Service Center	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 1,953.00
Belle Haven Child Development Center	\$ 3,520.00	\$ 3,520.00	\$ 3,696.00
Neighborhood Service Center	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 1,953.00

Belle Haven Community Campus	\$ 17,160.00	\$ 17,160.00	\$ 18,018.00
<b>Total annual cost</b>	<b>\$ 103,540.00</b>	<b>\$ 103,540.00</b>	<b>\$ 108,717.00</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>\$ 315,797.00</b>		
<b>Proposed Hourly Rates for System Repairs</b>			
System Repairs will be ordered as needed on a "Time and Materials" basis. Enter labor rates for any personnel who may be deployed for system repairs. Cost of materials shall be paid by City and the Proposer proposes a <u>15</u> % mark-up to be applied to all materials costs and shall provide documentation of all such costs to be paid by the City.			
<b>Service description</b>	<b>Hourly rates</b>		
Regular time labor rate	\$ 195.00		
Weekday overtime rate	\$ 240.00		
Weekend overtime rate	\$ 240.00		
Holiday rate	\$ 300.00		
Emergency and after hour rate	\$ 240.00		
Engineering services	\$ 150.00		
Other equipment (Specify)	\$ NA		
Other (Specify)	\$ NA		

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR HVAC PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES AND REPAIRS

Public Works  
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025  
tel 650-330-6740



Description	
The City of Menlo Park (City) is seeking a well-qualified firm to provide a comprehensive heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) maintenance and repair program for twelve (12) City buildings (Attachment A). The work will include the provision of a total maintenance/management program including, but not limited to the inspection, periodic/preventative maintenance (Attachment B), repairs, service calls and other tasks and services necessary to insure safe, well-maintained HVAC systems providing quality air for City employees and the public.	
Mandatory pre-submittal meeting at Council Chambers (751 Laurel St, Menlo Park): August 14, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.	
Proposals due: August 30, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.	
Attn: Julio Martell, Public Works Supervisor - Facilities	
Project manager tel: 650-330-6780	For questions, please submit through PlanetBids.

**CITY OF MENLO PARK'S ELECTRONIC BIDDING SITE, PLANETBIDS**

<https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/46202/portal-home>

**Statement of purpose**

A qualified contractor is needed to provide maintenance and repair services for various HVAC systems in twelve (12) city buildings.

**Background information**

The City currently contracts for maintenance and repair of HVAC Systems and Components in twelve (12) City buildings. The City seeks proposals to provide services for three years, and at its sole discretion, may elect to extend the service contract for three (3) additional one-year terms.

Qualified contractors must have the ability and sufficient resources to perform the following tasks:

- Establish a periodic preventative maintenance program for all HVAC equipment, including emergency repairs and replacement;
- Respond to emergencies within two (2) hours;
- Finish repairs in a timely manner;
- Provide cost efficient and effective HVAC maintenance services;
- Minimize interruptions to City operations
- Ensure consistent and reliable HVAC maintenance services from one contractor for all City-owned/operated facilities
- Troubleshoot and repair energy management systems (EMS); and
- Must have experience with all-electric HVAC equipment
- Provide engineering and related services when needed.

Systems and components in all city-maintained buildings include, but not limited to, forced air heating units, variable air volume (VAV) boxes, heat pumps, split systems, air handlers, boilers, chillers, circulation pumps, exhaust fans, control systems, Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) (Attachment C).

**Scope of work**

The Contractor shall retain professional personnel who have successfully and competently provided municipal facility HVAC maintenance and repair services on projects of similar scope and complexity. For the purpose of this contract, routine preventative HVAC maintenance shall be defined as scheduled routine inspection and proactive servicing of HVAC systems so as to facilitate heating/cooling with minimal downtime (Attachment B). The routine maintenance and all repairs shall be provided in accordance with the highest standards of the industry, skill, workmanship, applicable trade practices, meet warranties and in conformance to all applicable laws, codes and regulations. The Contractor's preventative maintenance and repairs shall, at a minimum, include but not limited to the specifications outlined herein.

It is the contractor's responsibility to:

- Provide an appropriate level of on-site staffing as needed; and
- Provide appropriate tools (if using handheld equipment, contractor shall use battery-powered equipment) and vehicles necessary to support all building HVAC equipment during normal business hours 7:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Monday through Fridays and recognize holidays excepted and for response after normal working hours.

Contractor's services are to be compliant with all Federal, State, CARB, AQMD, OSHA, ASHRAE, and all other applicable regulatory requirements.

Contractor shall repair or replace failed or worn moving parts (such as: bearings, motor rotors, motor starters, seals, gears, burners, actuators, controls and switches). Prior to beginning any repair or replacement, Contractor will troubleshoot the system to diagnose the system's problems. The City shall not incur any extra charge for this service. Contractor shall itemize the equipment list (Attachment C) covered under repair or replaceable. If HVAC equipment is not repairable, contractor will replace with an equivalent type that has been approved by the City.

Contractor shall provide labor and material to perform preventative maintenance, service and repair of all HVAC equipment. All filters, belts, annual testing and written report of the chilled water and semi-annual boiler, water treatment, grease, refrigerant, oil, touch-up, paint, and mechanical, electrical, miscellaneous parts and materials needed to maintain the equipment to service, repair, and maintain to the manufacturer's specifications will be included in this proposal.

Work not included in this proposal will be as the following:

- Original system design and installation;
- Utility company service problems;

- Non-moving parts (such as heat exchangers, boiler tubes, shells, condenser tubes, gas, and water piping);
- Natural gas supply;
- Air distribution duct work;
- Air balance;
- Thermal insulation;
- Improper operation;
- Negligence or misuse of equipment by persons occupying the space, the owner, the owner's representative, or vandals;
- Alteration, additions, or repairs made by others' catastrophic acts of nature; equipment interiors and exteriors;
- Plumbing;
- Electrical service beyond the parts of the heating, cooling, and ventilation equipment;
- Electrolysis;
- Work required by governmental agencies or insurance agencies;
- Removing, replacing, or altering any part of the building structure in the performance of this agreement; and
- Individual ceiling mounted restroom ventilation fans.

#### **Emergency call out service**

Contractor shall provide 24-hour emergency service as needed in all aspects of HVAC emergency repair for the City facilities included in this specification. Hours shall be Monday through Friday 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. and 24 hours each day on weekends and Holidays. Contractor shall have working personnel on-site within two (2) hours of the call-out, or respond by telephone to the City Representative within thirty (30) minutes if the problem is capable of being corrected through the use of a computer and/or a mobile device (such as tablet, cellphones, laptop) to alleviate the source of complaint.

#### **HVAC maintenance and monitoring**

Contractor is responsible, but not limited to, the following tasks:

- Respond to indoor temperature complaints and provide expeditious correction and record complaints and corrections at all City buildings;
- Inspect all HVAC systems at least once each year, with seasonal start-up and run inspections performed and documented;
- Review the contract and through monitoring and inspections verify that the services described in Attachment B are performed;
  - For all types of HVAC pumps: Lubricate bearings and test pumps semi-annually. Inspect couplings and check for leaks. Investigate unusual noises.
- Perform air-handling unit maintenance, which includes, but is not limited to, all services recommended by manufacturer.

#### **Annual maintenance**

Contractor will perform scheduled annual and multi-annual preventive maintenance in accordance with services described in Attachment B as well as a program of standard routines as determined by contractor's experience, equipment application, and equipment operating hours that are recommended by each equipment manufacturer and location. The equipment included under these services are itemized in the list of equipment (Attachment C). For any maintenance that requires the use of handheld equipment, contractor shall use battery-operated alternatives.

#### **HVAC air filter changing service**

This service will maintain indoor air quality by changing filters quarterly and minimizing dust and particles from collecting on ductwork. However, the filters for the Gymnastics, Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and Menlo Children's Center shall be replaced monthly. This service will ensure proper flow through cooling and heating coils; thus, preventing restrictions in airflow, leading to higher system and energy efficiency. All filters shall be pleated high efficiency and MERV13 filters.

#### **Air cooled condenser coil cleaning**

This service will improve airflow across condenser coils, improve heat transfer and extend the life of the compressors. Coil cleaning consists of:

- Cleaning the outside surface of the condensing unit coils to remove any airborne particles and dirt build-up by using a brush or high-pressure air; and
- Using chemical with low- or high-pressure wash based on the condition of outside environment and coil accessibility.

**Evaporator coil and cleaning**

Contractor will clean air handling unit evaporator coils that will help improve air circulation in the air distribution system, and reduce dust and dirt that is in the system. Coil cleaning will:

- Be done at a time that is mutually agreeable between the contractor and city staff;
- Consist of cleaning the surface of the evaporator coil to remove dust and dirt particles that have collected on the evaporator coil; and
- Use a vacuum cleaner and/or other devices that allow the proper cleaning of the coil.

**Operating inspection – Heating**

This service will help to assure mechanical equipment continues to operate efficiently, safely and with little operating disruptions during the operating season. Contractor will provide routine operating inspection(s) to check system performance in accordance with a program of standard routines as determined by the City, the equipment manufacturer's published recommendations, equipment application, and location. A list of the tasks included with this service is outlined in Attachment B.

**Water treatment services**

Contractor will perform water treatment service and testing for both hot water and chilled water loops at the City Hall/Police and Main Library.

Semi-annual testing and written report of boiler system water to be sampled and tested by an independent qualified laboratory.

Annual testing and written report of chiller water to be sampled and tested by an independent qualified laboratory.

**Billable work**

All work beyond and in addition to the scope of the contract shall be considered billable hours and will require approval from city staff (Attachment D).

**Outcome and performance standards**

Contractor shall keep a log of work (with employee's name, tasks done, and date the work is done) and city staff must approve the work before contractor begins a new task. The Contractor shall provide the project manager a list of recommended repairs a week (7 days) after each scheduled inspections.

**Proposal preparation and submittal**

The City will review all contractor proposals received. Proposals shall be brief, precise, and organized as follow:

Section 1: Cover letter (1 page maximum)

A signed cover letter including an executive summary and statement of understanding of this RFP. Include a brief description of your firm's qualifications for performing the requested services. The letter shall contain the contact and signature of a firm representative who has the authority to execute contracts

Section 2: Qualifications

Please including the following information:

- Provide security checks for all personnel assigned to work under this contract. Security checks will be coordinated through Menlo Park Police Department (MPPD). MPPD will run security checks of all personnel assigned to work under this contract. The records check will include finger printing, Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) wanted person system check, California Driver's License check, and review of any local record. The City will be responsible for the costs associated with this process. Additional checks will be required for all new employees during the lifetime of the contract and all expenses shall be borne exclusively by the contractor. The City reserves the right to approve/refuse any prospective employees of the contractor as a result from the background check.

The following information must be provided to the City Representative no less than thirty (30) days prior to any employee's start of work:

Full legal name  
 Social Security number  
 California driver's license or identification number

Birth date  
Current valid address

Damages: The Contractor will be responsible for all damages to the facility or contents caused by Contractor, their staff or subcontractors during the performance of their duties.

- Hold current C-20 license;
- Have in its employ at least four (4) full-time journeymen-level mechanical personnel; and
- Supply their staff with their agency uniform and photo identification tags that will be worn at all times. Uniforms shall display the Contractor logo and employee first or last name shall be clearly visible.
- Provide a staffing level that will provide the desired level of customer service, program support, HVAC maintenance and repair for all City buildings.

Staffing levels should include staff that is certified and proficient in the complete maintenance and repair of chiller systems with reciprocating compressors, oil-free centrifugal chiller systems with Turbocore compressors, air handlers, pneumatic systems, and a variety of package HVAC units. Additionally, service levels shall provide the ability to respond immediately to situations involving the health and safety of employees and/or the public and the comfort and operational capability of any public meeting space. Routine repairs, service requests or other non-urgent tasks shall be completed by journey level staff within one (1) working day from the date of the request or assignment from a City Representative.

The journey-level worker(s) shall be proficient in the following trades:

- All mechanical, electronic, hydronic, and pneumatic aspects of hot water (heating) systems;
- All mechanical, electronic and pneumatic aspects of chilled water systems;
- Chiller systems;
- VFD drives;
- Air handling systems; and
- The interface and control of existing EMS systems
- Menlo Park business license
- If the annual costs for Year 1, 2, and 3 (Attachment D) exceeds \$25,000, the awarded contractor will be required to furnish a Faithful Performance Bond and a Labor and Material Payment Bond each in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the Annual Contract Cost. Each bond shall be in the City forms (Attachment E), shall be secured from a surety company that meets all State of California bonding requirements, as defined in California Code of Civil Procedure Section 995.120, and that is a California admitted surety insurer. Any cost associated with providing such bonds must be included in the bid price. The awarded contractor shall deliver these documents within fourteen (14) calendar days after being notified by the City that they have been awarded the contract. The awarded contractor will be required to submit a renewal bond annually.

The contractor shall provide a copy of all required licenses or certifications with the proposal and shall obtain a Menlo Park business license and bond documents before services begin.

Prevailing Wages Workers employed in the work must be paid at rates at least equal to the current prevailing wage scale as determined by the State Director of the Department of Industrial Relations.

DIR Registration no contractor or subcontractor may be awarded a contract for work exceeding \$25,000 unless registered with the State of California Department of Industrial Relations, and eligible to bid on Public Works projects <http://www.dir.ca.gov>

### Section 3: Project team

Identify key individuals from your firm and any subcontractors proposed. List the project manager on your firm's behalf and include descriptions of each personnel's role on the project. This section should also provide an overview of each team member's qualifications and relevant experience for the scope of work. Provide resumes summarizing such qualifications for the Project Team. List any subcontractors to be used and their certifications. Subcontractors must also be fingerprinted, pass background check, and receive prior approval from the city.

### Section 4: References

Provide at least three (3) references where work was performed within the past five (5) years of a similar size and nature of this agreement, preferably public entities in the San Francisco Bay Area. Include a brief description of the

services provided; the employer’s contact information (names, phone numbers, and email addresses); key employee personnel involved; and number of years providing the service.

Additionally, this section shall include a listing of any lawsuit or litigation and the result of that action resulting from (a) any public project undertaken by the Contractor or by its subcontractors where litigation is still pending or has occurred within the last five years or (b) any type of project where claims or settlements were paid by the contractor or its insurers within the last five years.

**Section 5: Pricing summary**

Prices quoted include labor, materials, use of tools and construction equipment, supervision and administration, payroll and sales taxes, insurance, overhead and profit, permits and fees; and any or all other costs that are necessary and appropriate to the proper and timely performance of the work. Prices are valid for 90 days and shall be all inclusive for services specified in this proposal (Attachment D).

The Contractor shall set forth for each item of work a yearly price and a total for three (3) year price, all in clearly legible figures in the respective spaces provided for this purpose. In the case of unit basis items, the amount set forth under the “Total” column shall be the extension of the item price bid on the basis of the estimated quantity for the item.

In case of conflict between an item price in words and the price in figures, the price in words shall prevail. In case of discrepancy between an item price and the total set forth for a unit basis item, the item price shall prevail. However, if the amount set forth as an item price is ambiguous, illegible or uncertain for any cause, or is omitted, or is the same amount as the entry in the “Total” column, then the amount set forth in the “Total” column for the item shall prevail and shall be divided by the estimated quantity for the item and the price thus obtained shall be the item price.

Failure to provide the required information, or if information provided is subsequently proved false, the Proposal shall be considered as non-responsive and shall be grounds for rejection of the bid.

Additionally, the Contractor shall include the number of hours that will be necessary to perform the described duties, per facility and aggregate.

**Submittal process**

Electronic proposals will be received in electronic format on the City’s PlanetBids Portal available at <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/46202/portal-home>. Proposals will be received up to **Friday, August 30, 2024 at 5:00 PM**. Please note that Submitters must be pre-registered with the City’s bidding system in order to submit an electronic proposal.

City staff will review the proposals and select the most qualified firm based on the following criteria:

1. Ability to perform the specific tasks (20%)
2. Qualifications of the specific individuals who will work on the project (15%)
3. The specific method or techniques to be used (10%)
4. Reasonableness of the schedule to complete each task element (10%)
5. Experience working with local public agencies within the County of San Mateo (10%)
6. Overall cost of the proposal (30%)
7. Local office shall be within 40 miles of City of Menlo Park City Hall (701 Laurel St, Menlo Park, CA 94025) (5%)

After reviewing each proposal, the City will notify each Contractor in writing. The City reserves the right to complete the selection project without proceeding to an interview phase, and the City may choose to select a contractor based upon information supplied in the proposal.

**Process schedule**

The City aims to complete its evaluation of proposals per the tentative timeline below. A more detailed schedule will be established as the project progresses and changes may be pending. It is important to attend the mandatory pre-submittal meeting to assess and evaluate the City’s equipment.

Mandatory pre-submittal meeting at 10AM	August 14, 2024
Questions due by 2PM	August 20, 2024
Responses to questions issued	August 26, 2024
Proposals due at 5PM	August 30, 2024
Interviews (if needed)	September 4, 2024



	Contractor selection	September 9, 2024	
	City Council award contract, if needed	September 24, 2024	
<b>Point of contact for future correspondence</b>			
<p>Please direct all inquiries to:                  Julio Martell                  Public Works Supervisor, Facilities                  Pwsupportstaff@menlopark.gov                  650-330-6780</p>			
<b>Term of contract</b>			
<p>The City intends to execute a three-year contract with the most qualified contractor(s) with an option to extend on a yearly basis for up to three (3) one-year terms. The Contract(s) will be awarded at the discretion of the Menlo Park City Council. The City of Menlo Park reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals received as a result of this request, to negotiate with any qualified source, or to cancel in part or in its entirety this RFP. Proposals and materials submitted will become the property of the City and will not be deemed confidential or proprietary.</p> <p>These increases may not exceed the previous 12-month change in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Consumer Price Index (all items, not seasonally adjusted, for all urban consumers). In all cases, the City may cancel the contract if a requested price increase is not acceptable.</p> <p>The contract may be terminated by either party upon a 30-day certified letter notice for any reason. Termination of the contract pursuant to this paragraph may not relieve the Contractor of any liability to City for damages sustained by City because of any breach of contract by Contractor, and City may withhold any payments to Contractor for the purpose of set-off until the exact amount of damages due the City from Contractor is determined. Agreement template language may not be modified.</p>			
<b>Payments</b>			
<p>The Contractor shall submit invoices to the City's invoices to the City's Payment Portal. Invoices must include a general summary of scope of work relative to the contract total and remaining fund for the City's review and approval. The Contractor shall submit invoices when installation and removal are complete. The City reserves the right to reject any invoice, which does not abide by the above criteria until these terms are reviewed and satisfied.</p>			
<b>Contractual terms and conditions</b>			
<p>The Contractor shall submit invoices to the City's invoices to the City's Payment Portal. Invoices must include a general summary of scope of work relative to the contract total and remaining fund for the City's review and approval.</p> <p>The Contractor shall submit invoices when installation and removal are complete. The City reserves the right to reject any invoice, which does not abide by the above criteria until these terms are reviewed and satisfied.</p>			



# LIST OF CITY BUILDINGS

Public Works  
333 Burgess Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025  
tel 650-330-6780

Building name	Address	Square footage
City Hall/Police	701 Laurel Street	55,264
Council Chambers	751 Laurel Street	4,225
Menlo Children's Center	801 Laurel Street	12,409
Main Library	800 Alma Street	33,470
Arrillaga Family Gymnasium	600 Alma Street	22,395
Arrillaga Family Recreation Center	700 Alma Street	16,579
Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center	501 Laurel Street	17,250
Burgess Pool	501 Laurel Street	2,946
Corporation Yard Service Center	333 Burgess Drive	14,740
Belle Haven Child Development Center	410 Ivy Drive	6,980
Neighborhood Service Center	871 Hamilton Avenue	1,938
Belle Haven Community Campus	100 Terminal Avenue	37,000

**PERIODIC MAINTENANCE SERVICE SCHEDULE** EXHIBIT A-1

Public Works  
333 Burgess Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025  
tel 650-330-6780



<b>Background</b>
The following tasks listed herein for each equipment type will be performed at the intervals planned. These tasks are designed to place the equipment into prime operating condition so that the equipment will operate effectively, reliably, and efficiently. Frequency shall be yearly (once a year) unless noted otherwise.
<b>Rooftop packaged units</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventative maintenance</li> <li>• Lock out and tag out equipment as required</li> <li>• Check all electrical wiring, connections. Tighten as required.</li> <li>• Check all motor starter contactor surfaces for wear (quarterly)</li> <li>• Clean electrical control enclosures</li> <li>• Lubricate air handling unit motor bearings and fan bearings, if applicable</li> <li>• Check air handling unit belts for wear and change as required (quarterly)</li> <li>• Check belt tension and sheave alignment</li> <li>• Check condition of evaporator coils and chemically clean (quarterly)</li> <li>• Check and clean condensate drains, drain line and pan (quarterly)</li> </ul>
<b>Reciprocating compressors</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventive maintenance</li> <li>• Lock out and tag out equipment as required</li> <li>• Check all electrical wiring and connections. Tighten as needed.</li> <li>• Check starter contactor surfaces for wear (quarterly)</li> <li>• Visually leak check compressor and associated refrigerant piping</li> <li>• Clean exterior of compressor</li> <li>• Check operation of crankcase heater</li> <li>• Meg-ohm motor from starter and record</li> <li>• Check and calibrate all safety and cut-out devices</li> <li>• Check and adjust compressor capacity controls</li> <li>• Check, calibrate and adjust all operational controls</li> <li>• Check head and suction line pressure</li> </ul>
<b>Exhaust fans</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventative maintenance</li> <li>• Lock out tag out equipment as required</li> <li>• Check all electrical wiring and connections and tighten</li> <li>• Check all motor starter contactor surfaces for wear (quarterly)</li> <li>• Clean starter and electrical control enclosures</li> <li>• Lubricate motor bearings and fan bearings (quarterly)</li> <li>• Check exhaust fan belts for wear, replace as required (quarterly)</li> <li>• Check belt tension and sheave alignment. Adjust as required (quarterly)</li> <li>• Inspect exhaust fan unit assembly</li> <li>• Check all mounting hardware. Tighten as required.</li> </ul>
<b>Package, gas, heat, electric, and cool</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventive maintenance</li> <li>• Check unit voltage and record</li> <li>• Lubricate motors as required (quarterly)</li> <li>• Check and adjust burners for proper flames</li> <li>• Check for proper combustion and flue gas relief</li> <li>• Record discharge temperature, heating and cooling modes (quarterly)</li> <li>• Record return air temperature (quarterly)</li> <li>• Check and adjust operating and safety controls</li> </ul>
<b>Air handler</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform maintenance</li> </ul>

- Lockout tag out equipment
- Check starter contacts for excessive wear
- Tighten all starter wire connections
- Check belts, adjust or replace as needed (quarterly)
- Check belt tension and sheave alignment. Adjust as required (quarterly).
- Meg-Ohm motor and record
- Check fan motors amps
- Clean and lubricate unit motor bearings and fan bearings (quarterly)
- Check operation of economy dampers (quarterly)
- Lubricate and tighten all dampers and linkages (quarterly)
- Check operation of static vane (if applicable)
- Visually check all coils for leaks
- Check and record all coil delta T
- Inspect all mounting hardware, tighten as needed
- Clean outside air screens (quarterly)
- Inspect condition of vibration insulators

#### **Multi-zone Air Handler**

- Perform maintenance
- Lockout tag out equipment
- Check fan motor amps
- Clean and lubricate components
- Check operation of economy dampers
- Check operation of static vane or dampers
- Check operation of zone dampers
- Check and adjust operating and safety controls
- Inspect starter contacts
- Inspect condition of vibration insulators

#### **Package chiller**

- Lockout tag out equipment
- Check condenser / Barrel tubes
- Check Chiller barrel tube
- Check and record unit amp draw
- Check unit voltage and record
- Check unit pressures and record

#### **Chiller with reciprocating compressors (quarterly)**

- Visually inspect equipment condition and operation
- Check for unusual vibration, noise, excessive temperatures and refrigerant leaks
- Check unit voltage and record
- Check condenser pressure and record
- Check evaporator pressure and record
- Check oil sump sight glass
- Record chilled water inlet temperature
- Record chilled water outlet temperature
- Check condenser water inlet
- Check condenser water outlet temperature
- Check compressor starter contacts for abnormal wear

#### **Variable Frequency Drive (quarterly)**

- Check unit operation
- Check fault history report
- Check operation of manual bypass
- Verify drive signal increase and decrease
- Check and tighten all electrical connections
- Check starter contacts for wear

**Boiler (quarterly)**

The City is currently replacing boilers with air source heat pump (ASHP) and the contractor should adjust routine maintenance checks accordingly for both unit types.

- Check boilers for proper operation
- Check and use boiler viewport to check main burner flame.
- Turn off and secure boiler
- Check boilers for any unusual noise or vibration
- Inspect gaskets for any signs of leaks
- Examine the venting system
- Remove and/or inspect gas pilot assembly. Reinstall in accordance with recommended specifications and tolerances
- Check boiler circulating pumps for proper operation and lubricate
- Check flame safeguard control for pilot and main flame ignition
- Check operation of blower motor and circuitry
- Check operation of gas valves and vents
- Inspect and tighten all electrical connections
- Check and adjust all boiler limit pressure controls and running interlocks
- Check operation and adjust low water controls
- Check and adjust burner, pilot and main flame ignition
- Check and oil combustion air fan
- Check expansion tank and site glass
- Check all entering and leaving water temperatures and pressures
- The boiler room shall be left in the same condition as existed prior to start of the work
- Refer to equipment O&M manual for any maintenance clarifications.
- Flush pressure relief valve
- Clean and adjust scanner, igniter and flame rod
- Check pilot for proper ground
- Maintain ASHPs according to the manufacturer's recommendations

**Evaporator and condenser coils**

- Chemically clean air cooled condenser
- Clean condensate pans and chemically treat related drains
- Check and set super heat on evaporator (monthly clean and treatment)
- Inspect and chemically clean evaporator

**Chillers**

- Examine piping, check operation and log (quarterly)
- Inspect pumps as required
- Perform maintenance functions as outlined on chiller manufacturer's maintenance schedule (quarterly)

**Circulation pumps**

- Flush and lubricate pump (quarterly)
- Lubricate motor bearings (quarterly)
- Check coupling alignment and security to shaft
- Tighten base mountings bolts

**Water treatment**

- Furnish chemical as required to retard scale, corrosion, and biological growths

**Furnace**

Please note the City is currently replacing gas furnaces with electric heat pumps and the contractor shall adjust the routine maintenance accordingly for both unit types.

- Check exterior
- Check and adjust belt, pulley and pilot
- Lubricate and inspect blower and motor
- Clean and inspect burners and flue
- Check gas pressure regulator
- Check for cracked heat exchanger
- Maintain electric heat pumps according to the manufacturer's recommendations



# EQUIPMENT LIST

Public Works  
333 Burgess Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025  
tel 650-330-6780

<b>Background</b>				
Below is a list of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment best to staff's knowledge, however, the contractor may find more equipment not listed below.				
<b>City Hall/Police – 701 Laurel St.</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model number</b>	<b>Serial number</b>	<b>Filters</b>
250 KW boiler	RBI	Not applicable (N/A)	N/A	N/A
1950 MBH Boiler	RBI	FW1950	010848716	N/A
Expansion tank	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Expansion tank #ET-2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
80 ton chiller #Chiller-1	SMARDT	SAC028-1BG06-F8AGDB-A004AA-E10	FF00T0K20AGI742	N/A
5 ton split system #CU-3	Siemens	CAE060LAA	L0122 74522	N/A
5 ton split system, fan coil unit #FU-3	International Comfort Products	NFCX6000C1	L0011 28593	N/A
1.5 ton heat pump #HP-1	United Technologies Carrier	38QR018C300	3996x33809	N/A
2 ton heat pump #HP-2	United Technologies Carrier	38QR024C311	N/A	N/A
2 HP pump #SHWP-1	Bell & Gossett	1531 2AC 7BF	972139	N/A
2 HP pump #SHWP-2	Bell & Gossett	FD65	N/A	N/A
15001-20000 CFM air handler #AHU-1	Carrier	N/A	N/A	N/A
15000-20000 CFM air handler #AHU-2	Carrier	N/A	N/A	N/A
15000-20000 CFM air handler #AHU-3	Carrier	N/A	N/A	N/A
2- Indoor units AC048BNHDCH	Samsung	CNH48HDB	N/A	N/A
2- Outdoor unit AC048BXADCH/AA	Samsung	CXH48ADB	N/A	N/A
AC24BNADCH/AA	Samsung	CNH24ADB	N/A	N/A
AC024BXADCH/AA	Samsung	CXH24ADB	N/A	N/A
2 HP hot water supply Pump #1	N/A	P63CZZ-3037	62032Z-J/C3	N/A
2 HP hot water supply Pump #2	N/A	EJMM31577	35L509X914	N/A
Return fan	Trane	41	U9-96856	N/A
VFD for return fan	ABB	ACH501-010-4-0082	279559	N/A
1 each (EA) – Interior exhaust fan	N/A	16G2	U94484	N/A (Above second floor men's restroom)

City Hall Downtown conference room fan coil (Cool and heat)	N/A	N/A	N/A	2 EA – 20X20X2
IT server room fan coil (Attic)	N/A	NFCX06000C1	N/A	1 EA – 20X25X2
Roof condenser unit	N/A	CAE0601AA	L012274522	N/A
Exhaust fan (Mail room)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Air handler #2 (Serves basement)	Carrier	39TV2ANMGNA	4297F02728	12 EA - 16x25x2
Air handler #1 (Serves first floor)	Carrier	39TV21BCD	4297FU2738	12 EA - 16x25x2
Air handler #3 (Serves second floor)	Carrier	39TV26BCE	4297E02686	5 EA - 16x25x2 15 EA - 16x20x2
VFD for air handler #1	ABB	ACH401601132	2011000030	N/A
VFD for air handler #2	ABB	ACH501-015-4-0082	225752	N/A
VFD for air handler #3	ABB	ACH402601132	1011000671	N/A
N/A	Alerton	N/A	N/A	N/A
Split AC	Carrier	38QR018300	3996183309	1 EA – 10x34x1
Split AC	Carrier	38QR024C311	3792X46095	1 EA – 20x20x2
Exhaust (Above Records)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5 HP chilled water pump	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5 HP VFD for chilled water pump	Eaton	N/A	N/A	N/A
Exhaust fan (Serves Police Dept locker rooms)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A (outside Downtown conference room)	Trane	BHBO541CF0A1211	N/A	N/A
N/A (Allied Arts conference room)	Carrier	42WKN18	N/A	N/A
<b>Council Chambers – 751 Laurel St.</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model number</b>	<b>Serial number</b>	<b>Filters</b>
8001-10000CFM air handler #AHU-1	Trane	MCCB017UA0A0UA000	K10J90916	8 EA - 16x20x2 4 EA – 16x25x2
25 ton split system #CU-1	Trane	RAUJC254CB1300D000000	C10J04831	N/A
<b>Menlo Children's Center – 801 Laurel St.</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model number</b>	<b>Serial number</b>	<b>Filters</b>
20 KW unit heater	Indeeco	N/A	N/A	N/A
4 ton heat pump #HP-1	Airedale	CMH4	PA4118-U25176	N/A
4 ton heat pump #HP-2	Airedale	CMH4	PA4118-U25177	N/A

4 ton heat pump #HP-3	Airedale	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 ton heat pump #HP-4	Airedale	CMH3	PA4118-U25175	N/A
4 ton heat pump #HP-5	Airedale	CMH4	PA4118-U25178	N/A
5 ton packaged unit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10000 CFM axial floor fan #EF-1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10000 CFM axial floor fan #SF-1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Strip heater (Maintenance office)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Supply fan (Storage area)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Exhaust fan (Storage area)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Strip heater (Restroom in hallway)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Heat pump	N/A	PHK060-IF	0507792186	1 EA - 16x20x2
Heat pump	N/A	PHK060-IF	0507792222	1 EA - 16x20x2
<b>Main Library – 800 Alma St.</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model number</b>	<b>Serial number</b>	<b>Filters</b>
1500 MBH boiler #B-1	RBI	FB1500	061467973	N/A
150 GAL expansion tank	Wessels	N/A	N/A	N/A
120 ton chiller #Chiller-1	Smardt	SAC054-2BG06-F3AEHA-A008AA-E	F0010K204Q1743	N/A
4000-12000 CFM fan coil unit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
7.5 HP pump #CHWP-1	Baldor Reliance	EJMM3311T	37F7845520G1	N/A
7.5 HP pump #CHWP-2	Baldor Reliance	EJMM3311T	37F784S520G1	N/A
5 HP pump #SHWP-1	Baldor Reliance	EJMM3218T	36C687S37	N/A
5 HP pump #SHWP-2	Baldor Reliance	EJMM3218T	36G687S270G1	N/A
15001-20000 CFM air handler	Trane	N/A	N/A	N/A
15001-20000 CFM air handler	Trane	N/A	N/A	N/A
AHU #1	Trane	CCDB4103NM	K91F22896	2 EA – 12x24x2 8 EA – 24x24x2
AHU #2	Trane	Type 50	N/A	28 EA - 16x25x2
15 HP VFD AHU #2	Eaton	N/A	N/A	N/A
Return fan AHU #1	Trane	CBD83180CCJAL00M	K911F22709	N/A
Supply VFD AHU #1	Magnetek	D5318	NR 764148-134	N/A (AHU#1)
Return fan VFD	ABB	E124534	2101000629	N/A (AHU#1)
Fan coil unit	Magic Aire	N/A	N/A	N/A (AHU#1)



(Heat only)				
Two (2) 7.5 HP VFD's for chilled water pumps	Eaton	N/A	N/A	N/A
Exhaust fan	Acme	XD1003	N/A	N/A
Exhaust fan	Acme	XD137EF	N/A	N/A
Exhaust fan	Acme	PRN110	N/A	N/A
Exhaust fan	Acme	DC24N	N/A	N/A
Two (2) 5 HP hot water pumps (Interior)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Two (2) Eaton 5 HP VFDs for hot water pumps	Eaton	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Arrillaga Family Gymnasium Center – 600 Alma St.</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model number</b>	<b>Serial number</b>	<b>Filters</b>
60 GAL expansion tank	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
250 GAL tank	Taco	PAX170-150	X13986	
Packaged unit #AC-1	Trane	YCH420B4P*0D7GC	C10F02960	16 EA – 16x20x4
Packaged unit	Trane	YFD 151E4VAAC	103211033D	4 EA – 20x20x2 4 EA – 20x25x2
Exhaust fan (Attic/hallway/men's restroom)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Arrillaga Family Recreation Center – 700 Alma St.</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model number</b>	<b>Serial number</b>	<b>Filters</b>
500 MBH gas boiler #Boiler-1	LAARS heating systems	PNCH0500NACK2B XN	C10227012	N/A
130 GAL expansion tank	Wessels Company	NLA-130	N KS786.5C	N/A
2 ton split system #HP-1	Trane	4TWX4024B1000AA	7103TXA1F	N/A
15001-20000 CFM air handler #AHU-C	Trane	LPCAD17F2J0R700 00001032CGJ0000	T11A05824	2 EA – 16x20x2 2 EA – 20x20x2 2 EA – 16x25x2 2 EA – 20x25x2
25 ton packaged unit	Trane	RAUJC254BB03000 F00020	C11A00386	N/A
Hot water circulation pump	B&G	N/A	N/A	80-1-1/2x1-1/x7B
Main building exhaust fan with VFD (Attic/Juniper room)	Greenheck	BSQ-240-15	N/A	N/A
Exhaust fan (Sequoia room)	Greenheck	BSQ-140	N/A	N/A
Exhaust fan (Maple room)	Westinghouse	1016C1	N/A	N/A
Fan coil	Trane	4TEC3F24B1000AA	73315URIV	1 EA – 20x20x1
8 to 10 LF kitchen exhaust hood	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Reheat coil	RAE	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center – 501 Laurel St.</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model number</b>	<b>Serial number</b>	<b>Filters</b>
500 MBH boiler #Boiler-1	RBI	FB500	021055387	N/A
500 MBH boiler #Boiler-2	RBI	FW500	041055729	N/A
176-250 GAL expansion tank	Bell & Gossett	N/A	178724	N/A
3 ton condensing unit/heat pump	Payne	PH14NB036 B	4920X81013	N/A
12.5 ton condensing unit	Trane	TTA150E400AA	11441KWSYA	N/A
15000 CFM air handler	Trane	LPCAD08F4K0RD20 00002031BVK00AT	K12A00276	2 EA – 20x25x2
10 ton package unit	Trane	YHC120E4RLA0FC0 0000000	114612291L	3 EA – 20x20x2 3 EA – 20x25x2
Exhaust fan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hot water supply pump	N/A	PL-36	1BL001	N/A
Booster pump for pool locker rooms	N/A	Part #8 – 140211-03	BW11-165	N/A
Exhaust fan #1	Greenheck	BCF-107-4	N/A	N/A
Exhaust fan #2	Greenheck	BCF-108-4	N/A	N/A
VAV box	Trane	VARA	N/A	N/A
Five (5) VAV boxes	Trane	VADB	N/A	N/A
<b>Burgess Pool – 501 Laurel St.</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model number</b>	<b>Serial number</b>	<b>Filters</b>
Fan coil heat pump	Trane	FCEB040	N/A	1 EA 10x42x1 (Above Pro shop)
Fan coil heat pump	Trane	FCEB080	N/A	N/A
Condenser	N/A	PH14NB036 - B	4920X81013	N/A (Outside park side)
Two (2) exhaust fan (Showers)	Penn	DX14B	N/A	N/A (On roof)
3 EA – Hot water fan coil units	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 EA – 10x42x1 1 EA – 10x36x1 1 EA – 20x20x1
Heat pump evaporator coil	Trane	TWE036	N/A	N/A
Heat pump condensing unit	Trane	4TWX4036A	N/A	N/A
In-line circulating heating hot water pump	Bell & Gossett	PL36	N/A	N/A
<b>Corporation Yard Service Center – 333 Burgess Dr.</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model number</b>	<b>Serial number</b>	<b>Filters</b>
120 MBH furnace	York	PV9D20N120UP12A	W0M6236496	N/A
1-2KW unit heater	Electromode	RT-10	N/A	N/A

76-125 MBH unit heater	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Boiler supplemental components	Grundfos	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.28 ton split systems condensing unit/heat pump	Sanco2	GS4-45HPC	20916651	N/A
5 ton split system (Exterior-condenser)	York	CZE06011A	W0F7885719	N/A
2.5 ton split system (Exterior-condenser)	York	E1RE030S061	W0G7077648	N/A
2 ton split system (Exterior-condenser)	York	E1RE024S06G	W0M4182023	N/A
Furnace (Interior-furnace)	Trane	GHADA10A	94260902	1 EA – 16x22x1 (Carpenters)
Split AC (Exterior-condenser)	York	F+RP030H06A	ECHS512138	1 EA – 16x22x1 (Mechanics)
<b>Belle Haven Child Development Center – 410 Ivy Dr.</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model number</b>	<b>Serial number</b>	<b>Filters</b>
Furnace #AH-1	Carrier	9200	N/A	N/A
Furnace #AH-2	Carrier	92	N/A	N/A
Furnace #AH-3	Carrier	N/A	N/A	N/A
Furnace	Carrier	9200	N/A	N/A
Furnace	Carrier	9200	N/A	N/A
5 ton heat pump split system	Carrier	N/A	N/A	N/A
5 ton condensing unit/heat pump #CU-1	Carrier	38BRC060350	4900E00104	N/A
4 ton condensing unit/heat pump #CU-2	Carrier	38BRC048350	3500E00962	N/A
4 ton condensing unit/heat pump #CU-3	Carrier	38BRC048350	3500E03596	N/A
4 ton condensing unit/heat pump #CU-4	Carrier	38BRC048350	3500E00970	N/A
4 ton condensing unit/heat pump #CU-5	Carrier	38BRC048350	3500E03598	N/A
Axial flow fan, 3000 CFM	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Axial flow fan, 3000 CFM	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Air handler/furnace (Administration building)	Carrier	58MCA120-20	N/A	1 EA – 24x24x1
Air handler/furnace	Carrier	58MXA080	2200AD1446	1 EA – 20x25x1
Air handler/furnace	Carrier	58MXA080	2100A02192	1 EA – 20x25x1
Air handler/furnace	Carrier	58MXA080	2500A01701	1 EA – 20x25x1
Air handler/furnace	Carrier	58MXA080	2500A01695	1 EA – 20x25x1

Fan	Broan	S80U	N/A	N/A
<b>Neighborhood Service Center – 871 Hamilton Ave.</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model number</b>	<b>Serial number</b>	<b>Filters</b>
5 ton package unit	Carrier	48ESNA3606050	0513C16717	1 EA – 20x25x2
5 ton package unit	Carrier	48TJD096-511GA	2599G20778	1 EA – 16x25x2
<b>Belle Haven Community Campus – 100 Terminal Ave</b>				
<b>Description</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Model number</b>	<b>Serial number</b>	<b>Filters</b>
Heat pump #CU-1	Daikin	RXTQ36TAVJ9A	E005990	N/A
1.5 ton split AC #FCU 1-1	Daikin	N/A	N/A	Washable
1.5 ton split AC #FCU 1-2	Daikin	N/A	N/A	Washable
Heat pump #CU-2	Daikin	RXTQ36TAVJ9A	E005998	N/A
Ducted concealed ceiling unit #FCU 2-3	Daikin	FXMQ36PBVJU	E017587	02) 11.375 x 26.875 x 4
Ducted concealed ceiling unit #FCU 2-4	Daikin	FXMQ36PBVJU	E017514	02) 11.375 x 26.875 x 4
Heat pump #CU-3	Daikin	RXTQ36TAVJ9A	E005982	N/A
Ducted concealed ceiling unit # FCU 3-1	Daikin	FXAQ09PVJU	E023872	washable
Ducted concealed ceiling unit #FCU 3-2	Daikin	FXAQ18PVJU	E018927	washable
Heat pump #CU-4	Daikin	RXTQ36TAVJ9A	E005930	N/A
3 ton #FCU 2-1	Daikin	N/A	N/A	02) 11.375 x 26.875 x 4
3 ton #FCU 2-2	Daikin	N/A	N/A	02) 11.375 x 26.875 x 4
Heat pump #CU-5	Daikin	RXTQ36TAVJ9A	E005929	N/A
FCU #5-1	Daikin	N/A	N/A	washable
FCU #5-2	Daikin	N/A	N/A	washable
Air curtain	MARS	N236-1UA-OB	1071051	N/A
Air curtain	MARS	N248-1UA-OB	1071052	N/A
EAHU rooftop	Daikin	0AH065GDAC	FBOU220900533	18) 20x20x2, 06) 20x24x2, 04) BX99
Roof air handling unit #AHU-1	Daikin	N/A	FBOU220900519	20) 20x24x4, 05) 24x24x4
Chiller #1	Samsung	AGO15KSVAJH	B765P3AT40000	N/A
Chiller #2	Samsung	AGO15KSVAJH	N/A	N/A
Chiller #3	Samsung	AGO15KSVAJH	N/A	N/A
Chiller #4	Samsung	AGO15KSVAJH	N/A	N/A
Chiller #5	Samsung	AGO15KSVAJH	N/A	N/A
Chiller #6	Samsung	AGO15KSVAJH	N/A	N/A
Chiller #7	Samsung	AGO15KSVAJH	N/A	N/A

Chiller #8	Samsung	AGO15KSVAJH	N/A	N/A
Chiller #9	Samsung	AGO15KSVAJH	N/A	N/A
Chiller #10	Samsung	AGO15KSVAJH	N/A	N/A
Chiller #11	Samsung	AGO15KSVAJH	N/A	N/A
Chilled water pump CHWP #1	B&G	size E-1510, ssf 9.5, 2BD, S	C327595-05A22	128GPM/60'HD, 5 HP, 8.5ssf
Chilled water pump 1 VFD	ABB	ACH580-01-012A-4	2224001703	Washable
CHWP 1 motor	Baldor	EM3615T-G	spec 36M524Q032G1	230-460/3/60 1755 184T 5HP
CHWP #2	B&G	size E-1510, ssf 9.5, 2BD, S	C327595-06A22	128GPM/60'HD, 5 HP, 8.5ssf
CHWP 2 VFD	ABB	ACH580-01-012A-4	2224001684	Washable
CHWP 2 motor	Baldor	EM3615T-G	spec 36M524Q032G1	230-460/3/60 1755 184T 5HP
#Exhaust fan (EF)-2	Greenheck	USF-08-3-B5-00-01- 01	19636869	N/A
#EF-2 VFD	ABB	ACH580-01-03A0-4	2221904328	Washable
#EF-3	Greenheck	USF-06-3-B5-00-01- 01	19636870	N/A
Heat recovery pump	B&G	E90 2.5x73 6.375ssf	PRO-779U	N/A
Heat recovery pump VFD	ABB	ACH 550-PCR- 08A8- 4+BO587	2192406893	Washable
Heating hot water pump #HHWP-1	B&G	E1510 1.25BC 9.5ssf	PRO-7771-A	82gpm, 75', 5HP
#HHWP-1 VFD	ABB	ACH580-01-012A-4	2224001680	Washable
#HHWP-1 motor	Baldor	EM3615T spec36M524Q032G 1	N/A	230/460-3-60 1755 184T
#HHWP-2	B&G	E1510 1.25BC 9.5ssf	PRO-7771-B	82gpm, 75', 5HP
#HHWP-2 VFD	ABB	ACH580-01-012A-4	2224001678	Washable
#HHWP-2 motor	Baldor	EM3615T spec36M524Q032G 1	N/A	230-460/3/60 1755 184T
Kitchen exhaust fan (KEF) #1	Greenheck	USF-15-3-B1-00-01- 01	19636871	N/A
#KEF-2	Greenheck	USF-15-3-B1-00-01- 01	19636872	N/A
#KEF-3	Greenheck	USF-15-3-B1-00-01- 01	19636874	N/A
#KEF-1 VFD	ABB	ACH580-01-03A0-4	2221904325	Washable
#KEF-2 VFD	ABB	ACH580-01-03A0-4	2221904271	Washable
#KEF-3 VFD	ABB	ACH580-01-03A0-4	2221904283	Washable
#MUA-1	Greenheck	MSX-P114-H22	19670194 22c	06) 20x20x2
Hot water heater	Aosmith	DRE-120 100	2.21713E+12	N/A
Hot water circulation pump	B&G	PL-30B	1BL013LF B22	N/A

## PRICING SUMMARY

City Manager's Office  
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025  
tel 650-330-6620



<b>Background</b>			
<p>The basis of award will be the sum of a three (3) year proposal. Prices are valid for 90 days from proposal due date and shall be all-inclusive for services specified in this proposal (Attachment B). The annual increase for the three (3) year proposal (which may extend for three (3) additional one-year terms) should not exceed the California Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Metropolitan Statistical Area (CPI-U).</p> <p>The scope of work set forth herein is approximate only, being given as a basis for the comparison of bids. The City does not expressly or by implication agree that the actual amount of work will correspond therewith, and reserves the right to change the amount of any class or portion of the work or to omit portions of the work. The City reserves the right to increase or decrease scope of work as deemed necessary.</p> <p>Prevailing Wages Workers employed in the work must be paid at rates at least equal to the current prevailing wage scale as determined by the State Director of the Department of Industrial Relations.</p>			
<b>Proposed Annual Cost for Programmed Maintenance</b>			
<b>Include all labor, materials, and equipment necessary to perform the Scope of Work listed in the RFP.</b>			
<b>Building</b>	<b>Annual cost for Year 1 July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025</b>	<b>Annual cost for Year 2 July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026</b>	<b>Annual cost for Year 3 July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027</b>
City Hall/Police	\$	\$	\$
Council Chambers	\$	\$	\$
Menlo Children's Center	\$	\$	\$
Main Library	\$	\$	\$
Arrillaga Family Gymnasium	\$	\$	\$
Arrillaga Family Recreation Center	\$	\$	\$
Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center	\$	\$	\$
Burgess Pool	\$	\$	\$
Corporation Yard Service Center	\$	\$	\$
Belle Haven Child Development Center	\$	\$	\$
Neighborhood Service Center	\$	\$	\$

Belle Haven Community Campus	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total annual cost</b>	\$	\$	\$
<b>Grand total</b>	\$		

**Proposed Hourly Rates for System Repairs**

System Repairs will be ordered as needed on a "Time and Materials" basis. Enter labor rates for any personnel who may be deployed for system repairs. Cost of materials shall be paid by City and the Proposer proposes a \_\_\_\_\_% mark-up to be applied to all materials costs and shall provide documentation of all such costs to be paid by the City.

Service description	Hourly rates
Regular time labor rate	\$
Weekday overtime rate	\$
Weekend overtime rate	\$
Holiday rate	\$
Emergency and after hour rate	\$
Engineering services	\$
Other equipment (Specify)	\$
Other (Specify)	\$



CITY OF MENLO PARK  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Performance Bond

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS:

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park, State of California, has awarded to \_\_\_\_\_, hereinafter designated as the "Principal," a Contract for the **HVAC Preventative Maintenance Services and Repairs** and

WHEREAS, said Principal is required under the terms of said Contract to furnish a bond for the faithful performance of said Contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Principal, and \_\_\_\_\_ as Surety, are held and firmly bound unto the City of Menlo Park in the penal sum of \_\_\_\_\_ DOLLARS (\$ \_\_\_\_\_ ), lawful money of the United States for the payment of which sum well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, successors, or assigns jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION IS SUCH, that if the above bounded Principal, or its heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, shall in all things stand to and abide by, and well and truly keep and perform the covenants, conditions and agreements in said Contract Agreement and any alteration thereof made as therein provided, on their part, to be kept and performed at the time and in the manner therein specified and in all respects according to their true intent and meaning; and shall defend, indemnify and save harmless the City of Menlo Park, its officers and agents as therein stipulated, then this obligation shall become null and void; otherwise it shall be and remain in full force and virtue.

Surety, for value received hereby stipulates and agrees that, in accordance with the Plans, Standard Specifications, Special Provisions and other Contract Documents, no change, extension of time, alteration or addition to the terms of the Contract or to the work to be performed thereunder or the specifications accompanying the same shall in anywise affect its obligations on this bond, and it does hereby waive notice of any such change, extension of time, alteration or additions to the terms of the Contract or to the work or to the specifications.



EXHIBIT A-1

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the above bounded parties have executed this instrument under their seals this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ the name and corporate seals of each corporate party being hereto affixed and these presents duly signed by its undersigned representative, pursuant to authority of its governing body.

(Corporate Seal)

Principal

By: \_\_\_\_\_

(Acknowledgment)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

(Corporate Seal)

Surety

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Attorneys-in-fact

(Acknowledgment)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

(Seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Witness)

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

**NOTE TO SURETY COMPANY:** The following form of acknowledgment should be used. If any other form of acknowledgment is used, there must be submitted a certified copy of unrevoked resolution of authority for the attorney-in fact

**NOTARIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ATTORNEY-IN-FACT OF SURETY**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA        }  
  } ss.  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_     }

On \_\_\_\_\_, before me, \_\_\_\_\_, a Notary Public, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same in their authorized capacity(ies), and that by their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

(Seal)



CITY OF MENLO PARK  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Payment Bond

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS:

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park, a Municipal Corporation, has awarded to \_\_\_\_\_, hereinafter designated as the "Principal," a Contract for the **HVAC Preventative Maintenance Services and Repairs**, and

WHEREAS, said Principal is required to furnish a bond in connection with said Contract, to secure payment of claims of laborers, mechanics, or material persons employed on work under said Contract Agreement, as provided by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, we the undersigned Principal and \_\_\_\_\_ as Surety, are held and firmly bound unto the City of Menlo Park in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ DOLLARS (\$ \_\_\_\_\_), said sum being equal to the estimated amount payable by said City of Menlo Park under the terms of the Contract Agreement, for which payment well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, successors, or assigns jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

THE CONDITIONS OF THIS OBLIGATION ARE SUCH that if said Principal, its heirs, executors, administrators, successors, or assigns, or subcontractors shall fail to pay for any material, provisions, provender or other supplies, implements or machinery used in, upon, for or about the performance of the work contracted to be done, or for any work or labor thereon of any kind, or for amounts due under the Unemployment Insurance Code with respect to such work or labor or for any amounts required to be deducted, withheld, and paid over to the Franchise Tax Board from the wages of employees of the Contractor and their subcontractors pursuant to the Revenue and Taxation Code, with respect to such work and labor, the Surety or Sureties hereon will pay for the same in an amount not exceeding the sum specified in this bond, otherwise the above obligation shall be voided. In case suit is brought upon this bond, said Surety will pay a reasonable attorney's fee to be fixed by the court.

EXHIBIT A-1

This bond shall inure to the benefit of any and all persons, companies and corporations entitled to file claims under Section 3181 of the Civil Code of the State of California so as to give a right of action to them or their assigns in any suit brought upon this bond.

Said Surety, for value received, hereby stipulates and agrees that, in accordance with the Plan, Standard Specifications, Special Provisions and other Contract Agreement documents, no change, extension of time, alteration or addition to the terms of the Contractual Agreement, or to the work to be performed thereunder, or to the specifications accompanying the same, shall in anywise affect its obligations on this bond, and it does hereby waive notice of any such change, extension of time, alteration or addition to the terms of the Contractual Agreement or to the work or to the specifications.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the above-bounded parties have executed this instrument under their seals this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, the name and corporate seals of each corporate party being hereto affixed and these presents duly signed by its undersigned representative, pursuant to authority of its governing body.

(Corporate Seal)

Principal

By: \_\_\_\_\_

(Acknowledgment)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

(Corporate Seal)

Surety

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Attorneys-in-fact

(Acknowledgment)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

(Seal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Witness)

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

**NOTE TO SURETY COMPANY:** The following form of acknowledgment should be used. If any other form of acknowledgment is used, there must be submitted a certified copy of unrevoked resolution of authority for the attorney-in-fact.

**NOTARIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ATTORNEY-IN-FACT OF SURETY**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA      }  
  } ss.  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ }

On \_\_\_\_\_, before me, \_\_\_\_\_, a Notary Public, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_, personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same in their authorized capacity(ies), and that by their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

(Seal)



**STAFF REPORT**

**City Council Meeting Date:** 9/24/2024  
**Staff Report Number:** 24-168-CC

**Consent Calendar:** Approve advisory body annual work plans for the Complete Streets Commission, Environmental Quality Commission, Finance and Audit Commission, Housing Commission, Library Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the annual works plans for the following advisory bodies: Complete Streets Commission, Environmental Quality Commission, Finance and Audit Commission, Housing Commission, Library Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission (Attachments A, B, C, D, E and F).

**Policy Issues**

City Council Policy #CC-24-004 (Attachment G) defines the policies and procedures and roles and responsibilities for Menlo Park appointed commissions and committees. Each commission is required to develop an annual work plan in support of the City Council work plan and seek City Council approval no later than Sept. 30 of each year per the policy.

**Background**

The Complete Streets Commission (CSC) advises the City Council on realizing the City's adopted goals for complete streets, vision zero, climate action plan, and provides input on major land use and development projects as it relates to transportation.

The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) advises the City Council on matters involving climate change, environmental protection and sustainability.

The Finance and Audit Commission (FAC) supports delivery of timely, clear and comprehensive reporting of the City's fiscal status to the community at large.

The Housing Commission (HC) advises the City Council on housing matters including housing supply and housing related problems.

The Library Commission (LC) advises the City Council on matters related to the maintenance and operation of the City's libraries and library systems.

The City Council last approved these work plans Sept. 26, 2023.

The Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) advises the City Council on matters related to City programs and facilities dedicated to recreation. The City Council last approved the PRC work plan Oct. 10, 2023.

## **Analysis**

### Complete Streets Commission (CSC)

The CSC is proposing a 2024-25 work plan (Attachment A) with five long-term goals that will result in nine actionable short-term tasks. The five long-term goals are to advise and provide input to the City Council on:

1. Transportation Master Plan implementation
2. Citywide transportation policies/programs
3. Safe routes strategies
4. Major developments
5. Downtown access

Through the lens of these five goals, the CSC examined prior City Council actions/directions and is proposing five actionable short term tasks: two repurposed safe routes tasks under goal No. 3, four new tasks under goals Nos. 1 and 2, and three carry-over tasks under goals Nos. 1 and 2.

### Environmental Quality Commission (EQC)

In August, the EQC approved their formal work plan (Attachment B) complete with a schedule, discussion topics and subcommittee descriptions for the year. The EQC's 2024-25 goals focus on advising staff and City Council on 2025-2030 scope of work implementation for each Climate Action Plan strategy Nos. 1-6; ensuring vulnerable communities are included in environmental decision-making; leveraging best practices to protect trees and expand the urban canopy; supporting sustainability initiatives such as habitat protection, air quality and water conservation; maintaining transparency through an annual calendar; encouraging public participation at meetings and fostering a public meeting environment that is inclusive of the community; and supporting onboarding of new Commission members to ensure the effective continuation of its work.

### Finance and Audit Commission (FAC)

The FAC is proposing a 2024-25 work plan (Attachment C) with 13 items. The FAC continues to focus on increasing public engagement and transparency of the City's financials and FAC activities, centering the majority of the work plan in support of these objectives. The FAC is proposing two changes to its work plan: replacing review of the City's pension and post-employment obligations with a new work plan goal to research opportunities to increase diverse occupancy of commercial vacant Downtown real estate to increase revenues and modifying the goal to identify potential alternative revenue sources to include potential expense mitigation opportunities.

### Housing Commission (HC)

The Housing Commission approved their 2024-25 work plan (Attachment D) with relatively few changes. Their annual goals of focusing on community outreach, anti-displacement and development on affordable housing on public lands remain the same. Approved revisions included emphasizing anti-displacement efforts in their review of notice of funding availability (NOFA) applications and below market rate (BMR) agreements to minimize or mitigate the impacts of displacement. Also, for the development of the City parking lots for affordable housing, the HC continues to be interested in exceeding the unit yields than reported in the Housing Element. Lastly, they would like to conduct more community engagement events.

### Library Commission (LC)

The LC's recommended work plan (Attachment E) for 2024-25 includes 11 goals.

Goals that are carried over from the previous year's work plan include:

- Serve as a forum for public information and discussion on library issues

- Review and advise staff on library policies
- Monitor and advise on the library programs and operations at the Belle Haven Community Campus

Goals that are new include:

- Advise staff on early education programs at City-run child development centers
- Review current library services to identify potential gaps for specific age groups and affinity groups
- Analyze options for potential capital improvements to the 800 Alma St. facility

### Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC)

Parks and Recreation Commission's recommended work plan (Attachment F) for 2024-25 includes 12 goals.

Goals that are carried over from the previous year's work plan include:

- Serve as a forum for public information and discussion on items relating to parks and recreation
- Support and advise on programs at Belle Haven Community Campus
- Review progress toward the 2019 Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan goals
- Advise on maintenance and upgrades on recreation facilities
- Periodically receive staff presentations and reports about major parks and recreation service areas and programs

Goals that are new include:

- Support and advise the Youth Advisory Committee
- Participate in parks and recreation facility tours facilitated by city staff

All Commission work plans are subject to City Council approval or modification.

### **Impact on City Resources**

There is no impact on City resources.

### **Environmental Review**

This action is not a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §§15378 and 15061(b)(3) as it will not result in any direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

### **Public Notice**

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

### **Attachments**

- A. Complete Streets Commission work plan
- B. Environmental Quality Commission work plan
- C. Finance and Audit Commission work plan
- D. Housing Commission work plan
- E. Library Commission work plan



Staff Report #: 24-168-CC

F. Parks and Recreation Commission work plan

G. City Council Policy #CC-24-004

Report prepared by:

Judi A. Herren, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk

# Complete Streets Commission work plan

Public Works Department

701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park CA 94025

Approved September 24, 2024

## Work plan goals

The Complete Streets Commission provides advice and recommendations to the City Council on realizing the City's adopted goals for Complete Streets, the Transportation Master Plan, Vision Zero, and the Climate Action Plan. It provides transportation-related input on major land use and development projects, to promote safe transportation infrastructure and alternative modes of transportation.

1. Advise the City Council on the implementation of the Transportation Master Plan:
  - Evaluate and propose key transportation corridors for project prioritization
  - Advise and make recommendations on the Middle Avenue Complete Streets Project including ongoing pilots for Nealon Park frontage parking and Blake St. temporary closure
  - Advise and make recommendations on the Middlefield Road Safe Streets Project
2. Advise and provide input to the City Council on citywide transportation policies/programs:
  - Evaluate citywide bike rack inventory and make recommendations
  - Advise on Vision Zero strategies and program implementation
  - Evaluate driveway stopping sight distance policy
  - Advise on implementation of Senate Bill 413 (i.e., crosswalk daylighting law)
3. Support the implementation of safe routes strategies:
  - Participate in the Safe Routes to School task force and advocate for community engagement, program continuity and design implementation
  - Support projects serving other community based destinations (e.g., work, shop and recreation)
4. Provide input and recommendations on the City's major development projects by evaluating them based on impact on public streets, safety, and transportation accessibility.
5. Support the City Council's ongoing initiatives to improve access to Downtown and support downtown businesses.

## Work plan history

Action	Date	Notes
Work plan recommended	July 10, 2024	Commission approved
Work plan adopted	September 24, 2024	City Council approved

# Environmental Quality Commission work plan

City Manager's Office  
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park CA 94025  
Approved September 24, 2024

Work plan goals		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Provide feedback to staff and advise the City Council on 2025-2030 scope of work implementation for Climate Action Plan (CAP) strategies No. 1 through No. 6</li><li>2. Ensure that our most vulnerable communities have a voice in policies and programs to protect their communities from environmental impacts.</li><li>3. Leverage best practices to advise/recommend on the preservation of heritage trees, city trees and expansion of the urban canopy; and make determinations on appeals of heritage tree removal permits.</li><li>4. Support sustainability initiatives, as needs arise, which may include city-led events, habitat protection, healthy ecology, environmental health protection, healthy air, surface water runoff quality, water conservation and waste reduction.</li><li>5. Maintain an annual commission calendar to provide transparency and allow adequate time to prepare agenda items related to the commission's work plan; update and post for public review monthly.</li><li>6. Encourage and facilitate robust public comment and participation at Commission meetings.</li><li>7. Foster a public meeting environment that is inclusive of all members of the diverse Menlo Park community.</li><li>8. Support the filling of openings on the Commission and the effective onboarding of new Commissioners.</li></ol>		
Work plan history		
Action	Date	Notes
Work plan recommended	July 10, 2024	Commission approved
Work plan adopted	September 24, 2024	City Council approved

# Finance and Audit Commission

Administrative Services Department  
701 Laurel St., Menlo Park CA 94025  
Approved September 24, 2024

<b>Work plan goals</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Conduct annual review of the City's investment policy</li><li>2. Review the scope and process of the audit for fiscal year 2023-24 with the City's auditor</li><li>3. Review quarterly performance of the City's investment portfolio</li><li>4. Review the annual independent auditor's report</li><li>5. Review the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)</li><li>6. Research opportunities to increase diverse occupancy of commercial vacant Downtown real estate to increase City revenues</li><li>7. Identify potential financial benchmarks</li><li>8. Identify potential alternative revenue sources and potential expense mitigation opportunities</li><li>9. OpenGov transparency portal improvements and community training</li><li>10. Encourage and facilitate robust public comment and participation at Commission meetings</li><li>11. Foster a public meeting environment that is inclusive of all members of the diverse Menlo Park community</li><li>12. Support the filling of openings on the Commission and the effective onboarding of new Commissioners</li><li>13. Research opportunities to pay down successor agency debt</li></ol>		
<b>Work plan history</b>		
Action	Date	Notes
Work plan recommended	September 5, 2024	Commission approved
Work plan adopted	September 24, 2024	City Council approved

# Housing Commission

Community Development Department  
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park CA 94025  
Adopted September 24, 2024

<b>Work plan goals</b>		
<p>1. Community engagement – Provide information and education related to tenant rights and tenant protections efforts and host and cohost local legal resources/presentations via the Housing Commission as part of expanding community engagement. This is to increase diversity of community participation and input. Have a minimum of two informational events, one every 6 months, at a Belle Haven location with multi-lingual inclusive events.</p> <p>2. Anti-Displacement – Review current guidelines and highlight areas to the City Council where, procedurally, there can be an emphasis on anti-displacement efforts. To work on anti-displacement efforts, especially focused on naturally occurring affordable housing. To provide current residents with displacement and relocation information to prevent evictions and displacement and try to monitor the number of households being displaced and to provide them information about resources in accordance with Program H2.E of the 2023-2031 Housing Element Update. Create a collection of displacement experiences to “personalize” the impacts of displacement.</p> <p>3. Focus on the development of affordable housing on public lands – this could include the development of affordable housing on downtown parking lots and following the development process including reviewing the RFQ and making recommendations, with the aim to exceed the targeted unit yields as outlined in Program H4.G of the 2023-2031 Housing Element Update and state requirements.</p>		
<b>Work plan history</b>		
Action	Date	Notes
Work plan recommended	September 4, 2024	Commission approved
Work plan adopted	September 4, 2024	City Council approved

# Library Commission work plan

Library and Community Services Department

800 Alma Street, Menlo Park CA 94025

Approved September 24, 2024

Work plan goals		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. As an advisory body to the City Council and a forum for public information about library issues, encourage and facilitate robust public comment and participation at Commission meetings.</li><li>2. Review library programs and services, identify potential service gaps for specific age groups or affinity groups, and advise to fill needs to create the “library of the future.”</li><li>3. Support and advise library program development and operations of the Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC).</li><li>4. Support and advise on topics pertaining to the City’s childcare programs and related educational programs.</li><li>5. Analyze and evaluate whether and how potential near-term capital improvements to the 800 Alma St. facility may be addressed.</li><li>6. Annually review departmental budget proposal before presentation to City Council, focusing on any potential impacts to library services.</li><li>7. Periodically review the library’s public-facing policies and recommend updates, as required, with a special focus on policies that may be impacted by shared space operations at the new BHCC.</li><li>8. Periodically receive staff presentations and reports about major library service areas and programs and Commissioner liaison reports about affiliates.</li><li>9. Maintain a 12-month schedule of planned Commission agenda items; update and post for public review monthly.</li><li>10. Support the filling of openings on the Commission and the effective onboarding of new Commissioners.</li><li>11. Review and advise on potential synergies with or support from other City departments.</li></ol>		
Work plan history		
Action	Date	Notes
Work plan recommended	August 19, 2024	Commission approved
Work plan adopted	September 24, 2024	City Council approved

# Parks and Recreation Commission work plan

Library and Community Services Department  
 800 Alma Street, Menlo Park CA 94025  
 Approved September 24, 2024

<b>Work plan goals</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As an advisory body to the City Council and a forum for public information about park and recreation issues, encourage and facilitate robust public comment and participation at Commission meetings:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster a public meeting environment that is inclusive of all members of the diverse Menlo Park community</li> <li>• Focus on resident input and grow relationships with residents throughout the City of Menlo Park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Support and advise recreation program development and operations of the Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC):                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review programs and services with a focus on the provision of high-quality programs and services for all Menlo Park residents</li> <li>• Ensure that the programs and services offered at the BHCC contribute to satisfying the needs of the neighborhood it serves, and be integrated into a system that is accessible to residents of all ages and abilities throughout the City.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Support and advise the efforts of the Youth Advisory Committee.</li> <li>4. Review progress toward the goals in the 2019 Parks and Recreation Facility Master Plan (PRFMP).</li> <li>5. Participate in park and recreation facility tours to build awareness of recreation systems.</li> <li>6. Advise on topics related to the maintenance and upgrade of recreational facilities, prioritizing accessibility, safety, and sustainability.</li> <li>7. Advise on the development and/or modification of recreation programs and facilities to meet community needs.</li> <li>8. Annually review departmental budget proposal before presentation to City Council, focusing on any impacts to parks and recreation services.</li> <li>9. Periodically review public-facing recreation policies and recommend updates, as required, with a special focus on policies that may be impacted by shared space operations at the new BHCC.</li> <li>10. Periodically receive staff presentations and reports about major parks and recreation service areas and programs.</li> <li>11. Maintain a 12-month schedule of planned Commission agenda items; update and post for public review monthly.</li> <li>12. Review and advise on potential synergies with or support from other City departments.</li> </ol>		
<b>Work plan history</b>		
Action	Date	Notes
Work plan recommended	August 28, 2024	Commission approved
Work plan adopted	September 24, 2024	City Council approved

# COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

City Council Policy #CC-24-004  
 Adopted Feb. 13, 2024  
 Resolution No. 6890



<b>Purpose</b>
To define policies and procedures and roles and responsibilities for Menlo Park appointed commissions and committees.
<b>Authority</b>
Upon its original adoption, this policy replaced the document known as "Organization of Advisory Commissions of the City of Menlo Park."
<b>Background</b>
<p>The City of Menlo Park currently has seven active Commissions. The active advisory bodies are: Complete Streets Commission, Environmental Quality Commission, Finance and Audit Commission, Housing Commission, Library Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Planning Commission. Those not specified in the City Code are established by City Council ordinance or resolution. Most of these advisory bodies are established in accordance with Resolution No. 2801 and its amendments. Within specific areas of responsibility, each advisory body has a primary role of advising the City Council on policy matters or reviewing specific issues and carrying out assignments as directed by the City Council or prescribed by law.</p> <p>Six of the seven commissions listed above are advisory in nature. The Planning Commission is both advisory and regulatory and organized according to the City Code (Ch. 2.12) and State statute (Government Code §65100 et seq., §65300-65401).</p> <p>The City has an adopted Anti-Harassment and Non-Discrimination Policy (CC-21-0022), and a Travel, Meal, and Lodging Policy (CC-19-002), which are also applicable to all advisory bodies.</p>
<b>Policies and Procedures</b>
<p><u>Relationship to City Council, staff and media</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upon referral by the City Council, the commission/committee shall study referred matters and return their recommendations and advise to the City Council. With each such referral, the City Council may authorize the City staff to provide certain designated services to aid in the study.</li> <li>• Upon its own initiative, the commission/committee shall identify and raise issues to the City Council's attention and from time to time explore pertinent matters and make recommendations to the City Council.</li> <li>• At a request of a member of the public, the commission/committee may consider appeals from City actions or inactions in pertinent areas and, if deemed appropriate, report and make recommendations to the City Council.</li> <li>• Each commission/committee is required to develop an annual work plan which will be the foundation for the work performed by the advisory body in support of City Council annual work plan. The plan, once finalized by a majority of the commission/committee, will be formally presented to the City Council for direction and approval no later than September 30 of each year and then reported out on by a representative of the advisory body at a regularly scheduled City Council meeting at least annually, but recommended twice a year. The proposed work plan must align with the City Council's adopted work plan. When modified, the work plan must be taken to the City Council for approval. The Planning Commission is exempt from this requirement as its functions are governed by the Menlo Park municipal code (Chapter 2.12) and State law (Government Code §65100 et seq., §65300-65401).</li> <li>• Commissions and committees shall not become involved in the administrative or operational matters of City departments. Members may not direct staff to initiate major programs, conduct large studies or establish department policy. City staff assigned to furnish staff services shall be available to provide general staff assistance, such as preparation of agenda/notice materials and minutes, general review of department programs and activities, and to perform limited studies, program reviews, and other services of a general staff nature. Commissions/Committees may not establish department work programs or determine department program priorities. The responsibility for setting policy and allocating scarce City resources rests with the City's duly elected representatives, the City Council.</li> <li>• Additional or other staff support may be provided upon a formal request to the City Council.</li> <li>• The staff liaison shall act as the commission/committee's lead representative to the media concerning matters before the commission/committee. Commission/Committee members should refer all media inquiries to their respective liaisons for response. Personal opinions and comments may be expressed so long as the commission/committee member clarifies that their statements do not represent the position of the City Council.</li> <li>• Commission/Committee members will have mandatory training every two years regarding the Brown Act and</li> </ul>



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parliamentary procedures, anti-harassment training, ethics training, and other training required by the City Council or State Law. The commission/committee members may have the opportunity for additional training, such as training for chair and vice chair. Failure to comply with the mandatory training will be reported to the City Council and may result in replacement of the member by the City Council.

- Requests from commission/committee member(s) determined by the staff liaison to take one hour or more of staff time to complete, must be directed by the City Council.

### Role of City Council commission/committee liaison

City Councilmembers are assigned to serve in a liaison capacity with one or more city commission/committee. The purpose of the liaison assignment is to facilitate communication between the City Council and the advisory body. The liaison also helps to increase the City Council's familiarity with the membership, programs and issues of the advisory body. In fulfilling their liaison assignment, City Councilmembers may elect to attend commission/committee meetings periodically to observe the activities of the advisory body or simply maintain communication with the commission/committee chair on a regular basis.

City Councilmembers should be sensitive to the fact that they are not participating members of the commission/committee, but are there rather to create a linkage between the City Council and commission/committee. In interacting with commissions/committee, City Councilmembers are to reflect the views of the City Council as a body. Being a commission/committee liaison bestows no special right with respect to commission/committee business.

Typically, assignments to commission/committee liaison positions are made at the beginning of a City Council term in December. The Mayor will ask City Councilmembers which liaison assignments they desire and will submit recommendations to the full City Council regarding the various committees, boards, and commissions which City Councilmembers will represent as a liaison. In the rare instance where more than one City Councilmember wishes to be the appointed liaison to a particular commission, a vote of the City Council will be taken to confirm appointments.

### City Staff Liaison

The City has designated staff to act as a liaison between the commission/committee and the City Council. The City shall provide staff services to the commission/committee which will include:

- Developing a rapport with the Chair and commission/committee members
- Providing a schedule of meetings to the city clerk's office and commission/committee members, arranging meeting locations, maintaining the minutes and other public records of the meeting, and preparing and distributing appropriate information related to the meeting agenda.
- Advising the commission/committee on directions and priorities of the City Council.
- Informing the commission/committee of events, activities, policies, programs, etc. occurring within the scope of the commission/committee's function.
- Ensuring the city clerk is informed of all vacancies, expired terms, changes in offices, or any other changes to the commission/committee.
- Providing information to the appropriate appointed official including reports, actions, and recommendations of the committee/commission and notifying them of noncompliance by the commission/committee or chair with City policies.
- Ensuring that agenda items approved by the commission/committee are brought forth in a timely manner taking into consideration staff capacity, City Council priorities, the commission/committee work plan, and other practical matters such as the expense to conduct research or prepare studies, provided appropriate public notification, and otherwise properly prepare the item for commission/committee consideration.
- Take action minutes; upon agreement of the commission, this task may be performed by one of the members (staff is still responsible for the accuracy and formatting of the minutes)
- Maintain a minute book with signed minutes

### Recommendations, requests and reports

As needed, near the beginning of City Council meetings, there will be an item called "Advisory Body Reports." At this time, commissions/committees may present recommendations or status reports and may request direction and support from the City Council. Such requests shall be communicated to the staff liaison in advance, including any written materials, so that they may be listed on the agenda and distributed with the agenda packet. The materials being

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provided to the City Council must be approved by a majority of the commission/committee at a commission/committee meeting before submittal to the City Council. The City Council will receive such reports and recommendations and, after suitable study and discussion, respond or give direction.

### City Council referrals

The city clerk shall transmit to the designated staff liaison all referrals and requests from the City Council for advice and recommendations. The commissions/committees shall expeditiously consider and act on all referrals and requests made by the City Council and shall submit reports and recommendations to the City Council on these assignments.

### Public appearance of commission/committee members

When a commission/committee member appears in a non-official, non-representative capacity before the public, for example, at a City Council meeting, the member shall indicate that they are speaking only as an individual. This also applies when interacting with the media and on social media. If the commission/committee member appears as the representative of an applicant or a member of the public, the Political Reform Act may govern this appearance. In addition, in certain circumstances, due process considerations might apply to make a commission/committee member's appearance inappropriate. Conversely, when a member who is present at a City Council meeting is asked to address the City Council on a matter, the member should represent the viewpoint of the particular commission/committee as a whole (not a personal opinion).

### Disbanding of advisory body

Upon recommendation by the Chair or appropriate staff, any standing or special advisory body, established by the City Council and whose members were appointed by the City Council, may be declared disbanded due to lack of business, by majority vote of the City Council.

### Stipends

Per Government Code §36506, the City is authorized to pay appointed Planning Commissioners by resolution. The City Council has adopted a resolution with an amount not to exceed \$200 per month per Planning Commissioner. Per the IRS (Internal Revenue Services), "public officer" also includes appointed members of advisory boards and committees and commissions. The Planning Commission stipend is taxable income and each member will receive a W-2.

### Meetings and officers

#### 1. *Agendas/notices/minutes*

- All meetings shall be open and public and shall conduct business through published agendas, public notices and minutes and follow all of the Brown Act provisions governing public meetings. Special, canceled and adjourned meetings may be called when needed, subject to the Brown Act provisions.
- Support staff for each commission/committee shall be responsible for properly noticing and posting all regular, special, canceled and adjourned meetings. Copies of all meeting agendas, notices and minutes shall be provided to the City Council, city manager, city attorney, city clerk and other appropriate staff, as requested.
- Original agendas and minutes shall be filed and maintained by support staff in accordance with the City's adopted records retention schedule.
- The official record of the commissions/committees will be preserved by preparation of action minutes.

#### 2. *Conduct and parliamentary procedures*

- Unless otherwise specified by State law or City regulations, conduct of all meetings shall generally follow Robert's Rules of Order.
- A majority of commission/committee members shall constitute a quorum and a quorum must be seated before official action is taken.
- The chair of each commission/committee shall preside at all meetings and the vice chair shall assume the duties of the chair when the chair is absent.
- The role of the commission/committee chair (according to Roberts Rules of Order): To open the session at the time at which the assembly is to meet, by taking the chair and calling the members to order; to announce the business before the assembly in the order in which it is to be acted upon; to recognize members entitled to the floor; to state and put to vote all questions which are regularly moved, or necessarily arise in the course of the proceedings, and to announce the result of the vote; to protect the assembly from annoyance from evidently frivolous or dilatory motions by refusing to recognize them; to assist in the expediting of business in every compatible with the rights of the members, as by allowing brief remarks when undebatable motions are pending, if they think it advisable; to restrain the members when engaged in debate, within the rules of order, to enforce on all occasions the observance of order and decorum among the members, decide

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of order (subject to an appeal to the assembly by any two members) unless when in doubt he prefers to submit the question for the decision of the assembly; to inform the assembly when necessary, or when referred to for the purpose, on a point of order to practice pertinent to pending business; to authenticate by their signature, when necessary, all the acts, orders, and proceedings of the assembly declaring it will and in all things obeying its commands.

### 3. *Lack of a quorum*

- When a lack of a quorum exists at the start time of a meeting, those present will wait 15 minutes for additional members to arrive. If after 15 minutes a quorum is still not present, the meeting will be adjourned by the staff liaison due to lack of a quorum. Once the meeting is adjourned it cannot be reconvened.
- The public is not allowed to address those commissioners present during the 15 minutes the commission/committee is waiting for additional members to arrive.
- Staff can make announcements to the members during this time but must follow up with an email to all members of the body conveying the same information.
- All other items shall not be discussed with the members present as it is best to make the report when there is a quorum present.

### 4. *Meeting locations and dates*

- Meetings shall be held in designated City facilities, as noticed.
- All commissions/committees with the exception of the Planning Commission, and Finance and Audit Commission shall conduct regular meetings once a month. Special meetings may also be scheduled as required by the commission/committee. The Planning Commission shall hold regular meetings twice a month and the Finance and Audit Commission shall hold quarterly meetings.
- Monthly regular meetings shall have a fixed date and time established by the commission/committee. Changes to the established regular dates and times are subject to the approval of the City Council. An exception to this rule would include any changes necessitated to fill a temporary need in order for the commission/committee to conduct its meeting in a most efficient and effective way as long as proper and adequate notification is provided to the City Council and made available to the public.

The schedule of Commission meetings is as follows:

- Complete Streets Commission – Every second Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
- Environmental Quality Commission – Every third Wednesday at 6 p.m.
- Finance and Audit Commission – Third Thursday of every quarter at 5:30 p.m.,
- Housing Commission – Every first Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
- Library Commission – Every third Monday at 6:30 p.m.
- Parks and Recreation Commission – Every fourth Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
- Planning Commission – Twice a month on a Monday at 7 p.m.

Each commission/committee may establish other operational policies subject to the approval of the City Council. Any changes to the established policies and procedures shall be subject to the approval of the City Council.

### 5. *Off-premises meeting participation*

While technology allows commission/committee members to participate in meetings from a location other than the meeting location (referred to as “off-premises”), off-premises participation is discouraged given the logistics required to ensure compliance with the Brown Act and experience with technological failures disrupting the meeting. In the event that a commission/committee member believes that their participation is essential to a meeting, the following shall apply:

- Any commission/committee member intending to participate from an off-premise location shall inform the staff liaison at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.
- The off-premise location must be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.
- Agendas must be posted at the off-premise location.
- The off-premise location must be accessible to the public and be ADA compliant.
- The commission/committee member participating at a duly noticed off-premises location does not count toward the quorum necessary to convene a meeting of the commission/committee.
- For any one meeting, no more than one commission/committee member may participate from an off-premise location.
- All votes must be by roll call.

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### 6. *Selection of chair and vice chair*

- The chair and vice chair shall be selected in May of each year by a majority of the members and shall serve for one year or until their successors are selected.
- Each commission/committee shall annually rotate its chair and vice chair.

### G. Memberships

#### *Appointments/Oaths*

- The City Council is the appointing body for all commissions/committees. All members serve at the pleasure of the City Council for designated terms.
- All appointments and reappointments shall be made at a regularly scheduled City Council meeting, and require an affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the City Council present.
- Before taking office, all members must complete an Oath of Allegiance required by Article XX, §3, of the Constitution of the State of California. All oaths are administered by the city clerk or their designee.
- Appointments made during the middle of the term are for the unexpired portion of that term.

#### *Application and selection process*

- The application process begins when a vacancy occurs due to term expiration, resignation, removal or death of a member.
- The application period will normally run for a period of four weeks from the date the vacancy occurs. If there is more than one concurrent vacancy in a Commission, the application period may be extended. Applications are available from the city clerk's office and on the City's website.
- The city clerk shall notify members whose terms are about to expire whether or not they would be eligible for reappointment. If reappointment is sought, an updated application will be required.
- Applicants are required to complete and return the application form for each commission/committee they desire to serve on, along with any additional information they would like to transmit, by the established deadline. Applications sent by email are accepted.
- After the deadline of receipt of applications, the city clerk shall schedule the matter at the next available regular City Council meeting. All applications received will be submitted and made a part of the City Council agenda packet for their review and consideration. If there are no applications received by the deadline, the city clerk will extend the application period for an indefinite period of time until sufficient applications are received.
- Upon review of the applications received, the City Council reserves the right to schedule or waive interviews, or to extend the application process in the event insufficient applications are received. In either case, the city clerk will provide notification to the applicants of the decision of the City Council.
- If an interview is requested, the date and time will be designated by the City Council. Interviews are open to the public.
- The selection/appointment process by the City Council shall be conducted at a City Council meeting. The city clerk will ask each City Councilmember for their nominations; the number of nominations is limited to the number of vacancies. The candidate that receives a majority of nominations will be appointed. If there is a tie, multiple rounds of voting will occur.
- Following a City Council appointment, the city clerk shall notify successful and unsuccessful applicants accordingly, in writing. Appointees will receive copies of the City's Non-Discrimination and Sexual Harassment policies, and disclosure statements for those members who are required to file under State law as designated in the City's Conflict of Interest Code. Copies of the notification will also be distributed to support staff and the commission/committee chair.
- An orientation will be scheduled by the city clerk following an appointment (but before taking office) and a copy of this policy document will be provided at that time.

#### *Attendance*

- A compilation of attendance will be submitted to the City Council at least annually listing absences for all commissions/committee members.
- Absences, which result in attendance at less than two-thirds of their meetings during the calendar year, will be reported to the City Council and may result in replacement of the member by the City Council.
- Any member who feels that unique circumstances have led to numerous absences can appeal directly to the City Council for a waiver of this policy or to obtain a leave of absence.
- While it is expected that members be present at all meetings, the chair and staff liaison should be notified if a member knows in advance that they will be absent.

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- When reviewing commissioners for reappointment, overall attendance at full commission meetings will be given significant consideration.

### *Compensation*

- Members shall serve without compensation (unless specifically provided) for their services, provided, however, members shall receive reimbursement for necessary travel expenses and other expenses incurred on official duty when such expenditures have been authorized by the City Council (See Policy CC-19-002).

### *Conflict of interest and disclosure requirements*

- A Conflict of Interest Code has been updated and adopted by the City pursuant to Government Code §87300 et seq. Copies of the conflict of interest code are filed with the city clerk. Pursuant to the adopted Conflict of Interest Code, members serving on the Complete Streets Commission, Housing Commission, and Planning Commission are required to file a Statement of Economic Interest with the city clerk to disclose personal interest in investments, real property and income. This is done within 30 days of appointment and annually thereafter. A statement is also required within 30 days after leaving office.
- If a public official has a conflict of interest, the Political Reform Act may require the official to disqualify themselves from making or participating in a governmental decision, or using their official position to influence a governmental decision. Questions in this regard may be directed to the city attorney.

### *Qualifications, compositions, number*

- In most cases, members shall be residents of the City of Menlo Park and at least 18 years of age.
- Current members of any other City commission/committee are disqualified for membership, unless the regulations for that advisory body permit concurrent membership. Commission/Committee members are strongly advised to serve out the entirety of the term of their current appointment before seeking appointment on another commission/committee.
- Commission/Committee members shall be permitted to retain membership while seeking any elective office. However, members shall not use the meetings, functions or activities of such bodies for purposes of campaigning for elective office.
- There shall be seven (7) members on each commission/committee.

### *Reappointments, resignations, removals*

- Incumbents seeking a reappointment are required to complete and file an application with the city clerk by the application deadline. No person shall be reappointed to a commission/committee who has served on that same body for two consecutive terms; unless a period of one year has lapsed since the returning member last served on that commission/committee (the one-year period is flexible subject to City Council's discretion).
- Resignations must be submitted in writing to the city clerk, who will distribute copies to City Council and appropriate staff.
- The City Council may remove a member by a majority vote of the City Council without cause, notice or hearing.

### *Term of office*

- Unless specified otherwise, the term of office for all commission/committees shall be four (4) years unless a resignation or a removal has taken place.
- If a person is appointed to fill an unexpired term and serves less than two years, that time will not be considered a full term. However, if a person is appointed to fill an unexpired term and serves two years or more, that time will be considered a full term.
- Terms are staggered to be overlapping four-year terms, so that all terms do not expire in any one year.
- If a member resigns before the end of their term, a replacement serves out the remainder of that term.

### *Vacancies*

- Vacancies are created due to term expirations, resignations, removals or death.
- Vacancies are posted by the city clerk in the City Council Chambers bulletin board and on the city website.
- Whenever an unscheduled vacancy occurs in any commission/committee, a special vacancy notice shall be posted within 20 days after the vacancy occurs. Appointment shall not be made for at least 10 working days after posting of the notice (Government Code §54974).
- On or before December 31 of each year, an appointment list of all regular advisory commissions/committees of the City Council shall be prepared by the city clerk and posted in the City Council Chambers bulletin board and

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on the City’s website. This list is also available to the public (Government Code §54972, Maddy Act).

**Roles and Responsibilities**

Complete Streets Commission

The Complete Streets Commission is charged primarily with advising the City Council on realizing the City's adopted goals for complete streets, vision zero, climate action plan, and provide input on major land use and development projects as it relates to transportation. The Complete Streets Commission's responsibilities include:

- To advance the goals of the city’s newly adopted climate action plan by making alternatives to driving safer and more attractive
- Advise City Council on the implementation of the transportation master plan.
- Continue to advocate for and advise the City Council on planning and installing pedestrian and bicycle rail crossing and safe cycling/pedestrian infrastructure.
- Continue to support City Council in ongoing initiatives to improve access to Downtown and support downtown businesses.
- Continue to support the implementation of the Safe Routes to School strategy and advocate for community engagement, program continuity and engineering implementation.
- Continue to support City Council’s role as a stakeholder with regard to regional multi-modal and transportation demand management programs projects to increase

Environmental Quality Commission

The Environmental Quality Commission is committed to helping the City of Menlo Park to be a leading sustainable city that inspires institutions and individuals and that is well positioned to manage present and future environmental impacts, including the grave threat of climate change. The Environmental Quality Commission is charged primarily with advising the City Council on matters involving climate change, environmental protection, and sustainability. Specific focus areas include:

- Climate Action Plan - Advise and recommend on the implementation of the climate action plan.
- Climate Resilience and Adaptation - Ensure that our most vulnerable communities have a voice in policies and programs to protect their communities from environmental impacts.
- Urban Canopy - Leverage best practices to advise/recommend on the preservation of heritage trees, city trees and expansion of the urban canopy; and make determinations on appeals of heritage tree removal permits.
- Green and Sustainable Initiatives – Support sustainability initiatives, as needs arise, which may include city-led events, habitat protection, healthy ecology, environmental health protection, healthy air, surface water runoff quality, water conservation and waste reduction.

Finance and Audit Commission

The Finance and Audit Commission is charged primarily to support delivery of timely, clear and comprehensive reporting of the City’s fiscal status to the community at large. Specific focus areas include:

- Review the process for periodic financial reporting to the City Council and the public, as needed
- Review financial audit and annual financial report with the City’s external auditors
- Review of the resolution of prior year audit findings
- Review of the auditor selection process and scope, as needed

Housing Commission

The Housing Commission is charged primarily with advising the City Council on housing matters including housing supply and housing related problems. Specific focus areas include:

- Community attitudes about housing (range, distribution, racial, social-economic problems)
- Programs for evaluating, maintaining, and upgrading the distribution and quality of housing stock in the City
- Planning, implementing and evaluating City programs under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974
- Review and recommend to the City Council regarding the Below Market Rate (BMR) program
- Initiate, review and recommend on housing policies and programs for the City
- Review and recommend on housing related impacts for environmental impact reports
- Review and recommend on State and regional housing issues
- Review and recommend on the Housing Element of the General Plan

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Library Commission

The Library Commission is charged primarily with advising the City Council on matters related to the maintenance and operation of the City's libraries and library systems. Specific focus areas include:

- The scope and degree of library activities
- Maintenance and protection of City libraries
- Evaluation and improvement of library service
- Acquisition of library materials
- Coordination with other library systems and long range planning
- Literacy and ESL programs

Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks and Recreation Commission is charged primarily with advising the City Council on matters related to City programs and facilities dedicated to recreation. Specific focus areas include:

- Those programs and facilities established primarily for the participation of and/or use by residents of the City, including adequacy and maintenance of such facilities as parks and playgrounds, recreation buildings, facilities and equipment
- Adequacy, operation and staffing of recreation programs
- Modification of existing programs and facilities to meet developing community needs
- Long range planning and regional coordination concerning park and recreational facilities

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is organized according to State Statute.

- The Planning Commission reviews development proposals on public and private lands for compliance with the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.
- The Commission reviews all development proposals requiring a use permit, architectural control, variance, minor subdivision and environmental review associated with these projects. The Commission is the final decision-making body for these applications, unless appealed to the City Council.
- The Commission serves as a recommending body to the City Council for major subdivisions, rezoning's, conditional development permits, Zoning Ordinance amendments, General Plan amendments and the environmental reviews and Below Market Rate (BMR) Housing Agreements associated with those projects.
- The Commission works on special projects as assigned by the City Council.

**Special Advisory Bodies**

The City Council has the authority to create standing committees, task forces or subcommittees for the City, and from time to time, the City Council may appoint members to these groups. The number of persons and the individual appointee serving on each group may be changed at any time by the City Council. There are no designated terms for members of these groups; members are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the City Council.

Any requests of city commissions or committees to create such ad hoc advisory bodies shall be submitted in writing to the city clerk for City Council consideration and approval.

**Procedure history**

Action	Date	Notes
Procedure adoption	1991	Resolution No. 3261
Procedure adoption	2001	
Procedure adoption	2011	
Procedure adoption	2013	Resolution No. 6169
Procedure adoption	2017	Resolution No. 6377
Procedure adoption	6/8/2021	Resolution No. 6631

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Procedure adoption	3/1/2022	Resolution No. 6706
Procedure adoption	3/8/2022	Resolution No. 6718
Procedure adoption	9/20/2022	Resolution No. 6776
Procedure adoption	1/10/2023	Resolution No. 6803
Procedure adoption	6/27/2023	Resolution No. 6840
Procedure adoption	2/13/2024	Resolution No. 6890





**STAFF REPORT**

**City Council**  
**Meeting Date:** 9/24/2024  
**Staff Report Number:** 24-169-CC

**Consent Calendar:** **Authorize the Mayor to sign the City’s response to the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury Report, “Assessing and Reporting Internal Controls in San Mateo County Agencies and School Districts”**

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the City’s response to the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury Report, “Assessing and Reporting Internal Controls in San Mateo County Agencies and School Districts,” and authorize the Mayor to sign the letter (Attachment A).

**Policy Issues**

California Government Code §12422.5 requires the State Controller to establish internal controls for local agencies, including cities, counties, special districts and other local government entities, excluding school districts. Accordingly, the State Controller’s Office issued a 2015 report entitled, “Internal Control Guidelines – California Local Agencies” to establish a system of internal controls to safeguard assets and prevent and detect financial errors and fraud.

There are no immediate policy implications as a result of the City responding to the grand jury report regarding internal controls. The City is committed to continuous improvement in creating and monitoring effective internal controls at all levels of the organization.

**Background**

The San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury is a fact-finding body that makes specific recommendations on a wide range of topics to help improve local government operations. The 2023-24 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury publically released a report June 27, “Assessing and Reporting Internal Controls in San Mateo County Agencies and School Districts,” (Attachment B) which contains finding and recommendations pertaining to the City.

The City is required to submit responses to the findings and recommendations included in the report over which it has some decision-making authority. The City Council’s response to the report is due no later than 90 days from the date the report is issued or Sept. 25. The governing body of each jurisdiction must approve the response at a public meeting.

Internal controls help an entity’s management achieve its objectives, run its operations efficiently and effectively, report reliable information about its operations, and comply with applicable laws and regulations. Internal controls apply to all entities, regardless of size; however, large complex entities have different risk profiles than small, less-complex entities. All entities seek to control risk appropriate for their operations and design and implement internal controls for their own particular risk profiles.

Standards for Internal Control in the federal government (known as the “Green Book”), sets the standards for an effective internal control system for federal agencies and provides an overall framework for designing, implementing, and operating an effective internal control system that other agencies can apply, including state and local governments. Per the Green Book, an effective internal control system includes five primary components, which are comprised of several principles:

- Control Environment – sets the tone for the organization, influencing the control consciousness of its people. It is the foundation for all other components of internal control.
- Risk Assessment – the identification and analysis of relevant risks to the achievement of objectives, forming a basis for how the risks should be managed.
- Control Activities – policies and procedures that help ensure management directives are carried out.
- Information and Communication – systems or processes that support the identification, capture, and exchange of information in a form and time frame that enable people to carry out their responsibilities
- Monitoring – processes used to assess the quality of internal control performance over time.

Discrete control procedures are a specific set of policies, procedures, and activities designed to meet an objective and may be entity-wide or specific to an account balance, class of transactions or application. Controls within a process may consist of financial reporting controls and operational controls. Examples of types of controls include automated or manual processes; reconciliations; segregation of duties; review and approval of authorizations; safeguarding and accountability of assets; and preventing or detecting error or fraud.

Every member of an organization has responsibility for internal control to varying extents. To provide reasonable assurance that internal controls involved in the financial reporting process are effective, the City’s external auditor reviews internal controls as a basis for expressing an opinion on the reliability of the City’s financial statements. The auditor issues reports which are presented to the Finance and Audit Commission and the City Council as part of the financial and single audits each year.

Internal control can provide reasonable, not absolute, assurance that the objectives of an organization will be met. The concept of reasonable assurance implies a high degree of assurance, constrained by the costs and benefits of establishing incremental control procedures. Effective internal control implies the organization generates reliable financial reporting and substantially complies with the laws and regulations that apply to it.

## **Analysis**

The 2023-24 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury report focuses on the control environment, information and communication and monitoring principles of internal control, and seeking information about:

- Control Environment Principle – how governing boards oversee internal controls, such as a review of management’s report on its assessment of internal controls.
- Information and Communication Principle – how management reports to the governing board regarding its assessment of internal control and how management’s assessment of internal controls is communicated to the public, such as through an agenda item in a public meeting of the governing board.
- Monitoring Principle – information about how management monitors its internal control systems, such as management’s assessment of internal controls.

It is of note that this investigation did not evaluate the quality or the effectiveness of an entity’s internal controls. In addition, the Civil Grand Jury recognized that for a variety of reasons, management may not want to publicly report its controls and results of investigations. For example, an internal report might

include details of needs for improving controls that might be considered a roadmap for fraud until the improvements are in place.

The Civil Grand Jury also recognized that each entity's management is responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls and that no one would expect all entities to have the same internal controls, because all entities are different.

The report includes three findings and three recommendations related to internal controls. The City's responses to the findings and recommendations are included in Attachment A.

The City is committed to continually enhancing its system of internal controls to ensure that processes operate as designed and that responses to risk are mitigated. All personnel are responsible for communicating to management problems in operations, non-compliance, or other policy violations or illegal actions. The City is committed to a strong organizational culture that emphasizes ethical behavior, accountability and responsiveness, which acts as a deterrent to fraud or waste.

### **Impact on City Resources**

Approving and submitting a response to the Civil Grand Jury has no direct impact on City resources. The development of a documentation and review framework on internal controls will require staff time and resources not yet quantified.

### **Environmental Review**

This action is not a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §§15378 and 15061(b)(3) as it will not result in any direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

### **Public Notice**

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

### **Attachments**

- A. City of Menlo Park response letter to San Mateo Civil Grand Jury report
- B. San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury Report: "Assessing and Reporting Internal Controls in San Mateo County Agencies and School Districts"

Report prepared by:  
Jared Hansen, Assistant Administrative Services Director

Report reviewed by:  
Brittany Mello, Administrative Services Director



September 24, 2024

The Honorable Amarra A. Lee  
Judge of the Superior Court  
c/o Bianca Fasuescu  
Hall of Justice  
400 County Center; 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

**RE: Civil Grand Jury Report: “Assessing and Reporting Internal Controls in San Mateo County Agencies and School Districts”**

Dear Honorable Judge Lee,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond on the above-reference Grand Jury Report filed on June 27, 2024. The City Council of the City of Menlo Park (City) voted at its public meeting on September 24, 2024, to authorize this response to the findings and recommendations of the report.

**Response to the Grand Jury Findings**

*F1: When an entity does not have a process to identify organizational risks, and the entity does not demonstrate how its internal controls address identified risks, the likelihood of a failure in internal controls that results in fraud or waste increases.*

**City response:** The City agrees with the finding. In addition to formal risk assessments, the City recognizes the importance of established procedures and routine oversight activities, relying on the experience and judgment of management and staff, and a strong organizational culture that emphasizes ethical behavior, accountability, and responsiveness to deter fraud and waste.

*F2: When an entity does not periodically assess its internal controls and the entity cannot demonstrate that it is monitoring its internal controls, the likelihood of a failure in internal controls that results in fraud or waste increases.*

**City response:** The City agrees with the finding. In addition to periodically assessing and monitoring internal controls, the City recognizes that supervisory activities, employee training, and fostering a strong organizational culture also serve as critical safeguards against fraud and waste. A practical and tailored approach is also needed when conducting these assessments to ensure they are both efficient and effective

for the City.

*F3: When management does not report the results of its assessments of internal controls to its governing board and the entity has not communicated externally, the likelihood that others see this as an opportunity to commit fraud or waste increases.*

**City response:** The City agrees with the finding. In addition to communicating the results of these assessments to the governing board, the City recognizes the importance of ensuring internal controls are effective through robust ongoing monitoring and taking corrective actions in a timely manner while balancing the limited resources and staff time on these internal efforts.

### **Response to Grand Jury Recommendations**

*R1. Beginning by no later than December 31, 2024, and at least annually thereafter, each entity will document its organizational risks and address those risks in its annual Assessment of Internal Controls.*

**City Response:** By December 31, 2024, the City will develop a framework to review and document organizational risk and internal control policies and procedures on an annual basis in a way that complements ongoing risk management activities, ensuring that internal controls remain relevant and effective throughout the year.

*R2. Beginning by no later than March 31, 2025, and at least annually thereafter, each governing board will require its management to complete its annual assessments of internal controls.*

**City Response:** By March 31, 2025, the City will review the risk environment and make a recommendation for the frequency and scope of assessments that is tailored to the City's specific needs and risks, while balancing limited resources, staff time, and operational efficiency. The City Council will require its management to complete internal control assessments in accordance with the established scope and frequency.

*R3. Beginning by no later than June 30, 2025, and annually thereafter, each governing board will require management to report the results of its annual assessment of the entity's internal controls.*

**City Response:** By June 30, 2025, the City will determine the approach for reporting internal control assessments to the City Council and recommend a suitable frequency and format of such reporting, taking into account the City's specific needs, risk profile, and demands on staff time. Once this approach is established, staff will report to the City Council in accordance with the identified scope and frequency.

The City currently has procedures in place to help prevent fraud and waste, such as segregation of duties, software application controls, and routine reconciliations, which correspond with our agency profile. In addition, the City prepares an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) that is audited by an independent auditor using generally accepted government auditing standards. The internal control recommendations of the Civil Grand Jury will complement existing internal processes and external reporting via the independent auditor. The City is committed to continuous improvement of its internal control systems to ensure that processes operate as designed and that risks are mitigated.

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above referenced Civil Grand Jury Report. If you need any additional information, please contact City Manager Justin Murphy at (650) 330-6610.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Taylor  
Mayor



[Issue](#) | [Summary](#) | [Glossary](#) | [Background](#) | [Methodology](#) | [Discussion](#) | [Findings](#) | [Recommendations](#) | [Requests for Responses](#) | [Appendixes](#)

## **Assessing and Reporting Internal Controls in San Mateo County Agencies and School Districts**

**“FAILURE OF ANY CONTRIBUTES TO PUBLIC DISTRUST OF ALL”**

### **ISSUE**

San Mateo County, Cities, Special Districts, Joint Power Authorities, or Schools are not assessing internal controls and are not reporting the results of assessments to governing boards and the public.

### **SUMMARY**

Our government faces risks, including fraud and waste.

Internal controls are put in place by an entity's oversight body, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance that the entity will achieve its objectives. Internal controls in our government are key to ensuring that goals are met without fraud and waste and are critical to the public trust. An example of an internal control is having separate people approve a transaction before paying the bill for that transaction.

Internal controls hit the public eye back in the 1990s, after the scandals at Enron, WorldCom and other organizations, all of which served as examples of fraud and waste. The United States Congress reacted in 2002 by enacting the laws known as Sarbanes–Oxley that impact publicly-traded companies. In 2015, the State of California issued “Internal Control Guidelines - California Local Agencies” covering the need for internal controls in government entities.

Given the enormity of the challenge of reviewing individual controls at any one agency, the Civil Grand Jury looked into the way government entities in San Mateo County assess their internal controls and how the results of those assessments are reported to governing boards and to the

public. Assessments and reporting should follow the State of California guidelines and the underlying referenced guidelines from the Green Book and the Committee of Sponsoring Corporations. Management’s assessment of internal controls and communication, both internally within an entity and externally to the entity’s constituents, are key principles of internal controls.

Too many examples of lack of or failed internal controls exist, including recent news stories about taxpayer money used for constructing personal residences in train stations in Burlingame and San Mateo that are referenced in the attached Appendix.

The Civil Grand Jury learned from survey respondents that all of them do have established internal controls and publish external audit reports. Most of them, however, do not assess internal controls and do not communicate with governing boards or the public regarding management of internal controls. Of the few entities that do assess internal controls, they do not report those results.

The Civil Grand Jury recommends timely and documented assessments of internal controls with clear, appropriate reports from management to governing-boards and to the public to reduce the risk of failed internal controls, to enhance public confidence in our government and to improve the efficiency of external audits.

By rule of the Civil Grand Jury, the recommendations included in this report can only be sent to entities that participated in interviews with the Civil Grand Jury. While the Civil Grand Jury could not efficiently interview all entities that participated in surveys, common sense suggests that these recommendations are applicable to all entities within San Mateo County. The current Civil Grand Jury encourages future civil grand juries to investigate the recommendations in this report as appropriate, to help optimize trust in the integrity of internal controls in San Mateo County government.

## **GLOSSARY**

### **Assessment and Evaluation**

Assessment for the purpose of this report is defined in the Green Book as follows: “To determine if an internal control system is effective, management assesses the design, implementation, and operating effectiveness of the five components and 17 principles.” Examples in an internal control assessment include to confirm and document that all requisitions are properly approved and that payments for goods or services are made by authorized individuals. This process helps management and stakeholders have confidence in the reliability of financial reporting, compliance with laws and regulations, and the overall integrity of the organization's operations. In general, Assessment and evaluation can be used interchangeably.

### **Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO)**

The Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) is an organization that develops guidelines for businesses to evaluate internal controls, risk management, and fraud deterrence.



**Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)**

Enterprise risk management is an entity-wide strategy to identify and prepare for hazards with the entity's finances, operations, and objectives.

**Entity**

An Entity for this report is San Mateo County, Cities, Special Districts, Joint Power Authorities, or Schools.

**External Auditor**

An external auditor is a public accountant who conducts audits, reviews, and other work for its clients. An external auditor is independent, and so is in a good position to make an impartial evaluation of the financial statements and systems of internal controls of those clients.

**Green Book**

Standards for internal control in the Federal Government issued by the General Accounting Office of the U.S. Government.

**Internal Auditor**

An internal auditor is responsible for reviewing a company's processes, identifying anomalies, and reporting any issues found to management. An internal auditor is an employee of a company, so is not independent of the company.

**Internal Controls**

A process effected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel that is designed to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of the entity's objectives with regard to the reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Internal control over safeguarding of assets against unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition may include controls relating to financial reporting and operations objectives.

**Management**

Management consists of those individuals directly responsible for all activities of an entity, including design, implementation and operation of an internal control system.

**Oversight Body**

The oversight body is the group responsible for overseeing the strategic direction of the entity and obligations related to the accountability of the entity, including management's design, implementation and operation of an internal control system. The oversight body may include elected or appointed officials and employees of the Entity.

**BACKGROUND**

Internal controls help an entity's management achieve its objectives. Also, internal controls help an entity run its operations efficiently and effectively, report reliable information about its operations and comply with applicable laws and regulations.

The need for internal controls applies to all entities, regardless of size. Large complex entities have different risk profiles than small, less-complex entities. All entities seek to control risk

appropriate for its operations, designing and implementing internal controls for its own particular risk profile. Even small, less-complex entities face risks that demand related internal controls.

Whether an internal control is followed or not is not a matter of materiality. A failure in what might seem to someone to be a trivial control is the same as a failure in what everyone might consider to be a very important control. There are no big or small controls, just controls. Failure in any contributes to public distrust of all.

The Green Book, which sets the standards for an effective internal control system for federal agencies, identifies five components of an internal control system:

- Control Environment
- Risk Assessment
- Control Activities
- Information and Communication
- Monitoring

Each of these components applies to different levels of an organizational structure, such as a Parks and Recreation Department within a City Government.

The Green Book summarizes 17 Principles of Internal Control for these five components as:

#### Control Environment

1. The oversight body and management should demonstrate a commitment to integrity and ethical values.
2. The oversight body should oversee the entity's internal control system.
3. Management should establish an organizational structure, assign responsibility, and delegate authority to achieve the entity's objectives.
4. Management should demonstrate a commitment to recruit, develop, and retain competent individuals.
5. Management should evaluate performance and hold individuals accountable for their internal control responsibilities.

#### Risk Assessment

6. Management should define objectives clearly to enable the identification of risks and define risk tolerances.
7. Management should identify, analyze, and respond to risks related to achieving the defined objectives.
8. Management should consider the potential for fraud when identifying, analyzing, and responding to risks.
9. Management should identify, analyze, and respond to significant changes that could impact the internal control system.

Source: GAO. | GAO-14-704G

#### Control Activities

10. Management should design control activities to achieve objectives and respond to risks.
11. Management should design the entity's information system and related control activities to achieve objectives and respond to risks.
12. Management should implement control activities through policies.

#### Information and Communication

13. Management should use quality information to achieve the entity's objectives.
14. Management should internally communicate the necessary quality information to achieve the entity's objectives.
15. Management should externally communicate the necessary quality information to achieve the entity's objectives.

#### Monitoring

16. Management should establish and operate monitoring activities to monitor the internal control system and evaluate the results.
17. Management should remediate identified internal control deficiencies on a timely basis.

Each entity's oversight body is specifically responsible for oversight of internal control. Each entity's management is responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls.

Each entity's internal controls are its own – no one would expect all entities to have the same internal controls, because all entities are different.

The Civil Grand Jury found examples of fraud and waste in government listed in the appendix. Each of these examples likely reflects a failure of internal controls to prevent or detect fraud and waste. In other words, you ordinarily can't have a problem with fraud and waste without a failure in internal controls.

### **Focus on the Control Environment, Information and Communication and Monitoring principles**

The Civil Grand Jury focused on the control environment, information and communication and monitoring principles of internal control, seeking information about:

- *Control Environment Principle* - how governing boards oversee internal controls, such as a review of management's report on its assessment of internal controls.
- *Information and Communication Principle* - how management reports to the governing board regarding its assessment of internal control and how management's assessment of internal controls is communicated to the public, such as through an agenda item in a public meeting of the governing board.
- *Monitoring Principle* - information about how management monitors its internal control systems, such as management's assessment of internal controls.

It is of note that this investigation did not evaluate the quality of any entity's internal control or the effectiveness of an entity's internal controls.

The Civil Grand Jury sent a survey, received responses and confirmed survey responses via interviews with the 28 entities from whom it requests responses. However, common sense suggests each of the recommendations included in this report apply to all entities in the County.

The Civil Grand Jury recognizes that for a variety of reasons, management may not want to publicly report its controls and results of investigations. For example, an internal report might include details of needs for improving controls that might be considered a roadmap for fraud until the improvements are in place. Management reports available to the public through public release or materials for a public meeting could exclude such details, while the report available to the public could include an appropriate summary of information from an assessment.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Preliminary Research**

The Civil Grand Jury reviewed the websites of San Mateo County public entities and public media related to fraud and waste in government.

### **Preliminary Interview**

To better understand, as a baseline, how the County Controller's Office oversees its internal controls, the Civil Grand Jury interviewed the Controller's Office of the County of San Mateo.

## **Survey and Survey Response Analysis**

The Civil Grand Jury designed a survey focused on an entity's assessment of its internal controls, reporting, training and risk evaluation. See Appendix A for the survey. The Civil Grand Jury sent the survey to 75 entities.

The Civil Grand Jury reviewed and analyzed the responses.

## **Interviews with Entities**

By rule, the Civil Grand Jury must interview an entity to use that entity's responses to a survey as a matter of fact. The Civil Grand Jury interviewed 28 entities, mostly focusing on entities that did not conduct an assessment of its internal controls in the last 18 months.

The Civil Grand Jury also interviewed a Certified Public Accountant with experience serving as external auditor of entities within San Mateo County.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Regulatory History**

In 2013, our California Assembly approved Bill No. 1248, to require the state controller to establish internal controls for California local agencies. Bill No. 1248 applies to the County of San Mateo and the cities, special districts and other local government entities, except school districts. Bill No.1248 appears in the California Government Code section 12422.5.

In 2014, The General Accounting Office (GAO) of the U.S. Government issued the Green Book. The U.S. Comptroller General prescribes internal control standards in the Green Book for the federal government. The Green Book says that state, local and quasi-governmental agencies and not-for-profit organizations may adopt the Green Book as a framework for an internal control system.

In 2015, the California State Controller's Office issued "Internal Control Guidelines - California Local Agencies" to comply with California Government Code section 12422.5. The State Guidelines refer to the Green Book, among other resources.

The State Guidelines refer to the same structure of internal controls in the Green Book as well as the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) publications, both of which refer to the Governing Board's responsibility to ensure completion of periodic risk assessments and to oversee internal controls.

Schools in San Mateo County are governed by the California Education Code (EDC). The county superintendent of schools may review or audit internal controls of any school district in its county per the California Education Code section 1241.5. The guidance in the Green Book and the State Guidelines naturally apply.

## Tone at the Top

The oversight body and management set the tone at the top and throughout the organization by its example. Tone at the top is fundamental to effective internal controls. The tone at the top helps ensure:

- the entity's risk identification is complete
- risk responses are appropriate
- control activities are appropriately designed or implemented
- information and communication are effective
- results of monitoring are understood and acted upon.

## Accountability for Performance

The State Guidelines include a section on Accountability for Performance, including:

- establishing mechanisms for holding individuals accountable for internal control responsibilities, which naturally include the oversight body and management
- establishing performance measures for all levels of the organization
- performing timely evaluations and aligning incentives with the fulfillment of internal control responsibilities.

All governing bodies and its management have basic responsibilities regarding internal controls, even if the State Guidelines do not specifically refer to those basic responsibilities. Those responsibilities naturally include:

- Oversight boards must demonstrate its oversight of management's internal controls, such as clear and timely reporting on its review of internal controls
- Management's reports on internal controls should be clearly and readily available to the public
- Management must be evaluated for its assessments of internal controls and its external reporting.

## Role of the External Auditor

External auditors are not considered a part of an entity's internal controls. While management may look into and use recommendations by external auditors, management owns the entity's internal controls. Management may communicate with and get quality information from its external auditors as it monitors and maintains internal controls.

Management may hire an external service provider to conduct assessments of internal controls. Data from these assessments can aid management ensuring that the entity's internal controls are appropriate for that entity. In conducting an audit, external auditors may rely on these assessments, which could result in a more efficient and less expensive external audit.

The Civil Grand Jury found through its research **that audits uncover only about 4% of fraud.**

Several entities we interviewed stated that they rely on or interact with its external auditors as part of its internal controls. Comments from respondents included:

- We have been using the external auditors and have been reviewing the internal controls with them annually.
- This is done with the regular annual audit. We do not have reasons to justify an additional assessment.
- Annually, the internal controls are updated as part of our external audit, not separately from the external audit process.

The reports from external auditors include limitations on the results of its review of internal controls they conduct in connection with an audit. These limitations include statements like “we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses” and “material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.” The external auditor reports are clear that they do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal controls.

The Civil Grand Jury interviewed a Certified Public Accountant who audits local governments and agencies and confirmed that management should assess its internal controls independently of the external auditor’s work, noting management can separately refer to the independent auditor’s work in its report to its governing board regarding internal controls.

Furthermore, the Certified Public Accountant and interviewees generally agreed that if management performed its own assessment of its internal controls, the results of that assessment can be shared with the external auditor and the auditor may use those results in designing audit work, increasing efficiency. Increases in efficiency in external audits likely at least partially offset any incremental staff work in conducting management’s assessment.

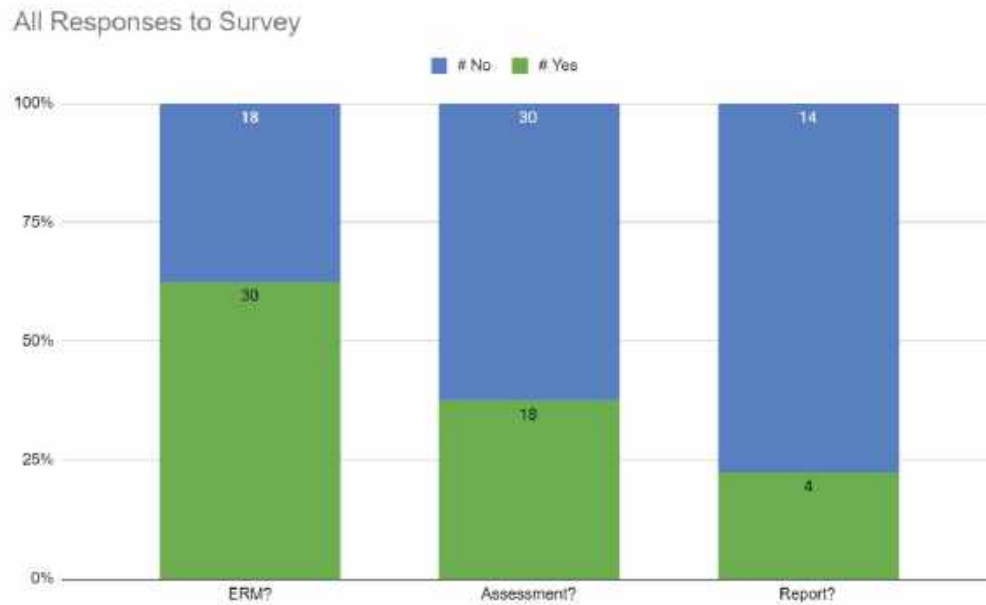
### **Survey Responses**

Survey requests were sent to 75 entities, including municipalities, school districts, independent special districts and joint power authorities. Responses were received from 54 entities.

Given the enormity of the challenge of reviewing individual controls at any one agency, the Civil Grand Jury looked into the way government entities in San Mateo County assess its internal controls and how the results of those assessments are reported to governing boards and to the public. This assessment and reporting should follow the State of California guidelines and the underlying referenced guidelines from the Green Book and the Committee of Sponsoring Corporations. Management’s assessment of its internal controls and communication, both internally within an entity and externally to the entity’s constituents, are key principles of internal controls.

The Civil Grand Jury focused on responses to three questions from the survey:

1. Do you have an established process in place to identify organizational risks (also known as Enterprise Risk Management, or ERM)? The tables below refer to this question as ‘ERM?’.
2. Other than outside audits of your organization's financial statements, have you or your organization performed an assessment of your organization's "internal controls" within the last 18 months? The tables below refer to this as ‘Assessment?’.
3. Was a written report of the assessment produced? The tables below refer to this as ‘Report?’.



Identifying risks to an entity is a critical part of effective internal controls. See Principle 7 in the Green Book Principles of Internal Controls Table above.

Eighteen entities responded that they had performed an assessment of internal controls in the prior 18 months. Each entity must assess its internal controls. State guidelines require established mechanisms to hold management responsible for internal control responsibilities and to align incentives with the fulfillment of internal control responsibilities.

Four entities responded that they prepared a report regarding assessments of internal controls. Each governing board must oversee its entity's internal controls. State guidelines require established mechanisms to hold management responsible for internal control responsibilities and to align incentives with goals and objectives. Management should both internally and externally communicate the results of its assessments of internal controls. If management does not communicate the results of its assessments of internal controls, others may see this as an opportunity to commit fraud or waste government assets. Management should communicate the results of its assessments of internal controls in writing to its governing board.

These data led the Civil Grand Jury to conduct interviews with selected entities that responded to the survey.

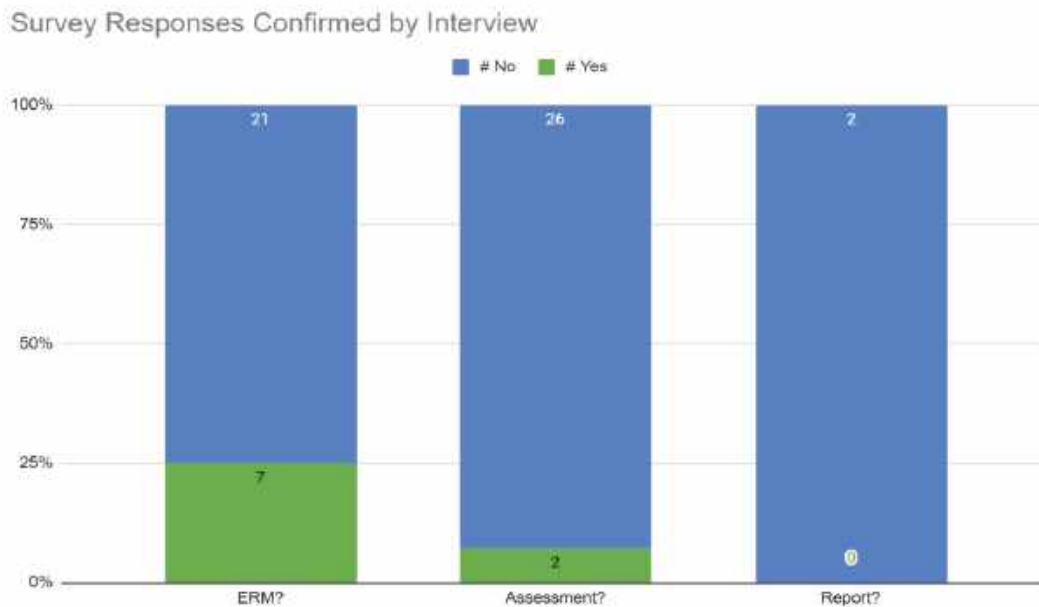
### Interviews with Selected Entities

By rule of the Civil Grand Jury, the findings and recommendations included in this report can only be sent to entities that responded to the survey and participated in interviews with the Civil Grand Jury. In other words, the survey responses do not suffice to be considered a matter of fact and be used to come to a conclusion or make a recommendation.

The 28 Entities we interviewed are listed below in the section titled “Request for Responses.”

Of the Entities interviewed to confirm survey responses:

- Seven Entities reported that they did not have an established process in place to identify organizational risks.
- Twenty-six entities reported that, other than outside audits, its organization had not performed an assessment of its internal controls in the last 18 months.
- Two entities that did perform an assessment of its internal controls did not produce a written report of its assessment.



### Identifying risks

Identifying risks in an organization is a critical part of effective internal controls - see Principle 7 in the Green Book Principles of Internal Controls (Table above).

When an entity does not have a process to identify organizational risks, the entity does not demonstrate how its internal controls address identified risks, and the likelihood of a failure in internal controls that results in fraud or waste increases.



### *Assessing Internal Controls*

Entities must assess its internal controls. State guidelines require established mechanisms to hold management responsible for internal control responsibilities and to align incentives with the fulfillment of internal control responsibilities.

When an entity does not periodically assess its internal controls, the entity cannot demonstrate that they are monitoring its internal controls, and the likelihood of a failure in internal controls that results in fraud or waste increases.

### *Reporting Results of Assessments*

Each governing board must oversee its entity's internal controls. State guidelines require established mechanisms to hold management responsible for internal control responsibilities and to align incentives with goals and objectives.

Management should both internally and externally communicate the results of its assessments of internal controls. If management does not communicate the results of its assessments of internal controls, others may see this as an opportunity to commit fraud or waste government assets.

Management should communicate the results of its assessments of internal controls in writing to its governing board.

When management does not report the results of its assessments of internal controls to its governing board and the entity has not communicated externally, the likelihood that others may see this as an opportunity to commit fraud or avoid waste increases.

## **FINDINGS**

- F1. When an entity does not have a process to identify organizational risks, and the entity does not demonstrate how its internal controls address identified risks, the likelihood of a failure in internal controls that results in fraud or waste increases.
- F2. When an entity does not periodically assess its internal controls and the entity cannot demonstrate that it is monitoring its internal controls, the likelihood of a failure in internal controls that results in fraud or waste increases.
- F3. When management does not report the results of its assessments of internal controls to its governing board and the entity has not communicated externally, the likelihood that others see this as an opportunity to commit fraud or waste increases.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. Beginning by no later than December 31, 2024 and at least annually thereafter, each entity will document its organizational risks and address those risks in its annual Assessment of Internal Controls.
- R2. Beginning by no later than March 31, 2025 and at least annually thereafter, each governing board will require its management to complete its annual assessments of internal controls.
- R3. Beginning by no later than June 30, 2025 and annually thereafter, each governing board will require management to report the results of its annual assessment of the entity’s internal controls.

## REQUEST FOR RESPONSES

The following responses from governing bodies are required pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05:

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Findings</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
Belmont-Redwood Shores SD	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
Brisbane School District	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
City of Burlingame	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
City of East Palo Alto	F1, F2	R1, R2
City of Half Moon Bay	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
City of Menlo Park	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
City of Redwood City	F2, F3	R2, R3
Coastside Fire Protection District	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
Colma Fire Protection District	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
Jefferson Union High School District	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
La Honda-Pescadero USD	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
Menlo Park City School District	F2, F3	R2, R3
Menlo Park Fire Protection District	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
Mid-Peninsula Water District	F2, F3	R2, R3
North Coast County Water District	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
Pacifica School District	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
Portola Valley School District	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
Ravenswood City School District	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
Redwood City School District	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3

San Mateo County Libraries	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
San Mateo Foster City School District	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
San Mateo Union High School District	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
Sequoia Healthcare District	F2	R2
Silicon Valley Clean Water	F2, F3	R2, R3
South Bayside Waste Management Authority	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
Town of Atherton	F2, F3	R2, R3
West Bay Sanitary District	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3
Woodside School District	F1, F2, F3	R1, R2, R3

## RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

California Penal Code Section 933.05 provides: For purposes of subdivision of Section 933, as to each Civil Grand Jury finding, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following:

- (1) The respondent agrees with the finding.
- (2) The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding; in which case the response shall specify the portion of the disputed finding and shall include an explanation of the reasons.

For purposes of subdivision of Section 933, as to each Civil Grand Jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:

- (1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
- (2) The recommendation has yet to be implemented but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.
- (3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This time frame shall be at most six months from the Civil Grand Jury report's publication date.
- (4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefore.

## **APPENDIXES**

Appendix A - Form of Survey

Appendix B - Examples of Fraud and Waste

### Form of Survey

1. Please list your name, title and organization
2. Other than outside audits of your organization's financial statements, have you or your organization performed an assessment of your organization's "internal controls" within the last 18 months? (Yes/No)
3. If your organization has not performed an assessment of its internal controls or has not completed one in the last 18 months, why?
4. What was the date of your internal controls assessment?
5. What type of tool was used to assess your internal controls? If "Other", please provide a brief description of the tool. (Checklist/Guided questions/Other)
6. Was a written report of the assessment produced? (Yes/No)
7. Was this assessment report shared with your governing board? (Shared/Not shared/Written assessment report was not produced)
8. Does your governing board require or suggest that your organization periodically review its internal controls?
9. Have the personnel in your organization received training specific to building effective internal controls?
10. If your organization has received training in building effective internal controls, who provided the training?
11. Do you have an established process in place to identify organizational risks (also known as Enterprise Risk Management or "ERM")?
12. When substantial risks are identified, does your process require changes or improvements to the applicable internal controls?
13. Have you shared the organizational risk assessment findings with your governing board?
14. Internal controls assessment tool:
15. Internal controls assessment report:
16. Risk assessment report:
17. Other links, please describe and include link(s):

## Examples of Alleged Fraud and Waste

### Broadmoor Police Protection District Fraud

<https://www.chronline.com/stories/outrageous-pension-double-dipping-triggers-criminal-investigation-into-california-cops,281359>

### San Mateo County Pay to Play Prosecution

<https://www.almanacnews.com/news/2023/02/10/community-college-district-lawsuit-alleges-pay-to-play-in-construction-projects-under-former-chancellor/>

### Reporting of Personal Residences paid for with government funds.

<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/former-caltrain-manager-secret-apartments-bay-area-train-stations/3496068/>

Release Date: June 27, 2024  
2023-2024 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury



**STAFF REPORT**

**City Council**

**Meeting Date:** 9/24/2024  
**Staff Report Number:** 24-172-CC

**Consent Calendar:** Adopt a resolution amending City Council Policy CC-19-002 Travel, Meal and Lodging Policy

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution (Attachment A) amending City Council Policy CC-19-002 Travel, Meal and Lodging Policy.

**Policy Issues**

State law, under Government Code §36514.5, authorizes City Councilmembers to be reimbursed for certain expenses and Government Code §§53232.2 and 53232.3 places further requirements on the types of expenses and the need for a written policy adopted at a public meeting. The City's current travel policy was last updated March 12, 2019 (Attachment B) with new definitions and information on sister city and foreign travel and travel paid by third parties.

**Background**

City Councilmembers may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties.<sup>1</sup> If a city reimburses City Councilmembers for such expenses, the City Council must adopt at a public meeting a written policy governing payment.<sup>2</sup> In addition, if a city provides any type of compensation or payment of expenses to City Councilmembers, then all of the City Councilmembers are required to have at least two hours of ethics training every two years.<sup>3</sup>

State law also contains safeguards to ensure that public funds are used efficiently. City Councilmembers must use government and group rates offered by a conference or a provider of transportation or lodging services for travel and lodging when available. All expenses that do not fall within the City's travel reimbursement policy or the Internal Revenue Service reimbursable rates must be approved by the City Council, in a public meeting before the expense is incurred. City Councilmembers must submit expense reports showing that expenses meet the existing policy together with receipts documenting each expense.

City Councilmembers must provide brief reports on meetings attended at the expense of the City at the next City Council meeting. Finally, all expense reports are public record.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Government Code §36514.5.

<sup>2</sup> Government Code §53232.2(b).

<sup>3</sup> Government Code §53235.

<sup>4</sup> Government Code §§53232.2 and 53232.3.

### **Analysis**

Policies for reimbursement of travel related expenses vary from city to city. State law does prescribe some threshold standards, especially as it relates to reimbursement of City Councilmember travel. The updated policy removes reference to per diems, as City Councilmembers are not eligible to receive a per diem allowance, per Government Code §§53232.2 and 53232.3. The policy also removes reference to City employees, as the Government Codes are specifically for City Councilmembers and and/or commissions, committees and boards with decision making or advisory authority and not applicable to employees. City staff, in parallel with this policy update, is establishing a City employee Travel, Meal and Lodging Policy. The proposed policy also adds detail to reimbursement of cash advances. Lastly, the per trip expenditure limit for prior City Council approval was increased to \$3,000 from \$2,000, resulting in any expenditure over \$3,000 requiring City Council approval.

City Councilmembers will continue to be reimbursed actual meal and beverage expenses not to exceed the federal government per diem for Menlo Park, before tax and gratuities. Tax and gratuities will also continue to be reimbursed.

### **Impact on City Resources**

There is no direct impact on City resources associated with this staff report.

### **Environmental Review**

This action is not a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §§15378 and 15061(b)(3) as it is a minor change that will not result in any direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

### **Public Notice**

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

### **Attachments**

- A. Resolution
- B. March 12, 2019 Staff Report #19-023-CC
- C. Redline City Council Policy CC-19-002 Travel, Meal and Lodging Policy

Report prepared by:

Judi A. Herren, Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk



**RESOLUTION NO. XXXX**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK  
RESCINDING CITY COUNCIL POLICY NO. CC-19-002 AND ADOPTING CITY  
COUNCIL POLICY NO. CC-24-002 TITLED CITY OF MENLO PARK TRAVEL,  
MEAL AND LODGING POLICY**

WHEREAS, this policy provides guidance to City officials on the use and expenditure of City resources, as well as the standards against which those expenditures will be measured.

WHEREAS, this policy satisfies the requirements of Government Code §§53232.2 and 53233.3.

WHEREAS, this policy specifies the types of occurrences that qualify a member of the legislative body to receive reimbursement of expenses relating to travel, meals, lodging and other actual and necessary expenses, and supplements the definition of actual and necessary expenses for purposes of state laws relating to permissible uses of public resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park hereby rescinds Policy No. CC-19-002 adopted March 12, 2019, and in its place adopts the City Council Policy No. CC-24-002 titled City of Menlo Park Travel, Meal and Lodging Policy recommended by staff and presented to the City Council on the twenty-fourth day of September, 2024, incorporated herein as Exhibit A.

I, Judi A. Herren, City Clerk of the City of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing City Council resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said City Council on the twenty-fourth day of September, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of said City on this\_\_day of \_\_, 2024.

---

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

Exhibits:

A. City Council Policy No. CC-24-002 Travel, Meal and Lodging Policy

# TRAVEL, MEAL, AND LODGING POLICY

Resolution No. XXXX  
City Council Policy #CC-24-002

Adopted XXX

Resolution No. XXXX



## Findings

The City of Menlo Park takes its stewardship over the use of its limited public resources seriously and public resources should only be used when there is a substantial benefit to the City.

Such benefits include the opportunity to discuss the community's concerns with regional, state and federal officials, as well as participating in regional, state and national organizations whose activities affect the City. Additionally, attending educational seminars designed to improve an official's skill and knowledge and promoting public service and morale by recognizing such service.

Legislative and other regional, state and federal agency business is frequently conducted over meals, which can provide opportunity for a more extensive, focused and uninterrupted communication about the City's policy concerns.

In the conduct of official city business, officials will be reimbursed actual meal and beverage expenses not to exceed the [federal government per diem for Menlo Park](#), before tax and gratuities. Tax and gratuities will also be reimbursed. It is important to note that each meal expenditure must comply with the limits and reporting requirements of local, state and federal law. City officials should keep in mind that some expenditures may be subject to reporting under the Political Reform Act and other laws. All agency expenditures are public records subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act.

This policy provides guidance to City officials on the use and expenditure of City resources, as well as the standards against which those expenditures will be measured and satisfies the requirements of Government Code §§53232.2 and 53233.3.

This policy supplements the definition of actual and necessary expenses for purposes of state laws relating to permissible uses of public resources and the definition of necessary and reasonable expenses for purposes of federal and state income tax laws.

This policy also applies to any charges made to a City credit card, cash advances or other line of credit.

## Applicability and definitions

This policy shall apply to all City officials.

City officials. City officials shall mean the City Council and/or commissions, committees and boards with decision making or advisory authority.

## Authorized expenses

City funds, equipment, titles, and staff time must only be used for authorized City business. Expenses incurred in connection with the following types of activities generally constitute authorized expenses, as long as the other requirements of this policy are met:

- Communicating with representatives of regional, state and federal government on City adopted policy positions;
- Attending educational seminars designed to improve an official's skill and information levels;
- Participating in regional, state and national organizations whose activities affect the City's interests;
- Recognizing service to the City;
- Attending City events;
- Implementing a City Council approved strategy for attracting or retaining businesses to the City, which will typically involve at least one staff member.

All other expenditures require prior approval by the City Council for officials. The following expenses also require prior City Council approval:

- International travel;
- Expenses exceeding \$2,000 per trip.

Examples of organizations that host seminars, conferences, and meetings applicable to City operations and eligible for reimbursement under this policy include, but are not limited to:

- Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)
- California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission (CDIAC)
- California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS)
- City/County Associations of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG)
- Joint Venture Silicon Valley
- League of California Cities
- National League of Cities (NLC)
- San Mateo County Council of Cities
- San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA)
- Chamber San Mateo County
- San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SCMTA)
- Santa Clara County Cities Association
- Silicon Valley Economic Development Alliance
- Sister Cities International

Examples of personal expenses that the City will not reimburse include, but are not limited to:

- The personal portion of any trip;
- Political or charitable contributions or events;
- Family or guest expenses, including partner's expenses when accompanying a City official on agency-related business, as well as children- or pet-related expenses;
- Entertainment expenses, including theater, movies (either in-room or at the theater), sporting events (including gym, massage and/or golf related expenses), or other cultural events;
- Non-mileage personal automobile expenses, including repairs, traffic citations, insurance or gasoline; and
- Personal losses incurred while on City business.

Any questions regarding the propriety of a particular type of expense should be resolved by the approving authority before the expense is incurred.

#### Sister City and foreign travel

For sister or friendship city travel, any city official reimbursement requires pre-approval of the City Council. If a City Councilmember is paying for their own sister or friendship city travel, City Council travel approval is not required, but the traveling City Councilmember should inform the City Council in advance of travel.

If undertaking such travel, whether reimbursed by the City or as a personal expense, individual City Councilmembers shall not have authority to sign city-related official documents individually or on behalf of the City Council unless the document has been pre-approved by the City Council. Any foreign document submitted for signature must be translated into English.

#### Travel paid for by third parties

City official travel paid by third parties requires a Fair Political Practices letter pre-authorizing travel where it is unclear whether an exception to the gift or income restrictions applies.

Third parties offering travel to City officials shall be requested to provide the schedule of public appearances and shall be informed that individual city officials do not have the authority to sign official City documents unless the City Council pre-approves.

**Transportation**

The most economical mode and class of transportation reasonably consistent with scheduling needs and cargo space requirements must be used, using the most direct and time-efficient route. Government and group rates must be used when available.

Airfare. To identify the lowest airfare, City officials should use an online travel search engine that compares flights across major airlines. Baggage handling fees for one checked bag shall be reimbursed.

Automobile. Mileage driving using an official's personal vehicle to conduct City business shall be reimbursed at Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rates in effect on the date of travel for all miles driven in the conduct of official business in excess of the official's regular commute. The IRS rates are designed to compensate the driver for gasoline, insurance, maintenance, and other expenses associated with operating the vehicle. This amount does not include bridge and road tolls, which are also reimbursable.

Car rental. Charges for rental vehicles may be reimbursed under this provision if the City official is attending an out of town conference, and it is determined that renting a vehicle is more economical than other forms of transportation. In making such determination, the cost of the rental vehicle, parking and gasoline will be compared to the combined cost of such other forms of transportation.

Ride share/taxis/shuttles. Ride share, taxis or shuttles fares may be reimbursed when the cost of such fares is equal or less than the cost of car rentals, gasoline and parking combined, or when such transportation is necessary for time efficiency.

Airport parking. When applicable, long-term or economy parking lots must be used for travel exceeding 24-hours.

**Lodging**

Lodging expenses will be reimbursed or paid for when travel on official City business reasonably requires an overnight stay. Government and group rates must be used when available.

Conferences/meetings. If lodging is in connection with a conference, lodging expenses must not exceed the group rate published by the conference sponsor for the meeting in question if such rates are available at the time of booking. If group rates are not available at time of booking, the City official shall secure the most economical lodging in close proximity of the conference/meeting venue.

Other lodging. Lodging rates that are equal to or less than government rates or the IRS per diem rates for the applicable area are presumed to be reasonable and hence reimbursable for purposes of this policy. A City official may stay with a friend or relative while attending an out-of-town meeting or conference; however, the City will not reimburse for any payment to the friend or relative for lodging, meals or transportation.

**Other expenses**

Internet. City officials will be reimbursed for internet access connection and/or usage fees away from home, not to exceed \$15.00 per day, if internet access is necessary for official business.

Telecommunication expenses. City officials will be reimbursed for actual telecommunication expenses incurred on City business. No reimbursement is made for use of personal cell phones.

Gratuities. Gratuities of up to 15% will be reimbursed for services customarily subject to gratuity.

Reimbursement from other entities. Expenses for which City officials receive reimbursement from another agency are not reimbursable.

**Cash advances**

From time to time, it may be necessary for a City official to request a cash advance to cover anticipated expenses while traveling or doing business on the City's behalf. Such request for an advance should be submitted to the administrative services director five business days before the need for the advance with the following information:

- The purpose of the expenditure(s);
- The benefits of such expenditure(s) to the residents of Menlo Park;
- The anticipated amount of the expenditure(s) (for example, hotel rates, meal costs and transportation expenses); and
- The dates of the expenditure(s).

After the need for the advance has occurred, the City official must submit receipts demonstrating how the cash advances were used to the administrative services director. Any unused advance must be returned to the City treasury within two business days of the City official's return, along with an expense report and receipts documenting how the advance was used in compliance with this expense policy.

**Credit card use**

The City does not issue credit cards to individual office holders but does have an agency credit card for selected City expenses. City officials may use the City's credit card for such purposes as airline tickets and hotel reservations by following the same procedures for cash advances. Receipts documenting expenses incurred on the City credit card and compliance with this policy must be submitted within five business days of use.

City credit cards may not be used for personal expenses, even if the City official subsequently reimburses the City.

**Expense report content and submission deadline**

All cash advance expenditures, credit card expenses and expense reimbursement requests must be submitted on an expense report form provided by the City. All expenses reported on the form must comply with the City's policies relating to expenses and use of public resources. The information submitted on the form is a public record. Penalties for misusing public resources and violating the City's policies include loss of reimbursement privileges, restitution, civil and criminal penalties as well as additional income tax liability.

Expense reports must document that the expense in question met the requirements of this policy. For example, if the meeting is with a legislator, the City official should explain whose meals were purchased, what issues were discussed and how those relate to the City's adopted legislative positions and priorities.

City officials must submit their expense reports within 30 days of an expense being incurred, accompanied by receipts documenting each expense. Detailed restaurant receipts for official business meetings, in addition to any credit card receipts, are also part of the necessary documentation.

Inability to provide such documentation in a timely fashion may result in the expense being borne by the City official.

**Authorization for travel and other related expenses**

Attendance of City officials at conferences, seminars and meetings shall be subject to prior approval by the City Council, which occurs during the adoption of the annual budget. For out-of-state travel, the prior approval of a majority of the City Council obtained during a public meeting is required.

<b>Special rules for City Councilmembers</b>		
<p>City Councilmembers will comply with the communications policy in Chapter 4 of the procedures manual when traveling for City business.</p> <p>At the first City Council meeting following any meeting/conference for which a City official seeks City reimbursement, the official shall briefly report on the meeting/conference. No reimbursement shall be provided until the report is given to the City Council.</p> <p>If multiple City officials attended, a joint report may be made. The report may be made verbally or in writing.</p>		
<b>Violation of this policy</b>		
<p>Under state law, use of public resources or falsifying expense reports in violation of this policy may result in any or all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of reimbursement privileges,</li> <li>• A demand for restitution to the City,</li> <li>• The agency's reporting the expenses as income to the City official to state and federal tax authorities,</li> <li>• Civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per day and three times the value of the resources used, and</li> <li>• Prosecution for misuse of public resources.</li> </ul>		
<b>Enforcement and cost control</b>		
<p>All expenses are subject to audit and verification that they comply with this policy.</p> <p>The administrative services director is responsible for enforcing this policy. In the event the administrative services director is uncertain as to whether a request complies with this policy, such individual must seek resolution from the requester's approving authority.</p> <p>To conserve City resources and keep expenses within community standards for public officials, expenditures should adhere to this policy. In the event that expenses are incurred which exceed this policy, the cost borne or reimbursed by the City will be limited to the costs that fall within this policy.</p>		
<b>Policy history</b>		
Action	Date	Notes
Policy adoption	3/12/1991	By motion
Policy adoption	9/11/2018	Resolution No. 6460
Policy adoption	3/12/2019	Resolution No. 6485
Policy adoption	XX/XX/XXXX	Resolution No. XXXX



## STAFF REPORT

### City Council

Meeting Date:

3/12/2019

Staff Report Number:

19-023-CC

### Regular Business:

**Discuss and provide direction on the City's travel policy and/or adopt Resolution No 6485 rescinding City Council Procedure No. CC-18-001 and adopting City Council Procedure No. CC-19-002 titled "City of Menlo Park Travel, Meal and Lodging Policy"**

### Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council discuss and provide direction on the City's travel policy and/or adopt a resolution rescinding City Council Procedure #CC-18-001 and adopting City Council Procedure #CC-19-002 titled "City of Menlo Park Travel, Meal and Lodging Policy" (Attachments A and B.)

### Policy Issues

State law authorizes city councilmembers to be reimbursed for travel, meals, lodging, and other actual and necessary expenses. Such reimbursement must be made in accordance with a written policy adopted at a public meeting. The City's current travel policy was last updated September 11, 2018 and the City Council directed staff to come back with some additional modifications pertaining to City Council travel.

### Background

Policies for reimbursement of travel related expenses vary from city to city. State law does prescribe some threshold standards, especially as it relates to reimbursement of city councilmember travel. Because of these special restrictions, this report focuses on city councilmember travel. The updated policy though more broadly applies to city councilmembers, city employees and other local officials (such as appointed Menlo Park commissioners, City Attorney and City Manager.)

City councilmembers may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties.<sup>1</sup> If a city reimburses city councilmembers for such expenses, the city council must adopt at a public meeting a written policy governing payment.<sup>2</sup> In addition, if a city provides any type of compensation or payment of expenses to city councilmembers, then all of the city councilmembers are required to have at least two hours of ethics training every two years.<sup>3</sup>

State law also contains safeguards to ensure that public funds are used efficiently. City councilmembers must use government and group rates offered by a conference or a provider of transportation or lodging services for travel and lodging when available. All expenses that do not fall within the City's travel reimbursement policy or the Internal Revenue Service reimbursable rates must be approved by the City

<sup>1</sup> Government Code Section 36514.5.

<sup>2</sup> Government Code Section 53232.2(b).

<sup>3</sup> Government Code Section 53235.

Council, in a public meeting before the expense is incurred. City Councilmembers must submit expense reports showing that expenses meet the existing policy together with receipts documenting each expense. City councilmembers must provide brief reports on meetings attended at the expense of the City at the next regular City Council meeting. Finally, all expense reports are public record.<sup>4</sup>

The Institute for Local Government has prepared a sample travel policy to assist local agencies (Attachment D.)

On September 11, 2018, the City Council updated its travel policy to align better with the ILG model policy. In addition the City Council requested staff to come back with an amended policy to address some additional City Council related travel policies related primarily to sister/friendship city and foreign travel. For reference, the September 11, 2018 staff report is included as Attachment C.

### **Analysis**

On September 11, 2018, the City Council reviewed and approved the updated travel policy. In addition, it requested the City Attorney to come back with the following additional items for discussion and inclusion in the policy:

1. include a list of examples of typical reimbursable conferences and meetings as contained in old policy;
2. add explicit language that city councilmembers may not sign any official document on behalf of the City unless preapproved by City Council and that any foreign document submitted for signature must be translated into English;
3. travel paid by third parties requires a Fair Political Practices letter pre-authorizing travel where it is unclear whether an exception to the gift or income restrictions applies;
4. attach to the travel policy a template letter requesting third parties offering travel gifts to provide the schedule of public appearances, informing them that individual city councilmembers do not have authority to sign official City documents unless the full City Council pre-approves, requesting advance copies (and translations) of any documents city councilmember is requested to sign and other pertinent information;
5. for sister or friendship city travel, any city staff reimbursement requires pre-approval by City Council;
6. self-paid sister or friendship City Council travel does not require City Council approval, but City Council should be informed in advance of travel; and
7. City Councilmembers will comply with communications policy when traveling for City business

These items have been incorporated into the updated travel policy and discussed in more detail below.

#### Examples of reimbursable conferences/meetings (item 1)

A sample list of regularly attended conferences and meetings has been incorporated into the updated policy.

#### Signing documents on behalf of the city (item 2)

The updated travel policy clarifies that individual city councilmembers may not sign official city-related documents unless such documents have been pre-approved by the City Council. If the official documents are not written in English, they must be translated into English before the City Council approves signature.

#### Travel paid by third parties (items 3 and 4)

In some instances, travel costs paid for by third parties will be considered a gift and if valued at over \$470 is not permitted under State law. In other situations, such will not be considered a gift or income and is

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<sup>4</sup> Government Code Sections 53232.2 and 53232.3.



permitted (for instance travel paid for by a 501(c)(3) organization.) In situations when the city councilmember or City Attorney cannot readily determine how to classify the offer to pay for travel, the new policy now requires the city councilmember to request guidance from the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC.)

For greater transparency, the updated policy also requires the city councilmember to submit a template letter to any third party paying for travel outlining the City's travel policies and requesting advance information regarding public appearances and official documents requested to be signed.

#### Sister/Friendship city travel (items 5 and 6)

In the past the City has had an ad hoc policy approving sister/friendship city travel. Formerly city councilmembers paid for their own travel for this purpose. The new policy clarifies that if city councilmembers pay for their own travel, it does not require prior City Council approval, but the City Council must be informed in advance. The City Council, however, must pay for any travel paid for by the City.

#### Communications policy (item 7)

The updated policy clarifies that when traveling, the City Council should comply with the communications policy in the City Council procedures manual. This provision reads:

*Speaking for the "City":* Similar to written correspondence, when members are requested to speak to groups or are asked the City Council's position on an issue, the response should reflect the position of the City Council as a whole. Of course, a councilmember may clarify their vote on a matter by stating, for example, "While I voted against "X," the City Council voted in support of it." When representing the City at meetings or other venues, it is important that those in attendance gain an understanding of the City Council's position rather than that of an individual councilmember.

(See procedures manual, Menlo Park City Council, Chapter 4, pp. 21-22.)

In addition, under State law and the City's existing policy, after attending any meeting/conference for which a City official seeks City reimbursement, city councilmembers must report out at the next City Council meeting.

#### **Next Steps**

Staff has prepared a resolution in the event the City Council desires to adopt the policy included as Attachment A. The City Council can also give direction to staff to make modifications to the draft travel policy and bring it back to the City Council for approval.

#### **Impact on City Resources**

It is not anticipated that this updated policy will result in the expenditure of any additional funds.

#### **Environmental Review**

This action is not a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §§ 15378 and 15061(b)(3) as it is a minor change that will not result in any direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

#### **Public Notice**

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours

prior to the meeting.

**Attachments**

- A. Draft updated travel policy
- B. Resolution No. 6458 adopting updated travel policy
- C. September 11, 2019 staff report on updates to travel policy: hyperlink – <https://www.menlopark.org/DocumentCenter/View/18596/H4---Travel-policy-update>
- D. Institute for Local Government has prepared a sample travel policy: hyperlink – [http://www.ca-ilg.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/sample\\_reimbursement\\_policy\\_1\\_06.pdf](http://www.ca-ilg.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/sample_reimbursement_policy_1_06.pdf)

Report prepared by:

Cara Silver, Assistant City Attorney

Nick Pegueros, Assistant City Manager

Approved by:

William L. McClure, City Attorney

# Travel, Meal, and Lodging Policy

City Council Procedure #CC-18-001 #CC-19-002

Adopted September 11, 2018 Adopted February 12, 2019

Resolution No. 6460 XXXX



## Findings

Whereas, the City of Menlo Park takes its stewardship over the use of its limited public resources seriously.

Whereas, public resources should only be used when there is a substantial benefit to the City.

Whereas, such benefits include:

- The opportunity to discuss the community's concerns with regional, state and federal officials;
- Participating in regional, state and national organizations whose activities affect the City;
- Attending educational seminars designed to improve an official or employee's skill and information levels; and
- Promoting public service and morale by recognizing such service.

Whereas,

- Legislative and other regional, state and federal agency business is frequently conducted over meals
- Sharing a meal with regional, state and federal officials is frequently the best opportunity for a more extensive, focused and uninterrupted communication about the City's policy concerns;
- Each meal expenditure must comply with the limits and reporting requirements of local, state and federal law.

Whereas, this policy provides guidance to City officials and employees on the use and expenditure of City resources, as well as the standards against which those expenditures will be measured.

Whereas, this policy satisfies the requirements of Government Code sections 53232.2 and 53233.3.

Whereas, this policy supplements the definition of actual and necessary expenses for purposes of state laws relating to permissible uses of public resources.

Whereas, this policy supplements the definition of necessary and reasonable expenses for purposes of federal and state income tax laws.

Whereas, this policy also applies to any charges made to a City credit card, cash advances or other line of credit.

## Applicability and Definitions

This policy shall apply to all City officials and City employees.

City officials. City officials shall mean the City Council and officials appointed by the City Council including Board, Commission and Committee members, the City Attorney and the City Manager, and others the City Council designates to represent the City.

City employees. City employees shall mean all employees in the exempt, competitive, part-time and temporary services, including appointees of the City Manager and contractual employees. The City Manager is authorized to adopt additional rules and regulations to implement this policy for City employees.

## Authorized expenses

City funds, equipment, titles, and staff time must only be used for authorized City business. Expenses incurred in connection with the following types of activities generally constitute authorized expenses, as long as the other requirements of this policy are met:

- Communicating with representatives of regional, state and federal government on City adopted policy positions;
- Attending educational seminars designed to improve an official or employee's skill and information levels;
- Participating in regional, state and national organizations whose activities affect the City's interests;
- Recognizing service to the City (for example, thanking a longtime employee with a celebration of nominal value and cost);
- Attending City events;
- Implementing a City Council approved strategy for attracting or retaining businesses to the City, which will typically involve at least one staff member.

All other expenditures require prior approval by the City Council for officials or City Manager for employees. The following expenses also require prior City Council or City Manager approval:

- International travel;
- Expenses exceeding \$2,000 per trip.

Examples of organizations that host seminars, conferences, and meetings applicable to City operations and eligible for reimbursement under this policy include, but are not limited to:

- [Association of Bay Area Governments \(ABAG\)](#)
- [California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission \(CDIAC\)](#)
- [California Public Employees' Retirement System \(CalPERS\)](#)
- [City/County Associations of Governments of San Mateo County \(C/CAG\)](#)
- [Joint Venture Silicon Valley](#)
- [League of California Cities](#)
- [Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [National League of Cities \(NLC\)](#)
- [San Mateo County Council of Cities](#)
- [San Mateo County Economic Development Association \(SaMCEDA\)](#)
- [San Mateo County/Redwood City Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [San Mateo County Transportation Authority \(SCMTA\)](#)
- [Santa Clara County Cities Association](#)
- [Silicon Valley Economic Development Alliance](#)
- [Sister Cities International](#)
- [Professional organizations e.g., American Planning Association, American Public Works Association, California Parks and Recreation Society, Government Finance Officers Association, etc.](#)

Examples of personal expenses that the City will not reimburse include, but are not limited to:

- The personal portion of any trip;
- Political or charitable contributions or events;
- Family or guest expenses, including partner's expenses when accompanying a City official or employee on agency-related business, as well as children- or pet-related expenses;
- Entertainment expenses, including theater, movies (either in-room or at the theater), sporting events (including gym, massage and/or golf related expenses), or other cultural events;

- Non-mileage personal automobile expenses, including repairs, traffic citations, insurance or gasoline; and
- Personal losses incurred while on City business.

Any questions regarding the propriety of a particular type of expense should be resolved by the approving authority before the expense is incurred.

### **Sister City and Foreign Travel**

For sister or friendship city travel, any city official or staff reimbursement requires pre-approval of the City Council. If a council member is paying for their own sister or friendship city travel, City Council travel approval is not required, but the traveling council member should inform the City Council in advance of travel.

Individual council members shall not have authority to sign city-related official documents individually or on behalf of the City Council unless the document has been pre-approved by the City Council. Any foreign document submitted for signature must be translated into English.

### **Travel Paid for By Third Parties**

City official travel paid by third parties requires a Fair Political Practices letter pre-authorizing travel where it is unclear whether an exception to the gift or income restrictions applies.

Third parties offering travel to City officials shall be requested to provide the schedule of public appearances and shall be informed that individual city officials or staff do not have the authority to sign official City documents unless the City Council pre-approves. A template letter is attached to this policy. [Note this letter will be prepared when staff finalizes the policy.]

### **Enforcement and cost control**

All expenses are subject to audit and verification that they comply with this policy. *Note- Moved from another section.*

The Administrative Services Director is responsible for enforcing this policy. In the event the Administrative Services Director is uncertain as to whether a request complies with this policy, such individual must seek resolution from the requestor's approving authority. *Note- Moved from another section.*

To conserve City and keep expenses within community standards for public officials and employees, expenditures should adhere to the following guidelines. In the event that expenses are incurred which exceed these guidelines, the cost borne or reimbursed by the City will be limited to the costs that fall within the guidelines.

## Transportation

The most economical mode and class of transportation reasonably consistent with scheduling needs and cargo space requirements must be used, using the most direct and time-efficient route. Government and group rates must be used when available.

Airfare. To identify the lowest airfare, City officials and employees should use an online travel search engine that compares flights across major airlines. Baggage handling fees for one checked bag shall be reimbursed.

Automobile. Mileage driving using an official or employee's personal vehicle to conduct City business shall be reimbursed at Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rates in effect on the date of travel for all miles driven in the conduct of official business in excess of the official or employee's regular commute. The IRS rates are designed to compensate the driver for gasoline, insurance, maintenance, and other expenses associated with operating the vehicle. This amount does not include bridge and road tolls, which are also reimbursable.

Car Rental. Charges for rental vehicles may be reimbursed under this provision if more than one City official or employee is attending an out of town conference, and it is determined that sharing a rental vehicle is more economical than other forms of transportation. In making such determination, the cost of the rental vehicle, parking and gasoline will be compared to the combined cost of such other forms of transportation.

Ride Share/Taxis/Shuttles. Ride share, taxis or shuttles fares may be reimbursed when the cost of such fares is equal or less than the cost of car rentals, gasoline and parking combined, or when such transportation is necessary for time efficiency.

Airport Parking. Long-term parking must be used for travel exceeding 24-hours.

## Lodging

Lodging expenses will be reimbursed or paid for when travel on official City business reasonably requires an overnight stay. Government and group rates must be used when available.

Conferences/Meetings. If lodging is in connection with a conference, lodging expenses must not exceed the group rate published by the conference sponsor for the meeting in question if such rates are available at the time of booking. If group rates are not available at time of booking, the City official or employee shall secure the most economical lodging in close proximity of the conference/meeting venue.

Other Lodging. Lodging rates that are equal to or less than government rates or the IRS per diem rates for the applicable area are presumed to be reasonable and hence reimbursable for purposes of this policy. A City official or employee may stay with a friend or relative while attending an out-of-town meeting or conference; however, the City will not reimburse for any payment to the friend or relative for lodging, meals or transportation.

## Meals

Meals while traveling overnight. City officials and employees will receive a daily per diem allowance to cover the cost of meals and incidentals in accordance with [federal government per diem tables](#) for the city/region of travel.

Business Meeting Meals. In the conduct of official city business, officials will be reimbursed actual meal and beverage expenses not to exceed the [federal government per diem for Menlo Park](#), before tax and gratuities. Tax and gratuities will also be reimbursed.

## Other expenses

Internet. City officials or employees will be reimbursed for Internet access connection and/or usage fees away from home, not to exceed \$15.00 per day, if Internet access is necessary for official business.

Telecommunication expenses. City officials/employees will be reimbursed for actual telecommunication expenses incurred on City business. No reimbursement is made for use of personal cell phones.

Gratuities. Gratuities of up to fifteen (15) percent will be reimbursed for services customarily subject to gratuity.

Reimbursement from other entities. Expenses for which City officials/employees receive reimbursement from another agency are not reimbursable.

## Cash advances **Policy**

From time to time, it may be necessary for a City official or employee to request a cash advance to cover anticipated expenses while traveling or doing business on the City's behalf. Such request for an advance should be submitted to the Administrative Services Director five business days prior to the need for the advance with the following information:

- The purpose of the expenditure(s);
- The benefits of such expenditure(s) to the residents of Menlo Park;
- The anticipated amount of the expenditure(s) (for example, hotel rates, meal costs, and transportation expenses); and
- The dates of the expenditure(s).

Any unused advance must be returned to the City treasury within two business days of the City official or employee's return, along with an expense report and receipts documenting how the advance was used in compliance with this expense policy.

~~In the event the Administrative Services Director is uncertain as to whether a request complies with this policy, such individual must seek resolution from the City Council.~~ *Note: This verbiage moved to "Enforcement and cost control"*

### **Credit card use**

The City does not issue credit cards to individual office holders but does have an agency credit card for selected City expenses. City officials or employees may use the City's credit card for such purposes as airline tickets and hotel reservations by following the same procedures for cash advances. Receipts documenting expenses incurred on the City credit card and compliance with this policy must be submitted within five business days of use.

City credit cards may not be used for personal expenses, even if the City official or employee subsequently reimburses the City.

### **Expense report content and submission deadline**

All cash advance expenditures, credit card expenses and expense reimbursement requests must be submitted on an expense report form provided by the City. All expenses reported on the form must comply with the City's policies relating to expenses and use of public resources. The information submitted on the form is a public record. Penalties for misusing public resources and violating the City's policies include loss of reimbursement privileges, restitution, civil and criminal penalties as well as additional income tax liability.

Expense reports must document that the expense in question met the requirements of this policy. For example, if the meeting is with a legislator, the City official should explain whose meals were purchased, what issues were discussed and how those relate to the City's adopted legislative positions and priorities.

City officials and employees must submit their expense reports within 30 days of an expense being incurred, accompanied by receipts documenting each expense. Detailed restaurant receipts for official business meetings, in addition to any credit card receipts, are also part of the necessary documentation. No documentation is required for daily per diem allowances.

Inability to provide such documentation in a timely fashion may result in the expense being borne by the City official or employee.

### **Audits of expense reports**

~~All expenses are subject to verification that they comply with this policy.~~ *Note: This verbiage moved to "Enforcement and cost control"*

### **Authorization for travel and other related expenses**

Attendance of City officials at conferences, seminars and meetings shall be subject to prior approval by the City Council. Approval by the City Council shall occur with the adoption of the annual budget. For out-of-state travel, the prior approval of a majority of the City Council obtained during a public meeting is required.

The City Manager or his/her designee shall authorize and approve travel and reimbursement expenses for City employees. Out-of-state travel must be approved by the City Manager. City employees may not authorize nor approve reimbursement for their own travel and business expenses. The City Manager may adopt additional procedures to implement this policy as it relates to City employees.



**Reports to City Council Special rules for City Council members**

City Council members will comply with the communications policy in Chapter 4 of the Procedures Manual when traveling for City business.

City council members may not sign any official document on behalf of the City unless pre-approved by City Council.

At the first City Council meeting following any meeting/conference for which a City official seeks City reimbursement, the official shall briefly report on the meeting/conference. No reimbursement shall be provided until the report is given to the City Council.

If multiple City officials attended, a joint report may be made. The report may be made orally or in writing.

**Compliance with laws**

City officials and City employees should keep in mind that some expenditures may be subject to reporting under the Political Reform Act and other laws. All agency expenditures are public records subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act.

**Violation of this policy**

Under state law, use of public resources or falsifying expense reports in violation of this policy may result in any or all of the following:

- Loss of reimbursement privileges,
- A demand for restitution to the City,
- The agency's reporting the expenses as income to the City official or City employee to state and federal tax authorities,
- Civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per day and three times the value of the resources used, and
- Prosecution for misuse of public resources.

**Legislative history**

Action	Date	Notes
Adoption by City Council motion	March 12, 1991	Established City Council Procedure #CC-91-002
Adoption of Resolution No. 6460	September 11, 2018	Replaced City Council Procedure #CC-91-002 with #CC-18-001
Adoption of Resolution No. XXX	February 12, 2019	Replaced City Council Procedure #CC-18-001 with #CC-19-002

**RESOLUTION NO. 6485**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK  
RESCINDING CITY COUNCIL PROCEDURE NO. CC-18-001 AND  
ADOPTING CITY COUNCIL PROCEDURE NO. CC-19-002 TITLED CITY  
OF MENLO PARK TRAVEL, MEAL AND LODGING POLICY**

WHEREAS, this policy provides guidance to City officials and employees on the use and expenditure of City resources, as well as the standards against which those expenditures will be measured.

WHEREAS, this policy satisfies the requirements of Government Code sections 53232.2 and 53233.3.

WHEREAS, this policy supplements the definition of actual and necessary expenses for purposes of state laws relating to permissible uses of public resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park hereby rescinds Procedure No. CC-18-001 adopted September 11, 2018 and in its place adopts the City Council Procedure No. CC-19-002 titled City of Menlo Park Travel, Meal and Lodging Policy recommended by staff and presented to the City Council on the twelfth day of February, 2019, incorporated herein as Exhibit A.

I, Judi A. Herren, City Clerk of the City of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing City Council resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said City Council on the twelfth day of February, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of said City on this twelfth day of February, 2019.

---

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

# TRAVEL, MEAL, AND LODGING POLICY

City Council Policy #CC-1924-002

Adopted ~~March 12, 2019~~XXX

Resolution No. ~~6485~~XXXX

ATTACHMENT C



## Findings

The City of Menlo Park takes its stewardship over the use of its limited public resources seriously and public resources should only be used when there is a substantial benefit to the City.

~~Whereas, s~~Such benefits include ~~t~~:

~~T~~he opportunity to discuss the community's concerns with regional, state and federal officials, as well as ;

~~P~~participating in regional, state and national organizations whose activities affect the City. Additionally ;

~~a~~Attending educational seminars designed to improve an official ~~or employee's~~ skill and ~~information levels~~ knowledge; and ~~e~~

~~P~~promoting public service and morale by recognizing such service.

~~Whereas,~~Legislative and other regional, state and federal agency business is frequently conducted over meals, which can provide

~~Sharing a meal with regional, state and federal officials is frequently the best~~ opportunity for a more extensive, focused and uninterrupted communication about the City's policy concerns.

In the conduct of official city business, officials will be reimbursed actual meal and beverage expenses not to exceed the federal government per diem for Menlo Park, before tax and gratuities. Tax and gratuities will also be reimbursed. It is important to note that e;

~~E~~ach meal expenditure must comply with the limits and reporting requirements of local, state and federal law. City officials should keep in mind that some expenditures may be subject to reporting under the Political Reform Act and other laws. All agency expenditures are public records subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act.

~~Whereas, t~~This policy provides guidance to City officials ~~and employees~~ on the use and expenditure of City resources, as well as the standards against which those expenditures will be measured and satisfies the requirements of Government Code ~~sections §§~~53232.2 and 53233.3.

This policy supplements the definition of actual and necessary expenses for purposes of state laws relating to permissible uses of public resources and the definition of necessary and reasonable expenses for purposes of federal and state income tax laws.

~~Whereas, t~~This policy also applies to any charges made to a City credit card, cash advances or other line of credit.

## Applicability and definitions

This policy shall apply to all City officials ~~and City employees~~.

City officials. City officials shall mean the City ~~Council~~ Council and/or commissions, committees and boards with decision making or advisory authority. ~~and officials appointed by the City Council including board, commission and committee members, the city attorney and the city manager, and others the City Council designates to represent the City.~~ City employees. ~~City employees shall mean all employees in the exempt, competitive, part-time and temporary services, including appointees of the city manager and contractual employees. The City Manager is authorized to adopt additional rules and regulations to implement this policy for City employees.~~

## TRAVEL, MEAL, AND LODGING POLICY

City Council Policy #CC-1924-002

Adopted ~~March 12, 2019XXX~~

Resolution No. ~~6485XXXX~~

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### Authorized expenses

City funds, equipment, titles, and staff time must only be used for authorized City business. Expenses incurred in connection with the following types of activities generally constitute authorized expenses, as long as the other requirements of this policy are met:

- Communicating with representatives of regional, state and federal government on City adopted policy positions;
- Attending educational seminars designed to improve an official ~~or employee's~~ skill and information levels;
- Participating in regional, state and national organizations whose activities affect the City's interests;
- Recognizing service to the City ~~(for example, thanking a longtime employee with a celebration of nominal value and cost);~~
- Attending City events;
- Implementing a City Council approved strategy for attracting or retaining businesses to the City, which will typically involve at least one staff member.

All other expenditures require prior approval by the City Council for officials ~~or City Manager for employees~~. The following expenses also require prior City Council ~~or city manager~~ approval:

- International travel;
- Expenses exceeding \$2,000 per trip.

Examples of organizations that host seminars, conferences, and meetings applicable to City operations and eligible for reimbursement under this policy include, but are not limited to:

- Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)
- California Debt and Investment Advisory Commission (CDIAC)
- California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS)
- City/County Associations of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG)
- Joint Venture Silicon Valley
- League of California Cities
- National League of Cities (NLC)
- San Mateo County Council of Cities
- San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA)
- Chamber San Mateo County
- San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SCMTA)
- Santa Clara County Cities Association
- Silicon Valley Economic Development Alliance
- Sister Cities International
- ~~Professional organizations e.g., American Planning Association, American Public Works Association, California Parks and Recreation Society, Government Finance Officers Association, etc.~~

Examples of personal expenses that the City will not reimburse include, but are not limited to:

- The personal portion of any trip;
- Political or charitable contributions or events;
- Family or guest expenses, including partner's expenses when accompanying a City official ~~or employee~~ on agency-related business, as well as children- or pet-related expenses;
- Entertainment expenses, including theater, movies (either in-room or at the theater), sporting events (including gym, massage and/or golf related expenses), or other cultural events;
- Non-mileage personal automobile expenses, including repairs, traffic citations, insurance or gasoline; and
- Personal losses incurred while on City business.

Any questions regarding the propriety of a particular type of expense should be resolved by the approving authority before the expense is incurred.

### Sister City and foreign travel

For sister or friendship city travel, any city official ~~or staff~~ reimbursement requires pre-approval of the City Council. If a ~~city City councilmember Councilmember~~ is paying for their own sister or friendship city travel, City Council travel

## TRAVEL, MEAL, AND LODGING POLICY

City Council Policy #CC-1924-002

Adopted ~~March 12, 2019~~XXX

Resolution No. ~~6485~~XXXX

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approval is not required, but the traveling ~~city-City councilmember-Councilmember~~ should inform the City Council in advance of travel.

If undertaking such travel, whether reimbursed by the City or as a personal expense, ~~Individual~~ ~~city-City councilmembers-Councilmembers~~ shall not have authority to sign city-related official documents individually or on behalf of the City Council unless the document has been pre-approved by the City Council. Any foreign document submitted for signature must be translated into English.

### Travel paid for by third parties

City official travel paid by third parties requires a Fair Political Practices letter pre-authorizing travel where it is unclear whether an exception to the gift or income restrictions applies.

Third parties offering travel to City officials shall be requested to provide the schedule of public appearances and shall be informed that individual city officials ~~or staff~~ do not have the authority to sign official City documents unless the City Council pre-approves. ~~A template letter is attached to this policy. [Note this letter will be prepared when staff finalizes the policy.]~~

### **~~Enforcement and cost control~~**

~~All expenses are subject to audit and verification that they comply with this policy.~~

~~The administrative services director is responsible for enforcing this policy. In the event the administrative services director is uncertain as to whether a request complies with this policy, such individual must seek resolution from the requester's approving authority.~~

~~To conserve City and keep expenses within community standards for public officials and employees, expenditures should adhere to the following guidelines. In the event that expenses are incurred which exceed these guidelines, the cost borne or reimbursed by the City will be limited to the costs that fall within the guidelines.~~

### **Transportation**

The most economical mode and class of transportation reasonably consistent with scheduling needs and cargo space requirements must be used, using the most direct and time-efficient route. Government and group rates must be used when available.

Airfare. To identify the lowest airfare, City officials ~~and employees~~ should use an online travel search engine that compares flights across major airlines. Baggage handling fees for one checked bag shall be reimbursed.

Automobile. Mileage driving using an official ~~or employee's~~ personal vehicle to conduct City business shall be reimbursed at Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rates in effect on the date of travel for all miles driven in the conduct of official business in excess of the official ~~or employee's~~ regular commute. The IRS rates are designed to compensate the driver for gasoline, insurance, maintenance, and other expenses associated with operating the vehicle. This amount does not include bridge and road tolls, which are also reimbursable.

Car rental. Charges for rental vehicles may be reimbursed under this provision if ~~more than one~~ ~~the~~ City official ~~or employee~~ is attending an out of town conference, and it is determined that renting a vehicle is more economical than other forms of transportation. In making such determination, the cost of the rental vehicle, parking and gasoline will be compared to the combined cost of such other forms of transportation.

Ride share/taxis/shuttles. Ride share, taxis or shuttles fares may be reimbursed when the cost of such fares is equal or less than the cost of car rentals, gasoline and parking combined, or when such transportation is necessary for time efficiency.

Airport parking. ~~When applicable, it~~ long-term ~~or economy~~ parking ~~lots~~ must be used for travel exceeding 24-hours.

## TRAVEL, MEAL, AND LODGING POLICY

City Council Policy #CC-1924-002

Adopted ~~March 12, 2019~~XXX

Resolution No. ~~6485~~XXXX

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### Lodging

Lodging expenses will be reimbursed or paid for when travel on official City business reasonably requires an overnight stay. Government and group rates must be used when available.

Conferences/Meetingsmeetings. If lodging is in connection with a conference, lodging expenses must not exceed the group rate published by the conference sponsor for the meeting in question if such rates are available at the time of booking. If group rates are not available at time of booking, the City official ~~or employee~~ shall secure the most economical lodging in close proximity of the conference/meeting venue.

Other lodging. Lodging rates that are equal to or less than government rates or the IRS per diem rates for the applicable area are presumed to be reasonable and hence reimbursable for purposes of this policy. A City official ~~or employee~~ may stay with a friend or relative while attending an out-of-town meeting or conference; however, the City will not reimburse for any payment to the friend or relative for lodging, meals or transportation.

### Other expenses

Internet. City officials ~~or employees~~ will be reimbursed for internet access connection and/or usage fees away from home, not to exceed \$15.00 per day, if internet access is necessary for official business.

Telecommunication expenses. City officials ~~/employees~~ will be reimbursed for actual telecommunication expenses incurred on City business. No reimbursement is made for use of personal cell phones.

Gratuities. Gratuities of up to ~~fifteen (15) percent~~15% will be reimbursed for services customarily subject to gratuity.

Reimbursement from other entities. Expenses for which City officials ~~/employees~~ receive reimbursement from another agency are not reimbursable.

### Cash advances

From time to time, it may be necessary for a City official ~~or employee~~ to request a cash advance to cover anticipated expenses while traveling or doing business on the City's behalf. Such request for an advance should be submitted to the administrative services director five business days ~~prior to~~before the need for the advance with the following information:

- The purpose of the expenditure(s);
- The benefits of such expenditure(s) to the residents of Menlo Park;
- The anticipated amount of the expenditure(s) (for example, hotel rates, meal costs and transportation expenses); and
- The dates of the expenditure(s).

After the need for the advance has occurred, the City official must submit receipts demonstrating how the cash advances were used to the administrative services director. Any unused advance must be returned to the City treasury within two business days of the City official ~~or employee~~'s return, along with an expense report and receipts documenting how the advance was used in compliance with this expense policy.

### Credit card use

The City does not issue credit cards to individual office holders but does have an agency credit card for selected City expenses. City officials ~~or employees~~ may use the City's credit card for such purposes as airline tickets and hotel reservations by following the same procedures for cash advances. Receipts documenting expenses incurred on the City credit card and compliance with this policy must be submitted within five business days of use.

City credit cards may not be used for personal expenses, even if the City official ~~or employee~~ subsequently reimburses the City.

# TRAVEL, MEAL, AND LODGING POLICY

City Council Policy #CC-1924-002

Adopted ~~March 12, 2019~~XXX

Resolution No. ~~6485~~XXXX

## Expense report content and submission deadline

All cash advance expenditures, credit card expenses and expense reimbursement requests must be submitted on an expense report form provided by the City. All expenses reported on the form must comply with the City's policies relating to expenses and use of public resources. The information submitted on the form is a public record. Penalties for misusing public resources and violating the City's policies include loss of reimbursement privileges, restitution, civil and criminal penalties as well as additional income tax liability.

Expense reports must document that the expense in question met the requirements of this policy. For example, if the meeting is with a legislator, the City official should explain whose meals were purchased, what issues were discussed and how those relate to the City's adopted legislative positions and priorities.

City officials ~~and employees~~ must submit their expense reports within 30 days of an expense being incurred, accompanied by receipts documenting each expense. Detailed restaurant receipts for official business meetings, in addition to any credit card receipts, are also part of the necessary documentation. ~~No documentation is required for City employee daily per diem allowances.~~

Inability to provide such documentation in a timely fashion may result in the expense being borne by the City official ~~or employee.~~

## Legislative history

Action	Date	Notes
Adopted	<del>March 12, 1991</del>	
Adopted	March 12, 2019	Resolution No. 6485

## Authorization for travel and other related expenses

Attendance of City officials at conferences, seminars and meetings shall be subject to prior approval by the City ~~Council~~Council, which occurs ~~.-Approval by the City Council shall occur during with~~ the adoption of the annual budget. For out-of-state travel, the prior approval of a majority of the City Council obtained during a public meeting is required.

~~The city manager or his/her designee shall authorize and approve travel and reimbursement expenses for City employees. Out-of-state travel must be approved by the city manager. City employees may not authorize nor approve reimbursement for their own travel and business expenses. The city manager may adopt additional procedures to implement this policy as it relates to City employe~~

## Special rules for City Councilmembers

City Councilmembers will comply with the communications policy in Chapter ~~4-4~~ of the procedures manual when traveling for City business.

~~City Councilmembers may not sign any official document on behalf of the City unless pre-approved by City Council.~~

At the first City Council meeting following any meeting/conference for which a City official seeks City reimbursement, the official shall briefly report on the meeting/conference. No reimbursement shall be provided until the report is given to the City Council.

If multiple City officials attended, a joint report may be made. The report may be made ~~erally~~verbally or in writing.

## Violation of this policy

Under state law, use of public resources or falsifying expense reports in violation of this policy may result in any or all of the following:

- Loss of reimbursement privileges,
- A demand for restitution to the City,

**TRAVEL, MEAL, AND LODGING POLICY**

City Council Policy #CC-1924-002

Adopted ~~March 12, 2019~~XXX

Resolution No. ~~6485~~XXXX

- The agency’s reporting the expenses as income to the City official ~~or City employee~~ to state and federal tax authorities,
- Civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per day and three times the value of the resources used, and
- Prosecution for misuse of public resources.

**Enforcement and cost control**

All expenses are subject to audit and verification that they comply with this policy.

The administrative services director is responsible for enforcing this policy. In the event the administrative services director is uncertain as to whether a request complies with this policy, such individual must seek resolution from the requester’s approving authority.

To conserve City resources and keep expenses within community standards for public officials, expenditures should adhere to the following guidelines this policy. In the event that expenses are incurred which exceed these guidelines this policy, the cost borne or reimbursed by the City will be limited to the costs that fall within the guidelines this policy.

**Procedure-Policy history**

Action	Date	Notes
<del>Adoption by City Council Policy motion adoption</del>	<del>March 12, 1991</del> 3/12/1991	<del>Established City Council Procedure #CC-91-002</del> By motion
<del>Policy adoption Adoption of Resolution No. 6460</del>	<del>September 11, 2018</del> 9/11/2018	<del>Replaced City Council Procedure #CC-91-002 with #CC-18-001</del> Resolution No. 6460
<del>Policy adoption Adoption of Resolution No. 6485</del>	<del>March 12, 2019</del> 3/12/2019	<del>Replaced City Council Procedure #CC-18-001 with #CC-19-002</del> Resolution No. 6485
<del>Policy adoption</del>	<del>XX/XX/XXXX</del>	<del>Resolution No. XXXX</del>





**STAFF REPORT**

**City Council Meeting Date:** 9/24/2024  
**Staff Report Number:** 24-173-CC

**Consent Calendar:** Adopt a resolution to authorize the city manager to execute a loan agreement, secured promissory note, deed of trust – leasehold, and below market rate housing agreement and declaration of restrictive covenants, each substantially in the form attached, with MidPen Housing Corporation with respect to a loan in the amount of \$2 million from the below market rate housing special revenue fund (Fund 222) for the construction and development of affordable housing at 795 Willow Rd., and approve the appropriation of \$2 million from the below market rate housing special revenue fund (Fund 222) in the fiscal year 2024-25 budget for the construction and development of affordable housing at 795 Willow Rd.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution to authorize the city manager to execute a loan agreement, secured promissory note, deed of trust – leasehold, and below market rate (BMR) housing agreement and declaration of restrictive covenants, each substantially in the form attached hereto, with MidPen Housing Corporation (MidPen) with respect to a loan in the amount of \$2 million from the BMR housing special revenue fund (Fund 222) for the construction and development of affordable housing at 795 Willow Rd. and approve the appropriation of \$2 million from the BMR housing special revenue fund (Fund 222) in the fiscal year 2024-25 budget for the construction and development of affordable housing at 795 Willow Road (Attachment A).

**Policy Issues**

The City Council retains the sole discretion to award available monies from the BMR housing fund collected in accordance with the Menlo Park Municipal Code Chapter 16.96. As set forth in §13.3 of the City of Menlo Park (City) BMR Guidelines, BMR funds may be used to develop new construction of permanent affordable rental or ownership housing and fund other activities to support housing for extremely-low, very-low or low income households.

Funding through a City issued notice of funding availability (NOFA) helps to implement the goals, policies, and programs of the City’s Housing Element and the creation of affordable housing by bridging the financing gap between the projected total project costs of such housing and other available funding sources.

**Background**

On Dec. 23, 2022, the City released a NOFA of approximately \$2 million from the BMR housing fund to

support the preservation and production of affordable housing. In response, the City received four (4) applications, including a request from MidPen for \$2 million to develop affordable housing for veterans on the site of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at 795 Willow Road. In 2019, MidPen was selected to develop this project by the VA through a request for qualifications. The proposal includes 60 rental units targeting extremely-low and very-low income (30%, 40% and 50% of Area Median Income (AMI), respectively) veterans and their families who are formerly or at-risk of homelessness, plus two manager’s units. On Aug. 2, 2023, the Housing Commission recommended that the City Council approve funding MidPen’s NOFA proposal. On Sept. 26, 2023, the City Council committed the funds to MidPen’s project and directed staff to return with a funding agreement (Attachment B).

The MidPen project, named Oak Gardens, satisfies several City housing goals, policies and programs identified in the 2023-2031 Housing Element, including:

- The property was identified in the Housing Element as Housing Opportunity Site #64
- The project serves veterans, a group identified as a Target Population in the Housing Element
- Policy H3.2: Health and Human Services Programs Linkages
- Policy H3.6: Local Approach to Housing for the Homeless
- Program H3.F: Work with the VA on Homeless Issues.

**Analysis**

Since the Sept. 26, 2023 City Council meeting, MidPen’s project description has changed slightly. While the number of units and proposed bedroom mix has not changed, the project is now targeting at a deeper affordability level. Specifically, the number of units serving 30% AMI households has increased from 20 to 28 total units. The current affordability mix is shown below in Table 1.

Table 1: Proposed affordability Mix					
	30% AMI	40% AMI	50% AMI	Manager	Total
One bedroom	26	3	25	1	<b>55</b>
Two bedroom	1	1	2	1	<b>5</b>
Three bedroom	1	0	1	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>62</b>

Loan agreement and term sheet summary

City funds will be used for construction related costs. City staff, MidPen and other lenders have participated in weekly calls to finalize the construction loan and regulatory documents. Currently, the construction costs are estimated to be approximately \$50.6 million. However, MidPen is still refining the development budget, and as a result, the final budget could be slightly higher or lower, since the anticipated construction loan closing date is not until November 2024. The sources of funds for the construction loan are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Sources of construction funding	
Source	Amount
Silicon Valley Bank construction loan	\$34,300,804
Capital contributions	\$4,659,264
San Mateo County affordable housing fund	\$4,000,000
Apple construction loan	\$2,609,000
City of Menlo Park	\$2,000,000
Costs deferred until conversion	\$1,718,499
Federal home loan affordable housing program	\$1,000,000
Accrued deferred interest	\$293,832
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,581,399</b>

The loan terms for this funding agreement are substantially consistent with other City loans approved in the past. The loan term is 55-years with 3% interest. Payments on the loan are deferred until the end of the 55-year term at which time MidPen is to repay the City the loan and accrued interest to the extent MidPen then has surplus cash flow after paying all other project related obligations. If surplus cash flow then exists, City will share such sum with all other project lenders and financial sources.

Construction of the project is fully funded and construction is expected to commence by Dec. 31 and be completed no later than Dec. 31, 2026. If the project is not completed, as described above, the City can declare a default on its loan to MidPen and exercise its rights and remedies described in the loan documents.

BMR agreement summary

A BMR Agreement has also been prepared as part of City’s loan package to insure the long-term affordability of the units. Typically, the BMR Agreement includes a provision for a City live/work preference. However, since this project is on federal land, there are federal requirements that do not allow for the City live/work preference. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, an officer of the United States on behalf of the VA is authorized to lease land and improvements to non-federal entities that provide supportive housing and on-site community-based support services for veterans and their families who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. The VA requires that all 60 restricted units have a preference for veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. More than half of the Oak Gardens units have HUD-VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) Project-Based Vouchers, and the remaining units will be referred either by the VA or through the Coordinated Entry System (CES). While the City does not have land use authority over the VA property, the project will provide deep affordability, support special housing needs, and count toward City meeting its lower income regional housing needs allocation (RHNA).

Because Oak Gardens is located on federally owned land, MidPen will enter into a ground lease, referred to as an Enhanced Use Lease (EUL), with the VA, which includes a Tenant Selection Plan as an exhibit. Prior to closing on construction, Congress is required to review and approve the EUL and all its exhibits prior to the VA executing the EUL with MidPen. The EUL and its exhibits are currently being reviewed by Congress, which has a 45-day review period.

MidPen understands the importance of housing residents who live or work in Menlo Park and will work closely with the VA to ensure that those who live or work in Menlo Park are aware of this housing through targeted outreach and marketing efforts. Given Oak Garden's location on the Palo Alto VA Medical Center - Menlo Park campus, this project presents an exciting opportunity to not only provide homes for extremely-low and very-low income veterans and their families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, but also provide a unique opportunity to bridge health and housing.

The project is consistent with many of the City's 2023-31 Housing Element policies and programs and this loan to Midpen would help the project come to fruition. MidPen has an extensive track record of success in the Bay Area and has been a trusted partner with Menlo Park in the past. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the above described agreements with MidPen will allow MidPen to advance this affordable housing development project, beginning with meeting its construction loan closing target of Nov. 1.

### **Impact on City Resources**

There is no impact on the City's general fund. By approving the resolution, \$2 million will be appropriated from the BMR housing special revenue fund (Fund 222) in the fiscal year 2024-25 budget to support the production of affordable housing in accordance with the requirements of Menlo Park Municipal Code Chapter 16.96, §13 of the BMR Guidelines and the 2022 NOFA criteria. The funds for this proposal were previously committed by the City Council and adequate funds are available in Fund 222.

### **Environmental Review**

The project is not subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as it is located on a federal site and sponsored by the federal government in partnership with MidPen. The proposed project is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A finding of no significant impact (FONSI) was prepared for the proposed project.

### **Public Notice**

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

### **Attachments**

- A. Resolution approving funding agreement with MidPen and budget appropriation
- B. Hyperlink – Sept. 26, 2023 Staff Report #23-220-CC:  
[menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/3/agendas-and-minutes/city-council/2023-meetings/agendas/20230926-city-council-special-and-regular-agenda-packet-w-pres.pdf#page=666](https://menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/3/agendas-and-minutes/city-council/2023-meetings/agendas/20230926-city-council-special-and-regular-agenda-packet-w-pres.pdf#page=666)

Report prepared by:  
Adam Patterson, Management Analyst II

Reviewed by:  
Deanna Chow, Community Development Director

## RESOLUTION NO. XXXX

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS WITH MIDPEN HOUSING CORPORATION: A LOAN AGREEMENT, SECURED PROMISSORY NOTE, DEED OF TRUST - LEASEHOLD, AND BELOW MARKET RATE HOUSING AGREEMENT AND DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS WITH RESPECT TO THE LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2 MILLION FROM THE BELOW MARKET RATE HOUSING SPECIAL REVENUE FUND (FUND 222) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND PRODUCTION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT 795 WILLOW ROAD, AND APPROVING THE APPROPRIATION OF \$2 MILLION FROM THE BELOW MARKET RATE HOUSING SPECIAL REVENUE FUND (FUND 222) IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 BUDGET FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND PRODUCTION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT 795 WILLOW ROAD**

WHEREAS, the opportunity to produce affordable housing remains a high-priority need in Menlo Park; and

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park (City) affirms the City's commitment to producing, preserving and protecting affordable housing units; and

WHEREAS, as defined in Section 13.3 of the City's Below Market Rate Housing Program Guidelines, the Below Market Rate Housing Special Revenue Fund (Fund 222) (referred to herein as the Fund) may be used for preservation, construction and production costs related to affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, MidPen Housing Corporation (MidPen) was selected through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to develop affordable housing for veterans at 795 Willow Road (Project); and

WHEREAS, the City received on December 23, 2022 a proposal from MidPen in response to a City issued Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for approximately \$2 million from the Fund to support the preservation, construction and production of permanent affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, MidPen's proposal stated that it will develop sixty (60) affordable rental units targeting, including extremely-low and very-low income units (30%, 40% and 50% of Area Median Income) as part of this Project;

WHEREAS, on August 2, 2023, the Housing Commission recommended to the City Council the approval of \$2 million from the Fund to be loaned to MidPen for this Project; and

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2023, the City Council approved the commitment of \$2 million from the Fund to be loaned to MidPen for this Project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park hereby resolves:

- a. To authorize the City Manager to execute the loan agreement, secured promissory note, deed of trust – leasehold, below market rate housing agreement and declaration of restrictive covenants in substantially the forms attached hereto as Exhibit A, Exhibit B,

Exhibit C and Exhibit D, and any and all other documents necessary to loan and disburse funds from City to MidPen; and

- b. To approve the appropriation from the Below Market Rate Housing Special Revenue Fund (Fund 222) in the amount of \$2 million in the fiscal year 2024-25 budget for the construction and production of affordable housing at 795 Willow Road.

I, Judi A. Herren, City Clerk of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing City Council Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said City Council on the twenty-fourth day of September, 2024, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of said City on this \_\_ day of September, 2024.

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Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

Exhibits:

- A. Loan agreement
- B. Secured promissory note
- C. Deed of trust – leasehold
- D. Below market rate housing agreement and declaration of restrictive covenants

**LOAN AGREEMENT**  
**by and between**  
**THE CITY OF MENLO PARK**  
**and**  
**MP Oak Gardens Associates, L.P.**  
**(Oak Gardens)**

## LOAN AGREEMENT (Oak Gardens)

This Loan Agreement (“**Agreement**”) is entered into as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 (“**Effective Date**”), by and between the City of Menlo Park, a municipal corporation (“**City**”), and MP Oak Gardens Associates, L.P., a California limited partnership (“**Developer**”), with reference to the following facts. City and the Developer are collectively referred to herein as the “**Parties**.”

### RECITALS

A. These Recitals refer to and utilize certain capitalized terms that are defined in Article 1 of this Agreement. The Parties intend to refer to those definitions in connection with the use of capitalized terms in these Recitals.

B. On December 23, 2022, City released a Notice of Funding Availability (“**NOFA**”) of approximately \$2,000,000 from City’s Below Market Rate Program (“**BMR Program**”) to support the preservation or production of permanent affordable housing. Subsequently, the initial NOFA funds were supplemented with additional funds from City’s BMR Program for a total of approximately \$4,000,000 available to successful NOFA applicants.

C. Developer submitted a proposal for a property located at 795 Willow Road in Menlo Park (“**Property**”) that would support the development of 60 extremely-low and very-low income rental units targeted to veterans and their families who are formerly homeless or at risk of homelessness, plus two (2) unrestricted manager units (“**Project**”). Developer’s project involves new construction and their application requested \$2,000,000.

D. The Property is owned by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (“**VA**”) as part of its VA campus. Developer was selected to develop the project by the VA through its request for qualifications in 2019. Since it is Federal property, the site is technically not subject to City’s discretionary planning approvals; however Developer has agreed to comply with City’s R-4-S zoning requirements in recognition of its location and connection to the surrounding community.

E. Providing funding to the Project will serve the goals and objectives of the BMR Program, by improving and increasing the community’s supply of affordable housing to households in accordance with the BMR Program, particularly because the Project may include a preference for City residents and employees, as further described in Section 4.2.

F. City determined that the Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (“**CEQA**”) Guidelines Sections 15378 and 15051(b)(3) as it will not result in any direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

G. On September 26, 2023, the Menlo Park City Council (“**Council**”) approved a commitment to make a \$2,000,000 loan to Developer from the BMR Program to assist Developer in constructing the Project, subject to Council’s subsequent review and approval of the funding agreement.

H. Concurrently with the execution of this Agreement, among other documents, Developer will execute and deliver to City, and as applicable, cause to be recorded in the Official Records: (i) the Note to evidence Developer’s obligation to repay the loan City will provide for the Project pursuant to this Agreement, (ii) the Deed of Trust- Leasehold that will



provide City with a security interest in Developer's leasehold interest in the Property, and (iii) a Regulatory Agreement that will require Project rents to be affordable to extremely-low and very-low income households for a term of not less than 55 years.

I. A material inducement to City to enter into this Agreement is the agreement by Developer to develop the Project within the time periods specified herein and in accordance with the provisions hereof, and City would be unwilling to enter into this Agreement in the absence of an enforceable commitment by Developer to take such actions and complete such work in accordance with such provisions and within such time periods.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, which are incorporated herein by reference, and the mutual covenants contained herein and good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows.

## ARTICLE 1 DEFINITIONS AND EXHIBITS

### Section 1.1 Definitions.

The following capitalized terms have the meanings set forth in this Section 1.1 wherever used in this Agreement, unless otherwise provided:

- (a) **"Affiliate"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.2.
- (b) **"Agreement"** shall mean this Loan Agreement.
- (c) **"Annual Operating Budget"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.5
- (d) **"Annual Operating Expenses"** shall mean for each calendar year, the following costs reasonably and actually incurred for operation and maintenance of the Project:
  - (i) property taxes and assessments imposed on the Project;
  - (ii) debt service currently due on a non-optional basis (excluding debt service due from residual receipts or surplus cash of the Project) on the Permanent Loan and Construction Loan;
  - (iii) on-site service provider fees for tenant social services, provided City has approved, in writing, the plan and budget for such services before such services begin;
  - (iv) fees paid to the issuer with respect to any bonds and monitoring fees required by Project lenders;
  - (v) property management fees and reimbursements, on-site property management office expenses, and salaries of property management and maintenance personnel, not to exceed amounts that are standard in the industry and which are pursuant to a management contract approved by City;

(vi) all or any portion of the unpaid Partnership/Asset Fee in an annual amount equal to Thirty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Four and 00/100 Dollars (\$39,504), increasing three percent (3%) per annum;

(vii) fees for accounting, audit and legal services incurred by Developer's general partner or management agent in the asset management of the Project, not to exceed amounts that are standard in the industry, to the extent such fees are not included in the Partnership/Asset Fee;

(viii) premiums for insurance required for the Improvements to satisfy the requirements of any lender of Approved Financing;

(ix) utility services not paid for directly by tenants, including water, sewer, and trash collection;

(x) maintenance and repair expenses and services;

(xi) any annual license or certificate of occupancy fees required for operation of Project;

(xii) security services;

(xiii) advertising and marketing;

(xiv) cash deposited into the Replacement Reserve Account in the amount set forth in Section 4.4a);

(xv) cash deposited into the Operating Reserve Account to maintain the amount set forth in Section 4.4b) (excluding amounts deposited to initially capitalize the account);

(xvi) extraordinary operating costs specifically approved in writing by City;

(xvii) payments of deductibles in connection with casualty insurance claims not normally paid from reserves, the amount of uninsured losses actually replaced, repaired or restored, and not normally paid from reserves, and other ordinary and reasonable operating expenses approved in writing by City and not listed above; and

(xviii) payment of any deferred developer fees.

Annual Operating Expenses do not include the following: depreciation, amortization, depletion or other non-cash expenses, initial deposits to capitalize a reserve account, any amount expended from a reserve account, and any capital cost associated with the Project.

(e) **"Applicable Laws"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.1.

(f) **"Approved Budget"** has the same meaning as Project Budget and Summary, which is attached hereto as Exhibit E.

(g) **"Approved Partnership"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.2.

(h) **"BMR Program"** means the City's Below Market Rate Housing Program, as amended from time-to-time.

(i) **"CEQA"** shall have the meaning set forth in Recital F.

(j) **"City"** means the City of Menlo Park, California, a municipal corporation.

(k) **"Claim"** and collectively **"Claims"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.7.

(l) **"Commencement of Construction"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.4.

(m) **"Construction Lender"** means Silicon Valley Bank, a division of First Citizens Bank & Trust Company. \_\_\_

(n) **"Construction Loan"** means the loan made to Developer by Construction Lender in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ and 00/100 Dollars (\$\_\_\_\_\_) for the purpose of constructing the Project, which Construction Loan shall terminate upon completion of the Project and conversion of the loan to permanent financing.

(o) **"Conversion"** and **"Conversion Date"** mean the close of escrow on funding for the Permanent Loan.

(p) **"Council"** shall have the meaning set forth in Recital F.

(q) **"Deed of Trust- Leasehold"** shall mean the deed of trust that will encumber the Developer's leasehold interest in the Project to secure repayment of the Loan. The form of the Deed of Trust is attached as Exhibit C.

(r) **"Default"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.1.

(s) **"Eligible Households"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.1.

(t) **"Gross Revenue"** means for each calendar year, all revenue, income, receipts, and other consideration actually received or due from the operation and leasing of the Project. Gross Revenue includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) all rents, fees and charges paid by tenants;
- (2) Section 8 payments and other rental or operating subsidy payments received for the dwelling units;
- (3) deposits forfeited by tenants;
- (4) all cancellation fees;
- (5) price index adjustments and any other rental adjustments to leases or rental agreements;
- (6) net proceeds from vending and laundry room machines;

- (7) proceeds of business interruption or similar insurance not paid to senior lenders;
- (8) proceeds of casualty insurance not used to rebuild the Project and not paid to senior lenders; and
- (9) condemnation awards for a taking of part or all of the Project for a temporary period.

Gross Revenue does not include tenants' security deposits, loan proceeds, unexpended amounts (including interest) in any reserve account, required deposits to reserve accounts, capital contributions or similar advances.

- (u) **"Hazardous Materials"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.7
- (v) **"Hazardous Materials Claim"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.7
- (w) **"Hazardous Materials Law"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.7
- (x) **"Improvements"** shall mean the Units, plus appurtenant landscaping and any and all other improvements located, or to be located, on the Property.
- (y) **"Indemnitees"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.7(b).
- (z) **"Lender's Share of Residual Receipts"** shall mean fifty percent (50%) of the Residual Receipts to be allocated as follows: [INSERT NAME OF PARTY \_\_\_\_ TO FILL IN BLANKS: \_\_% to the County of San Mateo, \_\_% to the California Department of Housing and Community Development ("HCD"), and \_\_% to City].
- (aa) **"Loan"** shall mean the loan from City to Developer in the total principal amount of Two Million and 00/100 Dollars (\$2,000,000).
- (bb) **"Loan Documents"** shall mean this Agreement, the Note, the Regulatory Agreement and the Deed of Trust- Leasehold.
- (cc) **"NOFA"** shall have the meaning set forth in Recital B.
- (dd) **"Note"** shall mean the secured promissory note that will evidence Developer's obligation to repay the Loan.
- (ee) **"Operating Reserve Account"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.4b.
- (ff) **"Parties"** shall mean City and Developer.
- (gg) **"Partnership Agreement"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.2.
- (hh) **"Partnership/Asset Fee"** the annual fee paid to Developer for the purpose of managing the Approved Partnership in the amount of Thirty Nine Thousand Five

Hundred Four and 00/100 Dollars (\$39,504), which fee increases by three percent (3%) per annum.

(ii) **"Permanent Lender"** shall mean Housing Trust Silicon Valley, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation.

(jj) **"Permanent Loan"** shall mean the loan made by the Permanent Lender in an amount up to Two Million Six Hundred and Nine Thousand Dollars and 00/100 (\$2,609,000).

(kk) **"Permitted Costs"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.3.

(ll) **"Prevailing Wage Laws"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.1.

(mm) **"Project"** shall mean the Property and the Improvements.

(nn) **"Project Budget and Summary"** shall mean the narrative summary and the budget setting forth the hard and soft construction costs of the Property. A copy of the Project Budget and Summary is attached as Exhibit E.

(oo) **"Property"** shall mean the real property located at 795 Willow Road, Menlo Park, California, as more particularly described in the attached Exhibit A.

(pp) **"Regulatory Agreement"** shall mean the Below Market Rate Housing Agreement and Declaration of Restrictive Covenants between City and Developer associated with the Loan. The form of the Regulatory Agreement is attached as Exhibit D.

(qq) **"Replacement Reserve Account"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 4.4(a).

(rr) **"Residual Receipts"** means for each calendar year, the amount by which Gross Revenue exceeds Annual Operating Expenses.

(ss) **"Surplus Construction Cash"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.5(d).

(tt) **"Term"** shall mean the term of the Loan which is fifty-five (55) years from the Conversion Date.

(uu) **"Transfer"** shall have the meaning set forth in Section 5.1.

(vv) **"Units"** means all sixty-two (62) apartment units located in one (1) building on the Property. **"Unit"** means any one of the Units.

(ww) **"VA"** shall have the meaning set forth in Recital D.

#### Section 1.2 Exhibits.

The following exhibits are attached to this Agreement and incorporated into this Agreement by this reference:

Exhibit A: Legal Description of the Property

- Exhibit B: Form of Promissory Note
- Exhibit C: Form of Deed of Trust- Leasehold
- Exhibit D: Form of Regulatory Agreement
- Exhibit E: Project Budget and Summary
- Exhibit F: Insurance Requirements

## ARTICLE 2 LOAN PROVISIONS

Section 2.1 Loan. Upon satisfaction of the conditions set forth in Section 2.6 of this Agreement, City shall loan to Developer the Loan for the purposes set forth in Section 2.3 of this Agreement. The obligation to repay the Loan shall be evidenced by the Note.

Section 2.2 Interest. Subject to the provisions of this Section, the outstanding principal balance of the Loan shall accrue simple interest at the rate of three percent (3%) per annum. In the event of a Default, interest on the principal balance shall be increased to the Default Rate of ten percent (10%) compounded annually, or at the highest rate permitted by law (whichever is lower), and shall continue such time as the Loan funds are repaid in full or the Default is cured.

Section 2.3 Use of Loan Funds. Developer shall use the Loan funds to pay for hard and soft costs related to the construction of the Improvements which costs are set out in the Approved Project Budget and otherwise acceptable to City ("**Permitted Costs**"). Developer shall not use the Loan funds for any other purpose.

### Section 2.4 Security; Subordination.

(a) Security. Developer shall record the Deed of Trust- Leasehold and Regulatory Agreement against the Property at the time that the Loan is made.

(b) Subordination.

(1) City will subordinate its Deed of Trust-Leasehold and Regulatory Agreement, subject to City's reasonable approval of a subordination agreement, to: (i) loan documents of the Permanent Lender, (ii) the loan documents of the Construction Lender; (iii) the loan documents of the County of San Mateo; and (iv) the loan documents of HCD.

(2) City will reasonably consider subordinating its Deed of Trust- Leasehold and the Regulatory Agreement to an encumbrance securing and/or evidencing other financing related to the Project, subject to the satisfaction of each of the following conditions:

(i) The subordination agreement(s) include provisions (i) providing City or its successor with copies of any notices of Developer default by the Senior Lender to Developer at the same time and in the same manner as provided to Developer; and (ii) providing City with a cure period to cure any default of Developer that is the same as or longer than the cure period given to Developer;

(ii) The subordination agreement does not restrict the exercise by City of its remedies under the Deed of Trust- Leasehold and the Regulatory Agreement before a foreclosure, nor require the consent of the Senior Lender prior to City exercising any remedies available to the City under the Loan Documents; and

Upon a reasonable determination by the City Manager that the conditions in this Section 2.4(b)(2) have been satisfied, and which determination shall not be unreasonably delayed, the City Manager, or designee, will be authorized to execute the approved subordination agreement without the necessity of any further action or approval.

Section 2.5 Repayment.

(a) Annual Payments of the Loan. Commencing on June 1st of the year following the Conversion Date and on June 1 of each year thereafter during the Term, Developer shall make a Loan payment in an amount equal to the City's pro rata share of the Lenders' Share of Residual Receipts. City's pro rata share of the Lenders' Share of Residual Receipts shall be determined based on the outstanding principal amount of the Loan following Conversion as a proportion of the amount of principal on all loans requiring repayment from residual receipts. City shall apply the Annual Payments first to accrued interest, and second to principal.

(b) Payment in Full of Loan. Developer shall pay all outstanding principal and accrued interest on the Loan, in full, on the earliest to occur of: (i) any Transfer other than as permitted pursuant to Section 5.2; (ii) a Default; and (iii) the expiration of the Term.

(c) Prepayment. Developer may prepay the Loan at any time without premium or penalty. However, the Regulatory Agreement and Deed of Trust (as security for the Regulatory Agreement) will remain in effect for the entire Term, regardless of any prepayment or Transfer.

(d) Cost Savings. If there are construction costs savings ("**Surplus Construction Cash**") after construction is completed and Developer Form 8609 is filed, and all obligations to (i) construction contractors, subcontractors and Construction Lender for construction period expenses, payments, or fees and (ii) Permanent Lenders under any Permanent Loans with respect to any expenses, payments, or fees (including, but not limited to, any reserve requirements) due from Developer or any other amounts due or owing in connection with Conversion are satisfied, Developer shall make a one-time distribution of Surplus Construction Cash among City and any other governmental agency/agencies requiring reimbursement/repayment in direct proportion to the share of total Project funds disbursed from each such agency funding the Project. Developer may opt to retain up to fifty percent (50%) of the Surplus Construction Cash proceeds with the other fifty percent (50%) to be distributed to City and other applicable public/governmental agencies in the proportion described above. Should Developer opt to retain a portion of the Surplus Construction Cash, its portion shall be used solely for ongoing Project operations or for payment of deferred developer fees. In either case, Developer shall inform City of its intent to retain up to fifty percent (50%) of the Surplus Construction Cash and provide a detailed description of the intended use(s) of the Surplus Construction Cash, as well as the identity of any other public/governmental funding agencies, in writing, no later than the permanent loan closing date.

Section 2.6 Loan Disbursement.

(a) Conditions Precedent. Upon Developer executing and delivering to City the Loan Documents and the Deed of Trust- Leasehold and the Regulatory Agreement having been recorded against the Property in the Office of the Recorder of the County of San Mateo, City shall be willing to disburse all or a portion of the Loan to Developer to reimburse Developer

for previously incurred Permitted Costs upon full satisfaction of the following conditions, and as further described in Section 2.6(b):

- (1) City has approved the Project Budget;
- (2) There exists no Default nor any act, failure, omission or condition that would constitute an event of Default under this Agreement.
- (3) Developer has delivered to City copies of all of Developer's organizational documents, a copy of the minutes of Developer's corporate resolution, board meeting, or other evidence reasonably acceptable to City, authorizing Developer's execution of the Loan Documents and the transactions contemplated by the Loan Documents.
- (4) Developer has executed that certain Enhanced-Use Lease (Low Income) dated as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 ("**Ground Lease**"), executed by the Secretary of the Veterans Affairs, an officer of the United States on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, in its capacity as lessor, and Developer as lessee, and a memorandum of Ground Lease has been recorded on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 as Document No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the Official Records of the County of San Mateo, California.
- (5) Developer has furnished City with evidence of the insurance coverage meeting the requirements of Exhibit F.
- (6) Developer has obtained a letter verifying issuance of all permits and approvals from all applicable governmental agencies, including, among others City and the VA, necessary for the construction of the Improvements.
- (7) A title insurer reasonably acceptable to City is unconditionally and irrevocably committed to issuing an ALTA Lender's Policy of insurance insuring the priority of the Deed of Trust- Leasehold in the amount of the Loan, and such exceptions and exclusions as may be reasonably acceptable to City, and containing such endorsements as City may reasonably require.

(b) Disbursement Process. Following satisfaction of the conditions precedent described in Section 2.6(a) and upon receipt of a satisfactory and complete written draw request, as described below, City shall disburse Loan proceeds to Developer for Permitted Costs in the amount of the draw to the extent deemed satisfactory and complete by City. Disbursement of all or a portion of the Loan from City to Developer for Permitted Costs will be done through a written draw request from Developer to City in a form acceptable to City, which includes the following information: (i) certification that there is exists no Default nor any act, failure, omission or condition that would constitute a Default under this Agreement; (ii) certification that the proposed use of funds is consistent with the Approved Project Budget and constitutes a Permitted Cost; (iii) the amount of funds needed; and (iv) copies of the bills and/or invoices covering the Permitted Costs incurred. When a disbursement is requested to pay any contractor in connection with the Improvements, the written request must be accompanied by conditional lien releases and/or mechanics lien title insurance endorsements reasonably acceptable to City.

## Section 2.7 Reports and Accounting of Residual Receipts.



(a) Books and Records. Developer shall keep and maintain at the principal place of business of Developer, or elsewhere with City's written consent, full, complete and appropriate books, records and accounts necessary or prudent to evidence and substantiate in full detail Developer's calculation of Residual Receipts and disbursements of Residual Receipts.

(b) Annual Payment. In connection with the Annual Payment, Developer shall furnish to City:

(1) The Statement of Residual Receipts for the relevant period. The first Statement of Residual Receipts will cover the period that begins on date the Certificate of Occupancy has been issued for the Improvements and ends on December 31st of that same year. Subsequent statements of Residual Receipts will cover the twelve-month period that ends on December 31 of each year.

(2) A statement from the independent public accountant that audited Developer's financial records for the relevant period, which statement must confirm that Developer's calculation of the Lenders' Share of Residual Receipts is accurate based on Gross Revenue and Annual Operating Expenses; and

(3) Any additional documentation reasonably required by City to substantiate Developer's calculation of Lenders' Share of Residual Receipts.

(c) The receipt by City of any statement pursuant to subsection (b) above or any payment by Developer or acceptance by City of any Loan repayment for any period does not bind City as to the correctness of such statement or payment. City may audit the Residual Receipts and all books, records, and accounts pertaining thereto pursuant to Section 4.6(b).

### ARTICLE 3 LOAN REQUIREMENTS

Section 3.1 Development of Improvements. Developer shall use Loan funds for the purpose of construction of the Improvements, substantially in accordance with the Project Budget and Summary, and in accordance with all applicable federal state and local laws, rules, ordinances and regulations ("**Applicable Laws**") governing such development work, including, but not limited to, the obligations to pay prevailing wages as set forth in California Labor Code Section 1720 (to the extent applicable, and subject to any exclusions or exemptions set forth therein) ("**Prevailing Wage Laws**"). Prior to the commencement of construction, Developer shall obtain all required building permits, or other approvals, necessary for the construction of the Improvements.

#### Section 3.2 Construction Contract.

(a) Contractor, Consultants and Form of Contract. All construction work and professional services related to the Improvements are to be performed by persons or entities licensed or otherwise authorized to perform the applicable construction work or service in the State of California. Each contract that Developer enters into for professional services and/or construction of the Improvements is to provide that (i) each contractor and consultant obtains insurance in commercially reasonable amounts and quality that is substantially consistent with the insurance required of Developer, as described on Exhibit E, and that names City (as shown in a reasonably acceptable certificate(s) of insurance delivered to City) as an additional named insured, and (ii) each contractor and consultant indemnifies City in substantially the same

scope and manner as Developer indemnifies City in Section 8.4 and elsewhere in this Agreement. Each contract that Developer enters for construction of the Improvements is to provide that at least ten percent (10%) of the costs incurred for hard costs will be payable only upon completion of the construction, subject to early release of retention for specified subcontractors upon approval by City, which shall be granted to the extent approved by the Construction Lender.

(b) City Review. Upon request by City, Developer shall promptly deliver to City a copy of any or all contracts requested by City.

Section 3.3 Construction Bonds. Prior to the proposed Commencement of Construction Developer shall deliver to City copies of labor and material bonds and performance bonds for the construction of the Improvements in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the scheduled cost of the construction of the Improvements. Such bonds must name City as a co-obligee.

Section 3.4 Commencement of Construction. Developer shall cause the Commencement of Construction of the Improvements to occur no later than December 31, 2024, or such later date that City approves in writing, but in no event later than one year from date of this Agreement. For the purposes of this Agreement, "**Commencement of Construction**" means the date set for the start of construction of the Improvements in the notice to proceed issued by Developer to Developer's general contractor.

Section 3.5 Completion of Construction. Developer shall diligently prosecute construction of the Improvements to completion and shall cause the construction of the Improvements to be completed no later than December 31, 2026, or such later date that City approves in writing.

Section 3.6 Changes; Construction Pursuant to Plans and Laws.

(a) Changes. Developer shall construct the Improvements in conformance with (i) the plans and specifications approved by City's building department, and (ii) the Project Budget. Developer shall notify City in a timely manner of any changes in the work required to be performed under this Agreement, including any additions, changes, or deletions to the plans and specifications approved by City. Written authorization from City must be obtained before any of the following changes, additions, or deletions in work for the Improvements may be performed: (i) any change in the work the cost of which exceeds One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000); or (ii) any set of changes in the work the cost of which cumulatively totals Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) or ten percent (10%) of the Loan Amount, whichever is less, or (iii) any material change in building materials or equipment, specifications, or the structural or architectural design or appearance of the Improvements as provided for in the plans and specifications approved by City. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if Construction Lender requires different thresholds for authorization of construction contract changes, City shall apply those same thresholds for its required authorization. City's consent to any additions, changes, or deletions to the work does not relieve or release Developer from any other obligations under this Agreement, or relieve or release Developer or its surety from any surety bond. City's consent under this section shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. If City does not respond within ten (10) business days of a request for consent, Developer shall send City a notice ("**Reminder Notice**") stating that City's failure to respond within ten (10) additional business days after City's receipt of the Reminder Notice shall be deemed City's approval of the

Developer's request. If City fails to provide a response within ten (10) business days after City's receipt of the Reminder Notice, City shall be deemed to have approved the request.

(b) Compliance with Laws. Developer shall cause all work performed in connection with the Project to be performed in compliance with all applicable laws, codes (including building codes and codes applicable to mitigation of disasters such as earthquakes), ordinance, rules and regulations of federal, state, county or municipal governments or agencies now in force or that may be enacted hereafter. Developer shall comply with all directions, rules and regulations of any fire marshal, health officer, building inspector, or other officer of every governmental agency now having or hereafter acquiring jurisdiction. Developer may permit the work to proceed only after procurement of each permit, license, or other authorization that may be required by any governmental agency having jurisdiction, and Developer is responsible to the City for the procurement and maintenance thereof.

### Section 3.7 Prevailing Wage.

(a) Monitoring Payment. If Prevailing Wage Laws are applicable, Developer shall submit to City a plan for monitoring payment of prevailing wages and at Developer's expense shall implement such plan and comply with all applicable reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

(b) Indemnity. Developer shall indemnify, defend (with counsel reasonably approved by City) and hold harmless City and its elected and appointed officials, council members, officers, agents, employees, successors and assigns (collectively, "**Indemnitees**") harmless from and against any and all loss, claim, liability, damage, demand, judgment, order, penalty, fine, injunctive or other relief, cost, expense (including reasonable fees and expenses of attorneys, expert witnesses, and other professionals advising or assisting Developer), action, or cause of action (all of the foregoing, hereafter individually "**Claim**" and collectively "**Claims**") directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, are caused by, arise in connection with, result from, relate to, or are alleged to be caused by, arise in connection with, or relate to, the payment or requirement of payment of prevailing wages (including without limitation, all claims that may be made by contractors, subcontractors or other third party claimants pursuant to Labor Code Sections 1726 and 1781) or the requirement of competitive bidding in connection with the Improvements, the failure to comply with any state or federal labor laws, regulations or standards in connection with this Agreement, including but not limited to the Prevailing Wage Laws, or any act or omission of Developer related to this Agreement with respect to the payment or requirement of payment of prevailing wages or the requirement of competitive bidding, whether or not any insurance policies shall have been determined to be applicable to any such Claims. It is further agreed that City does not and shall not waive any rights against Developer which it may have by reason of this indemnity and hold harmless agreement because of the acceptance by City, or Developer's deposit with City of any of the insurance policies described in this Agreement. The provisions of this Section 3.7 shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement. Developer's indemnification obligations set forth in this Section shall not apply to Claims to the extent arising from the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Indemnitees.

## ARTICLE 4 OPERATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Section 4.1 Operation of Project as Affordable Housing. The Improvements shall include sixty-two (62) Units, including two (2) unrestricted manager's units, and indoor and

outdoor common spaces, such as a community room, courtyard, and laundry facilities. The Units will be targeted to households earning up to thirty percent (30%) and fifty percent (50%) of area median income ("**Eligible Households**") and shall all be restricted by the Regulatory Agreement. Developer shall operate the Project (i) in accordance with all applicable laws, codes, ordinances, rules and regulations of federal, state, county or municipal governments or agencies now in force or that may be enacted hereafter, and (ii) as an affordable housing development consistent with: (1) the Regulatory Agreement; (2) any other regulatory agreements imposed on Developer including, but not limited to, regulatory agreements associated with the County loan, and other approved financing identified in the Project Budget loan and other approved financing identified in the Project Budget; and (3) any regulatory requirements imposed on Developer related to the rental subsidies provided to the Project.

Section 4.2 Menlo Park Residents and Employees. To ensure that there is an adequate supply of affordable housing within the City of Menlo Park for residents and employees of businesses within the City of Menlo Park, to the extent permitted by law and consistent with the program regulations for funding sources used for development of the Project, Developer shall provide targeted marketing and outreach to individuals who live or work in the City of Menlo Park to ensure that City residents and people in the City of Menlo Park are provided reasonable notice and opportunity to rent units in the Project. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event of a conflict between this provision and rules and regulations applicable to the Project, the provisions of such rules and regulations shall control, including, if applicable, any prohibition of preferences for units receiving Section 8 assistance. Developer shall comply with City's affirmative marketing policies or other rental policies and procedures, as they may be amended from time to time, designed to ensure that City residents and people who work in the City of Menlo Park are provided reasonable notice and opportunity to rent units in the Project.

Section 4.3 Maintenance. Developer shall at its own expense, maintain the Property and the Improvements, including the landscaping and common areas, in good physical condition, in good repair, and in decent, safe, sanitary, habitable and tenantable living conditions in conformity with all Applicable Laws, ordinary wear and tear excepted. Without limiting the foregoing, Developer agrees to maintain the Property and the Improvements (including without limitation, the buildings, landscaping, driveways, parking areas, and walkways) in a condition free of all waste, nuisance, debris, unmaintained landscaping, graffiti, disrepair, abandoned vehicles/appliances and illegal activity, and shall take all reasonable steps to prevent the same from occurring on the Property. Developer shall prevent and/or rectify any physical deterioration of the Improvements and shall make all repairs, renewals and replacements necessary to keep the Property and the Improvements in good condition and repair.

Section 4.4 Reserve Accounts

(a) Replacement Reserve Account. Developer shall establish and maintain an account that is available for capital expenditures for repairs and replacement necessary to maintain the Project in the condition required by the Loan Documents (the "**Replacement Reserve Account**"). Developer shall make annual deposits to the Replacement Reserve Account and replenish the Replacement Reserve Account in the amounts required in the Partnership Agreement and/or the documents evidencing the Permanent Loan, whichever is greater. In no event shall the annual amount deposited in the Replacement Reserve Account exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) per unit, increasing by the applicable consumer price index every five (5) years, or such greater amount required in connection with the Partnership Agreement or any permanent financing, or approved by the City (such approval may be

provided in the form of an approved Annual Operating Budget, so long as such change is brought to the City's attention in an explanatory memo or other writing).

(b) Operating Reserve Account. Developer shall establish and maintain an account that is available to fund operating deficits (which is the amount by which Annual Operating Expenses exceed Gross Revenue for any period) ("**Operating Reserve Account**"). Developer shall capitalize the Operating Reserve Account in the amount required by TCAC (currently three months of Annual Operating Expenses); provided, however that if the Partnership Agreement or the documents evidencing the Permanent Bank Loan require the Operating Reserve Account to be capitalized and replenished in an amount greater than the TCAC requirement, Developer shall capitalize and replenish the Operating Reserve Account as required by the Partnership Agreement or the documents evidencing the Permanent Loan, as applicable, for as long as the Partnership Agreement or the Permanent Loan, as applicable, is outstanding.

Section 4.5 Approval of Annual Operating Budget. Developer shall provide the following to City for its review and approval: (i) by not later than November 1 of each year, the estimated annual budget for the upcoming year for the operations of the Project, which shall include projected income from all sources, projected expenses, including operating expenses, debt service, and deposits to and withdrawals from Project reserves ("**Annual Operating Budget**"); and (ii) by not later than April 1 of each year, a report showing the actual income and expenditures with respect to the Project for the immediately preceding calendar year and the status of Project reserves. City's review shall be limited to whether the Project is being operated and managed in accordance with the requirements and standards of the Loan Documents. City may request additional information to assist City in evaluating the financial viability of the Project. Unless rejected by City in writing within thirty (30) days after receipt of the budget, the budget will be deemed accepted. If rejected by City in whole or in part, Developer shall submit a new or corrected budget within thirty (30) calendar days after notification of City's rejection and the reasons therefor. The provisions of this Section relating to time periods for resubmission of new or corrected budgets will continue to apply until such budget has been approved by City.

Section 4.6 Records; Audits.

(a) Records. Developer shall maintain complete, accurate, and current records pertaining to the Project for the Term of this Agreement and for a period of five (5) years following expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement and shall permit any duly authorized representative of City to inspect and copy records. Such records shall include all invoices, receipts, and other documents related to expenditures from the Loan funds. Records must be kept accurate and current.

(b) Audits. Developer shall make available for examination, upon reasonable advance notice and, at reasonable intervals and during normal business hours to the City all books, accounts, reports, files, and other papers or property with respect to all matters covered by this Agreement, and shall permit City to audit, examine, and make excerpts or transcripts from such records. City may make audits of any conditions relating to this Agreement.

Section 4.7 Hazardous Materials.

(a) No Use. Developer shall not use, generate, manufacture, store or dispose of on, under, or about the Property or transport to or from the Property any substances

defined as or included in the definition of “hazardous substances,” “hazardous wastes,” “hazardous materials,” or “toxic substances” under any applicable federal or state laws or regulations (collectively, “**Hazardous Materials**”), except such of the foregoing as may be customarily used in construction of projects like the Project or kept and used in and about residential and multi-family property of this type.

(b) Hazardous Materials Claims. Developer shall immediately advise City in writing if at any time it receives written notice of: (i) any and all governmental or regulatory actions instituted, completed or threatened against Developer or the Property pursuant to any applicable federal, state or local laws, ordinances, or regulations relating to any Hazardous Materials, (“**Hazardous Materials Law**”); (ii) all claims made or threatened by any third party against the Developer or the Property relating to any Hazardous Materials (the matters set forth in clauses (i) and (ii) above are hereinafter referred to as “**Hazardous Materials Claims**”); and (iii) Developer's discovery of any occurrence or condition on any real property adjoining or in the vicinity of the Property that could cause the Property or any part thereof to be classified as “border-zone property” under the provision of California Health and Safety Code, Sections 25220 et seq., or any regulation adopted in accordance therewith, or to be otherwise subject to any restrictions on the ownership, occupancy, transferability or use of the Property under any Hazardous Materials Law.

(c) Impairment of Security. If City reasonably determines that its security under the Deed of Trust- Leasehold is impaired, City shall have the right to join and participate in, as a party if it so elects, any legal proceedings or actions initiated in connection with any Hazardous Materials Claims and to have its reasonable attorneys' fees in connection therewith paid by Developer. Developer shall indemnify and hold harmless City and the other Indemnitees from and against any loss, damage (excluding consequential damages), cost, expense or liability directly or indirectly arising out of or attributable to the use, generation, storage, release, threatened release, discharge, disposal, or presence of Hazardous Materials on, under, or about the Property including without limitation: (a) the costs of any required or necessary repair, cleanup or detoxification of the Property and the preparation and implementation of any closure, remedial or other required plans; and (b) all reasonable costs and expenses incurred by City in connection with clause (a), including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees; provided, however Developer shall have no obligation to indemnify or hold harmless the Indemnitees from any such matters to the extent the use, generation, storage, release, threatened release, discharge, disposal or presence of Hazardous Materials is made or caused by the active negligence of Indemnitees. This obligation to indemnify shall survive expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

(d) Hazardous Materials Laws. Developer shall comply with and shall not cause or permit the Property to be in violation of any Hazardous Materials Laws. Without the City 's prior written consent, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, Developer shall not take any remedial action in response to the presence of any Hazardous Materials on, under or about the Property, nor enter into any settlement agreement, consent decree, or other compromise in respect to any Hazardous Material Claims, which remedial action, settlement, consent decree or compromise might, in City 's reasonable judgment, impair the value of City's security hereunder; provided, however, that City's prior consent shall not be necessary in the event that the presence of Hazardous Materials on, under, or about the Property either poses an immediate threat to the health, safety or welfare of any individual or is of such a nature that an immediate remedial response is necessary and it is not reasonably possible to obtain City's consent before taking such action, provided that in such event Developer shall notify City as soon as practicable of any action so taken.

(e) Environmental Provision. Developer hereby acknowledges and agrees that: (i) this Section is intended as City's written request for information (and Developer's response) concerning the environmental condition of the Property as required by California Code of Civil Procedure Section 726.5; and (ii) each representation and warranty in this Agreement or any of the other Loan Documents (together with any indemnity obligation applicable to a breach of any such representation and warranty) with respect to the environmental condition of the Property is intended by the Parties to be an "environmental provision" for purposes of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 736.

(f) Environmentally Impaired or Affected Parcel. In the event that any portion of the Property is determined to be "environmentally impaired" (as that term is defined in California Code of Civil Procedure Section 726.5(e)(3)) or to be an "affected parcel" (as that term is defined in California Code of Civil Procedure Section 726.5(e)(1)), then, without otherwise limiting or in any way affecting the beneficiary's or the trustee's rights and remedies under the Deed of Trust- Leasehold, City may elect to exercise its rights under California Code of Civil Procedure Section 726.5(a) to (1) waive its lien on such environmentally impaired or affected portion of the Property and (2) exercise (a) the rights and remedies of an unsecured creditor, including reduction of its claim against Developer to judgment, and (b) any other rights and remedies permitted by law. For purposes of determining City right to proceed as an unsecured creditor under California Code of Civil Procedure Section 726.5(a), Developer shall be deemed to have willfully permitted or acquiesced in a release or threatened release of hazardous materials, within the meaning of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 726.5(d)(1), if the release or threatened release of hazardous materials was knowingly or negligently caused or contributed to by any lessee, occupant, or user of any portion of the Property and Developer knew or should have known of the activity by such lessee, occupant, or user which caused or contributed to the release or threatened release. All costs and expenses, including (but not limited to) attorneys' fees, incurred by City in connection with any action commenced under this paragraph, including any action required by California Code of Civil Procedure Section 726.5(b) to determine the degree to which the Property is environmentally impaired, plus interest thereon at the default rate specified in the Note, until paid, shall be added to the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust- Leasehold and shall be due and payable to City upon its demand made at any time following the conclusion of such action.

Section 4.8 Fees and Taxes. Developer shall be solely responsible for payment of all fees, assessments, taxes, charges, and levies imposed by any public authority or utility company with respect to the Property or the Project to the extent owned by Developer and shall pay such charges prior to delinquency. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if Developer applies for a property tax exemption, Developer will not be considered in violation of this Section for a delinquency during the time period it is waiting for approval of such exemption. If Developer's application for a property tax exemption is not granted or is denied, Developer shall immediately pay all outstanding fees, assessments, taxes, charges, and levies.

Section 4.9 Obligation to Refrain from Discrimination.

(a) No Discrimination. Developer shall not restrict the rental, sale, lease, sublease, transfer, use, occupancy, tenure or enjoyment of the Property, or any portion thereof, on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, marital status, ancestry, or national origin of any person. Developer covenants for itself and all persons claiming under or through it, and this Agreement is made and accepted upon and subject to the condition that there shall be no discrimination against or segregation of any person or group of persons on account of any basis listed in subdivision (a) or (d) of Section

12955 of the Government Code, as those bases are defined in Sections 12926, 12926.1, subdivision (m) and paragraph (1) of subdivision (p) of Section 12955, and Section 12955.2 of the Government Code, in the sale, lease, sublease, transfer, use, occupancy, tenure or enjoyment of the Property or part thereof, nor shall Developer or any person claiming under or through Developer establish or permit any such practice or practices of discrimination or segregation with reference to the selection, location, number, use or occupancy of tenants, lessees, subtenants, sublessees or vendees in, of, or for the Property or part thereof. Developer shall include such provision in all deeds, leases, contracts and other instruments executed by Developer, and shall enforce the same diligently and in good faith.

(b) Language in Deed, Lease and Contracts. All deeds, leases, and contracts pertaining to management of the Project, made or entered into by Developer, its successors or assigns, as to any portion of the Property or the Project shall contain the following language:

(1) In Deeds, the following language shall appear:

Grantee herein covenants by and for itself, its successors and assigns, and all persons claiming under or through it, that there shall be no discrimination against or segregation of a person or of a group of persons on account of any basis listed in subdivision (a) or (d) of Section 12955 of the Government Code, as those bases are defined in Sections 12926, 12926.1, subdivision (m) and paragraph (1) of subdivision (p) of Section 12955, and Section 12955.2 of the Government Code, in the sale, lease, sublease, transfer, use, occupancy, tenure or enjoyment of the property herein conveyed nor shall the grantee or any person claiming under or through the grantee establish or permit any such practice or practices of discrimination or segregation with reference to the selection, location, number, use or occupancy of tenants, lessees, subtenants, sublessees or vendees in the property herein conveyed. The foregoing covenant shall run with the land.”

Notwithstanding the above paragraph, with respect to familial status, paragraph (1) shall not be construed to apply to housing for older persons, as defined in Section 12955.9 of the Government Code. With respect to familial status, nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to affect Sections 51.2, 51.3, 51.4, 51.10, 51.11 and 799.5 of the Civil Code, relating to housing for senior citizens. Subdivision (d) of Section 51 and Section 1360 of the Civil Code and subdivisions (n), (o), and (p) of Section 12955 of the Government Code shall apply to paragraph (1).

(2) In Leases, the following language shall appear:

The lessee herein covenants by and for the lessee and lessee's heirs, personal representatives and assigns, and all persons claiming under the lessee or through the lessee, that this lease is made subject to the condition that there shall be no discrimination against or segregation of any person or of a group of persons on account of race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry or disability in the leasing, subleasing, transferring, use, occupancy, tenure or enjoyment of the property herein leased nor shall the lessee or any person claiming under or through the lessee establish or permit any such practice or practices of discrimination or segregation with reference to the selection, location, number, use or occupancy of tenants, lessees, sublessees, subtenants, or vendees in the property herein leased.

Notwithstanding the above paragraph, with respect to familial status, paragraph (1) shall



not be construed to apply to housing for older persons, as defined in Section 12955.9 of the Government Code. With respect to familial status, nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to affect Sections 51.2, 51.3, 51.4, 51.10, 51.11 and 799.5 of the Civil Code, relating to housing for senior citizens. Subdivision (d) of Section 51 and Section 1360 of the Civil Code and subdivisions (n), (o), and (p) of Section 12955 of the Government Code shall apply to paragraph (1).

(3) In contracts pertaining to management of the Project, the following language, or substantially similar language prohibiting discrimination and segregation shall appear:

There shall be no discrimination against or segregation of any person or group of persons on account of any basis listed in subdivision (a) or (d) of Section 12955 of the Government Code, as those bases are defined in Sections 12926, 12926.1, subdivision (m) and paragraph (1) of subdivision (p) of Section 12955, and Section 12955.2 of the Government Code, in the sale, lease, sublease, transfer, use, occupancy, tenure or enjoyment of the property nor shall the transferee or any person claiming under or through the transferee establish or permit any such practice or practices of discrimination or segregation with reference to selection, location, number, use or occupancy of tenants, lessee, subtenants, sublessees or vendees of the land.

Notwithstanding the above paragraph, with respect to familial status, paragraph (1) shall not be construed to apply to housing for older persons, as defined in Section 12955.9 of the Government Code. With respect to familial status, nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to affect Sections 51.2, 51.3, 51.4, 51.10, 51.11 and 799.5 of the Civil Code, relating to housing for senior citizens. Subdivision (d) of Section 51 and Section 1360 of the Civil Code and subdivisions (n), (o), and (p) of Section 12955 of the Government Code shall apply to paragraph (1).

## **ARTICLE 5 TRANSFERS AND ENCUMBRANCES**

Section 5.1 Restrictions on Transfer and Encumbrances. During the Term of this Agreement, except as permitted pursuant to this Agreement or the Regulatory Agreement, Developer shall not directly or indirectly, voluntarily, involuntarily or by operation of law make or attempt any total or partial sale, transfer, conveyance, assignment or lease (collectively, “**Transfer**”) of the whole or any part of the Property or the Project, without the prior written consent of City, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. In addition, prior to the expiration of the term of this Agreement, except as expressly permitted by this Agreement or the Regulatory Agreement, Developer shall not undergo any significant change of ownership without the prior written approval of City. For purposes of this Agreement, a “significant change of ownership” shall mean a transfer of the beneficial interest of more than twenty-five percent (25%) in aggregate of the present ownership and /or control of Developer, taking all transfers into account on a cumulative basis; provided however, neither the admission of an investor limited partner, nor the transfer by the investor limited partner to subsequent limited partners shall be restricted by this provision.

Section 5.2 Permitted Transfers. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of the Loan Documents, the prohibitions on Transfer set forth herein shall not be deemed to prevent: (i) the granting of easements or permits to facilitate development of the Property; (ii) the dedication of any property required pursuant to this Agreement; (iii) the lease of individual dwelling units to

tenants for occupancy as their principal residence in accordance with the Regulatory Agreement; (iv) assignments creating security interests for the purpose of financing the acquisition, construction, or permanent financing of the Project or the Property, or Transfers directly resulting from the foreclosure of, or granting of a deed in lieu of foreclosure of, such a security interest; (v) a Transfer to a tax-exempt entity under the direct control of or under common control with Developer; (vi) a Transfer to a limited partnership in which Developer or a wholly-controlled tax-exempt Affiliate (defined below) of Developer is the managing general partner ("**Approved Partnership**"); (vii) the admission of limited partners and any transfer of limited partnership interests in accordance with Developer's, or the Approved Partnership's, as applicable, agreement of limited partnership ("**Partnership Agreement**"); (viii) the removal of the general partner by the investor limited partner for cause in accordance with the terms of the Partnership Agreement, (ix) following removal of the general partner pursuant to the terms of the Partnership Agreement, replacing the general partner with an entity reasonably satisfactory to City or an Affiliate of National Equity Fund, Inc., the original investor limited partner that will serve as general partner; (x) the transfer of the general partner's interest to a nonprofit entity that is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended (or to an entity wholly-owned thereby), provided such replacement general partner is reasonably satisfactory to City; or (xi) the transfer of the Project or the limited partner interest to an affiliate of Developer pursuant to the option and/or right of first refusal granted in accordance with Developer's Partnership Agreement and Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the provisions of Section 5.1 shall not apply to any offer to purchase the Property from MidPen Housing Corporation or an Affiliate of Developer. An affiliate ("**Affiliate**") of a person or entity shall mean an entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with such person or entity. The term "**control**" as used in the immediately preceding sentence shall mean the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the entity in question, whether through ownership, voting securities, contract, or otherwise.

### Section 5.3 Requirements for Proposed Transfers.

(a) Specific Requirements. City may, in the exercise of its sole discretion, consent to a proposed Transfer of this Agreement, the Property, the Project or part thereof if all of the following requirements are met (provided however, the requirements of this Section 5.3 shall not apply to Transfers described in clauses (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (vii), and (xi) of Section 5.2, and solely with respect to (a) the removal of the general partner by the investor limited partner for a default under the Partnership Agreement, and (b) the replacement of the general partner with an Affiliate of the investor limited partner for an interim period of not more than one hundred eighty (180) days, clause (viii) of Section 5.2:

(i) The proposed transferee demonstrates to City's satisfaction that it has the qualifications, experience and financial resources necessary and adequate as may be reasonably determined by City to competently complete and manage the Project and to otherwise fulfill the obligations undertaken by Developer under this Agreement.

(ii) Developer and the proposed transferee shall submit for City review and approval all instruments and other legal documents proposed to effect any Transfer of all or any part of any interest in the Property, the Project or this Agreement together with such documentation of the proposed transferee's qualifications and Project capacity as City may reasonably request.

(iii) The proposed transferee shall expressly assume all of the rights and obligations of Developer under this Agreement and the other Loan Documents arising after the effective date of the Transfer and all obligations of Developer arising prior to the effective date of the Transfer (unless Developer expressly remains responsible for such obligations) and shall agree to be subject to and assume all of Developer's obligations set forth in this Agreement and the other Loan Documents.

(iv) The Transfer shall be effectuated pursuant to a written instrument satisfactory to City in form recordable in the Official Records.

(b) Authorized Representative. Consent to any proposed Transfer may be given by City's Authorized Representative unless City's Authorized Representative, in his or her discretion, refers the matter of approval to Council. If City has not rejected a proposed Transfer or requested additional information regarding a proposed Transfer in writing within forty-five (45) days following City's receipt of written request by Developer, the proposed Transfer shall be deemed approved.

Section 5.4 Effect of Transfer without City Consent. In the absence of specific written agreement by City, no Transfer of the Property or the Project shall be deemed to relieve Developer or any other party from any obligation under this Agreement. It shall be a Default hereunder entitling City to pursue remedies including without limitation, acceleration of the Loan and/or foreclosure under the Deed of Trust- Leasehold if without the prior written approval of City, Developer assigns or Transfers this Agreement, the Project, or the Property in violation of Section 4. This Section 5.4 shall not apply to Transfers described in clauses (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), and (vii) of Section 5.2, and solely with respect to (a) the removal of the general partner by the investor limited partner for a default under the Partnership Agreement, and (b) the replacement of the general partner with an Affiliate of the investor limited partner for an interim period of not more than one hundred eighty (180) days, clause (viii) of Section 5.3.

Section 5.5 Recovery of City Costs. Developer shall reimburse City for all reasonable City costs, including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred in reviewing instruments and other legal documents proposed to effect a Transfer under this Agreement and in reviewing the qualifications and financial resources of a proposed successor, assignee, or transferee within ten (10) days following City's delivery to Developer of an invoice detailing such costs; provided however, no reimbursement shall be required in connection with City's review, if any, of Transfers described in clauses (i), (ii), or (iii) of Section 5.2.

Section 5.6 Encumbrances. Developer agrees to cooperate with City in good faith to ensure that all deeds of trust or other security instruments and any applicable subordination agreement recorded against the Property, the Project or part thereof for the benefit of a lender other than City ("**Third-Party Lender**") shall contain each of the following provisions: (i) Third-Party Lender shall provide to City a copy of any notice of default issued to Developer concurrently with provision of such notice to Developer; (ii) City shall have the reasonable right, but not the obligation, to cure any default by Developer within the same period of time provided to Developer for such cure extended by an additional sixty (60) days; (iii) provided that City has cured any default under Third-Party Lender's deed of trust and other loan documents, City shall have the right to issue a notice of default, provide notice to the Third-Party Lender of such default and foreclose on the Deed of Trust- Leasehold without acceleration of Third-Party Lender's debt; and (iv) City shall have the right to transfer the Property without acceleration of Third-Party Lender's debt to a nonprofit corporation or other entity which shall own and operate the Property as an affordable rental housing Project, subject to the prior written consent of the

Third-Party Lender. Developer agrees to provide to City a copy of any notice of default Developer receives from any Third-Party Lender within three (3) business days following Developer's receipt thereof.

Section 5.7 Mortgagee Protection. No violation of any provision contained herein shall defeat or render invalid the lien of any mortgage or deed of trust made in good faith and for value upon all or any portion of the Project or the Property, and the purchaser at any trustee's sale or foreclosure sale shall not be liable for any violation of any provision hereof occurring prior to the acquisition of title by such purchaser. Such purchaser shall be bound by and subject to this Agreement from and after such trustee's sale or foreclosure sale. Promptly upon determining that a violation of this Agreement has occurred, City shall give written notice to the holders of record of any mortgages or deeds of trust encumbering the Project or the Property that such violation has occurred.

Section 5.8 Purpose of Restrictions on Transfer; Prohibited Transfers. This Agreement is entered into solely for the purpose of Developer's development of the Property for construction of the Units and operation of the Project in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and the Regulatory Agreement. The limitations on Transfers set forth in this Article shall apply throughout the Term. Except for (a) the Construction Loan, the proceeds of which are to be utilized for the development of the Property, as set forth on Exhibit E, (b) the Permanent Loan and other loans described in Exhibit E, if any, and (c) any refinancing(s) of such Construction Loan and/or Permanent Loan or such other loans, the Developer represents that it has not made or created, and agrees that it will not make or create or suffer to be made or created, any Transfer, either voluntarily or by operation of law, without the prior written approval of City. Any Transfer made in contravention of this Article 5 shall be void and shall be deemed to be a Default under this Agreement, whether or not Developer knew of or participated in such Transfer.

## ARTICLE 6 DEFAULT AND REMEDIES

### Section 6.1 Events of Default.

Each of the following shall constitute a "**Default**" by Developer under this Agreement:

(a) Failure to Make Payments. Developer fails to make any payment when such payment is due pursuant to the Loan Documents and such failure continues for fifteen (15) business days after City notifies Developer thereof in writing.

(b) Breach of Covenants. Failure by Developer to duly perform, comply with, or observe any of the conditions, terms, or covenants of any of the Loan Documents, and such failure having continued uncured for thirty (30) days after receipt of written notice thereof by Developer from the City or, if the breach cannot be cured within thirty (30) days, Developer shall not be in breach so long as Developer is diligently undertaking to cure such breach; provided, however, that if a different period or notice requirement is specified under any other section of this Article, the specific provisions shall control.

(c) Insolvency. A court having jurisdiction shall have made or entered any decree or order (i) adjudging Developer to be bankrupt or insolvent, (ii) approving as properly filed a petition seeking reorganization of Developer or seeking any arrangement for Developer under the bankruptcy law or any other applicable debtor's relief law or statute of the United

States or any state or other jurisdiction, (iii) appointing a receiver, trustee, liquidator, or assignee of Developer in bankruptcy or insolvency or for any of their properties, (iv) directing the winding up or liquidation of Developer, if any such decree or order described in clauses (i) to (iv), inclusive, shall have continued unstayed or undischarged for a period of ninety (90) days; or (v) Developer shall have admitted in writing its inability to pay its debts as they fall due or shall have voluntarily submitted to or filed a petition seeking any decree or order of the nature described in clauses (i) to (iv), inclusive. The occurrence of any of the events of Default in this paragraph shall act to accelerate automatically, without the need for any action by City, the indebtedness evidenced by the Note.

(d) Assignment; Attachment. Developer shall have assigned its assets for the benefit of its creditors or suffered a sequestration or attachment of or execution on any substantial part of its property, unless the property so assigned, sequestered, attached or executed upon shall have been returned or released within ninety (90) days after such event or, if sooner, prior to sale pursuant to such sequestration, attachment, or execution. The occurrence of any of the events of default in this paragraph shall act to accelerate automatically, without the need for any action by City, the indebtedness evidenced by the Note.

(e) Suspension; Dissolution. Developer shall have voluntarily suspended its business, or Developer shall have been dissolved.

(f) Liens on Property and the Project. Subject to Borrower's right to contest such liens, there shall be filed any claim of lien (other than liens approved in writing by City) against the Project or any part thereof, or any interest or right made appurtenant thereto, or the service of any notice to withhold proceeds of the Loan and the continued maintenance of said claim of lien or notice to withhold for a period of twenty (20) days without discharge or satisfaction thereof or provision therefore (including, without limitation, the posting of bonds) satisfactory to City.

(g) Condemnation. The condemnation, seizure, or appropriation of all or the substantial part of the Property and the Project by any governmental entity other than City.

(h) Unauthorized Transfer. Any Transfer other than as permitted by Article 5.

Section 6.2 Remedies. The occurrence of any Default hereunder following the expiration of all applicable notice and cure periods will, either at the option of City or automatically where so specified, relieve City of any obligation to make or continue the Loan and shall give City the right to proceed with any and all remedies at law or at equity and as set forth in this Agreement and the Loan Documents, including but not limited to the following:

(a) Acceleration of Note. City shall have the right to cause all indebtedness of Developer to City under the Note, together with any accrued interest thereon, to become immediately due and payable.

(b) Foreclosure. City shall have the right to foreclose on the Property and the Project pursuant to the Deed of Trust- Leasehold.

(c) Specific Performance. City shall have the right to mandamus or other suit, action or proceeding at law or in equity to require Developer to perform its obligations and covenants under the Loan Documents or to enjoin acts on things which may be unlawful or in violation of the provisions of the Loan Documents.

(d) Right to Cure at Developer's Expense. City and Developer's Approved Partnership each shall have the right (but not the obligation) to cure any monetary default by Developer under a loan other than the Loan. Any cure tendered by Developer's Approved Partnership shall be accepted or rejected as if made by Developer itself. Developer agrees to reimburse City for any funds advanced by City to cure a monetary default by Developer upon demand therefore, together with interest thereon at the lesser of the maximum rate permitted by law or ten percent (10%) per annum from the date of expenditure until the date of reimbursement.

(e) Other Remedies. City shall have the right to pursue any and all other remedies available under this Agreement or under law or equity to enforce the terms of this Agreement or any of the other Loan Documents.

**Section 6.3 Remedies Cumulative.** Subject to the non-recourse provisions contained in the Note, no right, power, or remedy given to City by the terms of this Agreement or the Loan Documents is intended to be exclusive of any other right, power, or remedy; and each and every such right, power, or remedy shall be cumulative and in addition to every other right, power, or remedy given to City by the terms of any such instrument, or by any statute or otherwise against Developer and any other person. Neither the failure nor any delay on the part of City to exercise any such rights and remedies shall operate as a waiver thereof, nor shall any single or partial exercise by City of any such right or remedy preclude any other or further exercise of such right or remedy, or any other right or remedy.

## **ARTICLE 7 REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES**

**Section 7.1 Developer's Representations and Warranties.** Developer covenants that until the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement, upon learning of any fact or condition which would cause any of the warranties and representations in this Section 7.1 to be materially untrue, Developer shall promptly give written notice of such fact or condition to City. Developer acknowledges that City shall rely upon Developer's representations made herein notwithstanding any investigation made by or on behalf of City. Developer hereby represents, warrants, and covenants that the following are materially true and correct as of the Effective Date.

(a) Organization. Developer is a limited partnership, duly organized and in good standing under the laws of the State of California and the sole member of Developer's general partner is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

(b) Authority of Developer. Developer has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and all other documents or instruments executed and delivered by Developer, or to be executed and delivered by Developer pursuant to or in connection with this Agreement, and to perform and observe the terms and provisions of all of the foregoing.

(c) Authority of Persons Executing Documents. This Agreement and all other documents or instruments executed and delivered by Developer, or to be executed and delivered by Developer pursuant to or in connection with this Agreement, have been executed and delivered, or will be executed and delivered, by persons who are duly authorized to execute and deliver the same for and on behalf of Developer, and all actions required under Developer's organizational documents and applicable governing law for the authorization, execution, delivery

and performance of this Agreement and all other documents or instruments executed and delivered by Developer, or to be executed and delivered by Developer pursuant to or in connection with this Agreement, have been duly taken or will have been duly taken (to the extent such actions are required) as of the date of execution and delivery of such documents.

(d) Valid and Binding Agreements. This Agreement and all other documents or instruments which have been executed and delivered by Developer or will be executed and delivered by Developer pursuant to or in connection with this Agreement constitute or, if not yet executed or delivered, will when so executed and delivered, constitute, legal, valid and binding obligations of Developer, enforceable in accordance with their respective terms, subject to laws affecting creditors' rights and principles of equity.

(e) No Breach of Law or Agreement. Neither the execution nor delivery of this Agreement or any other documents or instruments executed and delivered by Developer, or to be executed or delivered by Developer pursuant to or in connection with this Agreement, nor the performance of any provision, condition, covenant or other term hereof or thereof, will conflict with or result in a breach of any statute, rule or regulation, or any judgment, decree or order of any court, board, commission or agency binding on Developer, or any provision of the organizational documents of Developer, or will conflict with or constitute a breach of or a default under any agreement to which Developer is a party, or will result in the creation or imposition of any lien upon any assets or property of Developer, other than liens established pursuant hereto.

(f) Pending Proceedings. Except as disclosed in writing to City prior to execution of this Agreement, Developer is not in default under any law or regulation or under any order of any court, board, commission or agency whatsoever, and, to the best of its knowledge, there are no claims, actions, suits or proceedings pending or, to the knowledge of Developer, threatened against or affecting Developer, at law or in equity, before or by any court, board, commission or agency. Developer is not the subject of a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding.

Section 7.2 City's Representations and Warranties. City covenants that until the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement, upon learning of any fact or condition which would cause any of the warranties and representations in this Section 7.2 to be untrue, City shall immediately give written notice of such fact or condition to Developer. City acknowledges that Developer shall rely upon City's representations made herein notwithstanding any investigation made by or on behalf of Developer. City hereby represents, warrants, and covenants that the following are true and correct as of the Effective Date.

(a) Authority of City. City has full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and all other documents or instruments executed and delivered by City, or to be executed and delivered by City pursuant to or in connection with this Agreement, and to perform and observe the terms and provisions of all of the foregoing.

(b) Valid and Binding Agreements. This Agreement and all other documents or instruments which have been executed and delivered by City or will be executed and delivered by City pursuant to or in connection with this Agreement constitute or, if not yet executed or delivered, will when so executed and delivered, constitute, legal, valid and binding obligations of City, enforceable in accordance with their respective terms, subject to laws affecting creditors' rights and principles of equity.

(c) Pending Proceedings. No litigation or other proceeding (whether administrative or otherwise) is outstanding or has been threatened which would prevent, hinder or delay the ability of City to perform its obligations under this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 8 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Section 8.1 Relationship of Parties. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be interpreted or understood by any of the Parties, or by any third persons, as creating the relationship of employer and employee, principal and agent, limited or general partnership, or joint venture between City and Developer or its agents, employees or contractors, and Developer shall at all times be deemed an independent contractor and shall be wholly responsible for the manner in which it or its agents, or both, perform the services required of it by the terms of this Agreement. Developer shall be solely responsible for its own acts and those of its agents and employees.

Section 8.2 No Claims. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall create or justify any claim against City by any person that Developer may have employed or with whom Developer may have contracted relative to the purchase of materials, supplies or equipment, or the furnishing or the performance of any work or services with respect to the purchase of the Property, the repair and updates of the Units and other Improvements, or the operation of the Project, and Developer shall include similar requirements in any contracts entered into for the purchase of the Property, the construction of the Improvements, or the operation of the Project.

Section 8.3 Amendments. No alteration or variation of the terms of this Agreement shall be valid unless made in writing by the Parties.

Section 8.4 Indemnification. Developer shall indemnify, defend and hold City and the other Indemnitees harmless against all Claims made against it and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) which arise out of or in connection with the purchase of the Property, or the development, construction, marketing and operation of the Project, except to the extent such claim arises from the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Indemnitees, including, but not limited to, any Claim related to Developer's failure to comply with any Applicable Laws governing Developer's use of the Property, any mechanics' liens, or similar claims or related to work performed on the Property. The provisions of this Section shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement and the reconveyance of the Deed of Trust- Leasehold.

Section 8.5 Non-Liability of City Officials, Employees and Agents. No member, official, employee or agent of City shall be personally liable to Developer in the event of any default or breach by City, or for any amount which may become due to Developer or its successor or on any obligation under the terms of this Agreement.

Section 8.6 No Third Party Beneficiaries. There shall be no third party beneficiaries to this Agreement.

Section 8.7 Notices, Demands and Communications. Formal notices, demands, and communications between the Parties shall be sufficiently given if and shall not be deemed given unless dispatched by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or delivered by express delivery service, return receipt requested, or delivered personally, to the principal office of the Parties as set forth on the signature page of this Agreement. Such written



notices, demands and communications may be sent in the same manner to such other addresses as the affected Party may from time to time designate by mail as provided in this Section. Receipt shall be deemed to have occurred on the date shown on a written receipt as the date of delivery or refusal of delivery (or attempted delivery if undeliverable).

Notice to Developer:           MP Oak Gardens Associates, L.P.  
  c/o MidPen Housing Corporation  
  303 Vintage Park Drive, Suite 250  
  Foster City, CA 94404  
  Attn: Assistant Secretary

With a copy to:                   Gubb and Barshay LLP  
  235 Montgomery St #1110,  
  San Francisco, CA 94104  
  Attn: Evan Gross, Esq.

Limited Partner:                NEF Assignment Corporation  
  c/o National Equity Fund  
  10 S. Riverside Plaza, suite 1700  
  Chicago, IL 60606  
  Attention: General Counsel

With a Copy to:                 Barnes & Thornburg LLP  
  41 S. High Street, Suite 3300  
  Columbus, OH 43215-6104  
  Attention: Jordan Carr, Esq.

Notice to City:                 City of Menlo Park  
  701 Laurel Street  
  Menlo Park, CA 94025  
  Attention: City Manager

With a copy to:                 Burke, Williams & Sorensen  
  1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1650  
  Oakland, CA 94612-3520  
  Attn: Nira Doherty, City Attorney

Section 8.8    Applicable Law. This Agreement shall be governed by California law.

Section 8.9    Parties Bound. Except as otherwise limited herein, the provisions of this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns.

Section 8.10  Severability. If any term of this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void or unenforceable, the remainder of the provisions shall

continue in full force and effect unless the rights and obligations of the Parties have been materially altered or abridged by such invalidation, voiding or unenforceability.

Section 8.11 Force Majeure. In addition to specific provisions of this Agreement, performance by either party will not be deemed to be in default where delays or defaults are due to war, insurrection, strikes, lockouts, riots, floods, earthquakes, fires, quarantine restrictions, freight embargoes, lack of transportation, or court order. An extension of time for any cause will be deemed granted if notice by the party claiming such extension is sent to the other within ten (10) days from the commencement of the cause and such extension of time is not rejected in writing by the other party within ten (10) days after receipt of the notice. In no event will City be required to agree to cumulative delays in excess of one hundred eighty (180) days.

Section 8.12 City Approval. Whenever this Agreement calls for City approval, consent, or waiver, the written approval, consent, or waiver of the City Manager shall constitute the approval, consent, or waiver of City, without further authorization required from City. City hereby authorizes the City Manager to deliver such approvals or consents as are required by this Agreement, or to waive requirements under this Agreement, on behalf of City. Any consents or approvals required under this Agreement shall not be unreasonably withheld or made, except where it is specifically provided that a sole discretion standard applies. City's execution of this Agreement in no way limits the discretion of City in the permit and approval process in connection with development of the Project.

Section 8.13 Waivers. Any waiver by City of any obligation or condition in this Agreement must be in writing. No waiver will be implied from any delay or failure by City to take action on any breach or default of Developer or to pursue any remedy allowed under this Agreement or applicable law. Any extension of time granted to Developer to perform any obligation under this Agreement shall not operate as a waiver or release from any of its obligations under this Agreement. Consent by City to any act or omission by Developer shall not be construed to be a consent to any other or subsequent act or omission or to waive the requirement for City's written consent to future waivers.

Section 8.14 Title of Parts and Sections. Any titles of the sections or subsections of this Agreement are inserted for convenience of reference only and shall be disregarded in interpreting any part of the Agreement's provisions.

Section 8.15 Entire Understanding of the Parties. This Agreement, including the Deed of Trust- Leasehold and the Regulatory Agreement, constitutes the entire understanding and agreement of the Parties with respect to the Loan.

Section 8.16 Multiple Originals; Counterpart. This Agreement may be executed in multiple originals, each of which is deemed to be an original, and may be signed in counterparts.

WHEREAS, this Agreement has been entered into by the Parties as of the Effective Date.

CITY:

CITY OF MENLO PARK, a municipal corporation

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Justin I. C. Murphy, City Manager

Approved as to form:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nira Doherty, City Attorney

DEVELOPER:

By: MP Oak Gardens Associates, L.P.  
A California limited partnership

By: MP Oak Gardens LLC  
A California limited liability company,  
Its general partner

By: MidPen Housing Corporation  
A California nonprofit benefit corporation,  
its sole member/manager

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Secretary

**EXHIBIT A**

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY**

[to be added]

**EXHIBIT B**  
**FORM OF PROMISSORY NOTE**

**EXHIBIT C**

**FORM OF DEED OF TRUST- LEASEHOLD**

**EXHIBIT D**  
**FORM OF REGULATORY AGREEMENT**

## **EXHIBIT E**

### **Oak Gardens**

#### **Project Summary and Budget**

**The Property:** The property is located at 795 Willow Road.

**The Project:** The project is comprised of sixty-two (62) units, including 2 manager's units, in a one hundred percent (100%) below market rate multifamily housing building. The project is comprised of fifty-five (55) one-bedroom units (including one (1) Manager's unit), five (5) two-bedroom units (including one (1) Manager's unit), and two (2) three bedroom units. The project will include a variety of common outdoor and indoor spaces, including a community room with a landscaped courtyard, three laundry rooms, secured residential bicycle room. All units will be equipped with a full kitchen and bathroom. All of the units will be targeted to households at thirty (30) to eighty (50) percent of are median income.

**Project Budget:** [MIDPEN PLEASE ADD A DRAFT BUDGET, INCLUDING LISTS OF LENDERS AND LOAN, FOR CITY TO PRESENT TO COUNCIL]



## EXHIBIT F

### **INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Prior to initiating work on the Project and continuing throughout the Term of the Regulatory Agreement, Developer shall obtain and maintain the following policies of insurance and shall comply with all provisions set forth in this Exhibit.

1. General Requirements. And construction or repair work on the Property shall not commence until Developer shall have obtained all insurance required under this Section and such insurance shall have been approved by the City Attorney as to form and carrier and the City Manager or designee as to sufficiency, nor shall Developer allow any contractor or subcontractor to commence work on the Property until all insurance required of Developer and/or contractor or subcontractor shall have been so obtained and approved. All requirements herein provided shall appear either in the body of the insurance policies or as endorsements and shall specifically bind the insurance carrier.

Developer shall procure and maintain the following insurance providing coverage against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property that may arise from or in connection with the development, construction, management, or operation of the Property by Developer or Developer's agents, representatives, employees and contractors, or subcontractors, including the following:

(a) Commercial General Liability: Developer and all contractors working on behalf of Developer on the Property shall maintain a commercial general liability policy in an occurrence policy (to the extent such occurrence policy is commercially available at the time of placement) for protection against all claims arising from injury to person or persons not in the employ of Developer and against all claims resulting from damage to any property due to any act or omission of Developer, its agents, or employees in the conduct or operation of the work or the execution of this Agreement. Such insurance shall include products and completed operations liability, blanket contractual liability, personal injury liability, and broad form property damage coverage. Coverage shall be at least as broad as Insurance Services Office Commercial General Liability coverage.

(b) Commercial Automobile Liability: Developer and all contractors working on behalf of Developer on the Property shall maintain insurance for protection against all claims arising from the use of vehicles, owned, hired, non-owned, or any other vehicle in connection with the development, construction, operation or management of the Property. Such insurance shall cover the use of automobiles and trucks on and off the site of the Property. Coverage shall be at least as broad as Insurance Services Office covering Commercial Automobile Liability, any auto, owned, non-owned and hired auto.

(c) Workers' Compensation Insurance: Developer (and the general partners thereof) shall furnish or cause to be furnished to City evidence satisfactory to City that Developer (and the general partners thereof), and any contractor with whom Developer has contracted for the performance of work on the Property or otherwise pursuant to this Agreement, shall maintain Workers' Compensation Insurance as required by the State of California and Employer's Liability Insurance.

(d) Builder's Risk: Upon commencement of any construction work on the Property, Developer and all contractors working on behalf of Developer shall maintain a policy of builder's all-risk insurance in an amount not less than the full insurable cost of the Project on a replacement

cost basis naming City as loss payee as its interests may appear.

(e) Professional Liability/Errors and Omissions: Developer shall require any architects, engineers, and general contractors working on the Property to maintain Professional Liability/Errors and Omissions insurance with limits not less than Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) each claim. Certificates evidencing this coverage must reference both Developer and Indemnitees. If the professional liability/errors and omissions insurance is written on a claims made form: (i) the retroactive date must be shown and must be prior to Commencement of Construction on the project, (ii) insurance must be maintained and evidence of insurance must be provided for at least three (3) years after completion of Project construction, and (iii) if coverage is cancelled or non-renewed and not replaced with another claims made policy form with such retroactive date, as described above, shall have a full prior acts coverage, if commercially available, Developer must purchase, or require the provision of, extended period coverage for a minimum of three (3) years after completion of construction.

(f) Property: Developer shall maintain property insurance covering all risks of loss, for 100% of the replacement value of the Project with deductible, if any, in an amount acceptable to City, naming City as loss payee as its interests may appear. Developer shall maintain flood insurance with a \$500,000 limit in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program, managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(g) Pollution Legal Liability Insurance: Developer shall require the contractor to carry pollution liability insurance to provide third-party coverage for bodily injury, property damage, cleanup, and related defense costs.

2. Minimum Limits; Adjustments. Insurance shall be maintained with limits no less than the following:

(a) Commercial General Liability and Property Damage: \$2,000,000 per occurrence and \$5,000,000 annual aggregate for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage, the limits of insurance can be used in combination with the umbrella/ excess policy(ies); provided however, with City's advance written approval, subcontractors may maintain liability coverage with limits not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$2,000,000 annual aggregate.

(b) Products and Completed Operations: \$3,000,000 per occurrence/aggregate. Limit of insurance can be used in combination with the umbrella/ excess policy(ies).

(c) Commercial Automobile Liability: \$2,000,000 combined single limit.

(d) Employer's Liability:

Bodily Injury by Accident - \$1,000,000 each accident.  
Bodily Injury by Disease - \$1,000,000 policy limit.  
Bodily Injury by Disease - \$1,000,000 each employee.

(e) Professional Liability/Errors and Omissions: \$2,000,000 per occurrence or claim. If the policy provides coverage on a claims-made basis, the retroactive date must be shown and must be before the date of the Agreement or the beginning of the contract work.

(f) Pollution Liability Insurance: Contractors' pollution legal liability with limits no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence or claim and \$2,000,000 policy aggregate. If the policy provides

coverage on a claims-made basis, the retroactive date must be shown and must be before the date of the Agreement or the beginning of the contract work.

Coverage limits and the terms and conditions of insurance shall initially be established as noted above in paragraph (f) of Section 2. These limits and conditions will remain in effect unless and until the City and the Developer determine that adjustments are necessary due to changes in circumstances. Should the City find it necessary to propose adjustments, the Developer shall make updates to the policy, including limits and coverage, where commercially available and economically feasible. Upon mutual agreement of both parties, updated certificates of insurance or endorsements will be provided by the Developer.

3. Deductibles and Self-Insured Retention. Any deductibles or self-insured retention must be declared to, and approved by, City if above \$50,000. Payment of all deductibles and self-insured retentions will be the responsibility of Developer.

4. Additional Requirements. The required general liability and automobile policies shall contain, or be endorsed to contain, the following provisions:

a. The Indemnitees are to be covered as Additional Insureds as respects: liability arising out of activities performed by or on behalf of Developer; products and completed operations of Developer; premises owned, occupied or used by Developer; or automobiles owned, leased, hired or borrowed by Developer. The coverage shall contain no special limitations on the scope of protection afforded to Indemnitees. Additional insured endorsements for the general liability coverage shall use Insurance Services Office (ISO) Form No. CG 20 09 11 85 or CG 20 10 11 85, or equivalent, including (if used together) CG 20 10 10 and CG 20 37 10 or its equivalent; but shall not use the following forms: CG 20 10 10 93 or 03 94.

b. All insurance shall be primary insurance as respects Indemnitees. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the Indemnitees shall be excess of Developer's/contractor's insurance and shall not contribute with it.

c. Any failure to comply with reporting or other provisions of the policies including breaches of warranties shall not affect coverage provided to the Indemnitees.

d. Developer's insurance shall apply separately to each insured against whom claim is made or suit is brought except with respect to the limits of the insurer's liability.

e. Each insurance policy required by this clause shall be endorsed to state that coverage shall not be suspended, voided, canceled by either party, reduced in coverage or in limits except after thirty (30) days' prior written notice has been given to the City.

f. If any insurance policy or coverage required hereunder is canceled or reduced, Developer shall, within five (5) days after receipt of notice of such cancellation or reduction in coverage, but in no event later than the effective date of cancellation or reduction, file with City a certificate showing that the required insurance has been reinstated or provided through another insurance company or companies. Upon failure to so file such certificate, City may, without further notice and at its option, procure such insurance coverage at Developer's expense, and Developer shall promptly reimburse City for such expense upon receipt of billing from City.

g. Developer agrees to waive subrogation rights for commercial general liability, automobile liability and worker's compensation against Indemnitees regardless of the applicability

of any insurance proceeds, and to require all contractors, subcontractors or others involved in any way with any construction on the Property to do likewise. Each insurance policy shall contain a waiver of subrogation for the benefit of City. If any required insurance is provided under a form of coverage that includes an annual aggregate limit or provides that claims investigation or legal defense costs are included in such annual aggregate limit, such annual aggregate limit shall be three times the applicable occurrence limits specified above.

h. It shall be a requirement under this Agreement that any available insurance proceeds broader than or in excess of the specified minimum insurance coverage requirement and/or limits shall be available to the additional insured. Furthermore, the requirement for coverage and limits shall be (1) the minimum coverage and limits specified in this Agreement, or (2) the broader coverage and maximum limits of coverage of any insurance policy or proceeds available to the named insured; whichever is greater. For all liability insurance required by this Agreement, Developer (and Developer's contractors, as applicable) shall obtain endorsements that name Indemnitees as additional insured in the full amount of all applicable policies, notwithstanding any lesser minimum limits specified in this Agreement. This Agreement requires Developer (and Developer's contractors, as applicable) to obtain and provide for the benefit of the Indemnitees, additional insured coverage in the same amount of insurance carried by Developer (or Developer's contractors, as applicable), but in no event less than the minimum amounts specified in this Agreement. In the event that Developer (or Developer's contractors as applicable) obtains insurance policies that provide liability coverage in excess of the amounts specified in this Agreement, the actual limits provided by such policies shall be deemed to be the amounts required under this Agreement. Without limiting the foregoing, the limits of liability coverage specified in this Agreement are not intended, nor shall they operate, to limit City's ability to recover amounts in excess of the minimum amounts specified in this Agreement.

i. The limits of insurance required in this Agreement may be satisfied by a combination of primary and umbrella or excess insurance. Any umbrella or excess insurance shall contain or be endorsed to contain a provision that such coverage shall also apply on a primary and non-contributory basis for the benefit of the City before the City's own insurance or self-insurance shall be called upon to protect it as a named insured.

5. Acceptability of Insurers. Companies writing the insurance required hereunder shall be licensed to do business in the State of California. Insurance is to be placed with insurers with a current A.M. Best's rating of no less than A-: VII.

6. Verification of Coverage. Prior to the close of escrow for the Project, Developer shall furnish City with certificates of insurance in form acceptable to City evidencing the insurance coverage required under paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (g) of Section 1 above, duly executed endorsements evidencing the Indemnitees' status as additional insured, and all other endorsements and coverage required hereunder pertaining to such coverage. Prior to City's issuance of a final certificate of occupancy or equivalent for the Project, Developer shall furnish City with certificates of insurance in form acceptable to City evidencing the insurance coverage required under paragraph (f) of Section 1. Developer shall furnish City with original endorsements effecting coverage required by this clause.

7. Insurance Certificates and Endorsements. Developer shall submit to City all of the necessary insurance documents, including the applicable amendatory endorsements (or copies of the applicable policy language effecting coverage required by this clause) and a copy of the Declarations and Endorsement Page of required Developer policies listing all required policy endorsements to City, upon reasonable request. Insurance Certificates and Endorsements are to

be received and approved by City within the time periods specified in Section 6. Should Developer cease to have insurance as required at any time, all work by Developer pursuant to this Agreement shall cease until insurance acceptable to City is provided. Upon City's request, Developer shall, within thirty (30) days of the request, provide or arrange for the insurer to provide to City, complete certified copies of all insurance policies required under this Agreement. City's failure to make such request shall not constitute a waiver of the right to require delivery of the policies in the future.

**SECURED PROMISSORY NOTE**

(Oak Gardens)

\$2,000,000.00

Menlo Park California  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2024

**FOR VALUE RECEIVED**, MP Oak Gardens Associates, L.P., a California limited partnership ("**Borrower**"), promises to pay to the City of Menlo Park, a municipal corporation ("**City**"), in lawful money of the United States of America, the principal sum of Two Million and 00/100 Dollars (\$2,000,000.00), as further discussed in the Loan Agreement referred to below, together with interest on the outstanding principal balance in accordance with the terms and conditions described herein. Interest shall accrue on the outstanding principal balance at a rate equal to three percent (3%) simple interest per annum, commencing upon the date of disbursement thereof. Interest shall be calculated on the basis of a year of three hundred sixty-five (365) days, and charged for the actual number of days elapsed. The date set forth above shall be deemed the "**Effective Date**."

This Secured Promissory Note ("**Note**") has been executed and delivered pursuant to and in accordance with a Loan Agreement executed by and between Borrower and City, dated of or about even date herewith ("**Loan Agreement**"), and is subject to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, which is by this reference incorporated herein and made a part hereof. Capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to such terms in the Loan Agreement.

This Note is secured by a Deed of Trust, Assignment of Rents, Security Agreement and Fixture Filing- Leasehold ("**Deed of Trust- Leasehold**") dated as of the date hereof, executed by Borrower for the benefit of City and encumbering the property described therein. City shall be entitled to the benefits of the security provided by the Deed of Trust- Leasehold and shall have the right to enforce the covenants and agreements contained herein, in the Regulatory Agreement, and the Loan Agreement of even date. The Regulatory Agreement shall remain effective for the full term thereof and shall survive the repayment of this Note.

1. **PAYMENTS.**

1.1 **PAYMENT DATES; MATURITY DATE.** Except in the event of a default and acceleration as described below, the term of the Loan expires fifty-five (55) years after the Conversion Date ("**Maturity Date**"). Commencing on June 1st of the year following the Conversion date, and on June 1 of each year thereafter until the Maturity Date, Borrower shall make a loan payment in an amount equal to City's pro rata share of the Lenders' Share of Residual Receipts (as such terms are defined herein and in the Loan Agreement).

a. **City's Prorata Percentage of Residual Receipts.** City's pro rata share of the Lenders' Share of Residual Receipts shall be determined based on the outstanding principal amount of the Loan following Conversion as a proportion of the amount of principal on all loans requiring repayment from Residual Receipts. City shall apply the Annual Payments first to accrued interest, and second to principal.

b. **Residual Receipts.** Residual Receipts means for each calendar year, the amount by which Gross Revenue exceeds Annual Operating Expenses.

c. **Gross Revenue.** Gross Revenue means for each calendar year, all revenue, income, receipts, and other consideration actually received from the operation and leasing of the Project. Gross Revenue includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) all rents, fees and charges paid by tenants;
- (2) Section 8 payments and other rental or operating subsidy payments received for the dwelling units;
- (3) deposits forfeited by tenants;
- (4) all cancellation fees;
- (5) price index adjustments and any other rental adjustments to leases or rental agreements;
- (6) net proceeds from vending and laundry room machines;
- (7) proceeds of business interruption or similar insurance not paid to senior lenders;
- (8) proceeds of casualty insurance not used to rebuild the Project and not paid to senior lenders; and
- (9) condemnation awards for a taking of part or all of the Project for a temporary period.

Gross Revenue does not include tenants' security deposits, loan proceeds, unexpended amounts (including interest) in any reserve account, required deposits to reserve accounts, capital contributions or similar advances.

d. Annual Operating Expenses. for each calendar year, the following costs reasonably and actually incurred for operation and maintenance of the Project:

- (1) property taxes and assessments imposed on the Project;
- (2) debt service currently due on a non-optional basis (excluding debt service due from residual receipts or surplus cash of the Project) on the Permanent Loan and the Construction Loan;
- (3) on-site service provider fees for tenant social services, provided City has approved, in writing, the plan and budget for such services before such services begin;
- (4) fees paid to the issuer with respect to any bonds and monitoring fees required by Project lenders;
- (5) property management fees and reimbursements, on-site property management office expenses, and salaries of property management and maintenance personnel, not to exceed amounts that are standard in the industry;
- (6) any unpaid Partnership/Asset Fee in an annual amount equal to Thirty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Four and 00/100 Dollars (\$39,504), increasing 3% per annum;
- (7) fees for accounting, audit and legal services incurred by Developer's general partner or management agent in the asset management of the Project, not to exceed amounts that are standard in the industry, to the extent such fees are not included in the Partnership/Asset Fee;

- (8) premiums for insurance required for the Improvements to satisfy the requirements of any lender of Approved Financing;
- (9) utility services not paid for directly by tenants, including water, sewer, and trash collection;
- (10) maintenance and repair expenses and services;
- (11) any annual license or certificate of occupancy fees required for operation of Project;
- (12) security services;
- (13) advertising and marketing;
- (14) cash deposited into the Replacement Reserve Account in the amount set forth in Section 4.4a of the Loan Agreement;
- (15) cash deposited into the Operating Reserve Account to maintain the amount set forth in Section 4.4b of the Loan Agreement (excluding amounts deposited to initially capitalize the account);
- (16) extraordinary operating costs specifically approved in writing by City;
- (17) deferred developer fees **[MIDPEN PLEASE DEFINE]**;
- (18) payments of deductibles in connection with casualty insurance claims not normally paid from reserves, the amount of uninsured losses actually replaced, repaired or restored, and not normally paid from reserves, and other ordinary and reasonable operating expenses approved in writing by City and not listed above.

Annual Operating Expenses do not include the following: depreciation, amortization, depletion or other non-cash expenses, initial deposits to capitalize a reserve account, any amount expended from a reserve account, and any capital cost associated with the Project.

1.2 DUE ON SALE. The entire unpaid principal balance and all interest and other sums accrued hereunder shall be due and payable upon a Transfer (as defined in Section 5.1 of the Loan Agreement) absent City consent, of all or any part of the Project or the Property or any interest therein other than a Transfer permitted without City consent pursuant to the Loan Agreement. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Note shall not be assumable without City's prior written consent, which consent may be granted or denied in City's sole discretion; provided however, this Note may be assumed in connection with a permitted transfer as described in Section 5.2 of the Loan Agreement.

1.3 PREPAYMENT. Borrower may, without premium or penalty, at any time and from time to time, prepay all or any portion of the outstanding principal balance due under this Note, provided that each such prepayment is accompanied by accrued interest on the amount of principal prepaid calculated to the date of such prepayment. Prepayments shall be applied first to any unpaid late charges and other costs and fees then due, then to accrued but unpaid interest, and then to principal.

1.4 MANNER OF PAYMENT. All payments of principal and interest on this Note shall be made to City at 701 Laurel Street, CA 94025 or such other place as City shall



designate to Borrower in writing, or by wire transfer of immediately available funds to an account designated by City in writing.

1.5 PAYMENT IN FULL. Borrower shall pay all outstanding principal and accrued interest on the Loan, in full, on the earliest to occur of: (1) an Event of Default; and (2) the Maturity Date.

## 2. DEFAULTS AND REMEDIES.

2.1 EVENTS OF DEFAULT. The occurrence of any one or more of the following events shall constitute an event of default hereunder ("**Event of Default**"):

a. Borrower fails to pay when due the principal and interest payable hereunder and such failure continues for thirty (30) days after City notifies Borrower thereof in writing, provided no notice shall be required for any payment otherwise due on final maturity of this Note.

b. Pursuant to or within the meaning of the United States Bankruptcy Code or any other federal or state law relating to insolvency or relief of debtors ("**Bankruptcy Law**"), Borrower or any general partner thereof (i) commences a voluntary case or proceeding; (ii) consents to the entry of an order for relief against Borrower or any general partner thereof in an involuntary case; (iii) consents to the appointment of a trustee, receiver, assignee, liquidator or similar official for Borrower or any general partner thereof; (iv) makes an assignment for the benefit of its creditors; or (v) admits in writing its inability to pay its debts as they become due.

c. A court of competent jurisdiction enters an order or decree under any Bankruptcy Law that (i) is for relief against Borrower or any general partner thereof in an involuntary case, (ii) appoints a trustee, receiver, assignee, liquidator or similar official for Borrower or any general partner thereof or substantially all of such entity's assets, (iii) orders the liquidation of Borrower or any general partner thereof, or (iv) issues or levies a judgment, writ, warrant of attachment or similar process against the Property or the Project, and in each case the order or decree is not released, vacated, dismissed or fully bonded within 90 days after its issuance.

d. The occurrence of a Transfer in violation of Article 5 of the Loan Agreement.

e. A default is declared under any debt instrument secured by a mortgage or deed of trust on the Project or the Property and remains uncured beyond any applicable cure period such that the holder of such instrument has the right to accelerate payment thereunder.

f. Borrower fails to maintain insurance on the Property and the Project as required pursuant to the Loan Documents and Borrower fails to cure such default within twenty (20) days.

g. Subject to Borrower's right to contest the following charges pursuant to the Loan Documents, if Borrower fails to pay taxes or assessments due on the Property or the Project or fails to pay any other charge that may result in a lien on the Property or the Project, and Borrower fails to cure such default within ten (10) days.

If any representation or warranty contained in any Loan Document, or any certificate furnished in connection therewith, or in connection with any request for disbursement of the proceeds

of the Loan (“**Loan Proceeds**”) proves to have been false or misleading in any material adverse respect when made and continues to be materially adverse to the City.

h. An Event of Default shall have been declared under the Regulatory Agreement or any Loan Document, and remains uncured beyond the expiration of any applicable cure period.

2.2 **REMEDIES.** Upon the occurrence of an Event of Default hereunder, City may, at its option (i) by written notice to Borrower, declare the entire unpaid principal balance of this Note, together with all accrued interest thereon and all sums due hereunder, immediately due and payable regardless of any prior forbearance, (ii) exercise any and all rights and remedies available to it under applicable law, and (iii) exercise any and all rights and remedies available to City under this Note and the other Loan Documents, including without limitation the right to pursue foreclosure under the Deed of Trust- Leasehold. Borrower shall pay all reasonable costs and expenses incurred by or on behalf of City including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys’ fees, incurred in connection with City’s enforcement of this Note and the exercise of any or all of its rights and remedies hereunder and all such sums shall be a part of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust- Leasehold. The rights and remedies of City under this Note shall be cumulative and not alternative.

2.3 **DEFAULT RATE.** Upon the occurrence of an Event of Default, interest shall automatically be increased without notice to the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum (the “**Default Rate**”); provided however, if any payment due hereunder is not paid when due, the Default Rate shall apply commencing upon the due date for such payment. When Borrower is no longer in default, the Default Rate shall no longer apply, and the interest rate shall once again be the rate specified in the first paragraph of this Note. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, if the interest rate charged exceeds the maximum legal rate of interest, the rate shall be the maximum rate permitted by law. The imposition or acceptance of the Default Rate shall in no event constitute a waiver of a default under this Note or prevent City from exercising any of its other rights or remedies.

### 3. **MISCELLANEOUS**

3.1 **WAIVERS: BORROWER’S WAIVERS.** No waiver by City of any right or remedy under this Note shall be effective unless in a writing signed by City. Neither the failure nor any delay in exercising any right, power or privilege under this Note will operate as a waiver of such right, power or privilege, and no single or partial exercise of any such right, power or privilege by City will preclude any other or further exercise of such right, power or privilege or the exercise of any other right, power or privilege. No waiver that may be given by City will be applicable except in the specific instance for which it is given. No notice to or demand on Borrower will be deemed to be a waiver of any obligation of Borrower or of the right of City to take further action without notice or demand as provided in this Note.

To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law Borrower hereby waives presentment, demand, protest, notices of dishonor and of protest and all defenses and pleas on the grounds of any extension or extensions of the time of payment or of any due date under this Note, in whole or in part, whether before or after maturity and with or without notice.

3.2 **NOTICES.** Any notice required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be given in accordance with Section 8.7 of the Loan Agreement.

3.3 **SEVERABILITY.** If any provision in this Note is held invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, the other provisions of this Note will remain in full force and effect. Any provision of this Note held invalid or unenforceable only in part or degree will remain in full force and effect to the extent not held invalid or unenforceable.

3.4 GOVERNING LAW; VENUE. This Note shall be governed by the laws of the State of California without regard to principles of conflicts of laws. Any legal action filed in connection with this Note shall be filed in the Superior Court of San Mateo County, California, or in the Federal District Court for the Northern District of California.

3.5 PARTIES IN INTEREST. This Note shall bind Borrower and its successors and assigns and shall accrue to the benefit of City and its successors and assigns.

3.6 SECTION HEADINGS, CONSTRUCTION. The headings of Sections in this Note are provided for convenience only and will not affect its construction or interpretation.

3.7 RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES. The relationship of Borrower and City under this Note is solely that of borrower and lender, and the loan evidenced by this Note and secured by the Deed of Trust- Leasehold will in no manner make City the partner or joint venturer of Borrower.

3.8 TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. Time is of the essence with respect to every provision of this Note.

3.9 NONRECOURSE. Except as expressly provided in this Section 3.9, neither Borrower nor its partners shall have personal liability for payment of the principal of, or interest on, this Note, and the sole recourse of City with respect to the payment of the principal of, and interest on, this Note shall be to the Project, the Property and any other collateral held by City as security for this Note; provided however, nothing contained in the foregoing limitation of liability shall: (i) limit or impair the enforcement against all such security for the Note of all the rights and remedies of the City thereunder; (ii) be deemed in any way to impair the right of the City to assert the unpaid principal amount of the Note as demand for money within the meaning and intendment of Section 431.70 of the California Code of Civil Procedure or any successor provision thereto; or (iii) be deemed in any way to limit the rights of the City to obtain specific performance by the Borrower of its covenants under the Loan Documents, other than the covenants to pay the City principal and interest due under the Note.

The foregoing limitation of liability is intended to apply only to the obligation for the repayment of the principal of, and payment of interest on the Note; nothing contained herein is intended to relieve Borrower of its obligation to indemnify City under this Agreement, or liability for: (i) fraud or willful misrepresentation by Borrower; (ii) the failure to pay taxes, assessments or other charges which may create liens on the Property that are payable or applicable prior to any foreclosure under the Deed of Trust- Leasehold (to the full extent of such taxes, assessments or other charges); (iii) the fair market value of any personal property or fixtures removed or disposed of by Borrower other than in accordance with the Deed of Trust- Leasehold; and/or (iv) the misappropriation of any proceeds by Borrower under any insurance policies or awards resulting from condemnation or the exercise of the power of eminent domain or by reason of damage, loss or destruction to any portion of the Project.

*[Signature Page Follows]*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Borrower has executed and delivered this Note as of the date first written above.

**BORROWER:**

MP Oak Gardens Associates, L.P.  
A California limited partnership

By: MP Oak Gardens LLC  
A California limited liability company,  
Its general partner

By: MidPen Housing Corporation  
A California nonprofit benefit corporation,  
its sole member/manager

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Secretary

Recording requested by  
the City of Menlo Park  
and when recorded mail to:

City of Menlo Park  
701 Laurel Street  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

EXEMPT FROM RECORDING FEES PER  
GOVERNMENT CODE §§6103, 27383

APN: \_\_\_\_\_

(Space above for Recorder's use only)

**DEED OF TRUST, ASSIGNMENT OF RENTS,  
SECURITY AGREEMENT AND FIXTURE FILING- LEASEHOLD**

(Oak Gardens)

THIS DEED OF TRUST, ASSIGNMENT OF RENTS, SECURITY AGREEMENT AND  
FIXTURE FILING- LEASEHOLD ("**Deed of Trust- Leasehold**") is made as of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2024, by MP Oak Gardens Associates, L.P., a California limited  
partnership ("**Trustor**"), to \_\_\_\_\_ ("**Trustee**"), for the benefit of the City of  
Menlo Park, a California municipal corporation ("**Beneficiary**").

RECITALS

A. Trustor is the developer of certain land described in Exhibit A attached hereto and  
incorporated herein by this reference ("**Land**"). The Land is owned by the U.S. Department of  
Veterans Affairs ("**VA**") as part of its VA campus. Trustor was selected to develop the project by  
the VA through its request for qualifications in 2019. Trustor intends to construct a 62-unit  
extremely-low and very-low income rental units targeted to veterans and their families who are  
formerly or at risk of homelessness ("**Project**").

B. Beneficiary and Trustor have entered into a Loan Agreement dated of or about  
even date herewith ("**Loan Agreement**") pursuant to which Beneficiary will provide a loan to  
Trustor in the amount of up to Two Million and 00/100 Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) ("**Loan**") for the  
purpose of partially financing construction of the Project. Trustor has issued to Beneficiary a  
secured promissory note dated of or about even date herewith ("**Note**") to evidence Trustor's  
obligation to repay the Loan. This Deed of Trust- Leasehold, the Loan Agreement, the Note and  
the Regulatory Agreement (defined below) are each individually referred to as a "**Loan  
Document**" and are together collectively referred to herein as the "**Loan Documents**."

C. As a condition precedent to the making of the Loan, Beneficiary has required that  
Trustor enter into this Deed of Trust- Leasehold and grant to Trustee for the benefit of Beneficiary,  
a lien and security interest in the Project and in Trustor's fee interest in the Land to secure  
repayment of the Note and performance of Trustor's obligations under the Loan Agreement and  
the other Loan Documents.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, which are incorporated herein by  
reference, and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are  
hereby acknowledged, it is agreed as follows.

1. Grant in Trust. In consideration of the foregoing and for the purpose of securing payment and performance of the Secured Obligations defined and described in Section 2, Trustor hereby irrevocably and unconditionally grants, conveys, transfers and assigns to Trustee, in trust for the benefit of Beneficiary, with power of sale and right of entry and possession, all estate, right, title and interest which Trustor now has or may later acquire in and to the Land, and all of the following, whether presently owned or hereafter acquired:

1.1 Estate. The leasehold estate ("**Estate**") in the Land;

1.2 Improvements. All buildings, structures, and improvements, now or hereafter located or constructed on the Land ("**Improvements**");

1.3 Appurtenances. All appurtenances, easements, rights of way, pipes, transmission lines or wires and other rights used in connection with the Land or the Improvements or as a means of access thereto, whether now or hereafter owned or constructed or placed upon or in the Land or Improvements and all existing and future privileges, rights, franchises and tenements of the Land, including all minerals, oils, gas and other commercially valuable substances which may be in, under or produced from any part of the Land, and all water rights, rights of way, gores or strips of land, and any land lying in the streets, ways, and alleys, open or proposed, in front of or adjoining the Land and Improvements (collectively, "**Appurtenances**");

1.4 Equipment. All machinery, equipment, fixtures, goods and other personal property of the Trustor, whether moveable or not, now owned or hereafter acquired by the Trustor and now or hereafter located at or used in connection with the Land, the Improvements or Appurtenances, and all improvements, restorations, replacements, repairs, additions or substitutions thereto (collectively, "**Equipment**");

1.5 Leases/Rents. All existing and future leases, subleases, licenses, and other agreements relating to the use or occupancy of all or any portion of the Estate, Land or Improvements (collectively, "**Leases**"), all amendments, extensions, renewals or modifications thereof, and all rent, royalties, or other payments which may now or hereafter accrue or otherwise become payable thereunder to or for the benefit of Trustor, including but not limited to security deposits (collectively, "**Rents**");

1.6 Proceeds. All insurance proceeds and any other proceeds from the Estate, Land, Improvements, Appurtenances, Equipment, Leases, and Rents, including without limitation, all deposits made with or other security deposits given to utility companies, all claims or demands relating to insurance awards which the Trustor now has or may hereafter acquire, including all advance payments of insurance premiums made by Trustor, and all condemnation awards or payments now or later made in connection with any condemnation or eminent domain proceeding ("**Proceeds**");

1.7 Gross Revenue. All revenues, income, rents, royalties, payments and profits produced by the Estate, Land, Improvements, Appurtenances and Equipment, whether now owned or hereafter acquired by Trustor ("**Gross Revenues**");

1.8 Plans. All architectural, structural and mechanical plans, specifications, design documents and studies produced in connection with development of the Land and construction of the Improvements (collectively, "**Plans**"); and

1.9 Financing. All interests and rights in any private or governmental grants, subsidies, loans or other financing provided in connection with development of the Estate, Land and construction of the Improvements (collectively, "**Financing**").

All of the above-referenced interests of Trustor in the Estate, Land, Improvements, Appurtenances, Equipment, Leases, Rents, Proceeds, Gross Revenues, Plans and Financing as hereby conveyed to Trustee for the benefit of Beneficiary or made subject to the security interest herein described are collectively referred to herein as the "**Property**."

2. Obligations Secured. This Deed of Trust- Leasehold is given for the purpose of securing payment and performance of the following (collectively, "**Secured Obligations**"): (i) all present and future indebtedness evidenced by the Note and any amendment thereof, including principal, interest and all other amounts payable under the terms of the Note; (ii) all present and future obligations of Trustor to Beneficiary under the Loan Agreement, the Below Market Rate Housing Agreement and Declaration of Restrictive Covenants between Beneficiary and Trustor and recorded substantially concurrently herewith ("**Regulatory Agreement**") or the other Loan Documents; (iii) all additional present and future obligations of Trustor to Beneficiary under any other agreement or instrument acknowledged by Trustor (whether existing now or in the future) which states that it is or such obligations are, secured by this Deed of Trust- Leasehold; (iv) all obligations of Trustor to Beneficiary under all modifications, supplements, amendments, renewals, or extensions of any of the foregoing, whether evidenced by new or additional documents; and (v) reimbursement of all amounts advanced by or on behalf of Beneficiary to protect Beneficiary's interests under this Deed of Trust- Leasehold or any other Loan Document as such may be modified, supplemented, amended, renewed or extended.

3. Assignment of Rents, Issues, and Profits. Trustor hereby irrevocably, absolutely, presently and unconditionally assigns to Beneficiary for the benefit of Beneficiary the Rents, royalties, issues, profits, revenue, income and proceeds of the Property. This is an absolute assignment and not an assignment for security only. Beneficiary hereby confers upon Trustor a license to collect and retain such Rents, royalties, issues, profits, revenue, income and proceeds as they become due and payable prior to any Event of Default hereunder. Upon the occurrence of any such Event of Default, Beneficiary may terminate such license without notice to or demand upon Trustor and without regard to the adequacy of any security for the indebtedness hereby secured, and may either in person, by agent, or by a receiver to be appointed by a court, enter upon and take possession of the Property or any part thereof, and sue for or otherwise collect such rents, issues, and profits, including those past due and unpaid, and apply the same, less costs and expenses of operation and collection, including reasonable attorneys' fees, to any indebtedness secured hereby, and in such order as Beneficiary may determine. Beneficiary's right to the rents, royalties, issues, profits, revenue, income and proceeds of the Property does not depend upon whether or not Beneficiary takes possession of the Property. The entering upon and taking possession of the Property, the collection of such rents, issues, and profits, and the application thereof as aforesaid, shall not cure or waive any default or notice of default hereunder or invalidate any act done pursuant to such notice. If an Event of Default occurs while Beneficiary is in possession of all or part of the Property and/or is collecting and applying Rents as permitted under this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, Beneficiary, Trustee and any receiver shall nevertheless be entitled to exercise and invoke every right and remedy afforded any of them under this Deed of Trust- Leasehold and at law or in equity, including the right to exercise the power of sale granted hereunder. Regardless of whether or not Beneficiary, in person or by agent, takes actual possession of the Property or the Improvements, Beneficiary shall not be deemed to be a "mortgagee in possession," shall not be responsible for performing any obligation of Trustor under any Lease, shall not be liable in any manner for the Property, or the use, occupancy, enjoyment

or operation of any part of it, and shall not be responsible for any waste committed by Trustor, lessees or any third parties, or for dangerous or defective condition of the Property or any negligence in the management, repair or control of the Property. Absent Beneficiary's written consent, Trustor shall not accept prepayment of Rents for any rental period exceeding one month.

4. Security Agreement. The parties intend for this Deed of Trust- Leasehold to create a lien on the Property, and an absolute assignment of the Rents and Leases, all in favor of Beneficiary, subject to the rights of any beneficiaries under Permitted Encumbrances (defined in Section 7.1), including deeds of trust senior in priority to this Deed of Trust- Leasehold permitted under the Loan Agreement ("**Senior Deeds of Trust**"). The parties acknowledge that some of the Property may be determined under applicable law to be personal property or fixtures. To the extent that any Property may be or be determined to be personal property, Trustor as debtor hereby grants to Beneficiary as secured party a security interest in all such Property to secure payment and performance of the Secured Obligations. This Deed of Trust- Leasehold constitutes a security agreement under the California Uniform Commercial Code, as amended or recodified from time to time (the "**UCC**"), covering all such Property. To the extent such Property is not real property encumbered by the lien granted above, and is not absolutely assigned by the assignment set forth above, it is the intention of the parties that such Property shall constitute "proceeds, products, offspring, rents, or profits" (as defined in and for the purposes of Section 552(b) of the United States Bankruptcy Code, as such section may be modified or supplemented) of the Property and Improvements.

5. Financing Statements. Pursuant to the UCC, Trustor, as debtor, hereby authorizes Beneficiary, as secured party, to file such financing statements and amendments thereof and such continuation statements with respect thereto as Beneficiary may deem appropriate to perfect and preserve Beneficiary's security interest in the Property and Rents, without requiring any signature or further authorization by Trustor. If requested by Beneficiary, Trustor shall pay all fees and costs that Beneficiary may incur in filing such documents in public offices and in obtaining such record searches as Beneficiary may reasonably require. If any financing statement or other document is filed in the records normally pertaining to personal property, that filing shall not be construed as in any way derogating from or impairing this Deed of Trust- Leasehold or the rights or obligations of the parties under it.

Everything used in connection with the Property and/or adapted for use therein and/or which is described or reflected in this Deed of Trust- Leasehold is, and at all times and for all purposes and in all proceedings both legal or equitable shall be regarded as part of the estate encumbered by this Deed of Trust- Leasehold irrespective of whether (i) any such item is physically attached to the Improvements, (ii) serial numbers are used for the better identification of certain equipment items capable of being thus identified in a recital contained herein or in any list filed with Beneficiary, or (iii) any such item is referred to or reflected in any such financing statement so filed at any time. Similarly, the mention in any such financing statement of (1) rights in or to the proceeds of any fire and/or hazard insurance policy, or (2) any award in eminent domain proceedings for a taking or for lessening of value, or (3) Trustor's interest as lessor in any present or future lease or rights to income growing out of the use and/or occupancy of the property conveyed hereby, whether pursuant to lease or otherwise, shall not be construed as in any way altering any of the rights of Beneficiary as determined by this instrument or impugning the priority of Beneficiary's lien granted hereby or by any other recorded document. Such mention in any financing statement is declared to be solely for the protection of Beneficiary in the event any court or judge shall at any time hold, with respect to the matters set forth in the foregoing clauses (1), (2), and (3), that notice of Beneficiary's priority of interest is required in order to be effective



against a particular class of persons, including but not limited to the federal government and any subdivisions or entity of the federal government.

6. Fixture Filing. Subject to the rights of beneficiaries under Senior Deeds of Trust and the rights of any other holder of a Permitted Encumbrance, this Deed of Trust- Leasehold is intended to be and constitutes a fixture filing pursuant to the provisions of the UCC with respect to all of the Property constituting fixtures, is being recorded as a fixture financing statement and filing under the UCC, and covers property, goods and equipment which are or are to become fixtures related to the Property and the Improvements. Trustor covenants and agrees that this Deed of Trust- Leasehold is to be filed in the real estate records of San Mateo County and shall also operate from the date of such filing as a fixture filing in accordance with Section 9502 and other applicable provisions of the UCC. This Deed of Trust- Leasehold shall also be effective as a financing statement covering minerals or the like (including oil and gas) and accounts subject to the UCC, as amended. Trustor shall be deemed to be the “debtor” and Beneficiary shall be deemed to be the “secured party” for all purposes under the UCC.

7. Trustor’s Representations, Warranties and Covenants; Rights and Duties of the Parties.

7.1 Representations and Warranties. Trustor represents and warrants that: (i) Trustor lawfully possesses and holds the Estate in the Land and title to the Improvements, (ii) Trustor has good and marketable title to all of the Property; (iii) Trustor has the full and unlimited power, right and authority to encumber the Property and assign the Rents; (iv) subject only to encumbrances of record and senior liens permitted pursuant to the Loan Documents or otherwise approved in writing by Beneficiary (“**Permitted Encumbrances**”), this Deed of Trust- Leasehold creates a valid first lien on Trustor’s entire interest in the Property; (v) except with respect to Permitted Encumbrances, Trustor owns the Property free and clear of any deeds of trust, mortgages, security agreements, reservations of title or conditional sales contracts, (vi) there is no financing statement affecting the Property on file in any public office other than as disclosed in writing to Beneficiary; and (vii) the correct address of Trustor is specified in Section 10.2.

Trustor further represents and warrants that this Deed of Trust- Leasehold and all other documents delivered or to be delivered by Trustor in connection herewith: (a) have been duly authorized, executed, and delivered by Trustor; (b) are binding obligations of Trustor; and (c) do not violate the provisions of any agreement to which Trustor is a party or which affects the Property. Trustor further represents and warrants that there are no pending, or to Trustor’s knowledge, threatened actions or proceedings before any court or administrative agency which may adversely affect Trustor’s ownership of the Property.

7.2 Payment and Performance of Secured Obligations. Trustor shall promptly pay when due the principal and any interest due on the indebtedness evidenced by the Note, and shall promptly pay and perform all other obligations of Trustor arising in connection with the Secured Obligations or the Loan Documents in accordance with the respective terms thereof.

7.3 Use of Loan Proceeds; Preservation and Maintenance of Property; Compliance with Laws. Trustor covenants that it shall use the proceeds of the Loan (“**Loan Proceeds**”) solely for purposes authorized by the Loan Documents. Trustor shall keep the Property and Improvements in good repair and condition, and from time to time shall make necessary repairs, renewals and replacements thereto so that the Property shall be preserved and maintained. Trustor covenants to comply with all federal, state and local laws, regulations, ordinances and rules applicable to the Property and the Project, including without limitation all applicable requirements of state and local building codes and regulations, and all applicable statutes and

regulations relating to accessibility for the disabled. Trustor shall not remove, demolish or materially alter any Improvement without Beneficiary's written consent, shall complete or restore promptly and in good and workmanlike manner any building, fixture or other improvement which may be constructed, damaged, or destroyed thereon, and shall pay when due all claims for labor performed and materials furnished therefor. Trustor shall use the Property and Improvements solely for purposes authorized by the Loan Documents, shall not commit or allow waste of the Property, and shall not commit or allow any act upon or use of the Property which would violate any applicable law or order of any governmental authority, nor shall Trustor bring on or keep any article on the Property or cause or allow any condition to exist thereon which could invalidate or which would be prohibited by any insurance coverage required to be maintained on the Property pursuant to the Loan Documents.

7.4 Restrictions on Conveyance and Encumbrance; Acceleration. It shall be an Event of Default (defined in Section 8) hereunder if any Transfer (defined in the Loan Agreement) of the Property, any part thereof or any interest therein occurs in violation of the requirements of the Loan Documents. If any such Transfer occurs in violation of such requirements, without limiting the provisions of Section 8 hereof, all obligations secured by this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, irrespective of the maturity dates of such obligations, shall at the option of Beneficiary, and without demand, immediately become due and payable, subject to any applicable cure period.

7.5 Inspections; Books and Records. Beneficiary and its agents and representatives shall have the right at any reasonable time upon reasonable notice to enter upon the Property and inspect the Property to ensure compliance with the Loan Documents. Trustor shall maintain complete and accurate books of account and other records (including copies of supporting bills and invoices) adequate to document the use of the Loan Proceeds and the operation of the Property, together with copies of all written contracts, Leases and other instruments which affect the Property. The books, records, contracts, Leases and other instruments shall be subject to examination and inspection at any reasonable time by Beneficiary following two business days prior notice.

7.6 Charges, Liens, Taxes and Assessments. Trustor shall pay before delinquency all taxes, levies, assessments and other charges affecting the Property that are (or if not paid may become) a lien on all or part of the Property. Trustor may, at Trustor's expense, contest the validity or application of any tax, levy, assessment or charge affecting the Property by appropriate legal proceedings promptly initiated and conducted in good faith and with due diligence, provided that (i) Beneficiary is reasonably satisfied that neither the Property nor any part thereof or interest therein will be in danger of being sold, forfeited, or lost as a result of such contest, and (ii) Trustor shall have posted a bond or furnished other security as may reasonably be required from time to time by Beneficiary; and provided further that Trustor shall timely make any payment necessary to prevent a lien foreclosure, sale, forfeiture or loss of the Property.

7.7 Subrogation. Beneficiary shall be subrogated to the liens of all encumbrances, whether released of record or not, which are discharged in whole or in part by Beneficiary in accordance with this Deed of Trust- Leasehold.

7.8 Hazard, Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance. At all times during the term hereof, Trustor shall at Trustor's expense, maintain insurance policies in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Loan Documents. Trustor shall file with Beneficiary prior to the commencement of the term hereof, certificates (or such other proof as Beneficiary may reasonably require upon reasonable request, including without limitation copies of the required insurance policies), evidencing each of the insurance policies and endorsements thereto as

required pursuant to the Loan Documents, and such certificates (or policies) shall provide that at least thirty (30) days' prior written notice shall be provided to Beneficiary prior to the expiration, cancellation or change in coverage under each such policy. If any insurance policy required pursuant to the Loan Documents is canceled or the coverage provided thereunder is reduced, Trustor shall, within ten (10) days after receipt of written notice of such cancellation or reduction in coverage, but in no event later than the effective date of cancellation or reduction, file with Beneficiary a certificate showing that the required insurance has been reinstated or provided through another insurance company or companies. Upon failure to so file such certificate, Beneficiary may, upon prior written notice to Trustor of at least two (2) business days, and at its option (and without any obligation to do so), procure such insurance coverage at Trustor's expense, and Trustor shall promptly reimburse Beneficiary for such expense upon receipt of billing from Beneficiary.

7.9 Condition of Property. Trustor represents and warrants that except as disclosed to Beneficiary in writing, as of the date hereof: (i) Trustor has not received any notice from any governmental authority of any threatened or pending zoning, building, fire, or health code violation or violation of other governmental regulations concerning the Property that has not previously been corrected, and no condition on the Property violates any health, safety, fire, environmental, sewage, building, or other federal, state or local law, ordinance or regulation; (ii) no contracts, licenses, leases or commitments regarding the maintenance or use of the Property or allowing any third party rights to use the Property are in force; (iii) there are no threatened or pending actions, suits, or administrative proceedings against or affecting the Property or any portion thereof or the interest of Trustor in the Property; (iv) there are no threatened or pending condemnation, eminent domain, or similar proceedings affecting the Property or any portion thereof; (v) Trustor has not received any notice from any insurer of defects of the Property which have not been corrected; (vi) there are no natural or artificial conditions upon the Property or any part thereof that could result in a material and adverse change in the condition of the Property; (vii) all information that Trustor has delivered to Beneficiary, either directly or through Trustor's agents, is accurate and complete; and (viii) Trustor or Trustor's agents have disclosed to Beneficiary all material facts concerning the Property.

7.10 Hazardous Materials. Trustor represents and warrants that except as disclosed to Beneficiary in writing, as of the date hereof to the best knowledge of Trustor: (i) the Property is free and has always been free of Hazardous Materials (as defined below) and is not and has never been in violation of any Environmental Law (as defined below); (ii) there are no buried or partially buried storage tanks located on the Property; (iii) Trustor has received no notice, warning, notice of violation, administrative complaint, judicial complaint, or other formal or informal notice alleging that conditions on the Property are or have ever been in violation of any Environmental Law or informing Trustor that the Property is subject to investigation or inquiry regarding Hazardous Materials on the Property or the potential violation of any Environmental Law; (iv) there is no monitoring program required by the Environmental Protection Agency or any other governmental agency concerning the Property; (v) no toxic or hazardous chemicals, waste, or substances of any kind have ever been spilled, disposed of, or stored on, under or at the Property, whether by accident, burying, drainage, or storage in containers, tanks, holding areas, or any other means; (vi) the Property has never been used as a dump or landfill; and (vii) Trustor has disclosed to Beneficiary all information, records, and studies in Trustor's possession or reasonably available to Trustor relating to the Property concerning Hazardous Materials.

a. Prohibition of Hazardous Materials. Trustor shall not cause or permit any Hazardous Materials (defined in Section 4.7 of the Loan Agreement) to be brought upon, kept, stored or used in, on, under, or about the Property by Trustor, its agents, tenants, employees,

contractors or others within the control of Trustor, except for incidental supplies ordinarily used in the construction and operation of residential developments in compliance with all applicable laws, and shall not cause any release of Hazardous Materials into, onto, under or through the Property. If Trustor, its agents, tenants, employees, contractor or others in the control of Trustor cause any Hazardous Material to be discharged, released, dumped, or spilled in, on, under, or about the Property which results in any contamination of the Property or adjacent property, or otherwise results in the release or discharge of Hazardous Materials in, on, under or from the Property, Trustor shall promptly take all actions at its sole expense as are necessary to comply with all Environmental Laws (as defined below).

b. Indemnity. Trustor shall indemnify, defend (with counsel reasonably acceptable to Beneficiary), and hold Beneficiary and its elected and appointed officials, officers, agents and employees (collectively, “**Indemnitees**”) harmless from and against any and all loss, claim, liability, damage, demand, judgment, order, penalty, fine, injunctive or other relief, cost, expense (including reasonable fees and expenses of attorneys, expert witnesses, and other professionals advising or assisting Beneficiary), action, or cause of action (all of the foregoing, hereafter individually “**Claim**” and collectively “**Claims**”) arising in connection with the breach of Trustor’s covenants and obligations set forth in this Section 7.10 or otherwise arising in connection with the presence or release of Hazardous Materials in, on, under, or from the Property, which is caused by Trustor, its agents, employees, contractor or others in the control of Trustor; provided that no Indemnitee shall be entitled to indemnification under this Section for matters caused by such Indemnitee’s gross negligence or willful misconduct. The foregoing indemnity includes, without limitation, all costs of investigation, assessment, containment, removal, remediation of any kind, and disposal of Hazardous Materials, all costs of determining whether the Property is in compliance with Environmental Laws, all costs associated with bringing the Property into compliance with all applicable Environmental Laws, and all costs associated with claims for damages or injury to persons, property, or natural resources.

c. Duties. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Trustor shall, at Trustor’s own cost and expense, do all of the following:

(i) pay or satisfy any judgment or decree that may be entered against any Indemnitee or Indemnitees in any legal or administrative proceeding incident to any matters against which Indemnitees are entitled to be indemnified under this Deed of Trust- Leasehold;

(ii) reimburse Indemnitees for any out-of-pocket expenses paid or incurred in connection with any matters against which Indemnitees are entitled to be indemnified under this Deed of Trust- Leasehold; and

(iii) reimburse Indemnitees for any and all expenses, including without limitation out-of-pocket expenses and fees of attorneys and expert witnesses, paid or incurred in connection with the enforcement by Indemnitees of their rights under this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, or in monitoring and participating in any legal or administrative proceeding.

d. No Limitation. Trustor’s obligation to indemnify the Indemnitees shall not be limited or impaired by any of the following, or by any failure of Trustor to receive notice of or consideration for any of the following: (i) any amendment or modification of any Loan Document; (ii) any extensions of time for performance required by any Loan Document; (iii) any provision in any of the Loan Documents limiting Beneficiary’s recourse to property securing the Secured Obligations, or limiting the personal liability of Trustor, or any other party for payment of all or any part of the Secured Obligations; (iv) the accuracy or inaccuracy of any representation and

warranty made by Trustor under this Deed of Trust- Leasehold or by Trustor or any other party under any Loan Document, (v) the release of Trustor or any other person, by Beneficiary or by operation of law, from performance of any obligation under any Loan Document; (vi) the release or substitution in whole or in part of any security for the Secured Obligations; and (vii) Beneficiary's failure to properly perfect any lien or security interest given as security for the Secured Obligations.

e. Rights of Beneficiary/Indemnitees. The provisions of this Section 7.10 shall be in addition to any and all other obligations and liabilities that Trustor may have under applicable law, and each Indemnitee shall be entitled to indemnification under this Section without regard to whether Beneficiary or that Indemnitee has exercised any rights against the Property or any other security, pursued any rights against any guarantor or other party, or pursued any other rights available under the Loan Documents or applicable law. The obligations of Trustor to indemnify the Indemnitees under this Section shall survive any repayment or discharge of the Secured Obligations, any foreclosure proceeding, any foreclosure sale, any delivery of any deed in lieu of foreclosure, and any release of record of the lien of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold.

f. Environmental Provisions. Without limiting any of the remedies provided in this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, Trustor acknowledges and agrees that each of the provisions in this Section 7.10 is an environmental provision (as defined in Section 736(f)(2) of the California Code of Civil Procedure) made by Trustor relating to real property security (the "**Environmental Provisions**"), and that Trustor's failure to comply with any of the Environmental Provisions will be a breach of contract that will entitle Beneficiary to pursue the remedies provided by Section 736 of the California Code of Civil Procedure ("**Section 736**") for the recovery of damages and for the enforcement of the Environmental Provisions. Pursuant to Section 736, Beneficiary's action for recovery of damages or enforcement of the Environmental Provisions shall not constitute an action within the meaning of Section 726(a) of the California Code of Civil Procedure or constitute a money judgment for a deficiency or a deficiency judgment within the meaning of Sections 580a, 580b, 580d, or 726(b) of the California Code of Civil Procedure.

g. Environmental Law. "**Environmental Law**" means all federal, state or local statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations, orders, decrees, judgments or common law doctrines, and provisions and conditions of permits, licenses and other operating authorizations regulating, or relating to, or imposing liability or standards of conduct concerning (i) pollution or protection of the environment, including natural resources; (ii) exposure of persons, including employees and agents, to any Hazardous Material (as defined above) or other products, raw materials, chemicals or other substances; (iii) protection of the public health or welfare from the effects of by-products, wastes, emissions, discharges or releases of chemical substances from industrial or commercial activities; (iv) the manufacture, use or introduction into commerce of chemical substances, including without limitation, their manufacture, formulation, labeling, distribution, transportation, handling, storage and disposal; or (iv) the use, release or disposal of toxic or hazardous substances or Hazardous Materials or the remediation of air, surface waters, groundwaters or soil, as now or may at any later time be in effect, including but not limited to the Toxic Substances Control Act [15 U.S.C. 2601, et seq.]; the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act [42 U.S.C. Section 9601, et seq.], the Hazardous Materials Transportation Authorization Act [49 U.S.C. Section 5101, et seq.], the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act [42 U.S.C. 6901, et seq.], the Federal Water Pollution Control Act [33 U.S.C. Section 1251], the Clean Air Act [42 U.S.C. Section 7401, et seq.], the California Underground Storage of Hazardous Substances Act [California Health and Safety Code Section 25280, et seq.], the California Hazardous Substances Account Act [California Health and Safety Code Section 25300, et seq.], the California Hazardous Waste Act [California Health and Safety Code Section

25100, et seq.], the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act [California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.5, et seq.], and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act [California Water Code Section 13000, et seq.], as they now exist or are hereafter amended, together with any regulations promulgated thereunder.

7.11 Notice of Claims; Defense of Security; Reimbursement of Costs.

a. Notice of Claims. Promptly upon obtaining knowledge of (i) the institution of any proceedings for the condemnation or other taking of all or any portion of the Property, (ii) knowledge of any casualty damage to the Property and Improvements costing One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$100,000) or more to repair, or (iii) damage in any other manner to the Property or Improvements costing One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$100,000) or more to repair, Trustor shall immediately notify Beneficiary thereof. If at the time of such notice Trustor is then in default of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold or the Loan Documents, Trustor authorizes and empowers Beneficiary as attorney in fact for Trustor to make proof of loss, to adjust and compromise any claim under the insurance policies covering the Property, to appear in and prosecute any action arising from such insurance policies, to collect and receive insurance proceeds, and to deduct therefrom Beneficiary's expenses incurred in the collection of such proceeds; provided, however, that nothing contained in this Section shall require Beneficiary to incur any expense or take any action hereunder. If Beneficiary reasonably determines that Trustor has failed to participate or timely respond in any condemnation or taking proceeding and such failure or lack of timeliness would have an adverse effect on Beneficiary's interest in the Property, the Improvements, the rights provided under this Deed of Trust- Leasehold or the Loan Documents, Trustor authorizes and empowers Beneficiary, at Beneficiary's option, as attorney in fact for Trustor, to commence, appear in and prosecute, in Beneficiary's or Trustor's name, any action or proceeding relating to any condemnation or other taking of all or any part of the Property, whether direct or indirect, and to settle or compromise any claim in connection with such condemnation or other taking. The proceeds of any award payment or claim for damages, direct or consequential, in connection with any condemnation or other taking, whether direct or indirect, of the Property, or any part thereof, or for conveyances in lieu of the Property, or any part thereof, shall be paid to Beneficiary. The foregoing powers of attorney are coupled with an interest and are irrevocable. Trustor hereby authorizes Beneficiary to apply such awards, payments, proceeds or damages relating to condemnation of the Property and insurance covering the Property, after the deduction of Beneficiary's expenses incurred in the collection of such amounts, at Beneficiary's option, subject to the requirements of applicable law and the provisions hereof, to restoration or repair of the Property or to payment of the sums secured by this Deed of Trust- Leasehold. Beneficiary shall be under no obligation to question the amount of any compensation, awards, proceeds, damages, claims, rights of action, and payments relating to condemnation or other taking of the Property or insured casualty affecting the Property, and may accept the same in the amount in which the same shall be paid. Trustor shall execute such further evidence of assignment of any awards, proceeds damages or claims arising in connection with such condemnation or taking or such insurance as Beneficiary may require. Trustor's obligations and Beneficiary's rights under this Section are subject to the requirements of the Senior Deeds of Trust (if any) and Permitted Encumbrances.

b. Defense of Security. At Trustor's sole expense, Trustor shall protect, preserve and defend the Property and title to and right of possession of the Property, the security of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold and the rights and powers of Beneficiary and Trustee created under it, against all adverse claims.

c. Compensation; Reimbursement of Costs. Trustor agrees to pay all reasonable fees, costs and expenses charged by Beneficiary or Trustee for any service that Beneficiary or Trustee may render in connection with this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, including without limitation, fees and expenses related to provision of a statement of obligations or related to a reconveyance. Trustor further agrees to pay or reimburse Beneficiary for all costs, expenses and other advances which may be incurred or made by Beneficiary or Trustee in any efforts to enforce any terms of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, including without limitation any rights or remedies afforded to Beneficiary or Trustee or both of them under Sections 7.17 and 8.2, whether or not any lawsuit is filed, or in defending any action or proceeding arising under or relating to this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, including reasonable attorneys' fees and other legal costs, costs of any disposition of the Property under the power of sale granted hereunder or any judicial foreclosure, and any cost of evidence of title.

d. Notice of Changes. Trustor shall give Beneficiary prior written notice of any change in the address of Trustor and the location of any Property, including books and records pertaining to the Property.

7.12 Indemnification. Trustor shall indemnify, defend (with counsel reasonably acceptable to Beneficiary), and hold harmless the Indemnitees (defined in Section 7.10) from and against all Claims arising directly or indirectly in any manner in connection with or as a result of (a) any breach of Trustor's covenants under any Loan Document, (b) any representation by Trustor in any Loan Document which proves to be false or misleading in any material respect when made, (c) injury or death to persons or damage to property or other loss occurring on the Property or in any improvement located thereon, whether caused by the negligence or any other acts or omissions of Trustor, Trustor's tenants or any other person under Trustor's direction and control, or by negligent, faulty, inadequate or defective design, building, construction or maintenance or any other condition or otherwise, (d) any claim, demand or cause of action, or any action or other proceeding, whether meritorious or not, brought or asserted against any Indemnitee which relates to or arises out of use of the Property or Improvements by Trustor or Trustor's tenants or any other person under Trustor's direction and control, or any Loan Document or any transaction contemplated thereby, or any failure of Trustor to comply with all applicable state, federal and local laws and regulations applicable to the Property, provided that no Indemnitee shall be entitled to indemnification under this Section for matters caused by such Indemnitee's gross negligence or willful misconduct. The obligations of Trustor under this Section shall survive the repayment of the Loan and shall be secured by this Deed of Trust- Leasehold. Notwithstanding any contrary provision contained herein, the obligations of Trustor under this Section shall survive any foreclosure proceeding, any foreclosure sale, any delivery of a deed in lieu of foreclosure, and any release or reconveyance of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold.

7.13 Limitation of Liability. Beneficiary shall not be directly or indirectly liable to Trustor or any other person as a consequence of any of the following: (i) Beneficiary's exercise of or failure to exercise any rights, remedies or powers granted to Beneficiary in this Deed of Trust- Leasehold; (ii) Beneficiary's failure or refusal to perform or discharge any obligation or liability of Trustor under any agreement related to the Property or under this Deed of Trust- Leasehold; (iii) any waste committed by Trustor, the lessees of the Property or any third parties, or any dangerous or defective condition of the Property; or (iv) any loss sustained by Trustor or any third party resulting from any act or omission of Beneficiary in managing the Property after an Event of Default, unless the loss is caused by the willful misconduct, gross negligence, or bad faith of Beneficiary. Trustor hereby expressly waives and releases all liability of the types described in this Section 7.13, and agrees that Trustor shall assert no claim related to any of the foregoing against Beneficiary.

7.14 Insurance and Condemnation Proceeds. Subject to the rights of any senior lienholders, and notwithstanding anything contained in any of the Loan Documents, unless Beneficiary and Trustor otherwise agree in writing, any award of damages in connection with any condemnation for public use of, or injury to the Property or any part thereof shall be paid directly to Trustor and applied to restoration or repair of the Property, provided Trustor determines in its reasonable discretion that such restoration or repair is economically feasible and there is no default under any Loan Document that is continuing beyond the expiration of all applicable cure periods. If Trustor determines in its reasonable discretion that such restoration or repair is not economically feasible or if a default exists after expiration of all applicable cure periods, the insurance proceeds shall be applied to the sums secured by this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, with the excess, if any, paid to Trustor. In the event funds for such work are insufficient, Beneficiary may, in its sole discretion and subject to the approval of Beneficiary's governing board, advance such additional funds as may be necessary to allow the Property to be repaired or restored, and may add the amount thereof to the principal balance of the Note. If the Property is abandoned by Trustor, or if Trustor is in default under any Loan Document or this Deed of Trust- Leasehold that is continuing beyond the expiration of all applicable cure periods and Trustor fails to respond to Beneficiary within thirty (30) days from the date notice is mailed by Beneficiary to Trustor that the insurance carrier offers to settle a claim for insurance benefits, Beneficiary is authorized to collect and apply the insurance proceeds at Beneficiary's option either to restoration or repair of the Property or to the sums secured by this Deed of Trust- Leasehold.

7.15 Release, Extension, Modification. At any time and from time to time, without liability therefor and without notice, upon written request of Beneficiary and presentation of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold and the Note for endorsement, Trustee may release or reconvey all or any part of the Property, consent to the making of any map or plat of the Property or part thereof, join in granting any easement or creating any restriction affecting the Property, or join in any extension agreement or other agreement affecting the lien or charge hereof. At any time and from time to time, without liability therefor and without notice, Beneficiary may (i) release any person liable for payment of any Secured Obligation, (ii) extend the time for payment or otherwise alter the terms of payment of any Secured Obligation; (iii) accept additional real or personal property of any kind as security for any Secured Obligation, or (iv) substitute or release any property securing the Secured Obligations.

7.16 Reconveyance. Upon written request of Beneficiary stating that all of the Secured Obligations have been satisfied in full, and upon surrender of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, and the Note, Trustee shall reconvey, without warranty, the Property or so much of it as is then held under this Deed of Trust- Leasehold. The recitals in any reconveyance executed under this Deed of Trust- Leasehold of any matters or facts shall be conclusive proof of the truthfulness thereof. Trustor shall pay all fees of Trustee and all recordation fees related to such reconveyance.

7.17 Cure; Protection of Security. If Beneficiary reasonably determines that Trustor has failed to take appropriate action to cure any default or breach by Trustor, or participate in any action or proceeding, within a reasonable time, Beneficiary may cure any breach or default of Trustor, and if it chooses to do so in connection with any such cure, Beneficiary may also enter the Property and/or do any and all other things which it may in its reasonable discretion consider necessary and appropriate to protect the security of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold. Such other things may include: appearing in and/or defending any action or proceeding which purports to affect the security of, or the rights or powers of Beneficiary or Trustee under, this Deed of Trust- Leasehold; paying, purchasing, contesting or compromising any encumbrance, charge, lien or claim of lien which in Beneficiary's sole judgment is or may be senior in priority to this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, such judgment of Beneficiary to be conclusive as among Beneficiary, Trustee



and Trustor; obtaining insurance and/or paying any premiums or charges for insurance required to be carried hereunder; otherwise caring for and protecting any and all of the Property; and/or employing counsel, accountants, contractors and other appropriate persons to assist Beneficiary. Beneficiary may take any of the actions permitted under this Section 7.17, so long as Beneficiary concurrently provides written notice to Trustor. Any amounts disbursed by Beneficiary pursuant to this paragraph shall become additional indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust- Leasehold. Beneficiary shall have no obligation to take any action described in this Section.

8. Default and Remedies.

8.1 Events of Default. Trustor acknowledges and agrees that an “**Event of Default**” shall occur under this Deed of Trust- Leasehold upon the occurrence of any one or more of the following events:

- a. Beneficiary’s declaration of an Event of Default under any Loan Document, subject to the expiration of any applicable cure period set forth in such document;
- b. Trustor fails to perform any monetary obligation which arises under this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, and does not cure that failure within ten (10) days following written notice from Beneficiary or Trustee;
- c. If Trustor’s interest in the Property or any part thereof is voluntarily or involuntarily sold, transferred, leased, encumbered, or otherwise conveyed in violation of Section 7.4 hereof or if any other Transfer occurs in violation of the Loan Agreement;
- d. Trustor fails to maintain the insurance coverage required under the Loan Documents or otherwise fails to comply with the requirements of Section 7.8 hereof and Trustor fails to cure such default within the time specified in Section 7.8;
- e. Subject to Trustor’s right to contest such charges as provided herein, Trustor fails to pay taxes or assessments due on the Property or the Improvements or fails to pay any other charge that may result in a lien on the Property or the Improvements, and Trustor fails to cure such default within ten (10) days;

Any representation or warranty of Trustor contained in or made in connection with the execution and delivery of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold or in any certificate or statement furnished pursuant hereto or in any other Loan Document proves to have been false or misleading in any material adverse respect when made;

- f. If, pursuant to or within the meaning of the United States Bankruptcy Code or any other federal or state law relating to insolvency or relief of debtors (“**Bankruptcy Law**”), Trustor or any general partner thereof (i) commences a voluntary case or proceeding; (ii) consents to the entry of an order for relief against Trustor or any general partner thereof in an involuntary case; (iii) consents to the appointment of a trustee, receiver, assignee, liquidator or similar official for Trustor or any general partner thereof; (iv) makes an assignment for the benefit of its creditors; or (v) admits in writing its inability to pay its debts as they become due;

- g. If a court of competent jurisdiction enters an order or decree under any Bankruptcy Law that (i) is for relief against Trustor or any general partner thereof in an involuntary case, (ii) appoints a trustee, receiver, assignee, liquidator or similar official for Trustor or any general partner thereof or substantially all of such entity’s assets, (iii) orders the liquidation of

Trustor or any general partner thereof, or (iv) issues or levies a judgment, writ, warrant of attachment or similar process against the Property or the Project, and in each case the order or decree is not released, vacated, dismissed or fully bonded within sixty (60) days after its issuance;

h. The holder of any other debt instrument secured by a mortgage or deed of trust on the Property or part thereof declares an event of default thereunder and exercises a right to declare all amounts due under that debt instrument immediately due and payable, subject to the expiration of any applicable cure period set forth in such holder's documents; or

i. Trustor fails to perform any obligation arising under this Deed of Trust-Leasehold other than one enumerated in this Section 8.1, and does not cure that failure either within ten (10) days after written notice from Beneficiary or Trustee in the event of a monetary default, or within thirty (30) days after such written notice in the event of a nonmonetary default, provided that in the case of a nonmonetary default that in Beneficiary's reasonable judgment cannot reasonably be cured within thirty (30) days, an Event of Default shall not arise hereunder if Trustor commences to cure such default within thirty (30) days and thereafter prosecutes such cure to completion with due diligence and in good faith and in no event later than ninety (90) days, or such longer period as the City may approve, following receipt of notice of default.

8.2 Remedies. Subject to the applicable notice and cure provisions set forth herein, at any time after an Event of Default, Beneficiary and Trustee shall be entitled to invoke any and all of the rights and remedies described below, and may exercise any one or more or all, of the remedies set forth in any Loan Document, and any other remedy existing at law or in equity or by statute, subject to the nonrecourse provisions set forth in the Note. All of Beneficiary's rights and remedies shall be cumulative, and the exercise of any one or more of them shall not constitute an election of remedies. Beneficiary shall be entitled to collect all expenses incurred in pursuing the remedies provided hereunder, including without limitation reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

a. Acceleration. Beneficiary may declare any or all of the Secured Obligations, including without limitation all sums payable under the Note and this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, to be due and payable immediately.

b. Receiver. Beneficiary may apply to any court of competent jurisdiction for, and obtain appointment of, a receiver for the Property.

c. Entry. Beneficiary, in person, by agent or by court-appointed receiver, may enter, take possession of, manage and operate all or any part of the Property, and may also do any and all other things in connection with those actions that Beneficiary may in its sole discretion consider necessary and appropriate to protect the security of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold. Such other things may include: taking and possessing copies of all of Trustor's or the then owner's books and records concerning the Property; entering into, enforcing, modifying, or canceling Leases on such terms and conditions as Beneficiary may consider proper; obtaining and evicting tenants; fixing or modifying Rents; collecting and receiving any payment of money owing to Trustor; completing any unfinished construction; and/or contracting for and making repairs and alterations. If Beneficiary so requests, Trustor shall assemble all of the Property that has been removed from the Property and make all of it available to Beneficiary at the site of the Property. Trustor hereby irrevocably constitutes and appoints Beneficiary as Trustor's attorney-in-fact to perform such acts and execute such documents as Beneficiary in its sole discretion may consider to be appropriate in connection with taking these measures, including endorsement of Trustor's name on any instruments.

d. UCC Remedies. Beneficiary may exercise any or all of the remedies granted to a secured party under the UCC.

e. Judicial Action. Beneficiary may bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction to foreclose this Deed of Trust- Leasehold in the manner provided by law for foreclosure of mortgages on real property and/or to obtain specific enforcement of any of the covenants or agreements of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold.

f. Power of Sale. Under the power of sale hereby granted, Beneficiary shall have the discretionary right to cause some or all of the Property, including any Property which constitutes personal property, to be sold or otherwise disposed of in any combination and in any manner permitted by applicable law.

Trustor's limited partners (the "**Limited Partners**") shall have the right to cure any default of Trustor hereunder and any of the Loan Documents upon the same terms and conditions afforded to Trustor. Provided that Beneficiary has been given written notice of the address for delivery of notices to the Limited Partners, Beneficiary shall provide any notice of default hereunder to the Limited Partners concurrently with the provision of such notice to Trustor, and as to the Limited Partners, the cure periods specified herein shall commence upon the date of delivery of such notice in accordance with Section 10.2.

8.3 Power of Sale. If Beneficiary elects to invoke the power of sale hereby granted, Beneficiary shall execute or cause Trustee to execute a written notice of such default and of its election to cause the Property to be sold to satisfy the obligations hereof, and shall cause such notice to be recorded in the office of the Recorder of each County wherein the Property or some part thereof is situated as required by law and this Deed of Trust- Leasehold.

a. Request to Sell. Prior to publication of the notice of sale, Beneficiary shall deliver to Trustee this Deed of Trust- Leasehold and the Note or other evidence of indebtedness, which is secured hereby, together with a written request for Trustee to proceed with a sale of the Property, pursuant to the provisions of law and this Deed of Trust- Leasehold.

b. Sale of Property. Notice of sale having been given as then required by law, and not less than the time then required by law having elapsed after recordation of such notice of default, Trustee, without demand on Trustor, shall sell the Property at the time and place fixed by it in the notice of sale, either as a whole or in separate parcels and in such order as it may determine, at public auction to the highest bidder for cash in lawful money of the United States, payable at time of sale. Trustee may, and at Beneficiary's request shall, postpone sale of all or any portion of the Property by public announcement at such time and place of sale, and from time to time thereafter may postpone such sale by public announcement at the time and place fixed by the preceding postponement. Trustee shall deliver to the purchaser its deed conveying the property so sold, but without any covenant or warranty, express or implied. The recitals in such deed of any matters or facts shall be conclusive proof of the truthfulness thereof. Any person, including Trustor, Trustee, or Beneficiary, may purchase at such sale.

c. Application of Proceeds. After deducting all costs, fees, and expenses of Trustee and of the trust hereby created, including reasonable attorneys' fees in connection with sale, Trustee shall apply the proceeds of sale to payment of all sums advanced or expended by Beneficiary or Trustee under the terms hereof and all outstanding sums then secured hereby, and the remainder, if any, to the person or persons legally entitled thereto.

d. Acceleration. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Trustor acknowledges and agrees that regardless of whether or not a default has occurred hereunder, if an Event of Default has occurred under the Loan Documents, and if in connection with such Event of Default Beneficiary exercises its right to foreclose on the Property, then: (i) Beneficiary shall be entitled to declare all amounts due under the Note immediately due and payable, and (ii) the proceeds of any sale of the Property in connection with such foreclosure shall be used to pay all Secured Obligations, including without limitation, the outstanding principal balance and all other amounts due under the Note.

e. Bidding at Sale. At any foreclosure sale, any person, including Trustor, Trustee or Beneficiary, may bid for and acquire the Property or any part of it to the extent permitted by then applicable law. Instead of paying cash for such property, Beneficiary may settle for the purchase price by crediting the sales price of the property against the following obligations:

(i) First, the portion of the Secured Obligations attributable to the expenses of sale, costs of any action and any other sums for which Trustor is obligated to pay or reimburse Beneficiary or Trustee under Section 7.11(c); and

(ii) Second, the remaining balance of all other Secured Obligations in any order and proportions as Beneficiary in its sole discretion may choose.

8.4 Trustor's Right to Reinstate. Notwithstanding Beneficiary's acceleration of the sums secured by this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, Trustor shall have the right to have any proceedings begun by Beneficiary to enforce this Deed of Trust- Leasehold discontinued at any time prior to five (5) days before sale of the Property pursuant to the power of sale contained in this Deed of Trust- Leasehold or at any time prior to entry of a judgment enforcing this Deed of Trust- Leasehold if: (a) Trustor pays Beneficiary all sums which would be then due under the Loan Documents if the Secured Obligations had no acceleration provision; (b) Trustor cures all breaches of any other covenants or agreements of Trustor contained in this Deed of Trust- Leasehold; (c) Trustor pays all reasonable expenses incurred by Beneficiary and Trustee in enforcing the covenants and agreements of Trustor contained in this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, and in enforcing Beneficiary's and Trustee's remedies as provided herein, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees; and (d) Trustor takes such action as Beneficiary may reasonably require to assure that the lien of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, Beneficiary's interest in the Property and Trustor's obligation to pay the sums secured by this Deed of Trust- Leasehold shall continue unimpaired. Upon such payment and cure by Trustor, this Deed of Trust- Leasehold and the obligations secured hereby shall remain in full force and effect as if no acceleration had occurred. Nothing contained in Sections 8.3 and 8.4 is intended to expand upon or limit the rights of Trustor and Beneficiary under California law regarding Beneficiary's exercise of the power of sale or Trustor's reinstatement rights.

9. Trustor's Waivers. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Trustor waives: (a) all statutes of limitations as a defense to any action or proceeding brought against Trustor by Beneficiary; (b) the benefit of all laws now existing or which may hereafter be enacted providing for any appraisement, valuation, stay, extension, redemption or moratorium; (c) all rights of marshalling in the event of foreclosure; and (d) all presentments, demands for performance, notices of nonperformance, protests, notices of protest, notices of dishonor, notices of acceptance of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold and of the existence, creation, or incurring of new or additional indebtedness, and demands and notices of every kind.

10. Miscellaneous Provisions.

10.1 Additional Provisions. The Loan Documents grant further rights to Beneficiary and contain further agreements and affirmative and negative covenants by Trustor which apply to this Deed of Trust- Leasehold and the Property.

10.2 Notices. Trustor requests that a copy of notice of default and notice of sale be mailed to Trustor at the address set forth below. That address is also the mailing address of Trustor as debtor under the UCC. Beneficiary's address set forth below is the address for Beneficiary as secured party under the UCC. Except for any notice required under applicable law to be given in another manner, all notices to be sent pursuant to this Deed of Trust- Leasehold shall be made in writing, and sent to the parties at their respective addresses specified below or to such other address as a party may designate by written notice delivered to the other parties in accordance with this Section. All such notices shall be sent by:

- a. personal delivery, in which case notice shall be deemed delivered upon receipt;
- b. certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, in which case notice shall be deemed delivered two (2) business days after deposit, postage prepaid in the United States mail;
- c. nationally recognized overnight courier, in which case notice shall be deemed delivered one (1) day after deposit with such courier; or
- d. facsimile transmission, in which case notice shall be deemed delivered on transmittal, provided that a transmission report is generated reflecting the accurate transmission thereof.

City: 701 Laurel Street  
Menlo Park, CA 04025  
Attention: City Manager

With a copy to: City of Menlo Park  
Burke, Williams & Sorensen  
181 Third Street, Suite 200  
San Rafael, CA 94901-6587  
Attention: Nira Doherty, City Attorney

Trustor: MP Oak Gardens Associates, L.P.  
c/o MidPen Housing Corporation  
303 Vintage Park Drive, Suite 250  
Foster City, CA 94404  
Attn: Assistant Secretary

With a copy to: NEF Assignment Corporation  
c/o National Equity Fund  
10 S. Riverside Plaza, suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60606  
Attention: General Counsel

With a Copy to: Barnes & Thornburg LLP

41 S. High Street, Suite 3300  
Columbus, OH 43215-6104  
Attention: Jordan Carr, Esq.

10.3 Binding on Successors. The terms, covenants and conditions of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the heirs, administrators, executors, successors in interest, transferees, and assigns of the Trustor, Beneficiary and Trustee; provided however this Section 10.3 does not waive the provisions of Section 7.4.

10.4 Substitution of Trustee. Beneficiary may from time to time or at any time substitute a trustee or trustees to execute the trust hereby created, and when any such substitution has been filed for record in the office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, it shall be conclusive evidence of the appointment of such trustee or trustees, and such new trustee or trustees shall succeed to all of the powers and duties of the Trustee named herein.

10.5 Attorneys' Fees and Costs. In any action or proceeding to foreclose this Deed of Trust- Leasehold or to enforce any right of Beneficiary or of Trustee, Trustor shall pay to Beneficiary and Trustee all costs of such action or proceeding, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

10.6 Governing Law; Severability; Interpretation. This Deed of Trust- Leasehold shall be governed by the laws of the State of California without regard to principles of conflicts of laws. Trustor agrees that any controversy arising under or in relation to this Deed of Trust- Leasehold shall be litigated exclusively in the jurisdiction where the Property is located (the "**Property Jurisdiction**"). The state and federal courts and authorities with jurisdiction in the Property Jurisdiction shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all controversies which shall arise under or in relation to the Loan Documents. Trustor irrevocably consents to service, jurisdiction, and venue of such courts for any such litigation, and waives any other venue to which it might be entitled by virtue of domicile, habitual residence or otherwise. If any provision of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold is held unenforceable or void, that provision shall be deemed severable from the remaining provisions, and shall in no way affect the validity of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold. The captions used in this Deed of Trust- Leasehold are for convenience only and are not intended to affect the interpretation or construction of the provisions herein contained. In this Deed of Trust- Leasehold, whenever the context so requires, the singular number includes the plural.

10.7 Waiver, Modification and Amendment. Any waiver by Beneficiary of any obligation of Trustor hereunder must be in writing, and no waiver shall be construed as a continuing waiver. No waiver shall be implied from any delay or failure by Beneficiary or Trustee to take action on account of any default of Trustor. Consent by Beneficiary or Trustee to any act or omission by Trustor shall not be construed as a consent to any other or subsequent act or omission or to waive the requirement for Beneficiary's or Trustee's consent to be obtained in any future or other instance. No amendment to or modification of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold shall be effective unless and until such amendment or modification is in writing, executed by Trustor and Beneficiary. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Beneficiary's acceptance of payment of any sum secured hereby after its due date shall not constitute a waiver by Beneficiary of its right either to require prompt payment when due of all other sums so secured or to declare default for failure so to pay.

10.8 Action By Beneficiary. Except as may be otherwise specifically provided herein, whenever any approval, notice, direction, or consent by the Beneficiary is required or permitted under this Agreement, such action shall be in writing, and such action may be given, made or

taken by Beneficiary's City Manager or by any person who shall have been designated by Beneficiary's City Manager , without further approval by the governing board of Beneficiary. Beneficiary shall use reasonable best efforts to respond to requests for any such approval, notice, direction, or consent in a timely manner. In any approval, consent, or other determination by Beneficiary required hereunder, Beneficiary shall act reasonably and in good faith.

10.9 Joint and Several Liability. If Trustor consists of more than one person or entity, each shall be jointly and severally liable for the faithful performance of all of Trustor's obligations under this Deed of Trust- Leasehold.

10.10 Time is of the Essence. Time is of the essence for each provision of this Deed of Trust- Leasehold.

*[Signature Pages Follow]*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Trustor has executed this Deed of Trust- Leasehold as of the date first written above.

Trustor:

MP Oak Gardens Associates, L.P.  
A California limited partnership

By: MP Oak Gardens LLC  
A California limited liability company,  
Its general partner

By: MidPen Housing Corporation  
A California nonprofit benefit corporation,  
its sole member/manager

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Secretary



**EXHIBIT A**  
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
[to be attached]

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.**

State of California     )

County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

On \_\_\_\_\_ before me, \_\_\_\_\_, Notary Public, , personally appeared, \_\_\_\_\_, who proved to me the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

This document is recorded for the benefit of the City of Menlo Park and is entitled to be recorded free of charge in accordance with Sections 6103 and 27383 of the Government Code.

**RECORDING REQUESTED BY  
AND WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO:**

City of Menlo Park  
Attn: City Clerk  
701 Laurel Street  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

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**BELOW MARKET RATE HOUSING AGREEMENT**

**AND**

**DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS**

**(Oak Gardens)**

**THIS BELOW MARKET RATE HOUSING AGREEMENT AND DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS (“Agreement”)** is entered into as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, by and between the City of Menlo Park, a California municipal corporation (“**City**”), and MP Oak Gardens Associates, L.P., a California limited partnership (“**Owner**”).

**RECITALS**

A. Owner is the developer of certain property described in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference (“**Property**”). The Property is owned by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (“**VA**”) as part of its VA campus. Owner was selected to develop the project by the VA through its request for qualifications in 2019.

B. Owner intends to construct a collective total of 60-unit extremely-low and very-low income rental units (“**BMR Units**”) targeted to veterans and their families who are formerly homeless or at risk of homelessness, plus two (2) unrestricted manager units (“**Project**”).

C. Twenty-eight of the BMR Units in the Project will be targeted to households earning up to thirty percent (30%) of area median income (“**AMI**”) for San Mateo County (“**County**”) and thirty-two (32) of the BMR Units will be targeted to households earning up to fifty percent (50%) of AMI for the County.

D. On \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, after a duly noticed public hearing, and on the recommendation of the Housing Commission and the Planning Commission, the City Council approved a use permit for new construction, architectural control review for the building design, a major subdivision map to create a vesting tentative map and a form of below market rate (“**BMR**”) housing agreement for the Project that City Council authorized the City Manager to sign (collectively, “**Project Approvals**”). [**SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION FOLLOWING APPROVAL PROCESS.**]

E. The Project Approvals require Owner to provide the BMR Units in accordance with this Agreement. Pursuant to the Menlo Park Municipal Code Chapters 15.36 and 16.96

establishing the Below Market Rate Housing Program (“**BMR Ordinance**”), and the Below Market Rate Housing Program Guidelines, as such may be revised by City from time-to-time (“**Guidelines**”), Owner is required to execute and record an approved (“**BMR Housing Agreement**”, before the disbursement of all or any portion of the loan proceeds, as described in the “**Loan Documents**.” The intent of City is to preserve the number and availability of affordable homes in the BMR program for persons with low-income for as long as possible. This Agreement is intended to satisfy the requirement that Owner sign and record a BMR Housing Agreement. As used herein, Loan Documents shall mean collectively, this Agreement, the Loan Agreement, the Deed of Trust – Leasehold and the Secured Promissory Note.

F. As required by this Agreement, Owner agrees to observe all of the terms and conditions set forth below for purposes of development and operation of the BMR Units. This Agreement will ensure the continuing affordability of the BMR Units.

G. Owner acknowledges and agrees that the Project Approvals provided adequate and proper notice pursuant to Government Code Section 66020 of Owner’s right to protest any requirements for fees, dedications, reservations, and other exactions as may be included in this Agreement, that no protest in compliance with Section 66020 was made within ninety (90) days of the date that notice was given, and that the period has expired in which Owner may protest any and all fees, dedications, reservations, and other exactions as may be included in this Agreement.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the forgoing, which are incorporated herein by references, and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereto agree as follows.

## **1. CONSTRUCTION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS.**

**1.1 Construction of the Project.** Owner agrees to construct the Project in accordance with the Menlo Park Municipal Code, the Project Approvals, the Loan Documents and all Applicable Laws.

**1.2 City and Other Governmental Permits.** Before “**Commencement of Construction**” (as defined in the Loan Agreement) of the Project, Owner shall secure or cause its contractor to secure any and all permits which may be required by City or any other governmental agency with any authority over such construction, including without limitation building permits. Owner shall pay all necessary fees and timely submit to City final drawings with final corrections to obtain such permits; City staff will, without incurring liability or expense therefore, process applications in the ordinary course of business for the issuance of building permits and certificates of occupancy for construction that meets the requirements of the Menlo Park Municipal Code, and all Applicable Laws.

**1.3 Compliance with Laws.** Owner shall carry out the design, construction and operation of the Project in conformity with all applicable laws, including , without limitation, all applicable state labor standards, City zoning and development standards, City and state building, plumbing, mechanical and electrical codes, and all other provisions of the Menlo Park Municipal Code, and all applicable disability access requirements, including without limitation the Americans With Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 12101, *et seq.*, Government Code Section 4450, *et seq.*, Government Code Section 11135, *et seq.*, and the Unruh Civil Rights Act, Civil Code Section 51, *et seq.* (collectively, “**Applicable Laws**”).

## 2. OPERATION OF PROJECT.

**2.1 Effective Date.** The effective date of this Agreement shall be the date that Owner obtains a certificate of occupancy or temporary certificate of occupancy from City ("**Effective Date.**")

**2.2 Affordability Period.** The Property shall be subject to the requirements of this Agreement from the Effective Date until the fifty-fifth (55<sup>th</sup>) anniversary of such date. The duration of this requirement shall be known as the "**Affordability Period.**"

**2.3 Maintenance.** Owner shall comply with every condition of the Project Approvals applicable to the Project and shall, at all times, maintain the Project and the Property in good repair and working order, reasonable wear and tear excepted, and in a safe and sanitary condition, and from time to time shall make all necessary and proper repairs, renewals and replacements to keep the Project and the BMR Units in a good, clean, safe, and sanitary condition.

**2.4 Monitoring and Recordkeeping.** Throughout the Affordability Period, Owner shall comply with all applicable recordkeeping and monitoring requirements set forth in the Guidelines. City shall have the right to inspect the books and records of Owner and its rental agent, sales agent or bookkeeper upon reasonable notice during normal business hours. During any period that a BMR Unit is owned by Owner, representatives of City shall be entitled to enter the Property, upon at least 48-hour prior written notice, which can be provided via email, to monitor compliance with this Agreement, to inspect the records of the Project with respect to the BMR Units, and to conduct, or cause to be conducted, an independent audit or inspection of such records. Owner agrees to cooperate with City in making the Project and Property available for such inspection or audit. Owner agrees to maintain records in businesslike manner, and to maintain such records for the entire Affordability Period.

**2.5 Non-Discrimination Covenants.** Owner covenants by and for itself, its successors and assigns, and all persons claiming under or through them that there shall be no discrimination against or segregation of any person or group of persons on account of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, familial status, disability, national origin, ancestry or other class protected by Applicable Laws in the sale, lease, sublease, transfer, use, occupancy, tenure or enjoyment of the Property, nor establish or permit any such practice or practices of discrimination or segregation with reference to the selection, location, number, use or occupancy of tenants, lessees, subtenants, sublessees or vendees in the BMR Units. Owner shall include such provision in all deeds, leases, contracts and other instruments executed by Owner, and shall enforce the same diligently and in good faith.

a. The following language shall appear in each BMR grant deed:

(1) Grantee herein covenants by and for itself, its successors and assigns, and all persons claiming under or through it, that there shall be no discrimination against or segregation of a person or of a group of persons on account of any basis listed in subdivision (a) or (d) of Section 12955 of the Government Code, as those bases are defined in Sections 12926, 12926.1, subdivision (m) and paragraph (1) of subdivision (p) of Section 12955, and Section 12955.2 of the Government Code, in the sale, lease, sublease, transfer, use, occupancy, tenure or enjoyment of the property herein conveyed nor shall the grantee or any person claiming under or through the grantee establish or permit any such practice or practices of discrimination or segregation with reference to the selection, location, number, use or occupancy of tenants,

lessees, subtenants, sublessees or vendees in the property herein conveyed. The foregoing covenant shall run with the land.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), with respect to familial status, paragraph (1) shall not be construed to apply to housing for older persons, as defined in Section 12955.9 of the Government Code. With respect to familial status, nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to affect Sections 51.2, 51.3, 51.4, 51.10, 51.11 and 799.5 of the Civil Code, relating to housing for senior citizens. Subdivision (d) of Section 51 and Section 1360 of the Civil Code and subdivisions (n), (o), and (p) of Section 12955 of the Government Code shall apply to paragraph (1).

b. In contracts pertaining to management, construction, maintenance or other element of the Project, the following language, or substantially similar language prohibiting discrimination and segregation shall appear:

(1) There shall be no discrimination against or segregation of any person or group of persons on account of any basis listed in subdivision (a) or (d) of Section 12955 of the Government Code, as those bases are defined in Sections 12926, 12926.1, subdivision (m) and paragraph (1) of subdivision (p) of Section 12955, and Section 12955.2 of the Government Code, in the sale, lease, sublease, transfer, use, occupancy, tenure or enjoyment of the property nor shall the transferee or any person claiming under or through the transferee establish or permit any such practice or practices of discrimination or segregation with reference to selection, location, number, use or occupancy of tenants, lessee, subtenants, sublessees or vendees of the land.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), with respect to familial status, paragraph (1) shall not be construed to apply to housing for older persons, as defined in Section 12955.9 of the Government Code. With respect to familial status, nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to affect Sections 51.2, 51.3, 51.4, 51.10, 51.11 and 799.5 of the Civil Code, relating to housing for senior citizens. Subdivision (d) of Section 51 and Section 1360 of the Civil Code and subdivisions (n), (o), and (p) of Section 12955 of the Government Code shall apply to paragraph (1).

**2.6 Subordination.** This Agreement shall be recorded in the Official Records of the County and shall run with the land. City agrees that City will not withhold consent to reasonable requests for subordination of this Agreement for the benefit of lenders providing financing for the Project, provided that the instruments effecting such subordination include reasonable protections to City in the event of default, including without limitation, extended notice and cure rights.

### **3. BMR UNIT RESTRICTIONS.**

**3.1 BMR Units.** During the Affordability Period, Owner agrees that not less than sixty (60) extremely-low income and very-low income BMR Units shall at all times be occupied by or held vacant and available for rental to Eligible Households, as defined below, at an affordable Monthly Rent, as described in Section 3.4. Two (2) additional units will be held as unrestricted manager units. There shall be twenty eight (28) Extremely-Low Income BMR Units and thirty two (32) Very-Low Income BMR Units.

**3.2 Eligible Household.** For purposes of this Agreement, an “**Eligible Household**” shall mean a household with income as follows:

**“Extremely-Low Income Units”** means residential units restricted to households with incomes of not more than thirty percent (30%) of AMI for the County, adjusted for the actual number of persons in the applicable household, as published from time to time by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”).

**“Very-Low Income Units”** means residential units restricted to households with incomes of not more than fifty percent (50%) of AMI for the County, adjusted for the actual number of persons in the applicable household, as published from time to time by HUD Income Verification and Annual Report.

**3.3 Income Verification and Annual Report.** On or before July 1 of each year, commencing with the calendar year that the first residential unit in the Project is rented to a tenant, and annually thereafter, Owner shall obtain from the household occupying the BMR Units and submit to City an income computation and certification form, completed by the tenant of each unit, which shall certify that the income of the Eligible Households is truthfully set forth in the income certification form, in the form proposed by Owner and approved by the Director (“**Annual Report**”). Owner shall make a good faith effort to verify that the households leasing the BMR Units meets the income and eligibility restrictions for the particular BMR Unit by taking the following steps as a part of the verification process with respect to all adults age eighteen (18) or older within the household: (a) obtain a minimum of the three (3) most current pay stubs; (b) obtain an income tax return for the most recent tax year; (c) conduct a credit agency or similar search; (d) obtain the three (3) most current savings and checking account bank statements; (e) obtain an income verification form from the applicant's current employer; (f) obtain an income verification form from the Social Security Administration and/or the California Department of Social Services if the applicant receives assistance from either of such agencies; or (g) if the applicant is unemployed and has no such tax return, obtain another form of independent verification. Copies of tenant income certifications shall be available to City upon request. Each Annual Report shall, at a minimum, include the following information for each BMR Unit: unit number, number of bedrooms, current rent and other charges, dates of any vacancies during the reporting period, number of people residing in the unit, total household gross income (as discussed in the Guidelines), and lease commencement and termination dates. Each Annual Report shall also provide a statement of Owner’s management policies, communications with the tenants and maintenance undertaken on the BMR Units, including a statement of planned repairs to be made and the dates for the repairs.

### **3.4 Affordable Monthly Rent**

The maximum Monthly Rent, defined below, chargeable for the BMR Units and paid pursuant to the leases shall be as follows:

**“Extremely-Low Income Household”**: shall be 1/12th of thirty percent (30%) of thirty percent (30%) of AMI for the County, as published by HUD. The Monthly Rent for an Extremely-Low Income Unit rented to an Extremely-Low Income Household and paid by the household shall be based on an assumed average occupancy per unit of one (1) person per studio unit, one and one-half (1.5) persons for a one-bedroom unit, three (3) persons for a two-bedroom unit and four and one-half (4.5) persons for a three-bedroom unit, unless otherwise approved by the Community Development Director (“**Director**”) for an unusually large unit with a maximum of two persons per bedroom, plus one.

**“Very-Low Income Household”**: shall be 1/12th of thirty percent (30%) of fifty percent (50%) of AMI for the County, as published by HUD. The Monthly Rent for a Very-Low

Income Unit rented to a Very-Low Income Household and paid by the household shall be based on an assumed average occupancy per unit of one (1) person per studio unit, one and one-half (1.5) persons for a one-bedroom unit, three (3) persons for a two-bedroom unit and four and one-half (4.5) persons for a three-bedroom unit, unless otherwise approved by the Director for an unusually large unit with a maximum of two persons per bedroom, plus one.

For purposes of this Agreement, “**Monthly Rent**” means the total of monthly payments actually made by each household for (a) use and occupancy of the BMR Unit and land and facilities associated therewith, (b) any separately charged fees or service charges assessed by Owner which are required of all tenants, other than security deposits, (c) a reasonable allowance for an adequate level of service of utilities not included in (a) or (b) above, and which are not paid directly by Owner, including garbage collection, sewer, water, electricity, gas and other heating, cooking and refrigeration fuels and internet service but not including telephone, which reasonable allowance for utilities is set forth in the County’s Mateo’s Utility Allowance Schedule for detached homes, apartments, condominiums and duplexes, and (d) possessory interest, taxes or other fees or charges assessed for use of the land and facilities associated therewith by a public or private entity other than Owner.

**3.5 Lease Requirements.** No later than one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the initial lease up of any BMR Unit, Owner shall submit a standard lease form to City for approval by the Director or designee. City shall reasonably approve such lease form upon finding that such lease form is consistent with this Agreement and contains all of the provisions required pursuant to the Guidelines. City's failure to respond to Owner's request for approval of the standard lease form within thirty (30) business days of City's receipt of such lease, shall be deemed City's approval of such lease form. City and Owner may make mutually acceptable revisions to the lease form to comply with Applicable Laws. Owner shall enter into a written lease, in the form approved by City, with each new tenant of a BMR Unit prior to a tenant or tenant household’s occupancy of the BMR Unit. Each lease shall be for an initial term of not less than one (1) year which may be renewed pursuant to Applicable Laws and shall not contain any of the provisions which are prohibited pursuant to the Guidelines or any Applicable Laws.

**3.6 Selection of Tenants/Menlo Park Residents and Employees.** Each BMR Unit shall be leased to tenant(s) selected by Owner who meet all of the requirements provided herein and by Applicable Laws. Notwithstanding the foregoing, to ensure that there is an adequate supply of affordable housing within the City of Menlo Park for residents and employees of businesses within the City of Menlo Park, to the extent permitted by law and consistent with the program regulations for funding sources used for development of the Project, Owner shall provide targeted marketing and outreach to individuals who live or work in the City of Menlo Park to ensure that City residents and people in the City of Menlo Park are provided reasonable notice and opportunity to rent units in the Project. City’s BMR Administrator, on behalf of City, will provide to Owner the names of persons who have expressed interest in renting BMR rental housing by having their names added to City’s “**Interest List**” (as referred to in the Guidelines), so that such interested persons may be added to Owner’s prospective tenant list, to be processed in accordance with Owner’s customary, equitable and lawful policies. Owner shall not refuse to lease to a holder of a certificate or a rental voucher under the Section 8 program or other tenant-based assistance program, who is otherwise qualified to be a tenant in accordance with the approved tenant selection criteria. In the event of a conflict between this provision and rules and regulations applicable to the Project, the provisions of such rules and regulations shall control, including, if applicable, any prohibition of preferences for units receiving Section 8 assistance. Owner shall comply with City’s affirmative marketing policies or other rental policies and procedures, as they may be amended from time to time, designed to ensure that City residents and people who work



in the City of Menlo Park are provided reasonable notice and opportunity to rent units in the Project.

**3.7 Termination of Subsidy.** If any rental subsidy available to Owner is terminated or materially reduced for any reason (and is not subsequently restored and actually received by Owner) or upon a foreclosure of any deed of trust encumbering the Project or conveyance in lieu of foreclosure, then the Extremely Low Income Units and Very Low Income Units, as needed, may be offered for Monthly Rent to households with incomes of not more than sixty percent (60%) of AMI for the County (as published by HUD), adjusted for the actual number of persons in the applicable household, at rental rates increased to amounts necessary to make operation and financing of the Project financially feasible, including the payment of all required operating costs and debt service, but in no event may the allowable monthly rents exceed 1/12th of thirty percent (30%) of 60% AMI for the County (as published by HUD). Notwithstanding the above, Owner must use good faith efforts to reduce the effect of rent increases permitted to be imposed on existing Tenants by seeking to obtain other subsidy sources available that would mitigate the rent increases.

**3.8 Increased Income of Tenants.**

a. Extremely Low-Income Household to Very Low-Income Household. In the event, upon recertification of a tenant's household's income, Owner discovers that an Extremely Low-Income Household no longer qualifies as an Extremely Low-Income Household (but does qualify as a Very Low-Income Household), such household's BMR Unit shall continue to be considered an Extremely Low-Income Household, and, upon expiration of the tenant's lease, the Monthly Rent may be increased to one-twelfth (1/12th) of thirty percent (30%) of fifty percent (50%) of AMI upon sixty (60) days written notice to the tenant (and, at such time, such household shall then be considered a Very Low-Income Household), and Owner shall rent the next available BMR Unit to an Extremely Low-Income Household to comply with the requirements of Section 3.1.

b. Above Very Low-Income Household. If, upon recertification of a tenant's income, Owner determines that a former Extremely Low-Income Household, or a Very Low-Income Household's household income has increased and exceeds the qualifying income for a Very Low-Income Household set forth above, but the tenant's household income does not exceed one hundred forty percent (140%) of the applicable income limit, then, upon renewal of the Tenant's lease:

(1) Such tenant's BMR Unit shall continue to be considered a BMR Unit occupied by an Extremely Low-Income Household or a Very Low-Income Household, as applicable;

(2) Such tenant's Monthly Rent may be increased, upon sixty (60) days written notice to the tenant, to a Monthly Rent equal to, the lesser of: (i) the market rate rent for a similar unit of comparable quality to the Unit, or (ii) one-twelfth (1/12th) of thirty percent (30%) of the tenant household's household income; provided, however, Owner shall remain obligated to comply with other limitations on Monthly Rent imposed by any other third-party, including, but not limited to, TCAC; and

(3) Owner shall rent the next available BMR Unit to an Extremely Low-Income Household or a Very Low-Income Household (as applicable), at Monthly Rent not

exceeding the maximum Monthly Rent specified in Section 3.4, as applicable, to comply with the requirements of Section 3.1 .

c. One Year Lease Offer. Each tenant shall be offered (in writing) the opportunity to enter into a lease for a BMR Unit with a minimum of one (1) year, which may be renewed upon mutual agreement of the tenant and Owner.

d. Termination of Occupancy. Upon termination of occupancy of a BMR Unit by a tenant, Owner shall provide notice to City within five (5) business days and such Unit shall be deemed to be continuously occupied by a household of the same income level (e.g. an Extremely Low-Income Household or a Very Low-Income Household) as the initial income level of the vacating tenant, until such BMR Unit is reoccupied, at which time the income character of the Unit (e.g. an Extremely Low-Income Household or a Very Low-Income Household) shall be redetermined. Notwithstanding the forgoing, Owner shall continue to be required to comply with Section 3.1.

#### **4. ADVANCES BY CITY.**

**4.1** In the event City advances any amounts for the payment of mortgages, including the curing of defaults on senior liens and redeeming any BMR Unit prior to a lien sale, taxes, assessments, insurance premiums, homeowner's fees and/or associated late fees, costs, interest, attorneys' fees, pest inspections, resale inspections and other expenses related to any BMR Unit, which Owner has failed to pay or has permitted to become delinquent, City shall be entitled to a lien against that BMR Unit in the amount of all costs and expenses incurred by City.

#### **5. DEFAULT AND REMEDIES**

**5.1 Events of Default.** The following shall constitute an "Event of Default" by Owner under this Agreement: a material breach of any condition, covenant, warranty, promise or representation contained in this Agreement where such breach continues for a period of thirty (30) days after written notice thereof to Owner without Owner curing such breach, or if such breach cannot reasonably be cured within such thirty (30) day period, Owner must commence the cure of such breach within such thirty (30) day period and thereafter diligently proceed to cure such breach; provided, however, that if a different period or notice requirement is specified for any particular breach under any other section of this Agreement, the specific provision shall control.

**5.2 Remedies.** The occurrence of any Event of Default under Section 5.1 shall give City the right to proceed with an action in equity to require Owner to specifically perform its obligations and covenants under this Agreement or to enjoin acts or things which may be unlawful or in violation of the provisions of this Agreement, and the right to terminate this Agreement.

**5.3 Obligations Personal to Owner.** The liability of Owner under this Agreement to any person or entity is limited to Owner's interest in the Project, and City and any other such persons and entities shall look exclusively thereto for the satisfaction of obligations arising out of this Agreement or any other agreement securing the obligations of Owner under this Agreement. From and after the date of this Agreement, no deficiency or other personal judgment, nor any order or decree of specific performance (other than pertaining to this Agreement, any agreement pertaining to the Project or any other agreement securing Owner's obligations under this Agreement), shall be rendered against Owner, the assets of Owner (other than Owner's interest in the Project), its partners, members, successors, transferees or assigns and each of their

respective officers, directors, employees, partners, agents, heirs and personal representatives, as the case may be, in any action or proceeding arising out of this Agreement or any agreement securing the obligations of Owner under this Agreement, or any judgment, order or decree rendered pursuant to any such action or proceeding. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth elsewhere herein, no subsequent Owner of the Project shall be liable or obligated for the breach or default of any obligations of Owner under this Agreement on the part of any prior Owner. Such obligations are personal to the person who was Owner at the time the default or breach was alleged to have occurred and such person shall remain liable for any and all damages occasioned thereby even after such person ceases to be Owner. Without limiting the foregoing and except as expressly limited in any subordination agreement, each Owner shall comply with and be fully liable for all obligations of Owner hereunder during its period of ownership of the Project and that are not a result of any prior Owner's actions or inactions.

**5.4 Attorneys' Fees.** In addition to any other remedies provided hereunder or available pursuant to law, if either Party brings an action or proceeding to enforce, protect or establish any right or remedy hereunder, the prevailing Party shall be entitled to recover from the other Party its costs of suit and reasonable attorneys' fees. This Section shall be interpreted in accordance with California Civil Code Section 1717 and judicial decisions interpreting that statute.

**5.5 Remedies Cumulative.** No right, power, or remedy given by the terms of this Agreement is intended to be exclusive of any other right, power, or remedy; and each and every such right, power, or remedy shall be cumulative and in addition to every other right, power, or remedy given by the terms of any such instrument, or by any statute or otherwise.

**5.6 Waiver of Terms and Conditions.** City may, in its sole discretion, waive in writing any of the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Waivers of any covenant, term, or condition contained herein shall not be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach of the same covenant, term, or condition.

**5.7 Non-Liability of City Officials and Employees.** No member, official, employee or agent of City shall be personally liable to Owner or any occupant of a BMR Unit, or any successor in interest, in the event of any default or breach by City or for any amount which may become due to Owner or its successors, or on any obligations under the terms of this Agreement.

**5.8 Cure Rights.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, City hereby agrees that any cure of any default made or tendered by (i) Owner's limited partner, or (ii) any of Owner's senior mortgage lenders, shall be deemed to be a cure by Owner and shall be accepted or rejected on the same basis as if made or tendered by Owner.

## **6. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**6.1 Below Market Rate Guidelines.** This Agreement incorporates by reference the Guidelines, as amended from time to time. In the event of any conflict or ambiguity between this Agreement, the requirements of state and federal fair housing laws and the Guidelines, the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the requirements of state and federal fair housing laws shall control.

**6.2 Time.** Time is of the essence in this Agreement.

**6.3 Notices.** Unless otherwise indicated in this Agreement, any notice requirement set forth herein shall be deemed to be satisfied three days after mailing of the notice first-class United

States certified mail, postage prepaid, or at the time of personal delivery, addressed to the appropriate party as follows:

Owner: MP Oak Gardens Associates, L.P.  
c/o MidPen Housing Corporation  
303 Vintage Park Dr Suite 250, Foster City, CA 94404  
Attention: Assistant Secretary

With a copy to: NEF Assignment Corporation  
c/o National Equity Fund  
10 S. Riverside Plaza, suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60606  
Attention: General Counsel

With a Copy to: Barnes & Thornburg LLP  
41 S. High Street, Suite 3300  
Columbus, OH 43215-6104  
Attention: Jordan Carr, Esq.

City: City of Menlo Park  
701 Laurel Street  
Menlo Park, California 94025-3483  
Attention: City Manager

With a copy to: Burke, Williams & Sorensen  
1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1650  
Oakland, CA 94612-3520  
Attn: Nira Doherty, City Attorney

Such addresses may be changed by notice to the other Party given in the same manner as provided above.

**6.4 Successors and Assigns.** This Agreement constitutes a covenant and legal restriction on each BMR Unit and shall run with the land and subject to the terms of any subordination agreement, all of the terms, covenants and conditions of this Agreement shall be binding upon Owner and the permitted successors and assigns of Owner.

**6.5 Intended Beneficiaries.** City is the intended beneficiary of this Agreement and shall have the sole and exclusive power to enforce this Agreement. It is intended that City may enforce this Agreement in order to satisfy its obligations to improve, increase and preserve affordable housing within City, as required by the Guidelines, and to provide that a certain percentage of new housing is made available at affordable housing cost to persons and families of very low, low and moderate incomes as required by the Guidelines. No other person or persons, other than City and Owner and their assigns and successors, shall have any right of action hereon.

**6.6 Partial Invalidity.** If any provision of this Agreement shall be declared invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the validity, legality, and enforceability of the remaining provisions hereof shall not in any way be affected or impaired.

**6.7 Governing Law.** This Agreement and other instruments given pursuant hereto shall be construed in accordance with and be governed by the laws of the State of California. Any references herein to particular statutes or regulations shall be deemed to refer to successor statutes or regulations, or amendments thereto. The venue for any action shall be the County of San Mateo.

**6.8 Amendment.** This Agreement may not be changed orally, but only by agreement in writing signed by Owner and City.

**6.9 Approvals.** Where an approval or submission is required under this Agreement, such approval or submission shall be valid for purposes of this Agreement only if made in writing. Where this Agreement requires an approval or consent of City, such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld and may be given on behalf of City by the City Manager or designee. The City Manager or designee is hereby authorized to take such actions as may be necessary or appropriate to implement this Agreement, including without limitation the execution of such documents or agreements as may be contemplated by this Agreement, and amendments which do not substantially change the uses or restrictions hereunder, or substantially add to the costs of City hereunder.

**6.10 Indemnification.** To the greatest extent permitted by law, Owner shall indemnify, defend (with counsel reasonably approved by City) and hold City, its heirs, successors, assigns, elected and appointed officials, employees and agents ("**Indemnitees**") harmless from and against any and all demands, losses, claims, costs and expenses, and any other liability whatsoever, including without limitation, reasonable accountants' and attorneys' fees, charges and expense (collectively, "**Claims**") arising directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, as a result of or in connection with Owner's construction, management, or operation of each BMR Unit and the Project or any failure to perform any obligation as and when required by this Agreement. Owner's indemnification obligations under this Section 6.10 shall not extend to Claims to the extent resulting from the gross negligence or willful misconduct of Indemnitees. The provisions of this Section 6.10 shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement, but only as to claims arising from events occurring during the Affordability Period.

**6.11 Insurance Coverage.** Owner shall comply with the insurance requirements set forth in Exhibit B, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference..

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the date and year set forth above.**

**OWNER:**

MP Oak Gardens Associates, L.P.  
A California limited partnership

By: MP Oak Gardens LLC  
A California limited liability company,  
Its general partner

By: MidPen Housing Corporation  
A California nonprofit benefit corporation,  
its sole member/manager

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Secretary

**CITY:**

**CITY OF MENLO PARK**, a California municipal corporation

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Justin I.C. Murphy, City Manager

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nira Doherty, City Attorney

**ATTEST:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Judi Herren, City Clerk

**List of Exhibits:**

Exhibit A: Property Description

Exhibit B: Insurance Requirements

**Exhibit A**

**Property Description**

[to be attached]

## Exhibit B

### **Insurance Requirements**

Prior to initiating work on the Project and continuing throughout the Term of the Regulatory Agreement, Developer shall obtain and maintain the following policies of insurance and shall comply with all provisions set forth in this Exhibit.

1. General Requirements. And construction or repair work on the Property shall not commence until Owner shall have obtained all insurance required under this Section and such insurance shall have been approved by the City Attorney as to form and carrier and the City Manager or designee as to sufficiency, nor shall Owner allow any contractor or subcontractor to commence work on the Property until all insurance required of Owner and/or contractor or subcontractor shall have been so obtained and approved. All requirements herein provided shall appear either in the body of the insurance policies or as endorsements and shall specifically bind the insurance carrier.

Owner shall procure and maintain the following insurance providing coverage against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property that may arise from or in connection with the development, construction, management, or operation of the Property by Owner or Owner's agents, representatives, employees and contractors, or subcontractors, including the following:

(a) Commercial General Liability: Owner and all contractors working on behalf of Owner on the Property shall maintain a commercial general liability policy in an occurrence policy (to the extent such occurrence policy is commercially available at the time of placement) for protection against all claims arising from injury to person or persons not in the employ of Owner and against all claims resulting from damage to any property due to any act or omission of Owner, its agents, or employees in the conduct or operation of the work or the execution of this Agreement. Such insurance shall include products and completed operations liability, blanket contractual liability, personal injury liability, and broad form property damage coverage. Coverage shall be at least as broad as Insurance Services Office Commercial General Liability coverage.

(b) Commercial Automobile Liability: Owner and all contractors working on behalf of Owner on the Property shall maintain insurance for protection against all claims arising from the use of vehicles, owned, hired, non-owned, or any other vehicle in connection with the development, construction, operation or management of the Property. Such insurance shall cover the use of automobiles and trucks on and off the site of the Property. Coverage shall be at least as broad as Insurance Services Office covering Commercial Automobile Liability, any auto, owned, non-owned and hired auto.

(c) Workers' Compensation Insurance: Owner (and the general partners thereof) shall furnish or cause to be furnished to City evidence satisfactory to City that Owner (and the general partners thereof), and any contractor with whom Owner has contracted for the performance of work on the Property or otherwise pursuant to this Agreement, shall maintain Workers' Compensation Insurance as required by the State of California and Employer's Liability Insurance.

(d) Builder's Risk: Upon Commencement of Construction on the Property, Owner and all contractors working on behalf of Owner shall maintain a policy of builder's all-risk insurance in an amount not less than the full insurable cost of the Project on a replacement cost basis naming City as loss payee as its interests may appear.



(e) Professional Liability/Errors and Omissions: Owner shall require any architects, engineers, and general contractors working on the Property to maintain Professional Liability/Errors and Omissions insurance with limits not less than Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) each claim. Certificates evidencing this coverage must reference both Owner and Indemnitees. If the professional liability/errors and omissions insurance is written on a claims made form: (i) the retroactive date must be shown and must be prior to Commencement of Construction on the project, (ii) insurance must be maintained and evidence of insurance must be provided for at least three (3) years after completion of Project construction, and (iii) if coverage is cancelled or non-renewed and not replaced with another claims made policy form with such retroactive date, as described above, shall have a full prior acts coverage, if commercially available, Owner must purchase, or require the provision of, extended period coverage for a minimum of three (3) years after completion of construction.

(f) Property: Owner shall maintain property insurance covering all risks of loss, for 100% of the replacement value of the Project with deductible, if any, in an amount acceptable to City, naming City as loss payee as its interests may appear. Owner shall maintain flood insurance with a \$500,000 limit in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program, managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(g) Pollution Legal Liability Insurance: Owner shall require the contractor to carry pollution liability insurance to provide third-party coverage for bodily injury, property damage, cleanup, and related defense costs.

2. Minimum Limits; Adjustments. Insurance shall be maintained with limits no less than the following:

(a) Commercial General Liability and Property Damage: \$2,000,000 per occurrence and \$5,000,000 annual aggregate for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage, the limits of insurance can be used in combination with the umbrella/ excess policy(ies); provided however, with City's advance written approval, subcontractors may maintain liability coverage with limits not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$2,000,000 annual aggregate.

(b) Products and Completed Operations: \$3,000,000 per occurrence/aggregate. Limit of insurance can be used in combination with the umbrella/ excess policy(ies).

(c) Commercial Automobile Liability: \$2,000,000 combined single limit.

(d) Employer's Liability:

Bodily Injury by Accident - \$1,000,000 each accident.  
Bodily Injury by Disease - \$1,000,000 policy limit.  
Bodily Injury by Disease - \$1,000,000 each employee.

(e) Professional Liability/Errors and Omissions: \$2,000,000 per occurrence or claim. If the policy provides coverage on a claims-made basis, the retroactive date must be shown and must be before the date of the Agreement or the beginning of the contract work.

(f) Pollution Liability Insurance: Contractors' pollution legal liability with limits no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence or claim and \$2,000,000 policy aggregate. If the policy provides coverage on a claims-made basis, the retroactive date must be shown and must be before the date of the Agreement or the beginning of the contract work.

Coverage limits, and if necessary, the terms and conditions of insurance, shall be reasonably adjusted from time to time (not less than every five (5) years after the Effective Date nor more than once in every three (3) year period) to address changes in circumstance, including, but not limited to, changes in inflation and the litigation climate in California. City shall give written notice to Owner of any such adjustments, and Owner shall provide City with amended or new insurance certificates or endorsements evidencing compliance with such adjustments within thirty (30) days following receipt of such notice.

3. Deductibles and Self-Insured Retention. Any deductibles or self-insured retention must be declared to, and approved by, City if above \$50,000. Payment of all deductibles and self-insured retentions will be the responsibility of Owner.

4. Additional Requirements. The required general liability and automobile policies shall contain, or be endorsed to contain, the following provisions:

a. The Indemnitees are to be covered as Additional Insureds as respects: liability arising out of activities performed by or on behalf of Owner; products and completed operations of Owner; premises owned, occupied or used by Owner; or automobiles owned, leased, hired or borrowed by Owner. The coverage shall contain no special limitations on the scope of protection afforded to Indemnitees. Additional insured endorsements for the general liability coverage shall use Insurance Services Office (ISO) Form No. CG 20 09 11 85 or CG 20 10 11 85, or equivalent, including (if used together) CG 20 10 10 and CG 20 37 10 or its equivalent; but shall not use the following forms: CG 20 10 10 93 or 03 94.

b. All insurance shall be primary insurance as respects Indemnitees. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the Indemnitees shall be excess of Owner's/contractor's insurance and shall not contribute with it.

c. Any failure to comply with reporting or other provisions of the policies including breaches of warranties shall not affect coverage provided to the Indemnitees.

d. Owner's insurance shall apply separately to each insured against whom claim is made or suit is brought except, with respect to the limits of the insurer's liability.

e. Each insurance policy required by this clause shall be endorsed to state that coverage shall not be suspended, voided, canceled by either party, reduced in coverage or in limits except after thirty (30) days' prior written notice has been given to the City.

f. If any insurance policy or coverage required hereunder is canceled or reduced, Owner shall, within five (5) days after receipt of notice of such cancellation or reduction in coverage, but in no event later than the effective date of cancellation or reduction, file with City a certificate showing that the required insurance has been reinstated or provided through another insurance company or companies. Upon failure to so file such certificate, City may, without further notice and at its option, procure such insurance coverage at Owner's expense, and Owner shall promptly reimburse City for such expense upon receipt of billing from City.

g. Owner agrees to waive subrogation rights for commercial general liability, automobile liability and worker's compensation against Indemnitees regardless of the applicability of any insurance proceeds, and to require all contractors, subcontractors or others involved in any way with any construction on the Property to do likewise. Each insurance policy shall contain a waiver of subrogation for the benefit of City. If any required insurance is provided under a form

of coverage that includes an annual aggregate limit or provides that claims investigation or legal defense costs are included in such annual aggregate limit, such annual aggregate limit shall be three times the applicable occurrence limits specified above.

h. It shall be a requirement under this Agreement that any available insurance proceeds broader than or in excess of the specified minimum insurance coverage requirement and/or limits shall be available to the additional insured. Furthermore, the requirement for coverage and limits shall be (1) the minimum coverage and limits specified in this Agreement, or (2) the broader coverage and maximum limits of coverage of any insurance policy or proceeds available to the named insured; whichever is greater. For all liability insurance required by this Agreement, Owner (and Owner's contractors, as applicable) shall obtain endorsements that name Indemnitees as additional insured in the full amount of all applicable policies, notwithstanding any lesser minimum limits specified in this Agreement. This Agreement requires Owner (and Owner's contractors, as applicable) to obtain and provide for the benefit of the Indemnitees, additional insured coverage in the same amount of insurance carried by Owner (or Owner's contractors, as applicable), but in no event less than the minimum amounts specified in this Agreement. In the event that Owner (or Owner's contractors as applicable) obtains insurance policies that provide liability coverage in excess of the amounts specified in this Agreement, the actual limits provided by such policies shall be deemed to be the amounts required under this Agreement. Without limiting the foregoing, the limits of liability coverage specified in this Agreement are not intended, nor shall they operate, to limit City's ability to recover amounts in excess of the minimum amounts specified in this Agreement.

i. The limits of insurance required in this Agreement may be satisfied by a combination of primary and umbrella or excess insurance. Any umbrella or excess insurance shall contain or be endorsed to contain a provision that such coverage shall also apply on a primary and non-contributory basis for the benefit of the City before the City's own insurance or self-insurance shall be called upon to protect it as a named insured.

5. Acceptability of Insurers. Companies writing the insurance required hereunder shall be licensed to do business in the State of California. Insurance is to be placed with insurers with a current A.M. Best's rating of no less than A-: VII.

6. Verification of Coverage. Prior to the close of escrow for the Project, Owner shall furnish City with certificates of insurance in form acceptable to City evidencing the insurance coverage required under paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (g) of Section 1 above, duly executed endorsements evidencing the Indemnitees' status as additional insured, and all other endorsements and coverage required hereunder pertaining to such coverage. Prior to City's issuance of a final certificate of occupancy or equivalent for the Project, Owner shall furnish City with certificates of insurance in form acceptable to City evidencing the insurance coverage required under paragraph (f) of Section 1. Owner shall furnish City with original endorsements effecting coverage required by this clause.

7. Insurance Certificates and Endorsements. Owner shall submit to City all of the necessary insurance documents, including the applicable amendatory endorsements (or copies of the applicable policy language effecting coverage required by this clause) and a copy of the Declarations and Endorsement Page of required Owner policies listing all required policy endorsements to City, upon reasonable request. Insurance Certificates and Endorsements are to be received and approved by City within the time periods specified in Section 6. Should Owner cease to have insurance as required at any time, all work by Owner pursuant to this Agreement shall cease until insurance acceptable to City is provided. Upon City's request, Owner shall,

within thirty (30) days of the request, provide or arrange for the insurer to provide to City complete certified copies of all insurance policies required under this Agreement. City's failure to make such request shall not constitute a waiver of the right to require delivery of the policies in the future.



## STAFF REPORT

### City Council

Meeting Date:

9/24/2024

Staff Report Number:

24-165-CC

### Public Hearing:

**Consider and adopt resolutions amending the General Plan to include an Environmental Justice Element and to update the Safety Element, and determine the actions are addressed in a previously-certified subsequent environmental impact report under the California Environmental Quality Act**

### Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt resolutions to amend the General Plan to include an Environmental Justice (EJ) Element and to update the Safety Element, and determine the actions are addressed in a previously-certified subsequent environmental impact report under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as recommended by the Planning Commission.

The draft City Council resolution adopting the EJ Element is included as Attachment A. The proposed EJ Element is included as Attachment A, Exhibit A.

The draft City Council resolution adopting the Safety Element update is included as Attachment B. The proposed amendments to the Safety Element are included as Attachment B, Exhibit A.

### Policy Issues

The City is committed to advancing equity and addressing potential environmental health risks in Menlo Park. These aims align with Senate Bill 1000 (2016), which requires the adoption or review of an EJ Element (or environmental justice goals, policies, and programs integrated in other elements) in cities and counties that have a disadvantaged community upon the adoption or revision of two or more General Plan elements. Throughout the EJ Element, “underserved communities” is the Menlo Park-preferred term and is intended to be the same as the state-defined term “disadvantaged communities,” which is only used when quoting or referring to state law. The City is developing its first EJ Element and concurrently updating its Safety Element for compliance with Senate Bill 379 (2015), Senate Bill 272 (2023), and state-required topics such as climate change adaptation and resiliency, and increased attention to wildfire and evacuation routes.

### Background

The development of the 2023-2031 Housing Element, the preparation of the EJ Element, and the update of the Safety Element, collectively known as the Housing Element Update project (Attachment C for project webpage), has been a multiyear effort led by City staff and a team of consultants led by the M-Group. The City Council adopted the 2023-2031 (6<sup>th</sup> Cycle) Housing Element Jan. 31, 2023 and amended it Jan. 23. The State Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) certified the City’s Housing Element March 20. The adoption of the City’s first EJ Element and updated Safety Element are the remaining

milestones to complete the Housing Element Update project. The City has the Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements in a combined document. The update focuses on the Safety Element; the Open Space/Conservation and Noise Elements are unchanged. The EJ and Safety Elements, along with the Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Open Space/Conservation, and Noise Elements make up the City's General Plan.

An integral part of the EJ Element preparation and update to the Safety Element was to create a community outreach and engagement process that was inclusive and intentional in order to ensure the General Plan amendments reflect the community's input and values while meeting state requirements. The City conducted community outreach and engagement on its own as well as partnered with Climate Resilient Communities (CRC), a community-based organization that focuses and specializes in outreach and engagement efforts in underserved communities. The outreach included community meetings, pop-ups, focus groups, English-Spanish translation/interpretation services, and surveys. Whenever possible, outreach was conducted with the intent to "meet people where they are" to increase participation, engagement, and build relationships with the community. Multiple public study sessions with the Planning Commission and City Council were held and in addition, the team has conducted over 15 outreach and engagement events.

## **Analysis**

The intent of the Sept. 24 City Council public hearing is to adopt the EJ and Safety Elements. This staff report is a companion to the Aug. 26 Planning Commission staff report and focuses on what occurred at the Planning Commission hearing and any other changes since then (Attachment D for Aug. 26 Planning Commission staff report in English and Attachment E for Spanish; Attachment F for English meeting video and Attachment G for Spanish meeting video).

The City Council last reviewed the EJ and Safety Elements at a study session June 28 following a joint Planning Commission and City Council study session June 20, 2023 and a Planning Commission study session June 3, and provided feedback and guidance for further refinements in preparation for adoption. For each element, a Revisions and Feedback Log is provided as a "walkthrough" guide to record feedback from previous study sessions and identify how the comments were addressed in the revised, adoption-draft elements. Each log includes a "Key Topic(s)" column intended to highlight the subject of the revision or feedback (Attachment H for Revisions and Feedback Log for the EJ Element and Attachment I for the Safety Element).

The EJ Element is accompanied by an Action Guide (formerly called the Implementation Guide) included as Attachment J. The Action Guide is a separate, complementary document that lies outside of the General Plan itself. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the EJ Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park's underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment. The Action Guide has been streamlined for ease of use and re-formatted to highlight community-identified priorities and to condense the amount of detail formerly shown in expanded matrix form. Refer to the Aug. 26 Planning Commission staff report for more detail on these items and the changes that were included based upon the feedback received from the Planning Commission and City Council study sessions (Attachment D).

### Aug. 26, Planning Commission meeting

On Aug. 26, the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing to review and consider recommendations of the EJ and Safety Elements for City Council adoption. Public comments at the meeting included

appreciation toward City staff and CRC for the advancement of the EJ and Safety Elements through a robust community outreach and engagement process and for multiple rounds of revisions to the documents to tailor the long range plan to community priorities. Public comments also expressed the need for pursuit of ongoing community outreach in multiple formats (advancing Goal EJ7) and the pursuit of improvements for public transit users and pedestrians, such as bus shelters, benches, shade structures and regularly maintained lighting.

Planning Commissioner comments at the meeting similarly highlighted appreciation toward City staff and CRC for the development of the EJ and Safety Elements through an extensive, community-centered process that reflects the community's input. Commissioner comments also emphasized the importance of City action, accountability, communication, transparency, and building community trust and relationships through EJ Element implementation.

The Planning Commission adopted Resolution No. 2024-035 recommending adoption of the Safety Element update as presented and Resolution No. 2024-034 recommending adoption of the EJ Element with two modifications listed below, which are reflected in the City Council's draft resolution for EJ Element adoption. Staff supports these modifications to the EJ Element. If approved by the City Council, the Action Guide will be updated to reflect these changes. The recommended modifications to the EJ Element are:

1. Revise Action Item EJ6.D.6 as follows (additional text shown in underline):

Expand the network of safe, accessible, and appealing pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including pedestrian connections within and in between neighborhoods. Poles, signs, or other impediments in the center of sidewalks should be modified to improve accessibility and sidewalk safety. Pursue improvements for public transit users and pedestrians where feasible, including, but not limited to, bus shelters, benches, shade structures, and lighting to support alternative transportation.

2. Revise Action item EJ6.D.7 as follows (additional text shown in underline):

Install and regularly maintain adequate lighting to encourage walking and safe travel at night. This may begin with installation on Ivy Drive, Hamilton Avenue, Chilco Street, Newbridge Street, and at public buildings at parks. It should continue after subsequent community outreach that identifies other streets and locations with inadequate lighting, prioritizing underserved communities.

#### Next steps

Both the EJ Element and Safety Element update would be effective upon the City Council's adoption of the two resolutions (Attachment A for EJ Element and Attachment B for Safety Element). Staff is in the process of exploring different options for presenting the EJ Element Action Guide in an online, public-facing, dynamic manner and will provide notice to the community when the online Action Guide is available. In 2025, there will be updates to efforts, some of which are happening already (e.g., developing an anti-displacement strategy, supporting home rehabilitation, developing an urban forest management plan), presented in annual reporting for the EJ Element (Programs EJ7.J and EJ7.K). In addition, the City Council will consider community-identified environmental justice priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop (Program EJ7.L).

#### **Impact on City Resources**

As part of the fiscal year 2020-21 budget, the City Council appropriated nearly \$1.5 million from the general fund for consultant services to support the Housing Element Update project (inclusive of the EJ and Safety Elements, and including preparation of the subsequent environmental impact report (SEIR)). The contract was subsequently amended to accommodate additional revisions, meetings and outreach. On Oct. 24, 2023, the City Council approved an additional budget augment for a contract total of \$1,700,212 to ensure the continued involvement of project consultants in conducting public engagement and finalizing the

documents and tasks necessary to complete the project.

The funding for EJ Element programs would be evaluated through a separate process and could occur through a combination of the general fund, special funds and/or grant monies to support the range of activities. On June 25, the City Council approved a \$1 million transfer from the Bayfront Mitigation Fund to establish a new EJ Element Implementation Fund.

### **Environmental Review**

As part of adopting the ConnectMenlo General Plan Update in 2016, the City prepared and certified the ConnectMenlo environmental impact report (EIR). As part of the Housing Element Update project, a SEIR was prepared (State Clearinghouse (SCH) No. 1990030530). The SEIR incorporated and revised the ConnectMenlo EIR to ensure that environmental aspects of the Housing Element Update were evaluated. The City Council adopted Resolution No. 6808 Jan. 31, 2023 certifying the SEIR and taking associated CEQA actions.

The new EJ Element and Safety Element update were considered in Section 6.5 of the certified SEIR. The SEIR determined that an evaluation of potential environmental effects of the updated Safety Element and new EJ Element were not required under the CEQA because they primarily address general City policy direction. The City's decision not to include such an evaluation was based on the purpose and characteristics of each element, and was informed and supported by statute, regulation, and applicable case law indicating that such an analysis was not required. Unlike the update to the Housing Element, the EJ Element and Safety Element update documents do not identify or propose specific, physical actions in particular locations that could impact the physical environment in those locations. The SEIR determined that attempting to identify and evaluate potential impacts associated with the new EJ Element and Safety Element update would be too general and highly speculative – and CEQA discourages requiring such efforts. If the City Council decides to approve the EJ Element or the Safety Element update, the City would file a Notice of Determination announcing the approval in reliance on the previously certified SEIR. No other CEQA action would be required at the time.

In the future, if any physical action associated with implementation of either element is proposed, such action will be required to undergo its own environmental analysis per the requirements of CEQA before its approval and implementation. A memorandum providing additional explanation for the SEIR's treatment of the EJ and Safety Elements is included as Attachment K.

### **Public Notice**

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Public notification also consisted of a notice in the local newspaper. The meeting was also publicized through video monitor ads at the Neighborhood Service Center in Belle Haven, Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC), Menlo Park Library, and Arrillaga Family Recreation Center and Gymnasium. In addition, outreach included printed flyers, email distribution to the Housing Element Update project email list, the Weekly Digest, and through City social media and the Housing Element Update project webpage.

### **Attachments**

- A. Draft City Council resolution adopting the EJ Element  
Exhibit A Attachment A
- A. EJ Element



- B. Draft City Council resolution adopting the Safety Element update Exhibit to Attachment B
  - A. Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements
- C. Hyperlink – Housing Element Update project webpage: [menlopark.gov/housingelement](https://menlopark.gov/housingelement)
- D. Hyperlink – Aug. 26 Planning Commission meeting staff report – English: [menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/2/agendas-and-minutes/planning-commission/2024-meetings/agenda/20240826-planning-commission-agenda-packet.pdf#page=5](https://menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/2/agendas-and-minutes/planning-commission/2024-meetings/agenda/20240826-planning-commission-agenda-packet.pdf#page=5)
- E. Hyperlink – Aug. 26 Planning Commission meeting staff report – Spanish: [menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/2/agendas-and-minutes/planning-commission/2024-meetings/agenda/20240826-planning-commission-agenda-packet.pdf#page=650](https://menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/2/agendas-and-minutes/planning-commission/2024-meetings/agenda/20240826-planning-commission-agenda-packet.pdf#page=650)
- F. Hyperlink – Aug. 26 Planning Commission meeting video – English: [youtube.com/watch?v=5qHcVXe\\_lvE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=5qHcVXe_lvE)
- G. Hyperlink – Aug. 26 Planning Commission meeting video – Spanish: [youtube.com/watch?v=PKSvrSI\\_Z\\_0](https://youtube.com/watch?v=PKSvrSI_Z_0)
- H. EJ Element Revisions and Feedback log
- I. Safety Element revisions and feedback log
- J. EJ Element Action Guide
- K. Evaluation of environmental impacts memorandum

Report prepared by:  
Calvin Chan, Senior Planner

Report reviewed by:  
Deanna Chow, Community Development Director

**RESOLUTION NO. XXXX****RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK  
ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL PLAN TO INCLUDE AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT**

WHEREAS, California Government Code §65040.12(e)(1) defines environmental justice as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies;” and

WHEREAS, California Government Code §65040.12(e)(2) provides that environmental justice includes, but is not limited to, all of the following: the availability of a healthy environment for all people; the deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for populations and communities experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution, so that the effects of the pollution are not disproportionately borne by those populations and communities; governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to populations and communities most impacted by pollution to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decision-making process; and at a minimum, the meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions; and

WHEREAS, the State of California passed Senate Bill 1000 (2016), and thereby amended Government Code §65302, which requires that an environmental justice element (or environmental justice goals, policies, and programs integrated in other elements) be prepared when two or more General Plan elements are updated in cities and counties that have a disadvantaged community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park (“City”) adopted the 2023-2031 (6<sup>th</sup> Cycle) Housing Element on January 31, 2023, and amended it on January 23, 2024, and the State Housing and Community Development Department certified the City’s Housing Element on March 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City is concurrently updating the Safety Element, adopted on May 21, 2013 as part of the combined Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements, to bring the Safety Element into compliance with State law requirements; and

WHEREAS, the City committed to develop Menlo Park’s first Environmental Justice Element (“Project”) to advance equity and protect human health; and

WHEREAS, the City conducted an evaluation for potential disadvantaged communities in Menlo Park and identified, in accordance with the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research Environmental Justice Element guidelines, the Belle Haven and Bayfront communities as qualifying disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, throughout the Environmental Justice Element, “underserved communities” is the Menlo Park-preferred term intended to be the same as the state-defined term “disadvantaged communities;” and

WHEREAS, the City conducted an extensive community outreach and engagement process that was inclusive and intentional to ensure the Environmental Justice Element reflects the

community's input and values while meeting state requirements and included activities such as community meetings, pop-ups, focus groups, English-Spanish translation/interpretation services, and surveys; and

WHEREAS, community meetings were held on August 26, 2021; April 5, 2022; February 9, 2023; February 10, 2023; May 2, 2024; and May 9, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed and provided feedback on the draft Environmental Justice Element on June 20, 2023 and June 3, 2024 and received and considered all public comment; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed and provided feedback on the draft Environmental Justice Element on June 20, 2023 and June 18, 2024 and received and considered all public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Project requires discretionary action by the City and therefore the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA," Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15000 et seq.) require analysis and a determination regarding the Project's environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the City is the lead agency, as defined by CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, and is therefore responsible for the preparation, consideration, certification, and approval of environmental documents for the Project; and

WHEREAS, as part of adopting the ConnectMenlo General Plan Update in 2016, the City prepared and certified the ConnectMenlo environmental impact report (EIR), and for the Housing Element Update project (i.e., update to the Housing Element, update to the Safety Element, new Environmental Justice Element, and associated changes including zoning amendments), a subsequent environmental impact report (SEIR) was prepared (State Clearinghouse No. 1990030530) which incorporated and revised the ConnectMenlo EIR to ensure that environmental aspects of the Housing Element Update were evaluated, and the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6808 on January 31, 2023 certifying the SEIR and taking associated CEQA actions; and

WHEREAS, CEQA recognizes that the specificity of environmental analysis for approval of a project is related to the nature and level of detail of the project being studied, does not require an agency to engage in speculation or conjecture as to potential impacts, and allows an agency to forego environmental analysis of project impacts upon determining it would be too speculative; and

WHEREAS, the amendment to the General Plan to include an Environmental Justice Element was considered in the certified SEIR and ultimately, the SEIR determined that an evaluation of potential environmental effects of the new Environmental Justice Element was neither appropriate nor required under CEQA, as the Environmental Justice Element is primarily a policy document addressing general City direction so that it would be too speculative and uncertain to consider future development that might arise from the Environmental Justice Element, and the SEIR noted that any future proposed physical action associated with the Environmental Justice Element would undergo its own environmental analysis; and

WHEREAS, the certified SEIR concluded that the City's decision not to include such an evaluation was based on the purpose and characteristics of the Environmental Justice Element

and as informed and supported by statute, regulation, and applicable case law indicating that such an analysis was not required by CEQA under such circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing as prescribed by law to consider the amendment to the General Plan to include an Environmental Justice Element on August 26, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission adopted Planning Commission Resolution No. 2024-034, on file with the Office of the City Clerk and incorporated by this reference, recommending that the City Council adopt an amendment to the General Plan to include an Environmental Justice Element; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing as prescribed by law to consider the Planning Commission’s recommendation and the amendment to the General Plan to include an Environmental Justice Element on September 24, 2024, and received and considered public comment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City, acting by and through its City Council, having considered and been fully advised in the matter and good cause appearing therefore, as follows:

**Section 1. Recitals.**

The following recitations are true and correct and are hereby incorporated into this resolution.

**Section 2. General Plan Consistency.**

The Environmental Justice Element has linkages with the Guiding Principles established within the General Plan. This is particularly true for the Guiding Principles of Citywide Equity and a Healthy Community, as well as for the principles of Youth Support and Education Excellence, Great Transportation Options, Complete Neighborhoods and Commercial Corridors, Accessible Open Space and Recreation, and Sustainable Environmental Planning. The Environmental Justice Element is consistent with the purposes of the General Plan in that the amendment to include an Environmental Justice Element supports a variety of environmental justice-related policies in other elements as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – General Plan Consistency		
General Plan Element	Environmental Justice-Related Topic Area	General Plan Policy
Land Use	Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes	LU-2.8
	Promote Physical Activity	LU-4.6 and LU-6.9
	Promote Public Facilities	LU-6.1, LU-6.3, and LU-6.8
Circulation	Promote Physical Activity	CIRC-1.1, CIRC-1.7, CIRC-1.8, CIRC-2.1, CIRC-2.7, CIRC-4.3, CIRC-4.4, and CIRC-5.6
	Reduce Pollution	CIRC-2.2, CIRC-4.2

	Exposure	
	Promote Public Facilities	CIRC-2.10 and CIRC-5.2
	Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities	CIRC-2.4
<b>Open Space and Conservation†</b>	Promote Public Facilities	OSC-1.12, OSC-2.1, and OSC-4.1
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	OSC-2.2, OSC-2.3, and OSC-5.1
	Promote Physical Activity	OSC-2.6
<b>Noise†</b>	Reduce Pollution Exposure	N-1.1, N-1.2, N-1.3, N-1.4, N-1.5, N-1.6, N-1.7, N-1.8, N-1.9, and N-1.10
<b>Safety†*</b>	Reduce Pollution Exposure	S-1.7, S-1.32, S-1.33, S-1.34, S-1.35, S-1.36, S-1.37, S-1.38, S-1.39
	Promote Public Facilities	S-1.9, S-1.11, S-1.40, and S-1.41
	Safe, Stable, and Sanitary Homes	S-1.17 and S-1.19
<b>Housing (6<sup>th</sup> Cycle: 2023-2031)*</b>	Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes	H2.1, H2.4, H2.7, H3.8, H3.9,
	Promote Civic Engagement	H5.2, H5.3, H5.5
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	H6.4, H6.6

†Menlo Park has a combined Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements document.

\*The Safety Element and Housing Element were updated at the same time as the Environmental Justice Element was developed. Several policies and programs were updated, modified, or newly-developed alongside the outreach and development of the Environmental Justice Element.

**Section 3. Environmental Review.**

The amendment to the General Plan to include an Environmental Justice Element was addressed in the previously certified SEIR and no further environmental consideration is required under CEQA, and staff is directed to process a Notice of Determination to that effect.

**Section 4. Environmental Justice Element Adoption.**

The amendment to the General Plan to include an Environmental Justice Element is hereby adopted (Exhibit A).

**Section 5. Environmental Justice Element Action Guide Adoption.**

The Environmental Justice Element Action Guide is adopted as a separate, complementary document that lies outside of the General Plan itself and serves as a tool to be used to manage and coordinate efforts to accomplish goals, policies, and programs outlined in the

Environmental Justice Element. The Environmental Justice Element Action Guide can be updated in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Revisions to action items and/or community-identified priorities will include a public process with City Council consideration. The Environmental Justice Element Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.

**Section 6. Effective Date.**

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the City Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council adopts the Environmental Justice Element with the following modifications:

1. Revise Action Item EJ6.D.6 as follows (additional text shown in underline):

Expand the network of safe, accessible, and appealing pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including pedestrian connections within and in between neighborhoods. Poles, signs, or other impediments in the center of sidewalks should be modified to improve accessibility and sidewalk safety. Pursue improvements for public transit users and pedestrians where feasible, including, but not limited to, bus shelters, benches, shade structures, and lighting to support alternative transportation.

2. Revise Action item EJ6.D.7 as follows (additional text shown in underline):

Install and regularly maintain adequate lighting to encourage walking and safe travel at night. This may begin with installation on Ivy Drive, Hamilton Avenue, Chilco Street, Newbridge Street, and at public buildings at parks. It should continue after subsequent community outreach that identifies other streets and locations with inadequate lighting, prioritizing underserved communities.

I, Judi A. Herren, City Clerk of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing City Council Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said City Council on the twenty-fourth day of September, 2024, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of said City on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

Exhibits:

- A. Environmental Justice Element



# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## Environmental Justice (2024)

### City Council

Drew Combs, Vice Mayor  
Maria Doerr, Councilmember  
Ray Mueller, Councilmember (former)  
Betsy Nash, Councilmember  
Cecilia Taylor, Mayor  
Jen Wolosin, Councilmember

### Planning Commission

Andrew Barnes (former)	Camille Kennedy (former)
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# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

ADOPTION DRAFT | RESOLUTION # \_\_\_\_\_

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## INTRODUCTION

In 2016, the State of California passed Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), which requires the adoption or review of an Environmental Justice (EJ) Element (or environmental justice goals, policies, and programs in other elements) in cities and counties that have a disadvantaged community upon the adoption or revision of two or more General Plan elements. The development of Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element took place alongside updates to the Housing Element and Safety Element. This SB 1000 recognizes the hard work of California activists and advocates, as well as communities that have organized around their environments—not only in the past century, but long before California's statehood. Environmental justice provides a specific lens through which to advance equity and protect

human health. While the environmental justice movement traditionally focused on environmental contamination and degradation, the scope has broadened over time to include additional policy topics such as food access and physical activity.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this Environmental Justice Element is to identify and address public health risks and environmental justice concerns, as well as foster the well-being of the City's residents living in underserved communities. The City of Menlo Park is committed to environmental justice and acknowledges that the historical events and practices that have contributed to Menlo Park's development (such as the Spanish Empire's missions,<sup>2</sup> railroad construction,<sup>3</sup> and suburban residential development that relied heavily on

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- <sup>1</sup> For more information, see the Governor's Office of Planning and Research document titled "Environmental Justice in California: A Brief History" in 2020 Updated Environmental Justice Element General Plan Guidelines, page 2.
  - <sup>2</sup> See generally, Prof. Edward D. Castillo, "California Indian History" (State of California Native American Heritage Commission), available at <https://nahc.ca.gov/resources/california-indian-history/>.
  - <sup>3</sup> See generally, Maru Karuka "Chinese Workers and the Transcontinental Railroad" (Boom California: April 6, 2020), available at <https://boomcalifornia.org/2020/04/06/chinese-workers-and-the-transcontinental-railroad/>.

redlining and gentrification<sup>4</sup>) are inseparable from the resulting injustices that have led to inequalities and inequities seen and felt in Menlo Park as well as throughout California.

This commitment on behalf of the City has led to the development of Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element. The introduction to this element begins with a discussion of its organization and relationship to Menlo Park's General Plan, an overview of the element's regulatory context, and a description of Drivers of Environmental Injustice and Determinants of Health that underlie environmental justice as a whole.

Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element is organized into the following sections:

- **Existing Setting:** This section identifies neighborhoods in Menlo Park that have concentrations of poverty and pollution that led to disproportionately high rates of poor health outcomes. These neighborhoods are designated as "underserved communities" in this document.
- **Environmental Justice Outreach:** This section provides an overview of key findings from community engagement performed throughout the development of the element, as well as a discussion of engagement methodology.
- **Goals, Policies, and Programs:** This section includes actions the City will take to prioritize underserved communities and address the environmental injustices identified through the existing conditions analysis and community engagement.
- **Appendices:** The appendices include supporting documents that provide more details on methodology or additional reports produced as part of the development of this element.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

*The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.*

Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

Meaningful involvement means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
- The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

*Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

*"Help and give our youth the opportunity to stay in the community!"*

*— Belle Haven resident*

<sup>4</sup> See generally, Angela Swartz, "Reflections on racial inequities that persist in Menlo Park" (Almanac News: March 12, 2021), available at <https://www.almanacnews.com/news/2021/03/12/reflections-on-racial-inequities-that-persist-in-menlo-park>.

## Element Organization and Relationship to General Plan

SB 1000 (2016), which amended Government Code Section 65302, allows a jurisdiction to voluntarily adopt an Environmental Justice Element at any time and requires the adoption or review of an Environmental Justice Element (or environmental justice goals, policies, and programs in other elements) upon the adoption or revision of two or more General Plan elements concurrently. The City of Menlo Park adopted the 2023-2031 Housing Element in January 2023 and is developing the Environmental Justice Element while concurrently updating the Safety Element. Prior to beginning the analysis to determine whether or not there are underserved communities in Menlo Park, the City decided to pursue the preparation of an Environmental Justice Element because environmental justice in Menlo Park is so intricately linked to community concerns and priorities for housing and safety, and because of the requirements laid out in SB 1000.

These linkages can be seen in the Guiding Principles established in the Menlo Park General Plan, which “describe the kind of place that community members want Menlo Park to be.”<sup>5</sup> These Guiding Principles are supported by a commitment to environmental justice broadly as well as more specifically by the goals, policies, and programs contained in this element. This is particularly true for the principles of Citywide Equity and a Healthy Community, as well as for the principles of Youth Support and Education Excellence, Great Transportation Options, Complete Neighborhoods and Commercial Corridors, Accessible Open Space and Recreation, and Sustainable Environmental Planning.

### Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. This separate, complementary document is guided by the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the Guiding

Principles of the Menlo Park General Plan, however, the Action Guide lies outside of the General Plan itself. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment.

The Action Guide includes action items that will be pursued by the City to improve environmental justice. The action items are similar to Environmental Justice Element programs, and are assigned a lead department/division and time frame similar to these programs. Each action item in the Action Guide is organized under an Environmental Justice Element program, with the intention to provide additional direction and community-based feedback to City staff on desirable methods to fulfill the programs laid out in the Environmental Justice Element.

Many of the action items in the Action Guide were developed from outreach in Menlo Park’s underserved communities, described in detail in the “Environmental Justice Outreach” section below. The Action Guide is included as Appendix EJ-F. The Action Guide will be maintained on the City’s website and is intended to improve accountability by being more adaptable and responsive to community needs and opportunities.

Per Program EJ7.K, the City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing.

<sup>5</sup> *General Plan (City of Menlo Park, 2016), page I-9.*



### Policies Addressing Environmental Justice in Other General Plan Elements

Policies in the existing General Plan that address or are related to environmental justice are listed in Table EJ-1. These policies were developed prior to (or for the Safety and Housing Elements, in conjunction with) the Environmental Justice

Element and point to the City's broad commitment to improve environmental justice. This table also demonstrates that the Environmental Justice Element fits into a supportive General Plan framework. The policies are listed in numeric order and grouped by the main topic areas required to be addressed by SB 1000, described further below.

Table EJ-1: Environmental Justice Policies in Other Elements

Element	Topic Area	Policy Number
Land Use	Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes	LU-2.8
	Promote Physical Activity	LU-4.6 and LU-6.9
	Promote Public Facilities	LU-6.1, LU-6.3, and LU-6.8
Circulation	Promote Physical Activity	CIRC-1.1, CIRC-1.7, CIRC-1.8, CIRC-2.1, CIRC-2.7, CIRC-4.3, CIRC-4.4, and CIRC-5.6
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	CIRC-2.2, CIRC-4.2
	Promote Public Facilities	CIRC-2.10 and CIRC-5.2
	Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities	CIRC-2.4
Open Space and Conservation <sup>†</sup>	Promote Public Facilities	OSC-1.12, OSC-2.1, and OSC-4.1
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	OSC-2.2, OSC-2.3, and OSC-5.1
	Promote Physical Activity	OSC-2.6
Noise <sup>†</sup>	Reduce Pollution Exposure	N-1.1, N-1.2, N-1.3, N-1.4, N-1.5, N-1.6, N-1.7, N-1.8, N-1.9, and N-1.10
Safety <sup>†*</sup>	Reduce Pollution Exposure	S-1.7, S-1.32, S-1.33, S-1.34, S-1.35, S-1.36, S-1.37, S-1.38, S-1.39
	Promote Public Facilities	S-1.9, S-1.11, S-1.40, and S-1.41
	Safe, Stable, and Sanitary Homes	S-1.17 and S-1.19
Housing (6 <sup>th</sup> Cycle: 2023-2031)*	Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes	H2.1, H2.4, H2.7, H3.8, H3.9,
	Promote Civic Engagement	H5.2, H5.3, H5.5
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	H6.4, H6.6

<sup>†</sup>Menlo Park has a combined Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements document.

\*The Safety Element and Housing Element were updated at the same time as the Environmental Justice Element was developed. Several policies and programs were updated, modified, or newly-developed alongside the outreach and development of the Environmental Justice Element.

## Regulatory Context

There are several state laws that guide Environmental Justice Element development, listed and summarized below :

- Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000) – 2016
- Government Code 65302(h)(1)
- Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) – 2016
- Assembly Bill 1553 (AB 1553) – 2001
- Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) – 2017
- Health and Safety Code Section 39711
- Assembly Bill 1628 (AB 1628) – 2019

### SB 1000

SB 1000 was signed into law in 2016 and requires local governments to identify disadvantaged communities in their jurisdictions as well as address environmental justice in their general plans. SB 1000 amended Government Code 65302 to add section (h)(1), discussed below.

SB 1000 defines the term “disadvantaged communities” as areas identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 39711 (described below) or low income areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.<sup>6</sup>

Through the outreach conducted as part of the Environmental Justice Element preparation, Menlo Park community members made it clear that the term they broadly identified with and preferred was “underserved communities.” Throughout this Element, “underserved communities” will be used and is understood to be analogous to the State-defined term “disadvantaged communities,” which is only used when quoting or referring to state law.

This statutory requirement can be divided into seven topic areas. The Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, and programs are categorized by the following topic areas:

### Government Code 65302(h)(1)

Under Government Code 65302 (h)(1), the necessary components of an Environmental Justice Element are:

- A) Identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.*
- B) Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process.*
- C) Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.*

Throughout this element, “goals” will be used to remain consistent with the structure of other elements of the Menlo Park’s General Plan, but the term is meant to be analogous to “objectives” as used in Government Code Section 65302(h)(1).

1. Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities
2. Reduce Pollution Exposure
3. Improve Access to Public Facilities
4. Promote Food Access
5. Promote Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing
6. Promote Physical Activity
7. Promote Civic Engagement

<sup>6</sup> Gov. Code § 65302(h)(4)(A)

## GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

The Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, and programs are categorized by the following topic areas:

-  1. Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities
-  2. Reduce Pollution Exposure
-  3. Improve Access to Public Facilities
-  4. Promote Food Access
-  5. Promote Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing
-  6. Promote Physical Activity
-  7. Promote Civic Engagement

### SB 1383

SB 1383 (2016) intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including methane from organic waste in landfills. It requires implementation of food recovery programs to improve food recovery and access. The City of Menlo Park contracts with Recology San Mateo County for garbage, recycling, and compost services. Recology San Mateo County, for their part, provides curbside organics service and has a webpage dedicated to describing SB 1383.<sup>7</sup>

Food recovery and access includes potentially distributing food to areas of the city where communities experience food insecurity. As Menlo Park and Recology San Mateo County implement SB 1383, they may consider how implementation can support the goals, policies, and programs in the Environmental Justice Element.

### AB 1553

AB 1553 (2001) requires the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to be the coordinating agency for environmental justice efforts and 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."<sup>8</sup> This Environmental Justice Element follows OPR guidance and the AB 1553 definition.

### AB 617

AB 617 (2017) led to the development of the California Air Resources Board's Community Air Protection Program. This program is focused on reducing exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution. Each Air Quality Management District submitted a methodology and list of candidate communities to be eligible for funding of AB 617 community emissions reduction programs. Menlo Park does not contain any candidate communities for the program.

### AB 1628

AB 1628 (2019) enhanced the previous definition of environmental justice to include meaningful involvement and national origins to the prior language of Gov. Code Section 65040.12(e). The law also elaborates on the prior language to describe additional forms of distributive and procedural justice, including, but not limited to:

- The availability of a healthy environment for all people.
- The deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for populations and communities experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution, so that the effects of the pollution are not disproportionately borne by those populations and communities.
- Governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to

<sup>7</sup> "Fight Climate Change by Composting" (Recology) available at <https://www.recology.com/sb1383/>

<sup>8</sup> Gov. Code § 65040.12(e)(1).



populations and communities most impacted by pollution to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decisionmaking process.

- At a minimum, the meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions.

### Health and Safety Code Section 39711

Section 39711 of the California Health and Safety Code defines disadvantaged communities and gives the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the responsibility for identifying such communities for investment opportunities. This Environmental Justice Element uses the definition in Health and Safety Code Section 39711 (referenced in Government Code 65302(h)(4)):

*These communities shall be identified based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria, and may include, but are not limited to, either of the following:*

- *Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.*
- *Areas with concentrations of people that are of low income, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, or low levels of educational attainment.*

### Relationship to the Capital Improvement Plan

The City of Menlo Park adopted the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2023-2028 to outline the City's short and long term vision for development, maintenance, improvement, and building of new infrastructure assets to benefit residents, businesses, property owners, and visitors. Although the CIP is updated annually, it allows the reader to review projects planned over the five-

year timeframe and provides an overview of works in progress. The Environmental Justice Element is required under Government Code 65302 (h)(1) to "identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities." The goals, policies, and programs developed for the Environmental Justice Element are closely tied to the projects and vision of the Five-Year CIP due to its impact for reducing pollution exposure, improving access to public facilities, promoting physical activity, and encouraging civic engagement.

The Five-Year CIP includes projects that reduce exposure to negative environmental conditions and improve environmental justice, such as:

- **Urban Forest:** Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park: The development and implementation of an urban forest management plan would focus on community outreach and preserving and expanding tree cover within the city to reduce pollution exposure and promote physical activity. Urban tree canopies additionally mitigate impacts of climate change including rising temperatures and increased flooding. This plan would serve as a long-term roadmap for the City to proactively and effectively maintain long-term benefits from the community's tree canopy.
- **Willow Road Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements:** The development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements along Willow Road through the Belle Haven neighborhood would promote physical activity and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.
- **Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan:** The development and implementation of a plan to reduce vehicle speeds on roadways within the Belle Haven neighborhood would reduce pollution exposure, promote physical activity, and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.
- **Belle Haven Community Campus:** The establishment and growth of the new community center in the Belle Haven



neighborhood improves access to public facilities and supports the development of community programs promoting physical activity, civic engagement, and prioritizing the needs of underserved communities.

- **SAFER Bay:** The series of infrastructure improvements would protect critical infrastructure, provide community resilience to current tidal flooding and projected sea level rise, and improve recreational access, using both engineered structures and nature-based flood protection.
- **Chilco Streetscape and Sidewalk Installation:** The development of pedestrian and bicycle supporting infrastructure on Chilco Street through the Belle Haven and Bayfront neighborhoods would reduce pollution exposure, promote physical activity, and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.

The Environmental Justice Element informs the CIP by elevating the needs of underserved communities and prioritizing projects that mitigate unique and compounding health risks present within the community.

### Drivers of Environmental Injustice and Determinants of Health

Every aspect of people’s lives has implications for their health. Beyond access to and quality of health care, the characteristics of the neighborhoods where people live, work, play, learn, and pray influence their behaviors, experiences, and physical health in different ways. Health is heavily influenced by factors in a community that are not typically addressed by the health care system. These community and location-based factors make up the “Social Determinants of Health” (see Figure EJ-1)<sup>9</sup>



<sup>9</sup> Wilkinson R, Marmot M. *Social Determinants of Health: The Solid Facts*. 2nd ed. Copenhagen, Denmark: World Health Organization; 2003. Solar O, Irwin A. *A Conceptual Framework for Action on the Social Determinants of Health. Social Determinants of Health Discussion Paper 2*. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2010.

Figure EJ-1: Social Determinants of Health<sup>10</sup>

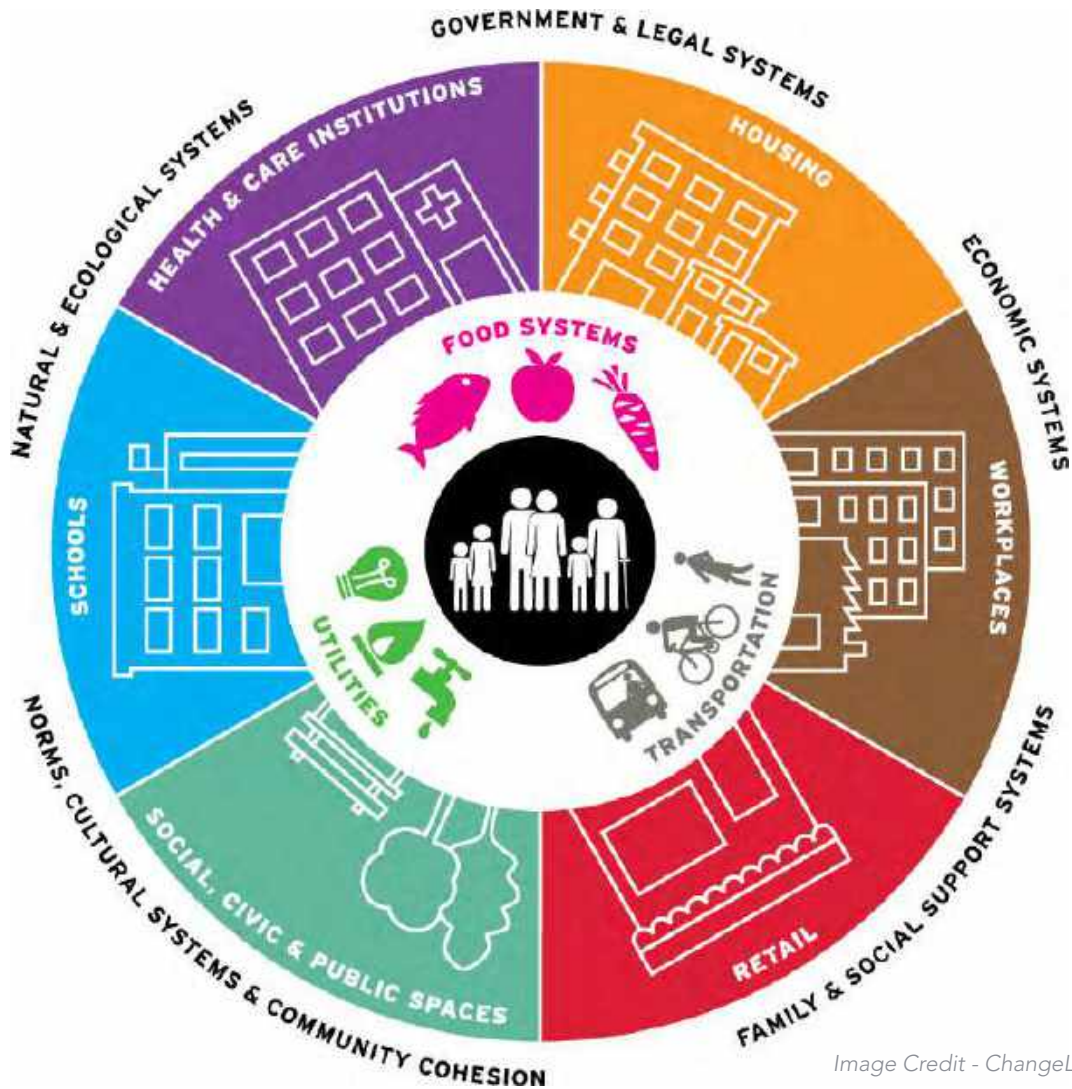


Image Credit - ChangeLab Solutions

Some people live in relatively healthy neighborhoods that have characteristics which mostly support healthy living, for example: landscapes that promote active lifestyles, access to medical care, plentiful safe housing, and availability of nutritious food. On the other hand, relatively less healthy neighborhoods have a combination of physical, social, and economic conditions that can create significant barriers to health such as unstable housing, poor access to healthy food, inadequate

or poorly maintained public spaces, unsafe streets, under-resourced schools, and concentrated poverty.

People may live in relatively less healthy neighborhoods, not because it is a desirable choice, but because of social or economic position or other circumstances beyond their control or ability to change. Less than one-third of the U.S. population is Black or Hispanic, however, these groups represent four out of every five people living in metropolitan concentrated poverty across the

<sup>10</sup> Long-Range Planning for Health, Equity & Prosperity: A Primer for Local Governments (ChangeLab Solutions: December 2019). Available at <https://www.changelabsolutions.org/product/long-range-planning-primer>

country.<sup>11</sup> When these neighborhoods also have physical, social, and economic barriers to health, then low-income residents and residents of color will disproportionately and unfairly be exposed to those unhealthy environments, increasing their risk of poor health, poor education, low income, and poverty.

In addition, political, social, economic, institutional, cultural, environmental, and other systems can create, intensify, and prolong barriers to health.

This complex web of social determinants of health points to a common outcome: poorer and racialized<sup>12</sup> people generally live shorter lives in worse health and under worse conditions than more affluent people who are not racialized. The City is committed to reducing health inequities and promoting environmental justice in Menlo Park. This Environmental Justice Element is a document that seeks to reduce or remove local disparities and inequities that exist by addressing and improving the social determinants of health in the neighborhoods and for the populations that face the greatest barriers to good health in Menlo Park.

### Unique and Compounding Health Risks

Underserved communities are more likely to “experience greater underlying health inequities from the myriad of health, economic, social, and place-based factors that have been present for

many generations, such as inequities in wealth, neighborhood disinvestment, disparities in neighborhood conditions, and lack of access to opportunities and needed services and resources.”<sup>13</sup> This combination of exposure to negative externalities and limited opportunities for mediation result in “unique and compounding health risks” that greatly impact the health and wellbeing of the members of the community.

Unique and compounding health risks are the result of the cumulative impacts of governmental neglect, systemic discrimination, and limited access to resources that lead to a situation where low income communities and communities of color face elevated rates of exposure to environmental hazards and have increased sensitivity to such hazards as a result of compounding inequities in the prevalence of chronic diseases, cumulative environmental exposures, and limited access to mitigative and protective resources to adequately cope with hazards experienced in the community.<sup>14</sup>

Cities and counties are required by State Government Code 65302(h) to “identify objectives and policies to reduce unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities” within their jurisdiction. Identification of unique and compounding health risks requires recognition of issues that are specific to their community and are collected through analysis of community needs, local climate vulnerability, cost of living, local industries, and other additional factors that impact the health and wellbeing of the community.

11 Erica E. Meade, “Overview of Community Characteristics in Areas with Concentrated Poverty” (HHS Office for the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation: April 30, 2014), available at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/overview-community-characteristics-areas-concentrated-poverty>.

12 “to cause or believe race to be an important feature of a group of people, of society, or of a problem” (Cambridge Dictionary). Available at <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/racialize>.

13 Gregory Miao, Kate Hannon Michel, and Tina Yuen “A Health Justice Agenda for Local Governments to Address Environmental Health Inequities” (*Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, March 2023), available at [https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-law-medicine-and-ethics/article/health-justice-agenda-for-local-governments-to-address-environmental-health-inequities/9DF64519B9A1806228B2914E79D4A480?utm\\_campaign=shareaholic&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_source=bookmark](https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-law-medicine-and-ethics/article/health-justice-agenda-for-local-governments-to-address-environmental-health-inequities/9DF64519B9A1806228B2914E79D4A480?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=bookmark).

14 See, Anjum Hajat, Charlene Hsia, and Marie S. O’Neill: “Socioeconomic Disparities and Air Pollution Exposure: a Global Review” (*Current Environmental Health Report*, September 2015), available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40572-015-0069-5>.



## EXISTING SETTING

Menlo Park is one of the wealthiest cities in the San Francisco Bay Area.<sup>15</sup> The city has numerous high-quality jobs, high-performing schools, and well-maintained parks. Menlo Park has established connectivity both within the city itself and along highways and train routes linking it to San Francisco and San Jose (as well as across the Dumbarton Bridge to the East Bay). Plentiful street trees provide cover from urban heat and the bayfront marshlands serve as a buffer between rising sea levels and the built-up portions of the city.

However, the opportunities Menlo Park provides – and the burdens of environmental risk – are not equally experienced by all Menlo Park residents. Minority and low-income populations are more likely to live in inadequate housing,<sup>16</sup> to face greater health risks,<sup>17</sup> and to have more difficulties in making their voices heard.<sup>18</sup> This contributes to a pattern where minority and low-income community members are more susceptible to displacement<sup>19</sup> and at the greatest risk to move into other

<sup>15</sup> See MTC's *Vital Signs* website describing income, available at <https://vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov/indicators/income>

<sup>16</sup> For example, a much higher percentage of lower-income housing units are overcrowded and severely overcrowded than moderate-income or above moderate income units: 3.5% of households making 0%-30% of Area Median Income (AMI) are overcrowded, 6.5% of households making 31%-50% of AMI, 4.0% of households making 51%-80% of AMI, 2.7% of households making 81%-100% of AMI, but only 1.7% of households making more than 100% of AMI. See Figure 33 in ABAG/MTC's "Housing Needs Data Report: Menlo Park (April 2021)". Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), *Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) ACS tabulation, 2013-2017 release*.

<sup>17</sup> Only 52% of workers with an annual household income of less than \$30,000 have paid sick leave in California, compared to 81% of workers with an annual household income over \$120,000. "Taking Count: A Study on Poverty in the Bay Area" (Tipping Point: July 2020), available at <https://tippingpoint.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Taking-Count-2020-A-Study-on-Poverty-in-the-Bay-Area.pdf>.

<sup>18</sup> See, Michelle L. Kaiser, Michelle D. Hand, and Erica K. Pence: "Individual and Community Engagement in Response to Environmental Challenges Experienced in Four Low-Income Urban Neighborhoods" (Int'l. *Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, March 2020), available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7142717/>.

<sup>19</sup> See, *Urban Displacement Project "SF Bay Area – Gentrification and Displacement"* (2021), available at <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/maps/sf-bay-area-gentrification-and-displacement/>

jurisdictions with fewer high-quality jobs and lower-performing schools.<sup>20</sup>

In order to address this inequality, Menlo Park committed to developing an Environmental Justice Element. This commitment requires identifying underserved communities, undertaking extensive outreach to determine the needs of the residents of these communities, and developing a policy framework to address these environmental justice needs.

### Identifying Underserved Communities

Underserved communities are areas throughout California that suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty; pollution; and social and health indicators of risk and stress.

Menlo Park has identified Belle Haven and the Bayfront as underserved communities. These neighborhoods make up the portion of the city north of US Highway 101 (US-101) and a small portion south of US-101 but north of the Dumbarton Corridor (see Figure EJ-2). Historically, this was the area of Menlo Park that was segregated through racial covenants that banned Black households south of US-101.<sup>21</sup> Even today, Belle Haven and the Bayfront are within school districts separate from the districts that serve the majority of the city. Belle Haven and the Bayfront are also racialized communities: with disproportionately more Hispanic and Black than the rest of the city, these underserved communities are made up of households that have been historically underrepresented in the planning process (and civic processes generally) in Menlo Park.



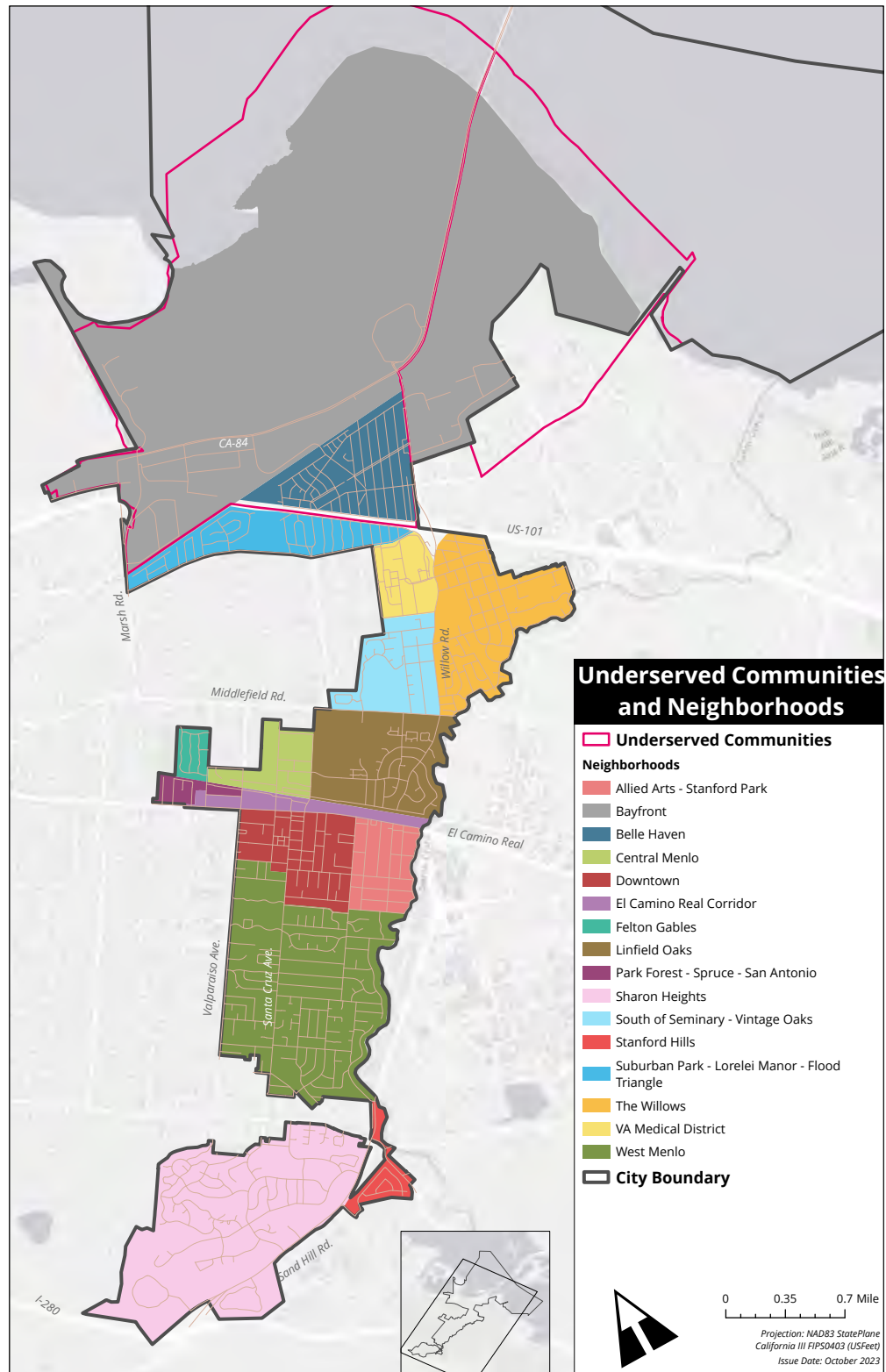
*"The most effective form of outreach was through existing relationships."*

— CRC Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

<sup>20</sup> "Inequality and Economic Security in Silicon Valley" (California Budget & Policy Center: May 2016), available at <https://www.siliconvalleycf.org/sites/default/files/publications/inequality-and-economic-security-in-silicon-valley.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> See <https://www.menlotgether.org/2019/11/27/the-color-of-law-menlo-park-edition-overcoming-systemic-segregation/>

Figure EJ-2: Map of Underserved Community Census Tracts<sup>22</sup>



<sup>22</sup> Census tracts do not align precisely with City limits as depicted in Figure EJ-2. More information is available in Appendix EJ-C: Neighborhood Profiles

## State Criteria

Belle Haven and the Bayfront are identified as underserved communities because they are in census tracts<sup>23</sup> designated as low income (80% or less of area median income) by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits (median incomes of less than \$146,350 for a four-person San Mateo County household in 2021 and \$186,600 in 2024);<sup>24</sup> they are historically underserved areas separated from the rest of the city by US-101 and included within school districts separate from those that serve the majority of the city; and as described by the community during outreach efforts for the element preparation.

A third neighborhood, The Willows, technically falls into a census tract designated as low income. A portion of the census tract is located outside the boundaries of Menlo Park in the City of East Palo Alto and is considered very low income (50% or less of area median income – less than \$91,350 for a four-person San Mateo County household in 2021 and \$97,900 in 2024), which thereby lowers the overall tract-wide median income. The Menlo Park portion of the tract containing The Willows is well above the designated low-income limit and is part of the Menlo Park City School District. Appendix EJ-B, Additional Methodology, describes this observation in detail.

OPR has developed Environmental Justice Element guidelines<sup>25</sup> that recommend a “thorough screening analysis” with three primary criteria to determine if any area of the city is an underserved community:

- **Criteria 1** – Affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. This is done by using CalEnviroScreen 4.0 to examine whether the planning area for the General Plan contains census tracts that have a

CalEnviroScreen 4.0 combined Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics score of 75% or higher (CalEnviroScreen is a data analysis tool discussed in Appendix EJ-A, Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations. A table of all neighborhood scores is provided at the end of Appendix EJ-A).

- **Criteria 2** – An area with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income.
- **Criteria 3** – An area at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits (\$146,350 for a four-person household in 2021).

It is also recommended that jurisdictions “incorporate and analyze community-specific data and examine for additional pollution burden and health risk factors.” This is Criteria 4, encouraging the incorporation of community outreach which the City has undertaken and will continue to engage in.

The OPR criteria are based on census tracts, which do not line up precisely with Menlo Park’s city boundaries and neighborhood boundaries (see Figure EJ-3).

<sup>23</sup> Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county.

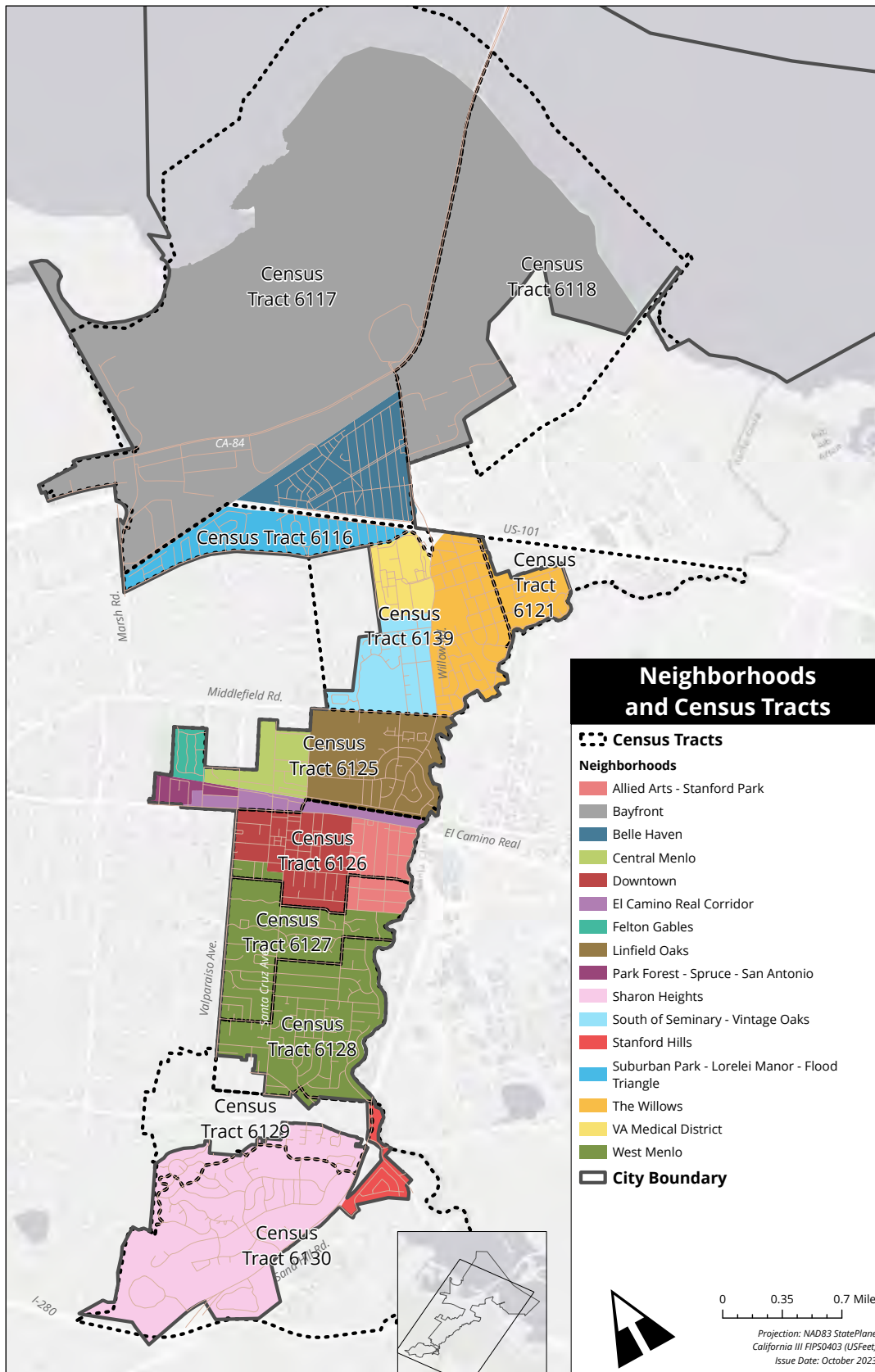
<sup>24</sup> Current and historic (dating back to 2016) state income limits can be found on HCD’s website, see *State and Federal Income, Rent, and Loan/Value Limits*. The data in the adopted Environmental Justice Element dates to 2021, when the Neighborhood Profiles were developed (see Appendix EJ-A). Updated income limits are located at the HCD website.

<sup>25</sup> See 2020 Updated Environmental Justice Element General Plan Guidelines





Figure EJ-3: Neighborhoods, Tracts, City Boundaries



In Menlo Park, there are three census tracts which meet at least one of the three primary criteria noted by OPR and could be considered as containing underserved communities:

- Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront)
- Tract 6118 (Bayfront)
- Tract 6121 (The Willows)

All three census tracts listed are eligible due to Criteria 3: their household incomes are at or below the threshold designated as low income

by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits. However, Tract 6121 (The Willows) only meets Criteria 3 due to portions of the census tract located outside of Menlo Park in the City of East Palo Alto. Therefore, Tract 6121 (The Willows) is not considered an underserved community within Menlo Park’s Environmental Justice Element. Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront) is also eligible due to Criteria 2: its household incomes are at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income (see Table EJ-2; underserved communities shown bolded).

Table EJ-2: Household Median Income of Census Tracts in Menlo Park

Menlo Park Census Tract	Neighborhoods	Household Median Income (2020)
Citywide Household Median Income*		\$167,567
6116	Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle	\$222,708
<b>6117</b>	<b>Belle Haven; Bayfront</b>	<b>\$74,032</b>
<b>6118</b>	<b>Bayfront</b>	<b>\$85,500**</b>
6121	The Willows	\$64,690***
6125	Central Menlo; El Camino Real Corridor; Felton Gables; Linfield Oaks; Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio	\$154,861
6126	Downtown; Allied Arts/ Stanford Park	\$140,795
6127	Allied Arts/Stanford Park; West Menlo	\$238,333
6128	West Menlo	\$250,000 ±
6129	Sharon Heights	\$192,250
6130	Sharon Heights; Stanford Hills	\$156,000
6139	South of Seminary – Vintage Oaks; The Willows; VA Medical District	\$214,222

The data in Table EJ-2 dates to the publication of the Environmental Justice Element’s Neighborhood Profiles (see Appendix EJ-A).

\*= Citywide Household Median Income is calculated by the US Census separately from tract-by-tract Household Median Income. This number is not the median tract household income.

\*\*= There are no residential units within Menlo Park in Tract 6118. This Median Income figure includes only East Palo Alto.

\*\*\*= Tract 6121’s Household Median Income is disproportionately affected by portions of the Census tract outside of Menlo Park.

*"Low-income communities and communities of color are on the frontlines of sea-level rise, extreme heat events, and are suffering more severe consequences from wildfire smoke exposure. These facts make the urgency and necessity of robust engagement with frontline communities a necessity for equitable and just climate adaptation."*

— CRC Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements



Although neither Tract 6117 nor Tract 6118 have combined Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores of 75 percent or higher – meaning that they have a “worse” situation than 75

percent of Census tracts in California – these tracts are the only ones in Menlo Park with a Pollution Burden score over 75 (see Table EJ-3; underserved communities shown bolded).

Table EJ-3: Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics Scores

Menlo Park Census Tract	Pollution Burden Score	Population Characteristics Score
Citywide Average	26.2	18.6
6116	71	2
<b>6117</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>6118</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>49</b>
6121	73*	58*
6125	45	2
6126	52	4
6127	35	5
6128	26	1
6129	29	17
6130	47	11
6139	44	5

\*= Tract 6121's scores are disproportionately affected by portions of the Census tract outside of Menlo Park.

A detailed description of Menlo Park’s neighborhoods and their relationship to environmental justice, including analyses of Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores, is included within the Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations (see Appendix EJ-A).

Additional details on how demographic data in Census tracts 6118 and 6121 break across city boundaries between Menlo Park and East Palo Alto is provided in Appendix EJ-B, Additional Methodology.

### Community-Specific Data

OPR recommends community-specific data to be incorporated as well as the tract-level CalEnviroScreen 4.0 data. In Menlo Park’s case, the City’s school district stratification as well as its historic and current land use patterns are relevant factors in identifying Belle Haven and the Bayfront as underserved communities.

### School Districts

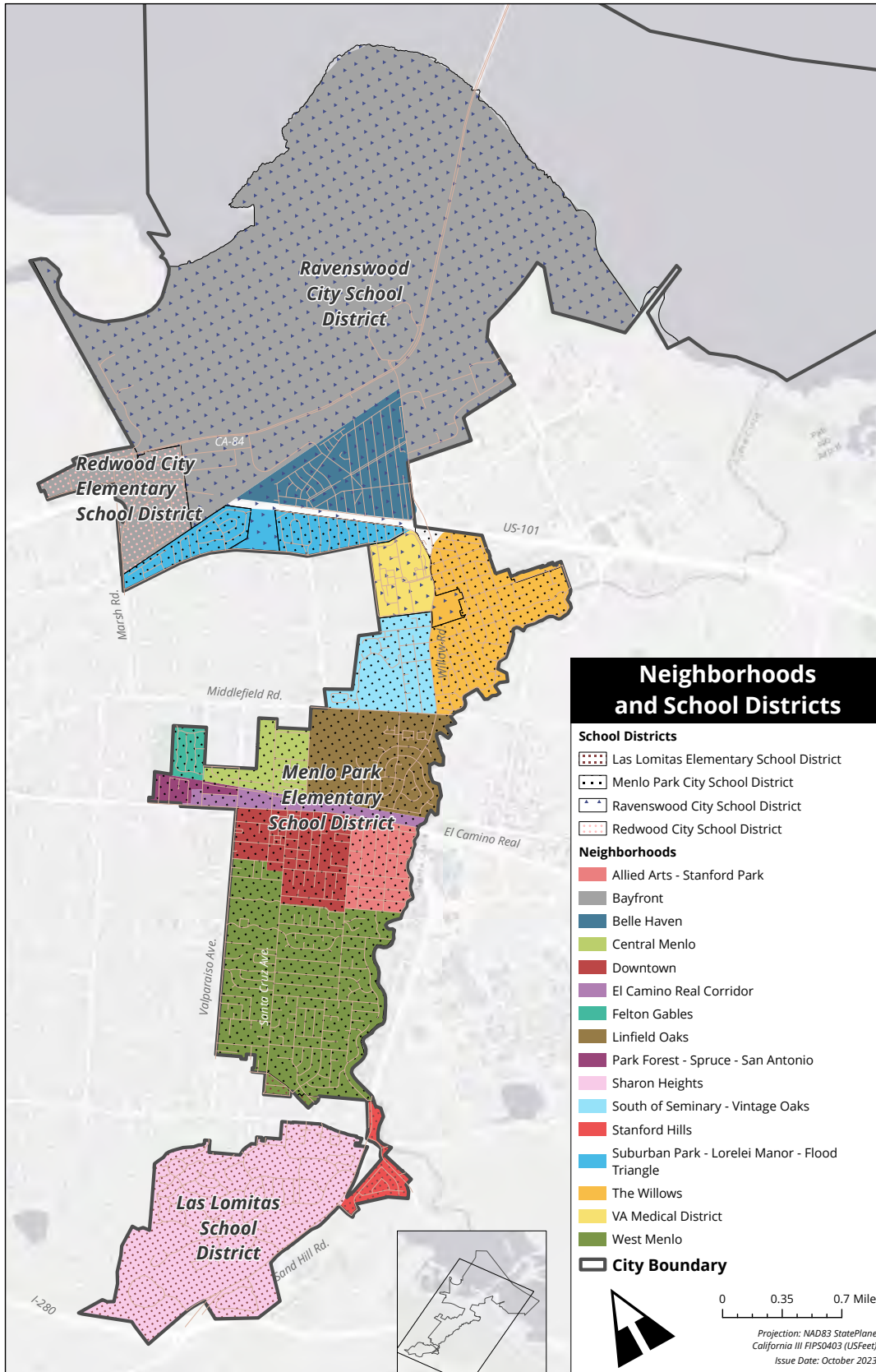
Menlo Park is served by four school districts with elementary and middle schools: Las Lomas Elementary School District, Menlo Park City School District, Ravenswood City School District, and Redwood City School District (see Figure EJ-4).

*"Maintain a local community center. Kelly Park & Pool activities should be affordable, with more basketball, soccer and other activities."*

— Belle Haven resident



Figure EJ-4: Elementary and Middle School Districts and Neighborhoods



Ravenswood City School District serves Belle Haven, the Bayfront, and the neighboring City of East Palo Alto (a minority-majority city). Historically, there was also Ravenswood High School, founded in 1958 and subject to a 1970 desegregation order. It was eventually shut down due to declining enrollment in 1975.<sup>26</sup> In the present day, Menlo-Atherton High

School (served by the Sequoia Union High School District) serves all students in Menlo Park who opt for a public high school. In addition, Ravenswood City School District is the sole school district serving Menlo Park with student math and English test scores below state averages (see Table EJ-4):

Table EJ-4: Test Scores in Menlo Park School Districts<sup>27</sup>

School District	% of Students Hispanic or Latino	% Passing State Test	
		Math	English
State Average	56%	40%	51%
Las Lomitas	5%	82%	86%
Menlo Park City	7%	83%	84%
<b>Ravenswood City</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>18%</b>
Redwood City	42%	43%	54%

**Land Use**

The City’s Zoning Ordinance currently allows industrial uses in the Bayfront in the Life Sciences (LS), General Industrial (M-2), and Office (O) zoning districts (see Figure EJ-5, below). Historically, in and around this portion of the city, there have been a number of light industrial, manufacturing, and warehouse facilities. These land use types

are historically correlated to worse health outcomes in neighboring communities.<sup>28</sup> This is because industrial uses can be the sites of legacy pollution, or industrial chemicals that remain in the environment long after they were first introduced – or even long after the original user has left. In the Bay Area, and Menlo Park specifically, many of these legacy pollutants are also located in areas vulnerable to sea level rise.<sup>29</sup>



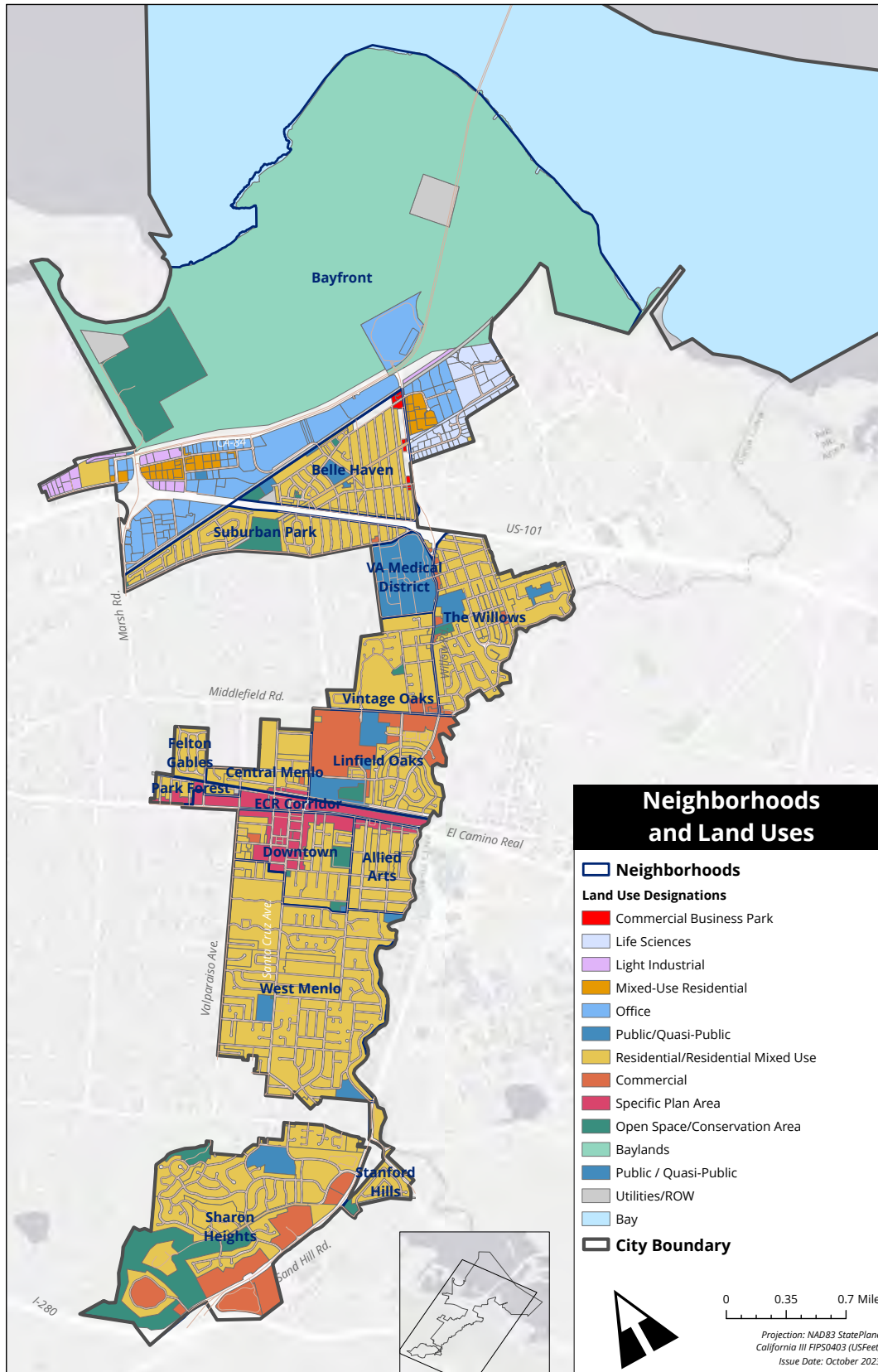
26 Kim-Mai Cutler “East of Palo Alto’s Eden: Race and the Formation of Silicon Valley” (TechCrunch: January 10, 2015) available at <https://techcrunch.com/2015/01/10/east-of-palo-altos-eden/>. Cutler notes that two community “Nairobi Schools” in East Palo Alto were firebombed in 1975.

27 Data via California Department of Education, 2019

28 See generally, Juliana Maantay “Zoning, Equity, and Public Health” (American Journal of Public Health: July 2001) available at <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.91.7.1033>

29 See “Toxic Tides” Available at <https://sites.google.com/berkeley.edu/toxictides/home>.

Figure EJ-5: Menlo Park Neighborhoods and Generalized Land Uses





## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OUTREACH

The City of Menlo Park is committed to an inclusive and equitable planning process. An inclusive and equitable planning process allows community members, especially residents of underserved communities, to provide input and contribute to the development of the Environmental Justice Element. The City of Menlo Park conducted community outreach and engagement on its own as well as partnering with a community-based organization that was intentionally focused and specialized in outreach and engagement efforts for underserved communities. The outreach included community meetings, pop-ups, English-Spanish translation/interpretation services, and surveys. Whenever possible, outreach was conducted with the intent to “meet people where they are” to increase participation, engagement, and build relationships with the community.

This work included multiple public study sessions. The Planning Commission and City Council met in a joint study session on June 20, 2023, to discuss initial public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements. They later met separately, on June 3 (Planning Commission) and

### COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Through the development of Menlo Park’s first Environmental Justice Element, the community-identified three Environmental Justice Element goals to be prioritized:

- Priority #1:** Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2:** Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3:** Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)

June 18 (City Council), 2024, to discuss revised public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements, prior to public hearings for adoption in fall 2024. Community-identified

priorities may change over time. Highlighted outreach efforts are listed below:

**2021**

- August 1** – Pop-Up Meeting at the Downtown Farmers Market
- August 7** – Pop-Up Meeting at Mi Tierra Linda
- August 26** – Community Meeting
- August 29** – Pop-Up Meetings at the Downtown Farmers Market and in Belle Haven

**2022**

- April 5** – Community Meeting
- May 9** – Focus Group in East Palo Alto with El Comité de Vecinos del Lado Oeste
- May 13** – Focus Group with the Belle Haven Community Development Fund
- May 20** – Focus Group with residents of Belle Haven
- May 20 to June 12** – Survey conducted in-person and online

**2023**

- February 9** – Community Meeting
- February 10** – Community Meeting
- June 20** – Planning Commission and City Council Joint Study Session

**2024**

- January 18** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting<sup>30</sup>
- March 21** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting
- April 18** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting
- May 2** – Community Meeting

- May 9** – Community Meeting
- June 3** – Planning Commission Study Session
- June 17** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting
- June 18** – City Council Study Session

### Climate Resilient Communities

The City funded work with a community-based organization in order to expand and bolster outreach with underserved communities which are traditionally harder to reach populations. The City partnered with Climate Resilient Communities (CRC), a community-based organization dedicated to serving underserved communities through empowering community voices to implement climate solutions centered around the direct needs of the community that bring about unity and resilience. CRC was selected as a partner because they are a recognized community-based organization in Menlo Park with a history of experience in community outreach efforts, specifically within Belle Haven and the Bayfront, Menlo Park’s underserved communities. Through a diverse and multifaceted outreach strategy, the City was able to better understand the impacts of environmental justice issues that underserved communities in Menlo Park face and together with the community, plan for positive change.

Together with the City, the outreach conducted by CRC directly resulted in the content and language of the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the action items of the complementary Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. The overall direction of the Environmental Justice Element is based off the important takeaways, findings, and requests from the community expressed during the outreach and community meetings conducted by CRC within underserved communities.

<sup>30</sup> The Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team (CCCT) is composed of residents, youth, faith, and business leaders with the aim to identify local vulnerabilities and learn how the community can be better prepared to face the impacts of climate change. The CCCT serves as a vehicle for forming and expressing community preferences for addressing a multitude of climate related issues that vary by local condition. The Belle Haven CCCT comprehensively discussed the Environmental Justice Element and update to the Safety Element in 2024.



## Outreach Methodology and Findings

Text and tables describing key findings, recommendations collected and summarized by CRC, and how those key findings and recommendations were brought into the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element are provided under each outreach and engagement method.

CRC focused most of its outreach efforts in Belle Haven, one of the communities identified as an underserved community. CRC also worked with communities who live and work in the Bayfront. The focus groups and community survey confirmed quantified metrics available from CalEnviroScreen through resident narratives and experiences. CRC was able to increase participation, build capacity, and describe the environmental justice issues affecting residents in underserved communities.

### Community Meetings (2021-2023)

In August 2021, April 2022, and February 2023, the City and CRC held community meetings to share information and gather feedback for preparation of Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element.

- Key Findings from Community Meetings Address air quality and safety concerns in Belle Haven
  - Policy EJ2.1, Policy EJ2.4, Program EJ2.A, Program EJ2.B, Program EJ2.C
- Preserve open space and parks
  - Program EJ3.E, Program EJ 4.E
- Use publicly owned land to build affordable housing
  - Considered as part of Menlo Park's 6th Cycle Housing Element
- Distribute new housing throughout the city and in high resource areas
  - Policy EJ5.2
- Reduce Pollution
  - Program EJ1.D, Policy EJ2.1
- Housing insecurity is related to health impacts
  - Considered as part of Menlo Park's 6th Cycle Housing Element, Policy EJ5.2
- Provide more bike/pedestrian infrastructure
  - Program EJ6.A, Policy EJ6.2, Policy EJ6.3
- Give more visibility to Environmental Justice issues
  - Policy EJ7.1, Policy EJ7.2, Program EJ7.A



### Focus Groups (2022)

A total of 124 Belle Haven residents attended at least one of the three (3) focus groups in May 2022. The focus groups met in person at the Belle Haven Branch Library and were intended to engage specific populations of the community. The first focus group was centered on sharing information and receiving feedback from families, parents, and children. The second focus group was catered to Spanish-speaking residents. The third focus group was for all residents. All focus groups were open to the public. A full summary report for the focus groups is available in Appendix EJ-C, Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements.

In the focus groups, key findings were identified through “jamboard” exercises where individuals noted which statements they agreed with from those identified during facilitated community discussion. CRC made a series of primary and secondary findings and recommendations based on these findings, which were then translated into policies and programs for the Environmental Justice Element. Table EJ-5 provides the key findings identified in the focus groups as well as the recommendations, and highlighted policies and programs are shown (see more in the Goals, Policies, and Programs section).

Table EJ-5: Key Findings from Focus Groups

Key Finding	Recommendations	Policies / Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Primary:</b> Reduce traffic pollution</li> <li>• <b>Secondary:</b> Mitigate emissions from stationary sources and issues from wildfire smoke</li> </ul>	Incentivize electric vehicle use (including electric bicycles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program EJ2.G</li> </ul>
	Strengthen permitting requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Quality Permitting is enforced by the local Air Quality District.</li> </ul>
	Fund home weatherization and distribute air purifiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ5.1</li> </ul>
	Conduct tap water testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City currently conducts water testing as described in the annual Menlo Park Municipal Water report. The city does not currently rely on groundwater supply.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Primary:</b> Upgrade community centers</li> <li>• <b>Secondary:</b> More health care facilities and improved road infrastructure with complete streets</li> </ul>	Help families with water expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program EJ5.B</li> <li>• Existing PG&amp;E CARE program is used by City currently, which provides support for water, garbage, and recycling bills.</li> </ul>
	Reexamine administrative polices to encourage affordable and accessible programming in community centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ3.1</li> <li>• Policy EJ3.2</li> <li>• Program EJ3.G</li> </ul>
	Create a community health clinic in Belle Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ3.3</li> <li>• Program EJ3.D</li> </ul>
	Consider transportation infrastructure overhauls that ease walking, bicycling, and public transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ6.2</li> <li>• Policy EJ6.3</li> <li>• Program EJ6.A</li> </ul>

Key Finding	Recommendations	Policies / Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase access to healthy and affordable foods</li> </ul>	Ensure that any new grocery store offers high-quality, affordable food; includes a pharmacy; and accepts SNAP and food vouchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ4.1</li> <li>Program EJ4.A</li> </ul>
	Look for opportunities for a new or expanded farmers' market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program EJ4.D</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Augment affordable housing programs and anti-displacement measures</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Mitigate pest, mold, and asbestos issues in homes and increase access to groceries and green spaces</li> </ul>	Offer homeowners and renters vital home safety repairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ5.1</li> <li>Program EJ5.A</li> <li>City is working on grant program through Habitat for Humanity for home repairs.</li> </ul>
	Enact/expand rent control ordinances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2023-2031 Housing Element does not propose additional rent control regulations, however, the development of an anti-displacement strategy is included.</li> </ul>
	Promote affordable housing throughout the city, and outside of Belle Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ5.2</li> <li>Program EJ5.D</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase information accessibility and enhance prior knowledge of City processes</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Schedule meetings to avoid time conflicts</li> </ul>	Ensure substantial and sustained multilingual outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ7.1</li> <li>Policy EJ7.2</li> </ul>
	Expand education and capacity-building opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program EJ7.A</li> </ul>
	Revamp public meeting scheduling protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ7.2</li> <li>Program EJ7.B</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase street lighting</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Upgrade sidewalks and other infrastructure improvements</li> </ul>	Fill gaps in streetlight coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program EJ6.A</li> </ul>
	Assess ADA compliance in sidewalks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ6.2</li> <li>Program EJ6.A</li> </ul>
	Systematically assess neighborhood connectivity infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ1.4</li> <li>Program EJ1.B</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase tree canopy</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Reduce noise pollution and retrofit buildings for resilience and energy efficiency</li> </ul>	Commit to urban forestry efforts by setting urban canopy expansion goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ2.3</li> </ul>
	Create publicly accessible ticketing system for maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently done through ACT Menlo Park program.</li> </ul>
	Consider community solutions for addressing concerns related to parking (e.g., idling and noise, parking availability)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action Item EJ2.I.7</li> <li>Action Item EJ6.D.1</li> </ul>



## Survey (2022)

CRC canvassed the city from May 20 through July 12, 2022 for a survey, focusing their outreach on the underserved communities of Belle Haven and Bayfront. The survey was available for completion both online and in-person, gathering 420 total responses. Of the responses, 328 (78%) of respondents were Belle Haven residents. The full survey report is available as Appendix EJ-D, Menlo Park Survey Final Report.

CRC made a series of key findings and recommendations, which were then translated into policies and programs for the Environmental Justice Element. The text below provides the key findings identified in the survey as well as the recommendations; highlighted policies and programs are shown (see more in the Goals, Policies, and Programs section).

### Key Findings from 2022 Environmental Justice Survey

#### *Air Quality, Traffic Congestion, Dust Pollution & Noise*

Key Finding: A majority of respondents experienced poor air quality, traffic congestion, and dust and noise from construction as adverse environmental impacts within their households in the last 10 years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than other Menlo Park households. Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than their White counterparts.

Recommendations: Implement air and noise pollution mitigation measures specifically in Belle Haven. Install sensors to measure outcomes before and after pilot interventions. Work with Belle Haven community organizations to scope pilot projects and ensure cultural competency when interventions are conducted at the household level.

Programs: EJ2.A (Air quality monitors currently exist in Belle Haven.)

Policies: EJ2.1, EJ2.4

## Health Issues

Key Finding: More than a third of respondents experienced stress/anxiety, high blood pressure or cholesterol, COVID-19 and/or asthma within their households in the last 10 years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than other Menlo Park households.

Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than their White counterparts.

Recommendations: Conduct culturally competent outreach to inform Belle Haven residents of the prevalence of health issues in the neighborhood, environmental risk factors, and opportunities for preventative or supportive action.

Programs: EJ3.3

## Environmental Damages and Risks

Key Finding: About a third of respondents have spent more than \$100 in the past year on home repairs related to environmental damages or risks. More than a third of respondents have delayed home repairs due to cost. A quarter of respondents, if faced with a \$400 emergency expense, would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash, and would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money. Both of these findings also demonstrate significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities.

Recommendations: Develop a rapid response program that can assist Belle Haven homeowners with emergency home repairs through a no-interest loan, including volunteer labor and donated materials.

Policies: EJ5.1

## Prioritization of Household Spending

Key Finding: More than a third of respondents would prioritize spending extra money on air conditioning, air purifiers, home repairs and earthquake-related upgrades, compared to solar, rainwater capture, home insurance or electrification.

Recommendations: Expand reduced cost home weatherization and retrofit programs, as well as DIY (“Do-It-Yourself”) air filter initiatives.

Policies: EJ5.1 (City offers water conservation rebates, incentives, and free fixtures.<sup>31</sup>)

### *Prioritization of Public Spending*

Key Finding: More than a third of respondents would prioritize public spending on pedestrian safety, road repairs, safer biking routes, street trees, and improved parks or community gardening, compared to public air quality monitoring, stormwater management, code enforcement and flood barriers.

Recommendations: While continuing to mitigate risk from less frequent climate hazards, deepen prioritization of public transportation and recreation infrastructure in Belle Haven.

Policies: EJ1.3, EJ1.4

Programs: EJ1.A, EJ2.H

### *Community Workshops and Study Sessions (2024)*

After making revisions to the Environmental Justice Element to reflect the community meetings, focus groups, and survey described above, the document was revised and re-published in April 2024 and discussed at four public meetings:

**May 2** – Community Workshop in Belle Haven (in Spanish)

**May 9** – Community Workshop in Belle Haven (in English)

**June 3** – Planning Commission Study Session (in English)

**June 18** – City Council Study Session (in English, with Spanish interpretation)

The full Community Workshops summary report is included as Appendix EJ-E: Prioritization Workshop Summary.

Approximately 80 attendees at the May workshops provided feedback on the relevant elements, regarding recommended policies, programs and their prioritization. This feedback was provided to Planning Commission and City Council at their respective study sessions. At these study sessions, commissioners and councilmembers affirmed the community input and provided additional feedback.

A key finding of these study sessions was the affirmation that the City should move forward with highlighting the top three priorities identified through the community outreach process:

- Priority #1:** Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2:** Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3:** Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)



Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

<sup>31</sup> See “Conservation rebates and incentives” Available at <https://menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works/Utilities/Menlo-Park-Municipal-Water/Water-conservation/Conservation-rebates-and-incentives>



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUMMARY

Participants in the community meetings, focus groups, and survey indicated an interest in topics such as air quality/safety, open space and parks, pollution, noise, and construction. Through their participation, it was evident that environmental and sustainability issues are important to Menlo Park residents. Environmental factors impact the whole ecosystem – not only the environment, but also the health and wellbeing of people.

One of the most popular community feedback themes was urban greening. Urban greening is the incorporation of vegetation, landscaping, trees, open space, and gardens in the infrastructure of an urban environment. Examples of this include urban street canopies, drought tolerant and native species landscaping, green roofing, community gardens, and pervious surfaces incorporated into public spaces. At the local level, these interventions can help reduce health and safety risks by mitigating air, water, noise pollution and stress.

The findings and issues identified by the community have been recognized by the City and translated into prioritization of goals in the Housing, Safety, and Environmental Justice Elements.

The prioritized goals will be emphasized in City planning efforts in the years following Environmental Justice Element adoption. In particular, the City Council will incorporate community priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop (see Program EJ7.L). Any revisions to community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities (see Program EJ7.K). The intent of the process is to remain responsive and not require a General Plan amendment.

*"The community wants to be better informed."  
— Belle Haven resident*



Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

## GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

Menlo Park's objective of furthering environmental justice is an action-oriented process. The City will continually work toward environmental justice, with collective efforts and collaboration from Belle Haven and Bayfront residents, community leaders, and the greater Menlo Park, San Mateo County, and Bay Area communities.

The goals, policies, and programs in the Environmental Justice Element are developed from the issues and priorities identified in the data analysis and the community outreach and engagement findings and recommendations completed for Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element. Below is a description of the goals, policies, and programs that make up the Environmental Justice Element.

- **Goals** – Broad actions Menlo Park will pursue to work towards environmental justice.
- **Policies** – Focused principles that Menlo Park is adopting in order to achieve goals.
- **Programs** – Precise steps that Menlo Park will take in furtherance of policies and goals.

Many of the policies and programs call for direct investment in less resourced underserved communities. Prioritizing investments such as time, political energy, and capital in underserved communities will have net benefits and a high return on investment for Menlo Park as a whole.

### Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. This separate, complementary document is guided by the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the Guiding Principles of the Menlo Park General Plan, however, the Action Guide lies outside of the General Plan itself. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community

needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment. Table EJ-6 shows

where one can view goals, policies, and programs, as well as action items which support program implementation.

Table EJ-6: Environmental Justice Element Organization

Environmental Justice Element	Document	Action Guide
<p><b>GOALS:</b> Broad actions Menlo Park will pursue to work toward environmental justice. <i>(These goals are synonymous with “objectives” as used in Gov. Code Section 65302(h))</i></p>	✓	✓
<p><b>POLICIES:</b> Focused principles to guide decision-making that Menlo Park is adopting in order to achieve goals.</p>	✓	✓
<p><b>PROGRAMS:</b> Precise steps that Menlo Park will take in furtherance of policies and goals.</p>	✓	✓
<p><b>ACTION ITEMS:</b> Tasks that Menlo Park will pursue to improve environmental justice in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach.</p>		✓












## Goals

In Menlo Park, as in many other places throughout California and beyond, areas with a higher concentration of low-income households are more likely to be exposed to pollution and environmental hazards. Consequently, individuals in these areas

experience higher rates of poor health outcomes. To reduce the disproportionate health risks that exist in these Menlo Park neighborhoods, this Environmental Justice Element has policies and programs organized into seven goals consistent with the requirements of SB 1000 and Gov. Code Section 65302(h) (see Table EJ-7):

Table EJ-7: Goals of the Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element

Required Topic Area	Environmental Justice Element Goal
 <b>Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities</b>	<b>Goal EJ1: Address unique and compounded health risks</b>
 <b>Reduce Pollution Exposure</b>	<b>Goal EJ2: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality</b>
 <b>Improve Access to Public Facilities</b>	<b>Goal EJ3: Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities</b>
 <b>Promote Food Access</b>	<b>Goal EJ4: Promote access to high quality and affordable food</b>
 <b>Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes</b>	<b>Goal EJ5: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes</b>
 <b>Promote Physical Activity</b>	<b>Goal EJ6: Encourage physical activity and active transportation</b>
 <b>Promote Civic Engagement</b>	<b>Goal EJ7: Create equitable civic and community engagement</b>

There is natural overlap between the goals of the Environmental Justice Element. A strong Environmental Justice Element provides framework for a cohesive and complementary set of goals, policies, and programs.

The Environmental Justice Element was developed simultaneously with the 2023-2031 Housing Element. The policies and programs in the 2023-2031 Housing Element support the Environmental Justice Element's goal to provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes for all residents. Rather than duplicate this language in both elements, the Environmental Justice Element instead references the language in the Housing Element that is reviewed by the California Department of Housing and Community

Development and subject to annual reporting requirements.

The Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, and programs are below in Table EJ-8. Complementary action items are separately contained within the Action Guide. Policies, programs, and action items are organized by the seven overarching Environmental Justice Element goals and include descriptive information about current progress (if applicable), responsible parties, potential funding sources, and delivery timeframe.



Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

Table EJ-8: Environmental Justice Goals, Policies, and Programs



**GOAL EJ1**

**ADDRESS UNIQUE AND COMPOUNDED HEALTH RISKS**

**POLICY EJ1.1** Prioritize programs that address the unique and compounded health risks present in underserved communities currently and in the future.

**POLICY EJ1.2** Reduce climate vulnerability in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ1.3** Strengthen collaboration efforts with residents in underserved communities, particularly on public improvement projects.

**POLICY EJ1.4** Prioritize active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) improvements, transit incentives, and neighborhood connectivity in underserved communities.

**PROGRAM EJ1.A** Prioritize public/capital improvements needed in underserved communities with priority allocation of funding, available to the City locally and from regional, statewide, and federal entities, for such projects, and to address climate change.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office, Public Works. Supporting: Community Development, Sustainability Division

*Funding Sources:* General Fund, General Capital Fund, Countywide Transportation Sales Tax Funds (Measure A & W), State and Federal Gas Taxes

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ1.B** Prepare publicly available reports annually to describe how underserved communities are considered and prioritized in capital improvement plans, departmental work plans, and budgets within four years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



**PROGRAM EJ1.C** Develop and publicize annual or every-other-year reports that measure progress and outcomes of the implementation of the Environmental Justice Element programs within six years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: All City Departments  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ1.D** Review CalEnviroScreen to support evaluation of Environmental Justice Element policies and programs.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, All City Departments  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



## **GOAL EJ2** REDUCE POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

**POLICY EJ2.1** Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality (both indoor and outdoor), and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ2.2** Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale, as well as collaborate on countywide and regional efforts. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve watershed and human health.

**POLICY EJ2.3** Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to promote and encourage urban greening on public and private projects (e.g., bioswales, raingardens, habitat restoration) in areas with relatively less tree canopy or other greenery to provide health and safety benefits to underserved communities residents.

**POLICY EJ2.4** Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards and maximize air quality (both indoor and outdoor) in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ2.5** Work with Caltrans on improvements on State-owned rights of way.

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**POLICY EJ2.6** When updating or installing transportation infrastructure, consider factors such as stormwater management, Universal Design Principles and attractive green roadway design.

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**PROGRAM EJ2.A** Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City's jurisdiction (e.g., gas stations, automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Peninsula Clean Energy, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Westbay Sanitary District, San Mateo County Environmental Health, San Mateo County Fire, Sustainability Division

*Funding Source:* Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ2.B** Implement and periodically update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

*In Progress:* The Climate Action Plan is subject to annual progress reports as a standalone document are scheduled for 2028 update. Starting in 2024, the City will implement a zero emission landscaping equipment rule to improve air quality and reduce emissions.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Sustainability Division

*Funding Sources:* General Fund, grants (e.g., California Energy Commission, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy, and CALFIRE)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ2.C** Conduct proactive education and outreach about indoor and outdoor air quality and protective actions that can be taken to both improve air quality inside one's home and to minimize exposure to poor air quality index days.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Sustainability Division, Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County Sustainability Department

*Funding Source:* Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



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**PROGRAM EJ2.D** Minimize and mitigate illegal solid waste dumping (as defined in 7.04.030 of the Municipal Code), potentially through minimizing fees for disposal at landfills in collaboration with South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA).

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Communications and Public Engagement  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ2.E** Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan and update, as necessary, to incorporate environmental justice. Focus on underserved communities and implement programs in this Element, in coordination with related regional efforts.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Community Development  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ2.F** Increase community outreach and awareness of the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, including the Community Rating System, and the potential benefits to homeowners (e.g., reduced insurance premiums)

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Communications and Public Engagement Division. Supporting: Public Works  
*Funding Source:* Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ2.G** Develop incentives to encourage shared commute programs and alternative methods of travel for city events, meetings, and official business.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office, Public Works. Supporting: SamTrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g. Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Public Works, Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ2.H Collaborate with SamTrans and Ravenswood City School District, as well as Meta and other large employers to leverage transportation electrification initiatives to prioritize bus electrification in underserved communities.**

*In Progress:* SamTrans anticipated being fully electric by 2034, in compliance with State law requiring transit fleets be all electric by 2040.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Sustainability Division; SamTrans, Ravenswood City School District, Large Local Businesses (over 50 employees, e.g. Meta, SRI International, Grail, others)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ2.I Consider revisions to applicable City regulations that will reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life in underserved communities.**

*In Progress:* Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance, Municipal Code Chapter 7.30 (Smoking Regulated or Prohibited)

*Responsibility:* Lead: All City Departments. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ2.J Develop Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park within four years of the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.**

*In Progress:* The City applied for the 2024 cycle of the CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grant for Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park. Awards to be announced in Fall 2024. This grant requires projects to be completed by March 31, 2028. The City has budgeted \$250,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as matching funds.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Sustainability Division, Canopy

*Funding Sources:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 PLANNING Grant), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grants, CAL FIRE grants. City of Menlo Park Heritage Tree in-lieu fee program

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term



**PROGRAM EJ2.K** Prioritize relief from extreme heat (Safety Element Program S1.T) in underserved communities. Information on these resources shall be provided at community facilities (e.g., BHCC).

*In Progress:* The City currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Communications and Public Engagement

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Ongoing from Initiation



## **GOAL EJ3** EQUITABLY PROVIDE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC FACILITIES TO INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

**POLICY EJ3.1** Prioritize providing public facilities and programming for underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ3.2** Ensure accessibility of public facilities for all community members, especially those in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ3.3** Support programs that increase access to public and private health resources for underserved communities in locations that are convenient and accessible.

**POLICY EJ3.4** Coordinate with local school districts, transit operators, and other public agencies to provide adequate public facilities, improvements, and programs in underserved communities.

**PROGRAM EJ3.A** Identify, renovate, and retrofit candidate public buildings in underserved communities to serve as Climate Resilience Centers as outlined by the California Strategic Growth Council. These buildings should be places where the community already regularly gathers, such as libraries, community centers, or the Belle Haven neighborhood substation.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services Department

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Medium Term



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**PROGRAM EJ3.B** Work with relevant departments to install infrastructure allowing for easy disposal of pet and animal waste at parks and along highly trafficked streets.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: City Manager’s Office  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Medium Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.C** Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills. In addition, expand outreach and community access to the City Library’s laptop and wireless hotspot, or similar, borrowing programs.

*In Progress:* The City currently offers laptop lending and wi-fi hotspots free to residents at the library with their library card.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Local Internet Providers (e.g. AT&T, Xfinity, Spectrum), San Mateo County Public Works, California Public Utilities Commission, Administrative Services Department/Information Technology Department  
*Funding Source:* California Advanced Services Fund: Broadband Public Housing Account  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Medium Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.D** Seek to form partnerships, particularly with community based organizations and businesses, and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)  
*Funding Sources:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers PLANNING Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.E** Coordinate with schools and other local organizations (e.g., Boys and Girls Club) to support after-school activities and related outreach/communications generally.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Ravenswood City School District  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.F** **Seek to form partnerships or other agreements with a banking specialist and other identified partners to provide a community bank or banking services in the underserved communities.**

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Local banks  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.G** **Ensure delivery on the needs of underserved communities through the City's programming plans currently in place and continue to adapt programming based on community feedback through regular community surveys and outreach.**

*In Progress:* City staff, with input from the community, Belle Haven Community Campus subcommittee and working group, Library Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission, have developed robust programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus. City will continue to adapt programming to community needs through regular community surveys and outreach that solicit community feedback.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services  
*Funding Sources:* Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.H** **Ensure that recreational facilities throughout Menlo Park provide all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles, with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities.**

*In Progress:* City prioritizes access for all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Public Works; Community Development  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term



## GOAL EJ4

## PROMOTE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE FOOD

### POLICY EJ4.1

Encourage adequate food access to fresh and healthy foods for all residents, particularly those in underserved communities.

### PROGRAM EJ4.A

Work with grocery stores and online food service delivery and meal providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food (e.g., reduced or waived delivery service fees). Encourage and support the acceptance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), CalFresh, and other governmental food assistance programs that increase food security.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Local Grocery Stores (e.g., Safeway, Trader Joe's), Local Grocery Delivery Services (e.g., Uber Eats, GrubHub, DoorDash), CalFresh

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

### PROGRAM EJ4.B

Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual fliers, community events, information at shelters and food banks, as well as other appropriate outreach methods.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Communications and Public Engagement Division; Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Homeless Outreach Team, San Mateo County Human Services Agency

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

### PROGRAM EJ4.C

Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at municipal buildings and City-participating events Encourage sourcing food from local small businesses.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term



**PROGRAM EJ4.D** Encourage and facilitate the establishment and operation of a farmer’s market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets in underserved communities. Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ4.E** Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens within or adjacent to neighborhoods and housing development sites. Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years of Environmental Justice Element adoption.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Library and Community Services; Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g. Rotary Club of Menlo Park)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term



## **GOAL EJ5**

### **PROVIDE SAFE, SANITARY, AND STABLE HOMES**

**POLICY EJ5.1** Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe, sanitary and stable housing, particularly in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ5.2** Maintain and develop safe, and sanitary and stable homes across all locations and affordability ranges, particularly in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ5.3** Support housing development distribution throughout the city and not concentrated within Menlo Park’s underserved communities.

**PROGRAM EJ5.A** The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. The Safety Element (Table S-4) includes a list of sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation.

*In Progress:* The 2015 San Mateo County Vulnerability Assessment inventoried sites with contamination and no sites were identified in residential developments. County continues to update Vulnerability Assessments.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: San Mateo County Environmental Health Services, Planning, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

*Funding Source:* Department of Food and Agriculture (Healthy Soils Demonstration Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Short Term

**PROGRAM EJ5.B** Conduct outreach to potentially eligible households regarding programs that support safe, sanitary, and stable homes.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: California Department of Community Services and Development; City Manager's Office

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ5.C** Create or partner with providers to provide a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters with questions. If such resources already exist, conduct proactive outreach and education to inform the community of available resources. Hold culturally competent, in-language outreach workshops.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g. Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ5.D** Identify opportunities to support a Community Land trust or other fiscal vehicle to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Community Development Department, MidPen Housing Community Land Trust

*Funding Source:* BMR Housing Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term



**PROGRAM EJ5.E** Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F, (regarding collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART)) and helping to facilitate first-time homeowner workshops for residents in underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Local Community Based Outreach Organizations (e.g. Menlo Together)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ5.F** Promote funds and subsidies that minimize the passing through of any upfront investment costs of building electrification on to tenants.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Public Works Department, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ5.G** Ensure that City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This will include consideration, at a minimum, the following:

- Rental inventory of all dwelling units
- Updated or expanded rent control laws
- Rent increase mitigations, such as longer noticing requirements
- Community and tenant opportunity to purchase
- Revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper affordability (e.g., subsidies)
- Expand relocation assistance for tenants
- Just Cause Eviction protections regardless of tenant duration
- Strengthened tenant anti-harassment ordinances
- An examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs

*In Progress:* Sixth Cycle Housing Element includes Program H2.E focusing on developing an Anti-Displacement Strategy

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Public Works Department

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ5.H** As part of an anti-displacement program and to ensure stable housing, support increasing access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction by conducting community outreach, education, and engagement to ensure renters are aware of this resource. Include progress reports on usage annually.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager’s Office, Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Ongoing from Initiation.



## **GOAL EJ6** ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

**POLICY EJ6.1** Prioritize programs that encourage physical activity in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ6.2** Support physically active lifestyles through investment in complete streets and active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) and safety in underserved communities

**POLICY EJ6.3** Prioritize the implementation of traffic and transit improvements in underserved communities to reduce excessive speed, limit cut through traffic, and make streets comfortable and accessible places for all users and abilities.

**PROGRAM EJ6.A** Identify and eliminate, barriers to outdoor physical activity, such as damaged, incomplete, blocked, or littered sidewalks and bike paths, lack of safe street crossings and direct connections, excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping and shade trees along streets in underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Community Development, Sustainability Division

*Funding Source:* Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term



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**PROGRAM EJ6.B** In concurrence with the City’s Vision Zero Action Plan, develop and implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling and taking transit. These efforts should include education for people using all modes.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, SamTrans

*Funding Source:* Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

---

**PROGRAM EJ6.C** Coordinate with Ravenswood City School District to expand the Safe Routes to School program, including potential for increased crossing guards at key intersections.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Ravenswood City School District

*Funding Source:* Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ6.D** Prepare to update and adopt the City’s Transportation Master Plan (best practice is to update every 10-15 years) to improve environmental justice.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Caltrans, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g. Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities), Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g. Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)

*Funding Sources:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant), Department of Transportation Grants (Safe Streets and Roads for All, Sustainable Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term

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## GOAL EJ7

## CREATE EQUITABLE CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**POLICY EJ7.1** Prioritize civic and community engagement programs that enhance the participation and inclusion of underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ7.2** Keep residents informed about governmental meetings and actions by ensuring transparency and accessibility in government and decision making.

**POLICY EJ7.3** Treat all members of the community fairly and promote equity and capacity building toward creating a healthy environment and just community.

**PROGRAM EJ7.A** Promote and evaluate capacity-building efforts to educate and involve traditionally underrepresented populations, including underserved communities, in the public decision-making process.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: Belle Haven Action

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ7.B** All meetings with an agenda item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the underserved community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as satellite meeting centers, simulcasting, and/or remote participation. Consider hardcopy materials for outreach, particularly door-to-door outreach.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: Library and Community Services

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ7.C** Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation (such as food and refreshments, stipends, on-site child care) at community outreach events in underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



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**PROGRAM EJ7.D Pursue equitable civic and community engagement.**

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ7.E Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the BHCC as a community hub for learning and engagement opportunities strengthened with partner organizations. These will connect residents in underserved communities with pre-existing city and state resources as well as encourage resident participation in public meetings, events, and decision making.**

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: All City Departments  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

---

**PROGRAM EJ7.F Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating City Councilmembers and appointed commissioners for the time they spend in their positions to make the positions more accessible to residents of underserved communities.**

*In Progress:* A Planning Commission stipend pilot program was added in the 2023-2024 budget.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office.  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Short Term

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**PROGRAM EJ7.G Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions.**

*In Progress:* SamTrans currently operates a countywide paratransit service.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: SamTrans, Public Works  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ7.H** Ensure that disaster preparedness planning as described in the Safety Element includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park’s underserved communities. Upon adoption of the Environmental Justice Element, conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that may include participation and information dissemination at public event and/or fairs in underserved communities with proactive encouragement and opportunity for the residents to sign up for emergency alert systems.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Menlo Park Fire Protection District

*Funding Source:* Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ7.I** Encourage the sustained engagement and involvement of underserved communities in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. Maintain membership and partnership with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority during their oversight of levee installations and expansions protecting underserved communities.

*In Progress:* The SAFER Bay Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in 2022 and provides engagement and involvement opportunities.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: City Manager’s Office; San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

*Funding Source:* Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ7.J** Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Annual reporting, at a minimum, should be presented to the City Council and made available on the City website.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



**PROGRAM EJ7.K** The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Environmental Justice Element Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Sources:* Bayfront Mitigation Fund; General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ7.L** The City Council shall consider the community-identified environmental justice priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop.

Note: The 2024 adoption of the EJ Element identified the following top three priorities:

- Priority #1: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2: Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Sources:* Bayfront Mitigation Fund; General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

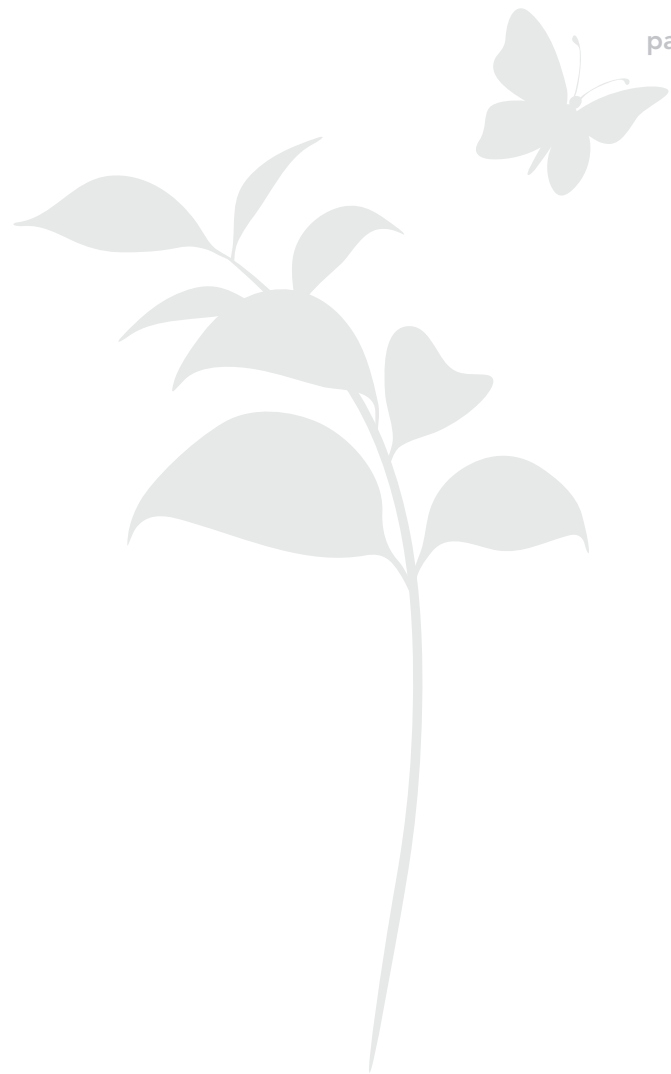


Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

## APPENDICES

- Appendix EJ-A — Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Consideration
- Appendix EJ-B — Additional Methodology
- Appendix EJ-C — Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements
- Appendix EJ-D — Menlo Park Survey Final Report
- Appendix EJ-E — Prioritization Workshop Summary
- Appendix EJ-F — Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

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# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT APPENDICES

# City of Menlo Park

## Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations



Published October 2022  
Updated August 2024

# City of Menlo Park

## Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations

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## Introduction

The City of Menlo Park is updating its required General Plan Housing Element and Safety Element, and preparing its first ever Environmental Justice Element. Environmental justice (commonly referred to as “EJ”) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.<sup>1</sup>

Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

Meaningful involvement means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health.
- The public’s contribution can influence the regulatory agency’s decision.
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process.
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

As part of the Environmental Justice Element preparation, the City is learning about and helping to prioritize policies and actions that have the most impact in improving the physical environment so that it supports good health and quality of life for current and future Menlo Park residents.

### ***What is a Neighborhood Profile?***

A neighborhood profile provides a summary analysis on a specific neighborhood’s social, economic, and environmental conditions, such as demographics, unemployment rate, and pollution exposure. These factors, or “indicators,” help set the stage for community conversations regarding priorities and plans for positive change. In this document, we look at Menlo Park through the lens of 16 neighborhoods and draw comparisons of indicator impacts among neighborhoods and the city as a whole. The neighborhood profiles serve as a precursor for the preparation of Menlo Park’s first ever Environmental Justice Element.

### ***Background Information***

The State of California allows all jurisdictions to adopt an Environmental Justice Element (EJ Element) pursuant to Senate Bill 1000 (2016). The adoption of an EJ Element can occur at any time, but is required under the following conditions:

- The jurisdiction is adopting or revising two or more General Plan Elements concurrently.

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<sup>1</sup> Government Code section 65040.12, subdivision (e)(2).

- The jurisdiction contains “Disadvantaged Communities” as defined by State law.

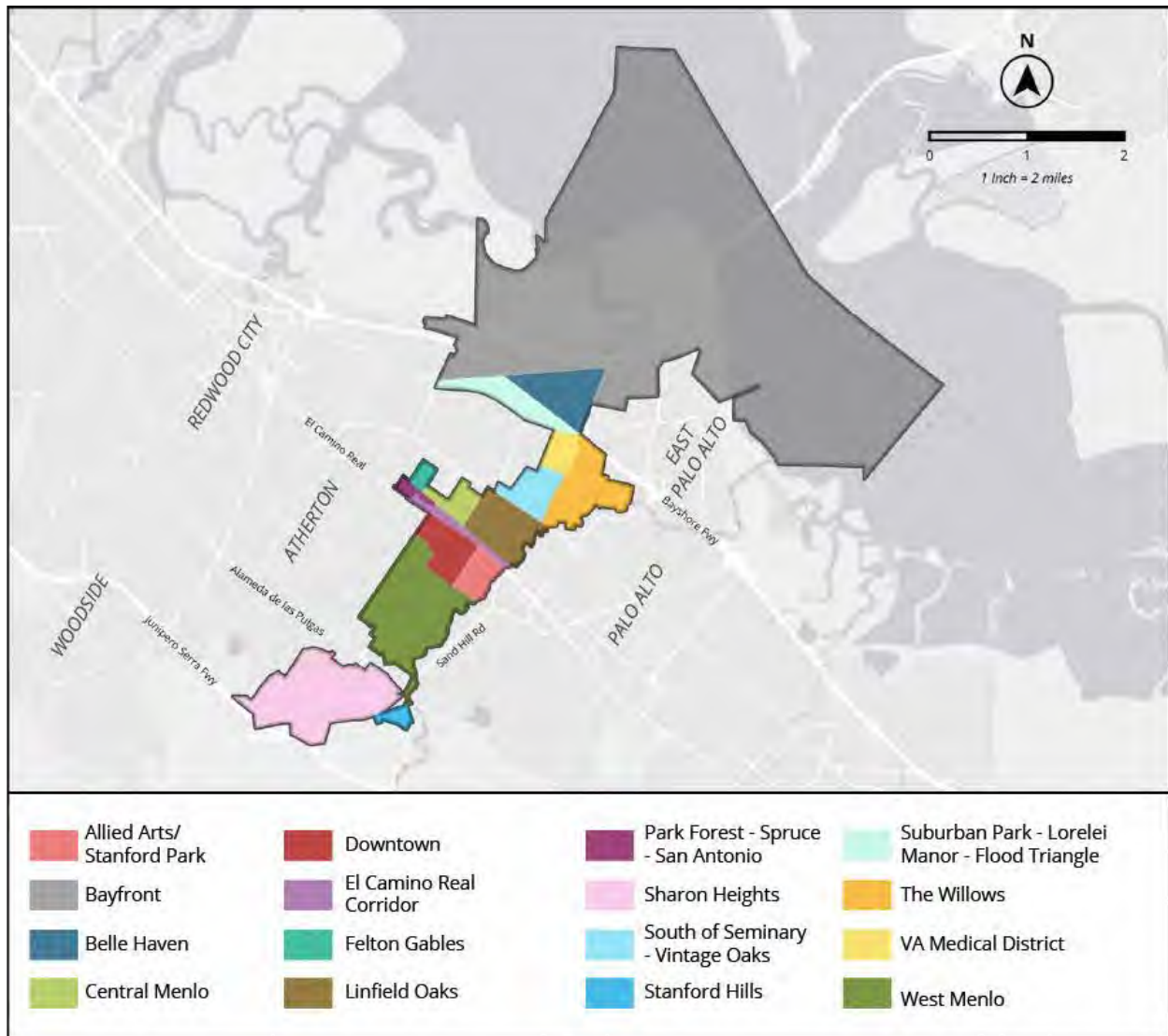
According to State law, a "Disadvantaged Community" is an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code, or, an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. Menlo Park is required to adopt an EJ Element as it is currently updating its required General Plan Housing Element and Safety Element (revising the combined Open Space/Conservation, Noise, and Safety Elements).

There are areas within Menlo Park that meet the State-defined criteria for “Disadvantaged Communities.”<sup>2</sup> Throughout this appendix, “Underserved Communities” will be used and is understood to be analogous to the state-defined term “Disadvantaged Communities,” which is only used when quoting or referring to state law.

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<sup>2</sup> Information regarding “Disadvantaged Communities” is available at: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535>.

## Neighborhoods in Menlo Park

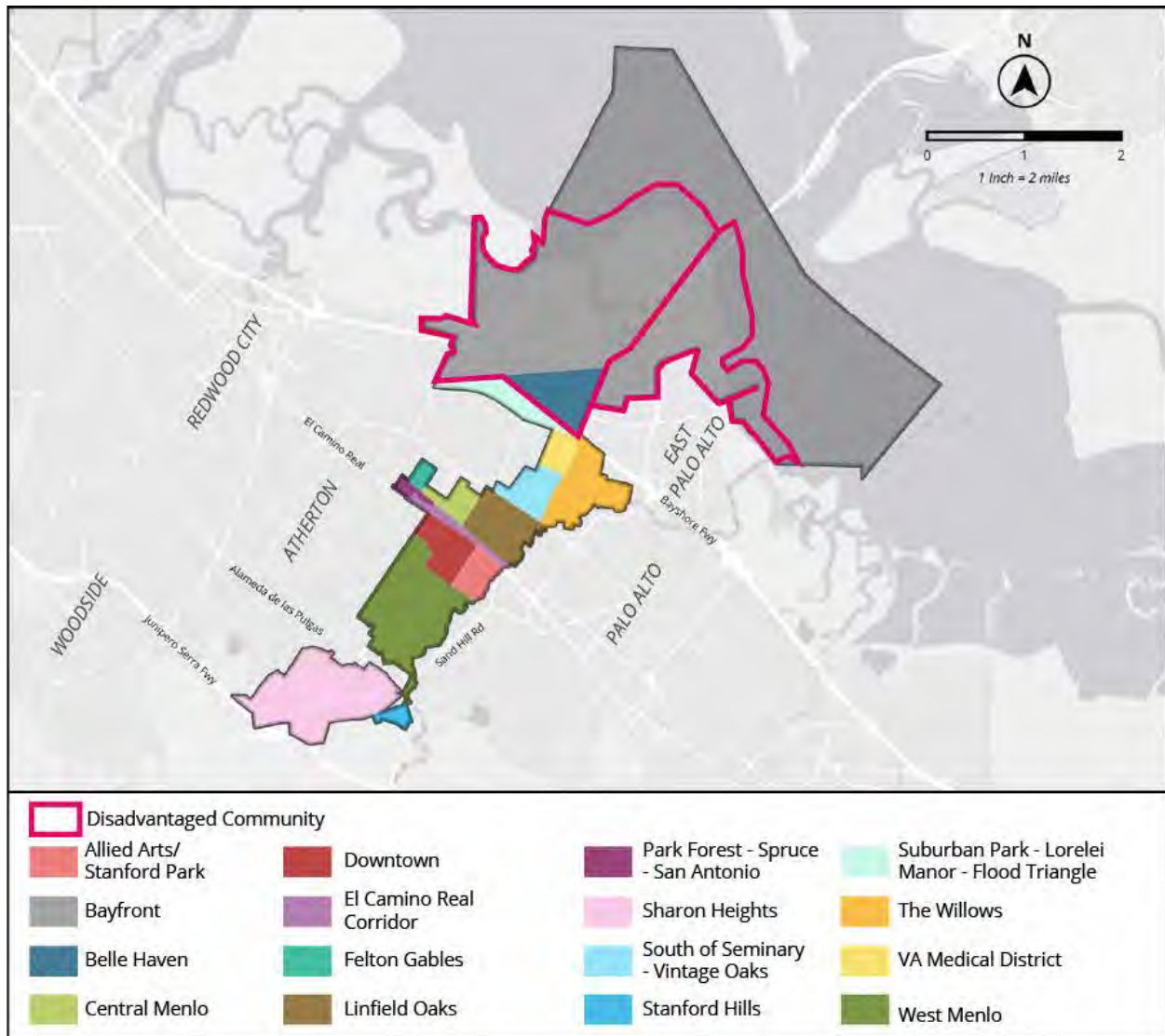


In this document, we look at Menlo Park through the lens of 16 neighborhoods as shown in the above map. The neighborhood boundaries displayed are for reference and informational purposes only, with the intent of contributing to more area-specific analysis of the city as there are differences among the neighborhoods that are helpful to highlight for the EJ Element preparation.

### Underserved Communities

There are two Underserved Communities identified in Menlo Park: Belle Haven and Bayfront. These communities were identified because they are in census tracts designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's list of state income limits and because they are historically underserved areas separated from the rest of the city by US-101 and served by a different school district.

**Map of Underserved Community Census Tracts**



**Underserved Communities Overview**

Underserved Communities are areas throughout California which suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty, pollution, and social and health indicators of risk and stress.

These communities are specifically targeted for investment of proceeds from the State's Cap-and-Trade Program that are aimed at improving public health, quality of life, and economic opportunity. They are defined at the census tract level, which in Menlo Park's case, means that the tracts intersect with city and neighborhood boundaries.<sup>3</sup> The full methodology for determining Underserved Communities in Menlo Park is in Appendix EJ-B: Additional Methodology.

<sup>3</sup> Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county.

The two Underserved Communities, Belle Haven and Bayfront, are adjacent to each other but have different histories and lived experiences. Belle Haven is a historically residential neighborhood, whereas Bayfront has been an industrial neighborhood until the recent residential development permitted by 2015's Connect Menlo plan.

The adjacency of these two neighborhoods is not an accident. Black and African American households, historically excluded from the south side of US-101 by racial covenants, found homes in Belle Haven near polluting industrial uses. As those polluting uses have phased out and technology companies have moved into Bayfront, the Belle Haven community faced displacement fears as high-income workers moved into the city north of US-101.

Understanding these two Underserved Communities as distinct, albeit linked by geography, is crucial to the environmental justice analysis of Menlo Park.

### **Belle Haven**

Belle Haven is on the north side of US-101 and is a historically segregated neighborhood in Menlo Park. When racial covenants excluded Black and African American families from purchasing houses on the south side of US-101, many turned to Belle Haven instead.

The Household Median Income in Belle Haven's census tract, 6117, is \$74,032. This is lower than the threshold designated as low income (\$146,350) by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

### **Bayfront**

Menlo Park's eastern Bayfront is in Census Tract 6118. This tract is also designated as an Environmental Justice Underserved Community because its median household incomes are below the threshold designated as low income (\$146,350) by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Tract's median household income is \$85,500.

## **Neighborhood Profiles Methodology**

Each neighborhood profile includes a map of the neighborhood area and three sections highlighting data points typically used to inform environmental justice conversations:

- ***Physical Description***
  - Pattern of Development
  - Transportation
  - Open Space
  - Natural Hazard Risk
  
- ***Environmental Conditions***
  - Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden
  - Major Pollution Burden Disparities
  
- ***Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics***



- Primary Factors
- Major Disparities

### **Neighborhood Area Maps**

The neighborhood area maps include data for land use zoning districts, flood hazard areas (areas with a one percent chance of flooding annually, as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA]), SamTrans bus stops, and grocery stores. This serves as useful reference for areas of different land uses and risk profiles, as well as points of interest and community nodes.

Menlo Park's neighborhoods do not line up evenly with census tracts, which are used to quantify environmental data. It should be noted that the neighborhoods of The Willows; Allied Arts/Stanford Park; West Menlo; and Bayfront have been further divided for mapping and analysis purposes to better correspond to census tract-level data available. Further, six census tracts encompass more than one neighborhood and as a result, those neighborhoods share CalEnviroScreen scores (Tracts 6117, 6125, 6126, 6127, 6130, and 6139).

<b>Neighborhoods and Census Tracts Cross-Reference</b>	
<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Census Tract(s)</b>
Allied Arts/Stanford Park	6126 (North) 6127 (South)
Bayfront	6117 (West)* 6118 (East)*
Belle Haven	6117*
Central Menlo	6125
Downtown	6126
El Camino Real Corridor	6125
Felton Gables	6125
Linfield Oaks	6125
Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio	6125
Sharon Heights	6130
South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	6139
Stanford Hills	6130
Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	6116
The Willows	6139 (West) 6121 (East)
VA Medical District	6139
West Menlo	6127 (North) 6128 (South)

*\*Census tract designated as Underserved Community*

## **CalEnviroScreen Indicators**

The summarized indicators and corresponding scores for pollution burden and population characteristics are provided by the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool called "CalEnviroScreen 4.0."

CalEnviroScreen provides an interactive mapping tool to identify communities in California that are disproportionately burdened, and allows users to see how these burdens compare to other areas throughout California. An indicator is a measure of either environmental conditions, in the case of **Pollution Burden Indicators**, or health and vulnerability factors for **Population Characteristics Indicators**. CalEnviroScreen indicators fall into four broad groups—exposures, environmental effects, sensitive populations, and socioeconomic factors.

- **Exposure** indicators are based on measurements of different types of pollution that people may come into contact with.
- **Environmental** effects indicators are based on the locations of toxic chemicals in or near communities.
- **Sensitive population** indicators measure the number of people in a community who may be more severely affected by pollution because of their age or health.
- **Socioeconomic factor** indicators are conditions that may increase people's stress or make healthy living difficult and cause them to be more sensitive to pollution's effects.

Each indicator is scored separately and CalEnviroScreen assigns each census tract a percentile value based on where it falls among values statewide.<sup>4</sup> A higher number always indicates a "worse" situation. For example, if a census tract is in the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile for "Unemployment," that means its burden indicator value is higher than 60 percent of all other census tracts in California. In addition to this metric comparing the census tract to the state, the Neighborhood Profiles also show the citywide average and the tract's difference (positive or negative, meaning higher or lower) from the citywide average. These numbers show specific neighborhood differences from Menlo Park as a whole.

The indicators are divided into two categories: Pollution Burden Indicators and Population Characteristics Indicators. These two categories average the percentiles of their underlying indicators.

The table below provides descriptions for the summarized **Pollution Burden Indicators** provided by CalEnviroScreen.

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<sup>4</sup> CalEnviroScreen information is available at <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen>.

Pollution Burden Indicators	
Indicator	Description
Air Quality: Ozone	Ozone is the main ingredient of smog. At ground level, ozone is formed when pollutants chemically react in the presence of sunlight. Ground-level ozone is formed from the reaction of oxygen-containing compounds with other air pollutants in the presence of sunlight. The main sources of ozone are trucks, cars, planes, trains, factories, farms, construction, and dry cleaners.
Air Quality: Air Quality: PM2.5	Particulate matter, or PM2.5, is very small particles in air that are 2.5 micrometers (about 1 ten-thousandth of an inch) or less in diameter. This is less than the thickness of a human hair. Particulate matter, one of six U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criteria air pollutants, is a mixture that can include organic chemicals, dust, soot and metals. These particles can come from cars and trucks, factories, wood burning, and other activities.
Diesel Particulate Matter	Exhaust from trucks, buses, trains, ships, and other equipment with diesel engines contains a mixture of gases and solid particles. These solid particles are known as diesel particulate matter (diesel PM). Diesel PM contains hundreds of different chemicals. Many of these are harmful to health. The highest levels of diesel PM are near ports, rail yards and freeways. People are exposed to diesel PM from breathing air containing diesel exhaust.
Pesticide Use	Pesticides are chemicals used to control insects, weeds, and plant or animal diseases. Over 1,000 pesticides are approved for use in California. They are applied to fields by air, by farm machinery, or by workers on the ground.
Toxic Releases from Facilities	Facilities that make or use toxic chemicals can release these chemicals into the air. Information is available on the amount of chemicals released for over 500 chemicals for large facilities in the United States. <sup>5</sup> People of color and low income Californians are more likely to live in areas with higher toxic chemical releases.
Traffic Impacts	California has the biggest network of freeways in the country. Its cities are known for heavy traffic. Traffic impacts are a measure of the number of vehicles on the roads in an area. Non-whites, Latinos, low income people, and people who speak a language other than English often live in or near areas with high traffic.
Drinking Water Contaminants	Most drinking water in California meets requirements for health and safety. However, the water we drink sometimes becomes contaminated with chemicals or bacteria. Both natural and human sources can contaminate drinking water. Natural sources can be found in rocks and soil or come from fires. Human sources include factories, sewage, and runoff from farms. Poor communities and people in rural areas are exposed to contaminants in their drinking water more often than people in other parts of the state.
Children’s Lead Risk from Housing	Lead is a toxic heavy metal that occurs naturally in the environment. However, the highest levels of lead present in the environment are a result of human activities. Historically, lead has been used in house paint, plumbing, and as a gasoline additive. While lead levels have declined over the past five

<sup>5</sup> Toxics Release Inventory resource, available at: <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>

Pollution Burden Indicators	
Indicator	Description
	decades in the United States, it still persists in older housing.
Cleanup Sites	Cleanup sites are places that are contaminated with harmful chemicals and need to be cleaned up by the property owners or government. People living near these sites are more likely to be exposed to chemicals from the sites than people living further away. Some studies have shown that neighborhoods with cleanup sites are generally poorer and have more people of color than other neighborhoods.
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. The land and groundwater may take many years to clean up. Man-made ponds containing water produced from oil and gas activities may also contain pollutants.
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	Waste created by different commercial or industrial activity contains chemicals that may be dangerous or harmful to health. Only certain regulated facilities are allowed to treat, store or dispose of this type of waste. These facilities are not the same as cleanup sites. Hazardous waste includes a range of different types of waste. It can include used automotive oil as well as highly toxic waste materials produced by factories and businesses. Studies have found that hazardous waste facilities are often located near poorer neighborhoods and communities of color.
Impaired Water Bodies	Streams, rivers and lakes are used for recreation and fishing and may provide water for drinking or agriculture. When water is contaminated by pollutants, the water bodies are considered impaired. These impairments are related to the amount of pollution that has occurred in or near the water body. Groups such as tribal or low income communities may depend on fish, aquatic plants and wildlife in nearby water bodies more than the general population.
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	Solid waste facilities are places where household garbage and other types of waste are collected, processed, or stored. These include landfills, transfer stations, and composting facilities. The waste can come from homes, industry or commercial sources. Most of these operations require permits. The communities near solid waste facilities are usually home to poor and minority residents.

The table below provides descriptions for the summarized **Population Characteristics Indicators**.

Population Characteristics Indicators	
Indicator	Description
Asthma	Asthma is a disease that affects the lungs and makes it hard to breathe. Symptoms include breathlessness, wheezing, coughing, and chest tightness. The causes of asthma are unknown but genetic and environmental factors can be involved. Five million Californians have been diagnosed with asthma at

Population Characteristics Indicators	
Indicator	Description
	some point in their lives. Asthma is the most common long-term disease in children. African Americans and people with low incomes visit hospitals for asthma more often than other groups.
Low Birth Weight Infants	Babies who weigh less than about five and a half pounds (2500 grams) at birth are considered low birth weight by the California Department of Public Health. Many factors, including poor nutrition, lack of prenatal care, stress and smoking by the mother, can increase the risk of having a low birth-weight baby.
Cardiovascular Disease	Cardiovascular disease refers to conditions that involve blocked or narrowed blood vessels that can lead to a heart attack or other heart problems. Heart attack is the most common cardiovascular event. Although many people survive and return to normal life after a heart attack, quality of life and long-term survival may be reduced, and these people are more prone to future cardiovascular events. There are many risk factors for developing cardiovascular disease including diet, lack of exercise, smoking and exposure to air pollution.
Educational Attainment	Educational attainment is the highest level of education a person has completed. People with more education usually earn more than people with less education. In California, 19 percent of adults over 25 do not have a high school degree, compared to 14 percent for the United States according to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA).
Linguistic Isolation	Linguistic isolation is a term used by the US Census Bureau for limited English speaking households. More than 40 percent of Californians speak a language other than English at home. About half of those do not speak English well or at all.
Poverty	The US Census Bureau determines the Federal Poverty Level each year. The poverty level is based on the size of the household and the ages 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.
Unemployment	The US Census Bureau counts people who are over 16 years old, out of work and able to work as unemployed. It does not include students, active duty military, retired people or people who have stopped looking for work.
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	Housing burdened low income households are households that are both low income and highly burdened by housings costs. California has very high housing costs relative to much of the country, which can make it hard for many to afford housing. Households with lower incomes may spend a larger proportion of their income on housing and may suffer from housing-induced poverty. Housing-Burden Low-Income Households make less than 80 percent of the Area Median Family Income and pay greater than 50 percent of their income to housing costs, whether they are renting or owning their homes.

## Key Points for Consideration

This detailed analysis of Menlo Park demonstrates the fine-grained differences between the 16 neighborhoods that make up the residential areas of the city. As a whole, the neighborhood profiles describe Menlo Park as a city with a pleasant natural environment, rich employment opportunities, and potential educational advancement that are not necessarily spread equitably throughout the community.

- The neighborhoods of Belle Haven and Bayfront are considered as Underserved Communities per an initial OPR-guided screening, meaning they are areas where residents experience more financial, environmental, and/or social stress relative to the State as a whole. Although Belle Haven and Bayfront are both identified as potential Underserved Communities, they have different histories and geographic contexts.
- An Environmental Justice Element, such as the one being developed by the City of Menlo Park, must include objectives and policies that:
  - Reduce the unique or compounded health risks in Underserved Communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.
  - Promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process. Underserved Prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of Underserved Communities.
- The issues in Underserved Communities at the highest risk percentiles are lead risk and traffic impacts.

These neighborhood profiles serve as a starting point for considering environmental justice in Menlo Park. They require outreach and a more contextual understanding of the data points in order to serve potential Underserved Communities and the city as a whole. The profiles are designed to set the stage for community conversations and set the foundation for plans for positive change in Menlo Park.

### Summary Table

The table below shows the overall Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores in CalEnviroScreen and their relative “rank” to Menlo Park as a whole.

A **higher score** indicates a “**worse**” situation. A **lower score** indicates a “**better**” situation.

A **higher rank** indicates a “**better**” situation. A **lower rank** indicates a “**worse**” situation.

The higher the score, the lower the rank (e.g., Belle Haven's Pollution Burden Score of 82 is lower-ranked at 9<sup>th</sup> than Central Menlo's Pollution Burden of 45 ranked higher at 4<sup>th</sup>).

Neighborhood Score Summary Table				
Neighborhood	Pollution Burden Score	Pollution Burden Rank	Population Characteristics Score	Population Characteristics Rank
<b>Citywide Average</b>	<b>56</b>	-	<b>19</b>	-
Allied Arts/Stanford Park (North)	52	6th (tied)	4	3rd (tied)
Allied Arts/Stanford Park (South)	35	2nd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
Bayfront (East)	83	10th	49	6th (tied)
Bayfront (West)	82	9th (tied)	49	6th (tied)
Belle Haven	82	9th (tied)	49	6th (tied)
Central Menlo	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Downtown	52	6th (tied)	4	3rd (tied)
El Camino Real Corridor	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Felton Gables	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Linfield Oaks	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Sharon Heights	47	5th (tied)	11	5th (tied)
South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	44	3rd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
Stanford Hills	47	5th (tied)	11	
Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	71	7th	2	2nd (tied)
The Willows (East)	73	8th	58	7th
The Willows (West)	44	3rd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
VA Medical District	44	3rd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
West Menlo (North)	35	2nd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
West Menlo (South)	26	1st	1	1st

*Note: Since census tract boundaries intersect with neighborhood boundaries, there are some neighborhoods that are divided East/West or North/South. Other neighborhoods share underlying data, in which case they are "tied" in the table. Due to these numerous "ties", the rankings are not 1 through 16: there are 10 total ranks for Pollution Burden and 9 for Social Characteristics.*

# Allied Arts/Stanford Park





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Allied Arts/Stanford Park neighborhood is made up primarily of detached single-family homes and 2-story apartments. Non-residential uses include commercial and retail along El Camino Real. Most of the neighborhood is not within a half-mile of a grocery store, although there are three grocery stores outside the western edge of the neighborhood. Two local parks, Nealon Park and Jack W. Lyle Park, are just outside the west side of Allied Arts/Stanford Park.

### **Transportation**

El Camino Real provides residents of Allied Arts/Stanford Park connectivity to the rest of the city and the Peninsula. Residents of the neighborhood also have access to Middle Avenue, a north-south arterial road that runs through the city, and University Drive running east-west.

### **Open Space**

There are no open space areas in the neighborhood, although San Francisquito Creek makes up its eastern boundary. Jack W. Lyle Park is located to the west, outside of the neighborhood. The open play field is available for public use upon reservation. Nealon Park is located northwest of the neighborhood and includes facilities for softball, tennis, and a dog park. Little House Activity Center, a senior citizen center, is also located at Nealon Park.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Allied Arts/Stanford Park is not located in a flood hazard area, but is adjacent to San Francisquito Creek and flood hazard areas in Palo Alto.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Allied Arts/Stanford Park has overall Pollution Burden scores of 52 (North of University Drive) and 35 (South of University Drive), ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (4 points less than the citywide average) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (21 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	North of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	South of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>-20.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	14	-1.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	<b>69</b>	+7.5	48	<b>-13.5</b>	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	25	-2.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	36	-24.3	20	<b>-40.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	59	-7.4	39	<b>-27.4</b>	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	54	-13.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	<b>72</b>	+8.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	<b>+27.3</b>	<b>73</b>	+10.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	50	<b>-25.6</b>	<b>78</b>	+2.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	8	-9.8	20	+2.2	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

Allied Arts/Stanford Park has overall Population Characteristics scores of 4 (North of University Drive) and 5 (South of University Drive), ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (15 points less than the citywide average) and 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	North of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	South of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-14.6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	<b>22</b>	-2.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	11	<b>-16.8</b>	<b>51</b>	+23.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	9	+0.3	8.7
Education	6	<b>-23.0</b>	0	<b>-29.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>22</b>	-9.5	0	<b>-31.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	19	-9.4	9	-19.4	28.4
Unemployment	6	<b>-19.7</b>	6	-19.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>32</b>	-9.2	12	<b>-29.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Bayfront



## Physical Description

### **Pattern of Development**

Of the developed areas within Bayfront, the neighborhood is comprised of high-density apartments, professional office, and industrial and research facilities. Other uses include a local park and some neighborhood-serving retail. Much of the area is either open space or the open water of San Francisco Bay.

### **Transportation**

US-101 and Bayfront Expressway (CA-84) provide connectivity between Bayfront and the rest of the city and the Peninsula and East Bay. Although there are several bus stops within the neighborhood, there is less public transit service than other areas in the city.

### **Open Space**

The Bedwell Bayfront Park includes bike trails, an open play field, and several walking paths within its 160 acres.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Bayfront is located entirely within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Bayfront has overall Pollution Burden scores of 82 (West of Willow/CA-84) and 83 (East of Willow/CA-84), ranking 9<sup>th</sup> (26 points more than the citywide average) and 10<sup>th</sup> (26 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>+26.2</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>+27.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	10	+0.8	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	16	+0.8	17	+1.8	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	88	+26.5	49	-12.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	32	+4.4	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>94</b>	<b>+33.7</b>	60	-0.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	69	+2.6	<b>87</b>	+20.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>96</b>	+28.6	<b>99</b>	<b>+31.6</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>89</b>	+25.3	82	+18.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	61	-1.7	<b>98</b>	<b>+35.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	83	+7.4	85	+9.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	0	<b>-37.8</b>	84	<b>+46.2</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	63	<b>+45.2</b>	21	+3.2	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

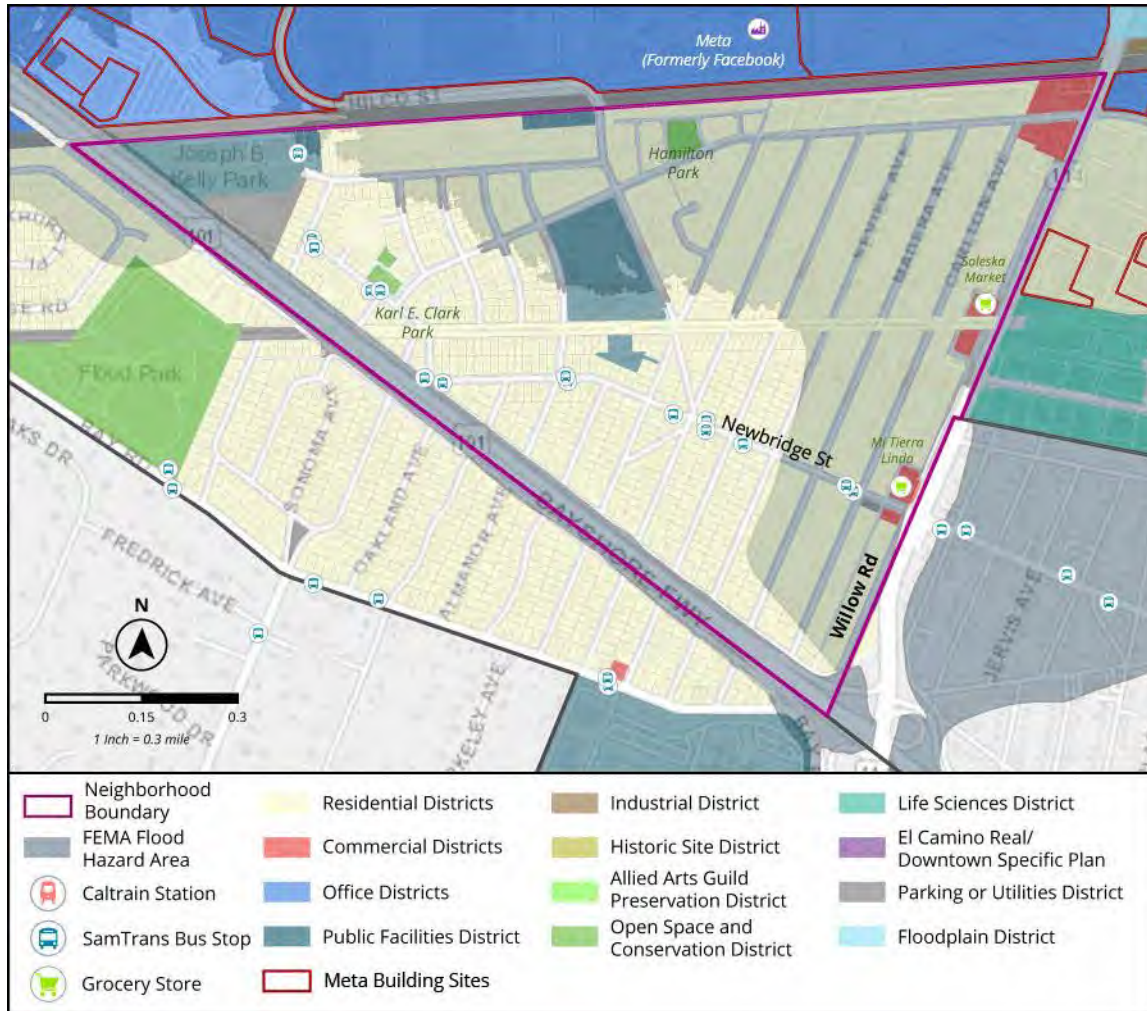
Bayfront has overall Population Characteristics scores of 49 both West and East of Willow/CA-84, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (30 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>+30.4</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>+30.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	24	-0.9	47	+22.1	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	45	+17.2	22	-5.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	10	+1.3	13	+4.3	8.7
Education	<b>82</b>	<b>+53.0</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>+57</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>86</b>	<b>+54.5</b>	38	+6.5	31.5
Poverty	59	+30.6	65	<b>+36.6</b>	28.4
Unemployment	46	+20.3	<b>74</b>	<b>+48.3</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>83</b>	<b>+41.8</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>+48.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Belle Haven





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Belle Haven is comprised of mostly detached single-family homes and few areas of low-rise apartments. Non-residential uses in the neighborhood include a public library, a public school (elementary), a private school (kindergarten through middle), a fire station, and three local parks. Approximately 50 percent of the neighborhood is within a half-mile of one of two small grocery stores on the eastern side of the neighborhood.

### **Transportation**

US-101 and Bayfront surround Belle Haven, requiring residents to use only Willow Road and the pedestrian/bicycle Bay Trail to connect with the rest of the city. Newbridge Street is well-serviced by SamTrans, as well as few other minor roads. Most homes in the area are within a quarter-mile from a bus stop.

### **Open Space**

Kelly Park, Karl E. Clark Park, and Hamilton Park are available for public use. Tennis courts and the soccer field at Kelly Park are available for public use and may be reserved.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

More than 60 percent of Belle Haven is in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Belle Haven has an overall Pollution Burden score of 82, ranking 9<sup>th</sup> (26 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>+26.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	16	+0.8	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	88	+26.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	32	+4.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>94</b>	<b>+33.7</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	69	+2.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>96</b>	+28.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>89</b>	+25.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	61	-1.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	83	+7.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	0	<b>-37.8</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	63	<b>+45.2</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

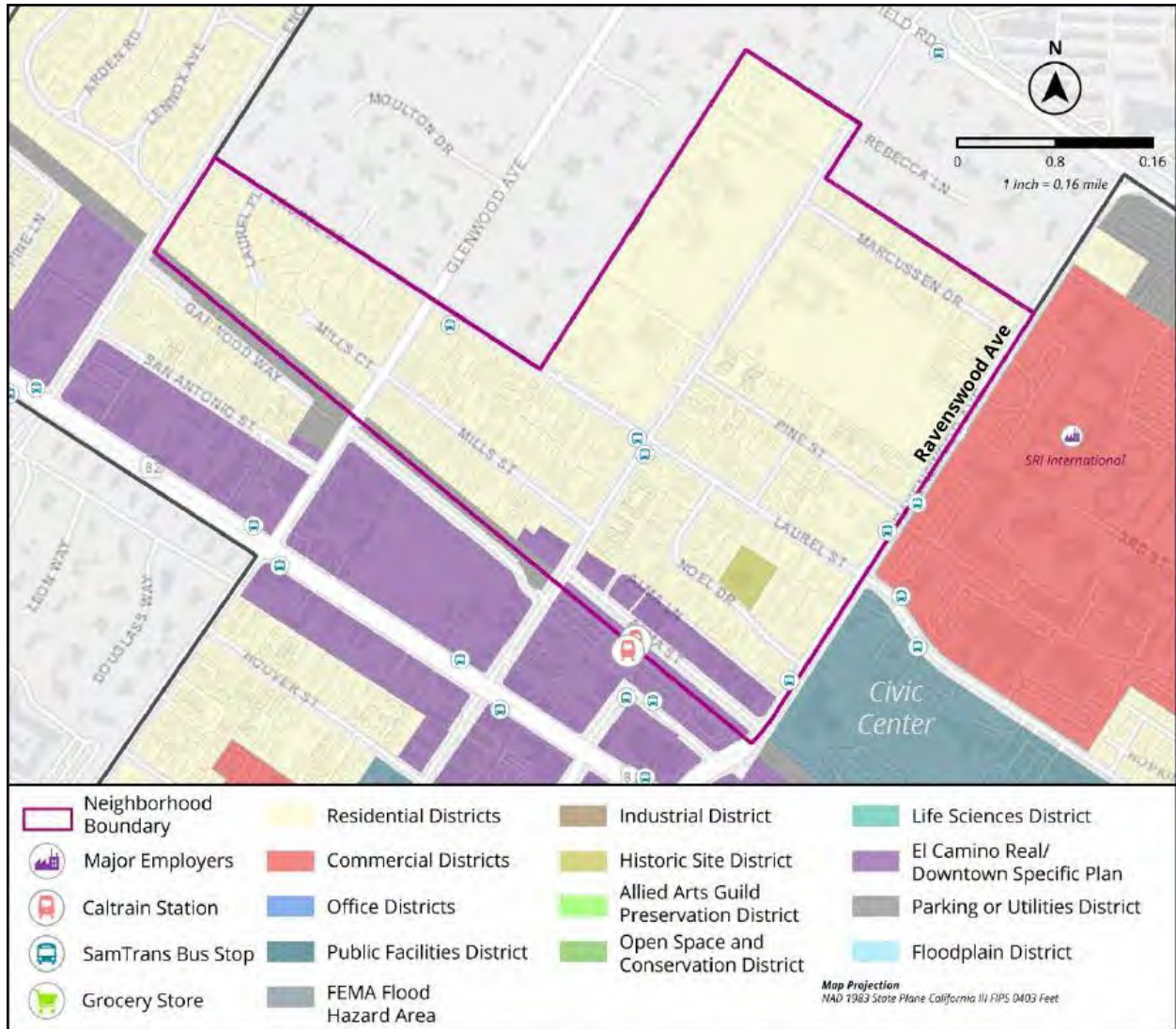
Belle Haven has an overall Population Characteristics score of 49, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (30 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>+30.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	24	-0.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	45	+17.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	10	+1.3	8.7
Education	<b>82</b>	<b>+53.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>86</b>	<b>+54.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	59	+30.6	28.4
Unemployment	46	+20.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>83</b>	<b>+41.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Central Menlo



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Central Menlo is primarily made of apartments, ranging from 2-3 stories. Non-residential uses include neighborhood-serving retail and offices along the southern edge of Central Menlo neighborhood. The building in the Historic Site District on Noel Drive is commonly referred to as the Bright Eagle and is currently used for offices.

### **Transportation**

Central Menlo is easily accessible to the El Camino Real, which provides connectivity to the rest of the city and throughout the Peninsula. Laurel Street is also well-serviced by public transit. Ravenswood Avenue, which borders Central Menlo's east side, provides residents with access to three bus stops. The Menlo Park Caltrain station, which provides transportation from San Francisco to the South Bay in Gilroy, is on the southeast corner of the neighborhood.

### **Open Space**

There are no local parks in Central Menlo, but Burgess Park is just outside the neighborhood's eastern boundary, connected to the Civic Center.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Central Menlo is not in a flood hazard zone.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Central Menlo has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

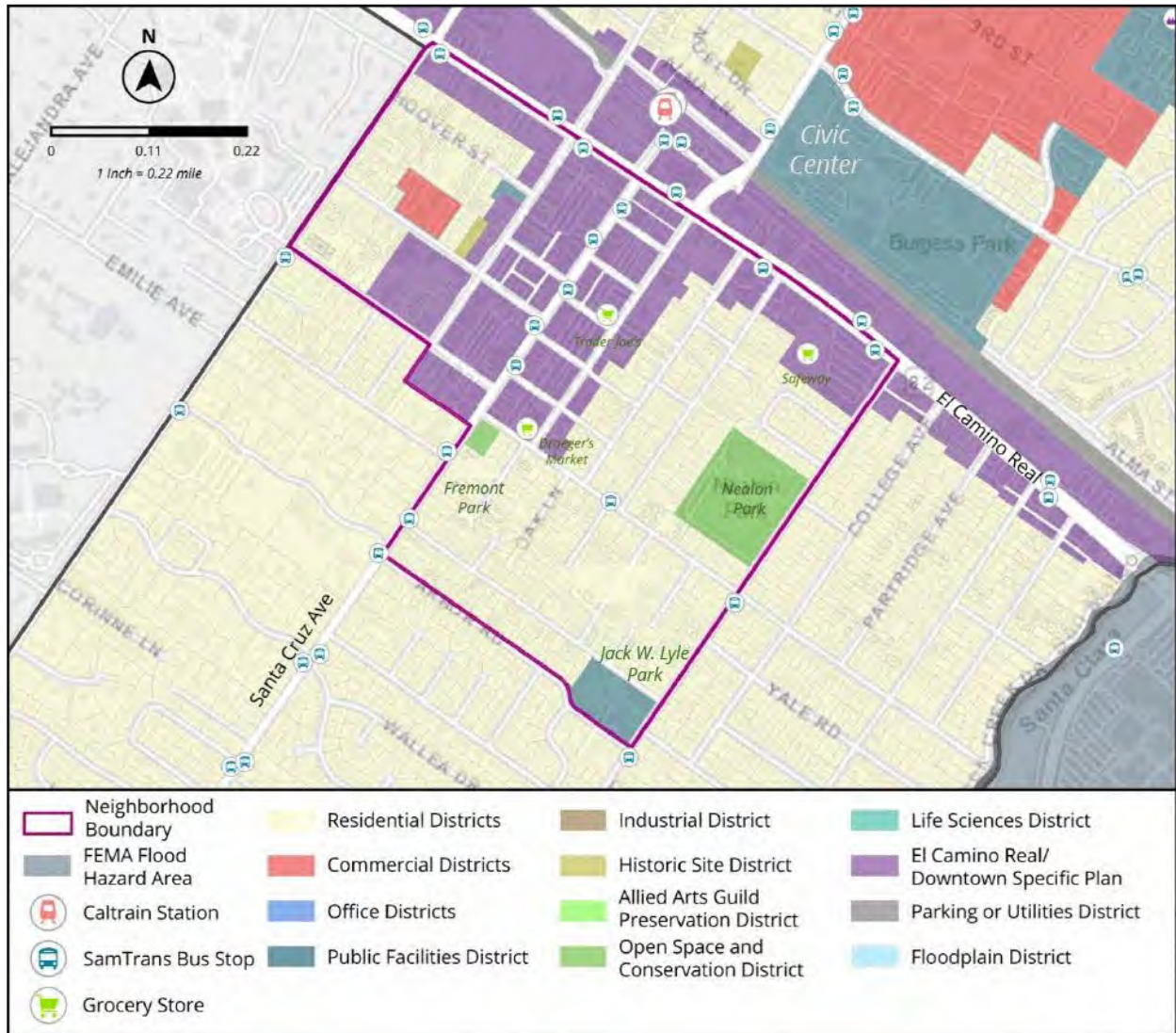
Central Menlo has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	<b>-15.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	-20.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Downtown





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Downtown is made of mostly apartments and commercial/retail uses, as well as personal service as part of the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan Area. Other notable uses include three local parks, three grocery stores, and a fire station.

### **Transportation**

Santa Cruz Avenue and El Camino Real provide most residents with access to a bus stops within a quarter-mile. El Camino Real provides Downtown residents with connectivity to the north and south of the Peninsula as well. The city's Caltrain station borders the Downtown.

### **Open Space**

Nealon Park, Fremont Park and Jack W. Lyle Park are local parks available for public use. Softball fields, tennis courts, and picnic areas at Nealon Park are available for public use and may be reserved.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Downtown is not located in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Downtown has an overall Pollution Burden score of 52, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (4 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	<b>69</b>	+7.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	36	-24.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	59	-7.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	<b>+27.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	50	<b>-25.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	8	-9.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

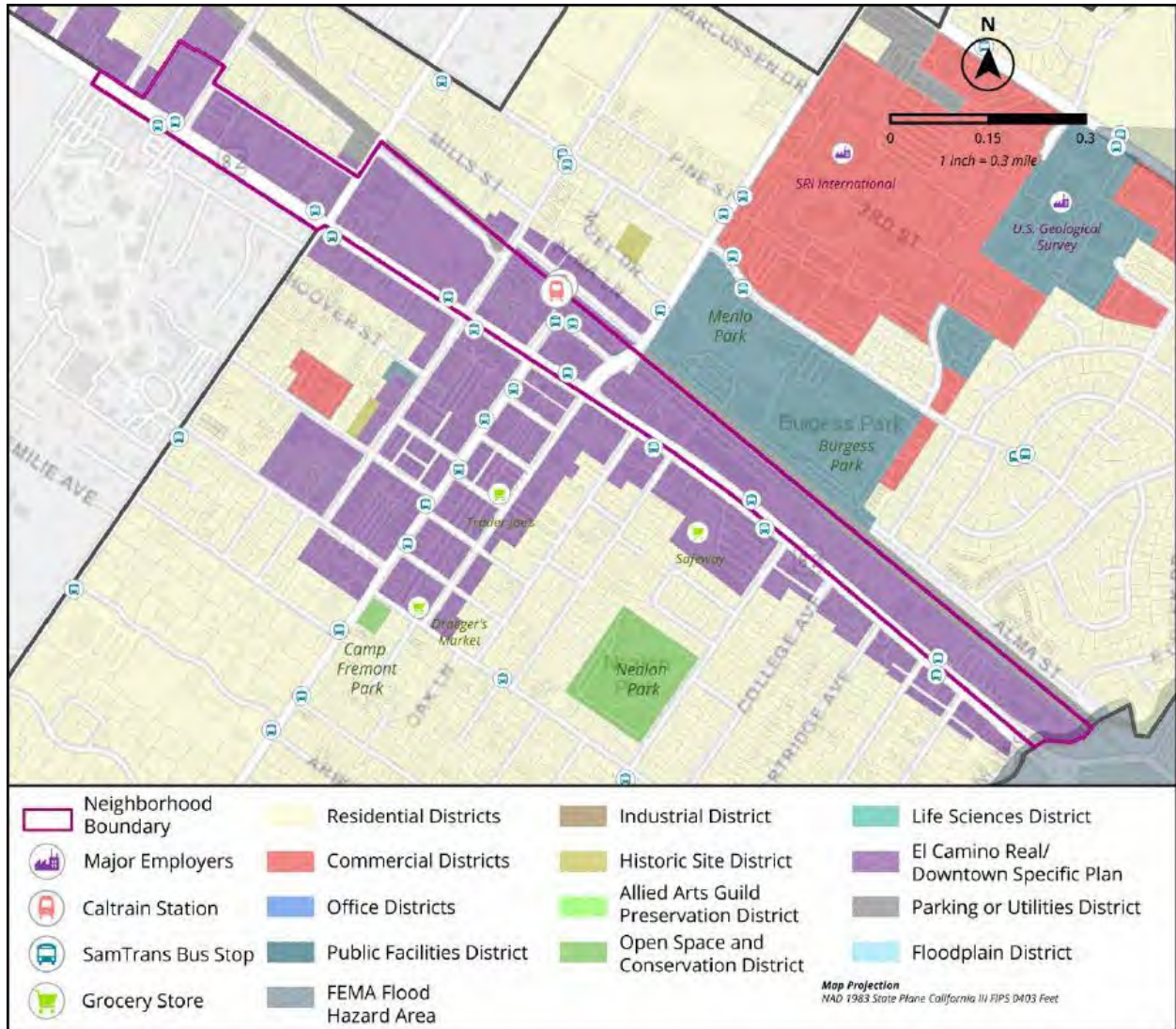
Downtown has an overall Population Characteristics score of 4, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (15 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-14.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	11	<b>-16.8</b>	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	8.7
Education	6	<b>-23.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>22</b>	-9.5	31.5
Poverty	<b>19</b>	-9.4	28.4
Unemployment	6	<b>-19.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	32	-9.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# El Camino Real Corridor



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The El Camino Real Corridor is made of larger retailers, neighborhood commercial, and professional office services under the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan.

### **Transportation**

El Camino Real Corridor has convenient access to other neighborhoods via El Camino Real, Ravenswood Avenue, and Santa Cruz Avenue, all with regular bus service. Additionally, Menlo Park's Caltrain station is located within this neighborhood.

### **Open Space**

There are no open space areas within the El Camino Real Corridor. However, Burgess Park, Camp Fremont Park, and Nealon Park are within a half-mile of most areas of the neighborhood.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

El Camino Real Corridor is not located within a flood hazard zone.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

El Camino Real Corridor has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

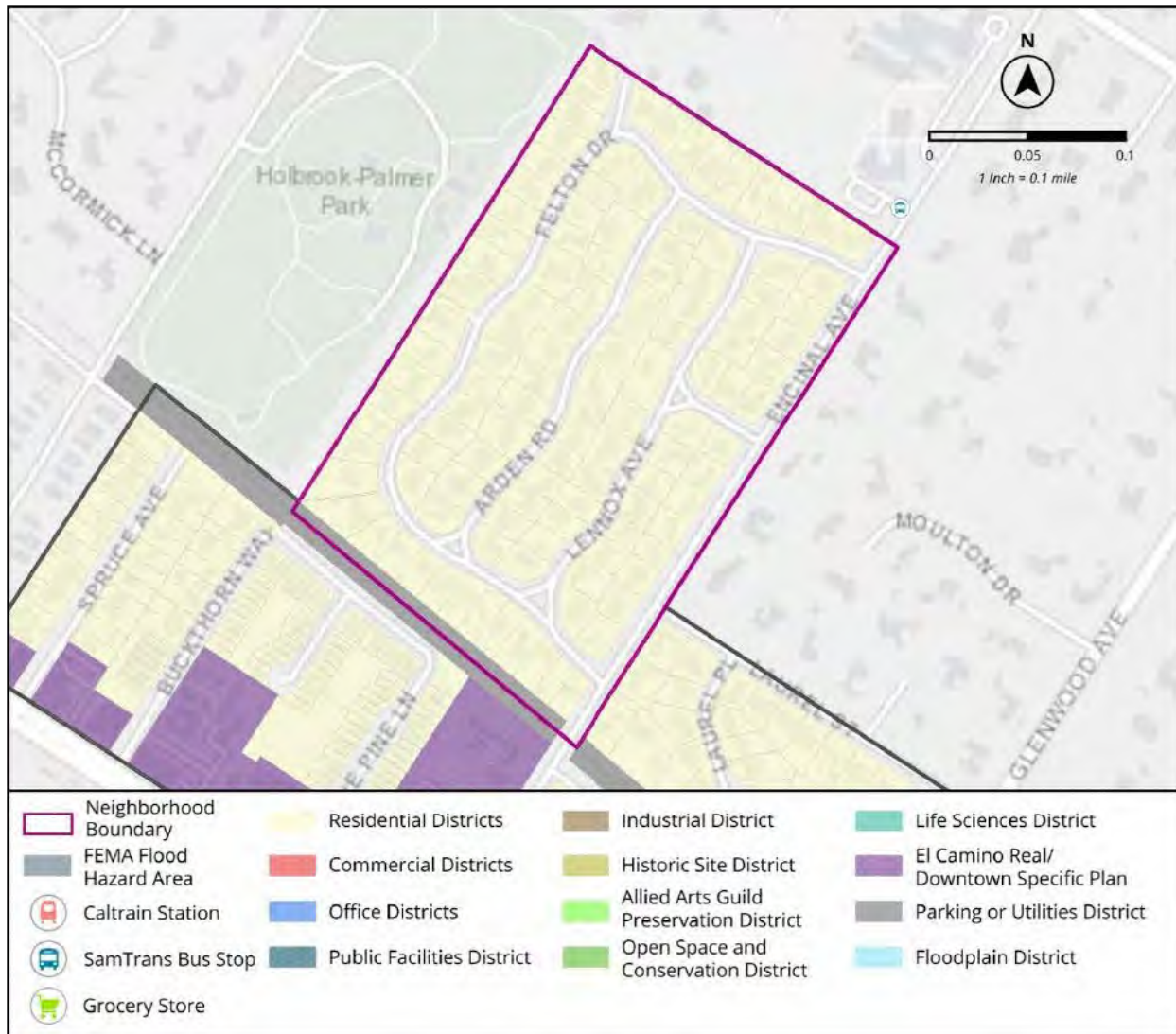
El Camino Real Corridor has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Felton Gables





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Felton Gables neighborhood is made up entirely of detached single-family homes. There are no other uses within the neighborhood.

### **Transportation**

Connectivity is limited to the north-south Encinal Avenue on the east side of the neighborhood. There are no public transit bus stops within the neighborhood. There are no continuous sidewalks, nor are there bicycle lanes in this neighborhood. Caltrain tracks are located at the southern border of Felton Gables, cutting off connectivity to El Camino Real.

### **Open Space**

There are no open spaces or parks within the neighborhood. Holbrook-Palmer Park, in the neighboring town of Atherton, is adjacent to Felton Gables. For groups of 12 people or less, the park and its amenities are available for free. There are also three facilities available to rent.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Felton Gables is not located within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Felton Gables has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

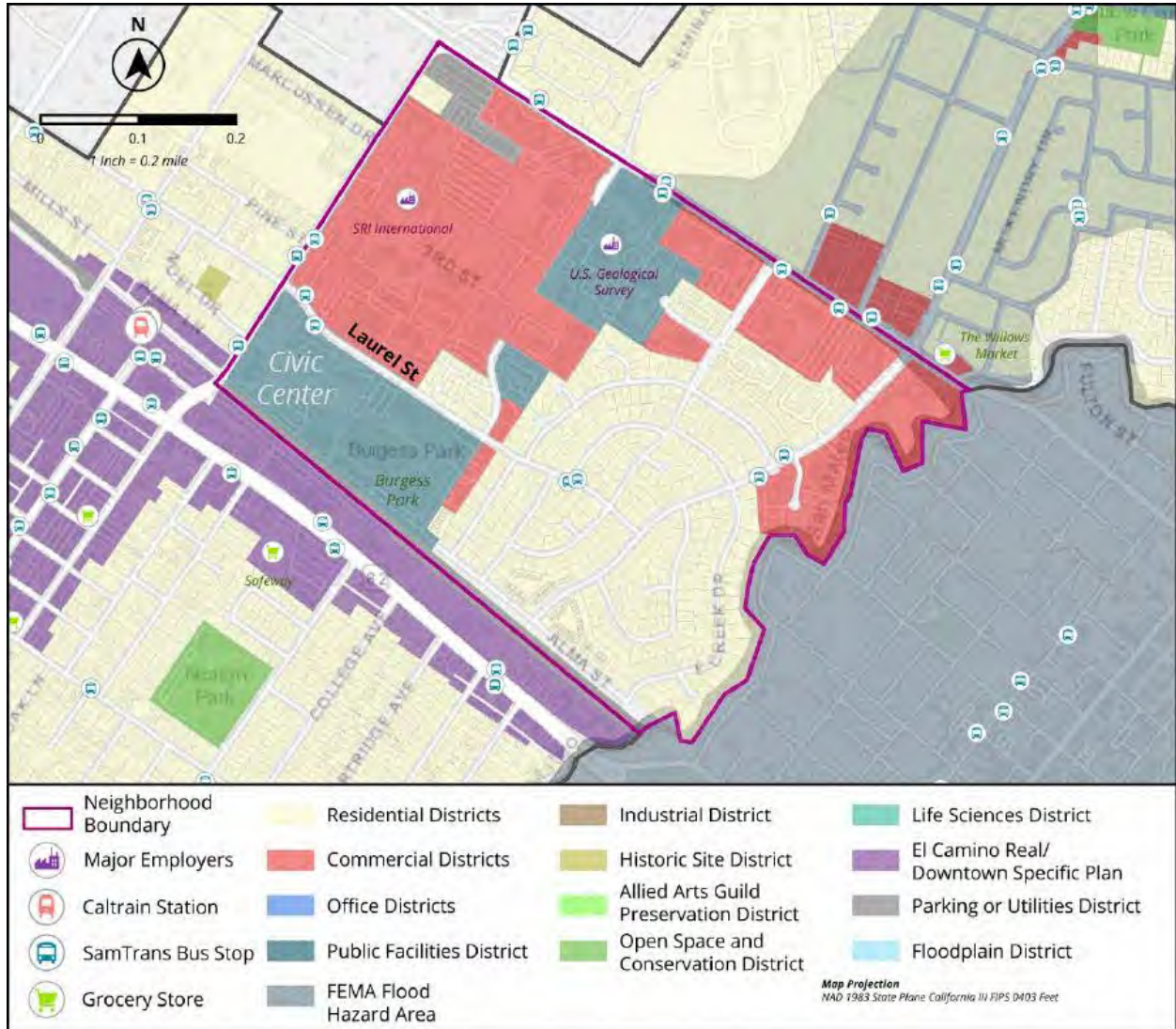
Felton Gables has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Linfield Oaks



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Linfield Oaks is comprised of a mix of residential, retail, and public facilities districts. Non-residential uses include the Stanford Research Institute (SRI International), City of Menlo Park government offices, and a local park. The neighborhood is within a half-mile of three grocery stores.

### **Transportation**

Alma Street limits the connectivity to and from Linfield Oaks, though residents can reach Bayfront Expressway (CA-84) after exiting the neighborhood from the west or southeast. Willow Road provides connectivity to the north end of the city. There is limited public transit service, entering Linfield Oaks from Laurel Street, and exiting through Willow Road.

### **Open Space**

Burgess Park is the only public open space in Linfield Oaks. The park has tennis courts, picnic areas, baseball fields and soccer fields available to reserve. Burgess Park is also adjacent to the Burgess Pool, Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center, Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Skate Park, and Arrillaga Family Gymnasium.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Linfield Oaks is not located in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Linfield Oaks has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

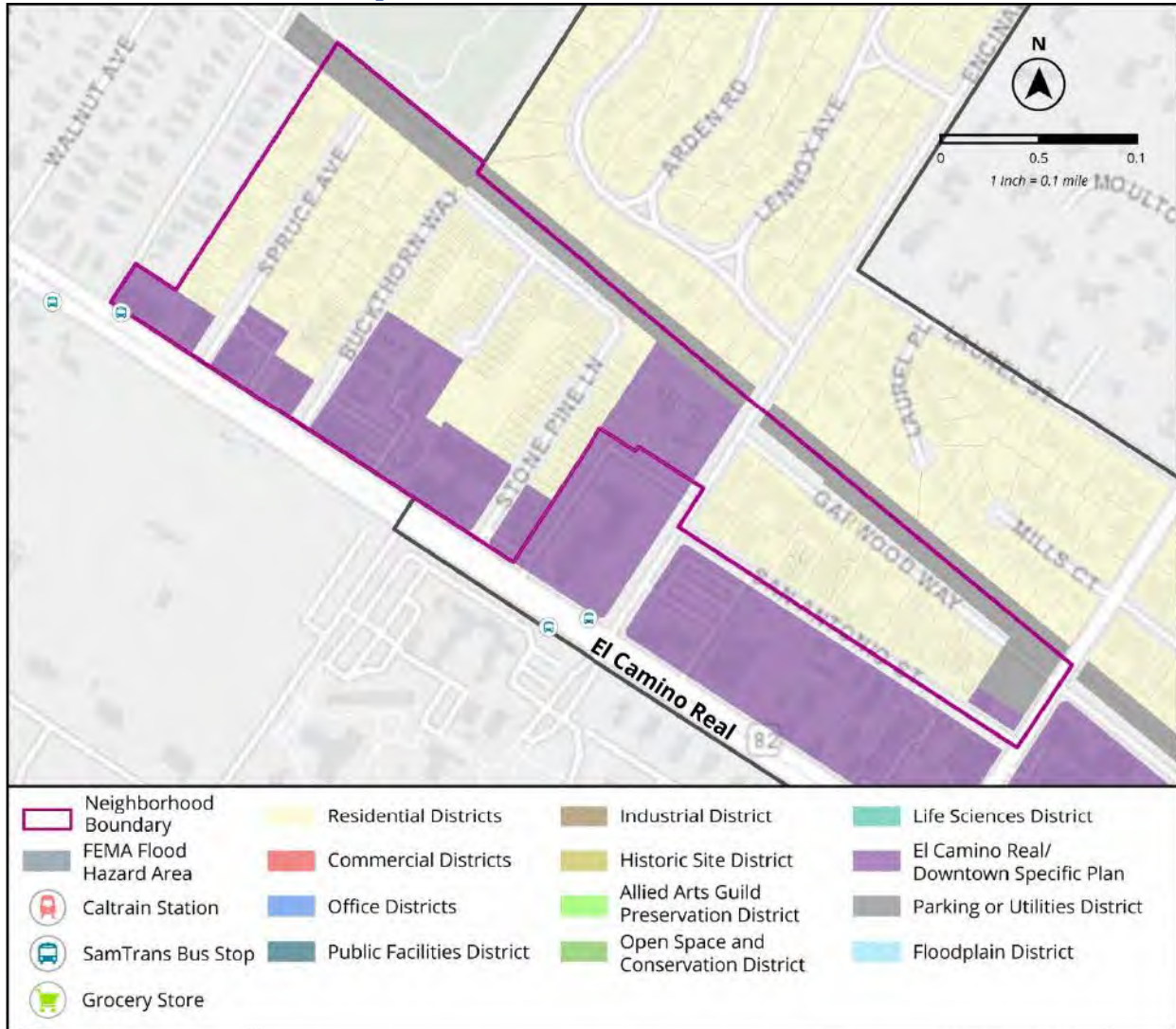
Linfield Oaks has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio neighborhood is made up mostly of low-rise apartments and detached single-family homes. About 50 percent of the neighborhood is under the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan. There are no grocery stores within or near the census tract.

### **Transportation**

The neighborhood has access to El Camino Real, providing residents with connectivity to and from the neighborhood as well as bus service. Caltrain tracks limit connectivity at the northern border of the neighborhood.

### **Open Space**

There are no open spaces or parks within the neighborhood.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio is not located within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

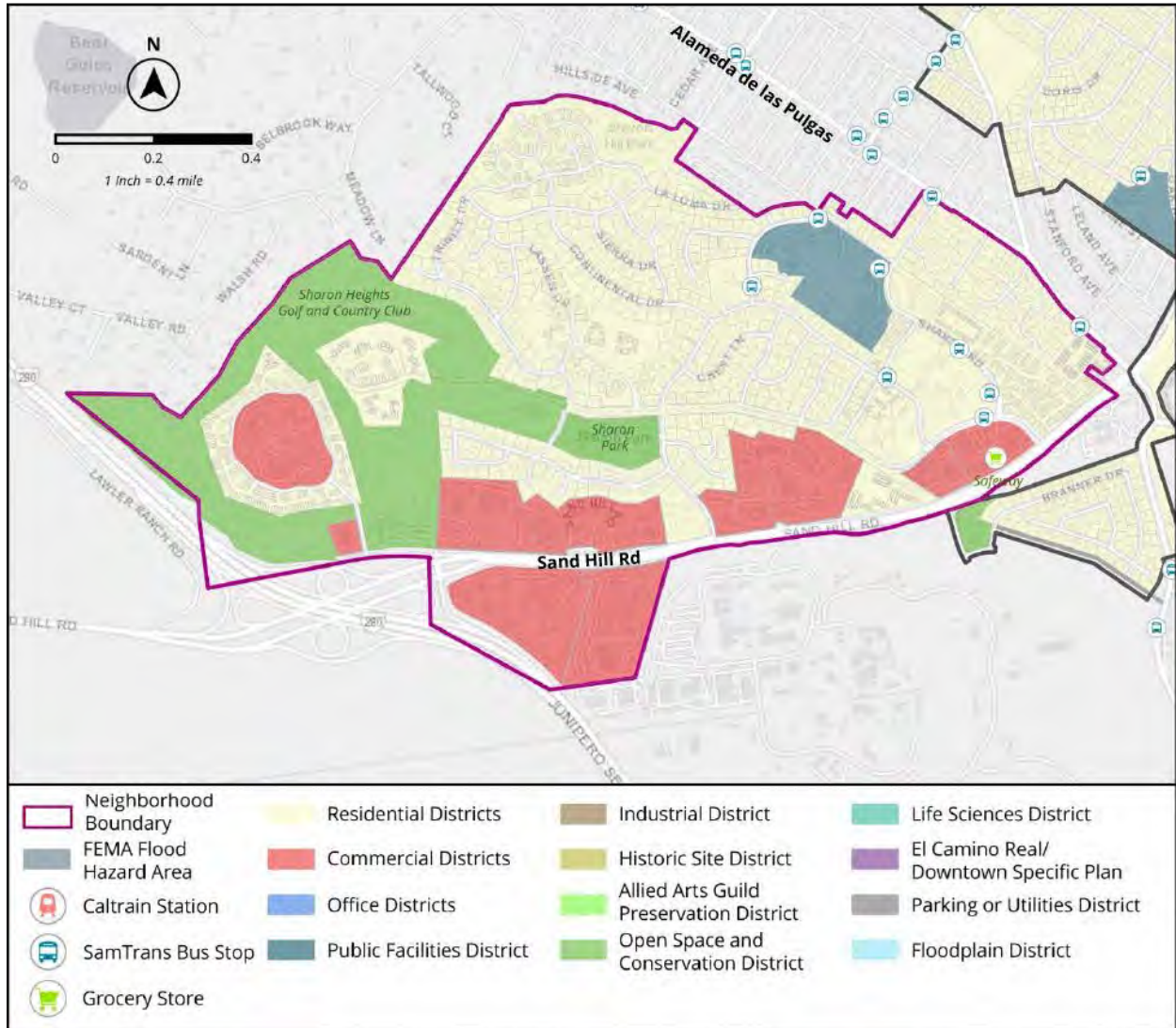
Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Sharon Heights



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Sharon Heights is made up of a mix of detached single-family homes, with medium-density apartments on the east and west sides of the neighborhood. Non-residential uses include offices, a country club, a local park, neighborhood commercial, a public middle school, a private elementary school (pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade), and a public school district office. Most households live further than a half-mile from the one grocery store within the neighborhood (Safeway at the Sharon Heights Shopping Center).

### **Transportation**

Sand Hill Road leads residents to and from the rest of the city. Alameda de las Pulgas provides connectivity to residents at the northwest of Sharon Heights. Public transportation in Sharon Heights is limited, with the only bus stops located to the west of Sharon Heights. Most streets do not have accessible sidewalks and there are no bicycle lanes.

### **Open Space**

There is one public open space, Sharon Park, and one private open space, the Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club. Picnic areas, playground, and the grass area are available for public usage. The Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club is a private country club, with golf, fine dining, and special events available for members and their guests.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Sharon Heights is not located within a flood hazard zone.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Sharon Heights has an overall Pollution Burden score of 47, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (9 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>-8.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	14	-1.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	41	-20.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	36	+32.4	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>78</b>	+17.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	74	+7.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	27	<b>-40.4</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	2	<b>-61.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>96</b>	<b>+33.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>78</b>	+2.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

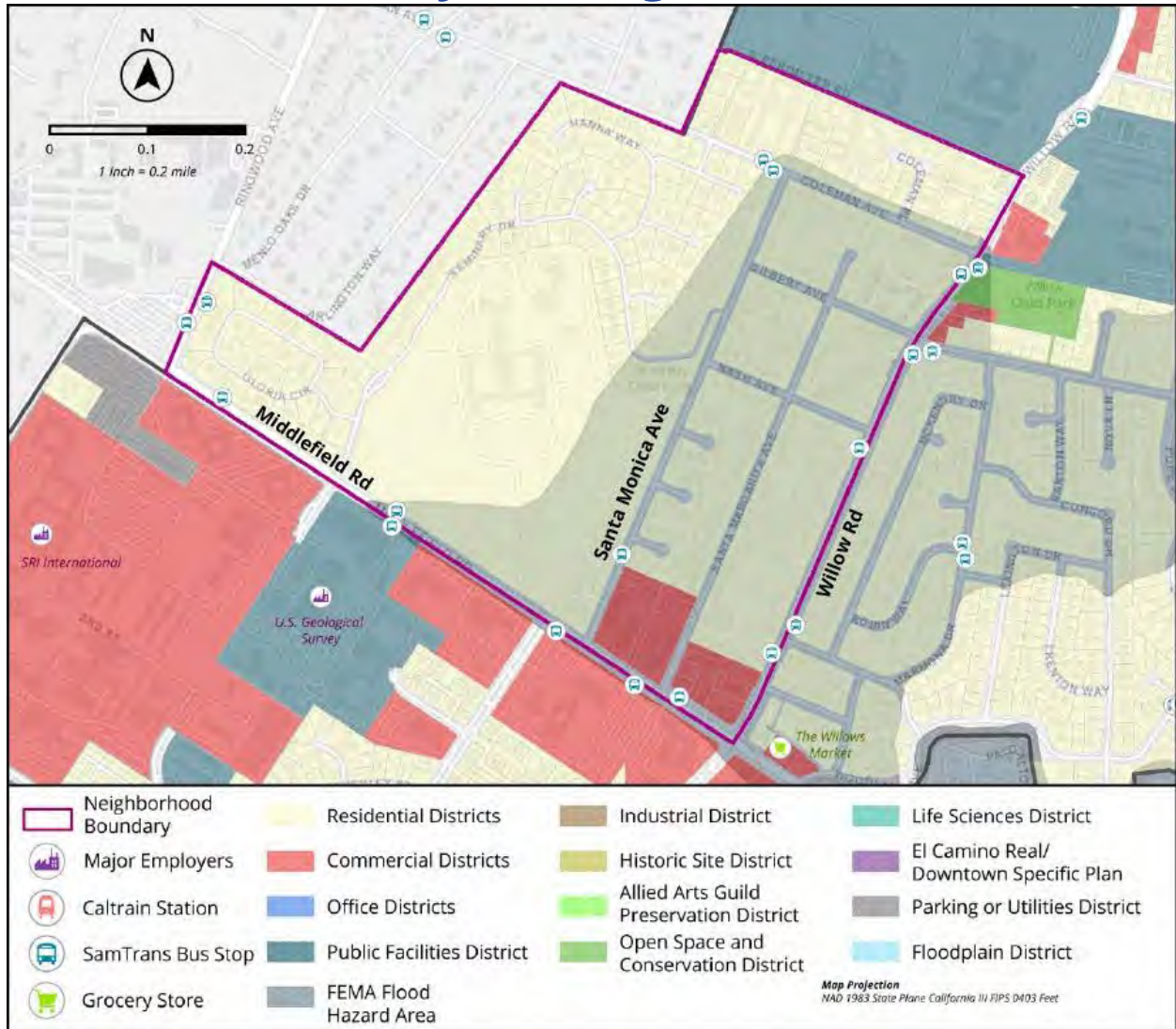
Sharon Heights has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (8 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	11	-13.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	16	-11.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	3	-5.7	8.7
Education	4	<b>-25.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>58</b>	<b>+26.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	23	-5.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>69</b>	<b>+27.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks is made of primarily detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include commercial offices at the south end of the census tract. There is one local park just outside of the census tract. There is one grocery store just outside the southeastern corner of the neighborhood that serves some residents.

### **Transportation**

Willow Road and Middlefield Road provide the neighborhood with connectivity to and from the rest of the city. Both roads are well serviced by public transit. Coleman Avenue and Santa Monica Avenue are serviced by low-frequency bus routes (typical wait times more than 15 minutes).

### **Open Space**

Willow Oaks Park is located just outside the northeastern corner of South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks. Willow Oaks Park has an off-leash dog park, public art exhibit, and tennis courts that are open to the public.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Approximately 40 percent of South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks is located in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks has an overall Pollution Burden score of 44, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (12 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-11.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	53	-8.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>77</b>	+16.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	68	+1.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>79</b>	+11.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	46	<b>-17.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	0	<b>-62.7</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>90</b>	+14.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	<b>-17.8</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks has an overall Population Characteristics score of 5, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average).

The four highest indicators (two tied indicators) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	8.7
Education	<b>22</b>	-7.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	<b>-22.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	20	<b>-8.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	<b>-39.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Stanford Hills



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Stanford Hills neighborhood is made up almost entirely of detached single-family homes. There is one open space area, the Stanford Hills Park. All homes in the Stanford Hills neighborhood are within a half-mile from the one grocery store just north of the neighborhood (Safeway at Sharon Heights Shopping Center).

### **Transportation**

Connectivity is limited to Branner Drive on the west side of the neighborhood which leads to Sand Hill Road. There are no public transit bus stops within the census tract. All streets have accessible sidewalks but there are no bicycle lanes.

### **Open Space**

The Stanford Hills Park is available for public use. Amenities at the park include a grass area, walking paths, and benches.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Stanford Hills is not located within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Stanford Hills has an overall Pollution Burden score of 47, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (9 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>-8.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	14	-1.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	41	-20.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	36	+32.4	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>78</b>	+17.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	74	+7.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	27	<b>-40.4</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	2	<b>-61.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>96</b>	<b>+33.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>78</b>	+2.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

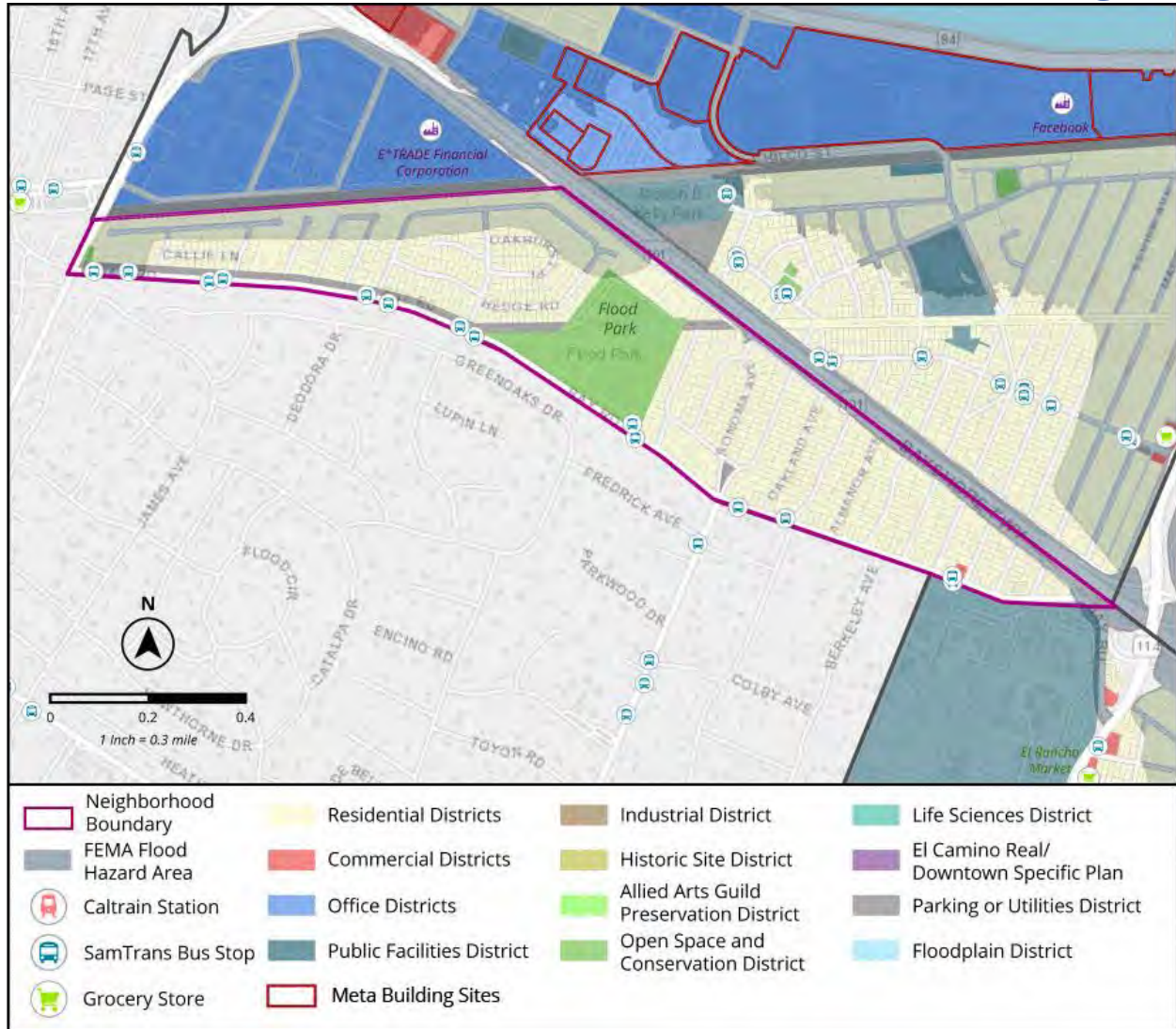
Stanford Hills has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (8 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	11	-13.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	16	-11.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	3	-5.7	8.7
Education	4	<b>-25.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>58</b>	<b>+26.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	23	-5.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>69</b>	<b>+27.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

**Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle** is made up almost entirely of detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include a local park and a single neighborhood commercial parcel adjacent to the Bright Angel Montessori Academy. Most homes in the neighborhood do not have any proximity to a grocery store within Menlo Park, though there are grocery stores nearby in other jurisdictions.

### **Transportation**

U.S. Highway 101 closes off the north side of Suburban Park and this results in residents from Suburban Park, Lorelei Manor, and Flood Triangle exiting only from Bay Road, the southern boundary of the neighborhood. SamTrans operates three school-oriented bus routes along Bay Road that may also be used by members of the general public. School-oriented bus routes generally have limited hours of operation timed with school bell schedules and pause operations on weekends and during the summer months.

### **Open Space**

Flood Park is a part of the San Mateo County Parks Foundation. Flood Park facilities such as the softball field, tennis courts and volleyball courts are available for public use. Group picnic areas and the baseball field may be reserved.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Approximately 15 percent of Suburban Park is in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle has an overall Pollution Burden score of 71, ranking 7<sup>th</sup> (15 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>+15.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	13	-2.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	<b>76</b>	+14.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	31	+3.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>95</b>	<b>+34.7</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	60	-6.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	70	+2.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	65	+1.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	56	-6.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>91</b>	+15.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	0	<b>-37.8</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	66	<b>+48.2</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

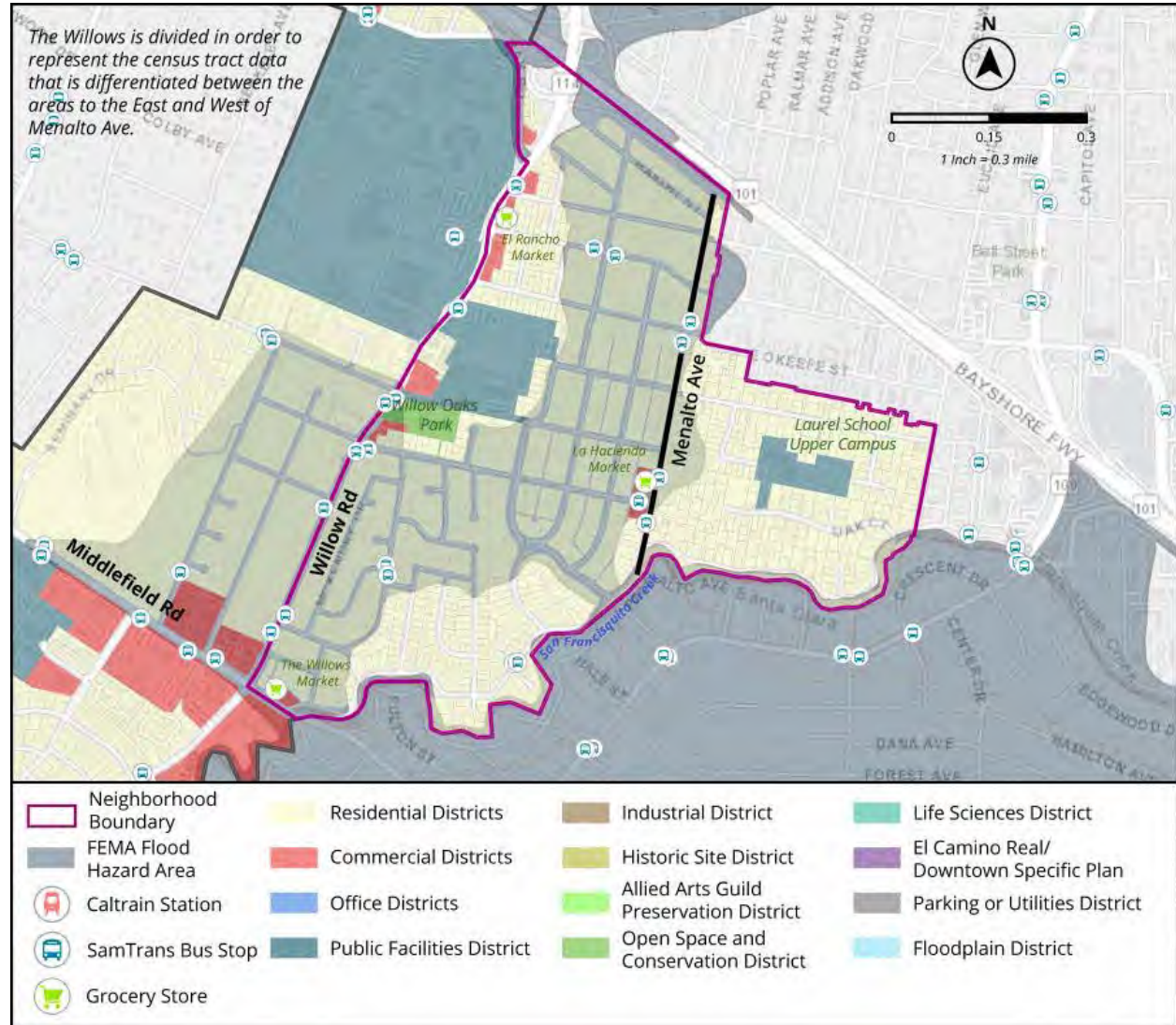
Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>22</b>	-2.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>19</b>	-8.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	6	<b>-25.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	4	-24.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>16</b>	-9.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	13	<b>-28.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# The Willows



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Willows neighborhood is made up primarily of detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include a public school (elementary), a private school (pre-kindergarten through high school), and a few gas stations and strip commercial buildings spaced out along Willow Road, Middlefield Road, and Menalto Avenue. Most of the neighborhood is within a half-mile of one of three grocery stores.

### **Transportation**

US-101 and San Francisquito Creek are barriers to connectivity in/out of the neighborhood. Two low frequency bus routes (typical wait times more than 15 minutes) run along Willow Road and Menalto Road. Most homes in the neighborhood are further than a quarter-mile from a bus stop. Most streets have Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant sidewalks and are bicycle friendly, with a Class II (dedicated traffic lane) bikeway along Willow Road.

### **Open Space**

Willow Oaks Park is the only public open space in the neighborhood. Laurel School Upper Campus' sports fields can be reserved for public use.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

About 75 percent of the neighborhood west of Menalto Avenue and 15 percent of the neighborhood east of Menalto Avenue is in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

The Willows has overall Pollution Burden scores of 44 (West of Menalto Avenue) and 73 (East of Menalto Avenue), ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (12 points less than the citywide average) and 8<sup>th</sup> (17 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators (four for East of Menalto Avenue, due to a tie) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-11.8</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>+17.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	10	+0.8	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	18	+2.8	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	53	-8.5	<b>85</b>	+23.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27	-0.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>77</b>	<b>+16.7</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>+24.7</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	68	+1.6	<b>86</b>	+19.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>79</b>	+11.6	84	+16.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	46	<b>-17.7</b>	66	+2.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	0	<b>-62.7</b>	10	<b>-52.7</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>90</b>	+14.4	73	-2.6	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	<b>90</b>	<b>+52.2</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

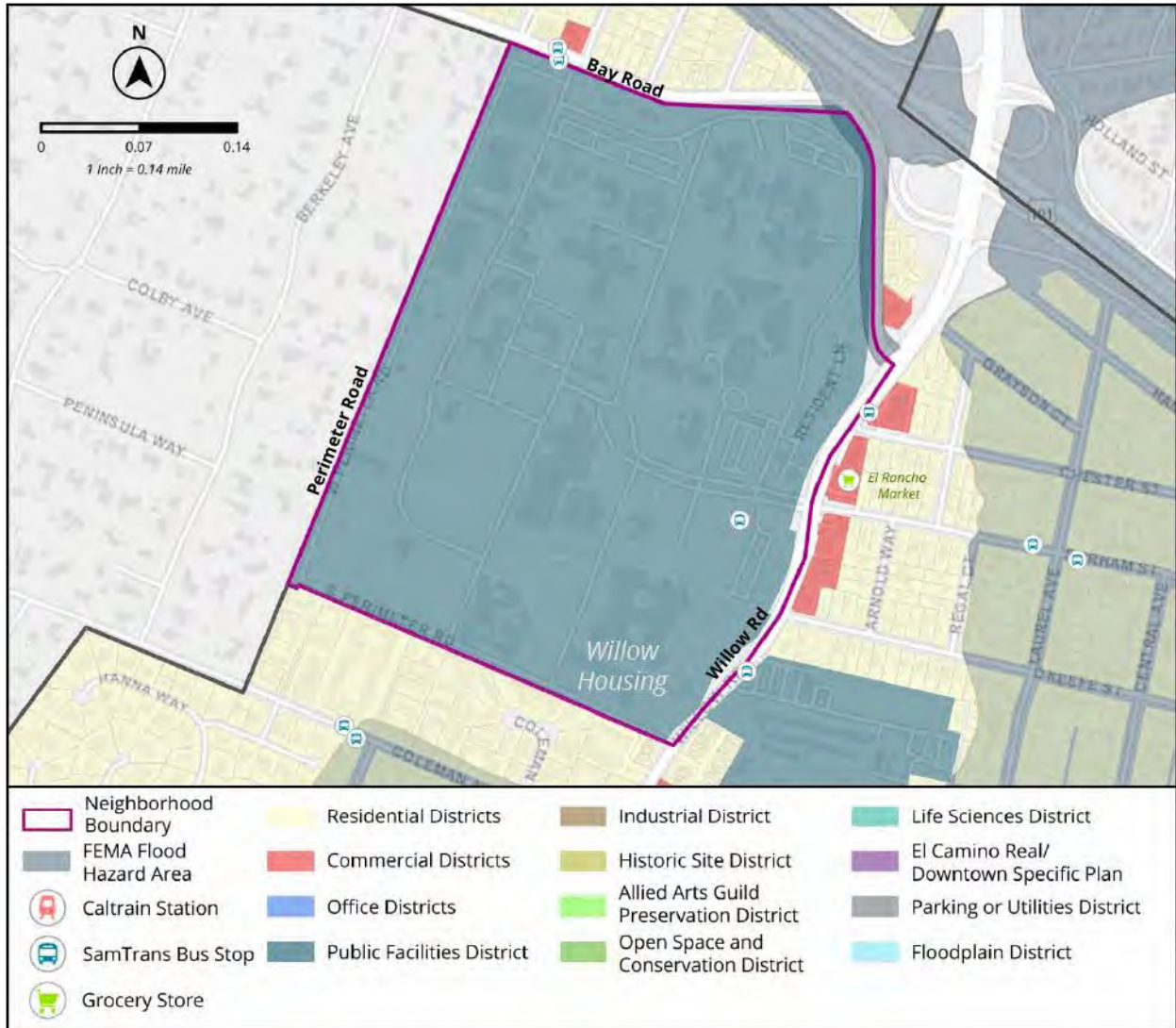
The Willows has overall Population Characteristics scores of 5 (West of Menalto Avenue) and 58 (East of Menalto Avenue), ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average) and 7<sup>th</sup> (39 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators (four for West of Menalto Avenue, due to a tie) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>+39.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	48	+23.1	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	69	+41.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	14	+5.3	8.7
Education	<b>22</b>	-7.0	<b>85</b>	<b>+56.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	<b>-22.5</b>	75	<b>+43.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	20	<b>-8.4</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>+50.6</b>	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	11	-14.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	<b>-39.2</b>	<b>80</b>	+38.8	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# VA Medical District





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical District consists strictly of the Menlo Park VA Medical Center, made up of medical buildings, open spaces, and housing, ranging from 1-2 stories tall. Willow Housing, located at the southern edge of the VA Medical District, is a 60-unit affordable housing community designed for veterans who are homeless or at risk of imminent homelessness.

### **Transportation**

Willow Road, Bay Road, Perimeter Road provide the VA Medical District with access to and from the neighborhood. There are three bus stops within the neighborhood, all located on Willow Road at the eastern side.

### **Open Space**

There are no public open space areas within the neighborhood, however there is open space within the VA Medical Center.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

The northeastern border of VA Medical District is located within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

VA Medical District has an overall Pollution Burden score of 44, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (12 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-11.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	53	-8.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>77</b>	+16.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	68	+1.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>79</b>	+11.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	46	<b>-17.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	0	<b>-62.7</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>90</b>	+14.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	<b>-17.8</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

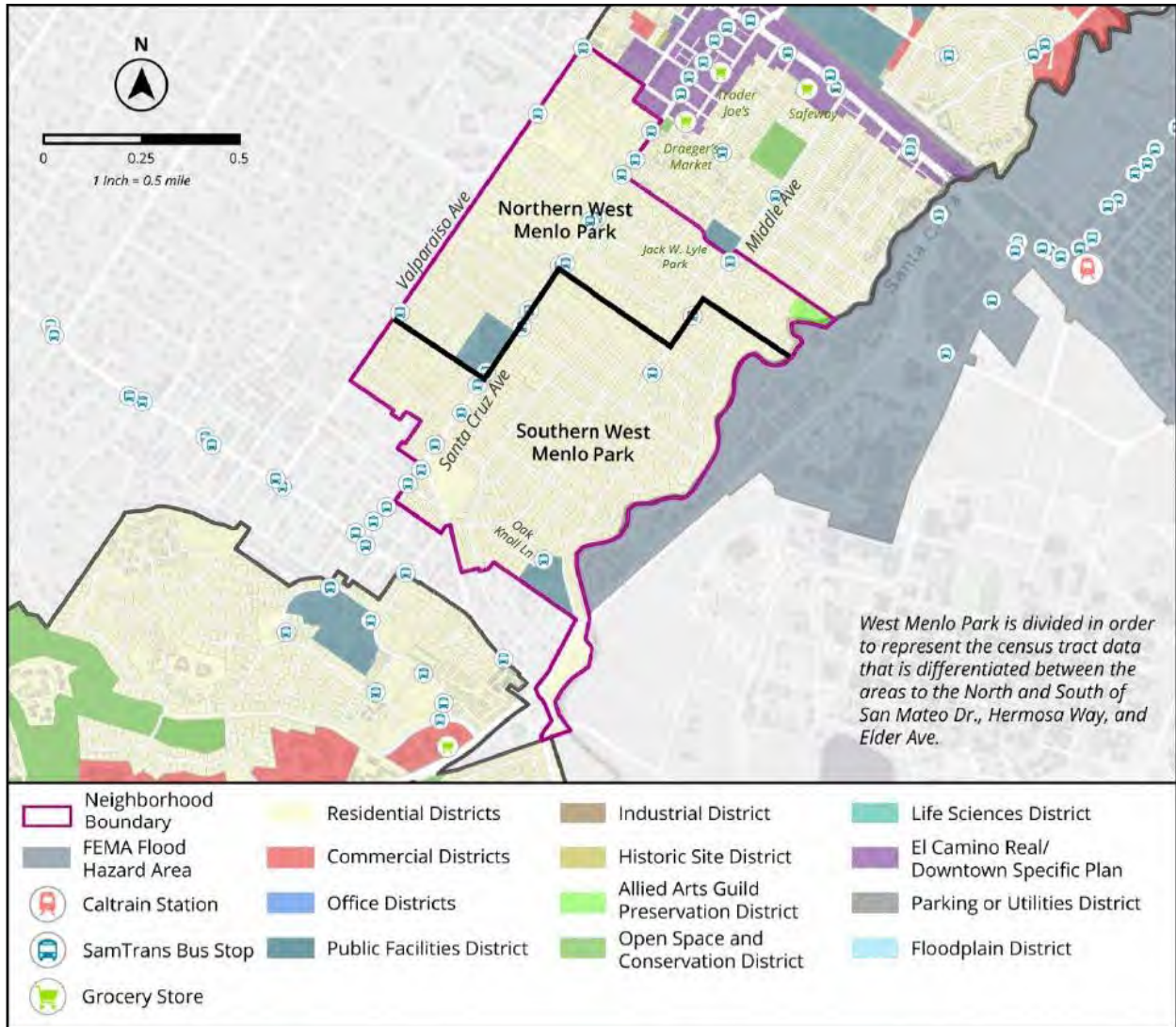
VA Medical District has an overall Population Characteristics score of 5, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average).

The four highest indicators (two tied indicators) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	8.7
Education	<b>22</b>	<b>-7.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	<b>-22.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	20	-8.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	<b>-39.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# West Menlo



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

West Menlo is made up primarily of detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include one public elementary school, one public middle school, one private elementary (pre-K-8), a church, a cemetery and an art gallery. About 20 percent of the neighborhood is within a half-mile of one of the four grocery stores located outside of the neighborhood, three north of it and one to the south.

### **Transportation**

Valparaiso Avenue and Santa Cruz Avenue are two arterial roads that provide connectivity to and from West Menlo. Santa Cruz Avenue is well-serviced by public transit, with bus stops located at each block. Valparaiso Avenue and Middle Avenue have limited service, with three bus stops each. Oak Knoll Lane has one bus stop.

### **Open Space**

There are no public open spaces in West Menlo. Jack W. Lyle Park is located outside of the northwest end of the neighborhood.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

The western border of West Menlo borders flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

West Menlo has overall Pollution Burden scores of 35 (North) and 26 (South), ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (21 points less than the citywide average) and 1<sup>st</sup> (30 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	Northern West Menlo	Difference from Citywide Average	Southern West Menlo Park	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>-20.8</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>-29.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	14	-1.2	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	48	<b>-13.5</b>	<b>47</b>	-14.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	25	-2.6	25	-2.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	20	<b>-40.3</b>	26	<b>-34.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	39	<b>-27.4</b>	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	54	-13.4	47	<b>-20.4</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>72</b>	+8.3	23	<b>-40.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>73</b>	+10.3	53	-9.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>78</b>	+2.4	<b>87</b>	+11.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	20	+2.2	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

West Menlo has overall Population Characteristics scores of 5 (North) and 1 (South), ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average) and 1<sup>st</sup> (18 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	Northern West Menlo	Difference from Citywide Average	Southern West Menlo	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-17.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>22</b>	-2.9	<b>20</b>	-4.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>51</b>	+23.2	3	-24.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	<b>8</b>	-0.7	8.7
Education	0	<b>-29.0</b>	1	<b>-28.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	0	<b>-31.5</b>	5	<b>-26.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	9	-19.4	2	-26.4	28.4
Unemployment	6	-19.7	<b>39</b>	+13.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>12</b>	<b>-29.2</b>	2	<b>-39.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Appendix: CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Scores

The following page contains the CalEnviroScreen scores organized in a table. Each column of the table details the percentile at which any listed indicator affects a neighborhood within Menlo Park. An indicator is a measure of a condition, such as Air Quality or proximity to Groundwater Threats. Other indicators provide information about demographics, such as the proportion of households in a census tract who do not speak English well or at all. These indicators can tell us which communities are considered more vulnerable to environmental hazards.

CalEnviroScreen is a web-based mapping tool created by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. CalEnviroScreen uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce a score for every census tract in the state. Each census tract is evaluated by 21 indicators and are given 21 scores based on the data. By averaging the indicator scores, CalEnviroScreen produces overall CalEnviroScreen scores (overall pollution burden; overall population characteristics) for comparisons between census tracts.

The "Overall Percentile EnviroScreen" for each census tract in Menlo Park is below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, even if Pollution Burden, Population Characteristics, or individual indicators are above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile. Because this "Overall Percentile" score is below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, it does not trigger a Underserved Community designation for any census tract in the city. However, the Underserved Communities – Tracts 6117 (West Bayfront, Belle Haven) and 6118 (East Bayfront) – have Overall Pollution Burden scores over 75 as well as low-income designations from HCD.



## NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILES ANALYSIS

CENSUS TRACT AND NEIGHBORHOODS												
INDICATOR	6118 East Bayfront	6117 West Bayfront & Belle Haven	6121 The Willows East of Menalto Ave	6139 The Willows West of Menalto Ave; VA Medical District; & South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	6130 Sharon Heights & Stanford Hills	6126 Downtown & Allied Arts/Stanford Park North of University Ave	6116 Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	6127 Allied Arts/Stanford Park South of University Ave & Northern West Menlo	6125 Felton Gables; Central Menlo; Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio; Linfield Oaks; & El Camino Real Corridor	6128 Southern West Menlo	CITYWIDE AVERAGES	
	<b>Overall Percentile CalEnviroScreen</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>2</b>
POLLUTION BURDEN	<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b> <i>(Combined Score from all Pollution Indicators)</i>	<b>83</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>26</b>	55.8
	Air Quality: Ozone	10	9	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9.2
	Air Quality: PM2.5	17	16	18	15	14	15	13	14	15	15	15.2
	Diesel Particulate Matter	49	88	85	53	41	69	76	48	59	47	61.5
	Pesticide Use	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	3.6
	Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	32	27	28	28	26	31	25	26	25	27.6
	Traffic Impacts	60	94	85	77	78	36	95	20	32	26	60.3
	Drinking Water Contaminants	87	69	86	68	74	59	60	39	61	61	66.4
	Children's Lead Risk from Housing	99	96	84	79	27	59	70	54	59	47	67.4
	Cleanup Sites	82	89	66	46	2	96	65	72	96	23	63.7
	Groundwater Threats	98	61	10	0	96	90	56	73	90	53	62.7
	Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	85	83	73	90	78	50	91	78	41	87	75.6
	Impaired Water Bodies	84	0	90	34	34	34	0	34	34	34	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	21	63	0	0	0	8	66	20	0	0	17.8	
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b> <i>(Combined Score from all Population Characteristics Indicators)</i>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	18.6
	Asthma	47	24	48	21	11	21	22	22	13	20	24.9
	Low Birth Weight Infants	22	45	69	21	16	11	19	51	21	3	27.8
	Cardiovascular Disease	13	10	14	8	3	9	9	9	4	8	8.7
	Educational Attainment	86	82	85	22	4	6	2	0	2	1	29
	Linguistic Isolation	38	86	75	9	58	22	6	0	16	5	31.5
	Poverty	65	59	79	20	23	19	4	9	4	2	28.4
	Unemployment	74	46	11	27	27	6	16	6	5	39	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	90	83	80	2	69	32	13	12	29	2	41.2	

## Additional Methodology

The State Office of Planning and Research (OPR) recommends a "screening analysis" that incorporates community-specific data and issues unique to their communities, which might or might not be reflected in the statewide data sets. This screening analysis gives the City of Menlo Park (City) the ability to treat the three census tracts identified as potential Underserved Communities differently, as appropriate to the issues present in these communities. In Menlo Park, there are three census tracts which meet at least one of the three primary criteria noted by OPR and could be considered as containing Underserved Communities:

- Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront)
- Tract 6118 (Bayfront)
- Tract 6121 (The Willows)

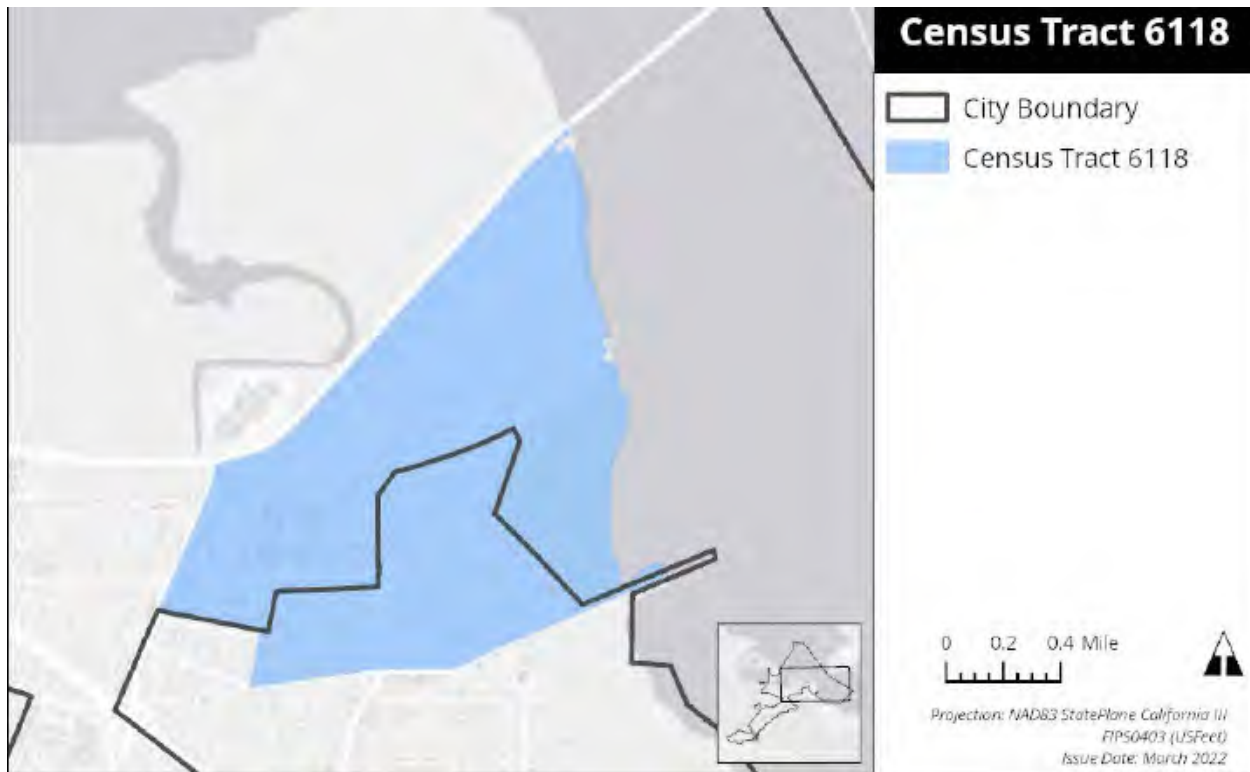
Census Tract 6117 has a clear history of different treatment and has a clear geographic distinction from the rest of Menlo Park. Census Tract 6118 shares this distinction, but Census Tract 6121 does not. Therefore, Census Tract 6118, containing Bayfront as well as portions of neighboring East Palo Alto, is identified as a Underserved Community in Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element. Census Tract 6121, which contains The Willows as well as East Palo Alto, is not identified as such.

The flexibility of OPR's recommended approach allows two neighboring jurisdictions to use different approaches for the same census tract. Treating Census Tract 6118 as a Underserved Community, but not Census Tract 6121, does not conflict with or limit any future decisions by East Palo Alto to identify their portion of Census Tracts 6118 and/or 6121 as Underserved Communities if they deem it appropriate.

### *Census Tract 6118 – Bayfront*

Bayfront is partially composed of Census Tract 6118, which spans Menlo Park and East Palo Alto (see Figure EJ-B-1). There are currently no residential units in the Menlo Park portion of the tract. The 950 residential units currently in this census tract are all located in the East Palo Alto portion of the tract.

**Figure EJ-B-1: Census Tract 6118 Map**



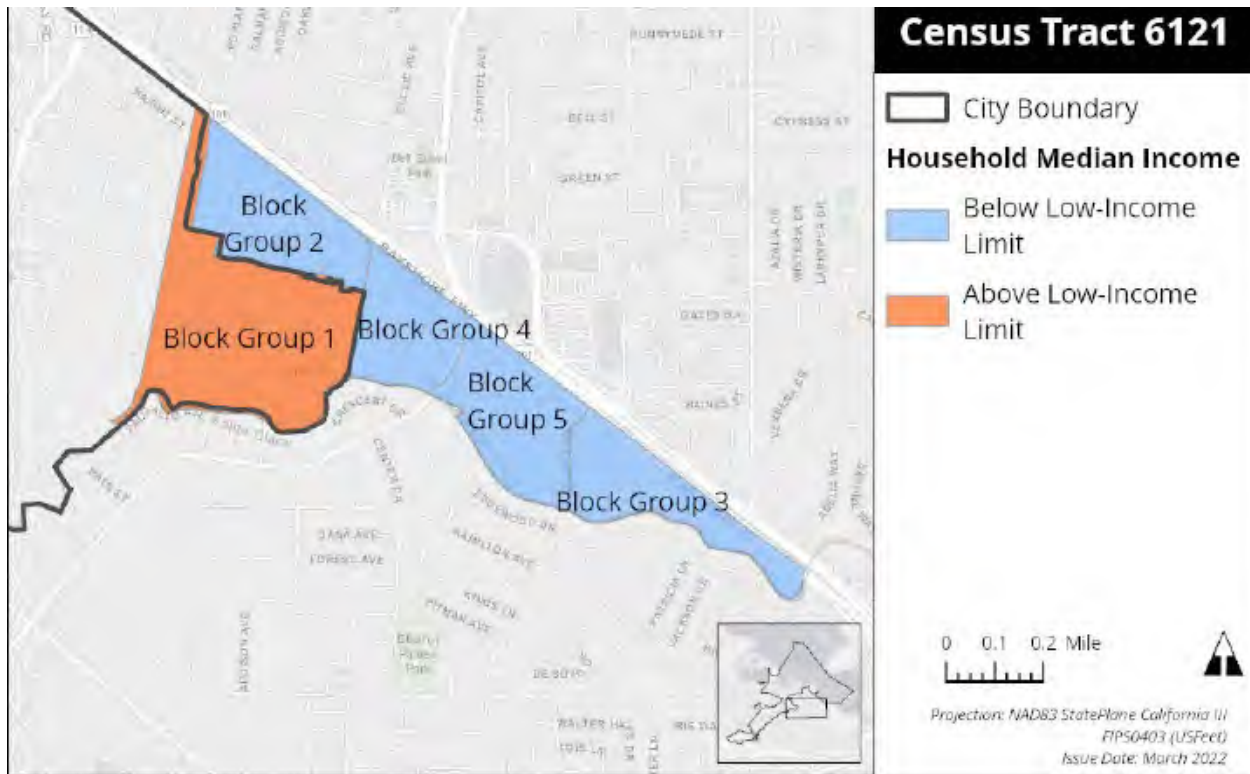
Even though there are currently no residential units in the Menlo Park portion of Census Tract 6118, the neighborhood qualifies as a Underserved Community because the tract-wide median income is below state income limits (see Figure EJ-B-2). The Environmental Justice Element will treat the area as a Underserved Community because it shares development history, current zoning, transportation, and school districts with the western portion of Bayfront.

#### *Census Tract 6121 – The Willows*

The Willows, one of Menlo Park's 16 neighborhoods, includes Census Tract 6121. This tract could be designated as an Environmental Justice Underserved Community because its median household incomes are below the threshold designated as low income (\$146,350 for a four-person household in 2021) by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Census Tract's median household income is \$57,627.

This Census Tract consists of five block groups. Only Block Group 1 is within Menlo Park. Block Groups 2-5 are located in East Palo Alto. The median household income of Block Group 1 in Menlo Park is well over the low-income threshold at \$174,844 and does not meet the Underserved Communities designation. Block Groups 2-5 in East Palo Alto are far under the low-income threshold and could qualify as Underserved Communities (see Figure EJ-A-3 and Table EJ-A-1).

**Figure EJ-B-2: Block Groups in Census Tract 6121**



**Table EJ-B-1: Median Household Income by Block Group in Census Tract 6121**

Block Group	Median Household Income
<i>In Menlo Park</i>	
Block Group 1	\$174,7844
<i>In East Palo Alto</i>	
Block Group 2	\$44,319
Block Group 3	\$67,097
Block Group 4	\$43,818
Block Group 5	\$47,396
<b>Census Tract 6121</b>	<b>\$57,627</b>
<b>HCD Low-Income Designation for San Mateo County<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$146,350</b>

All data from US Census American Communities Survey, 2015-2019 5-year estimates.

Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element does not identify Census Tract 6121 as a potential Underserved Community. While there may be environmental issues in the tract's portion of neighboring East Palo Alto, those issues do not apply to the high-income neighborhood of The Willows.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.smcgov.org/media/30286/download?inline=>

# Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

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**MAY 27, 2022**

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**PREPARED BY**  
**Climate Resilient Communities**



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***“¡Tienes una voz!” (You have a voice!) – Victoria Robledo, Belle Haven Community Leader and Focus Group Facilitator***

# Introduction

This report summarizes the processes and findings of three focus groups conducted by Climate Resilient Communities' (CRC) its partnering organizations: El Comite de Vecinos, Belle Haven Community Development Fund, and a group of three highly motivated and connected community leaders. These meetings were convened to solicit public input and raise awareness about the updates to the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements of the City of Menlo Park's General Plan. Belle Haven is a neighborhood in Menlo Park, lying east of Highway 101 and closest to the San Francisco Bay. Belle Haven is a historically redlined community, meaning residents who attempted to buy homes elsewhere were forbidden and forced to buy in Belle Haven, a practice that systematically prevented residents from building intergenerational wealth on the basis of their race.



In Belle Haven, as throughout the world, it will be the people who lack the monetary resources to respond and adapt who will be most affected by the impacts of climate change. Low-income communities and communities of color are on the frontlines of sea-level rise, extreme heat events, and are suffering more severe consequences from wildfire smoke exposure. These facts make the urgency and necessity of robust engagement with frontline communities a necessity for equitable and just climate adaptation. To that end, CRC has partnered with the City of Menlo Park to help elevate community voices and ensure equitable representation in the General Plan update process. The sustained participation and leadership of residents is the only pathway to fixing the issues currently contributing to the stark inequality between East and West Menlo Park. The three focus groups are just one of several projects to receive feedback and input from the Belle Haven community. These meetings took place on May 9th, May 13th, and May 20th of 2022. The sections that follow contain a summary of the methods and results of the three focus groups. The appendix includes original copies of reports from our three partnering groups.

# Executive Summary

This report summarizes the findings of three (3) focus groups conducted by the Belle Haven Community Development Fund (BHCDF), El Comite de Vecinos, and a group of three community leaders: Victoria Robledo, Karen Williams, and Telesia Alusa. Climate Resilient Communities trained each organization, provided logistical and financial support, and participated in outreach and facilitation wherever and whenever required. In total, **124 Belle Haven Residents** attended one of the focus groups to have their voices heard and contribute to a process they hope will bring about substantial change and investment in their community. The focus groups targeted specific sections of the community: the first was for parents and children, the second for Spanish speakers, and the third for a general audience. Each focus group was held at the Belle Haven Branch Library at 413 Ivy Dr.

After a brief presentation on what the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements are, what the update process means for the community, and a brief history of redlining and disinvestment in the area, residents had an opportunity to ask questions and walked table to table to identify their top environmental and safety priorities.

A summary of the top community-identified priorities and key issues is listed below with the number of residents who listed a various concern in parenthesis.

**Safety:** The three top safety concerns for residents attending each focus group were Air Quality with 53 residents listing it as a concern, tied with Hazardous Materials (53), and followed by Earthquakes (40). Data collected by the City of Menlo Park and CalEnviroScreen 4.0 validates their lived experience: Menlo Park's data shows the Belle Haven neighborhood has air quality and emissions that are 42% worse than the city at large and CalEnviroScreen data places Belle Haven above the 88<sup>th</sup> percentile statewide for Hazardous Waste exposure.

**Recommendations:** Based on these concerns, the city should consider appropriating funds for transportation infrastructure improvements that reduce traffic to improve air quality, work closely with other oversight agencies to identify and ameliorate legacy pollution, and initiate neighborhood specific disaster preparedness planning.

**Promoting Civic Engagement:** The top three community identified ways this project and others could promote the civic engagement of the Belle Haven Community are through making the information accessible (37), enhancing prior knowledge (35), and scheduling to avoid time conflicts (27). Accessible information includes content provided in different languages, content that is easily read and interpreted by a lay-person, and content provided in different formats (auditory, visual, etc.). The number of residents who identified prior knowledge as a constraint to participation speaks to a real need to conduct more education and capacity building in the community so residents feel comfortable participating in a public forum.

**Recommendations:** Residents would urge the city to make policies that ensure substantial and sustained multilingual outreach, expand its education and capacity building opportunities, and revamp existing protocols around the scheduling of public meetings.

**Reducing Pollution:** Residents were very concerned about the quality of air and the proliferation of asthma in their community. They saw immediate opportunities for air quality improvements by regulating residential and cut through traffic in the neighborhood (63), regulating emissions from stationary sources like industrial facilities (38), and protecting families from the impacts of wildfire smoke (37). When it comes to water pollution, data collected by the City of Menlo Park shows that



drinking water is 38% better in Belle Haven than that of the rest of the city.<sup>1</sup> This comes in contrast to CalEnviroScreen statistics that place the Belle Haven neighborhood in the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile statewide for groundwater threats. Residents would like assurances and clarity on the quality of the water (61) and programs to address recent water price hikes and ensure affordability (48).

**Recommendations:** The community would like to see the city make policies to 1) further incentivize the use of electric vehicles and pursue micro-mobility alternatives like subsidized electric bicycles 2) strengthen permitting requirements for polluting facilities and enforce existing regulations, 3) allocate funding for home weatherization and the distribution of air purifiers for residents with health conditions, 4) conduct regular tap water testing and hold workshops to explain the results, and 5) explore options to help families with water expenses.

**Public Facilities:** When it comes to public facilities, community members prioritized expanding and upgrading their community centers (50), creating affordable and accessible programs. Additionally, residents hoped to see more healthcare facilities in their community (47) because they currently have to travel substantial distances to receive even basic care. Residents also expressed strong support for updating the road structure so as to foster safe forms of transportation other than driving (45). This includes resident support for bike lanes, sidewalk improvements, and other public transportation upgrades.

**Recommendations:** To address community concerns around public facilities, residents suggest the City reexamine administrative policies governing community centers to encourage affordable and accessible programming and expand community centers. The city should seriously consider the creation of a community health clinic in Belle Haven and transportation infrastructure overhauls.

**Food Access:** All said, 63 residents said their Belle Haven neighborhood needed increased access to healthy and affordable foods. Belle Haven does not have a full-service grocery store; not a single resident of the 124 who participated in the process said food access was sufficient. Residents are interested primarily in a store that could offer high quality and healthy foods at low prices. They also saw opportunities to improve the Facebook Mobile Market by moving away from cell-phone based ordering or opening regular Farmer's Markets in Belle Haven to replicate what happens at Bloomhouse in East Palo Alto.

**Recommendations:** Existing development plans include space for a grocery store, but community members would like the City to ensure that the eventual occupant offer high quality, affordable food and be required to take food assistance vouchers and contain a pharmacy. Additionally, the city should look for opportunities and spaces to host a farmer's market.

**Ensuring Safe and Sanitary Homes:** Residents overwhelmingly supported the creation and expansion of programs that help people renovate their homes when faced with pest infestations (37), mold (35), or toxics like lead and asbestos (35). Housing quality is intimately tied to resident health and programs that outfit homes for resilience and health are vital to dissolving inequities within Menlo Park. A necessary part of ensuring safe and sanitary homes is keeping residents in stable housing. 52 residents expressed support for programs that would make housing affordable and 45 expressed support for policies that would protect renters from displacement. In written comments left by residents, they expressed support for rent control measures and preventing large companies from buying housing in the neighborhood. When it comes to residents' new home siting priorities, they would prefer new homes be located near grocery stores (45), community gardens (30), and parks (28). Many also insisted that new housing be built throughout the city, and not solely in Belle Haven.

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<sup>1</sup> Per the Neighborhood Profiles developed for the City for the Environmental Justice Element. ([Linked here](#))

**Recommendations:** Community members urge the City to begin investing in programs that offer homeowners and renters vital home safety repairs, enact and expand rent control ordinances, and promote the development of affordable housing throughout the city, not relying on Belle Haven alone to bear the brunt of nearly all new development.

**Physical Activity:** Encouraging additional physical activity can help improve the overall health of the community and, if done through modes of active transportation, can reduce local emissions leading to even more health benefits. To foster additional activity, existing barriers have to be addressed. 56 residents said there were barriers to being active and getting enough exercise, only 8 residents said there were no barriers. When it comes to promoting physical activity, residents prioritized increasing the prevalence of street lights and road lighting (35), upgrading, expanding and maintaining sidewalks (33), and other physical infrastructure changes (ie, bike share, covered rest areas, bike storage, etc.) (31). Residents pointed out existing sidewalks were not compliant with requirements under the Americans with Disability Act and that they feel unsafe walking and exercising due to the lack of lighting and severe traffic.

**Recommendations:** The community would like to see the city install streetlights along major residential corridors, assess the prevalence, accessibility, and ADA compliance of sidewalks in the neighborhood and look to add additional sidewalks where feasible. Additionally, a systematic assessment of neighborhood infrastructure should be undertaken and a major re-envisioning of streets and infrastructure is necessary to alleviate traffic, air quality issues, and promote active transport.

**Addressing Unique or Compounded Issues:** Residents saw several opportunities to address their unique challenges, which will only be exacerbated by climate change, sea level rise, and extreme heat. Residents suggested more trees (29) to reduce the prevalence and severity of extreme heat events while improving local air quality. They also saw opportunities to address noise pollution (25) by implementing traffic calming techniques and limiting the hours construction is taking place. They also thought attention should be paid to retrofitting buildings for resilience and energy efficiency (23) to protect their health on a multitude of fronts.

**Recommendations:** The community would like to see programs established that give residents trees, free of charge, and to see the City recommit to urban forestry efforts on public property by setting yearly urban canopy expansion goals. To address other resident concerns, residents encourage the creation of a publicly accessible ticketing system for requesting maintenance and repairs to public property, and a community driven process to find a solution to problems surrounding residential parking.

# Methodology

## Participant Demographics

Those who participated in the focus group meetings were representative of the neighborhood at large. The focus groups had substantial Latino representation and one of the focus groups was conducted entirely in Spanish to give everyone the opportunity to speak confidently in their first language — 44 residents attended that meeting. Black residents were well represented at both the general audience and parent and child meetings. There was also a strong showing from the Pacific Islander community at the general audience meeting.

Great attention was paid to make the meetings as accessible as possible. The meetings were held at the local public library, a place within walking distance so access to transportation was not a prerequisite. Dinner and drinks were provided and children were welcome to attend. A \$50 gift card was provided to each participant to compensate them for their expertise and recognize that they were taking time out of their busy schedules to help inform public decision making. Belle Haven is a working-class community where many residents work multiple jobs to support their families. Without these accessibility measures, attendance would have certainly been hurt. Implementing these accessibility measures was very successful in this instance, and if increased civic participation is how the inequalities between East and West Menlo Park are dissolved, expanding and mainstreaming them should be a priority.



## Outreach Methods

CRC coordinated with three other groups to conduct outreach to inform the community of these focus groups. The partners were the BHCDF, El Comité de Vecinos, and a group of three passionate community leaders. The outreach methodology consisted of each organization distributing the information through established relationship channels and leveraging their existing networks. Additionally, CRC created multilingual flyers to advertise each meeting and distributed them physically and electronically throughout the community. BHCDF circulated the flyer at local schools, El Comité conducted door-to-door canvassing, and the community leaders spoke to their neighbors door-to-door with CRC. CRC and each partner also circulated flyers through social media and to established Climate Change Community Teams in the area. The most effective form of outreach was through existing relationships and canvassing—when speaking with residents they were informed about the purpose of the meeting, told about the importance of their participation and told they'd receive dinner and a gift card for participating. Canvassers found that speaking about the health impacts of climate change, additional development, and traffic generated substantial interest in the meeting.

## Facilitation Methods

CRC and our partners co-created the content and procedure for each focus group, tailoring the material and format to best fit each audience. Each meeting consisted of a brief presentation of the

meeting objectives, information about the general plan update process, and a description of the environmental justice and safety elements. The partnering organizations saw the focus groups as an opportunity to further educate the community about its history and preserve its culture and character. To that end, each presentation also included a brief history of the neighborhood and an explanation of redlining and the discriminatory lending practices that continue to shape the community. This history served to ground the meeting in a shared experience and build trust and understanding among residents.



After the presentation, each meeting broke briefly for dinner. When people had finished eating, they were told to circulate to each table to complete the “jamboard” exercise. This consisted of drawing an ‘X’ alongside statements they agreed with. They could vote for as many or as few options as they saw fit. There were also provided Sticky Notes to comment on the items, add additional responses, or elaborate on their answer. There were 14 questions across the tables that residents had the opportunity to respond to. A facilitator was positioned at each table to answer questions, interpret materials, or

clarify the contents. After participants had time to circulate to each table, a survey was handed out and participants were asked to complete it and, for the first two groups, were asked to write any feedback they have in the margins. The final group simply completed the survey. The surveys were offered in Spanish and English and feedback was incorporated into the document before it was offered to the final focus group. Each participant returned their survey and then were handed their gift card after confirming they had signed in for the meeting.

# Results

Listed below are the combined results from all three focus groups. The comments listed came from the Sticky Notes used to extrapolate on responses. They have been lightly edited for clarity, but are otherwise true to form. Each area of discussion is bolded and underlined with the prompt for the exercise written in bold and the comments listed in bullet form. The (+X) denotes others who indicated agreement with the comment.

## Safety

<b>Top Safety Concerns</b>	
Air Quality	53
Drought Conditions	38
Earthquakes	40
Flooding	20
Hazardous Material	53
Heatwaves	33
Wildfire and Smoke	36
Sea level rise	19

### **Comments:**

- (+1) Home owners are required to have Flood Insurance and it is not affordable.
- Traffic & Public transportation (Down Hamilton people run stop signs).
- Crosswalks. You cannot assume you have the right of way.
- Sanitize sitting areas & benches, maintaining sidewalks clean.
- Willow rd & Bay front intersection is dangerous.
- Create safe walking route.
- Resources to unhoused people, they can be a hazard for community members and should be cared for.
- Programs and grants to help community centers, schools, and homes with air conditioning systems.
- More training and seminars on what to do in case of earthquakes and floods.
- Weatherization - AC & heaters for homes.
- Toxic waste - create a process to address this.
- Concern for air quality—families have members with Asthma.

## Promoting Civic Engagement

Yes	40
No	0

**Would you be willing to work with the city by working through community-based organizations and community leaders?**

Accessible information (language, etc)	35
Level of prior knowledge regarding the planning process	31
Time conflicts	27
Meeting format	26
Access to transportation	25
Power dynamics	17
Childcare	17

### **Improvements that could help you consider participating in these public decision-making processes**

#### **Comments:**

- I have tried calling the city multiple times, but no response. We need better communication.
  - Street lights are not maintained, the City should do regular, monthly maintenance in Belle Haven.
  - Respond to concerns emailed to the city and have a process for maintenance and community feedback.
  - Flyers & Outreach: Make sure they are in spanish as well.
  - Holding meetings in-person and in Belle haven or over Zoom with a lot of advertising. People have a lot of input, but may not have the time or have other conflicts.
- Provide community shuttles that are free for all to use.

- Have more meetings in the Belle Haven Library.
- The community wants to be better informed of when meetings of the city are happening.

### Pollution Reduction

Pollution Sources of Concern	
Traffic	63
Industrial Facilities	38
Wildfire Smoke	37
Gas Appliances	31
Smoking	21

**Comments:**

- EPA: Pulgas and Bay rd - Smell of a chemical since new development
- Rodents, pose health risks and can worsen breathing
- Traffic: Facebook Busses
- Less traffic commuting through the streets of the Belle Haven Community
- Dumbarton Smell is now closer to the Bayfront area, especially during the warm summers. The city used to spray to keep the smell away and should consider starting that again
- People drive too fast on Chilco. Speed bumps, firetrucks use the road but can do so elsewhere
- Sidewalks have lots of holes, a trip hazard and accessibility issue
- Solar in older homes is needed, but often require roof repairs
- Residents are concerned with the amount of cars in Belle Haven, some people block the side of the sidewalk with a trash bin just to save a spot for parking which makes it hard for other residents to pass by with their vehicle.
- We would like there to be bags for dog feces since some people don't pick up after their dog at public parks where children play and that is very bad since those feces have germs/bacteria.

Water Concerns	
Quality	61
Affordability	48
Accessibility	44

**Comments:**

- Water affordability: since water pipes have been renewed, cost has increased.
- Have more annual pickups from recolas and not make price for garbage pickup be so expensive to help reduce the garbage pollution.
- More disposable area for hazardous materials.

### General Public Facilities Considerations

Priorities of Public Facilities	
Community centers	50
Health care	47
Road structure encouraging and providing a safe route to walk, bike and use public transportation	45
Reliable internet access	42
Safe drinking water and wastewater services	38
Parks	36
Flood control	28

**Comments:**

- (+6) All the above
- (+1) Buses to transport children going to canada and high school
- Concerns with maintaining a local community center & Kelly park & Pool activities are affordable; Basketball, soccer & other activities.
- Prioritize Belle Haven Community members. Residents from the westside began to use the community center and they began a process to reserve the facilities, which made it hard for local BH residents to continue their use
- Local Belle Haven Community center should be for residents

- Community center: affordable programs & activities (Question: Are there going to be affordable programs & activities?)
- Reliable internet access: not have a strong internet affects youth (affecting their education) & elderly
- Assessment of sidewalks - street signs, the narrow sidewalks do not allow for strollers, wheelchairs, and other uses to use side walk when there are street signs placed almost in the middle. Hazardous for families
- Community Center: prioritize BH residents for rentals and making it affordable
- Local Health Care so that residents do not have to travel far
- Light improvement on Willow Road and Ivy Drive. Resident had a close call with police car that did not see the resident walking on crosswalk
- Safe Bike route - not safe for kids at the moment
- Hamilton, not safe
- More community spaces accessible for the use of the residents
- Closer pharmacy
- Affordable community programs
- Safety for bicycles/police safety tip program
- Grocery store needed
- Community center classes for youth and seniors, swim classes, expansion of the library
- Community center, classes for young youth
- Adding to park trees to bring oxygen for environment cleaner air

### **Promoting Food Access**

Yes	63
No	0

**Is it important to have more access to affordable and higher quality food? (In Belle Haven, near Belle Haven, neighboring cities)**

#### **Comments:**

- (+7) More grocery stores, food at markets is too expensive
- A Trader Joes is needed
- A super walmart, or something with affordable goods and services
- Winco or a Grocery Outlet would be preferred, so people can get healthy, affordable food
- (+2) Foodmax
- Sprouts
- (+4) A local pharmacy is greatly needed
- (+9) Safe stores
- (+8) Second Harvest - creating a location in Belle Haven
- (+7) Facebook has a mobile market on Sundays. Assess who is making use of the market and see if we can replicate Bloomhouse in Belle Haven
- (+6) More outreach on community gardens, location and hours to be made public
- (+6) A regular or affordable grocery store (at the moment we have little markets that are not affordable)
- (+5) Facebook Mobile Market: Increase access, so that you do not need to use mobile phone to make an order
- (+1) Promote Community Gardens
- (+1) Rent Planters & community gardens for families to cultivate organic veggies/fruit
- Affordable food - markets are expensive
- Move back the food giveaway to the Belle Haven Community
- Food for less (lower prices on food ESPECIALLY with the pandemic)
- A Walmart

- A grocery store with organic food that way residents have access to healthier food
- The grocery stores in Belle Haven sell food at a high price for bad quality food (health concern, food poisoning)
- Safe stores (cameras, police nearby)

### Promoting Safe and Sanitary Homes

Renovate homes that have...	
Pest infestation	37
Toxins like lead	35
Mold	35
Second/third hand smoke	33
Poor insulation	25
Plumbing and exposure	16
Water leaks	15

**Comments:**

- (+4) Mold: need to make sure there is enough air circulation
- (+4) Assistance Programs to help with indoor renovations and appliances
- (+1) Grants not loans
- No smoking at Belle Haven Park should be allowed.
- (+4) Rats
- Make living affordable
- (+4) Conduct home assessments to see if these concerns may be addressed. People may be scared to be cited.

- No cost programs.
- New pipes raised the cost of water.
- Construction caused more mice in people’s homes.
- Provide free resource to assist financially elderly/family with renovations, we lack knowledge about safe/sanitary conditions
- To make programs where residents can help out and clean the streets in Belle Haven (The city provides materials).
- To make a solution about construction since many rats from the areas that are being built go to where residents are living.

Affordability Priorities	
Make housing affordable	52
Protecting renters from displacement	45
Preserving existing affordable housing	37

**Comments:**

- Make housing affordable for people with low income and/or bad credit.
- (+1) Find a safe location to gather in case of emergencies.
- (+15) Prevent big companies from buying

- homes/land in this area
- (+1) Displacement: When families moved out, their children also left, left their good jobs to be close to family and are no longer able to comeback.
  - (+1) More renters than homeowners that can be due to barriers and hardships
  - (+1) Hard to preserve affordable housing and will no longer be affordable for low and very low income families, only if someone is able to buy it and provide it as affordable
  - (+1) Help and give our youth the opportunity to stay in the community
  - No empty homes or apartments; make affordable after 90 days vacant
  - Prevent LLC & companies from buying
  - Monitor and regulate Airbnb
  - Rent control for renters, landlords have raised the rent up by \$500
  - Rent Control



- Available parking to Belle Haven Residents because homeowners who rent don't offer parking on their property to the renter, and they don't have enough money to pay for a permit from the city.

Site houses in neighborhoods with...	
Grocery stores	45
Community gardens	30
Parks	28
Work/education opportunities	26
Schoolyards	24
Access to road structure that encourages and provides a safe route to walk, bike, and use public transportation	17

**Comments:**

- New housing prices should not be raised for renters. Rent should be regulated.
- (+7) Increase awareness in promoting Jobtrain, Streetcode, other resources of job training and careers.
- (+5) Provide more opportunities for Youth to go to College and earn industry certificates that may take a few months. Many youth need to work to help sustain their family.
- (+2) Communication about Farmers Markets and adding more options

- A safeway that's affordable and organic

**Promoting Physical Activity**

Are there barriers to being active?	
Yes	56
No	8

**Comments:**

- The light on the Willow Rd. entry to the freeway confuses people.
- The traffic on Carlton Ave. makes it difficult to feel safe exercising.
- (+4) Child care

What improvements could help the community improve physical activity?	
Streetlights or lighting	35
Sidewalks	33
Improve public transportation infrastructure: covered rest areas, share, age friendly seating, bike storage	31
Provide safe routes to school to encourage active transportation	30
Bike lanes	25
Reliable, accessible, and convenient public transportation connecting homes to schools, work, and public facilities	24
Partnerships/agreements with schools, churches or other private properties to access more green spaces	10
No smoking policies	6

- (+3) Lack of time from working and commuting
- (+8) Access to community center and Kelly Park
- (+6) Regular group community exercise such as walking around the community
- Outdoor gym
- Community center gym
- Class for musical activities for adults, seniors and kids
- Sports for children, soccer and basketball
- (+2) Low cost programming
- More lights at night makes it hard to see/ people can't walk at night since they are afraid to walk outside in the dark.
- MORE POLICE at night to be on the lookout of drivers speeding or doing race shows
- Better communication with the community of Belle Haven and the City of Menlo Park also it's police department.

## Reducing Additional Unique or Compounded Health Risks:

What else should be addressed?	
More Trees	29
Noise Pollution	25
Retrofitting buildings & houses to improve energy efficiency	23
Cooling centers	19
Earthquake retrofit assistance	18
Temperature extremes	18
Smoke free multiunit housing	15
Efficient circulation	14
Conservation and recapture of water	14
Sea level rise	12

**Comments:**

- The extreme chemical sewage smell that flows from Marsh Road and the Belle Haven community in the evening & 2:30 am from Facebook area
- Bad sewage smell and taste of drinking water
- Need speed bumps on streets to stop vehicle racing (1)
- Drainage outside have lots of rodents and insects that come to house
- More trees!
- Also to cut down branches when needed since it can be a danger to residents.
- Air sensors in apartments for the future so residents can see how the air they are breathing is.

# Capacity Building Needs

An exit poll was administered to two of the focus groups to inform facilitators about best practices and decide if alterations needed to be made to focus group facilitation. The results of the exit poll are presented in graphical form below. They demonstrate the success of the informative aspects of the focus groups presentations and underline the need for significant investments in community capacity building and education around existing environmental justice hazards. Very few residents were aware of the ongoing Environmental Justice and Safety elements update process but were very interested in the issues being discussed. This indicates that prior outreach methods were not particularly effective at reaching the Belle Haven community.

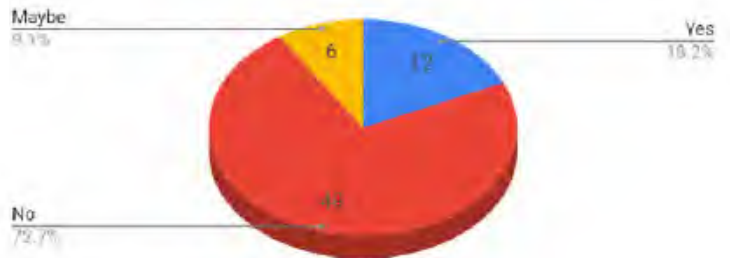
**Before you came to this discussion, did you know much about Belle Haven's history?**

(count = 67)



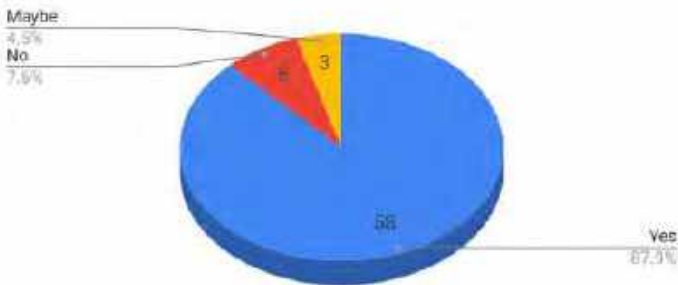
**Before you came, did you know much about the Environmental Justice Element?**

(count = 66)



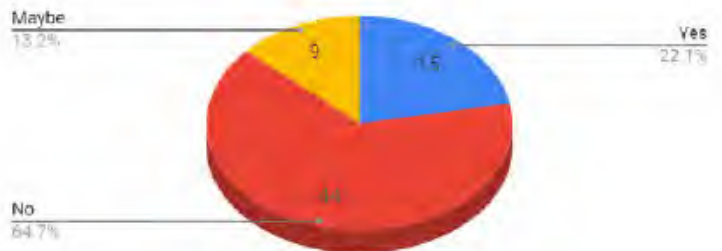
**Are the topics discussed important to you?**

(count = 66)



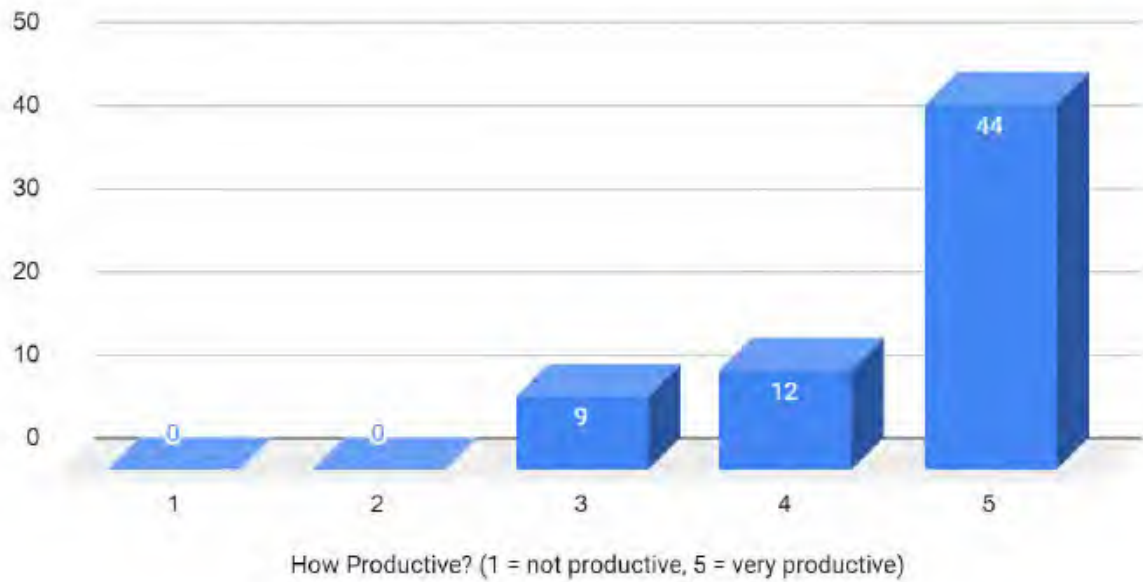
**Before you came, did you know much about the Safety Element?**

(count = 68)



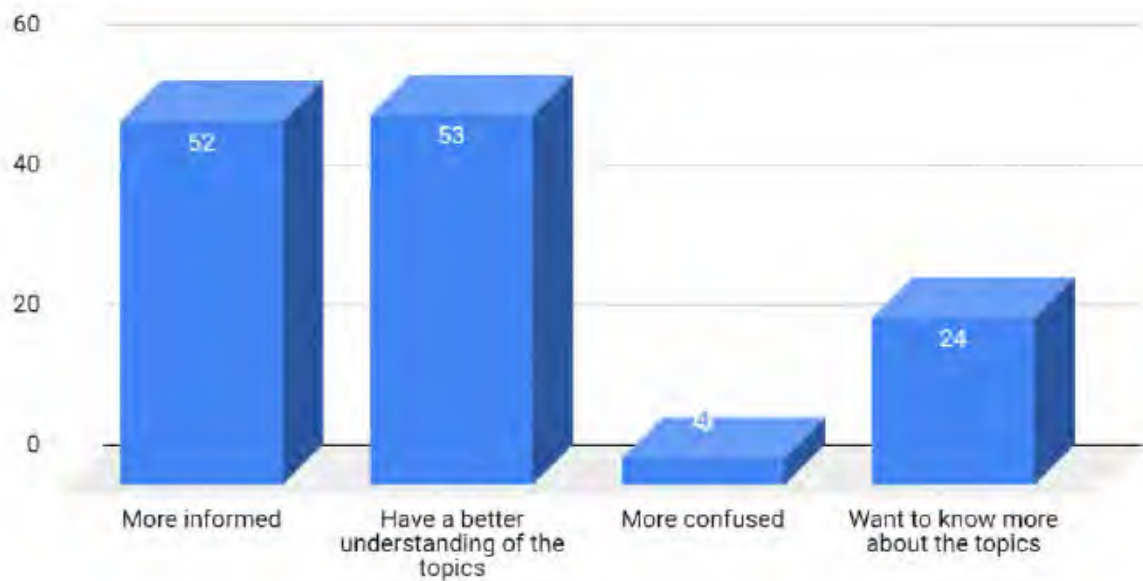
### Did you find the breakout activities productive?

(count = 65)



### What are your takeaways from this discussion?

(count = 67)





# Recommendations

Based on the cumulative results of three focus groups in which Belle Haven residents offered direct feedback on their environmental justice and safety priorities, the following areas of policy proposals should be evaluated and implemented with urgency.

**Safety:** Community members identified Air Quality, Hazardous Materials, and Earthquakes as their top safety concerns. To improve air quality, the city of Menlo Park should consider **appropriating funds for transportation infrastructure improvements** that reduce both residential and cut-through traffic. This can be achieved through traffic calming infrastructure like chicanes and speed bumps. To address concerns of residents about hazardous materials, Menlo Park should **work closely with other oversight agencies to identify and ameliorate legacy pollution**. This matter is urgent: as sea levels rise, the water table will be elevated in some places which can cause hazardous materials to circulate more widely and enter people’s homes through water and waste water infrastructure. To alleviate concerns around earthquakes, Menlo Park should **initiate neighborhood specific disaster preparedness planning** and work closely with Community Based Organizations and pre-existing CERT programming.

**Promoting Civic Engagement:** Residents identified information accessibility, prior knowledge, and time conflicts as key barriers to their civic participation. To address these concerns, residents would like the City of Menlo Park to **make policies to ensure substantial, sustained multilingual outreach** for important city meetings or any policy that will disproportionately affect the Belle Haven neighborhood. The City should **expand its education and capacity building opportunities** for residents so they have the confidence and background knowledge to participate in public forums. To carry this out, the City should partner with CBOs who have high community trust to further lower barriers to participation. Any and all outreach and capacity building workshops should compensate Belle Haven residents for their expertise and participation—barriers to public meetings and the levers of power is partially why current disparities exist. Finally, the City should **revamp existing protocols around the scheduling of public meetings** to ensure they take place outside of work hours and allow residents a wide range of options for participating.



**Reducing Pollution:** When it comes to opportunities to reduce air pollution in their community, participants identified residential and cut through traffic in the neighborhood, emissions from industrial facilities, and wildfire smoke as top concerns. In addition to changing physical infrastructure to reduce traffic and vehicle presence in the community, the City of Menlo Park should also **further incentivize the use of electric vehicles and pursue micro-mobility alternatives like discounted or subsidized bicycles, electric bicycles, and electric scooters**. To address emissions from industrial

sources, the City should work closely with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and other regulatory partners to find opportunities to **strengthen permitting requirements for polluting facilities and enforce existing laws surrounding the use of Best Available Control Technology (BACT)**. The City should take a proactive stance to wildfire smoke and treat it as the extreme public health crisis it is. The City should create programs to retrofit homes for smoke resilience by providing **funding for weatherization and the distribution of air purifiers for income qualified residents and those with health conditions**. When it comes to water pollution, Belle Haven residents are concerned about the quality and affordability of their water. The City should **conduct regular tap water testing and hold workshops to explain the results** and raise awareness of other potential groundwater threats. The city should **explore options to help families with water expenses**.

**Public Facilities:** When it comes to public facility provision, residents wanted greater access to community centers, healthcare facilities, and transportation upgrades that foster alternative modes of transit. To that end, the community recommends the City **reexamine administrative policies governing community centers to encourage affordable and accessible programming and look to expand existing facilities**. The City should consider policies incentivizing the **creation of a community health clinic in Belle Haven**. Currently, residents either have to cross Highway 101 to receive care, or travel several miles to the Ravenswood Clinic in East Palo Alto. Finally, as mentioned previously, major infrastructure investment is required to facilitate active and alternative modes of transportation.

**Food Access:** Residents are concerned about the community's access to healthy and affordable food. While a grocery store space is currently planned for the Willow Village development site, the City of Menlo Park **should ensure that the eventual occupant offer high quality, affordable food and be required to take food assistance vouchers and contain a pharmacy**. The city should look to CBO partnerships and find spaces to **sponsor a farmer's market** and expand access to Facebook's Mobile Market by requiring them to alter ordering processes to make them accessible to those without smart phones.

**Ensuring Safe and Sanitary Homes:** Residents want to see programs that help homeowners address issues with pests, mold, and toxics like lead and asbestos. They also want to see housing affordability and reduced displacement and gentrification. To that end, the community recommends the City **begin investing in programs that offer homeowners and renters vital home safety repairs**. These types of programs already exist through other funding sources and CBOs like El Concilio of San Mateo County, but additional resources could greatly expand access and awareness of these repair programs. Additionally, the City should urgently **enact Rent Control ordinances** and other measures to prevent displacement. The City should further coordinate with state housing authorities and other sources of funds to **expand the development of affordable housing throughout the city, and not force Belle Haven to bear the brunt of nearly all new development**.

**Physical Activity:** There are significant barriers to physical activity in the Belle Haven neighborhood. Among them are a lack of streetlights, unsafe or inaccessible sidewalks, and other infrastructure challenges. To address these concerns, residents would like to see the City **install streetlights along major residential corridors and conduct an assessment to ensure all are functional**. Further, the City should **assess the prevalence, accessibility, and ADA compliance of sidewalks in the neighborhood and look to add additional sidewalks where feasible**. Finally, it is clear that the

prevalence of traffic, speed of vehicles, and lack of infrastructure for alternative modes of transportation are a profound problem for many aspects of life in Belle Haven. **A systematic assessment of neighborhood infrastructure should be undertaken and a major re-envisioning of the infrastructure is necessary** to address resident concerns, achieve climate goals, and create a more equitable Menlo Park.

**Addressing Unique or Compounded Difficulties:** Several unique or compounded issues were identified by residents. Among them are a lack of trees, high noise pollution, and low building resilience. The community saw opportunities to address these issues by creating **programs to give residents free trees and redouble urban forestry efforts on public property by setting yearly urban canopy expansion goals**. Many studies suggest at least 40% Canopy coverage is necessary to alleviate the Urban Heat Island Effect—the City should set goals to achieve that level by 2045. Prior recommendations address building resilience and traffic reduction, these traffic calming measures will do a lot to reduce noise pollution. Many participants voiced in comments that they felt their reports to the City and requests for maintenance were never responded to, making them feel they weren't valued by the City. This could be addressed by **creating a publicly accessible ticketing system for requesting maintenance and repairs to public property**. The City should communicate to residents where in the queue a resident's request is and regularly report progress on addressing community member complaints. Many residents also expressed their concern with parking regulations and enforcement. To this end, residents recommend conducting **a community driven process to find a solution to residential parking** as it impacts air quality, quality of life, and a lack of parking could lead people to expanding their driveways, worsening extreme heat events.



# Conclusion

The outreach process for this project has been extremely successful and validates CRC's accessibility methodology. A lack of access to public discussions and decision-making processes for low income communities and communities of color is a major reason for the existing disparities between Belle Haven and other neighborhoods of Menlo Park. That is why equitable participation in decision-making practices is a cornerstone of the environmental justice movement. Through a just outreach process and strong meeting facilitation mechanics we were able to clearly hear the voices of residents in the Belle Haven Community. CRC is incredibly thankful for our community partners for their leadership throughout this process. Decades of systemic racism and disinvestment have hurt the community's faith in governmental processes, but once people have the opportunity to participate meaningfully in a public process, advocate to see their suggestions implemented, and see the resulting improvement in their lives, their faith in the governmental structures can begin to be restored. The residents of Belle Haven are eager to participate and will do so when the barriers to doing so are removed. If the City is serious about its commitments to environmental justice and reducing inequalities within their city, they will listen to the voices of Belle Haven residents and move quickly to address the history of neglect in this community. Belle Haven residents have created an extraordinary community and are thriving in the face of the adversity they've had to overcome. It is beyond time to act on the demands of justice and create better living conditions that provide support for a neighborhood that enriches the City and region.

# Appendix

To read the full report from each of our partner organizations, click the links below:

[Focus Group 1: Belle Haven Community Development Fund](#)

[Focus Group 2: El Comite de Vecinos](#)

[Focus Group 3: Community Leaders](#)

Menlo Park EJ+Safety Survey Final Report  
July 12, 2022  
Climate Resilient Communities

## Executive Summary

A coalition of community-based organizations conducted a survey for the City of Menlo Park's Environmental Justice and Safety Element. From May 20 through July 12, 2022, online and in-person surveys were deployed throughout the city, with a focus on Belle Haven. 420 total responses were collected. This report summarizes the survey design and results. Along with overall distributions of participant responses, given sufficient sample sizes of the subgroups Belle Haven residents (328) vs. non-Belle Haven residents (92) and Latinx households (171) and Black households (72) compared to White households (88), we were able to make claims of statistical significance disaggregating by neighborhood and race and ethnicity<sup>1</sup>. Of particular note are the following key findings:

- 1. A majority of respondents experienced poor air quality, traffic congestion, and dust and noise from construction as adverse environmental impacts within their households in the last ten years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than other Menlo Park households. Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than their White counterparts.**
  - a. The next most common environmental impacts (experienced by at least a quarter of respondents) were extreme heat both indoors and outdoors, lack of working air conditioning, poor tap water quality, and presence of mold in the home.
  - b. Particularly notable disparities between Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households: extreme heat indoors (51% vs. 34%) and outdoors (34% vs. 20%), poor tap water quality (31% vs. 12%), presence of mold (29% vs. 13%), poor soil quality (27% vs. 12%), flood-related travel disruptions (23% vs. 5%), and home insurance claims related to environmental issues (13% vs. 1%).
  - c. Particularly notable disparities between Latinx and White households: presence of mold (35% vs. 15%) and poor tap water quality (31% vs. 14%). Notably bucking the trend, Latinx households reported less experience of traffic congestion than White households (49% vs. 74%). It's possible that this finding

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<sup>1</sup> Pacific Islander households appeared to have statistically significant differences compared to White households across all topics, but the sample size was too small to have confidence in particular quantities. Sample sizes were too small for Native American and Other Race households to report any findings.

reflects prior literature on how minority populations may under-report “nuisance” issues while prioritizing more serious life and safety concerns<sup>2</sup>.

- d. Particularly notable disparities between Black and White households: poor tap water quality (33% vs. 14%).
  - e. Asian households, on the other hand, did not experience statistically significant differences compared to White households.
  - f. Recommendations: Implement air and noise pollution mitigation measures specifically in Belle Haven. Install sensors to measure outcomes before and after pilot interventions. Work with Belle Haven community organizations to scope pilot projects and ensure cultural competency when interventions are conducted at the household level.
- 2. More than a third of respondents experienced stress and anxiety, high blood pressure or cholesterol, COVID-19, and asthma within their households in the last ten years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than other Menlo Park households. Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than their White counterparts.**
- a. The next most common health issues (experienced by at least a quarter of respondents) were diabetes and obesity.
  - b. Particularly notable disparities between Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households: high blood pressure or cholesterol (54% vs. 32%), COVID-19 (50% vs. 21%), asthma (45% vs. 13%), diabetes (35% vs. 5%), and disability (21% vs. 8%).
  - c. Particularly notable disparities between Latinx and White households: high blood pressure or cholesterol (51% vs. 33%), COVID-19 (48% vs. 20%), asthma (41% vs. 19%), diabetes (33% vs. 5%), and heat stroke (20% vs. 4%). Notably bucking the trend, Latinx households reported less experience of stress and anxiety than White households (37% vs. 55%) - once again, a potential reflection of “nuisance”-related response bias.
  - d. Particularly notable disparities between Black and White households: Asthma (47% vs. 19%), disability (37% vs. 10%), and diabetes (35% vs. 5%).
  - e. Asian households, on the other hand, did not experience statistically significant differences compared to White households.
  - f. Recommendations: Conduct culturally competent outreach to inform Belle Haven residents of the prevalence of health issues in the neighborhood, environmental risk factors, and opportunities for preventative or supportive action.
- 3. About a third of respondents have spent more than \$100 in the past year on home repairs related to environmental damages or risks. More than a third of respondents have delayed home repairs due to cost, with significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities. A quarter of respondents, if faced with a \$400**

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<sup>2</sup> Kontokosta & Hong. *Bias in smart city governance: How socio-spatial disparities in 311 complaint behavior impact the fairness of data-driven decisions*. Sustainable Cities and Society, Volume 64, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2020.102503>.

**emergency expense, would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash, and would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money, with significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities.**

- a. Belle Haven households were more likely (43%) to have delayed repairs than non-Belle Haven households (22%), were more likely (31%) to need to rely on credit or borrowing than non-Belle Haven households (2%), and were less likely to consider the costs of housing (29%) and other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare (32%) *easy to cover*, compared to non-Belle Haven households (71% and 73%).
  - b. Latinx households were more likely (44%) to have delayed repairs than White households (25%), were more likely (33%) to need to rely on credit or borrowing than White households (10%), and were less likely to consider the costs of housing (17%) and other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare (23%) *easy to cover*, compared to White households (70% and 68%).
  - c. Black households were more likely (61%) to have delayed repairs than White households (25%), were more likely (40%) to need to rely on credit or borrowing than White households (10%), and were less likely to consider the costs of housing (20%) and other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare (23%) *easy to cover*, compared to White households (70% and 68%).
  - d. The findings on emergency expenses align with national averages, based on Federal Reserve research<sup>3</sup>.
  - e. Recommendations: Develop a rapid response program that can assist Belle Haven homeowners with emergency home repairs through a no-interest loan, including volunteer labor and donated materials.
- 4. More than a third of respondents would prioritize spending extra money on air conditioning, air purifiers, home repairs, and earthquake-related upgrades, compared to solar, rainwater capture, home insurance, or electrification.**
- a. There do not appear to be significant differences in priorities based on the presence of elderly household members, with the exception of an increased preference for rainwater capture or water recycling (33% vs. 23%).
  - b. Households that perceive themselves as financially burdened are less likely to prioritize electrification (13% vs. 27%) and more likely to prioritize home insurance (28% vs. 19%) and air conditioning (46% vs. 37%).
  - c. Recommendations: Expand reduced cost home weatherization and retrofit programs, as well as DIY air filter initiatives.
- 5. More than a third of respondents would prioritize public spending on pedestrian safety, road repairs, safer biking routes, street trees, and improved parks or community gardening, compared to public air quality monitoring, stormwater management, code enforcement, and flood barriers.**

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<https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/2022-economic-well-being-of-us-households-in-2021-dealing-with-unexpected-expenses.htm>

- a. Recommendations: While continuing to mitigate risk from less frequent climate hazards, deepen prioritization of public transportation and recreation infrastructure in Belle Haven.
- 6. From a safety perspective, Belle Haven households are more exposed to natural hazards like floods, but appear to have and value insurance as a resilience strategy. They also strongly prioritize transportation safety.**
- a. Belle Haven households are more likely to have experienced floods affecting neighborhood travel (23%) than non-Belle Haven households (5%).
  - b. Belle Haven households are more likely to have experienced a home insurance claim related to environmental issues (13%) than non-Belle Haven households (1%).
  - c. Belle Haven households appear to be more likely to carry earthquake insurance (60%) than non-Belle Haven households (45%), and more likely to carry flood insurance (69%) than non-Belle Haven households (35%).
  - d. Belle Haven households appear to place higher priority on home insurance than non-Belle Haven households as an individual household improvement.
  - e. Belle Haven households appear to place higher priority on pedestrian safety and road surface improvement than non-Belle Haven households as a neighborhood-level improvement.
  - f. Recommendations: Further study the prevalence of public and private insurance in Belle Haven to ensure equitable coverage. Ensure that major public investments in flood and earthquake risk mitigation are focused on supporting the most exposed and vulnerable Belle Haven residents.

The survey clarifies the extent of environmental, health, and financial disparities at the intersection of geography and race and ethnicity, with Belle Haven bearing the brunt of exposure to pollution and natural hazards and concentrating social and economic vulnerability. The implications for the City of Menlo Park's Environmental Justice and Safety Elements, as part of the General Plan update, include a clear need to prioritize public investments and policy preferences that support Belle Haven residents above and beyond non-Belle Haven residents in order to close longstanding disparities, shape culturally competent opportunities for Belle Haven residents of color to provide specific, substantive input into policies and programs, and ensure that communities who have felt civically disengaged or ignored receive clear signals of real-world improvements and appreciation for their patience.

## Acknowledgements

This survey would not have been possible without the leadership of the Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team, Belle Haven Action, El Comite, and Belle Haven Community Development Fund. The City of Menlo Park and M Group provided useful comments in the survey design process. City Systems prepared survey tools, conducted data analysis, and drafted this report.

# Survey Design

## Community Input

The survey design was primarily based on feedback from a Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team (BHCCCT) meeting on April 27, 2022. Participants were shown some prior examples of surveys conducted in and around Menlo Park and asked to share their recommendations for what questions should be in the Belle Haven survey. They also emphasized the importance of keeping the survey short, ideally under 10 questions. The resultant draft achieved a minimum question count by leveraging “check all that apply” style questions, which has the effect of combining many individual yes/no questions into one larger thematic bucket. Therefore, the survey was essentially about 50 yes/no questions, and enabled tallying percentages of respondents who responded affirmatively to each statement. Each question had an “Other” option which was cleaned and incorporated into final analysis. The overall thematic buckets were:

1. Adverse experiences of environmental impacts in the last 10 years
2. Adverse experiences of health problems in the last 10 years
3. Adverse experiences of financial stress in the last 10 years
4. Prioritization of personal risk mitigation expenditures
5. Prioritization of public risk mitigation expenditures

The survey also captured a limited set of demographic characteristics of the household:

1. # of household members, by age buckets
2. Races and ethnicities represented in the household

Other household characteristics can be identified using the home address, when provided. Using property data, we are able to identify tenure (renter vs. owner), size of home and number of bedrooms (from which we can identify the degree of overcrowding), age of structure, and estimated housing costs. We can also relate the home location to certain environmental exposures, like proximity to major roadways, amount of tree canopy, etc.

Generally, we expect to find many affirmative statements to be correlated within and across thematic buckets, and document these associations below. We pay particular attention to any significant differences in outcomes across demographic groups. We highlight particular vulnerable segments of the community who appear to have high amounts of pre-existing health risks and financial stress, and have already or have yet to experience environmental impacts, and estimate the total number of people/households who may be in need of assistance. The last two questions enable us to identify and quantify the most desirable resources at the household and community level. This information should directly inform nonprofit programs, grant applications, and longer term urban planning.

# Full Questionnaire

## Environmental Justice and Safety Survey

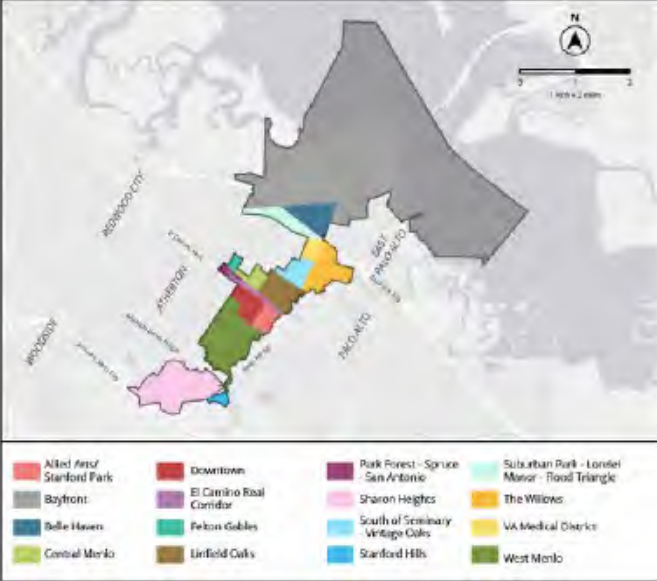
The goal of this survey is to inform action on environmental justice (addressing the disproportionate exposure of marginalized communities to environmental harms) and safety (protecting everyone from natural hazards) in our neighborhood. You will be asked about your direct experience of environmental harms, health challenges, and financial stress, as well as your priorities for household and neighborhood improvements. Thousands of homes are slated to be built within and near Belle Haven in the next decade, which could make some of these issues worse, unless our community speaks up about our concerns and needs. Thank you!

<p><b>1. Have you or your family been affected by any of the following in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.</b></p> <p><i>We want to make sure the survey captures the full range of environmental issues you've experienced.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Poor air quality</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Poor soil quality</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Dust and noise from construction</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Presence of mold in my home</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Extreme heat in my home</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of working air conditioning</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Extreme heat affecting neighborhood travel</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Rain or weather-related flood damage to my home</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Floods affecting neighborhood travel</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Home insurance claim due to environmental issues</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other environmental issues: _____</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Traffic congestion</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Poor tap water quality</li></ul>
<p><b>2. Have any of the following health issues affected your household in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.</b></p> <p><i>Environmental issues can cause health problems or make them worse. Local public health authorities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Asthma</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Cancer</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Obesity</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Migraines</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Heat stroke</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> High blood pressure or cholesterol</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive/birth challenges</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Stress and anxiety</li></ul>



<p><i>may not know how often health problems happen in your neighborhood. Sometimes not all health problems are addressed by healthcare.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Disability      <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health problems</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other health issues: _____</p>
<p><b>3. Which of the following applies to your household?</b> Check all that apply.</p> <p><i>Environmental issues can also cause financial stress, such as flood-related damage that needs repair. We want to make sure the survey identifies the level of financial insecurity in the community.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> My household can easily cover the cost of housing.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My household has spent more than \$100 in the past year on repairing damages caused by the environment or reducing potential impacts.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We have delayed repairs we want to do to our home (like roof, windows, mold) because of cost.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We do not have or need flood insurance.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We do not have earthquake insurance.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If my household faced a \$400 emergency expense, we would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In order to pay a \$400 emergency expense, my household would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other financial challenges: _____</p>
<p><b>4. Which of the following would you prioritize if you had extra money to spend on your household's environmental health and safety?</b> Write "1" in the box next to your first choice, "2" for your second choice, "3" for your third choice, as many choices as you'd like.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Replace gas appliances</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Solar panels or battery storage</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rainwater capture or water recycling</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Healthy food (including gardening)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Home insurance</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other personal expenses: _____</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Which of the following would you prioritize for neighborhood improvements?</b> Write “1” in the box next to your first choice, “2” for your second choice, “3” for your third choice, as many choices as you’d like.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian safety (sidewalks, crosswalks, speed bumps)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Safer biking routes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improved transit infrastructure (bus stops, signs, benches)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improved roads (potholes)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improved parks or community gardening</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> More street trees</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cool and clean air shelters (community center)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Flood barriers along rivers or bayfront</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improved storm drainage</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improved water supply (safe drinking, firefighting)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Air quality monitoring sensors in public spaces</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Improved code enforcement (illegal parking)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Security cameras for safety and dumping</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other public investments: _____</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. How many people live in your home?</b> Provide a number for each age range.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> # of Children 0-17      <input type="checkbox"/> # of Adults 18-29</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> # of Adults 30-59      <input type="checkbox"/> # of Adults 60+</li> </ul>

<p><b>7. What is your household race or ethnicity?</b> Check all that apply.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Latinx      <input type="checkbox"/> White</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Black                      <input type="checkbox"/> Asian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander      <input type="checkbox"/> Native American</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>
<p><b>8. Email</b> (to be entered into raffle for \$100 gift card)</p>	
<p><b>9. Neighborhood</b></p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Allied Arts - Stanford Park</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bayfront</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Belle Haven</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Centro Menlo</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Downtown</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> El Camino Real Corridor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Felton Gables</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Linfield Oaks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio</p>

	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Heights <input type="checkbox"/> South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks <input type="checkbox"/> Stanford Hills <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle <input type="checkbox"/> The Willows <input type="checkbox"/> VA Medical District <input type="checkbox"/> West Menlo
<b>10. Address</b> (optional)	

## Canvassing Strategy

The existing race and ethnicity distribution of Menlo Park and Belle Haven, according to the 2020 Decennial Census, are shown below.

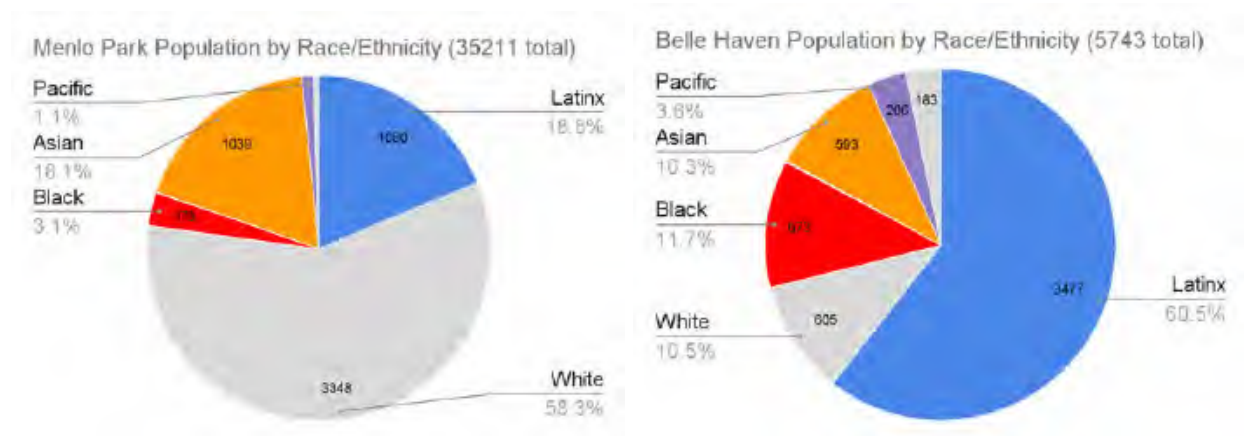


Figure 1. Menlo Park and Belle Haven population by race and ethnicity, 2020 Decennial Census.

Our chosen sampling strategy was to strive to survey equal proportions of Latinx, White, Black, and Asian respondents (i.e., 50 each). Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander, American Indian & Alaska Native, and Other Race were expected to reach insufficient sample size. With these sample sizes, if we see differences on any one yes/no question of about 27 percentage points, those would be statistically significant findings. This same reasoning can be used to compare groups of respondents categorized by the presence of youth or elderly, or by renter vs. owner.

We trained canvassing teams from local community-based organizations to walk specified blocks in pairs, with a focus on Belle Haven given their local knowledge. Because the distribution of race and ethnicity is quite heterogeneous in Belle Haven (see maps below), we assigned specific blocks through random simulation that were expected to yield the most equal proportions of Latinx, White, Black, and Asian respondents. Canvassing teams received a list of addresses going around the block in one direction, and were asked to record whether they attempted to knock, talked to someone, and/or got a survey. We evaluated progress towards demographic targets midway through the survey period and used this progress to reassign blocks for the canvassing teams.



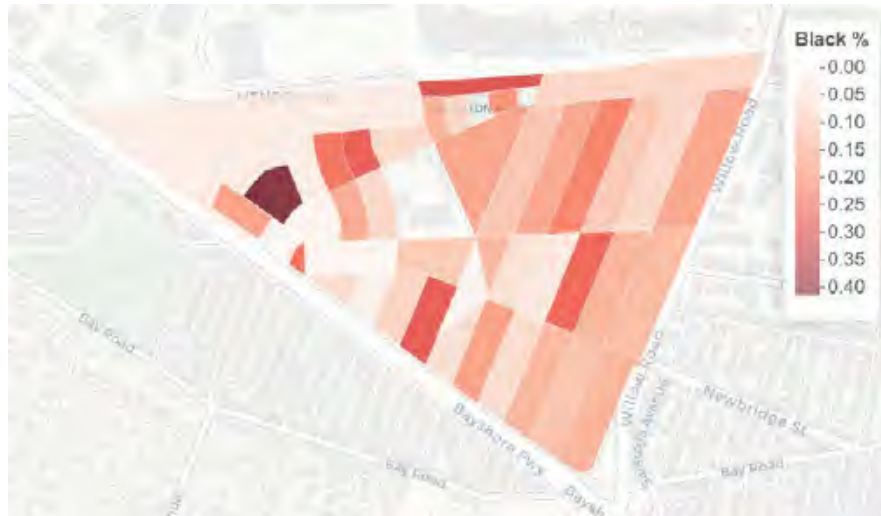


Figure 2. Belle Haven total population, % Latinx, and % Black by block, 2020 Decennial Census.

## Results

As of July 12, we had access to 420 total survey responses. 303 were paper responses collected from focus groups or door-to-door surveying. 117 were online form responses.

## Menlo Park Neighborhoods

Participants were asked to select one of the Housing Element designated neighborhoods on the online survey. Almost all paper surveys were completed by Belle Haven residents.

Table 1. Distribution of survey participants by neighborhood.

Neighborhood	# Survey Participants	% Survey Participants
Belle Haven	328	78.1
West Menlo	17	4
The Willows	15	3.6
Centro Menlo	13	3.1
Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	13	3.1
Sharon Heights	9	2.1
Downtown	7	1.7
Linfield Oaks	6	1.4
Allied Arts - Stanford Park	4	1

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	3	0.7
El Camino Real Corridor	2	0.5
Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio	2	0.5
Bayfront	1	0.2

## Race and Ethnicity

Participants were asked to check all races/ethnicities that applied to their household. 18 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 402, treating multiple options as fractions of a whole household, we observe the following distribution.

*Table 2. Distribution of survey participant households by race and ethnicity.*

Race/Ethnicity	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Menlo Park HHs, 2020 Census
Latino/Latinx	171	42.5	18.8
White	88	22	58.3
Black	72	17.8	3.1
Pacific Islander	35	8.7	1.1
Asian	27	6.8	18.1
Other	8	2	0.5
Native American	1	0.3	0.1

*Table 3. Belle Haven distribution of survey participant households by race and ethnicity.*

Race/Ethnicity	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Belle Haven HHs, 2020 Census
Latino/Latinx	167	53.9	60.5
Black	70	22.7	11.7
Pacific Islander	35	11.3	3.6
White	23	7.3	10.5
Asian	11	3.5	10.3
Other	3	1	3.2
Native American	1	0.3	0.1

Overall, the current distribution of participants somewhat resembles the real Belle Haven population, with overrepresentation of Black and Pacific Islander populations.

## Age

The # of household members of different ages represented within the participant pool are below. Some respondents mistakenly checked boxes instead of filling in numbers; these were conservatively converted to 1. 4+ responses were converted to 4.

*Table 4. Distribution of survey participant household members by age.*

Age	# Household Members	% Participant Household Members	% Menlo Park Population, 2016-2020 ACS
Children 0-17	397	25.8	24.6
Adults 18-29	283	18.4	14.6
Adults 30-59	528	34.3	39.5
Adults 60+	331	21.5	21.2

*Table 5. Belle Haven distribution of survey participant household members by age.*

Age	# Household Members	% Participant Household Members	% Belle Haven Population, 2016-2020 ACS
Children 0-17	345	27	26.2
Adults 18-29	246	19.2	17.4
Adults 30-59	433	33.9	44.6
Adults 60+	254	19.9	11.8

Overall, the current distribution of participants by age somewhat represents the real Belle Haven and Menlo Park age distribution, with overrepresentation of elderly residents.

## Tenure

Using public Secured Property Tax data from San Mateo County<sup>4</sup>, we were able to match 243 responses to specific parcels by address. On balance, the subset that provided addresses appears comparable to the full cohort, with some underrepresentation of White respondents.

<sup>4</sup> <https://datahub.smcgov.org/Government/Secured-Property-Taxes/pmvw-bs84>



Table 6. Distribution of survey participants that provided a matchable address by race and ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	# Households	% Survey Participants, with Address	% Survey Participants, Full
Latino/Latinx	102	43.8	42.5
Black	46	19.6	17.8
White	37	15.9	22
Pacific Islander	31	13.3	8.7
Asian	16	6.8	6.8
Other	1	0.4	2
Native American	0	0.2	0.3

Based on this subset, it appears that the survey overrepresented renter households significantly, as seen in the table below.

Table 7. Distribution of survey participants by tenure.

Tenure	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Belle Haven HHs, 2016-2020 ACS	% Menlo Park HHs, 2016-2020 ACS
Owner	93	38.3	0.52	0.6
Renter	150	61.7	0.48	0.4

## Overcrowding

Using Assessor data from San Mateo County<sup>5</sup>, we were able to match 223 responses to residential parcels with recorded information about the number of rooms. Using the U.S. Census Bureau’s definition of overcrowding, we found that the respondents experienced degrees of overcrowding that were comparable to Belle Haven per the American Community Survey, though this result should be considered an underestimate because of the way we rounded the household size responses. In fact, all of the surveyed households experiencing overcrowding were from Belle Haven.

Table 8. Distribution of survey participants by degree of overcrowding.

Condition	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Belle Haven HHs, 2016-2020 ACS	% Menlo Park HHs, 2016-2020 ACS
Overcrowding (> 1 persons/room)	45	0.20	0.18	0.04

<sup>5</sup> Provided with permission for nonprofit use by the San Mateo County Housing Department and Office of Sustainability.

Severe Overcrowding (> 1.5persons/room)	11	0.05	0.05	0.03
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## Environmental Impact

Respondents were asked: “Have you or your family been affected by any of the following in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.” 5 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 415, we observe the following distribution. The asterisks denote a statistically significant difference between households in Belle Haven and not in Belle Haven: a single asterisk reflects 90% confidence, two asterisks reflect 95% confidence, and three asterisks reflect 99% confidence. Statistical significance is a function of the difference between the proportions of the two groups, as well as the number of respondents in each group. The larger the difference and the larger both samples, the greater our confidence in a true population-level difference.

*Table 9. % of survey participant households by environmental impacts experienced. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Environmental Impact	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Poor air quality	73.3	72.8	73.5
Traffic congestion	65.5	72.8	63.4
Dust and noise from construction	52.9	45.7	54.9
Extreme heat in my home	46.9	33.7	50.6 ***
Extreme heat affecting neighborhood travel	30.7	19.6	33.8 **
Lack of working air conditioning	30	26.1	31.1
Poor tap water quality	26.9	12	31.1 ***
Presence of mold in my home	25.2	13	28.7 ***
Poor soil quality	23.3	12	26.5 ***
Floods affecting neighborhood travel	18.8	5.4	22.6 ***
Rain or weather-related flood damage to my home	15	8.7	16.8 *
Home insurance claim related to environmental issues	10	1.1	12.5 ***

The following table disaggregates the key results by race and ethnicity. The racial categories Native American and Other were excluded due to insufficient sample size. The asterisks denote a statistically significant difference between the given group and the White population.

*Table 10. % of survey participant households that experienced environmental impacts, by race and ethnicity. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Environmental Impact	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific
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					Islander
Traffic congestion	74.4	49.1 ***	68.8	79.9	94.3 **
Poor air quality	69.1	71.3	66.2	78.7	97.1 ***
Dust and noise from construction	51.3	41.7	62.7	38.4	82.9 ***
Extreme heat in my home	38	54.8 **	45	38.4	28.6
Lack of working air conditioning	24.2	41 **	25.4	22	17.1
Extreme heat affecting neighborhood travel	18.1	27.7	28	16.5	74.3 ***
Poor soil quality	14.7	21.8	28.4 *	20.1	20
Presence of mold in my home	14.7	35.3 ***	30.5 **	12.8	5.7
Poor tap water quality	14.1	31.4 ***	33.3 ***	14.6	25.7
Rain or weather-related flood damage to my home	7.8	17.7 *	16.6	5.5	20
Floods affecting neighborhood travel	7.4	16.1 *	7	7.3	82.9 ***
Home insurance claim related to environmental issues	3.4	12.3 **	12.6 *	3.7	2.9

The findings for Pacific Islander households include notably high proportions across many result areas. These may be inflated due to a considerably lower sample size (35) than we had for Latinx households (174), White households (87), and Black households (72). However, our Asian sample was also considerably lower (27), but without statistically significant differences compared to White households. Therefore, we interpret the Pacific Islander findings to reflect a true difference compared to White households, though perhaps not to the degree observed.

Other responses included:

- Noise from cars, trains, and planes (7)
- Litter or smell (4)
- Tree cover loss (3)
- Parking or traffic congestion (3)
- Noise from neighbor air conditioning, lawn work (3)
- Fire risk (2)
- Animal pests (2)
- Road safety
- High energy costs
- Sea level rise
- Lack of food access outside of business hours
- Lack of public water fountains
- Roof damage

## Health Issues

Respondents were asked: “Have any of the following health issues affected your household in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.” 44 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 376, we observe the following distribution.

*Table 11. Distribution of survey participant households by health issues experienced. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Health Issue	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Stress and anxiety	49.8	58.7	47.3 *
High blood pressure or cholesterol	49	31.5	54 ***
COVID-19	43.3	20.7	49.7 ***
Asthma	37.6	13	44.5 ***
Diabetes	28.8	5.4	35.4 ***
Obesity	26.2	16.3	29 **
Mental health problems	23.8	27.2	22.9
Migraines	22.1	20.7	22.6
Disability	18.3	7.6	21.3 ***
Cancer	17.9	12	19.5
Heat stroke	14	7.6	15.9 *
Reproductive/birth challenges	3.6	4.3	3.4

*Table 12. % of survey participant households that experienced health issues, by race and ethnicity. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Health Issue	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
Stress and anxiety	56.1	37.1 ***	49.2	67.1	71.4
High blood pressure or cholesterol	33	50.9 ***	50.3 **	36.6	74.3 ***
Mental health problems	26.7	26.8	22.8	14.6	2.9 ***
Migraines	23.5	24	19.3	26.8	5.7 **
COVID-19	19.8	47.9 ***	39.6 **	32.9	91.4 ***
Asthma	18.5	41.3 ***	47.1 ***	15.9	71.4 ***
Cancer	15.8	19.2	15.4	3.7	17.1
Obesity	14.5	29.6 **	22.8	14	51.4 ***
Disability	9.5	16.5	36.8 ***	3.7	8.6

Diabetes	5.2	32.5 ***	35 ***	12.8	65.7 ***
Heat stroke	3.8	20.1 ***	10.5	12.8	14.3 *
Reproductive/birth challenges	3.8	4.6	0.7	7.3	NA

Other responses included:

- Allergies (10)
- Lung/sinus infection (2)
- Aging, dementia
- Food poisoning
- Learning disability

## Financial Stress

Respondents were asked: “Which of the following applies to your household? Check all that apply.” 36 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 384, we observe the following distribution.

*Table 13. Distribution of survey participant households by financial stresses experienced. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Financial Stress	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
We do not have earthquake insurance.	43.1	55.4	39.6 ***
My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare.	41.2	72.8	32.3 ***
We do not have or need flood insurance.	38.3	65.2	30.8 ***
We have delayed repairs we want to do to our home (like roof windows mold) because of cost.	38.3	21.7	43 ***
My household can easily cover the cost of housing.	38.1	70.7	29 ***
My household has spent more than \$100 in the past year on repairing damages caused by the environment or reducing potential impacts.	31.2	31.5	31.1
In order to pay a \$400 emergency expense my household would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money.	25	2.2	31.4 ***
If my household faced a \$400 emergency expense we would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash.	24.8	6.5	29.9 ***

Table 14. % of survey participant households that experienced financial stresses, by race and ethnicity. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.

Financial Stress	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
My household can easily cover the cost of housing.	70.2	16.7 ***	19.8 ***	50.6 *	91.4 **
My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare.	67.9	23.1 ***	22.6 ***	50.6	94.3 ***
We do not have or need flood insurance.	66	31.5 ***	31.9 ***	47.6	8.6 ***
We do not have earthquake insurance.	55.7	42.5 *	42	51.2	8.6 ***
My household has spent more than \$100 in the past year on repairing damages caused by the environment or reducing potential impacts.	29.6	30	35.4	31.1	40
We have delayed repairs we want to do to our home (like roof windows mold) because of cost.	24.5	44.2 ***	61.1 ***	36.6	2.9 **
In order to pay a \$400 emergency expense my household would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money.	9.6	33.1 ***	39.9 ***	12.8	2.9
If my household faced a \$400 emergency expense we would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash.	9.4	30.1 ***	43.4 ***	4.9	5.7

Other responses included:

- Unemployment (2)
- High property taxes (2)

## Household Improvement

Respondents were asked: “Which of the following would you prioritize if you had extra money to spend on your household’s environmental health and safety? Select only one bubble for each column.” 25 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 395, we observe the following distribution of top #1 and #2 choices. Note that Belle Haven respondents were more likely to fill out the survey with more than one #1 choice, which is likely to have led to an overestimate of the degree of statistical significance in comparisons across groups.

Table 15. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \* $P < 0.10$ , \*\* $P < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.01$ .

Household Improvement	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	41.2	27.2	45.1 ***
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	39.3	18.5	45.1 ***
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	38.3	27.2	41.5 **
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	34.8	13	40.9 ***
Healthy food (including gardening)	31.7	13	36.9 ***
Solar panels or battery storage	29.5	37	27.4
Rainwater capture or water recycling	27.9	23.9	29
Home insurance	23.1	4.3	28.4 ***
Replace gas appliances	19.3	19.6	19.2
Other	3.6	3.3	3.7

Table 16. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \* $P < 0.10$ , \*\* $P < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.01$ .

Household Improvement	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
Solar panels or battery storage	36.2	34.6	21 *	31.1	14.3 **
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	28.9	54.1 ***	43.6 *	28.7	11.4 *
Rainwater capture or water recycling	28.3	30.7	25.6	20.1	14.3
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	25.1	44.8 ***	49.9 ***	34.8	34.3
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	23.8	42.4 ***	27	25.6	57.1 ***
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	20.8	51.1 ***	40.3 **	37.8	17.1
Replace gas appliances	18.7	19.9	16.1	16.5	22.9
Healthy food (including gardening)	15.3	38 ***	32.6 **	20.1	45.7 ***
Home insurance	9.6	35.1 ***	26.3 ***	3.7	5.7
Other	2.3	5.6	4.9	NA	NA

We also investigated whether there was any difference in household improvement priorities across households with (195) or without (225) elderly members. There do not appear to be

statistically significant differences, with the exception of preferences for rainwater capture or water recycling.

*Table 17. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of households with or without elderly members. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Household Improvement	All Households	Households without Elderly	Households with Elderly
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	41.2	38.7	44.1
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	39.3	37.3	41.5
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	38.3	41.3	34.9
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	34.8	35.1	34.4
Healthy food (including gardening)	31.7	31.1	32.3
Solar panels or battery storage	29.5	30.7	28.2
Rainwater capture or water recycling	27.9	23.1	33.3 **
Home insurance	23.1	24	22.1
Replace gas appliances	19.3	17.8	21
Other	3.6	2.7	4.6

We also investigated whether there was any difference in household improvement priorities across households with (220) or without (200) financial burden, based on affirming either of the statements from the survey question on financial stress: “My household can easily cover the cost of housing”; “My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare”. Households that perceive themselves as financially burdened are less likely to prioritize electrification and more likely to prioritize home insurance and air conditioning.

*Table 18. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of households financially burdened or not. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Household Improvement	All Households	Households not Financially Burdened	Households Financially Burdened
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	41.2	36.5	45.5 *
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	39.3	35	43.2
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	38.3	34	42.3
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	34.8	36	33.6



Healthy food (including gardening)	31.7	33	30.5
Solar panels or battery storage	29.5	31	28.2
Rainwater capture or water recycling	27.9	27.5	28.2
Home insurance	23.1	18.5	27.3 **
Replace gas appliances	19.3	26.5	12.7 ***
Other	3.6	3	4.1

Other responses included:

- Products to reduce extreme cold (2)
- Drought-tolerant landscaping (2)
- Lead paint abatement
- Electric vehicles
- Gas for gas vehicles
- Construction of accessory dwelling unit
- Private schooling
- Renter’s insurance
- Outdoor shading

## Neighborhood Improvement

Respondents were asked: “Which of the following would you prioritize for neighborhood improvements? Select only one bubble for each column.” 9 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 411, we observe the following distribution of top #1 and #2 choices. Note that Belle Haven respondents were more likely to fill out the survey with more than one #1 choice, which is likely to have led to an overestimate of the degree of statistical significance in comparisons across groups.

*Table 19. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred neighborhood improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Neighborhood Improvement	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Pedestrian safety (sidewalks, crosswalks, speed bumps)	45	28.3	49.7 ***
Improved roads (potholes)	42.1	18.5	48.8 ***
Safer biking routes	38.1	30.4	40.2
More street trees	35.2	15.2	40.9 ***
Improved parks or community gardening	33.8	14.1	39.3 ***
Improved water supply (safe drinking, firefighting)	32.1	13	37.5 ***
Security cameras for safety and dumping	31.9	13	37.2 ***

Cool and clean air shelters (community center)	29.5	4.3	36.6 ***
Improved transit infrastructure (bus stops, signs, benches)	29.3	16.3	32.9 ***
Air quality monitoring sensors in public spaces	25.7	13	29.3 ***
Improved storm drainage	23.3	6.5	28 ***
Improved code enforcement (illegal parking)	21.2	5.4	25.6 ***
Flood barriers along rivers or bayfront	20.7	5.4	25 ***
Other	6	6.5	5.8

Table 20. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred neighborhood improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.

Neighborhood Improvement	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
Safer biking routes	35.3	49.6 **	35.2	27.4	5.7 ***
Pedestrian safety (sidewalks, crosswalks, speed bumps)	30.4	57.2 ***	41.5	36.6	22.9
More street trees	25.3	48.5 ***	30.8	7.3 *	25.7
Improved roads (potholes)	24.3	44.8 ***	44.8 **	12.8	71.4 ***
Improved transit infrastructure (bus stops, signs, benches)	22.1	35.4 **	30.8	23.8	14.3
Improved parks or community gardening	20.9	48.9 ***	28	16.5	8.6
Improved water supply (safe drinking, firefighting)	16.2	40.2 ***	32.6 **	16.5	37.1 **
Security cameras for safety and dumping	15.8	37.8 ***	36.4 ***	36.6 **	20
Air quality monitoring sensors in public spaces	14.5	32.7 ***	28.7 **	21.3	11.4
Improved storm drainage	11.9	32.8 ***	19.6	1.8	17.1
Flood barriers along rivers or bayfront	11.3	27.8 ***	21.7	3.7	14.3
Improved code enforcement (illegal parking)	10.2	27 ***	28.7 ***	7.3	5.7
Cool and clean air shelters (community center)	7.7	45 ***	32.9 ***	6.7	8.6
Other	5.1	7.3	6.3	3.7	NA

Other responses included:

- Reduce crime (3)
- Reduce noise pollution from trains (3)
- Electrification of trains
- Landscape freeway interchange at Willow Rd
- Transit service on Dumbarton Rail corridor

- Supermarket access near Dumbarton Rail corridor
- Undergrounding of power lines
- Dog park
- Tennis courts
- Reduce parking fees
- Cutting down of very large trees
- School crossing guards

**City of Menlo Park**

# Climate Resilient Communities Prioritization Workshop Summary



**May 2024**

Empowering community voices to  
implement equitable climate solutions  
for unity, resilience, & justice

**Prepared For:**  
City of Menlo Park



## Climate Resilient Communities

May 2nd & 9th, 2024

567 Hamilton Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025

*Description: This report summarizes the outcomes of two workshops on the Environmental Justice (“EJ”) and Safety Element Update for the City of Menlo Park’s General Plan. It was organized by Climate Resilient Communities (“CRC”) for Spanish-speaking residents and members of the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, on May 2nd and May 9th, 2024. The primary facilitators were CRC Staff representatives and members of the identified Underserved Communities which includes Belle Haven and Bayfront residents of Menlo Park.*

### Participant Demographics

- The May 2 Spanish workshop was attended by 33 individuals.
- The May 9 English workshop was attended by 48 individuals.
- Nearly all participants were members of the Belle Haven Community.
- Cumulative participants engaged throughout the EJ Element process totals approximately 1,800 residents, which represents more than 25% of Belle Haven residents.

### Key Take-Aways

- 1** The top priorities of Belle Haven residents are Safe, Sanitary, and Stable homes and Access to Healthy and Affordable food. This demonstrated the financial precarity of the community through their clear emphasis on access to basic needs and services. The EJ Element should offer clear paths to addressing these concerns.
- 2** There are massive disparities between the Belle Haven neighborhood and the South side of Menlo Park, separated by the 101 Freeway. Several participants in the workshop indicated they lacked the literacy to participate in the worksheet activity without facilitator help, something entirely absent from many perceptions of Menlo Park.
- 3** Accountability remains a top concern for residents. They have little trust that their participation will result in meaningful change and are reluctant to believe that the programs and policies will be implemented. Many residents are feeling acute stress and want to see improvements made in their community while seeing the displacement pressure alleviated. Many environmental concerns take a back seat to the more immediate concerns about displacement, gentrification, and access to healthy food and living environments.



# Key Quotes from Worksheet Comments:



"Living here is expensive and many times we have to pay rent no matter what and our health is affected because we can't afford quality food."

"Housing is a human rights issue, addressing the displacement and ensuring residents that make up this community can stay in the community is the top priority."



"Rent control is #1 because it can allow people time to save to purchase a house in the future."

"Rent is so expensive! We need better rent control laws for low income families!"

"There are a lot of residents who've had to move away because of rent hikes and discriminatory home buying practices. There are renter-to-owner issues that need to be addressed by laws."



"My number 1 is increasing the number of trees in the community which will help with significant air pollutants and overall health."

"Environmental justice is essential for the growth of the community."

"We need to have banks and grocery stores in this area because there are lots of seniors who don't have vehicles and have to wait at the bus stops for long periods and some are afraid of being onboard."



"As I age, after I retired I am unable to afford to live."

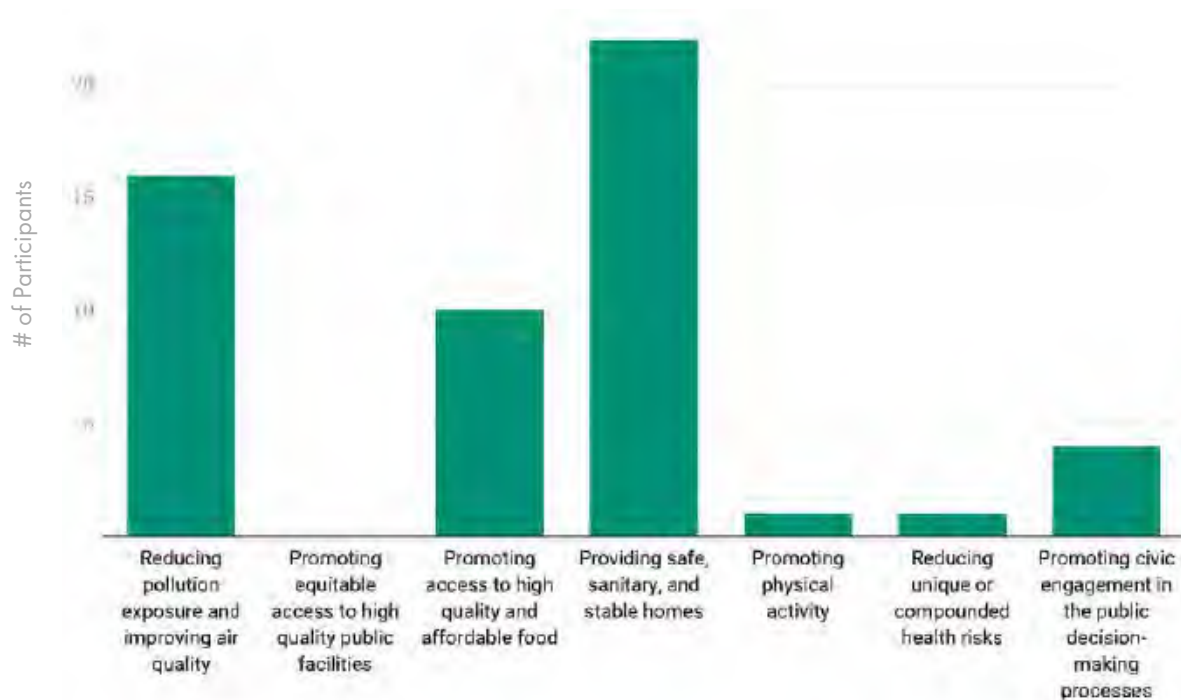
Summary of Worksheet Exercise

Prioritization Workshop Summary



### Key Statistics

- Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes was the top priority, receiving a plurality of first place rankings. 41% of residents stated it was their top concern.
- The #2 priority was Healthy and Affordable Food. 30% of residents stated it was their top concern. The #3 priority was Reducing Pollution Exposure, as 18% of residents placed this at the top.
- Among the seven programs in the Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes, 48% of residents placed anti-displacement as their top priority, while 21% of others stated down-payment assistance as their top priority.



# Recommendations

01

## EJ Element Reporting Requirements & Accountability

Increase opportunities for accountability through strict reporting requirements on EJ Element Programs and Policies. Identify a primary and secondary department and/or staff person responsible for implementation and, as appropriate, at least two potential funding sources in the implementation guide.

02

## Goal 5 Language Towards “Safety, Sanitary, and Stable”

Ensure "Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing" is used in Goal 5 language and throughout the document, replacing "Safe and Sanitary Homes."

03

## Strengthening in Policy Language

Strengthen program and policy language throughout the EJ Element, for example by changing encourage to ensure or could to should/shall.

04

## Anti-Displacement Actions

Elevate Anti-Displacement Actions into the EJ Element, accelerate timelines for creation and implement interim steps as soon as possible:

- Specifically, move 7.J.3 from the Implementation Guide to the Environmental Justice Element itself, retaining it as a program under Goal 5
- Modify 5.G to say “Ensure that the City’s Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E supports households and neighborhoods in Underserved Communities. This will include studying at a minimum the following:
  - the creation of a rental inventory of all homes
  - updated or expanded rent control laws
  - rent increase mitigations such as longer noticing requirements
  - community and tenant opportunity to purchase policies
  - revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper subsidies
  - relocation assistance for tenants
  - just cause eviction protections regardless of tenant duration
  - strengthened tenant harassment ordinances
  - examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs.





# Objectives & Methodology

## Objectives

- Identify community priorities within Environmental Justice topic areas
- Prioritize programs within goal areas to identify most pressing stressors and opportunities
- Engage residents in civic processes and receive feedback to structure general plan
- Provide update on Safety Element revisions document based on community feedback

## Methodology



### Outreach

- Reached out to resident contacts via email, text and phone calls to our network
- Contacted other Belle Haven nonprofits (Belle Haven Action, Belle Haven Empowered, Belle Haven Community Development Fund), distributing online registration form
- Collaborated with Belle Haven Climate Change Community Teams (CCCTs) to promote event and reach further networks
- Distributed flyers door to door and at 3 tabling events



### Facilitation

Our attached agenda (see appendix) explains the general outline of the meeting, which was the same for both discussions. It began with a presentation before attendees participated in a guided worksheet and small group exercise. This consisted of filling out worksheets asking residents to rank their priorities on a list and then discuss why they ranked things the way they did. Participants ranked all options relative to one another and had an area to provide written comments. Every 10 minutes the topic changed, with two minutes to work on the ranking and 8 minutes to discuss the results with facilitators taking notes and asking questions. After completing their worksheets and offering comments, people returned their completed worksheets and received their participant compensation.

# Agenda & Summary of Discussions

Time	Agenda
5:30pm	Participants Arrive and Begin Dinner
6:10pm	People Directed to the Sanctuary for the Presentation
6:15pm	Presentation Began from M-Group Explaining Work Done-to-Date
6:30pm	Breakout Activity: Guided Worksheet Exercise
7:45pm	Reconvene/Close: Collect Worksheets & Distribute Compensation

## Summary of Discussions (Spanish):

**(Facilitator 1 - Chase)** The residents of Menlo Park spoke on the various concerns that they have about their community. One of the larger concerns is the air quality around the neighborhoods in Belle Haven due to the highway being close in proximity and the construction going on at the elementary school. Residents with breathing issues or asthma are greatly affected by the dust and other pollutants in the air. Residents also mentioned that Resilience Hubs are also of importance and it would be within the best interest of the community to outfit public buildings with things to relieve community members during times of climate events such as heat waves, atmospheric rivers, etc.

A lack of affordable housing and resources for lower income families were also a huge concern. Residents talked about how many lower income residents did not have many options when it comes to homes and them having sufficient space for the pricing.

In addition to this, there is not enough low income housing within the community. Transportation was a concern as well, bus routes and general public or group transportation either did not live up to the community standards or did not meet them at all. SamTrans was either not entirely reliable or didn't fulfill the needs of the community and although it uses an electric vehicle, it was deemed to do more harm than good.

**(Facilitator 2 - Najiha)** For comments about the workshop itself, participants needed to be assured that their feedback would be heard and distributed to the city. There is a great mistrust between city officials and the residents. Major concerns were for air quality, housing stability, and results. They don't want reporting in and of itself, but to see the tangible results throughout the community. Some participants weren't able to read at all so facilitators stepped in to help interpret the worksheet activity, allowing them to select their top

priority. This wasn't very effective and resulted in some skewed results because some residents resorted to just answering in sequential order. It was difficult for them to remember all the options as they were read aloud - some options were wordy. Primary feedback centered around distrust, not really thinking their concerns were going to yield any results, or that any actions would be taken as a direct result of voicing their concerns.

**(Facilitator 3 - Alba)** Air quality, health and affordable housing were very important overall. The community members connected with other topics like, SamTrans and the special project to provide transport, but the system to get it was not serving the community members as planned. Others pointed out that one of the Programs in the EJ Element were focused on reducing water bills, but residents asked about electricity as a greater expense.

Community members mentioned as top priority owning land as a community to then being able to regulate it and share it to have affordable housing. Another community member did not prioritize the internet to avoid it leading to youth becoming more sedentary as they surf the net or play games or stream. All mentioned food and housing as top priorities.

## Summary of Discussions (English):

The discussions held in English were very similar. The top three priorities were Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing, Healthy and Affordable Food, and Reducing Pollution Exposure. Many justified the focus on housing and displacement prevention as being the foundation of a community—what is the use in cleaning the environment if they're ultimately forced to live elsewhere? Residents pointed to the role housing plays in overall health and the high degree of their neighbors that live in unsafe or unstable conditions. They saw healthy and affordable foods as vital and pointed out the lack of a grocery store in the community as something that degrades health and contributes to other problems like traffic and air quality as people are forced to drive elsewhere to access basic services like food, banking, and medical care.

Many residents placed civic engagement as their lowest priority. They felt that decisions have always been made without them and didn't see how participating in any of the processes would change their lives. Many residents voiced that they had tried to participate in the past, many for decades and have not seen their action result in anything meaningful. This demonstrates the importance of tangible improvements made in the community as a result of this process—failure to do so risks further disenfranchisement and disengagement.

“Housing is a human rights issue, addressing the displacement and ensuring residents that make up this community can stay in the community is the top priority.”

-- Belle Haven Resident



# Appendix & Attachments

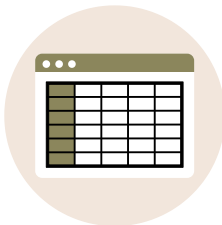
## Attachments (all included as separate documents):



**Appendix 1** - English Menlo Park EJE Feedback: Contains a transcription of notes written by facilitators and all written comments on worksheets collected from participants, both organized by subject area.



**Appendix 2** - Spanish Menlo Park EJE Feedback: Contains a transcription of notes written by facilitators and all written comments on worksheets collected from participants, both organized by subject area.



**Appendix 3** - An excel workbook with raw data from the prioritization worksheet. This is the data used to generate the graphs above.



**Climate Resilient Communities is immensely grateful for the collaboration and support of both M-Group and the Belle Haven Community for being able to make this research and prioritization efforts possible.**

At its inception in 2016, Climate Resilient Communities was a volunteer-driven commitment to helping residents reduce their energy costs, improve home health, and gain access to local resources like subsidized solar panels and home energy audits, and weatherization upgrades.

Through the support of our funders, our growth has allowed CRC to expand community-based solutions that center local voices in order to increase capacity to adapt to climate change threats like extreme heat, flooding, and water, food, and energy security, alongside environmental justice education.

**We thank you for your review on the prioritization progress & our research towards and for the communities we serve.**

## Contact

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English Menlo Park EJE Feedback

**Large Post It Comments:**

Overall:

Top:

- Homes - stable homes are foundation, apartments aren't habitable and that creates significant health problems
- Affordable food - people need to be fed
- Physical Activity - more holistic solutions come from a healthy start with our kids. If they are not active in their youth, that will negative shape the rest of their lives
- Our biggest priority is to provide safe, sanitary and stable homes
- We also want to make sure that we are a part of promoting access to high quality and affordable food

Bottom:

- Engagement - we know that the City will make decisions without us anyways, like they always do

Goal 1:

- Public infrastructure, wants to see progress reported on, need to see results
- Seeing same problems - 40/50 years down the line
- Public infrastructure demonstrates that it is getting done and it is clearly a start to what needs to happen next
- Annual reports help create evidence and a track record
  - Written progress makes me feel like it is getting done and they are actively assessing what has been done and what is working
  - Does "annual" mean at the beginning, middle or end of the year? We would prefer to have all three
- Prioritize Belle Haven, shows up progress - annually!
- Infrastructure - everything is old and the new Community Center is the only new building
  - We need to start now because we know that it is going to take a while
- Most important is air pollution
- We do not think it is important to prioritize public infrastructure because work with people first and then get to this
- We want to see that "reporting" is accessible
- The other side of Menlo Park has state of the art infrastructure, but there isn't one nearby. The infrastructure we are thinking of are hubs for children to develop themselves and build community.
- We need to prioritize public infrastructure so that people in Belle Haven feel safe and supported in enhancing their community
- We want to access how well the EJ policies and programs address health risks

Goal 2:

- Buses aren't being used
- Education and outreach are essential
- Significant polluters should be held accountable. They would rather pay a fine than do something about it
- More knowledge about how to legally dump and it should be free to use the dump
- Got to be made aware of issues and how to act pinned between pollution points
- Choices are being made to install EV charging by SamTrans without community input
- We want more education and awareness on what "green infrastructure" is
- We know the problems with air quality but we want to see action and data-driven results that demonstrate advancement and justice
- Solar panels are BEYOND CRITICAL but I hesitate because I don't trust PG&E's grid capacity in Belle Haven. I have only heard horrible things from folks who have spent a lot of money and time installing solar panels just to have PG&E not be there to support the installation by turning over the energy
- It is important to hold major polluters accountable for SURE
- Do you only need flood insurance if you have a loan on your home as a homeowner?  
More research is needed
  - Despite this question, people who live in the flood zones/low lying areas need to have real and tangible protections too
- I believe most of us would take care of our public spaces if it was more convenient and affordable to legally dump
- We really like and have had positive experiences with the garbage company doing bulky pick ups!
- The garbage company needs to remove the charge/cost on the size of my curbside bin
- WE NEED MORE TREES!!! The difference in air quality, more pollinators/diversity, more shade BUT I don't want to have those trees damage my plumbing or mess with my allergies
- Work with polluters to mitigate and stop, they can go electric much more easily than we can
- It is important to stop illegal dumping because of the health hazards, fire risk and rodents
- We recommend that you revise the City rules so that the City can act to protect health
- Urban greening and carpooling can wait
- It isn't just us here in Belle Haven or just me as one person, we know the City can do more than us alone
- Most important is to revise regulations in the City to reduce pollution because we need to address this program in our community
- It is not important to to develop urban forest because we don't know if there is a need for the trees in our community
- We want a better understanding for how to work with "significant polluters"
- There should be a fee reduction at waste sites
- Pollution impacts the already problematic and systemic health disparities based on racial demographics. It disproportionately impacts people of color (Zoning/redlining.
- Educating the youth about climate resilience will address: accessibility, info spread, better advocacy for our roads/streets

- Important to think about how to diversify ethnic food options
- Why haven't all stores implemented EBT? Do they lose profit when EBT is used at their store?
- Grocery stores are limited in Belle Haven and results in food scarcity
- Want similar resources to Berkeley High School that has nutritional meals for students
- Electrical modifications are needed because the homes are old
- Double panel windows will help to condense sound too and cuts down on PG&E bills
- Bus system is getting better, they pick up/drop off more often than what I remember from before
- Small drug stores like CVS and Trader Joe's would be so great to have in our neighborhood too
- We need to develop an UFMP
- It is also important to minimize/mitigate illegal dumping

Goal 3:

- Amenities closed at the times communities need them
- Improving financial access to healthcare without insurance barrier, with the expectation that there will be quality healthcare provided despite no cost and no insurance
- Fire dept open all the time, why not the amenities?
- My home must be safe and reliable for power during a natural disaster. I feel like it is more important to me to upgrade my home so I know I am safe and can invite people over when things get tough.
- Very important to identify PRIVATE locations for Resilience Hubs too
  - Resilience Hubs need to be accessible to folks in motorized wheelchairs
  - The new community center will be dangerous to drive to in an extreme storm. I don't feel comfortable using that space as a Resilient Hub in the future
- Have programs for kids and facilities to understand the steps in green infrastructure
- We want to see our public facilities kept clean and the waste is properly disposed
- Housing for low income seniors is important
- We want more communication and transparency between Belle Haven residents and the City to talk about existing programs
- Want to see more bank connections so that there are loans for the community. We want to feel the sufficiency of keeping money here in our community specifically
- PG&E is going crazy with all the rate discrepancies, hikes and extra charges. We feel absolutely brutalized when it comes to making sure the lights are on in our homes. What is going on with this and how is PCE or the City looking to intervene?
- It is not important to identify and improve buildings because we do not understand what a Resilience Hub is and do not find that term relevant or engaging as a community
- It is very important to make sure there is Internet for all so that kids can have access along with every single other community member
- Support affordable Internet access to learn more about community programs. That connection is essential for understanding the digital resources and educational campaigns that are happening by the City
- Public buildings should be identified as our resilience hubs



- We want to ensure that our recreational facilities provide residents with access to parks, community centers and other safe places to gather and connect

Goal 4:

- Resources like SNAP available - provide access and more information is needed
- We want high quality resources and in collaboration with local stores
- SNAP access to essential care materials
- What does and does not count towards EBT
- Increase knowledge and signage (ads) for food access - we need more information and access points
- Encouraging health and clean eating with fresh food locally like at a Farmer's Market is important
- Misinformation and lots of questions about if farmer's markets were still happening in Belle Haven and where they are at currently
- Gardening in general is really important, especially teaching people and a community garden how to take it home
- I want to lump the farmers market initiatives with community gardens and use those spaces as a hub for teaching, eating and spending time in my community
- Is groundwater a part of this? I want to see more trends, see more research because what I have observed now is very concerning in my own backyard
- Everyone needs to know about food assistance programs, not just some folks
- Grocery stores need to be closer to the community because seniors do not have cars and have to take the bus to get anywhere. The transportation system is not reliable enough for that to be the way they get their food.
- Most important to address the price of food because it is so expensive. We recommend prioritizing SNAP grocery stores, promoting farmer markings and identifying how to promote deeper accessibility in Belle Haven
- The City must tell people about existing programs
- Everyone will accept benefits, increased access and an increase in affordability
- Community gardens can help share resources
- We voted for encouragement of the community at the bottom because the current programs people already know about are not working. We clearly need new programs that make more sense for this community.
- Proximity matters in providing healthy food - it must be walkable! Other ways to make it more accessible include smaller businesses, accessibility, universal SNAP and food delivery to seniors
- Inform low-income households and make sure the information makes sense to them
- ENcourage healthy food options

Goal 5:

- Education prevention for youth to not become houseless - prepare in advance through financial education pathways
- Noticing a ballooning interest on loans
- Down payment and first-time homeowners assistance
- Properties are being sold with toxic releases present

- Toxic building materials in houses
- Nonchalance of government to address these issues is so, so frustrating
- Rent control is necessary, we recommend \$6000 for 2 bed, 2 bath
- Anti-displacement sounds intriguing, we all in this group want to see that because we continue to see more and more folks living in their cars but wanting to stay in the community despite not being able to afford to live here
- We have NO rent control laws, that is easily the most important because it doesn't exist at all and hasn't been piloted at all in the area
- So much traffic because people can't afford to live here, they have to pass through to get to more affordable housing on the other side of the Bay
- It has taken a while for Belle Haven residents to see and feel the impacts of gentrification but it is very clear at this point in time
- Multilingual resources need to also be plainly worded so that you do not need to be highly education to understand and feel like you are included in that resource
- Most important to Identify and resolve rent control issues and housing issues for renters
- We do not feel it is a priority now to ensure that the City has an anti-displacement policy or initiative
- Down payments help a lot and we want more classes for homebuyers
- Displacement is a major issue!! The rent to own model is not working in our community
- There is a major problem with soil quality in Belle Haven. It is critical to have a clean foundation and if it is contaminated, people will have to move
- Housing needs to be fair and affordable
- Multilingual tenant information is really important
  - Students are transferring from different countries and are having issues assimilating because of the language berries
- Speeding by Mt. Eden Seboral is unsafe for crossing children
- Ensure the City's Anti-Displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven specifically and in particular
- Electrification of homes and the water quality in the home are very important to us

Goal 6:

- Zoning parking issues, we continue to move our cars to avoid tickets
- ID barriers to physical education, safe routes to school
- Kids spend a lot of time navigating through traffic
- Lighting is terrible in the neighborhood and diminishes safety of those using active transportation after the sun goes down
- We know and deeply care about physical activity - we have known and felt that priority our whole lives and that makes this section easier to rank and visualize in the community
- Lots of people like to walk in the neighborhood. Are there more natural trails that we can use that connect to the Bay? What types of trails already exist and are they used regularly now?
- Crossing guards are very important with how much traffic there is in Belle Haven
- There are too many crossing guards, clearly there are plenty of those folks doing the work
- Seeing the assessment and development of safer routes to school is really important

- Speeding is a huge problem on Hamilton Ave - speed bumps or other slowing impediments are necessary
- Sideshows, or reckless driving and tricks, are getting out of hand. We know the police are trying but it is still a major issue that needs to be addressed.
- Our priority is to update the master plan because I want to improve the environment
- It is less important to implement education campaigns because it was the last option on the list but I got to the bottom of my ballot and only have that left
- More comprehensive and ongoing educational campaigns would help a lot in our community!
- Identify and eliminate barrier to our door physical activities are essential
- We want to see increased safety as a result of educational campaigns

Goal 7:

- Stipends for council and stipends for commissioners too - we like what is going on and look forward to more
- Want to group all the civic engagement initiatives into one priority project/campaign
- Educational opportunities are really important to keeping everyone involved and continuing to be thoughtfully involved longer term
- We really need more often and relevant disaster preparedness resources that are TANGIBLE and make sense with how to use
- Need more clarity on what "maintaining EJ Element" means in context. How is the City asking the community to be involved with this?
- It is really important to promote/evaluate educational workshops because people want to know how to get involved and want to stay involved longer term
- We do not think it is important to maintaining the EJE because the community is already not consider at all so what is the point?
- We need more disaster preparedness resources in Belle Haven
- We need to encourage more resources are leveraged for in person outreach because that is how this community connects and shares information

Other:

- Example
- Example

**Worksheet Comments:**

Overall:

- Safe and stable homes, food and reducing health risks top priority because they are the most important to living day to day. Reducing pollution and improving air quality is also very important as well as promoting civic engagement in public decision making to make the neighborhood population feel like they have a voice and that they become more involved.
- Housing is not only a major issue in the state but especially in the disadvantaged communities, that is the most important. The less important on this is physical activity because that is much more of an individual's discipline.
- With all of the traffic air quality is a must, food is next on my list followed by housing.

- Everything can be improved but physical activity and high quality facilities are mostly taken care of.
- It is very important to have good housing and food.
- Stable homes are the foundation of a good community. Lowest priority is civic engagement, it looks good here today.
- Clean air is most important for your health.
- We need to be able to nourish ourselves with quality food. Air quality is important and preventing displacement is as well. If we take care of those we'll address unique and compounded health problems, facilities is lowest on my list.
- Air quality is very important, East Menlo Park has worse air than the rest of Menlo.
- All are important but promoting physical activity is most important for the environment so there is less pollution.
- I ranked safe sanitary and stable homes as the top priority because there isn't enough nice living spaces on this side of Menlo Park.
- Living in unsafe spaces, unstable or uninhabitable conditions creates many health health issues, you need security to thrive. Decisions are often made without citizen input all the time.
- We ranked safe, sanitary, and stable homes number one because it is better to live in a clean safe home than outdoors in poor air quality.
- We ranked providing safe sanitary and stable homes because our priorities should lie in homes so they can be safe for our families and future generations.
- We rate providing safe sanctuary and stable homes number 1.
- My priority is homes, health care and physical/health risks.
- *Living here is expensive and many times we have to pay rent no matter what and our health is affected because we can't afford quality food.*
- More support for elderly folks, improve air quality.
- Top priority is housing and food.
- Air quality is a top priority due to all the construction work that is going on.
- Affordable and safe housing is crucial, civic engagement gives people a voice and opinions. Air quality can cause health risks and reducing health risks is key to living a long life.
- Promoting physical activity for our youth early in life will help decrease health risks. Improving air quality will also help reduce health issues.
- People in underserved areas are obese, this needs to be addresses. Air pollution creates asthma and lung issues. Safe and sanitary homes is anti-displacement.
- Physical activity is lower bodily health can be improved through individual actions. Outreach and education is important, knowing is half the battle.
- The cost of living is so high and is insane. People can make the best decisions about physical activity.
- If we want to tackle the air pollution, stop building in Belle Haven. That is the reason we have air pollution and stop tearing down 40 foot trees.
- If we can't keep the community we have here, what is it all for? We have to make things better for the people who have been here and fighting for a long time, so homes is a top

priority. We have to improve health, there is more than enough food to go around, it is about getting it to the people who need it.

- *Housing is a human rights issue, addressing the displacement and ensuring residents that make up this community can stay in the community is the top priority.*
- Impacts from the state highway are extreme, we should learn lessons about food insecurity from the pandemic food insecurity nutrition and health. People need to be able to easily voice their issues and concerns to governments.
- Housing is the top concern, we need to keep our current community housed and create opportunities. The community is surrounded by highways so air quality is also a top priority.
- Everything ties together.
- We need to make sure everyone is healthy.
- Having a safe and stable home is the most important because it all comes down to needing a roof over your head that way you aren't as exposed to air pollution.

Goal 1:

- The other side of Menlo Park has very good infrastructure. Look!
- traffic
- *Environmental justice is essential for the growth of the community.*
- We need infrastructure investment, we are last in our needs.
- If you prioritize you can assess what is needed and then can check annually on the progress.
- *As I age, after I retired I am unable to afford to live.*
- I live in Belle Haven so to me personally infrastructure improvements are very important to be done and health risks be addressed.
- Public infrastructure is most important because the community can see the impacts, less important is annual reporting because we'll see the progress.
- We need to know about the outcomes of the EJE and see how well it is working. Follow up in the community on progress.
- Working on the improvements in the community is needed to make real progress.
- Top priority is roads, potholes, making buildings disaster ready. Then give an account of what has been done.
- Infrastructure improvements will take the longest so they should be prioritized first. Reporting on progress can wait till things are actually being accomplished.
- We need to be informed on the plans for development.
- We need to prioritize infrastructure so that it is better for the children.
- Address health risks is most important because we face those risks every day.
- *The priority should be fixing the community because there's been a lot of neglect—buildings, schools and street are not updated. There is more congestion in the community as well so public works needs to address that.*
- Providing better infrastructure is our #1 because better spaces for children allow them to grow in their school. If you put time and effort into your childrens school they'll feel more willing to learn because youre putting time into them. As a student it makes you feel cared about that makes you want to learn.

- Children's lives matter so we need to make sure they have safe spaces.
- Actionable improvements will help everyone even when not all people are in the loop with reports and assessments.
- Prioritizing investment in Belle Haven is vital, reporting yearly is also vital.
- It is important for infrastructure to be improved quickly and reported annually to make sure there is progress.

Goal 2:

- I have to study more on this.
- Reduce pollution produces health.
- Reducing pollution exposure is essential for good health.
- Car pooling is great and we need to know if we really need flood insurance or not.
- Top priorities to me is that we need to reduce pollution by educating people on better and more ethical ways to dump things.
- Most important is educational outreach and least important is improving the number of trees.
- Education is the key for tomorrow and the least important is the electrification, there's issues that haven't been resolved.
- Working with the best technology is important to minimize air pollution.
- Bus electrification would cut down pollution, informing the public is important.
- Reducing fees at landfills will reduce illegal dumping, the legal options have to be easiest.
- Increase outreach and awareness of flood insurance it is important to prepare for the unexpected.
- The city needs to follow through on the laws put in place to protect residents.
- If people are dumping frequently more affordable fees might make them less likely to do so.
- Illegal dumping affects us and makes its way into the ocean.
- My number 1 is increasing the number of trees in the community which will help with significant air pollutants and overall health.
- Improve quality of life by opening a drugstore. Carpooling to events is already happening.

Goal 3:

- We need support for low income people, programs have to be affordable!
- Belle Haven needs more support from the city.
- Community local businesses should be preferred.
- We need a restroom at the park on Ivy Drive.
- Most important is health least is community bank.
- Provide all residents with access regardless of their economic situation. Internet is important.
- Banks are essential to a thriving community in California otherwise where will people bank and get loans? Internet can wait because many people already have it on their phones.

- *We need to have banks and grocery stores in this area because there are lots of seniors who don't have vehicles and have to wait at the bus stops for long periods and some are afraid of being onboard.*
- The internet is important because we communicate with each other and the world/generations.
- New center needs to be accessible to everyone.
- In order to thrive and be self-sufficient we need our own financial institutions. If we have strong banking relationships we can fund many of the things we need in the community.
- Internet is our top priority because the internet is how we communicate and learn on topics like Belle Haven's infrastructure.
- Waste disposal will keep the environment clean and reduce air pollution.
- More accountability to the city, we need a dental clinic over the counter prescriptions.
- 

Goal 4:

- We need more grocery stores for the elderly and the community to walk to for safety.
- Homeless people need housing and food.
- Affordable and healthy food is a great idea but in California it is hard.
- We have plenty of programs for food but none for vegan or vegetarian options.
- Home and community gardens will help support residents who live in apartments, organic gardens for year round crops. We can grow enough to support families and a farmers market.
- Now that I am retired it is more difficult to access food from home. Local small markets do not carry healthy foods period.
- Walkable stores is a huge factor.
- Least important is SNAP because it is already available most important is to inform low income people about the resources that are already available.
- SNAP is a lifesaver in this area.
- Encouraging community gardens will encourage residents to share their wealth with each other.
- We need access to high quality and affordable food. Vegan and vegetarian don't really matter unless those people are allergic to some stuff.
- Create new community gardens to provide more access to plants, fruit, soil, and gardening supplies.
- We need more stores that have clean food options. It takes transportation and more money to access more nutritious and clean food.
- A lot of stores don't offer an EBT option which shouldn't be normalized. We should have an option available to people who need SNAP or EBT. A lot of nutritious stores like trader joes or whole foods or high end stores don't have SNAP or EBT eligibility.
- Everyone should have the opportunity to shop for affordable foods.
- We need more affordable healthy and high quality foods.

Goal 5:

- I rank the highest due to the lack of rent control in our community. First time home buyers need to know what the qualifications and requirements are.
- Reduce water bills! We need help, bad! The bill is too high!
- Downpayment assistance is good, but the monthly payment will still be a problem!
- Housing affordability is very important.
- PG&E bills are higher than water bills, that should be addressed first.
- We have enough apartments here we don't need a land trust to make more of them.
- *Rent control is #1 because it can allow people time to save to purchase a house in the future.*
- Education about existing programs is important for all in regards to homes.
- Toxic soil has to be alleviated, you need to start from a clean and healthy foundation then build.
- It is better for people who come in to learn other languages to communicate with others.
- Ensuring anti-displacement is focused in Belle Haven is important and community land trust for affordable new housing.
- *There are a lot of residents who've had to move away because of rent hikes and discriminatory home buying practices. There are renter-to-owner issues that need to be addressed by laws.*
- Educational workshops would give everyone a chance to make our community more inclusive and opportunities to be heard by people who can relate.
- *Rent is so expensive! We need better rent control laws for low income families!*
- Pass rent control! And offer down payment assistance for first time buyers.
- Rent control is #1 and soil contamination is last.

Goal 6:

- We need crossing guards at key intersections because of extreme traffic in the evening.
- Flashing lights near the playgrounds are needed.
- Excessive speeding and insufficient lighting.
- We have a safe routes, it needs to be followed.
- My top priority is the safe routes to school because I have young children who are not safe.
- Most important is eliminating barriers for physical activity least important is updated the plans because that is not tangible work.
- We should have these plans drawn out in advance so safety can be reviewed and prioritized.
- Children need to be able to go to school safely.
- Sidewalks need to be accessible, how can we be active without them.
- Safe street crossing would reduce jay walking and unnecessary risks.
- Physical activity is big, encouraging more bike riding and walking will decrease the pollution.
- Implement education campaigns to help people feel safe and confident walking biking and taking transit.

Goal 7:



- We need workshops at least once a month in Belle Haven for the residents to know what is available.
- We need insurance we can afford.
- Anything to do with Belle Haven should always have Belle Haven involved!
- Language justice applies to everything.
- Belle Haven voices need to be heard.
- Regular meetings are very important.
- Outreach will help people decide what they want to do with their communities.
- We want everyone to be educated about their decisions and want everyone to be educated about them.
- Alert systems would help keep everyone safe and connected.
- Promote and evaluate educational workshops and feasibly compensate. Encourage resources for in-person outreach at the community hub.

Spanish Menlo Park EJE Feedback

**Large Post It Comments:**

Overall:

- Reduce the exposure to contamination and to better air quality
- Promote access to high quality food and high quality public facilities

Goal 1:

- Prioritize bettering the public infrastructure necessary in Belle Haven
- Inform yearly how to consider and prioritize Belle Haven in the planes to better the infrastructure

Goal 2:

- Work with the prime contaminators to minimize their contamination through the use of the best technology available
- Implement and update the Climate Action Plan of the City to better the quality of air and reduce the emissions of greenhouse gasses

Goal 3:

- Identify and better the public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Resilience Hubs
- Install infrastructure that permits easy elimination of waste in parks and streets

Goal 4:

- Support the availability of agricultural markets, agricultural positions, ethnic markets, and healthy food mobile markets. Carry out an ample divulgation and participation to publicize these markets
- Foment and simplify the development process of community gardens. Facilitate the creation or betterment of a community garden in a timeframe of 3 years

Goal 5:

- Guarantee that the Anti-Displacement Strategy of the city supports homes in Belle Haven
- Identify and resolve, in the manner that is possible, whatever possible toxic contamination of the soil in developed residential communities, particularly in Belle Haven

Goal 6:

- Identify and eliminate barriers to physical activity including sidewalks, bike lanes, and lack of safe crosswalks. Reduce the speed limit, provide sufficient street lighting, and lack of gardens or trees that provide shade in Belle Haven
- Implement educative campaigns to increase the security and commodity of people that walk, ride bikes, and use public transit

Goal 7:

- Promote and evaluate educational workshops that encourage the residents of Belle Haven in the processes of making public decisions
- Foment Resources for divulgation in person, better the community campus of Belle Haven like community centers for learning and opportunities to connect the residents with resources and foment the participation in public meetings, events and making decisions

**Worksheet Comments:**

Overall:

- Wanting to better air quality due to having issues with asthma
- Want to promote physical activity
- Reduce contamination
- All are very important to improve the city
- All are top priorities and for the children as well.
- For me, contamination and bettering the air quality because contaminated air can bring many health problems.
- We need more clean air for the health of people, pets, and elders.
- Air is important for health.
- Air is important for health. Free transportation is convenient for people.
- Air is important for health
- It's good to have a good environment. I picked 7 because all the options are important.
- Air is important for health. Free transportation is convenient for those who use it.
- Unite for the community.
- I think it's important to improve the air to be healthy.
- We need clean air for the elderly, pets, kids, and adults.

Goal 1:

- Yearly updates over the progress and the monthly results of the EJ Element
- The streets need to be improved to increase safety on the roads
- To have more information about the food (what's healthy vs. what's unhealthy)
- Very important to prioritize climate change.
- Keep the community informed.
- Flooding causes trees to fall, more communication
- Trees fall when it floods. We need more communication.
- Flooding causes trees to fall.
- It's necessary that they inform us about the progress and results.
- Flooding causes trees to fall. Inform people about environmental justice.
- Air is important for health and the community.
- To be informed about the progress happening in the city.

Goal 2:

- To clean the air, but it's difficult to assign one number to order the prioritize the issues because they are all important
- We have to educate people about the importance of air quality
- Contamination is very important
- All are priorities for a better city.
- What's important for me is clean air that's uncontaminated.
- Talk with the companies, reduce contamination
- Talk with companies to reduce contamination x 3
- Work with the people to reduce contamination.
- It's good for our lives to improve the environment even though all options are important.
- Reduce exposure to homes.
- It's important to improve the environmental air for the community.

Goal 3:

- Belle Haven needs resilience hubs
- Very good idea to work with the schools
- Working with schools is a very good option to implement with the kids.
- We need more community spaces for the community
- Kids programs and success in schools
- There isn't a community space where there are programs.
- There aren't any community spaces where there are programs
- Fix the potholes in the street.
- There isn't a community space. X 2
- Support access to internet affordability. Work with the schools to support.
- 

Goal 4:

- Promote access to healthy food because Belle Haven is a food desert
- All are priorities with this topic of food.
- All are priority
- \*Mobile farmers markets \* Spanish- English programs.
- Improve the quality of foods.
- More mobile farmers markets, more EBT money for more
- More money for EBT each month.
- It'd be great to have a community garden.
- More mobile farmers markets. More money for EBT for more.
- There are no community spaces, more programs, and there are homeless people.
- Example

Goal 5:

- To help the renters have rent control
- There is a need to reduce the cost of water
- Help renters to keep rent control.
- Workshops for kids to support them

- Clean the streets after fireworks.
- The buildings are empty for many years. X2
- Lots of support, programming and places to live.

Goal 6:

- Implement educational campaigns
- Belle Haven needs more streets lights, sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike lanes for safety
- Take care of pedestrians. Bike ways.
- Implement secure walkways for kids to cross over to schools.
- You can't see the lines for bicycles on the street.
- Workshops for kids to learn about bike safety.
- You can't see the bike lanes. X2
- Safety is important for people walking and biking.
- Lots and more transportation. Workshops for kids.

Goal 7:

- The community needs prepared for disasters
- The residents of the community need to know what is happening in the community to be better prepared
- English classes
- Provide Emergency kits before composting.
- Emergency kits, implement shelters for safe places during disasters.
- Protect the kids.
- Good communication between the city and community.
- More all-spanish workshops.
- Good communication with the community and the city. X2
- Lots of participation and support thank you.

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	7	2	5	5	5	2	2	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	3	6	2	2	3	3	5
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	7	3	4	4	1	2
Promoting physical activity	4	4	5	4	6	3	5	7	7
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	5	6	2	4	7	6	6	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	7	3	7	6	7	4	6

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	6	2	2	7	2	2	1	2	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	5	7	4	6	7	7	2	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	3	1	4	3	3	7	4	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	3	5	1	1	4	1	4
Promoting physical activity	7	6	6	3	6	6	3	7	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	3	5	5	2	5	5	5	3	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	4	4	7	1	4	4	6	5	5

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	7	6	3	5	1	6	6	4	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	5	6	3	2	3	7	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	1	5	4	4	1	1	2	1
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	2	3	4	2	1	4
Promoting physical activity	6	2	1	7	5	7	3	5	2
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	4	2	6	6	5	4	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	1	7	7	1	7	2	5	7	6

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	5	5	5	4	4	1	5	3	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	4	4	2	6	7	6	4	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	1	1	1	3	2	4	2	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	2	2	2	1	1	6	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	3	3	3	5	7	5	4	5	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	7	7	7	6	3	2	3	6	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	6	7	5	3	7	7	7

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	3	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	4
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	6	4	3	4	7	7	5	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	2	3
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	5	1	6	3	5	1	2
Promoting physical activity	5	5	3	6	7	5	3	6	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	6	4	6	7	3	6	2	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	7	7	7	5	5	4	6	7	1

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	4	4	4	1	6	2	5	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	6	6	6	5	5	7	6	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	2	2	6	2	3	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	1	1	5	3	1	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	4	7	7	3	7	4	4	3	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	3	3	1	4	3	5	4	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	5	5	7	2	7	6	7	7

Overall	Total	Average	Top Ranked
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	168	3.1111	16
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	273	5.0556	0
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	138	2.5556	10
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	137	2.537	22
Promoting physical activity	263	4.8704	1
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	243	4.5	1
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	290	5.3704	4

Overall	Total	Average	Top Ranks
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	168	3.05	16
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	273	4.96	0
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	138	2.51	10
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	137	2.49	22
Promoting physical activity	263	4.78	1
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	243	4.42	1
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	290	5.27	4

Overall	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	7	2	5	5	5	2	2	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	3	6	2	2	3	3	5
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	7	3	4	4	1	2
Promoting physical activity	4	4	5	4	6	3	5	7	7
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	5	6	2	4	7	6	6	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	7	3	7	6	7	4	6

Overall	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	6	2	2	7	2	2	1	2	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	5	7	4	6	7	7	2	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	3	1	4	3	3	7	4	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	3	5	1	1	4	1	4
Promoting physical activity	7	6	6	3	6	6	3	7	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	3	5	5	2	5	5	5	3	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	4	4	7	1	4	4	6	5	5

Overall	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	7	6	3	5	1	6	6	4	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	5	6	3	2	3	7	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	1	5	4	4	1	1	2	1
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	2	3	4	2	1	4
Promoting physical activity	6	2	1	7	5	7	3	5	2
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	4	2	6	6	5	4	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	1	7	7	1	7	2	5	7	6

Overall	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	5	5	5	4	4	1	5	3	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	4	4	2	6	7	6	4	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	1	1	1	3	2	4	2	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	2	2	2	1	1	6	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	3	3	3	5	7	5	4	5	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	7	7	7	6	3	2	3	6	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	6	7	5	3	7	7	7

Overall	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	3	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	4
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	6	4	3	4	7	7	5	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	2	3
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	5	1	6	3	5	1	2
Promoting physical activity	5	5	3	6	7	5	3	6	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	6	4	6	7	3	6	2	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	7	7	7	5	5	4	6	7	1

Overall	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	4	4	4	1	6	2	5	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	6	6	6	5	5	7	6	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	2	2	6	2	3	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	1	1	5	3	1	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	4	7	7	3	7	4	4	3	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	3	3	1	4	3	5	4	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	5	5	7	2	7	6	7	7

Overall	Total	Average	Top Ranks
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	355.1	3.11	16
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	551	5.06	0
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	288.5	2.56	10
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	298.5	2.54	22
Promoting physical activity	531.8	4.87	1
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	491.4	4.50	1
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	589.3	5.37	4

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	1	1	3	2	2	2	3	2	1	1
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	3	2	1	1	3	4	2	1	4	3
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	2	3	2	3	1	1	1	3	2	2
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	3	3	2	1	3	1	1	4	1	1
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	1	2	4	3	1	2	4	3	3	3
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	2	4	3	2	2	3	2	1	4	2
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	4	1	1	4	4	4	3	2	2	4

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	3	1	2	2	4	4	4	2	2	2
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	2	4	3	4	2	2	1	4	3	3

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	1	1	4	1	1	1	59
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	2	3	2	3	4	2	92
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	4	2	3	2	2	3	95
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	3	4	1	4	3	4	114



Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	3	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	4
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1	2	4	2	9	4	4	2	3
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	2	3	5	3	6	5	5	3	2
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	5	4	1	5	8	1	1	5	1
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	4	6	6	4	2	6	6	4	5
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	6	5	3	6	3	3	3	6	7
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	7	7	9	8	4	7	10	8	6
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in	8	8	10	9	5	9	9	9	9
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	9	10	7	7	7	10	7	7	8
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	10	9	8	10	10	8	8	10	10

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	4	1	4	5	3	1	7	2	2
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	2	7	5	6	5	3	8	3	3
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	1	5	3	1	4	4	6	1	1
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	3	3	8	2	7	2	4	4	4
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	7	8	7	10	10	6	9	9	9
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	6	2	2	4	8	5	10	5	5
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	10	9	9	9	6	9	1	7	8
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in	9	10	6	8	9	7	3	8	10
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	5	1	1	3	2	8	5	6	6
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	8	4	10	7	4	10	2	10	7

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	1	7	4	1	4	5	2	2	6
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	4	6	10	4	5	3	4	10	1
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	2	2	5	2	2	4	7	3	2
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	6	5	1	7	1	8	3	1	5
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	5	4	6	8	10	9	10	9	3
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	8	3	7	3	9	7	5	7	9
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	7	8	8	10	3	1	9	6	7
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in	10	1	2	5	8	2	8	8	10
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	3	9	9	6	6	10	1	5	4
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	9	10	3	9	7	6	6	4	8

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	4	5	2	3	4	1	7	6	110
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	5	10	3	5	7	3	6	7	166
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	2	2	7	4	3	4	2	5	118
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	1	1	4	7	5	2	3	4	132
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	10	10	5	10	2	7	10	9	245
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	9	10	10	8	9	9	4	3	209
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	3	3	6	6	6	6	5	2	230
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in Belle Haven	8	10	9	9	8	8	8	6	266
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	6	10	1	2	1	5	1	1	189
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	7	10	8	1	10	10	9	8	270

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	1	8	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	6
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	2	2	7	2	4	7	7	2	3	5
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	3	3	2	4	1	2	2	4	4	7
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	4	4	3	5	5	3	3	5	2	4
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	8	5	8	3	6	8	8	3	5	3
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	5	6	6	7	8	6	6	7	7	8
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	6	7	4	6	3	4	4	6	6	1
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	7	8	5	8	7	5	5	8	8	2

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	1	8	4	7	5	6	4	4	5	5
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	5	7	3	1	7	7	3	5	2	1
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	3	5	5	3	1	2	2	8	4	4
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	4	1	1	5	2	1	6	7	1	2
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	6	4	8	4	6	5	5	6	6	3
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	8	6	7	8	3	4	8	3	8	6
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	2	2	2	6	4	3	7	2	7	7
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	7	3	6	2	8	8	1	1	3	8

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	7	7	6	3	6	7	4	8	8	7
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	5	8	4	2	7	8	8	7	6	1
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	8	6	1	4	8	1	1	1	4	3
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	4	5	2	7	2	5	2	2	1	5
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	3	4	3	6	5	2	7	3	5	4
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	1	1	5	5	1	6	6	6	2	8
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	2	2	7	1	3	3	5	5	3	6
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	6	3	8	8	4	4	3	4	7	2

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	8	3	2	7	155
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	7	6	1	8	160
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	1	4	8	3	122
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	2	2	4	2	113
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	3	1	6	5	167
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	4	8	3	4	187
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	5	5	7	1	144
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	6	3	5	6	179

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	1	1	3	1	3	3	3	1	2	2
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	2	2	4	2	2	4	4	2	5	1
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	3	3	1	3	5	1	1	3	1	4
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	4	4	5	4	4	5	5	5	3	5
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	5	5	2	5	1	2	2	4	4	3

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	4	3	2	2	1	5	3	5	1	4
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	3	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	3
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	2	4	5	5	4	1	4	2	3	1
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	1	2	3	3	3	2	2	4	5	2
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	1	5	4	4	5	4	5	3	4	5

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	4	2	1	1	5	1	4	4	1	1
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	3	3	2	2	1	5	5	3	2	2
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	2	5	4	5	3	4	3	5	4	4
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	1	4	3	3	2	2	1	2	3	3
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	5	1	5	4	4	3	2	1	5	5

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	1	2	3	1	1	2	84
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	2	1	4	2	5	1	89
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	3	5	2	4	4	3	116
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	4	3	1	3	2	4	112
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	5	4	5	5	3	5	135

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	1	1	7	2	2	7	7	2	6	4
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	2	2	6	4	5	6	6	4	4	3
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	3	3	2	1	7	2	2	1	2	7
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	4	4	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	6
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process	5	5	4	6	3	4	4	6	5	1
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	6	6	5	7	4	5	5	7	7	2
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	7	7	1	5	6	1	1	5	1	5

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	5	7	6	7	2	7	4	2	1	7
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	6	3	5	5	6	4	6	5	4	3
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	3	5	3	6	3	3	7	7	6	6
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	2	4	7	4	7	6	2	6	7	2
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process	4	6	4	3	1	1	3	1	5	4
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	7	2	2	2	4	5	5	3	3	5
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	1	1	1	1	5	2	1	4	2	1

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	1	6	7	1	4	7	4	5	3	7
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	4	2	2	6	3	6	7	4	6	6
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	5	5	1	5	7	2	6	6	5	4
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	6	7	4	2	6	3	3	1	4	3
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process	2	1	3	7	2	4	2	2	2	2
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	7	3	5	3	5	5	5	7	7	5
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	3	1	6	4	1	1	1	3	1	1

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	7	7	3	4	3	1	7	6	7	5
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	6	2	6	3	4	4	5	2	2	4
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	3	4	7	1	1	5	6	5	5	6
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	2	3	4	2	2	6	4	4	3	3
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process	1	1	2	5	5	7	3	1	1	2
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	4	6	5	6	6	3	2	3	4	7
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	5	5	1	7	7	2	1	7	6	1

Goal 5	Ranking	Total	Top Ranks
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	7	189	6
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	6	179	0
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	5	173	5
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	2	154	2
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process	3	133	9
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	4	194	0
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	1	123	20

Goal 6	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	2
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	1
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections	3	4	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	3
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice	4	2	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4

Goal 6	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	3	1
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit	2	4	2	3	2	2	2	4	2	2
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections	4	2	3	2	3	1	3	1	1	3
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	2	4	4

Goal 6	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven	3	1	3	1	1	1	4	2	1	1
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit	4	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections	1	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	3
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice	2	4	2	3	4	4	2	4	3	4

Goal 6	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven	3	1	1	2	55
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit	4	3	2	1	75
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections	2	2	4	3	95
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice	1	4	3	4	116

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	1	1	2	5	4	2	2	7	3	1
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	2	2	4	7	3	4	4	10	9	2
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	3	3	3	10		3	3	5	7	5
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	4	4	10	9	6	10	10	9	8	3
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	4
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	6	6	5	8	2	5	5	8	5	6
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	7	7	6	6	10	6	6	6	4	7
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven	8	8	7	2	9	7	7	2	1	9
Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.										
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	9	9	8	3	8	8	8	3	10	10
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	10	10	9	4	7	9	9	4	2	8

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	5	4	4	2	3	4	1	8	6	1
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	4	8	10	3	2	1	2	1	5	2
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	6	5	3	4	9	9	4	5	4	5
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	3	3	9	9	5	7	3	9	3	3
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	2	2	2	7	1	2	9	2	1	4
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	1	7	8	6	7	10	6	6	2	6
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	10	6	6	5	8	3	8	3	10	7
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven	7	1	1	1	4	5	7	7	7	8
Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.										
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	8	9	5	8	10	6	10	10	8	9
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	9	10	7	9	6	8	5	4	9	10

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	10	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	5	1
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	1	10	6	5	6	2	2	1	1	3
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	9	2	5	8	10	9	4	3	4	4
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	2	3	2	10	8	8	3	4	10	9
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	6	6	3	1	7	7	6	5	3	2
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	3	7	4	3	5	3	5	6	6	6
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	8	9	10	9	4	10	7	7	7	5
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven	4	4	9	7	2	4	9	8	2	1
Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.										
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	5	8	7	2	3	5	8	9	9	8
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	1	5	8	6	9	6	10	10	8	9

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	6	1	2	1	103
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	9	8	3	2	144
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	5	2	1	3	165
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	4	3	8	4	205
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	7	4	6	5	126
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	2	9	5	8	187
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	8	6	10	6	237
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven	3	5	4	10	180
Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.					
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	10	7	7	7	254
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	1	10	9	9	250

# City of Menlo Park

## Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment.

The Action Guide lists Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, programs, and action items. The community-prioritized goals lead the Action Guide, followed by the other goals in sequential order.

Policies and programs are under the goals in sequential order, while action items are under the program they implement. The organizing structure and color scheme, demonstrated below, allows for easy reference:

Item	Structure	Example
Goal	<b>EJ#</b>	<b>EJ1</b>
<i>Policy</i>	<i>EJ#.#</i>	<i>EJ1.1</i>
Program	<b>EJ#.X</b>	<b>EJ1.A</b>
Action Item	<b>EJ#.X.#</b>	<b>EJ1.A.1</b>

The Action Guide includes details on programs and action items, organized under three groups: Descriptive Information, Implementation, and Time Frame. The structure and presentation style of the Action Guide may evolve over time.



## Descriptive Information

### Column A: ID

Identification of the policy, program, or action item corresponding to the goal they support (e.g., EJ4):

- Policies are given a number (e.g., EJ4.1)
- Programs are given a letter (e.g., EJ4.D)
- Action items are given a letter and a number (e.g., EJ4.D.1)

### Column B: Policy / Program / Action Item Text

Text of the policy, program, or action item.

### Column C: Classification

Identification of whether the row is a policy, program, or action item.

### Column D: In Progress?

If City and/or partners are currently conducting a process that would accomplish the objective of the program or action item, this column includes a brief description. As the City fulfills programs and action items, and initiates activity on additional programs and action items, this column may be updated.

## Implementation

Implementation data describes who would likely lead carrying out the program or action item and what funding is potentially available to fulfill it. Also included in this section are supporting City departments and partners outside City government, such as County authorities or non-governmental organizations.

### Column E: Lead Role

The City department or division who would likely lead the implementation of the program or action item.

### Column F: Supporting Role

City departments or divisions, as well as partner organizations, that may support implementation of the program or action item.

### Column G: Funding Source(s)

Potential sources of funding that may support program or action item implementation.

### Time Frame

The estimated time frame for programs and action items is arranged into two components: initiation (when work will begin) and completion (when work will be finished).

### Column H: Initiation

The programs and action items are sorted into four categories: those that can be started in a short-term time frame, a medium-term time frame, a long-term time frame, and those that are in progress. As the City fulfills programs and action items, and initiates action on additional programs and action items, this column may be updated. For the purposes of the Environmental Justice Element, the time frames are defined accordingly:

- **In Progress:** Already in progress. These are highlighted in gold in the Action Guide.
- **Short-Term:** Zero to three years from Element adoption, estimated
- **Medium-Term:** More than three and less than six years from Element adoption, estimated
- **Long-Term:** Six years or more from Element adoption, estimated

### Column I: Completion

The programs and action items are sorted into four categories: those that can be accomplished in a short-term time frame, a medium-term time frame, a long-term time frame, and those that are ongoing from initiation of work. For the purposes of the Environmental Justice Element, the time frames are defined accordingly:

- **Ongoing from Initiation:** Estimated to be worked on indefinitely
- **Short-Term:** Zero to three years from beginning of work on the item, estimated
- **Medium-Term:** More than three and less than six years from beginning of work on the item, estimated
- **Long-Term:** Six years or more from beginning of work on the item, estimated

Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element Action Guide								
DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>Community Priority #1: Goal EJ5. Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes</b>								
<i>EJ5.1</i>	<i>Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe, sanitary, and stable homes, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ5.2</i>	<i>Maintain and develop safe, sanitary, and stable homes across all locations and affordability ranges, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ5.3</i>	<i>Support housing development distribution throughout the city and not concentrated within Menlo Park's underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ5.A</b>	Identify, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments and work with property owners to resolve issues, particularly in underserved communities.	Program	The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. The Safety Element (Table S-4) includes a list of sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation.	Community Development	San Mateo County Environmental Health Services, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	Department of Food and Agriculture (Healthy Soils Demonstration Program)	<b>In Progress</b>	Short Term
<b>EJ5.B</b>	Conduct outreach to potentially eligible households regarding programs that support safe, sanitary, and stable homes.	Program	-	Community Development	California Department of Community Services and Development, City Manager's Office	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ5.C</b>	Create or partner with providers to provide a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters with questions. If such resources already exist, conduct proactive outreach and education to inform the community of available resources. Hold culturally competent, in-language outreach workshops.	Program	-	Community Development	Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ5.D	Identify opportunities to support a Community Land trust or other fiscal vehicle to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Community Development Department, MidPen Housing Community Land Trust	BMR Housing Fund	Long Term	Long Term
EJ5.E	Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F (regarding collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART)) and helping to facilitate first-time homeowner workshops for residents in underserved communities.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Local Community Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ5.F	Promote funds and subsidies that minimize the passing through of any upfront investment costs of building electrification on to tenants.	Program	-	Sustainability Division	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Medium Term
EJ5.G	Ensure that City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This will include consideration, at a minimum, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rental inventory of all dwelling units</li> <li>- Updated or expanded rent control laws</li> <li>- Rent increase mitigations, such as longer noticing requirements</li> <li>- Community and tenant opportunity to purchase</li> <li>- Revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper affordability (e.g., subsidies)</li> <li>- Expand relocation assistance for tenants</li> <li>- Just Cause Eviction protections regardless of tenant duration</li> <li>- Strengthened anti-tenant harassment ordinances</li> <li>- An examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs</li> </ul>	Program	Sixth Cycle Housing Element includes Program H2.E focusing on developing an Anti-Displacement Strategy	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department	General Fund	Short Term	Long Term
EJ5.H	As part of an anti-displacement program and to ensure stable housing, support increasing access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction by conducting community outreach, education, and engagement to ensure renters are aware of this resource. Include progress reports on usage annually.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Community Priority #2: Goal EJ4. Promote access to high quality and affordable food</b>								

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ4.1</b>	<i>Encourage adequate food access to fresh and healthy foods for all residents, particularly those in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ4.A</b>	Work with grocery stores and online food service delivery and meal providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food (e.g., reduced or waived delivery service fees). Encourage and support the acceptance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), CalFresh, and other governmental food assistance programs that increase food security.	Program	-	Community Development	Local Grocery Stores (e.g., Safeway, Trader Joe's), Local Grocery Delivery Services (e.g., Uber Eats, GrubHub, DoorDash), CalFresh	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.B</b>	Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual fliers, community events, information at shelters and food banks, as well as other appropriate outreach methods.	Program	-	Community Development	Communications and Public Engagement Division, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Homeless Outreach Team, San Mateo County Human Services Agency	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.C</b>	Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at municipal buildings and City-participating events. Encourage sourcing food from local small businesses.	Program	-	All City Departments	Sustainability Division	General Fund	Long Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.D</b>	Encourage and facilitate the establishment and operation of a farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets in underserved communities. Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)	Long Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.D.1</b>	At existing and future farmer's markets, or similar events, offer free or subsidized space for vendors who provide healthy, fresh, and affordable food for underserved communities.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.E</b>	Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens within or adjacent to neighborhoods and housing development sites. Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years of Environmental Justice Element adoption.	Program	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.E.1</b>	Explore identifying unused City-owned property to support community gardens. Encourage community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily and mixed-use development projects.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Short Term	Short Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ4.E.2	Identify private properties suitable for community gardens on vacant or undeveloped lots, or other opportunities for community-supported agriculture within the community. Encourage community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily and mixed-use development projects.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Short Term	Short Term
EJ4.E.3	Facilitate the installation of community gardens at senior centers and senior housing facilities.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	Community Development, Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g. Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ4.E.4	Develop programs and encourage developments that make smaller planter boxes or garden beds accessible for apartment dwellers.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>Community Priority #3: Goal EJ2. Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality</b>								
EJ2.1	<i>Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality (both indoor and outdoor), and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.2	<i>Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale, as well as collaborate on countywide and regional efforts. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve watershed and human health.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.3	<i>Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to promote and encourage urban greening on public and private projects (e.g., bioswales, raingardens, habitat restoration) in areas with relatively less tree canopy or other greenery to provide health and safety benefits to underserved communities residents.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.4	<i>Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards and maximize air quality (both indoor and outdoor) in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.5	<i>Work with Caltrans on improvements on State-owned rights of way.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.6	<i>When updating or installing transportation infrastructure, consider factors such as stormwater management, Universal Design Principles and attractive green roadway design.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.A	Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City's jurisdiction (e.g., gas stations, automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.	Program	-	Community Development	Peninsula Clean Energy, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Westbay Sanitary District, San Mateo County Environmental Health, San Mateo County Fire, Sustainability Division	Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.B	Implement and periodically update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Program	The Climate Action Plan is subject to annual progress reports as a standalone document are scheduled for 2028 update .Starting in 2024, the City will implement a zero emission landscaping equipment rule to improve air quality and reduce emissions.	Sustainability Division	City Manager's Office	General Fund, grants (e.g., California Energy Commission, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy, and CALFIRE)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.C	Conduct proactive education and outreach about indoor and outdoor air quality and protective actions that can be taken to both improve air quality inside one's home and to minimize exposure to poor air quality index days.	Program	-	Sustainability Division	Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), City Manager's Office, Peninsula Clean Energy, County Office of Sustainability	Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.C.1	Identify and implement methods and avenues for public education and outreach about air quality issues in the community.	Action Item	-	All City Departments	Public Works, Communications and Public Engagement Division, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), City Manager's Office, Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County Sustainability Department	-	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.C.2	Support the distribution of air purifiers and/or other air cleaning devices within underserved communities, especially for sensitive populations.	Action Item	-	Sustainability Division	Police, Sustainability Division, San Mateo County Sustainability Department	General Fund	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation

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EJ2.D	Minimize and mitigate illegal solid waste dumping (as defined in 7.04.030 of the Municipal Code), potentially through minimizing fees for disposal at landfills in collaboration with South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA).	Program	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.D.1	Conduct proactive outreach in underserved communities to inform households of free trash pickup days and solid waste disposal opportunities and programs, including the ACT Menlo Park reporting app. Outreach can include signage about ACT Menlo Park along Pierce Road.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement, Recology, Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.D.2	Explore ways to subsidize or eliminate fees for disposal at landfills and implement for underserved communities	Action Item	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement, Recology, Public Works	Clean California (Local Grants)	Long Term	Ongoing upon commencement
EJ2.E	Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan and update, as necessary, to incorporate environmental justice. Focus on underserved communities and implement programs in this Element, in coordination with related regional efforts.	Program	-	Public Works	Community Development	General Fund	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.1	Support efforts by other agencies to abate hazardous, polluted, or toxic sites. Encourage incorporating sea-level rise and groundwater rise in their remediation decisions.	Action Item	-	If on private property then Community development, if for public projects then Public Works	San Mateo County Health, Department of Water Resources, OneShoreline	Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)	Short Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.2	Prioritize comprehensive undergrounding of utilities in underserved communities on private and public property to promote resilience.	Action Item	The Menlo Park Municipal Code requires the undergrounding of electric and communication service connections on private property under certain circumstances. Some categories of private development in Office (O), Life Sciences (LS) and Residential Mixed Use (R-MU) Zoning Districts require undergrounding of overhead electric distribution lines of less than sixty (60) kilovolts and communication lines along the property frontage. The specified zoning districts are adjacent to and serve underserved communities.	Public Works	Community Development, City Manager's Office, utilities (e.g., PG&E)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), PG&E Rule 20 Program, Community Amenities Fund, Bonds per project specific deferred frontage agreements	In Progress	Medium Term



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EJ2.E.3	Focus green stormwater improvements for areas at risk of flooding with an emphasis on underserved communities.	Action Item	Public Works evaluates all opportunities to plan for and incorporate green stormwater improvements, including areas at risk of flooding and within underserved communities, per the City's 2019 Green Infrastructure Plan.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.E.4	Support West Bay Sanitary District, the respective responsible agency, in their efforts to prevent sewage discharges during large stormwater events. In the event of occurrence, coordinate with the responsible agency in conducting proactive, extensive, and prolonged community outreach and education to inform underserved communities of protective actions and risks. The City can coordinate with agencies to promptly share their information with the City Council and community after storms.	Action Item	-	Public Works	City Manager's Office, West Bay Sanitary District, East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Fair Oaks Sewer Maintenance District	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning and Project Development Grant)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.5	Collaborate with landowners to decrease the risk of flooding by advancing watershed management projects that reduce and/or store runoff during rainfall events, including the installation of green infrastructure and Low Impact Development (LID) practices, and improve the condition in the floodplain, for example through floodplain restoration or improvement.	Action Item	The City coordinates the incorporation of Low Impact Development (LID) and green infrastructure elements into project stormwater management designs.	Public Works	OneShoreline, Department of Water Resources, City Manager's Office, Community Development	Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (Infrastructure State Revolving Fund (ISRF) Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.E.6	Encourage green infrastructure in future developments, including using green infrastructure as preferred alternative.	Action Item	Green infrastructure, including Low Impact Development (LID), is currently utilized for stormwater management and treatment in development projects.	Public Works	Community Development, City Manager's Office, Sustainability Division	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term

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EJ2.E.7	Establish requirements for major development and redevelopment projects to construct and maintain urban greening projects in the adjacent public right of way. Community benefits for such projects could include shade trees for pedestrian and biking routes.	Action Item	The existing heritage tree ordinance has requirements for tree planting on private properties and replacement of trees in the public right of way. The City is currently updating administrative guidelines.	Public Works	Caltrans, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, Canopy	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grants	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.E.8	Restore and enhance parks, natural lands and large open spaces and explore expansion of the City's natural areas preservation system through land transfers and acquisitions of undeveloped/unprotected private and public lands.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	City Manager's Office, Community Development, Public Works, Save The Bay, California Department of Conservation	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.F	Increase community outreach and awareness of the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, including the Community Rating System, and the potential benefits to homeowners (e.g., reduced insurance premiums)	Program	-	Communications and Public Engagement Division	Public Works	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.G	Develop incentives to encourage shared commute programs and alternative methods of travel for city events, meetings, and official business.	Program	-	City Manager's Office, Public Works	SamTrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Public Works, Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Long Term

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EJ2.H	Collaborate with SamTrans and Ravenswood City School District, as well as Meta and other large employers to leverage transportation electrification initiatives to prioritize bus electrification in underserved communities.	Program	SamTrans anticipated being fully electric by 2034, in compliance with State law requiring transit fleets be all electric by 2040.	Public Works	Sustainability Division, SamTrans, Ravenswood City School District, Large Local Businesses (over 50 employees, e.g., Meta, SRI International, Grail, others)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.I	Consider revisions to applicable City regulations that will reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life in underserved communities.	Program	Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance, Municipal Code Chapter 7.30 (Smoking Regulated or Prohibited), Building Code amendments.	All City Departments	-	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.I.1	Review truck routes and/or identify and pursue measures for reductions to diesel emissions in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.I.2	Identify, evaluate and implement potential mitigation measures that support Caltrans mitigation efforts to reduce noise and air quality impacts from adjacent freeways and highways, particularly those impacting underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.I.3	Install improved vegetative buffers between freeways and highways and adjacent land uses to reduce noise and air quality impacts, upon identification of the roadway segments for such installations.	Action Item	Landscaping work on the Willow/US-101 interchange is in the design phase as of early 2024.	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning) Community Amenities Fund	In Progress	Long Term

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EJ2.1.4	Review and update the Transportation Toolkit (Appendix I to the Transportation Master Plan) and the City's standard design details to incorporate Universal Design principles to enhance access for all people.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Long Term	Medium Term
EJ2.1.5	Support roadway design that integrates green stormwater infrastructure into traffic calming (where appropriate) and includes trees, landscape buffer areas, public art, public space, and other visual enhancement.	Action Item	The City is currently integrating green stormwater infrastructure in roadway design, but is limited by the available space/right-of-way where landscape buffers can be incorporated.	Public Works	Caltrans, Library and Community Services	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.1.6	Consider rezoning and limiting the intensity and usage of industrially zoned properties and/or other means such as landscaping to ensure a healthier and safer separation between residential and industrial uses.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ2.1.7	Explore reductions to parking requirements with the intent to encourage balanced live, work, and play environments.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ2.1.8	Inform residents and organizations in underserved communities of the permit application process for temporary street closures for temporary events such as farmers' markets, arts and craft fairs, bicycle and pedestrian events, and other public events. Consider easing the permitting process for temporary street closures in the city.	Action Item	An update to the special event permitting process was made in 2022.	Police	City Manager's Office, City Attorney's Office, Community Development, Public Works.	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Short Term

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EJ2.J	Develop Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park within four years of the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	The City applied for CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant for Urban Forest Management Plan in May 2024. This grant requires projects to be completed by March 31, 2028. The City has budgeted \$250,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as matching funds.	Public Works	Sustainability Division, Canopy	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 Planning Grant), United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) Grants, CALFIRE grants. City of Menlo Park Heritage Tree in-lieu fee program	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.J.1	Urban canopy expansion prioritizing underserved communities and areas vulnerable to urban heat effects, using tools such as the Tree Equity Score and Bay Area Greenprint.	Action Item	The City is currently updating administrative guidelines, adding more City approved consulting arborists to the list, and working towards securing grant funds for Urban Forest: Developing a Master Plan for Menlo Park.	Public Works	Canopy	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), Community Amenities Fund	In Progress	Short Term
EJ2.J.2	Implement equitable canopy expansion procedures and promote and maintain healthy and vibrant trees that may require dedicating additional resources within the City Arborist Division, Public Works.	Action Item	The City is working towards the development of an urban forest management plan, updating administrative guidelines, and adding more City approved consulting arborists. One additional employee was added to the Trees maintenance section in 2022-23. In May 2024, the City applied for the CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant to develop an Urban Forest Management Plan for Menlo Park.	City Manager's Office, Public Works	Sustainability Division, Public Works	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program),	In Progress	Short Term

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EJ2.J.3	Include trees, landscape buffer areas, public art, public space, and other visual enhancements in roadway projects, emphasizing tree planting and landscaping along all streets.	Action Item	Routine maintenance is conducted every 5 years. Residents may request evaluation of work needs outside of routine maintenance, which is on a 5-year cycle.	Public Works	Community Development, Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), Community Amenities Fund (north of 101 implementation of Action Item 2.N.3)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.J.4	Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to prioritize the retention of mature street trees in public rights of way or City-owned parcels during infrastructure modifications. (e.g., using solutions such as bulb-outs, basin expansion, and sidewalk re-routing.)	Action Item	The City has preservation requirements for heritage and street trees.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.J.5	Coordinate with property owners to help preserve mature trees by replacing any that require removal in any redevelopment process. Explore opportunities to transplant trees and vegetation that require removal during construction to other places within underserved communities. Consider requiring multiple new trees be planted for each mature tree removed.	Action Item	The City is updating administrative guidelines and adding more City approved consulting arborists to the list.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.K	Prioritize relief from extreme heat (Safety Element Program S1.T) in underserved communities. Information on these resources shall be provided at community facilities (e.g., BHCC).	Program	The City currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public.	Library and Community Services	Communications and Public Engagement	General Fund	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Goal EJ1. Address unique and compounded health risks</b>								

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<i>EJ1.1</i>	<i>Prioritize programs that address the unique and compounded health risks present in underserved communities currently and in the future.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.2</i>	<i>Reduce climate vulnerability in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.3</i>	<i>Strengthen collaboration efforts with residents in underserved communities, particularly on public improvement projects.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.4</i>	<i>Prioritize active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) improvements, transit incentives, and neighborhood connectivity in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ1.A</b>	Prioritize public/capital improvements needed in underserved communities with priority allocation of funding, available to the City locally and from regional, statewide, and federal entities, for such projects, and to address climate change.	Program	-	City Manager's Office, Public Works	Community Development, Sustainability Division	General Fund, General Capital Fund, Countywide Transportation Sales Tax Funds (Measure A & W), State and Federal Gas Taxes	Short Term	Long Term
<b>EJ1.A.1</b>	Support (to the extent possible and subject to funding limitations) non-governmental agencies' grant applications and projects that will specifically help implement the Environmental Justice Element and address highlighted issues in underserved communities such as safe housing, increased tree coverage, recreational resources, active transportation, environmental concerns, air quality.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	Bayfront Mitigation Fund (project specific) Community Amenities Fund (projects specific)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.B</b>	Prepare publicly available reports annually to describe how underserved communities are considered and prioritized in capital improvement plans, departmental work plans, and budgets within four years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	-	All City Departments	-	General Fund	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.C</b>	Develop and publicize annual or every-other-year reports that measure progress and outcomes of the implementation of the Environmental Justice Element programs within six years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.D</b>	Review CalEnviroScreen to support evaluation of Environmental Justice Element policies and programs.	Program	-	Community Development	California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, All City Departments	General Fund	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Goal EJ3. Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities</b>								
<i>EJ3.1</i>	<i>Prioritize providing public facilities and programming for underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ3.2</i>	<i>Ensure accessibility of public facilities for all community members, especially those in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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<b>EJ3.3</b>	<i>Support programs that increase access to public and private health resources for underserved communities in locations that are convenient and accessible.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ3.4</b>	<i>Coordinate with local school districts, transit operators, and other public agencies to provide adequate public facilities, improvements, and programs in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ3.A</b>	Identify, renovate, and retrofit candidate public buildings in underserved communities to serve as Climate Resilience Centers as outlined by the California Strategic Growth Council. These buildings should be places where the community already regularly gathers, such as libraries, community centers, or the Belle Haven neighborhood substation.	Program	-	Public Works	Sustainability Division, Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.B</b>	Work with relevant departments to install infrastructure allowing for easy disposal of pet and animal waste at parks and along highly trafficked streets.	Program	-	Public Works	City Manager's Office	General Fund	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.C</b>	Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills. In addition, expand outreach and community access to the City Library's laptop and wireless hotspot, or similar, borrowing programs.	Program	The City currently offers laptop lending and wi-fi hotspots free to residents at the library with their library card.	Library and Community Services	Local Internet Providers (e.g., AT&T, Xfinity, Spectrum), San Mateo County Public Works, California Public Utilities Commission, Administrative Services Department/Information Technology Department	California Advanced Services Fund: Broadband Public Housing Account	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.D</b>	Seek to form partnerships, particularly with community based organizations and businesses, and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ3.D.1</b>	Encourage local transit providers to establish and maintain routes and services that provide underserved communities with convenient access to health service facilities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	SamTrans, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term



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EJ3.D.2	Partner with local transit providers to provide a comprehensive system of para-transit service for seniors and people of all abilities and enhance service within the city and to regional public facilities, especially for access to health care and other needs.	Action Item	-	Public Works	SamTrans, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.D.3	Identify means of supporting a citywide paramedicine program providing health care delivery, pop-up clinics, and home visits, especially to those most vulnerable or underserved, such as seniors and residents of underserved communities through partnering with health care services.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, City Manager's Office, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.D.4	Identify a partner who can provide a community health clinic in Belle Haven.	Action Item	A Community health clinic has been proposed as part of Belle Haven Elementary School redesign by Ravenswood City School District.	City Manager's Office	Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.E	Coordinate with schools and other local organizations (e.g., Boys and Girls Club) to support after-school activities and related outreach/communications generally.	Program	-	Library and Community Services	Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.E.1	Coordinate with the Ravenswood City School District to help publicize affordable after school care options/programs and explore opportunities to enhance transportation options for youth to BHCC.	Action Item	Ravenswood City School District has a number of after school care options/programs and the City can help publicize and enhance usage. City vans provide transportation to BHCC for youth enrolled in the City's after school program, however, there is not transportation for youth interested in going to BHCC after school but are not enrolled in the City's program.	Library and Community Services	Communications and Public Engagement, Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.E.2	Encourage joint use of recreational fields.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	Public Works, Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

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EJ3.F	Seek to form partnerships or other agreements with a banking specialist and other identified partners to provide a community bank or banking services in the underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Local banks	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.G	Ensure delivery on the needs of underserved communities through the City's Programming Plans currently in place and continue to adapt programming based on community feedback through regular community surveys and outreach.	Program	City staff, with input from the community, Belle Haven Community Campus subcommittee and working group, Library Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission, have developed robust programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus. City will continue to adapt programming to community needs through regular community surveys and outreach that solicit community feedback.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ3.G.1	During facility renovations, install distributed solar panels and battery storage over facility parking lots for resiliency and heat reduction.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Community Campus is an all-electric, zero combustion, net zero energy public building with onsite renewable energy generation, battery microgrid, and electric vehicle charging stations. The facility is built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum environmental standards, and its structural design is resilient to serve as an emergency shelter. Construction is complete.	Public Works	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department, Menlo Park Public Works Department, Silicon Valley Clean Energy, Menlo Park Building Division	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Complete	Short Term

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EJ3.G.2	Provide equitable access to programs at the Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities.	Action Item	Programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) emphasize equitable access to programs through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities. Menlo Park residents who live or attend K-12 school within the service area of BHCC are eligible for hyperlocal resident enrollment fees at BHCC.	Library and Community Services	Library and Community Services Department, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.3	Providing community programming for all age groups, including older teens and older adults not considered seniors.	Action Item	The City provides and is working to develop additional programming for all age groups, including teens and older adults not considered seniors, and will continue to adapt programming to meet community needs and desires as they change over time, with community input.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.4	Provide childcare, potentially with funding support for residents of underserved communities.	Action Item	The City provides childcare with funding support for underserved communities at the Belle Haven Child Development Center (BHCCDC) and Belle Haven Youth Center (BHYC). Tuition is subsidized based on income level with grant funding from the State and other sources.	Library and Community Services	Local Childcare Organizations	California Department of Education	In Progress	Medium Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.G.5	Communicate with the Ravenswood City School District to enhance an understanding of preferred amenities and activities that can be included at Belle Haven Community Campus.	Action Item	Communication between the City and the Ravenswood City School District is ongoing. The School District partners with Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring, and City Year to provide before-school and after-school care. These collaborations offer both academic support and enrichment activities and the City continually seeks opportunities to amplify support for youth and families.	Library and Community Services	Ravenswood City School District, Communications and Public Engagement	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.6	Provide safe and highly visible pathways that connect residential areas in underserved communities to the new community center. Safety and visibility features should include adequate lighting.	Action Item	The Vision Zero Action Plan identifies high priority systemic safety issues to be addressed in all neighborhoods, with a focus on underserved communities.	Public Works	Library and Community Services, Community Development	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.7	Support the inclusion of artwork (e.g., murals) that reflects the diversity and culture of underserved communities at community centers and beyond. Include community artifacts and testaments to community history in the community center.	Action Item	Belle Haven Community Campus will include exhibits and displays focused on Belle Haven history, people, and neighborhood stories, rotating exhibits by local artists, interpretive artworks and multimedia.	Library and Community Services	Local Art Initiatives (e.g., Elevate Art Menlo Park, Allied Arts Guild)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ3.G.8</b>	Uplift culturally relevant holiday events at Belle Haven Community Campus to foster a feeling of belonging among all residents.	Action Item	The City is committed to work with community members to create more culturally relevant events is ongoing, including through mini-grants.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
<b>EJ3.G.9</b>	Facilitate yoga classes and other opportunities for regular community-gathering physical activities, such as walking groups and/or hiking programs for the underserved communities. Plan programs suitable to multiple age groups and abilities.	Action Item	The City currently offers yoga, Zumba, line-dancing and other movement classes for various age groups. Work with the community to develop new opportunities for community-oriented physical activities such as walking and/or hiking programs is ongoing.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
<b>EJ3.H</b>	Ensure that recreational facilities throughout Menlo Park provide all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles, with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities.	Program	City prioritizes access for all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles.	Library and Community Services	Public Works, Community Development	General Fund	In Progress	Long Term
<b>EJ3.H.1</b>	Provide public facilities that are well designed, energy efficient, maintained, and compatible with adjacent land uses.	Action Item	-	All City Departments	Community Development	General Fund	Medium Term	Long Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.H.2	Offer substantially reduced costs for recreation activities, particularly to residents of underserved communities based on economic need.	Action Item	Programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) emphasize equitable access to programs through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities. Menlo Park residents who live or attend K-12 school within the service area of BHCC are eligible for hyperlocal resident enrollment fees at BHCC.	Library and Community Services	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	General Fund	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.H.3	In coordination with the City's Parks and Recreational Facilities Master Plan, provide public restroom facilities at parks in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department, Menlo Park Public Works Department	General Fund, Recreation In-Lieu Fee Fund	Short Term	Long Term
EJ3.H.4	Expand hours for public recreation facilities to allow working people to take advantage of the facilities. This should include open hours until 9:00 p.m. on weekdays and possibly shortened hours on weekends.	Action Item	-	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	-	General Fund	Short Term	Short Term
<b>Goal EJ6. Encourage physical activity and active transportation</b>								
EJ6.1	<i>Prioritize programs that encourage physical activity in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.2	<i>Support physically active lifestyles through investment in complete streets and active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) and safety in underserved communities</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.3	<i>Prioritize the implementation of traffic and transit improvements in underserved communities to reduce excessive speed, limit cut through traffic, and make streets comfortable and accessible places for all users and abilities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.A	Identify and eliminate, barriers to outdoor physical activity, such as damaged, incomplete, blocked, or littered sidewalks and bike paths, lack of safe street crossings and direct connections, excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping and shade trees along streets in underserved communities.	Program	-	Public Works	Community Development, Sustainability Division	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.B	In concurrence with the City's Vision Zero Action Plan, develop and implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling and taking transit. These efforts should include education for people using all modes.	Program	-	Public Works	Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, SamTrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ6.C	Coordinate with Ravenswood City School District to expand the Safe Routes to School program, including potential for increased crossing guards at key intersections.	Program	-	Public Works	Ravenswood City School District	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ6.D	Prepare to update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan (best practice is to update every 10-15 years) to improve environmental justice.	Program	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities), Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation Grants (Safe Streets and Roads for All, Sustainable Transportation Planning)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ6.D.1	Consider community solutions for addressing concerns related to parking (e.g., idling and noise, parking availability challenges) in underserved communities and explore the creation of Residential Preferential Parking (RPP) programs.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Police	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.D.2	Seek opportunities to improve pedestrian safety, at all Willow Road intersections.	Action Item	The City adopted the Vision Zero Action Plan in January 2024. The City is working on a Willow Road bicycle and pedestrian improvement project.	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
EJ6.D.3	Consider strategies to reduce excessive speed and cut-through traffic in underserved communities.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan is nearly complete and the City is coordinating with Caltrans to complete signal improvements at Willow and Newbridge	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ6.D.4	Install traffic calming measures to reduce speeds, as well as flashing stop signs in underserved communities, particularly around schools during pick-up and drop-off periods.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan is near completion. The Plan has completed speed humps near Belle Haven Elementary School, and bulbouts along Ivy, Chilco, Terminal and Newbridge.	Public Works	Caltrans, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, Ravenswood City School District, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Short Term



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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.D.5	Install bikeways on Ivy Drive, ideally Class I or Class IV.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Long Term	Long Term
EJ6.D.6	Expand the network of safe, accessible, and appealing pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including pedestrian connections within and in between neighborhoods. Poles, signs, or other impediments in the center of sidewalks should be modified to improve accessibility and sidewalk safety.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ6.D.7	Install lighting to encourage walking and safe travel at night. This may begin with installation on Ivy Drive, Hamilton Avenue, Chilco Street, Newbridge Street, and at public buildings at parks. It should continue after subsequent community outreach that identifies other streets and locations with inadequate lighting, prioritizing underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Community Development	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Short Term	Long Term
<b>Goal EJ7. Create equitable civic and community engagement</b>								
<i>EJ7.1</i>	<i>Prioritize civic and community engagement programs that enhance the participation and inclusion of underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ7.2</i>	<i>Keep residents informed about governmental meetings and actions by ensuring transparency and accessibility in government and decision making.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ7.3</b>	<i>Treat all members of the community fairly and promote equity and capacity building toward creating a healthy environment and just community.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ7.A</b>	Promote and evaluate capacity-building efforts to educate and involve traditionally underrepresented populations, including underserved communities, in the public decision-making process.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.1</b>	Partner with community-based organizations that have relationships, trust and cultural competency with target communities to outreach on local initiatives and issues and allow them the use of space in the Belle Haven Community Campus at no cost.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.2</b>	Use culturally appropriate approaches to public participation and involvement in a partnership with community based organization.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.3</b>	Deploy educational workshops for City staff to enhance understanding social injustice and housing needs pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.4</b>	Provide training for decision makers, City staff, applicants, and public on social justice issues that affect community members.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.B</b>	All meetings with an agendized item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the underserved community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as satellite meeting centers, simulcasting, and/or remote participation. Consider hardcopy materials for outreach, particularly door-to-door outreach.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Library and Community Services	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.C</b>	Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation (such as food and refreshments, stipends, on-site child care) at community outreach events in underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D</b>	Pursue equitable civic and community engagement.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.1</b>	Initiate outreach efforts as early as possible in the decision-making process before significant resources have been invested.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.2</b>	Conduct open meetings on issues affecting land use and the environment.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Public Works	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.3</b>	At least twice per year, beginning immediately following Environmental Justice Element Adoption, conduct City Council meetings in underserved communities.	Action Item	The Planning Commission and City Council will review and recommend/consider adoption of the Environmental Justice Element at BHCC.	Community Development	-	General Fund	<b>In Progress</b>	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.4</b>	Encourage representation from all districts on City boards and commissions.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.D.5	Evaluate scheduling of public meetings in order to allow for a wide range of participation options around typical and atypical working hours.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.6	Coordinate outreach efforts between City departments to avoid duplication and encourage that all Menlo Park community stakeholders receive notification and information.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.7	Inform the public on decisions – and seek feedback on decisions – using multiple communication methods, including traditional and online forms of communication.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.8	Incorporate multilingual outreach, announcements and noticing into City procedures for public meetings and hearings and offer interpretation services at all meetings and workshops on environmental issues.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.9	Consider offering childcare at key meetings and workshops on environmental issues affecting entire neighborhoods and the city as a whole.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.10	Distribute contact information (such as phone numbers to call) for various departments, programs and other functions in the City organization in underserved communities and in appropriate languages.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.E	Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the BHCC as a community hub for learning and engagement opportunities strengthened with partner organizations. These will connect residents in underserved communities with pre-existing city and state resources as well as encourage resident participation in public meetings, events, and decision making.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.E.1	Provide resources at BHCC about environmental safety, including flooding, extreme heat, and other issues identified in the Safety Element. Consider having a concierge or dedicated staff/resources to provide outreach on local mitigation efforts in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, Public Works, Sustainability Division	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.F	Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating City Councilmembers and appointed commissioners for the time they spend in their positions to make the positions more accessible to residents of underserved communities.	Program	A Planning Commission stipend pilot program was added in the 2023-2024 budget.	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	In Progress	Short Term
EJ7.G	Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions.	Program	SamTrans currently operates a countywide paratransit service.	Library and Community Services	SamTrans, Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.H	Ensure that disaster preparedness planning as described in the Safety Element includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park's underserved communities. Upon adoption of the Environmental Justice Element, conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that may include participation and information dissemination at public event and/or fairs in underserved communities with proactive encouragement and opportunity for the residents to sign up for emergency alert systems.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Menlo Park Fire Protection District	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.I	Encourage the sustained engagement and involvement of underserved communities in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. Maintain membership and partnership with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority during their oversight of levee installations and expansions protecting underserved communities.	Program	The SAFER Bay Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in 2022 and provides engagement and involvement opportunities.	Public Works	City Manager's Office, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ7.J	Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Annual reporting, at a minimum, should be provided to the City Council and made available on the City website.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.1	Monitoring programming at community centers for usage, popularity, and equitable access, including an annual report on community center programming to Council. The report shall include community outreach and will recommend any updates to programming and outreach methods to address inequitable access.	Action Item	The City currently collects usage data and statistics, and provides monthly usage reports to Library Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission. Annual report to City Council is currently under development.	Library and Community Services	-	General Fund	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.2	Publish an annual report on the progress of the Transportation Master Plan, beginning a year after adoption of the updated Transportation Master Plan.	Action Item	An online map showing completed projects is published on the City website.  Further status/dashboard information about the Transportation Master Plan and Vision Zero Action Plan is under development.	Public Works	Community Development Department, Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.J.3	Diligently implement all state laws and mandated bias and sensitivity training requirements for law enforcement officers, current and new upon hire, who may interact with historically discriminated groups. The Police Department shall maintain records as required by state law to show vigilant compliance with all state laws and California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requirements. The Police Department includes documentation of records generated in compliance with the department's "Bias-Based Policing" policy as well as California's Racial and Identity Profiling Act in its quarterly reporting to the community through City Council.	Action Item	-	Police	City Manager's Office	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.4	Prepare and publicize an annual report describing the City's progress on promoting and evaluating capacity-building efforts per Program EJ7.D. This report shall also evaluate outreach methods and recommend adjusting outreach strategies to reflect best practices and results.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.K	The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.L	The City Council shall consider the community-identified environmental justice priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation



# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## Environmental Justice (2024)

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Photo Credit - Bruce Damonte

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

ADOPTION DRAFT | RESOLUTION # \_\_\_\_\_

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## INTRODUCTION

In 2016, the State of California passed Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), which requires the adoption or review of an Environmental Justice (EJ) Element (or environmental justice goals, policies, and programs in other elements) in cities and counties that have a disadvantaged community upon the adoption or revision of two or more General Plan elements. The development of Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element took place alongside updates to the Housing Element and Safety Element. This SB 1000 recognizes the hard work of California activists and advocates, as well as communities that have organized around their environments—not only in the past century, but long before California's statehood. Environmental justice provides a specific lens through which to advance equity and protect

human health. While the environmental justice movement traditionally focused on environmental contamination and degradation, the scope has broadened over time to include additional policy topics such as food access and physical activity.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this Environmental Justice Element is to identify and address public health risks and environmental justice concerns, as well as foster the well-being of the City's residents living in underserved communities. The City of Menlo Park is committed to environmental justice and acknowledges that the historical events and practices that have contributed to Menlo Park's development (such as the Spanish Empire's missions,<sup>2</sup> railroad construction,<sup>3</sup> and suburban residential development that relied heavily on

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, see the Governor's Office of Planning and Research document titled "Environmental Justice in California: A Brief History" in 2020 Updated Environmental Justice Element General Plan Guidelines, page 2.  
<sup>2</sup> See generally, Prof. Edward D. Castillo, "California Indian History" (State of California Native American Heritage Commission), available at <https://nahc.ca.gov/resources/california-indian-history/>.  
<sup>3</sup> See generally, Maru Karuka "Chinese Workers and the Transcontinental Railroad" (Boom California: April 6, 2020), available at <https://boomcalifornia.org/2020/04/06/chinese-workers-and-the-transcontinental-railroad/>.

redlining and gentrification<sup>4</sup>) are inseparable from the resulting injustices that have led to inequalities and inequities seen and felt in Menlo Park as well as throughout California.

This commitment on behalf of the City has led to the development of Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element. The introduction to this element begins with a discussion of its organization and relationship to Menlo Park's General Plan, an overview of the element's regulatory context, and a description of Drivers of Environmental Injustice and Determinants of Health that underlie environmental justice as a whole.

Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element is organized into the following sections:

- **Existing Setting:** This section identifies neighborhoods in Menlo Park that have concentrations of poverty and pollution that led to disproportionately high rates of poor health outcomes. These neighborhoods are designated as "underserved communities" in this document.
- **Environmental Justice Outreach:** This section provides an overview of key findings from community engagement performed throughout the development of the element, as well as a discussion of engagement methodology.
- **Goals, Policies, and Programs:** This section includes actions the City will take to prioritize underserved communities and address the environmental injustices identified through the existing conditions analysis and community engagement.
- **Appendices:** The appendices include supporting documents that provide more details on methodology or additional reports produced as part of the development of this element.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

*The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.*

Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

Meaningful involvement means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
- The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

*Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

*"Help and give our youth the opportunity to stay in the community!"*

*— Belle Haven resident*

<sup>4</sup> See generally, Angela Swartz, "Reflections on racial inequities that persist in Menlo Park" (Almanac News: March 12, 2021), available at <https://www.almanacnews.com/news/2021/03/12/reflections-on-racial-inequities-that-persist-in-menlo-park>.

## Element Organization and Relationship to General Plan

SB 1000 (2016), which amended Government Code Section 65302, allows a jurisdiction to voluntarily adopt an Environmental Justice Element at any time and requires the adoption or review of an Environmental Justice Element (or environmental justice goals, policies, and programs in other elements) upon the adoption or revision of two or more General Plan elements concurrently. The City of Menlo Park adopted the 2023-2031 Housing Element in January 2023 and is developing the Environmental Justice Element while concurrently updating the Safety Element. Prior to beginning the analysis to determine whether or not there are underserved communities in Menlo Park, the City decided to pursue the preparation of an Environmental Justice Element because environmental justice in Menlo Park is so intricately linked to community concerns and priorities for housing and safety, and because of the requirements laid out in SB 1000.

These linkages can be seen in the Guiding Principles established in the Menlo Park General Plan, which “describe the kind of place that community members want Menlo Park to be.”<sup>5</sup> These Guiding Principles are supported by a commitment to environmental justice broadly as well as more specifically by the goals, policies, and programs contained in this element. This is particularly true for the principles of Citywide Equity and a Healthy Community, as well as for the principles of Youth Support and Education Excellence, Great Transportation Options, Complete Neighborhoods and Commercial Corridors, Accessible Open Space and Recreation, and Sustainable Environmental Planning.

### Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. This separate, complementary document is guided by the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the Guiding

Principles of the Menlo Park General Plan, however, the Action Guide lies outside of the General Plan itself. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment.

The Action Guide includes action items that will be pursued by the City to improve environmental justice. The action items are similar to Environmental Justice Element programs, and are assigned a lead department/division and time frame similar to these programs. Each action item in the Action Guide is organized under an Environmental Justice Element program, with the intention to provide additional direction and community-based feedback to City staff on desirable methods to fulfill the programs laid out in the Environmental Justice Element.

Many of the action items in the Action Guide were developed from outreach in Menlo Park’s underserved communities, described in detail in the “Environmental Justice Outreach” section below. The Action Guide is included as Appendix EJ-F. The Action Guide will be maintained on the City’s website and is intended to improve accountability by being more adaptable and responsive to community needs and opportunities.

Per Program EJ7.K, the City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing.

<sup>5</sup> *General Plan (City of Menlo Park, 2016), page I-9.*



### Policies Addressing Environmental Justice in Other General Plan Elements

Policies in the existing General Plan that address or are related to environmental justice are listed in Table EJ-1. These policies were developed prior to (or for the Safety and Housing Elements, in conjunction with) the Environmental Justice

Element and point to the City's broad commitment to improve environmental justice. This table also demonstrates that the Environmental Justice Element fits into a supportive General Plan framework. The policies are listed in numeric order and grouped by the main topic areas required to be addressed by SB 1000, described further below.

Table EJ-1: Environmental Justice Policies in Other Elements

Element	Topic Area	Policy Number
Land Use	Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes	LU-2.8
	Promote Physical Activity	LU-4.6 and LU-6.9
	Promote Public Facilities	LU-6.1, LU-6.3, and LU-6.8
Circulation	Promote Physical Activity	CIRC-1.1, CIRC-1.7, CIRC-1.8, CIRC-2.1, CIRC-2.7, CIRC-4.3, CIRC-4.4, and CIRC-5.6
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	CIRC-2.2, CIRC-4.2
	Promote Public Facilities	CIRC-2.10 and CIRC-5.2
	Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities	CIRC-2.4
Open Space and Conservation <sup>†</sup>	Promote Public Facilities	OSC-1.12, OSC-2.1, and OSC-4.1
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	OSC-2.2, OSC-2.3, and OSC-5.1
	Promote Physical Activity	OSC-2.6
Noise <sup>†</sup>	Reduce Pollution Exposure	N-1.1, N-1.2, N-1.3, N-1.4, N-1.5, N-1.6, N-1.7, N-1.8, N-1.9, and N-1.10
Safety <sup>†*</sup>	Reduce Pollution Exposure	S-1.7, S-1.32, S-1.33, S-1.34, S-1.35, S-1.36, S-1.37, S-1.38, S-1.39
	Promote Public Facilities	S-1.9, S-1.11, S-1.40, and S-1.41
	Safe, Stable, and Sanitary Homes	S-1.17 and S-1.19
Housing (6 <sup>th</sup> Cycle: 2023-2031)*	Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes	H2.1, H2.4, H2.7, H3.8, H3.9,
	Promote Civic Engagement	H5.2, H5.3, H5.5
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	H6.4, H6.6

<sup>†</sup>Menlo Park has a combined Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements document.

\*The Safety Element and Housing Element were updated at the same time as the Environmental Justice Element was developed. Several policies and programs were updated, modified, or newly-developed alongside the outreach and development of the Environmental Justice Element.

## Regulatory Context

There are several state laws that guide Environmental Justice Element development, listed and summarized below :

- Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000) – 2016
- Government Code 65302(h)(1)
- Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) – 2016
- Assembly Bill 1553 (AB 1553) – 2001
- Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) – 2017
- Health and Safety Code Section 39711
- Assembly Bill 1628 (AB 1628) – 2019

### SB 1000

SB 1000 was signed into law in 2016 and requires local governments to identify disadvantaged communities in their jurisdictions as well as address environmental justice in their general plans. SB 1000 amended Government Code 65302 to add section (h)(1), discussed below.

SB 1000 defines the term “disadvantaged communities” as areas identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 39711 (described below) or low income areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.<sup>6</sup>

Through the outreach conducted as part of the Environmental Justice Element preparation, Menlo Park community members made it clear that the term they broadly identified with and preferred was “underserved communities.” Throughout this Element, “underserved communities” will be used and is understood to be analogous to the State-defined term “disadvantaged communities,” which is only used when quoting or referring to state law.

This statutory requirement can be divided into seven topic areas. The Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, and programs are categorized by the following topic areas:

### Government Code 65302(h)(1)

Under Government Code 65302 (h)(1), the necessary components of an Environmental Justice Element are:

- A) Identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.*
- B) Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process.*
- C) Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.*

Throughout this element, “goals” will be used to remain consistent with the structure of other elements of the Menlo Park’s General Plan, but the term is meant to be analogous to “objectives” as used in Government Code Section 65302(h)(1).

1. Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities
2. Reduce Pollution Exposure
3. Improve Access to Public Facilities
4. Promote Food Access
5. Promote Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing
6. Promote Physical Activity
7. Promote Civic Engagement

<sup>6</sup> Gov. Code § 65302(h)(4)(A)

## GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

The Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, and programs are categorized by the following topic areas:

-  1. Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities
-  2. Reduce Pollution Exposure
-  3. Improve Access to Public Facilities
-  4. Promote Food Access
-  5. Promote Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing
-  6. Promote Physical Activity
-  7. Promote Civic Engagement

### SB 1383

SB 1383 (2016) intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including methane from organic waste in landfills. It requires implementation of food recovery programs to improve food recovery and access. The City of Menlo Park contracts with Recology San Mateo County for garbage, recycling, and compost services. Recology San Mateo County, for their part, provides curbside organics service and has a webpage dedicated to describing SB 1383.<sup>7</sup>

Food recovery and access includes potentially distributing food to areas of the city where communities experience food insecurity. As Menlo Park and Recology San Mateo County implement SB 1383, they may consider how implementation can support the goals, policies, and programs in the Environmental Justice Element.

<sup>7</sup> "Fight Climate Change by Composting" (Recology) available at <https://www.recology.com/sb1383/>

<sup>8</sup> Gov. Code § 65040.12(e)(1).

### AB 1553

AB 1553 (2001) requires the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to be the coordinating agency for environmental justice efforts and 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."<sup>8</sup> This Environmental Justice Element follows OPR guidance and the AB 1553 definition.

### AB 617

AB 617 (2017) led to the development of the California Air Resources Board's Community Air Protection Program. This program is focused on reducing exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution. Each Air Quality Management District submitted a methodology and list of candidate communities to be eligible for funding of AB 617 community emissions reduction programs. Menlo Park does not contain any candidate communities for the program.

### AB 1628

AB 1628 (2019) enhanced the previous definition of environmental justice to include meaningful involvement and national origins to the prior language of Gov. Code Section 65040.12(e). The law also elaborates on the prior language to describe additional forms of distributive and procedural justice, including, but not limited to:

- The availability of a healthy environment for all people.
- The deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for populations and communities experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution, so that the effects of the pollution are not disproportionately borne by those populations and communities.
- Governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to

populations and communities most impacted by pollution to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decisionmaking process.

- At a minimum, the meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions.

### Health and Safety Code Section 39711

Section 39711 of the California Health and Safety Code defines disadvantaged communities and gives the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the responsibility for identifying such communities for investment opportunities. This Environmental Justice Element uses the definition in Health and Safety Code Section 39711 (referenced in Government Code 65302(h)(4)):

*These communities shall be identified based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria, and may include, but are not limited to, either of the following:*

- *Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.*
- *Areas with concentrations of people that are of low income, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, or low levels of educational attainment.*

### Relationship to the Capital Improvement Plan

The City of Menlo Park adopted the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2023-2028 to outline the City's short and long term vision for development, maintenance, improvement, and building of new infrastructure assets to benefit residents, businesses, property owners, and visitors. Although the CIP is updated annually, it allows the reader to review projects planned over the five-

year timeframe and provides an overview of works in progress. The Environmental Justice Element is required under Government Code 65302 (h)(1) to "identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities." The goals, policies, and programs developed for the Environmental Justice Element are closely tied to the projects and vision of the Five-Year CIP due to its impact for reducing pollution exposure, improving access to public facilities, promoting physical activity, and encouraging civic engagement.

The Five-Year CIP includes projects that reduce exposure to negative environmental conditions and improve environmental justice, such as:

- **Urban Forest:** Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park: The development and implementation of an urban forest management plan would focus on community outreach and preserving and expanding tree cover within the city to reduce pollution exposure and promote physical activity. Urban tree canopies additionally mitigate impacts of climate change including rising temperatures and increased flooding. This plan would serve as a long-term roadmap for the City to proactively and effectively maintain long-term benefits from the community's tree canopy.
- **Willow Road Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements:** The development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements along Willow Road through the Belle Haven neighborhood would promote physical activity and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.
- **Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan:** The development and implementation of a plan to reduce vehicle speeds on roadways within the Belle Haven neighborhood would reduce pollution exposure, promote physical activity, and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.
- **Belle Haven Community Campus:** The establishment and growth of the new community center in the Belle Haven



neighborhood improves access to public facilities and supports the development of community programs promoting physical activity, civic engagement, and prioritizing the needs of underserved communities.

- **SAFER Bay:** The series of infrastructure improvements would protect critical infrastructure, provide community resilience to current tidal flooding and projected sea level rise, and improve recreational access, using both engineered structures and nature-based flood protection.
- **Chilco Streetscape and Sidewalk Installation:** The development of pedestrian and bicycle supporting infrastructure on Chilco Street through the Belle Haven and Bayfront neighborhoods would reduce pollution exposure, promote physical activity, and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.

The Environmental Justice Element informs the CIP by elevating the needs of underserved communities and prioritizing projects that mitigate unique and compounding health risks present within the community.

### Drivers of Environmental Injustice and Determinants of Health

Every aspect of people’s lives has implications for their health. Beyond access to and quality of health care, the characteristics of the neighborhoods where people live, work, play, learn, and pray influence their behaviors, experiences, and physical health in different ways. Health is heavily influenced by factors in a community that are not typically addressed by the health care system. These community and location-based factors make up the “Social Determinants of Health” (see Figure EJ-1)<sup>9</sup>



<sup>9</sup> Wilkinson R, Marmot M. *Social Determinants of Health: The Solid Facts*. 2nd ed. Copenhagen, Denmark: World Health Organization; 2003. Solar O, Irwin A. *A Conceptual Framework for Action on the Social Determinants of Health. Social Determinants of Health Discussion Paper 2*. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2010.

Figure EJ-1: Social Determinants of Health<sup>10</sup>

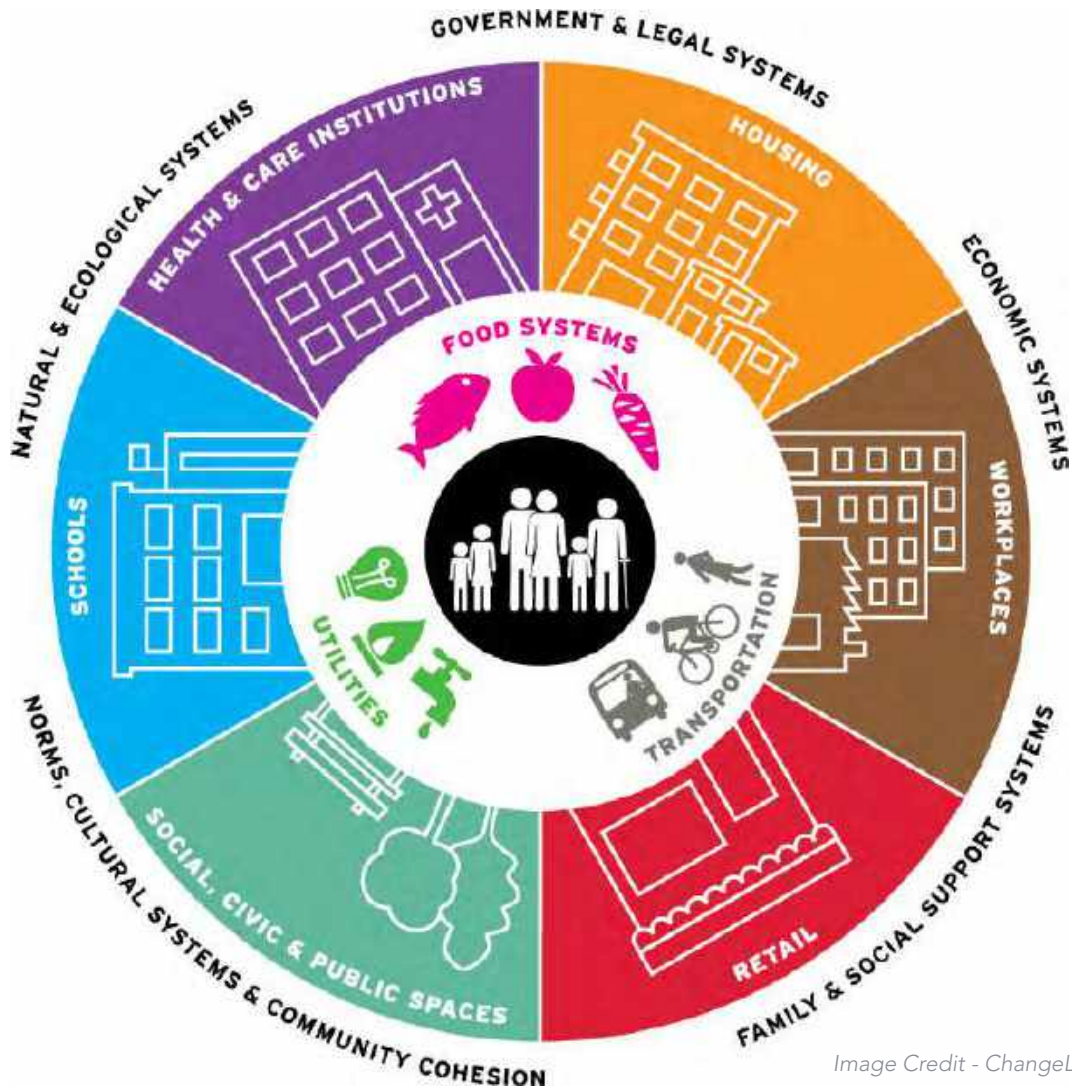


Image Credit - ChangeLab Solutions

Some people live in relatively healthy neighborhoods that have characteristics which mostly support healthy living, for example: landscapes that promote active lifestyles, access to medical care, plentiful safe housing, and availability of nutritious food. On the other hand, relatively less healthy neighborhoods have a combination of physical, social, and economic conditions that can create significant barriers to health such as unstable housing, poor access to healthy food, inadequate

or poorly maintained public spaces, unsafe streets, under-resourced schools, and concentrated poverty.

People may live in relatively less healthy neighborhoods, not because it is a desirable choice, but because of social or economic position or other circumstances beyond their control or ability to change. Less than one-third of the U.S. population is Black or Hispanic, however, these groups represent four out of every five people living in metropolitan concentrated poverty across the

<sup>10</sup> Long-Range Planning for Health, Equity & Prosperity: A Primer for Local Governments (ChangeLab Solutions: December 2019). Available at <https://www.changelabsolutions.org/product/long-range-planning-primer>

country.<sup>11</sup> When these neighborhoods also have physical, social, and economic barriers to health, then low-income residents and residents of color will disproportionately and unfairly be exposed to those unhealthy environments, increasing their risk of poor health, poor education, low income, and poverty.

In addition, political, social, economic, institutional, cultural, environmental, and other systems can create, intensify, and prolong barriers to health.

This complex web of social determinants of health points to a common outcome: poorer and racialized<sup>12</sup> people generally live shorter lives in worse health and under worse conditions than more affluent people who are not racialized. The City is committed to reducing health inequities and promoting environmental justice in Menlo Park. This Environmental Justice Element is a document that seeks to reduce or remove local disparities and inequities that exist by addressing and improving the social determinants of health in the neighborhoods and for the populations that face the greatest barriers to good health in Menlo Park.

### Unique and Compounding Health Risks

Underserved communities are more likely to “experience greater underlying health inequities from the myriad of health, economic, social, and place-based factors that have been present for

many generations, such as inequities in wealth, neighborhood disinvestment, disparities in neighborhood conditions, and lack of access to opportunities and needed services and resources.”<sup>13</sup> This combination of exposure to negative externalities and limited opportunities for mediation result in “unique and compounding health risks” that greatly impact the health and wellbeing of the members of the community.

Unique and compounding health risks are the result of the cumulative impacts of governmental neglect, systemic discrimination, and limited access to resources that lead to a situation where low income communities and communities of color face elevated rates of exposure to environmental hazards and have increased sensitivity to such hazards as a result of compounding inequities in the prevalence of chronic diseases, cumulative environmental exposures, and limited access to mitigative and protective resources to adequately cope with hazards experienced in the community.<sup>14</sup>

Cities and counties are required by State Government Code 65302(h) to “identify objectives and policies to reduce unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities” within their jurisdiction. Identification of unique and compounding health risks requires recognition of issues that are specific to their community and are collected through analysis of community needs, local climate vulnerability, cost of living, local industries, and other additional factors that impact the health and wellbeing of the community.

11 Erica E. Meade, “Overview of Community Characteristics in Areas with Concentrated Poverty” (HHS Office for the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation: April 30, 2014), available at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/overview-community-characteristics-areas-concentrated-poverty>.

12 “to cause or believe race to be an important feature of a group of people, of society, or of a problem” (Cambridge Dictionary). Available at <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/racialize>.

13 Gregory Miao, Kate Hannon Michel, and Tina Yuen “A Health Justice Agenda for Local Governments to Address Environmental Health Inequities” (Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics, March 2023), available at [https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-law-medicine-and-ethics/article/health-justice-agenda-for-local-governments-to-address-environmental-health-inequities/9DF64519B9A1806228B2914E79D4A480?utm\\_campaign=shareaholic&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_source=bookmark](https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-law-medicine-and-ethics/article/health-justice-agenda-for-local-governments-to-address-environmental-health-inequities/9DF64519B9A1806228B2914E79D4A480?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=bookmark).

14 See, Anjum Hajat, Charlene Hsia, and Marie S. O’Neill: “Socioeconomic Disparities and Air Pollution Exposure: a Global Review” (Current Environmental Health Report, September 2015), available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40572-015-0069-5>.



## EXISTING SETTING

Menlo Park is one of the wealthiest cities in the San Francisco Bay Area.<sup>15</sup> The city has numerous high-quality jobs, high-performing schools, and well-maintained parks. Menlo Park has established connectivity both within the city itself and along highways and train routes linking it to San Francisco and San Jose (as well as across the Dumbarton Bridge to the East Bay). Plentiful street trees provide cover from urban heat and the bayfront marshlands serve as a buffer between rising sea levels and the built-up portions of the city.

However, the opportunities Menlo Park provides – and the burdens of environmental risk – are not equally experienced by all Menlo Park residents. Minority and low-income populations are more likely to live in inadequate housing,<sup>16</sup> to face greater health risks,<sup>17</sup> and to have more difficulties in making their voices heard.<sup>18</sup> This contributes to a pattern where minority and low-income community members are more susceptible to displacement<sup>19</sup> and at the greatest risk to move into other

<sup>15</sup> See MTC's *Vital Signs* website describing income, available at <https://vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov/indicators/income>

<sup>16</sup> For example, a much higher percentage of lower-income housing units are overcrowded and severely overcrowded than moderate-income or above moderate income units: 3.5% of households making 0%-30% of Area Median Income (AMI) are overcrowded, 6.5% of households making 31%-50% of AMI, 4.0% of households making 51%-80% of AMI, 2.7% of households making 81%-100% of AMI, but only 1.7% of households making more than 100% of AMI. See Figure 33 in ABAG/MTC's "Housing Needs Data Report: Menlo Park (April 2021)". Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), *Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) ACS tabulation, 2013-2017 release*.

<sup>17</sup> Only 52% of workers with an annual household income of less than \$30,000 have paid sick leave in California, compared to 81% of workers with an annual household income over \$120,000. "Taking Count: A Study on Poverty in the Bay Area" (Tipping Point: July 2020), available at <https://tippingpoint.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Taking-Count-2020-A-Study-on-Poverty-in-the-Bay-Area.pdf>.

<sup>18</sup> See, Michelle L. Kaiser, Michelle D. Hand, and Erica K. Pence: "Individual and Community Engagement in Response to Environmental Challenges Experienced in Four Low-Income Urban Neighborhoods" (Int'l. Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, March 2020), available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7142717/>.

<sup>19</sup> See, Urban Displacement Project "SF Bay Area – Gentrification and Displacement" (2021), available at <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/maps/sf-bay-area-gentrification-and-displacement/>

jurisdictions with fewer high-quality jobs and lower-performing schools.<sup>20</sup>

In order to address this inequality, Menlo Park committed to developing an Environmental Justice Element. This commitment requires identifying underserved communities, undertaking extensive outreach to determine the needs of the residents of these communities, and developing a policy framework to address these environmental justice needs.

### Identifying Underserved Communities

Underserved communities are areas throughout California that suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty; pollution; and social and health indicators of risk and stress.

Menlo Park has identified Belle Haven and the Bayfront as underserved communities. These neighborhoods make up the portion of the city north of US Highway 101 (US-101) and a small portion south of US-101 but north of the Dumbarton Corridor (see Figure EJ-2). Historically, this was the area of Menlo Park that was segregated through racial covenants that banned Black households south of US-101.<sup>21</sup> Even today, Belle Haven and the Bayfront are within school districts separate from the districts that serve the majority of the city. Belle Haven and the Bayfront are also racialized communities: with disproportionately more Hispanic and Black than the rest of the city, these underserved communities are made up of households that have been historically underrepresented in the planning process (and civic processes generally) in Menlo Park.



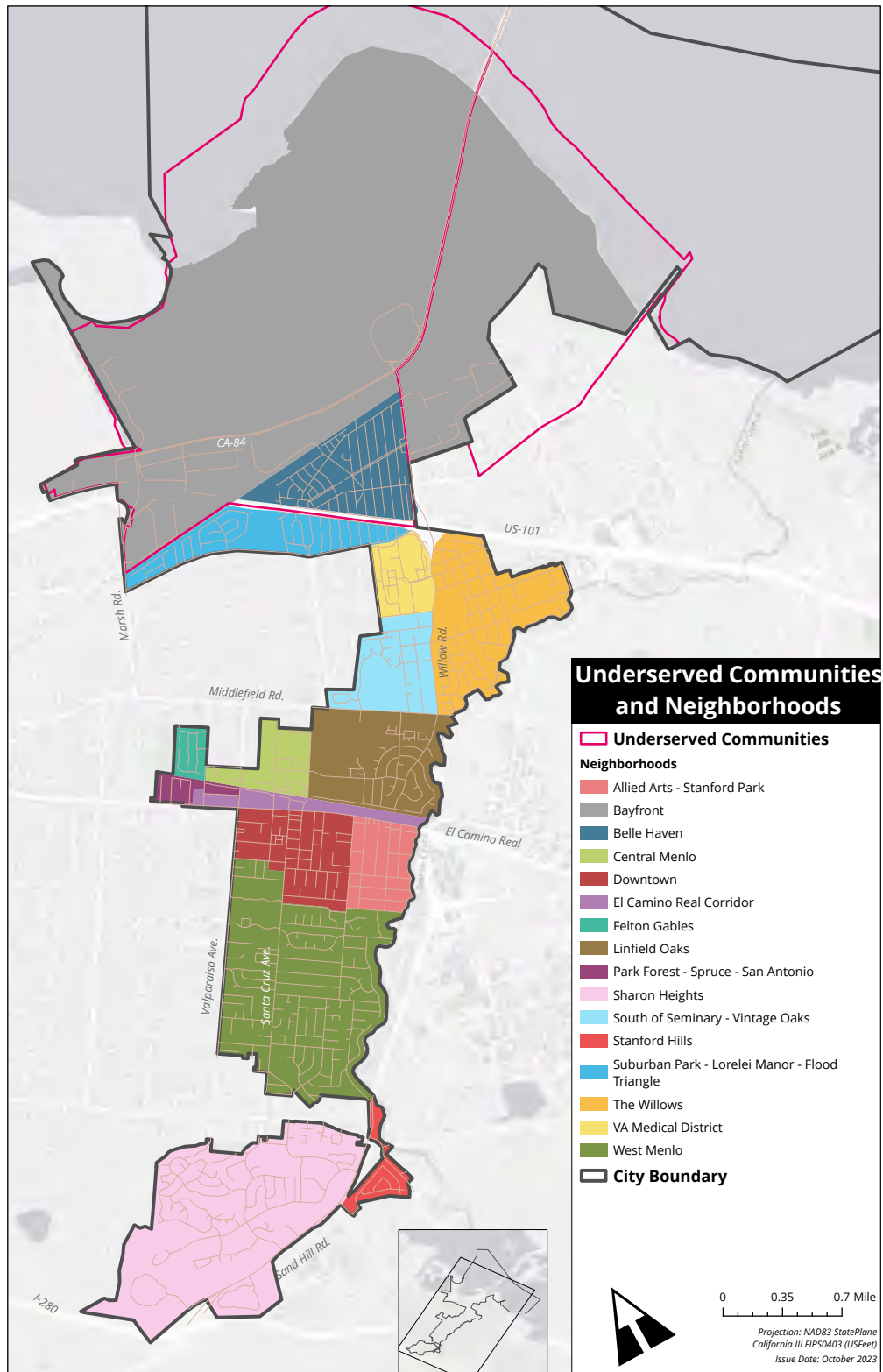
*"The most effective form of outreach was through existing relationships."*

— CRC Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

20 "Inequality and Economic Security in Silicon Valley" (California Budget & Policy Center: May 2016), available at <https://www.siliconvalleycf.org/sites/default/files/publications/inequality-and-economic-security-in-silicon-valley.pdf>

21 See <https://www.menlotgether.org/2019/11/27/the-color-of-law-menlo-park-edition-overcoming-systemic-segregation/>

Figure EJ-2: Map of Underserved Community Census Tracts<sup>22</sup>



<sup>22</sup> Census tracts do not align precisely with City limits as depicted in Figure EJ-2. More information is available in Appendix EJ-C: Neighborhood Profiles

## State Criteria

Belle Haven and the Bayfront are identified as underserved communities because they are in census tracts<sup>23</sup> designated as low income (80% or less of area median income) by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits (median incomes of less than \$146,350 for a four-person San Mateo County household in 2021 and \$186,600 in 2024);<sup>24</sup> they are historically underserved areas separated from the rest of the city by US-101 and included within school districts separate from those that serve the majority of the city; and as described by the community during outreach efforts for the element preparation.

A third neighborhood, The Willows, technically falls into a census tract designated as low income. A portion of the census tract is located outside the boundaries of Menlo Park in the City of East Palo Alto and is considered very low income (50% or less of area median income – less than \$91,350 for a four-person San Mateo County household in 2021 and \$97,900 in 2024), which thereby lowers the overall tract-wide median income. The Menlo Park portion of the tract containing The Willows is well above the designated low-income limit and is part of the Menlo Park City School District. Appendix EJ-B, Additional Methodology, describes this observation in detail.

OPR has developed Environmental Justice Element guidelines<sup>25</sup> that recommend a “thorough screening analysis” with three primary criteria to determine if any area of the city is an underserved community:

- **Criteria 1** – Affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. This is done by using CalEnviroScreen 4.0 to examine whether the planning area for the General Plan contains census tracts that have a

CalEnviroScreen 4.0 combined Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics score of 75% or higher (CalEnviroScreen is a data analysis tool discussed in Appendix EJ-A, Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations. A table of all neighborhood scores is provided at the end of Appendix EJ-A).

- **Criteria 2** – An area with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income.
- **Criteria 3** – An area at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits (\$146,350 for a four-person household in 2021).

It is also recommended that jurisdictions “incorporate and analyze community-specific data and examine for additional pollution burden and health risk factors.” This is Criteria 4, encouraging the incorporation of community outreach which the City has undertaken and will continue to engage in.

The OPR criteria are based on census tracts, which do not line up precisely with Menlo Park’s city boundaries and neighborhood boundaries (see Figure EJ-3).

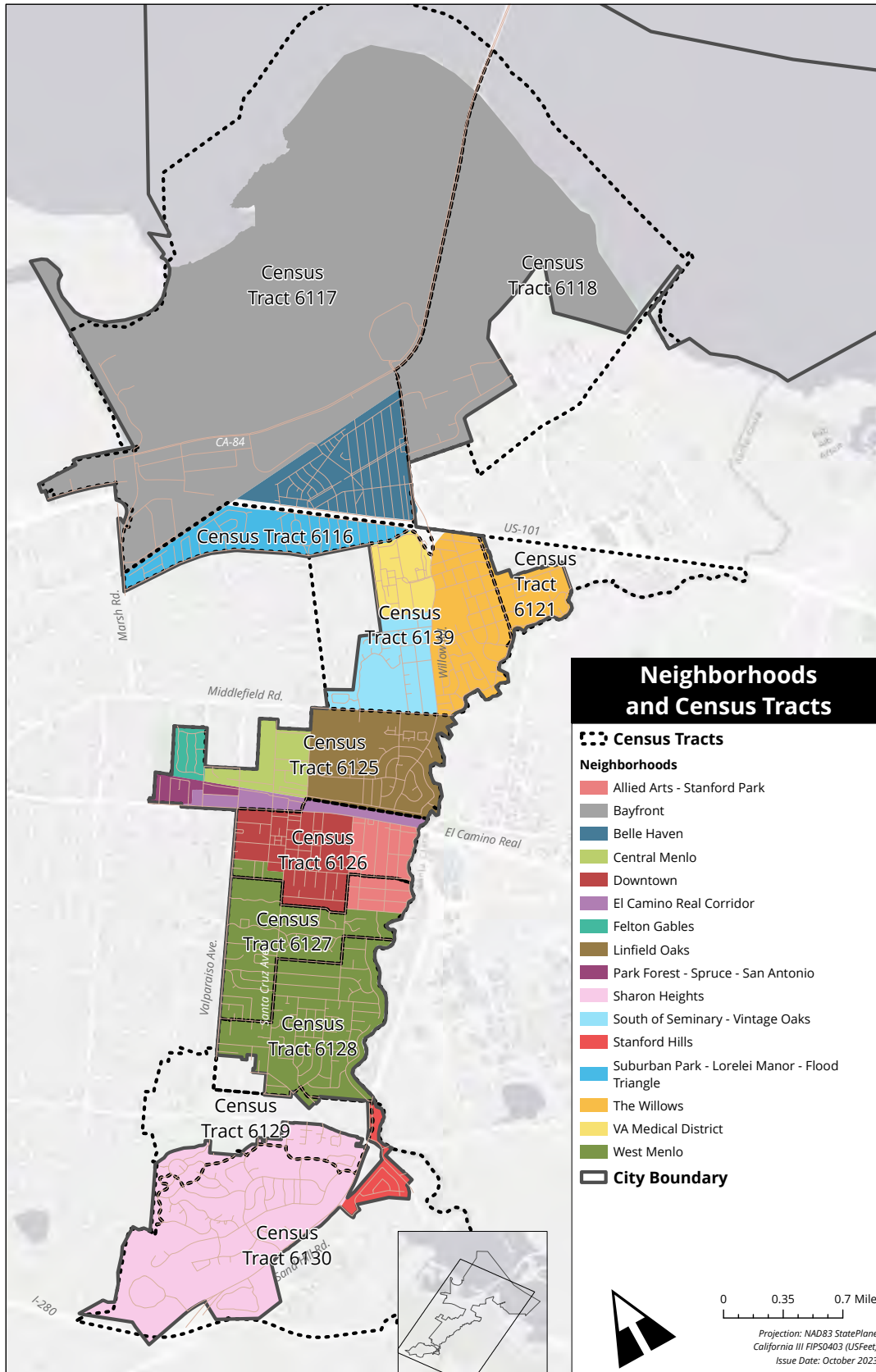
<sup>23</sup> Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county.

<sup>24</sup> Current and historic (dating back to 2016) state income limits can be found on HCD’s website, see *State and Federal Income, Rent, and Loan/Value Limits*. The data in the adopted Environmental Justice Element dates to 2021, when the Neighborhood Profiles were developed (see Appendix EJ-A). Updated income limits are located at the HCD website.

<sup>25</sup> See 2020 Updated Environmental Justice Element General Plan Guidelines



Figure EJ-3: Neighborhoods, Tracts, City Boundaries





In Menlo Park, there are three census tracts which meet at least one of the three primary criteria noted by OPR and could be considered as containing underserved communities:

- Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront)
- Tract 6118 (Bayfront)
- Tract 6121 (The Willows)

All three census tracts listed are eligible due to Criteria 3: their household incomes are at or below the threshold designated as low income

by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits. However, Tract 6121 (The Willows) only meets Criteria 3 due to portions of the census tract located outside of Menlo Park in the City of East Palo Alto. Therefore, Tract 6121 (The Willows) is not considered an underserved community within Menlo Park’s Environmental Justice Element. Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront) is also eligible due to Criteria 2: its household incomes are at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income (see Table EJ-2; underserved communities shown bolded).

Table EJ-2: Household Median Income of Census Tracts in Menlo Park

Menlo Park Census Tract	Neighborhoods	Household Median Income (2020)
Citywide Household Median Income*		\$167,567
6116	Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle	\$222,708
<b>6117</b>	<b>Belle Haven; Bayfront</b>	<b>\$74,032</b>
<b>6118</b>	<b>Bayfront</b>	<b>\$85,500**</b>
6121	The Willows	\$64,690***
6125	Central Menlo; El Camino Real Corridor; Felton Gables; Linfield Oaks; Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio	\$154,861
6126	Downtown; Allied Arts/ Stanford Park	\$140,795
6127	Allied Arts/Stanford Park; West Menlo	\$238,333
6128	West Menlo	\$250,000 ±
6129	Sharon Heights	\$192,250
6130	Sharon Heights; Stanford Hills	\$156,000
6139	South of Seminary – Vintage Oaks; The Willows; VA Medical District	\$214,222

The data in Table EJ-2 dates to the publication of the Environmental Justice Element’s Neighborhood Profiles (see Appendix EJ-A).

\*= Citywide Household Median Income is calculated by the US Census separately from tract-by-tract Household Median Income. This number is not the median tract household income.

\*\*= There are no residential units within Menlo Park in Tract 6118. This Median Income figure includes only East Palo Alto.

\*\*\*= Tract 6121’s Household Median Income is disproportionately affected by portions of the Census tract outside of Menlo Park.

*"Low-income communities and communities of color are on the frontlines of sea-level rise, extreme heat events, and are suffering more severe consequences from wildfire smoke exposure. These facts make the urgency and necessity of robust engagement with frontline communities a necessity for equitable and just climate adaptation."*

— CRC Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements



Although neither Tract 6117 nor Tract 6118 have combined Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores of 75 percent or higher – meaning that they have a “worse” situation than 75

percent of Census tracts in California – these tracts are the only ones in Menlo Park with a Pollution Burden score over 75 (see Table EJ-3; underserved communities shown bolded).

Table EJ-3: Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics Scores

Menlo Park Census Tract	Pollution Burden Score	Population Characteristics Score
Citywide Average	26.2	18.6
6116	71	2
<b>6117</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>6118</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>49</b>
6121	73*	58*
6125	45	2
6126	52	4
6127	35	5
6128	26	1
6129	29	17
6130	47	11
6139	44	5

\*= Tract 6121's scores are disproportionately affected by portions of the Census tract outside of Menlo Park.

A detailed description of Menlo Park’s neighborhoods and their relationship to environmental justice, including analyses of Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores, is included within the Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations (see Appendix EJ-A).

Additional details on how demographic data in Census tracts 6118 and 6121 break across city boundaries between Menlo Park and East Palo Alto is provided in Appendix EJ-B, Additional Methodology.

### Community-Specific Data

OPR recommends community-specific data to be incorporated as well as the tract-level CalEnviroScreen 4.0 data. In Menlo Park’s case, the City’s school district stratification as well as its historic and current land use patterns are relevant factors in identifying Belle Haven and the Bayfront as underserved communities.

### School Districts

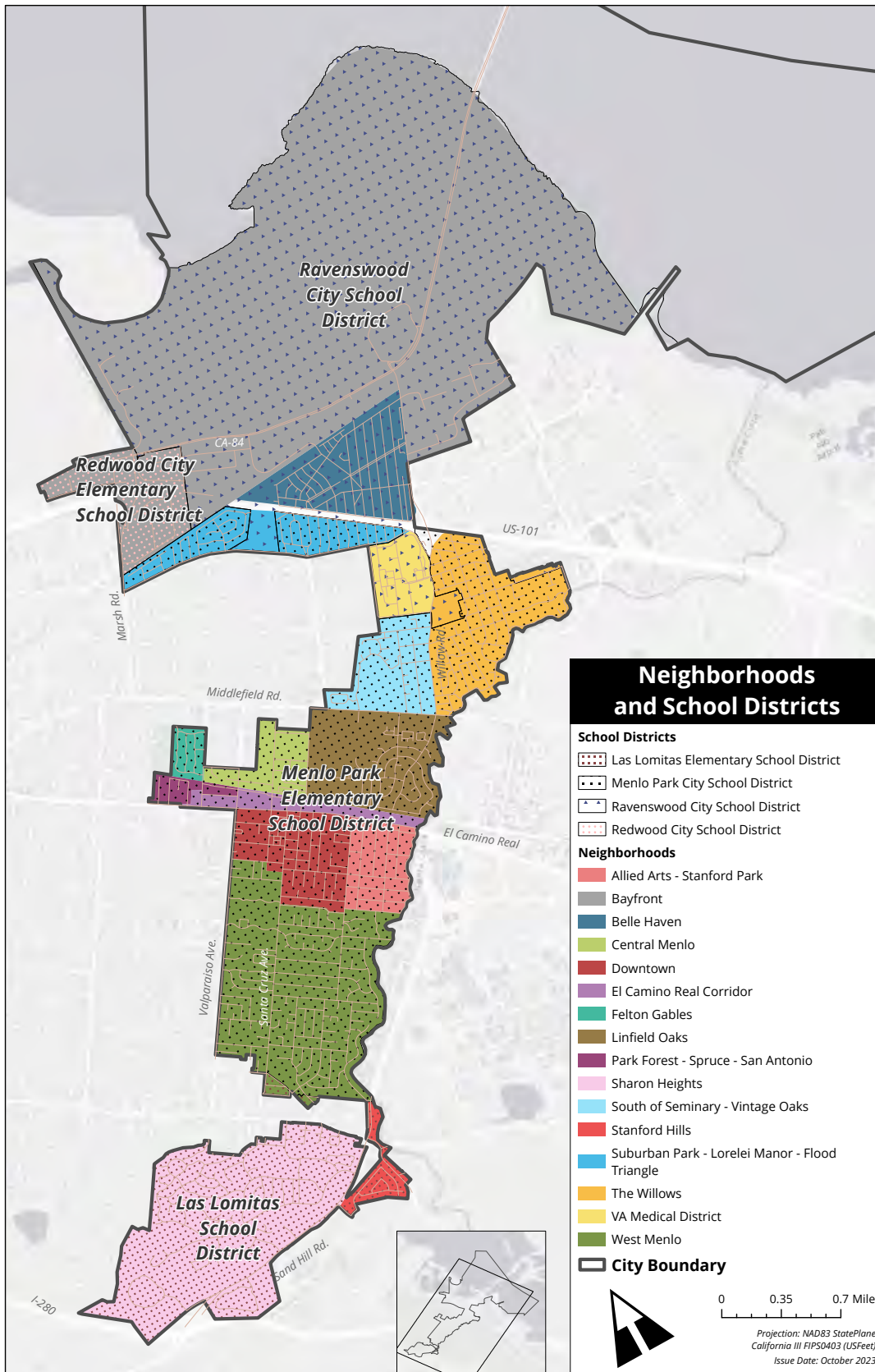
Menlo Park is served by four school districts with elementary and middle schools: Las Lomas Elementary School District, Menlo Park City School District, Ravenswood City School District, and Redwood City School District (see Figure EJ-4).

*"Maintain a local community center. Kelly Park & Pool activities should be affordable, with more basketball, soccer and other activities."*

*— Belle Haven resident*



Figure EJ-4: Elementary and Middle School Districts and Neighborhoods



Ravenswood City School District serves Belle Haven, the Bayfront, and the neighboring City of East Palo Alto (a minority-majority city). Historically, there was also Ravenswood High School, founded in 1958 and subject to a 1970 desegregation order. It was eventually shut down due to declining enrollment in 1975.<sup>26</sup> In the present day, Menlo-Atherton High

School (served by the Sequoia Union High School District) serves all students in Menlo Park who opt for a public high school. In addition, Ravenswood City School District is the sole school district serving Menlo Park with student math and English test scores below state averages (see Table EJ-4):

Table EJ-4: Test Scores in Menlo Park School Districts<sup>27</sup>

School District	% of Students Hispanic or Latino	% Passing State Test	
		Math	English
State Average	56%	40%	51%
Las Lomitas	5%	82%	86%
Menlo Park City	7%	83%	84%
<b>Ravenswood City</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>18%</b>
Redwood City	42%	43%	54%

**Land Use**

The City’s Zoning Ordinance currently allows industrial uses in the Bayfront in the Life Sciences (LS), General Industrial (M-2), and Office (O) zoning districts (see Figure EJ-5, below). Historically, in and around this portion of the city, there have been a number of light industrial, manufacturing, and warehouse facilities. These land use types

are historically correlated to worse health outcomes in neighboring communities.<sup>28</sup> This is because industrial uses can be the sites of legacy pollution, or industrial chemicals that remain in the environment long after they were first introduced – or even long after the original user has left. In the Bay Area, and Menlo Park specifically, many of these legacy pollutants are also located in areas vulnerable to sea level rise.<sup>29</sup>



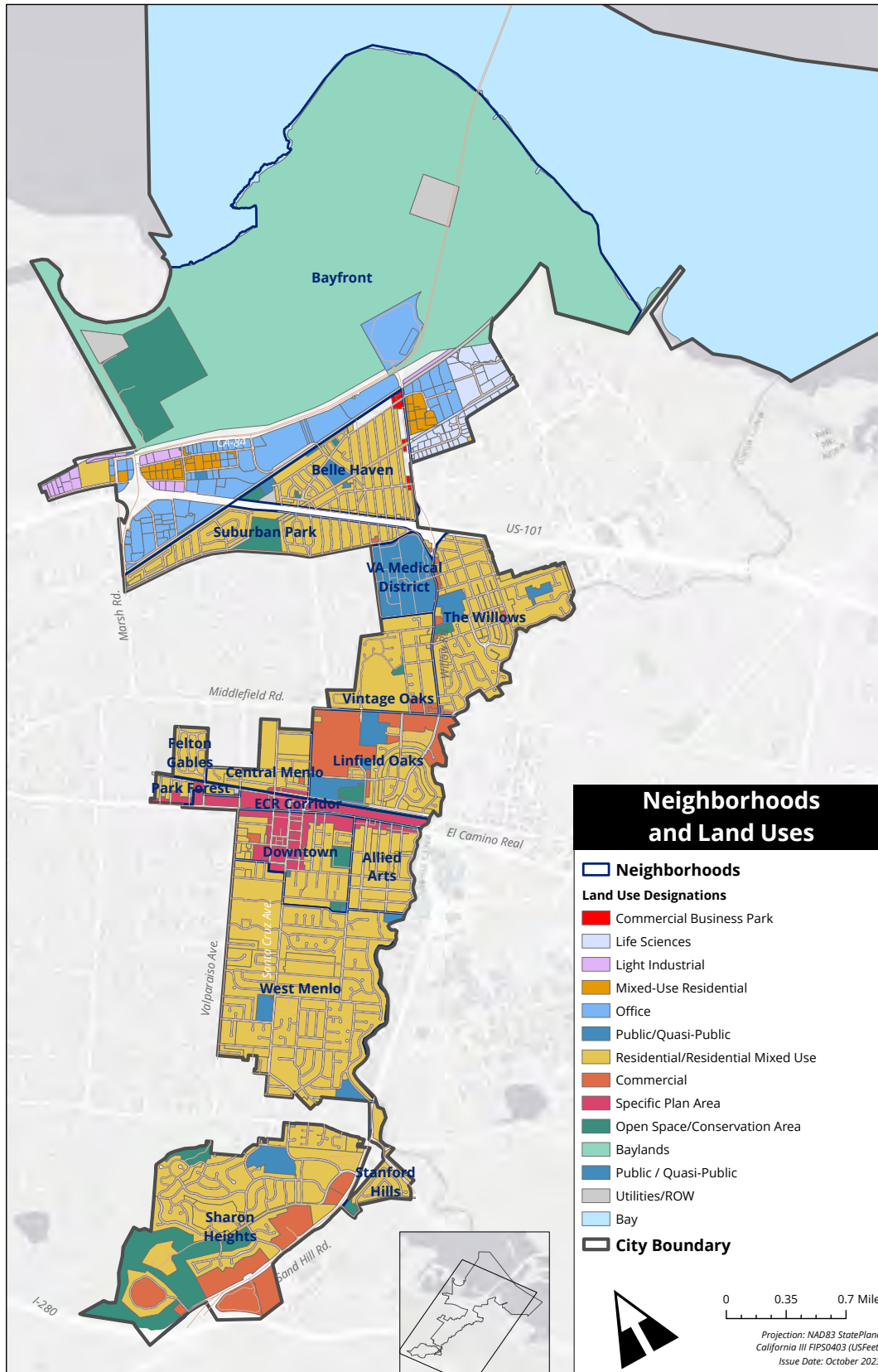
26 Kim-Mai Cutler “East of Palo Alto’s Eden: Race and the Formation of Silicon Valley” (TechCrunch: January 10, 2015) available at <https://techcrunch.com/2015/01/10/east-of-palo-altos-eden/>. Cutler notes that two community “Nairobi Schools” in East Palo Alto were firebombed in 1975.

27 Data via California Department of Education, 2019

28 See generally, Juliana Maantay “Zoning, Equity, and Public Health” (American Journal of Public Health: July 2001) available at <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.91.7.1033>

29 See “Toxic Tides” Available at <https://sites.google.com/berkeley.edu/toxictides/home>.

Figure EJ-5: Menlo Park Neighborhoods and Generalized Land Uses





## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OUTREACH

The City of Menlo Park is committed to an inclusive and equitable planning process. An inclusive and equitable planning process allows community members, especially residents of underserved communities, to provide input and contribute to the development of the Environmental Justice Element. The City of Menlo Park conducted community outreach and engagement on its own as well as partnering with a community-based organization that was intentionally focused and specialized in outreach and engagement efforts for underserved communities. The outreach included community meetings, pop-ups, English-Spanish translation/interpretation services, and surveys. Whenever possible, outreach was conducted with the intent to “meet people where they are” to increase participation, engagement, and build relationships with the community.

This work included multiple public study sessions. The Planning Commission and City Council met in a joint study session on June 20, 2023, to discuss initial public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements. They later met separately, on June 3 (Planning Commission) and

### COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Through the development of Menlo Park’s first Environmental Justice Element, the community-identified three Environmental Justice Element goals to be prioritized:

- Priority #1:** Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2:** Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3:** Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)

June 18 (City Council), 2024, to discuss revised public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements, prior to public hearings for adoption in fall 2024. Community-identified

priorities may change over time. Highlighted outreach efforts are listed below:

**2021**

- August 1** – Pop-Up Meeting at the Downtown Farmers Market
- August 7** – Pop-Up Meeting at Mi Tierra Linda
- August 26** – Community Meeting
- August 29** – Pop-Up Meetings at the Downtown Farmers Market and in Belle Haven

**2022**

- April 5** – Community Meeting
- May 9** – Focus Group in East Palo Alto with El Comité de Vecinos del Lado Oeste
- May 13** – Focus Group with the Belle Haven Community Development Fund
- May 20** – Focus Group with residents of Belle Haven
- May 20 to June 12** – Survey conducted in-person and online

**2023**

- February 9** – Community Meeting
- February 10** – Community Meeting
- June 20** – Planning Commission and City Council Joint Study Session

**2024**

- January 18** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting<sup>30</sup>
- March 21** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting
- April 18** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting
- May 2** – Community Meeting

**May 9** – Community Meeting

**June 3** – Planning Commission Study Session

**June 17** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting

**June 18** – City Council Study Session

## Climate Resilient Communities

The City funded work with a community-based organization in order to expand and bolster outreach with underserved communities which are traditionally harder to reach populations. The City partnered with Climate Resilient Communities (CRC), a community-based organization dedicated to serving underserved communities through empowering community voices to implement climate solutions centered around the direct needs of the community that bring about unity and resilience. CRC was selected as a partner because they are a recognized community-based organization in Menlo Park with a history of experience in community outreach efforts, specifically within Belle Haven and the Bayfront, Menlo Park's underserved communities. Through a diverse and multifaceted outreach strategy, the City was able to better understand the impacts of environmental justice issues that underserved communities in Menlo Park face and together with the community, plan for positive change.

Together with the City, the outreach conducted by CRC directly resulted in the content and language of the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the action items of the complementary Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. The overall direction of the Environmental Justice Element is based off the important takeaways, findings, and requests from the community expressed during the outreach and community meetings conducted by CRC within underserved communities.

<sup>30</sup> The Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team (CCCT) is composed of residents, youth, faith, and business leaders with the aim to identify local vulnerabilities and learn how the community can be better prepared to face the impacts of climate change. The CCCT serves as a vehicle for forming and expressing community preferences for addressing a multitude of climate related issues that vary by local condition. The Belle Haven CCCT comprehensively discussed the Environmental Justice Element and update to the Safety Element in 2024.

## Outreach Methodology and Findings

Text and tables describing key findings, recommendations collected and summarized by CRC, and how those key findings and recommendations were brought into the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element are provided under each outreach and engagement method.

CRC focused most of its outreach efforts in Belle Haven, one of the communities identified as an underserved community. CRC also worked with communities who live and work in the Bayfront. The focus groups and community survey confirmed quantified metrics available from CalEnviroScreen through resident narratives and experiences. CRC was able to increase participation, build capacity, and describe the environmental justice issues affecting residents in underserved communities.

### Community Meetings (2021-2023)

In August 2021, April 2022, and February 2023, the City and CRC held community meetings to share information and gather feedback for preparation of Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element.

- Key Findings from Community Meetings Address air quality and safety concerns in Belle Haven
  - Policy EJ2.1, Policy EJ2.4, Program EJ2.A, Program EJ2.B, Program EJ2.C
- Preserve open space and parks
  - Program EJ3.E, Program EJ 4.E
- Use publicly owned land to build affordable housing
  - Considered as part of Menlo Park's 6th Cycle Housing Element
- Distribute new housing throughout the city and in high resource areas
  - Policy EJ5.2
- Reduce Pollution
  - Program EJ1.D, Policy EJ2.1
- Housing insecurity is related to health impacts
  - Considered as part of Menlo Park's 6th Cycle Housing Element, Policy EJ5.2
- Provide more bike/pedestrian infrastructure
  - Program EJ6.A, Policy EJ6.2, Policy EJ6.3
- Give more visibility to Environmental Justice issues
  - Policy EJ7.1, Policy EJ7.2, Program EJ7.A





### Focus Groups (2022)

A total of 124 Belle Haven residents attended at least one of the three (3) focus groups in May 2022. The focus groups met in person at the Belle Haven Branch Library and were intended to engage specific populations of the community. The first focus group was centered on sharing information and receiving feedback from families, parents, and children. The second focus group was catered to Spanish-speaking residents. The third focus group was for all residents. All focus groups were open to the public. A full summary report for the focus groups is available in Appendix EJ-C, Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements.

In the focus groups, key findings were identified through “jamboard” exercises where individuals noted which statements they agreed with from those identified during facilitated community discussion. CRC made a series of primary and secondary findings and recommendations based on these findings, which were then translated into policies and programs for the Environmental Justice Element. Table EJ-5 provides the key findings identified in the focus groups as well as the recommendations, and highlighted policies and programs are shown (see more in the Goals, Policies, and Programs section).

Table EJ-5: Key Findings from Focus Groups

Key Finding	Recommendations	Policies / Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Primary:</b> Reduce traffic pollution</li> <li>• <b>Secondary:</b> Mitigate emissions from stationary sources and issues from wildfire smoke</li> </ul>	Incentivize electric vehicle use (including electric bicycles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program EJ2.G</li> </ul>
	Strengthen permitting requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Quality Permitting is enforced by the local Air Quality District.</li> </ul>
	Fund home weatherization and distribute air purifiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ5.1</li> </ul>
	Conduct tap water testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City currently conducts water testing as described in the annual Menlo Park Municipal Water report. The city does not currently rely on groundwater supply.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Primary:</b> Upgrade community centers</li> <li>• <b>Secondary:</b> More health care facilities and improved road infrastructure with complete streets</li> </ul>	Help families with water expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program EJ5.B</li> <li>• Existing PG&amp;E CARE program is used by City currently, which provides support for water, garbage, and recycling bills.</li> </ul>
	Reexamine administrative polices to encourage affordable and accessible programming in community centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ3.1</li> <li>• Policy EJ3.2</li> <li>• Program EJ3.G</li> </ul>
	Create a community health clinic in Belle Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ3.3</li> <li>• Program EJ3.D</li> </ul>
	Consider transportation infrastructure overhauls that ease walking, bicycling, and public transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ6.2</li> <li>• Policy EJ6.3</li> <li>• Program EJ6.A</li> </ul>

Key Finding	Recommendations	Policies / Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase access to healthy and affordable foods</li> </ul>	Ensure that any new grocery store offers high-quality, affordable food; includes a pharmacy; and accepts SNAP and food vouchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ4.1</li> <li>Program EJ4.A</li> </ul>
	Look for opportunities for a new or expanded farmers' market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program EJ4.D</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Augment affordable housing programs and anti-displacement measures</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Mitigate pest, mold, and asbestos issues in homes and increase access to groceries and green spaces</li> </ul>	Offer homeowners and renters vital home safety repairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ5.1</li> <li>Program EJ5.A</li> <li>City is working on grant program through Habitat for Humanity for home repairs.</li> </ul>
	Enact/expand rent control ordinances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2023-2031 Housing Element does not propose additional rent control regulations, however, the development of an anti-displacement strategy is included.</li> </ul>
	Promote affordable housing throughout the city, and outside of Belle Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ5.2</li> <li>Program EJ5.D</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase information accessibility and enhance prior knowledge of City processes</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Schedule meetings to avoid time conflicts</li> </ul>	Ensure substantial and sustained multilingual outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ7.1</li> <li>Policy EJ7.2</li> </ul>
	Expand education and capacity-building opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program EJ7.A</li> </ul>
	Revamp public meeting scheduling protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ7.2</li> <li>Program EJ7.B</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase street lighting</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Upgrade sidewalks and other infrastructure improvements</li> </ul>	Fill gaps in streetlight coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program EJ6.A</li> </ul>
	Assess ADA compliance in sidewalks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ6.2</li> <li>Program EJ6.A</li> </ul>
	Systematically assess neighborhood connectivity infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ1.4</li> <li>Program EJ1.B</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase tree canopy</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Reduce noise pollution and retrofit buildings for resilience and energy efficiency</li> </ul>	Commit to urban forestry efforts by setting urban canopy expansion goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ2.3</li> </ul>
	Create publicly accessible ticketing system for maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently done through ACT Menlo Park program.</li> </ul>
	Consider community solutions for addressing concerns related to parking (e.g., idling and noise, parking availability)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action Item EJ2.I.7</li> <li>Action Item EJ6.D.1</li> </ul>



## Survey (2022)

CRC canvassed the city from May 20 through July 12, 2022 for a survey, focusing their outreach on the underserved communities of Belle Haven and Bayfront. The survey was available for completion both online and in-person, gathering 420 total responses. Of the responses, 328 (78%) of respondents were Belle Haven residents. The full survey report is available as Appendix EJ-D, Menlo Park Survey Final Report.

CRC made a series of key findings and recommendations, which were then translated into policies and programs for the Environmental Justice Element. The text below provides the key findings identified in the survey as well as the recommendations; highlighted policies and programs are shown (see more in the Goals, Policies, and Programs section).

### Key Findings from 2022 Environmental Justice Survey

#### *Air Quality, Traffic Congestion, Dust Pollution & Noise*

Key Finding: A majority of respondents experienced poor air quality, traffic congestion, and dust and noise from construction as adverse environmental impacts within their households in the last 10 years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than other Menlo Park households. Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than their White counterparts.

Recommendations: Implement air and noise pollution mitigation measures specifically in Belle Haven. Install sensors to measure outcomes before and after pilot interventions. Work with Belle Haven community organizations to scope pilot projects and ensure cultural competency when interventions are conducted at the household level.

Programs: EJ2.A (Air quality monitors currently exist in Belle Haven.)

Policies: EJ2.1, EJ2.4

## Health Issues

Key Finding: More than a third of respondents experienced stress/anxiety, high blood pressure or cholesterol, COVID-19 and/or asthma within their households in the last 10 years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than other Menlo Park households.

Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than their White counterparts.

Recommendations: Conduct culturally competent outreach to inform Belle Haven residents of the prevalence of health issues in the neighborhood, environmental risk factors, and opportunities for preventative or supportive action.

Programs: EJ3.3

## Environmental Damages and Risks

Key Finding: About a third of respondents have spent more than \$100 in the past year on home repairs related to environmental damages or risks. More than a third of respondents have delayed home repairs due to cost. A quarter of respondents, if faced with a \$400 emergency expense, would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash, and would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money. Both of these findings also demonstrate significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities.

Recommendations: Develop a rapid response program that can assist Belle Haven homeowners with emergency home repairs through a no-interest loan, including volunteer labor and donated materials.

Policies: EJ5.1

## Prioritization of Household Spending

Key Finding: More than a third of respondents would prioritize spending extra money on air conditioning, air purifiers, home repairs and earthquake-related upgrades, compared to solar, rainwater capture, home insurance or electrification.

Recommendations: Expand reduced cost home weatherization and retrofit programs, as well as DIY (“Do-It-Yourself”) air filter initiatives.

Policies: EJ5.1 (City offers water conservation rebates, incentives, and free fixtures.<sup>31</sup>)

### *Prioritization of Public Spending*

Key Finding: More than a third of respondents would prioritize public spending on pedestrian safety, road repairs, safer biking routes, street trees, and improved parks or community gardening, compared to public air quality monitoring, stormwater management, code enforcement and flood barriers.

Recommendations: While continuing to mitigate risk from less frequent climate hazards, deepen prioritization of public transportation and recreation infrastructure in Belle Haven.

Policies: EJ1.3, EJ1.4

Programs: EJ1.A, EJ2.H

### *Community Workshops and Study Sessions (2024)*

After making revisions to the Environmental Justice Element to reflect the community meetings, focus groups, and survey described above, the document was revised and re-published in April 2024 and discussed at four public meetings:

**May 2** – Community Workshop in Belle Haven (in Spanish)

**May 9** – Community Workshop in Belle Haven (in English)

**June 3** – Planning Commission Study Session (in English)

**June 18** – City Council Study Session (in English, with Spanish interpretation)

The full Community Workshops summary report is included as Appendix EJ-E: Prioritization Workshop Summary.

Approximately 80 attendees at the May workshops provided feedback on the relevant elements, regarding recommended policies, programs and their prioritization. This feedback was provided to Planning Commission and City Council at their respective study sessions. At these study sessions, commissioners and councilmembers affirmed the community input and provided additional feedback.

A key finding of these study sessions was the affirmation that the City should move forward with highlighting the top three priorities identified through the community outreach process:

- Priority #1:** Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2:** Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3:** Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)



Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

<sup>31</sup> See “Conservation rebates and incentives” Available at <https://menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works/Utilities/Menlo-Park-Municipal-Water/Water-conservation/Conservation-rebates-and-incentives>

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUMMARY

Participants in the community meetings, focus groups, and survey indicated an interest in topics such as air quality/safety, open space and parks, pollution, noise, and construction. Through their participation, it was evident that environmental and sustainability issues are important to Menlo Park residents. Environmental factors impact the whole ecosystem – not only the environment, but also the health and wellbeing of people.

One of the most popular community feedback themes was urban greening. Urban greening is the incorporation of vegetation, landscaping, trees, open space, and gardens in the infrastructure of an urban environment. Examples of this include urban street canopies, drought tolerant and native species landscaping, green roofing, community gardens, and pervious surfaces incorporated into public spaces. At the local level, these interventions can help reduce health and safety risks by mitigating air, water, noise pollution and stress.

The findings and issues identified by the community have been recognized by the City and translated into prioritization of goals in the Housing, Safety, and Environmental Justice Elements.

The prioritized goals will be emphasized in City planning efforts in the years following Environmental Justice Element adoption. In particular, the City Council will incorporate community priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop (see Program EJ7.L). Any revisions to community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities (see Program EJ7.K). The intent of the process is to remain responsive and not require a General Plan amendment.

*"The community wants to be better informed."  
— Belle Haven resident*



Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

## GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

Menlo Park's objective of furthering environmental justice is an action-oriented process. The City will continually work toward environmental justice, with collective efforts and collaboration from Belle Haven and Bayfront residents, community leaders, and the greater Menlo Park, San Mateo County, and Bay Area communities.

The goals, policies, and programs in the Environmental Justice Element are developed from the issues and priorities identified in the data analysis and the community outreach and engagement findings and recommendations completed for Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element. Below is a description of the goals, policies, and programs that make up the Environmental Justice Element.

- **Goals** – Broad actions Menlo Park will pursue to work towards environmental justice.
- **Policies** – Focused principles that Menlo Park is adopting in order to achieve goals.
- **Programs** – Precise steps that Menlo Park will take in furtherance of policies and goals.

Many of the policies and programs call for direct investment in less resourced underserved communities. Prioritizing investments such as time, political energy, and capital in underserved communities will have net benefits and a high return on investment for Menlo Park as a whole.

### Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. This separate, complementary document is guided by the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the Guiding Principles of the Menlo Park General Plan, however, the Action Guide lies outside of the General Plan itself. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community

needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment. Table EJ-6 shows

where one can view goals, policies, and programs, as well as action items which support program implementation.

Table EJ-6: Environmental Justice Element Organization

Environmental Justice Element	Document	Action Guide
<p><b>GOALS:</b> Broad actions Menlo Park will pursue to work toward environmental justice. <i>(These goals are synonymous with “objectives” as used in Gov. Code Section 65302(h))</i></p>	✓	✓
<p><b>POLICIES:</b> Focused principles to guide decision-making that Menlo Park is adopting in order to achieve goals.</p>	✓	✓
<p><b>PROGRAMS:</b> Precise steps that Menlo Park will take in furtherance of policies and goals.</p>	✓	✓
<p><b>ACTION ITEMS:</b> Tasks that Menlo Park will pursue to improve environmental justice in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach.</p>		✓










## Goals

In Menlo Park, as in many other places throughout California and beyond, areas with a higher concentration of low-income households are more likely to be exposed to pollution and environmental hazards. Consequently, individuals in these areas

experience higher rates of poor health outcomes. To reduce the disproportionate health risks that exist in these Menlo Park neighborhoods, this Environmental Justice Element has policies and programs organized into seven goals consistent with the requirements of SB 1000 and Gov. Code Section 65302(h) (see Table EJ-7):

Table EJ-7: Goals of the Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element

Required Topic Area	Environmental Justice Element Goal
 <b>Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities</b>	<b>Goal EJ1: Address unique and compounded health risks</b>
 <b>Reduce Pollution Exposure</b>	<b>Goal EJ2: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality</b>
 <b>Improve Access to Public Facilities</b>	<b>Goal EJ3: Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities</b>
 <b>Promote Food Access</b>	<b>Goal EJ4: Promote access to high quality and affordable food</b>
 <b>Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes</b>	<b>Goal EJ5: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes</b>
 <b>Promote Physical Activity</b>	<b>Goal EJ6: Encourage physical activity and active transportation</b>
 <b>Promote Civic Engagement</b>	<b>Goal EJ7: Create equitable civic and community engagement</b>

There is natural overlap between the goals of the Environmental Justice Element. A strong Environmental Justice Element provides framework for a cohesive and complementary set of goals, policies, and programs.

The Environmental Justice Element was developed simultaneously with the 2023-2031 Housing Element. The policies and programs in the 2023-2031 Housing Element support the Environmental Justice Element's goal to provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes for all residents. Rather than duplicate this language in both elements, the Environmental Justice Element instead references the language in the Housing Element that is reviewed by the California Department of Housing and Community

Development and subject to annual reporting requirements.

The Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, and programs are below in Table EJ-8. Complementary action items are separately contained within the Action Guide. Policies, programs, and action items are organized by the seven overarching Environmental Justice Element goals and include descriptive information about current progress (if applicable), responsible parties, potential funding sources, and delivery timeframe.





Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

Table EJ-8: Environmental Justice Goals, Policies, and Programs



**GOAL EJ1**

**ADDRESS UNIQUE AND COMPOUNDED HEALTH RISKS**

**POLICY EJ1.1** Prioritize programs that address the unique and compounded health risks present in underserved communities currently and in the future.

**POLICY EJ1.2** Reduce climate vulnerability in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ1.3** Strengthen collaboration efforts with residents in underserved communities, particularly on public improvement projects.

**POLICY EJ1.4** Prioritize active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) improvements, transit incentives, and neighborhood connectivity in underserved communities.

**PROGRAM EJ1.A** Prioritize public/capital improvements needed in underserved communities with priority allocation of funding, available to the City locally and from regional, statewide, and federal entities, for such projects, and to address climate change.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office, Public Works. Supporting: Community Development, Sustainability Division

*Funding Sources:* General Fund, General Capital Fund, Countywide Transportation Sales Tax Funds (Measure A & W), State and Federal Gas Taxes

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ1.B** Prepare publicly available reports annually to describe how underserved communities are considered and prioritized in capital improvement plans, departmental work plans, and budgets within four years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



**PROGRAM EJ1.C** Develop and publicize annual or every-other-year reports that measure progress and outcomes of the implementation of the Environmental Justice Element programs within six years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: All City Departments  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ1.D** Review CalEnviroScreen to support evaluation of Environmental Justice Element policies and programs.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, All City Departments  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



**GOAL EJ2** REDUCE POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

**POLICY EJ2.1** Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality (both indoor and outdoor), and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ2.2** Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale, as well as collaborate on countywide and regional efforts. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve watershed and human health.

**POLICY EJ2.3** Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to promote and encourage urban greening on public and private projects (e.g., bioswales, raingardens, habitat restoration) in areas with relatively less tree canopy or other greenery to provide health and safety benefits to underserved communities residents.

**POLICY EJ2.4** Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards and maximize air quality (both indoor and outdoor) in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ2.5** Work with Caltrans on improvements on State-owned rights of way.

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**POLICY EJ2.6** When updating or installing transportation infrastructure, consider factors such as stormwater management, Universal Design Principles and attractive green roadway design.

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**PROGRAM EJ2.A** Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City's jurisdiction (e.g., gas stations, automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Peninsula Clean Energy, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Westbay Sanitary District, San Mateo County Environmental Health, San Mateo County Fire, Sustainability Division

*Funding Source:* Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ2.B** Implement and periodically update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

*In Progress:* The Climate Action Plan is subject to annual progress reports as a standalone document are scheduled for 2028 update. Starting in 2024, the City will implement a zero emission landscaping equipment rule to improve air quality and reduce emissions.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Sustainability Division

*Funding Sources:* General Fund, grants (e.g., California Energy Commission, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy, and CALFIRE)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ2.C** Conduct proactive education and outreach about indoor and outdoor air quality and protective actions that can be taken to both improve air quality inside one's home and to minimize exposure to poor air quality index days.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Sustainability Division, Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County Sustainability Department

*Funding Source:* Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



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**PROGRAM EJ2.D** Minimize and mitigate illegal solid waste dumping (as defined in 7.04.030 of the Municipal Code), potentially through minimizing fees for disposal at landfills in collaboration with South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA).

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Communications and Public Engagement  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ2.E** Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan and update, as necessary, to incorporate environmental justice. Focus on underserved communities and implement programs in this Element, in coordination with related regional efforts.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Community Development  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ2.F** Increase community outreach and awareness of the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, including the Community Rating System, and the potential benefits to homeowners (e.g., reduced insurance premiums)

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Communications and Public Engagement Division. Supporting: Public Works  
*Funding Source:* Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ2.G** Develop incentives to encourage shared commute programs and alternative methods of travel for city events, meetings, and official business.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office, Public Works. Supporting: SamTrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g. Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Public Works, Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ2.H Collaborate with SamTrans and Ravenswood City School District, as well as Meta and other large employers to leverage transportation electrification initiatives to prioritize bus electrification in underserved communities.**

*In Progress:* SamTrans anticipated being fully electric by 2034, in compliance with State law requiring transit fleets be all electric by 2040.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Sustainability Division; SamTrans, Ravenswood City School District, Large Local Businesses (over 50 employees, e.g. Meta, SRI International, Grail, others)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ2.I Consider revisions to applicable City regulations that will reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life in underserved communities.**

*In Progress:* Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance, Municipal Code Chapter 7.30 (Smoking Regulated or Prohibited)

*Responsibility:* Lead: All City Departments. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ2.J Develop Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park within four years of the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.**

*In Progress:* The City applied for the 2024 cycle of the CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grant for Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park. Awards to be announced in Fall 2024. This grant requires projects to be completed by March 31, 2028. The City has budgeted \$250,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as matching funds.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Sustainability Division, Canopy

*Funding Sources:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 PLANNING Grant), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grants, CAL FIRE grants. City of Menlo Park Heritage Tree in-lieu fee program

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term



**PROGRAM EJ2.K** Prioritize relief from extreme heat (Safety Element Program S1.T) in underserved communities. Information on these resources shall be provided at community facilities (e.g., BHCC).

*In Progress:* The City currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Communications and Public Engagement

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Ongoing from Initiation



## **GOAL EJ3** EQUITABLY PROVIDE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC FACILITIES TO INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

**POLICY EJ3.1** Prioritize providing public facilities and programming for underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ3.2** Ensure accessibility of public facilities for all community members, especially those in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ3.3** Support programs that increase access to public and private health resources for underserved communities in locations that are convenient and accessible.

**POLICY EJ3.4** Coordinate with local school districts, transit operators, and other public agencies to provide adequate public facilities, improvements, and programs in underserved communities.

**PROGRAM EJ3.A** Identify, renovate, and retrofit candidate public buildings in underserved communities to serve as Climate Resilience Centers as outlined by the California Strategic Growth Council. These buildings should be places where the community already regularly gathers, such as libraries, community centers, or the Belle Haven neighborhood substation.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services Department

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Medium Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.B** Work with relevant departments to install infrastructure allowing for easy disposal of pet and animal waste at parks and along highly trafficked streets.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: City Manager’s Office  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Medium Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.C** Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills. In addition, expand outreach and community access to the City Library’s laptop and wireless hotspot, or similar, borrowing programs.

*In Progress:* The City currently offers laptop lending and wi-fi hotspots free to residents at the library with their library card.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Local Internet Providers (e.g. AT&T, Xfinity, Spectrum), San Mateo County Public Works, California Public Utilities Commission, Administrative Services Department/Information Technology Department  
*Funding Source:* California Advanced Services Fund: Broadband Public Housing Account  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Medium Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.D** Seek to form partnerships, particularly with community based organizations and businesses, and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)  
*Funding Sources:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers PLANNING Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.E** Coordinate with schools and other local organizations (e.g., Boys and Girls Club) to support after-school activities and related outreach/communications generally.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Ravenswood City School District  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term





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**PROGRAM EJ3.F** **Seek to form partnerships or other agreements with a banking specialist and other identified partners to provide a community bank or banking services in the underserved communities.**

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Local banks  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.G** **Ensure delivery on the needs of underserved communities through the City's programming plans currently in place and continue to adapt programming based on community feedback through regular community surveys and outreach.**

*In Progress:* City staff, with input from the community, Belle Haven Community Campus subcommittee and working group, Library Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission, have developed robust programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus. City will continue to adapt programming to community needs through regular community surveys and outreach that solicit community feedback.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services  
*Funding Sources:* Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.H** **Ensure that recreational facilities throughout Menlo Park provide all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles, with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities.**

*In Progress:* City prioritizes access for all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Public Works; Community Development  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term



## GOAL EJ4

## PROMOTE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE FOOD

### POLICY EJ4.1

Encourage adequate food access to fresh and healthy foods for all residents, particularly those in underserved communities.

### PROGRAM EJ4.A

Work with grocery stores and online food service delivery and meal providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food (e.g., reduced or waived delivery service fees). Encourage and support the acceptance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), CalFresh, and other governmental food assistance programs that increase food security.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Local Grocery Stores (e.g., Safeway, Trader Joe's), Local Grocery Delivery Services (e.g., Uber Eats, GrubHub, DoorDash), CalFresh

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

### PROGRAM EJ4.B

Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual fliers, community events, information at shelters and food banks, as well as other appropriate outreach methods.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Communications and Public Engagement Division; Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Homeless Outreach Team, San Mateo County Human Services Agency

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

### PROGRAM EJ4.C

Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at municipal buildings and City-participating events Encourage sourcing food from local small businesses.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term



**PROGRAM EJ4.D** Encourage and facilitate the establishment and operation of a farmer’s market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets in underserved communities. Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ4.E** Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens within or adjacent to neighborhoods and housing development sites. Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years of Environmental Justice Element adoption.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Library and Community Services; Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g. Rotary Club of Menlo Park)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term



## **GOAL EJ5**

### **PROVIDE SAFE, SANITARY, AND STABLE HOMES**

**POLICY EJ5.1** Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe, sanitary and stable housing, particularly in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ5.2** Maintain and develop safe, and sanitary and stable homes across all locations and affordability ranges, particularly in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ5.3** Support housing development distribution throughout the city and not concentrated within Menlo Park’s underserved communities.

**PROGRAM EJ5.A** The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. The Safety Element (Table S-4) includes a list of sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation.

*In Progress:* The 2015 San Mateo County Vulnerability Assessment inventoried sites with contamination and no sites were identified in residential developments. County continues to update Vulnerability Assessments.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: San Mateo County Environmental Health Services, Planning, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

*Funding Source:* Department of Food and Agriculture (Healthy Soils Demonstration Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Short Term

**PROGRAM EJ5.B** Conduct outreach to potentially eligible households regarding programs that support safe, sanitary, and stable homes.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: California Department of Community Services and Development; City Manager's Office

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ5.C** Create or partner with providers to provide a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters with questions. If such resources already exist, conduct proactive outreach and education to inform the community of available resources. Hold culturally competent, in-language outreach workshops.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g. Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ5.D** Identify opportunities to support a Community Land trust or other fiscal vehicle to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Community Development Department, MidPen Housing Community Land Trust

*Funding Source:* BMR Housing Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term



**PROGRAM EJ5.E** Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F, (regarding collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART)) and helping to facilitate first-time homeowner workshops for residents in underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Local Community Based Outreach Organizations (e.g. Menlo Together)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ5.F** Promote funds and subsidies that minimize the passing through of any upfront investment costs of building electrification on to tenants.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Public Works Department, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ5.G** Ensure that City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This will include consideration, at a minimum, the following:

- Rental inventory of all dwelling units
- Updated or expanded rent control laws
- Rent increase mitigations, such as longer noticing requirements
- Community and tenant opportunity to purchase
- Revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper affordability (e.g., subsidies)
- Expand relocation assistance for tenants
- Just Cause Eviction protections regardless of tenant duration
- Strengthened tenant anti-harassment ordinances
- An examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs

*In Progress:* Sixth Cycle Housing Element includes Program H2.E focusing on developing an Anti-Displacement Strategy

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Public Works Department

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ5.H** As part of an anti-displacement program and to ensure stable housing, support increasing access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction by conducting community outreach, education, and engagement to ensure renters are aware of this resource. Include progress reports on usage annually.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager’s Office, Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Ongoing from Initiation.



## **GOAL EJ6** ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

**POLICY EJ6.1** Prioritize programs that encourage physical activity in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ6.2** Support physically active lifestyles through investment in complete streets and active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) and safety in underserved communities

**POLICY EJ6.3** Prioritize the implementation of traffic and transit improvements in underserved communities to reduce excessive speed, limit cut through traffic, and make streets comfortable and accessible places for all users and abilities.

**PROGRAM EJ6.A** Identify and eliminate, barriers to outdoor physical activity, such as damaged, incomplete, blocked, or littered sidewalks and bike paths, lack of safe street crossings and direct connections, excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping and shade trees along streets in underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Community Development, Sustainability Division

*Funding Source:* Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term



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**PROGRAM EJ6.B** In concurrence with the City’s Vision Zero Action Plan, develop and implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling and taking transit. These efforts should include education for people using all modes.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, SamTrans

*Funding Source:* Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ6.C** Coordinate with Ravenswood City School District to expand the Safe Routes to School program, including potential for increased crossing guards at key intersections.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Ravenswood City School District

*Funding Source:* Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ6.D** Prepare to update and adopt the City’s Transportation Master Plan (best practice is to update every 10-15 years) to improve environmental justice.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Caltrans, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g. Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities), Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g. Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)

*Funding Sources:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant), Department of Transportation Grants (Safe Streets and Roads for All, Sustainable Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term

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## GOAL EJ7

## CREATE EQUITABLE CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**POLICY EJ7.1** Prioritize civic and community engagement programs that enhance the participation and inclusion of underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ7.2** Keep residents informed about governmental meetings and actions by ensuring transparency and accessibility in government and decision making.

**POLICY EJ7.3** Treat all members of the community fairly and promote equity and capacity building toward creating a healthy environment and just community.

**PROGRAM EJ7.A** Promote and evaluate capacity-building efforts to educate and involve traditionally underrepresented populations, including underserved communities, in the public decision-making process.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: Belle Haven Action

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ7.B** All meetings with an agenda item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the underserved community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as satellite meeting centers, simulcasting, and/or remote participation. Consider hardcopy materials for outreach, particularly door-to-door outreach.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: Library and Community Services

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ7.C** Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation (such as food and refreshments, stipends, on-site child care) at community outreach events in underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation





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**PROGRAM EJ7.D Pursue equitable civic and community engagement.**

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ7.E Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the BHCC as a community hub for learning and engagement opportunities strengthened with partner organizations. These will connect residents in underserved communities with pre-existing city and state resources as well as encourage resident participation in public meetings, events, and decision making.**

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: All City Departments  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ7.F Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating City Councilmembers and appointed commissioners for the time they spend in their positions to make the positions more accessible to residents of underserved communities.**

*In Progress:* A Planning Commission stipend pilot program was added in the 2023-2024 budget.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office.  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Short Term

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**PROGRAM EJ7.G Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions.**

*In Progress:* SamTrans currently operates a countywide paratransit service.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: SamTrans, Public Works  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ7.H** Ensure that disaster preparedness planning as described in the Safety Element includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park’s underserved communities. Upon adoption of the Environmental Justice Element, conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that may include participation and information dissemination at public event and/or fairs in underserved communities with proactive encouragement and opportunity for the residents to sign up for emergency alert systems.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Menlo Park Fire Protection District

*Funding Source:* Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ7.I** Encourage the sustained engagement and involvement of underserved communities in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. Maintain membership and partnership with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority during their oversight of levee installations and expansions protecting underserved communities.

*In Progress:* The SAFER Bay Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in 2022 and provides engagement and involvement opportunities.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: City Manager’s Office; San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

*Funding Source:* Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ7.J** Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Annual reporting, at a minimum, should be presented to the City Council and made available on the City website.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



**PROGRAM EJ7.K** The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Environmental Justice Element Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Sources:* Bayfront Mitigation Fund; General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ7.L** The City Council shall consider the community-identified environmental justice priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop.

Note: The 2024 adoption of the EJ Element identified the following top three priorities:

- Priority #1: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2: Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Sources:* Bayfront Mitigation Fund; General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

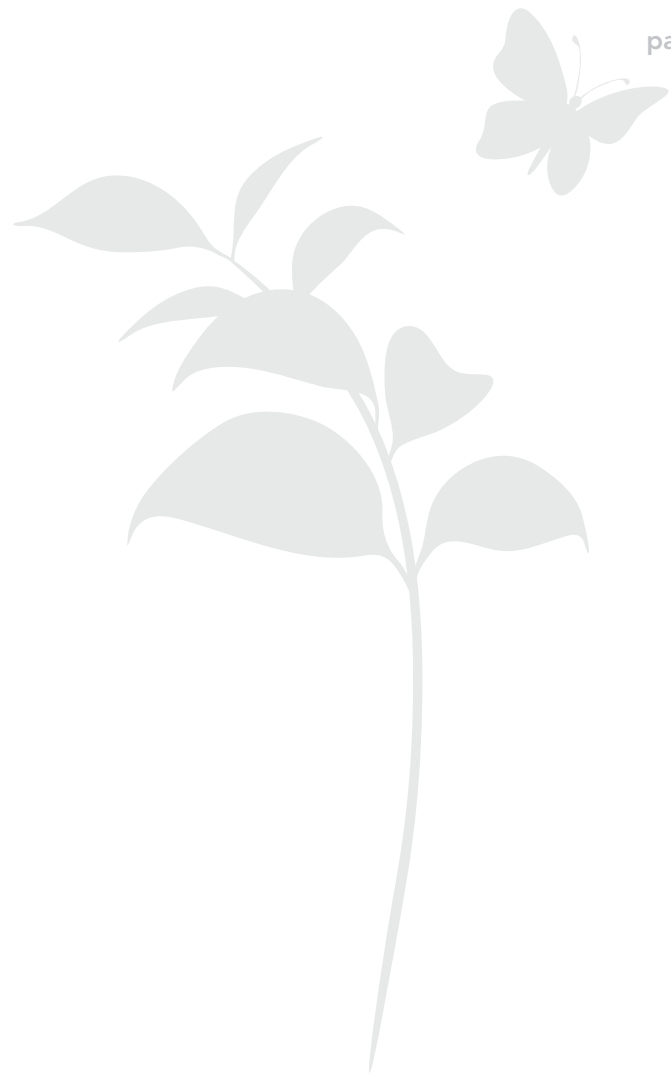


Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

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- Appendix EJ-B — Additional Methodology
- Appendix EJ-C — Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements
- Appendix EJ-D — Menlo Park Survey Final Report
- Appendix EJ-E — Prioritization Workshop Summary
- Appendix EJ-F — Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

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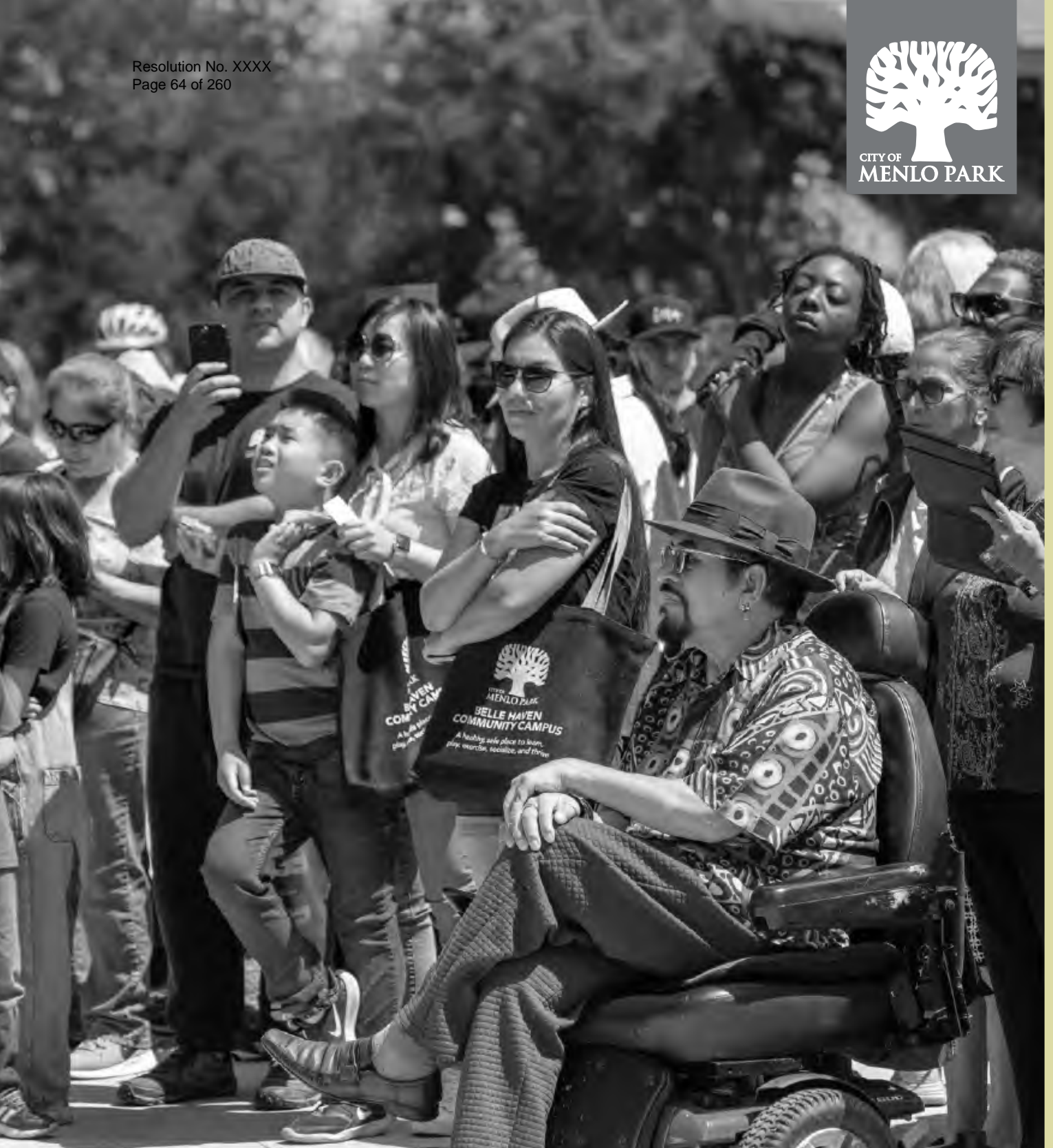






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# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT APPENDICES



# City of Menlo Park

## Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations



Published October 2022  
Updated August 2024

# City of Menlo Park

## Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations

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## Introduction

The City of Menlo Park is updating its required General Plan Housing Element and Safety Element, and preparing its first ever Environmental Justice Element. Environmental justice (commonly referred to as “EJ”) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.<sup>1</sup>

Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

Meaningful involvement means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health.
- The public’s contribution can influence the regulatory agency’s decision.
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process.
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

As part of the Environmental Justice Element preparation, the City is learning about and helping to prioritize policies and actions that have the most impact in improving the physical environment so that it supports good health and quality of life for current and future Menlo Park residents.

### ***What is a Neighborhood Profile?***

A neighborhood profile provides a summary analysis on a specific neighborhood's social, economic, and environmental conditions, such as demographics, unemployment rate, and pollution exposure. These factors, or “indicators,” help set the stage for community conversations regarding priorities and plans for positive change. In this document, we look at Menlo Park through the lens of 16 neighborhoods and draw comparisons of indicator impacts among neighborhoods and the city as a whole. The neighborhood profiles serve as a precursor for the preparation of Menlo Park's first ever Environmental Justice Element.

### ***Background Information***

The State of California allows all jurisdictions to adopt an Environmental Justice Element (EJ Element) pursuant to Senate Bill 1000 (2016). The adoption of an EJ Element can occur at any time, but is required under the following conditions:

- The jurisdiction is adopting or revising two or more General Plan Elements concurrently.

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<sup>1</sup> Government Code section 65040.12, subdivision (e)(2).

- The jurisdiction contains “Disadvantaged Communities” as defined by State law.

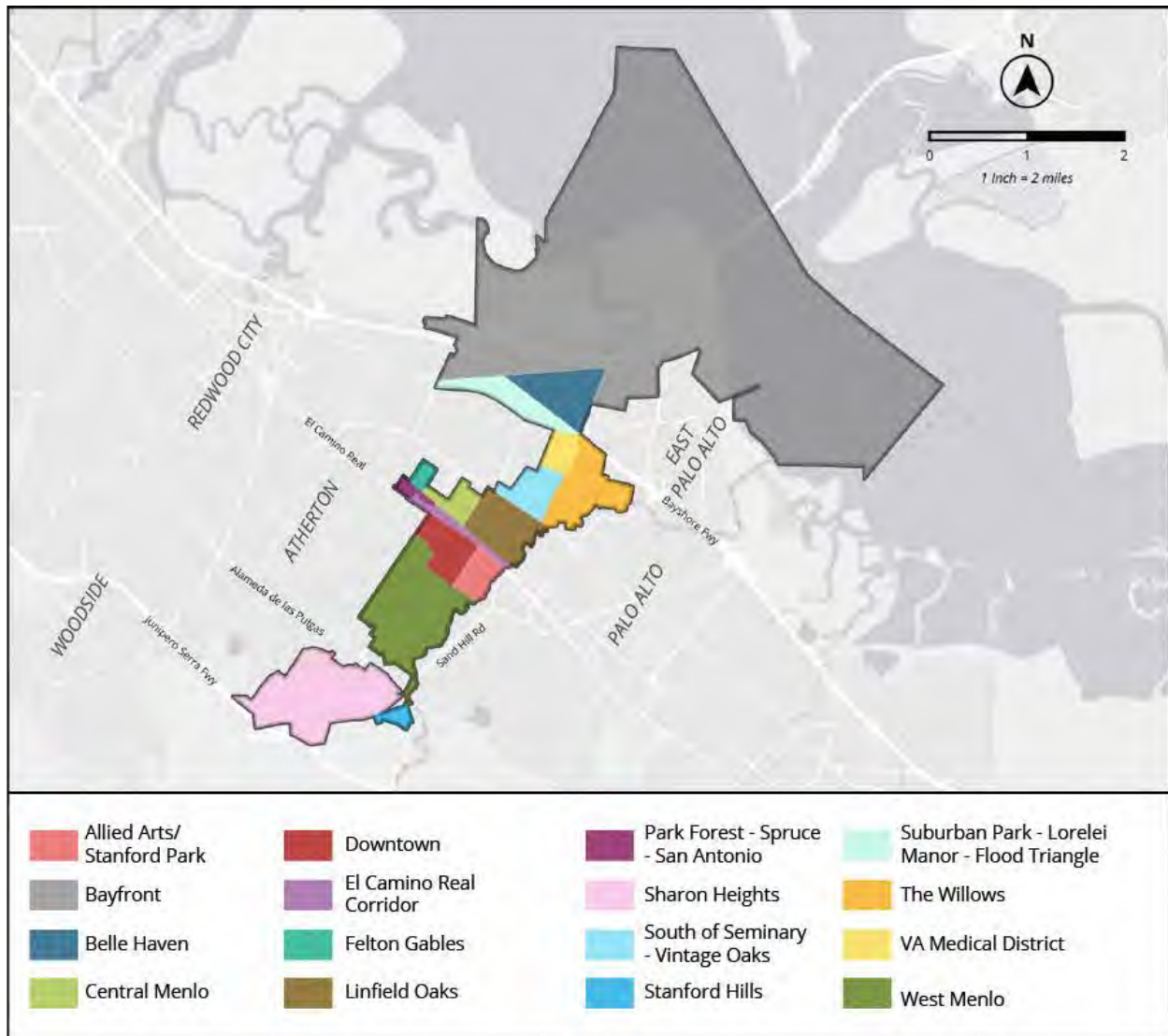
According to State law, a "Disadvantaged Community" is an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code, or, an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. Menlo Park is required to adopt an EJ Element as it is currently updating its required General Plan Housing Element and Safety Element (revising the combined Open Space/Conservation, Noise, and Safety Elements).

There are areas within Menlo Park that meet the State-defined criteria for “Disadvantaged Communities.”<sup>2</sup> Throughout this appendix, “Underserved Communities” will be used and is understood to be analogous to the state-defined term “Disadvantaged Communities,” which is only used when quoting or referring to state law.

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<sup>2</sup> Information regarding “Disadvantaged Communities” is available at: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535>.

## Neighborhoods in Menlo Park

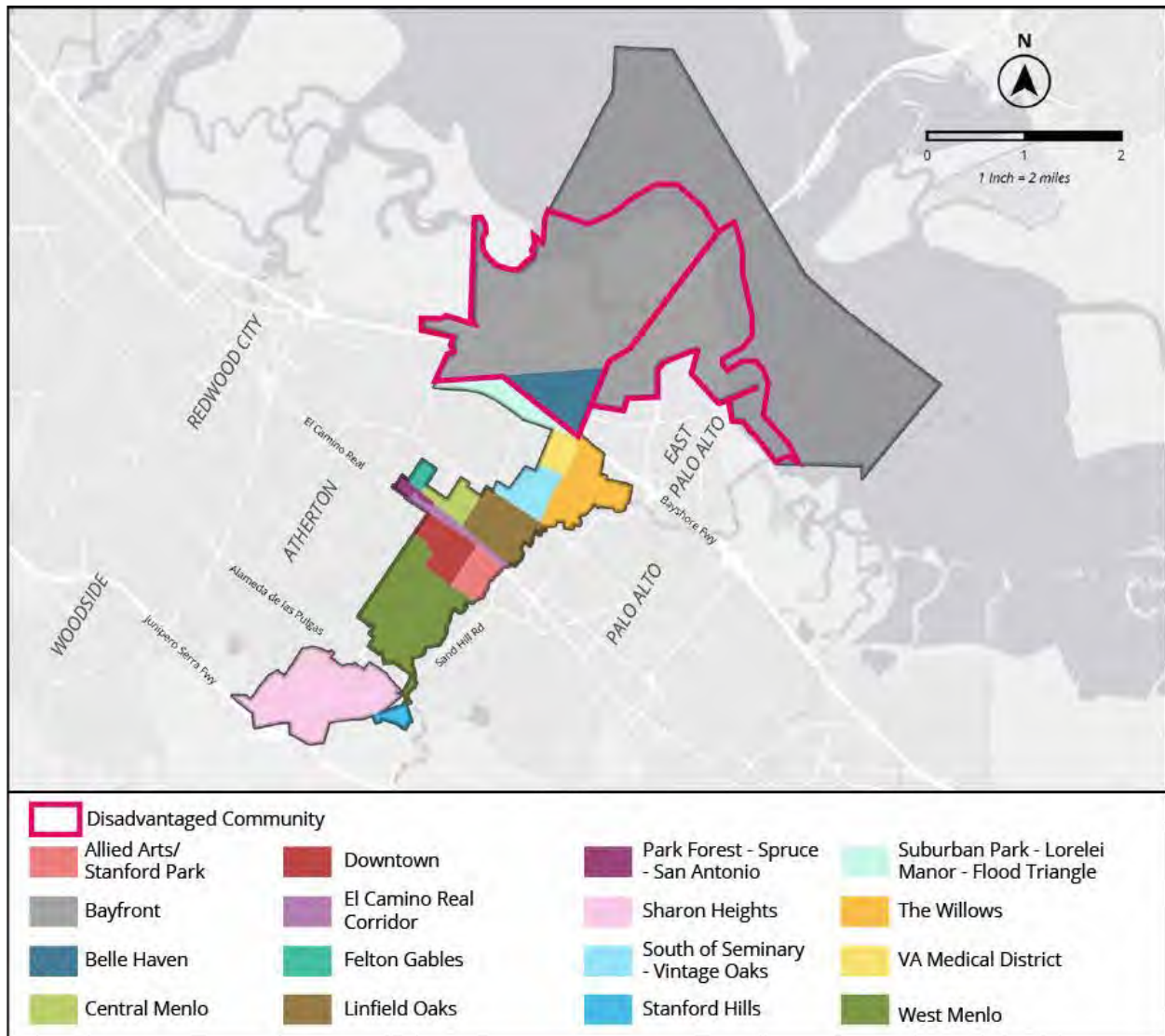


In this document, we look at Menlo Park through the lens of 16 neighborhoods as shown in the above map. The neighborhood boundaries displayed are for reference and informational purposes only, with the intent of contributing to more area-specific analysis of the city as there are differences among the neighborhoods that are helpful to highlight for the EJ Element preparation.

### Underserved Communities

There are two Underserved Communities identified in Menlo Park: Belle Haven and Bayfront. These communities were identified because they are in census tracts designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's list of state income limits and because they are historically underserved areas separated from the rest of the city by US-101 and served by a different school district.

**Map of Underserved Community Census Tracts**



**Underserved Communities Overview**

Underserved Communities are areas throughout California which suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty, pollution, and social and health indicators of risk and stress.

These communities are specifically targeted for investment of proceeds from the State's Cap-and-Trade Program that are aimed at improving public health, quality of life, and economic opportunity. They are defined at the census tract level, which in Menlo Park's case, means that the tracts intersect with city and neighborhood boundaries.<sup>3</sup> The full methodology for determining Underserved Communities in Menlo Park is in Appendix EJ-B: Additional Methodology.

<sup>3</sup> Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county.

The two Underserved Communities, Belle Haven and Bayfront, are adjacent to each other but have different histories and lived experiences. Belle Haven is a historically residential neighborhood, whereas Bayfront has been an industrial neighborhood until the recent residential development permitted by 2015's Connect Menlo plan.

The adjacency of these two neighborhoods is not an accident. Black and African American households, historically excluded from the south side of US-101 by racial covenants, found homes in Belle Haven near polluting industrial uses. As those polluting uses have phased out and technology companies have moved into Bayfront, the Belle Haven community faced displacement fears as high-income workers moved into the city north of US-101.

Understanding these two Underserved Communities as distinct, albeit linked by geography, is crucial to the environmental justice analysis of Menlo Park.

### **Belle Haven**

Belle Haven is on the north side of US-101 and is a historically segregated neighborhood in Menlo Park. When racial covenants excluded Black and African American families from purchasing houses on the south side of US-101, many turned to Belle Haven instead.

The Household Median Income in Belle Haven's census tract, 6117, is \$74,032. This is lower than the threshold designated as low income (\$146,350) by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

### **Bayfront**

Menlo Park's eastern Bayfront is in Census Tract 6118. This tract is also designated as an Environmental Justice Underserved Community because its median household incomes are below the threshold designated as low income (\$146,350) by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Tract's median household income is \$85,500.

## **Neighborhood Profiles Methodology**

Each neighborhood profile includes a map of the neighborhood area and three sections highlighting data points typically used to inform environmental justice conversations:

- ***Physical Description***
  - Pattern of Development
  - Transportation
  - Open Space
  - Natural Hazard Risk
  
- ***Environmental Conditions***
  - Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden
  - Major Pollution Burden Disparities
  
- ***Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics***

- Primary Factors
- Major Disparities

### **Neighborhood Area Maps**

The neighborhood area maps include data for land use zoning districts, flood hazard areas (areas with a one percent chance of flooding annually, as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA]), SamTrans bus stops, and grocery stores. This serves as useful reference for areas of different land uses and risk profiles, as well as points of interest and community nodes.

Menlo Park's neighborhoods do not line up evenly with census tracts, which are used to quantify environmental data. It should be noted that the neighborhoods of The Willows; Allied Arts/Stanford Park; West Menlo; and Bayfront have been further divided for mapping and analysis purposes to better correspond to census tract-level data available. Further, six census tracts encompass more than one neighborhood and as a result, those neighborhoods share CalEnviroScreen scores (Tracts 6117, 6125, 6126, 6127, 6130, and 6139).

<b>Neighborhoods and Census Tracts Cross-Reference</b>	
<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Census Tract(s)</b>
Allied Arts/Stanford Park	6126 (North) 6127 (South)
Bayfront	6117 (West)* 6118 (East)*
Belle Haven	6117*
Central Menlo	6125
Downtown	6126
El Camino Real Corridor	6125
Felton Gables	6125
Linfield Oaks	6125
Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio	6125
Sharon Heights	6130
South of Seminary – Vintage Oaks	6139
Stanford Hills	6130
Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle	6116
The Willows	6139 (West) 6121 (East)
VA Medical District	6139
West Menlo	6127 (North) 6128 (South)

*\*Census tract designated as Underserved Community*



## **CalEnviroScreen Indicators**

The summarized indicators and corresponding scores for pollution burden and population characteristics are provided by the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool called "CalEnviroScreen 4.0."

CalEnviroScreen provides an interactive mapping tool to identify communities in California that are disproportionately burdened, and allows users to see how these burdens compare to other areas throughout California. An indicator is a measure of either environmental conditions, in the case of **Pollution Burden Indicators**, or health and vulnerability factors for **Population Characteristics Indicators**. CalEnviroScreen indicators fall into four broad groups—exposures, environmental effects, sensitive populations, and socioeconomic factors.

- **Exposure** indicators are based on measurements of different types of pollution that people may come into contact with.
- **Environmental** effects indicators are based on the locations of toxic chemicals in or near communities.
- **Sensitive population** indicators measure the number of people in a community who may be more severely affected by pollution because of their age or health.
- **Socioeconomic factor** indicators are conditions that may increase people's stress or make healthy living difficult and cause them to be more sensitive to pollution's effects.

Each indicator is scored separately and CalEnviroScreen assigns each census tract a percentile value based on where it falls among values statewide.<sup>4</sup> A higher number always indicates a "worse" situation. For example, if a census tract is in the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile for "Unemployment," that means its burden indicator value is higher than 60 percent of all other census tracts in California. In addition to this metric comparing the census tract to the state, the Neighborhood Profiles also show the citywide average and the tract's difference (positive or negative, meaning higher or lower) from the citywide average. These numbers show specific neighborhood differences from Menlo Park as a whole.

The indicators are divided into two categories: Pollution Burden Indicators and Population Characteristics Indicators. These two categories average the percentiles of their underlying indicators.

The table below provides descriptions for the summarized **Pollution Burden Indicators** provided by CalEnviroScreen.

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<sup>4</sup> CalEnviroScreen information is available at <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen>.

Pollution Burden Indicators	
Indicator	Description
Air Quality: Ozone	Ozone is the main ingredient of smog. At ground level, ozone is formed when pollutants chemically react in the presence of sunlight. Ground-level ozone is formed from the reaction of oxygen-containing compounds with other air pollutants in the presence of sunlight. The main sources of ozone are trucks, cars, planes, trains, factories, farms, construction, and dry cleaners.
Air Quality: Air Quality: PM2.5	Particulate matter, or PM2.5, is very small particles in air that are 2.5 micrometers (about 1 ten-thousandth of an inch) or less in diameter. This is less than the thickness of a human hair. Particulate matter, one of six U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criteria air pollutants, is a mixture that can include organic chemicals, dust, soot and metals. These particles can come from cars and trucks, factories, wood burning, and other activities.
Diesel Particulate Matter	Exhaust from trucks, buses, trains, ships, and other equipment with diesel engines contains a mixture of gases and solid particles. These solid particles are known as diesel particulate matter (diesel PM). Diesel PM contains hundreds of different chemicals. Many of these are harmful to health. The highest levels of diesel PM are near ports, rail yards and freeways. People are exposed to diesel PM from breathing air containing diesel exhaust.
Pesticide Use	Pesticides are chemicals used to control insects, weeds, and plant or animal diseases. Over 1,000 pesticides are approved for use in California. They are applied to fields by air, by farm machinery, or by workers on the ground.
Toxic Releases from Facilities	Facilities that make or use toxic chemicals can release these chemicals into the air. Information is available on the amount of chemicals released for over 500 chemicals for large facilities in the United States. <sup>5</sup> People of color and low income Californians are more likely to live in areas with higher toxic chemical releases.
Traffic Impacts	California has the biggest network of freeways in the country. Its cities are known for heavy traffic. Traffic impacts are a measure of the number of vehicles on the roads in an area. Non-whites, Latinos, low income people, and people who speak a language other than English often live in or near areas with high traffic.
Drinking Water Contaminants	Most drinking water in California meets requirements for health and safety. However, the water we drink sometimes becomes contaminated with chemicals or bacteria. Both natural and human sources can contaminate drinking water. Natural sources can be found in rocks and soil or come from fires. Human sources include factories, sewage, and runoff from farms. Poor communities and people in rural areas are exposed to contaminants in their drinking water more often than people in other parts of the state.
Children’s Lead Risk from Housing	Lead is a toxic heavy metal that occurs naturally in the environment. However, the highest levels of lead present in the environment are a result of human activities. Historically, lead has been used in house paint, plumbing, and as a gasoline additive. While lead levels have declined over the past five

<sup>5</sup> Toxics Release Inventory resource, available at: <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>

Pollution Burden Indicators	
Indicator	Description
	decades in the United States, it still persists in older housing.
Cleanup Sites	Cleanup sites are places that are contaminated with harmful chemicals and need to be cleaned up by the property owners or government. People living near these sites are more likely to be exposed to chemicals from the sites than people living further away. Some studies have shown that neighborhoods with cleanup sites are generally poorer and have more people of color than other neighborhoods.
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. The land and groundwater may take many years to clean up. Man-made ponds containing water produced from oil and gas activities may also contain pollutants.
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	Waste created by different commercial or industrial activity contains chemicals that may be dangerous or harmful to health. Only certain regulated facilities are allowed to treat, store or dispose of this type of waste. These facilities are not the same as cleanup sites. Hazardous waste includes a range of different types of waste. It can include used automotive oil as well as highly toxic waste materials produced by factories and businesses. Studies have found that hazardous waste facilities are often located near poorer neighborhoods and communities of color.
Impaired Water Bodies	Streams, rivers and lakes are used for recreation and fishing and may provide water for drinking or agriculture. When water is contaminated by pollutants, the water bodies are considered impaired. These impairments are related to the amount of pollution that has occurred in or near the water body. Groups such as tribal or low income communities may depend on fish, aquatic plants and wildlife in nearby water bodies more than the general population.
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	Solid waste facilities are places where household garbage and other types of waste are collected, processed, or stored. These include landfills, transfer stations, and composting facilities. The waste can come from homes, industry or commercial sources. Most of these operations require permits. The communities near solid waste facilities are usually home to poor and minority residents.

The table below provides descriptions for the summarized **Population Characteristics Indicators**.

Population Characteristics Indicators	
Indicator	Description
Asthma	Asthma is a disease that affects the lungs and makes it hard to breathe. Symptoms include breathlessness, wheezing, coughing, and chest tightness. The causes of asthma are unknown but genetic and environmental factors can be involved. Five million Californians have been diagnosed with asthma at

Population Characteristics Indicators	
Indicator	Description
	some point in their lives. Asthma is the most common long-term disease in children. African Americans and people with low incomes visit hospitals for asthma more often than other groups.
Low Birth Weight Infants	Babies who weigh less than about five and a half pounds (2500 grams) at birth are considered low birth weight by the California Department of Public Health. Many factors, including poor nutrition, lack of prenatal care, stress and smoking by the mother, can increase the risk of having a low birth-weight baby.
Cardiovascular Disease	Cardiovascular disease refers to conditions that involve blocked or narrowed blood vessels that can lead to a heart attack or other heart problems. Heart attack is the most common cardiovascular event. Although many people survive and return to normal life after a heart attack, quality of life and long-term survival may be reduced, and these people are more prone to future cardiovascular events. There are many risk factors for developing cardiovascular disease including diet, lack of exercise, smoking and exposure to air pollution.
Educational Attainment	Educational attainment is the highest level of education a person has completed. People with more education usually earn more than people with less education. In California, 19 percent of adults over 25 do not have a high school degree, compared to 14 percent for the United States according to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA).
Linguistic Isolation	Linguistic isolation is a term used by the US Census Bureau for limited English speaking households. More than 40 percent of Californians speak a language other than English at home. About half of those do not speak English well or at all.
Poverty	The US Census Bureau determines the Federal Poverty Level each year. The poverty level is based on the size of the household and the ages 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.
Unemployment	The US Census Bureau counts people who are over 16 years old, out of work and able to work as unemployed. It does not include students, active duty military, retired people or people who have stopped looking for work.
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	Housing burdened low income households are households that are both low income and highly burdened by housings costs. California has very high housing costs relative to much of the country, which can make it hard for many to afford housing. Households with lower incomes may spend a larger proportion of their income on housing and may suffer from housing-induced poverty. Housing-Burden Low-Income Households make less than 80 percent of the Area Median Family Income and pay greater than 50 percent of their income to housing costs, whether they are renting or owning their homes.

## Key Points for Consideration

This detailed analysis of Menlo Park demonstrates the fine-grained differences between the 16 neighborhoods that make up the residential areas of the city. As a whole, the neighborhood profiles describe Menlo Park as a city with a pleasant natural environment, rich employment opportunities, and potential educational advancement that are not necessarily spread equitably throughout the community.

- The neighborhoods of Belle Haven and Bayfront are considered as Underserved Communities per an initial OPR-guided screening, meaning they are areas where residents experience more financial, environmental, and/or social stress relative to the State as a whole. Although Belle Haven and Bayfront are both identified as potential Underserved Communities, they have different histories and geographic contexts.
- An Environmental Justice Element, such as the one being developed by the City of Menlo Park, must include objectives and policies that:
  - Reduce the unique or compounded health risks in Underserved Communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.
  - Promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process. Underserved Prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of Underserved Communities.
- The issues in Underserved Communities at the highest risk percentiles are lead risk and traffic impacts.

These neighborhood profiles serve as a starting point for considering environmental justice in Menlo Park. They require outreach and a more contextual understanding of the data points in order to serve potential Underserved Communities and the city as a whole. The profiles are designed to set the stage for community conversations and set the foundation for plans for positive change in Menlo Park.

### Summary Table

The table below shows the overall Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores in CalEnviroScreen and their relative “rank” to Menlo Park as a whole.

A **higher score** indicates a “**worse**” situation. A **lower score** indicates a “**better**” situation.

A **higher rank** indicates a “**better**” situation. A **lower rank** indicates a “**worse**” situation.

The higher the score, the lower the rank (e.g., Belle Haven's Pollution Burden Score of 82 is lower-ranked at 9<sup>th</sup> than Central Menlo's Pollution Burden of 45 ranked higher at 4<sup>th</sup>).

Neighborhood Score Summary Table				
Neighborhood	Pollution Burden Score	Pollution Burden Rank	Population Characteristics Score	Population Characteristics Rank
<b>Citywide Average</b>	<b>56</b>	-	<b>19</b>	-
Allied Arts/Stanford Park (North)	52	6th (tied)	4	3rd (tied)
Allied Arts/Stanford Park (South)	35	2nd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
Bayfront (East)	83	10th	49	6th (tied)
Bayfront (West)	82	9th (tied)	49	6th (tied)
Belle Haven	82	9th (tied)	49	6th (tied)
Central Menlo	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Downtown	52	6th (tied)	4	3rd (tied)
El Camino Real Corridor	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Felton Gables	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Linfield Oaks	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Sharon Heights	47	5th (tied)	11	5th (tied)
South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	44	3rd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
Stanford Hills	47	5th (tied)	11	
Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	71	7th	2	2nd (tied)
The Willows (East)	73	8th	58	7th
The Willows (West)	44	3rd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
VA Medical District	44	3rd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
West Menlo (North)	35	2nd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
West Menlo (South)	26	1st	1	1st

*Note: Since census tract boundaries intersect with neighborhood boundaries, there are some neighborhoods that are divided East/West or North/South. Other neighborhoods share underlying data, in which case they are "tied" in the table. Due to these numerous "ties", the rankings are not 1 through 16: there are 10 total ranks for Pollution Burden and 9 for Social Characteristics.*

# Allied Arts/Stanford Park



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Allied Arts/Stanford Park neighborhood is made up primarily of detached single-family homes and 2-story apartments. Non-residential uses include commercial and retail along El Camino Real. Most of the neighborhood is not within a half-mile of a grocery store, although there are three grocery stores outside the western edge of the neighborhood. Two local parks, Nealon Park and Jack W. Lyle Park, are just outside the west side of Allied Arts/Stanford Park.

### **Transportation**

El Camino Real provides residents of Allied Arts/Stanford Park connectivity to the rest of the city and the Peninsula. Residents of the neighborhood also have access to Middle Avenue, a north-south arterial road that runs through the city, and University Drive running east-west.

### **Open Space**

There are no open space areas in the neighborhood, although San Francisquito Creek makes up its eastern boundary. Jack W. Lyle Park is located to the west, outside of the neighborhood. The open play field is available for public use upon reservation. Nealon Park is located northwest of the neighborhood and includes facilities for softball, tennis, and a dog park. Little House Activity Center, a senior citizen center, is also located at Nealon Park.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Allied Arts/Stanford Park is not located in a flood hazard area, but is adjacent to San Francisquito Creek and flood hazard areas in Palo Alto.



## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Allied Arts/Stanford Park has overall Pollution Burden scores of 52 (North of University Drive) and 35 (South of University Drive), ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (4 points less than the citywide average) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (21 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	North of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	South of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>-20.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	14	-1.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	<b>69</b>	+7.5	48	<b>-13.5</b>	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	25	-2.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	36	-24.3	20	<b>-40.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	59	-7.4	39	<b>-27.4</b>	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	54	-13.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	<b>72</b>	+8.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	<b>+27.3</b>	<b>73</b>	+10.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	50	<b>-25.6</b>	<b>78</b>	+2.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	8	-9.8	20	+2.2	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

Allied Arts/Stanford Park has overall Population Characteristics scores of 4 (North of University Drive) and 5 (South of University Drive), ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (15 points less than the citywide average) and 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	North of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	South of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-14.6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	<b>22</b>	-2.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	11	<b>-16.8</b>	<b>51</b>	+23.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	9	+0.3	8.7
Education	6	<b>-23.0</b>	0	<b>-29.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>22</b>	-9.5	0	<b>-31.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	19	-9.4	9	-19.4	28.4
Unemployment	6	<b>-19.7</b>	6	-19.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>32</b>	-9.2	12	<b>-29.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Bayfront



## Physical Description

### **Pattern of Development**

Of the developed areas within Bayfront, the neighborhood is comprised of high-density apartments, professional office, and industrial and research facilities. Other uses include a local park and some neighborhood-serving retail. Much of the area is either open space or the open water of San Francisco Bay.

### **Transportation**

US-101 and Bayfront Expressway (CA-84) provide connectivity between Bayfront and the rest of the city and the Peninsula and East Bay. Although there are several bus stops within the neighborhood, there is less public transit service than other areas in the city.

### **Open Space**

The Bedwell Bayfront Park includes bike trails, an open play field, and several walking paths within its 160 acres.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Bayfront is located entirely within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Bayfront has overall Pollution Burden scores of 82 (West of Willow/CA-84) and 83 (East of Willow/CA-84), ranking 9<sup>th</sup> (26 points more than the citywide average) and 10<sup>th</sup> (26 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>+26.2</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>+27.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	10	+0.8	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	16	+0.8	17	+1.8	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	88	+26.5	49	-12.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	32	+4.4	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>94</b>	<b>+33.7</b>	60	-0.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	69	+2.6	<b>87</b>	+20.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>96</b>	+28.6	<b>99</b>	<b>+31.6</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>89</b>	+25.3	82	+18.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	61	-1.7	<b>98</b>	<b>+35.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	83	+7.4	85	+9.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	0	<b>-37.8</b>	84	<b>+46.2</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	63	<b>+45.2</b>	21	+3.2	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

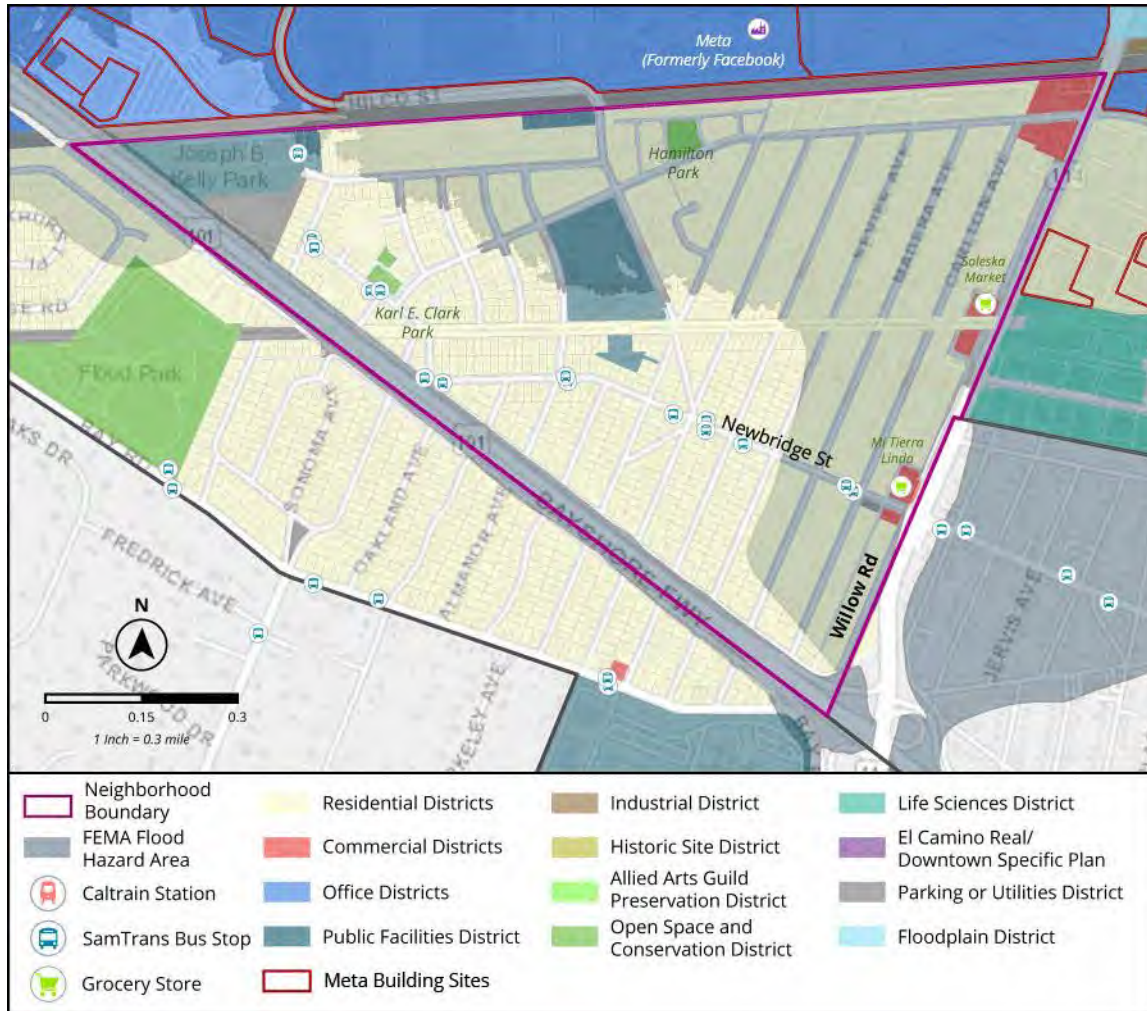
Bayfront has overall Population Characteristics scores of 49 both West and East of Willow/CA-84, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (30 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>+30.4</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>+30.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	24	-0.9	47	+22.1	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	45	+17.2	22	-5.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	10	+1.3	13	+4.3	8.7
Education	<b>82</b>	<b>+53.0</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>+57</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>86</b>	<b>+54.5</b>	38	+6.5	31.5
Poverty	59	+30.6	65	<b>+36.6</b>	28.4
Unemployment	46	+20.3	<b>74</b>	<b>+48.3</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>83</b>	<b>+41.8</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>+48.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Belle Haven



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Belle Haven is comprised of mostly detached single-family homes and few areas of low-rise apartments. Non-residential uses in the neighborhood include a public library, a public school (elementary), a private school (kindergarten through middle), a fire station, and three local parks. Approximately 50 percent of the neighborhood is within a half-mile of one of two small grocery stores on the eastern side of the neighborhood.

### **Transportation**

US-101 and Bayfront surround Belle Haven, requiring residents to use only Willow Road and the pedestrian/bicycle Bay Trail to connect with the rest of the city. Newbridge Street is well-serviced by SamTrans, as well as few other minor roads. Most homes in the area are within a quarter-mile from a bus stop.

### **Open Space**

Kelly Park, Karl E. Clark Park, and Hamilton Park are available for public use. Tennis courts and the soccer field at Kelly Park are available for public use and may be reserved.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

More than 60 percent of Belle Haven is in a flood hazard area.



## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Belle Haven has an overall Pollution Burden score of 82, ranking 9<sup>th</sup> (26 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>+26.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	16	+0.8	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	88	+26.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	32	+4.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>94</b>	<b>+33.7</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	69	+2.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>96</b>	+28.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>89</b>	+25.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	61	-1.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	83	+7.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	0	<b>-37.8</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	63	<b>+45.2</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

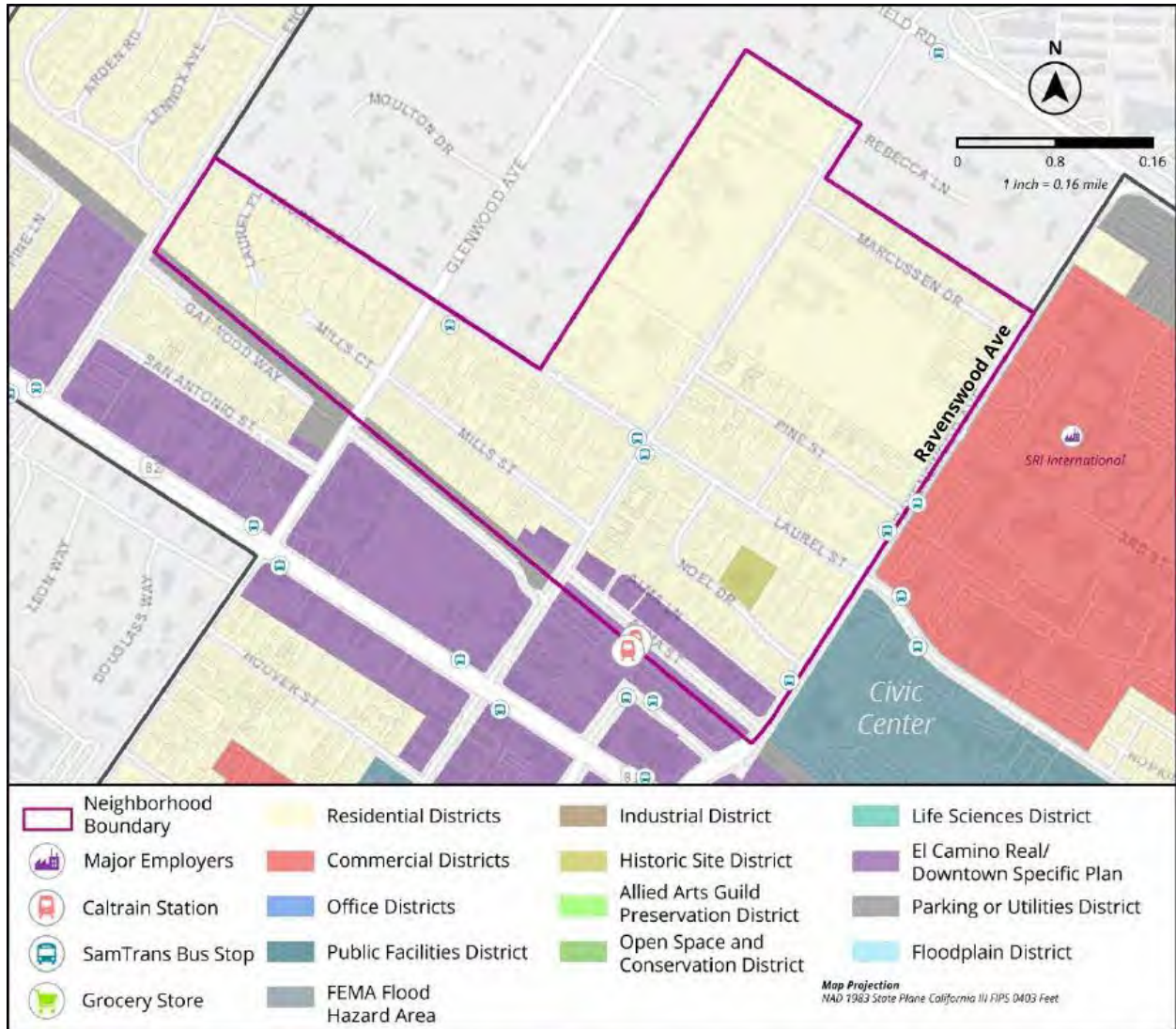
Belle Haven has an overall Population Characteristics score of 49, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (30 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>+30.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	24	-0.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	45	+17.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	10	+1.3	8.7
Education	<b>82</b>	<b>+53.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>86</b>	<b>+54.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	59	+30.6	28.4
Unemployment	46	+20.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>83</b>	<b>+41.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Central Menlo



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Central Menlo is primarily made of apartments, ranging from 2-3 stories. Non-residential uses include neighborhood-serving retail and offices along the southern edge of Central Menlo neighborhood. The building in the Historic Site District on Noel Drive is commonly referred to as the Bright Eagle and is currently used for offices.

### **Transportation**

Central Menlo is easily accessible to the El Camino Real, which provides connectivity to the rest of the city and throughout the Peninsula. Laurel Street is also well-served by public transit. Ravenswood Avenue, which borders Central Menlo's east side, provides residents with access to three bus stops. The Menlo Park Caltrain station, which provides transportation from San Francisco to the South Bay in Gilroy, is on the southeast corner of the neighborhood.

### **Open Space**

There are no local parks in Central Menlo, but Burgess Park is just outside the neighborhood's eastern boundary, connected to the Civic Center.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Central Menlo is not in a flood hazard zone.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Central Menlo has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

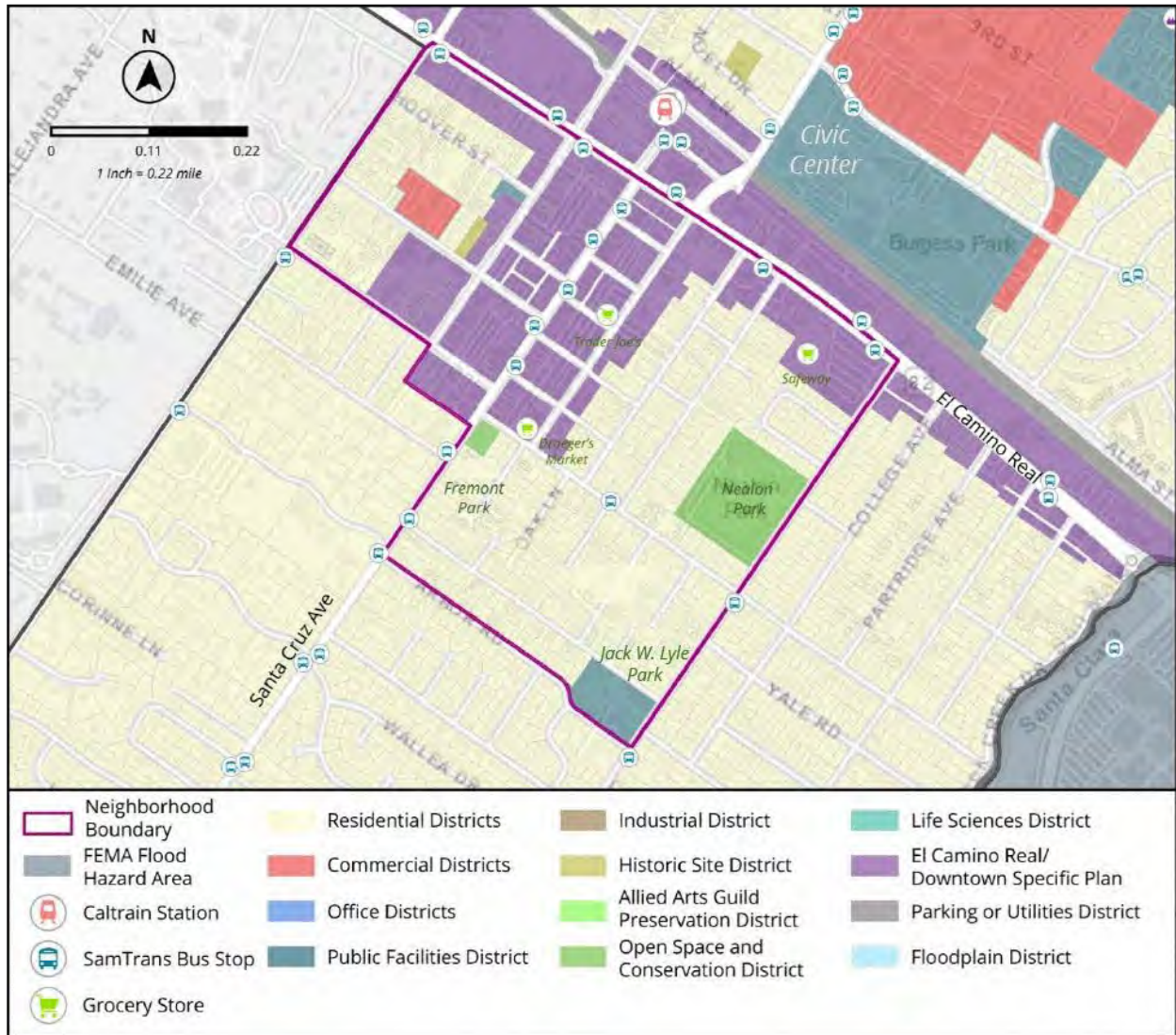
Central Menlo has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	<b>-15.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	-20.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Downtown



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Downtown is made of mostly apartments and commercial/retail uses, as well as personal service as part of the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan Area. Other notable uses include three local parks, three grocery stores, and a fire station.

### **Transportation**

Santa Cruz Avenue and El Camino Real provide most residents with access to a bus stop within a quarter-mile. El Camino Real provides Downtown residents with connectivity to the north and south of the Peninsula as well. The city's Caltrain station borders the Downtown.

### **Open Space**

Nealon Park, Fremont Park and Jack W. Lyle Park are local parks available for public use. Softball fields, tennis courts, and picnic areas at Nealon Park are available for public use and may be reserved.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Downtown is not located in a flood hazard area.



## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Downtown has an overall Pollution Burden score of 52, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (4 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	<b>69</b>	+7.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	36	-24.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	59	-7.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	<b>+27.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	50	<b>-25.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	8	-9.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

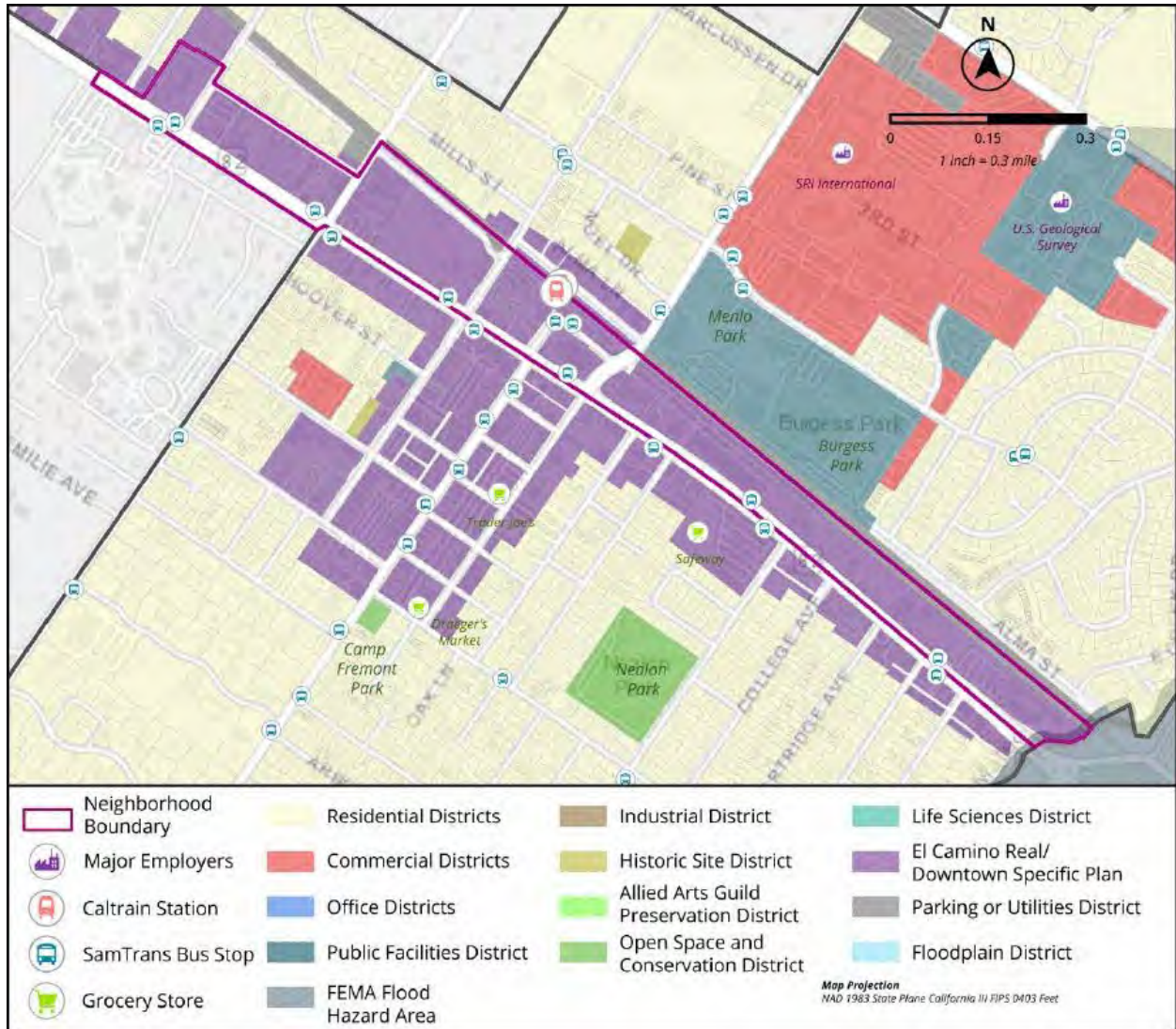
Downtown has an overall Population Characteristics score of 4, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (15 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-14.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	11	<b>-16.8</b>	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	8.7
Education	6	<b>-23.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>22</b>	-9.5	31.5
Poverty	<b>19</b>	-9.4	28.4
Unemployment	6	<b>-19.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	32	-9.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# El Camino Real Corridor



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The El Camino Real Corridor is made of larger retailers, neighborhood commercial, and professional office services under the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan.

### **Transportation**

El Camino Real Corridor has convenient access to other neighborhoods via El Camino Real, Ravenswood Avenue, and Santa Cruz Avenue, all with regular bus service. Additionally, Menlo Park's Caltrain station is located within this neighborhood.

### **Open Space**

There are no open space areas within the El Camino Real Corridor. However, Burgess Park, Camp Fremont Park, and Nealon Park are within a half-mile of most areas of the neighborhood.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

El Camino Real Corridor is not located within a flood hazard zone.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

El Camino Real Corridor has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

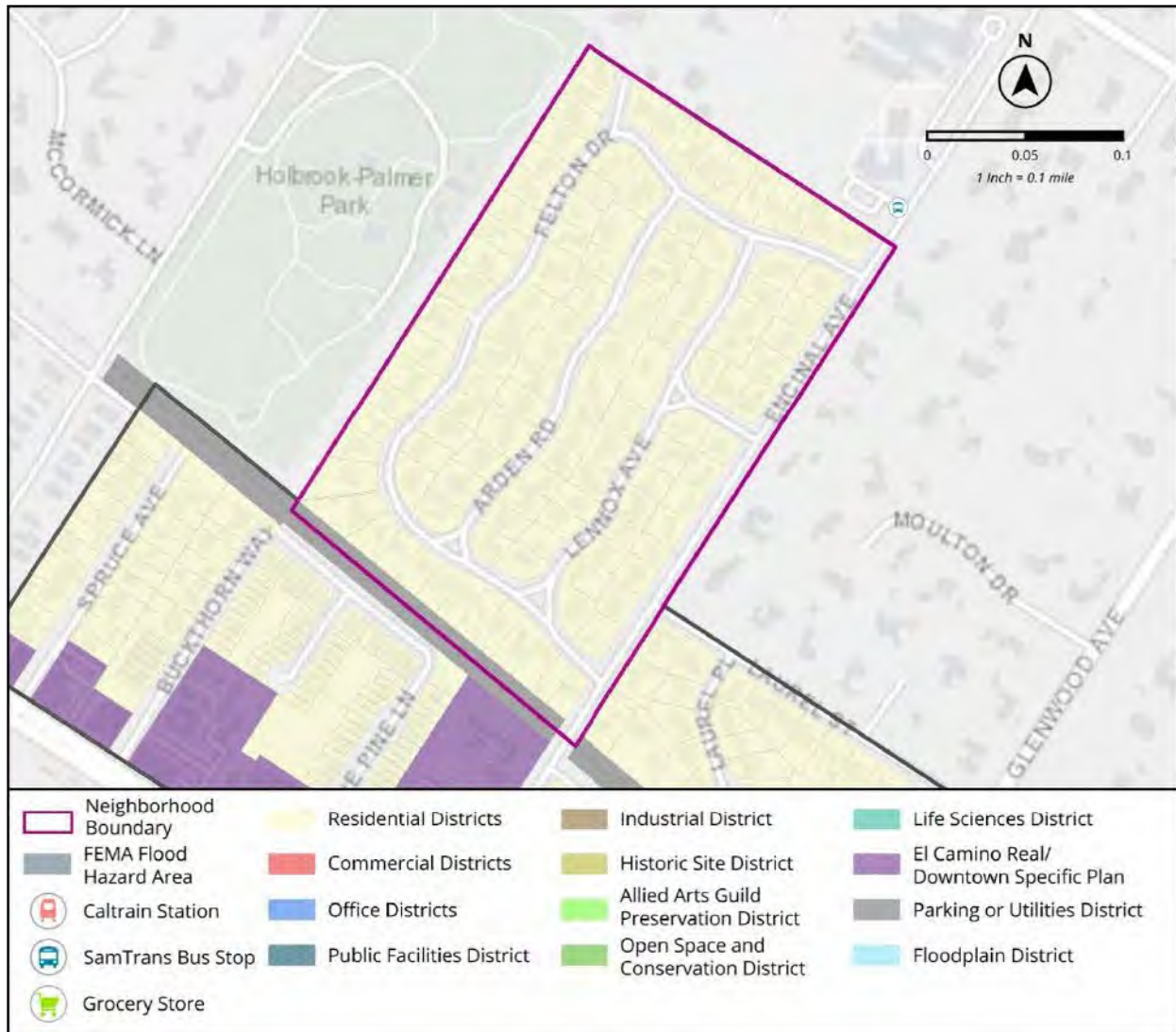
El Camino Real Corridor has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Felton Gables



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Felton Gables neighborhood is made up entirely of detached single-family homes. There are no other uses within the neighborhood.

### **Transportation**

Connectivity is limited to the north-south Encinal Avenue on the east side of the neighborhood. There are no public transit bus stops within the neighborhood. There are no continuous sidewalks, nor are there bicycle lanes in this neighborhood. Caltrain tracks are located at the southern border of Felton Gables, cutting off connectivity to El Camino Real.

### **Open Space**

There are no open spaces or parks within the neighborhood. Holbrook-Palmer Park, in the neighboring town of Atherton, is adjacent to Felton Gables. For groups of 12 people or less, the park and its amenities are available for free. There are also three facilities available to rent.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Felton Gables is not located within a flood hazard area.



## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Felton Gables has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

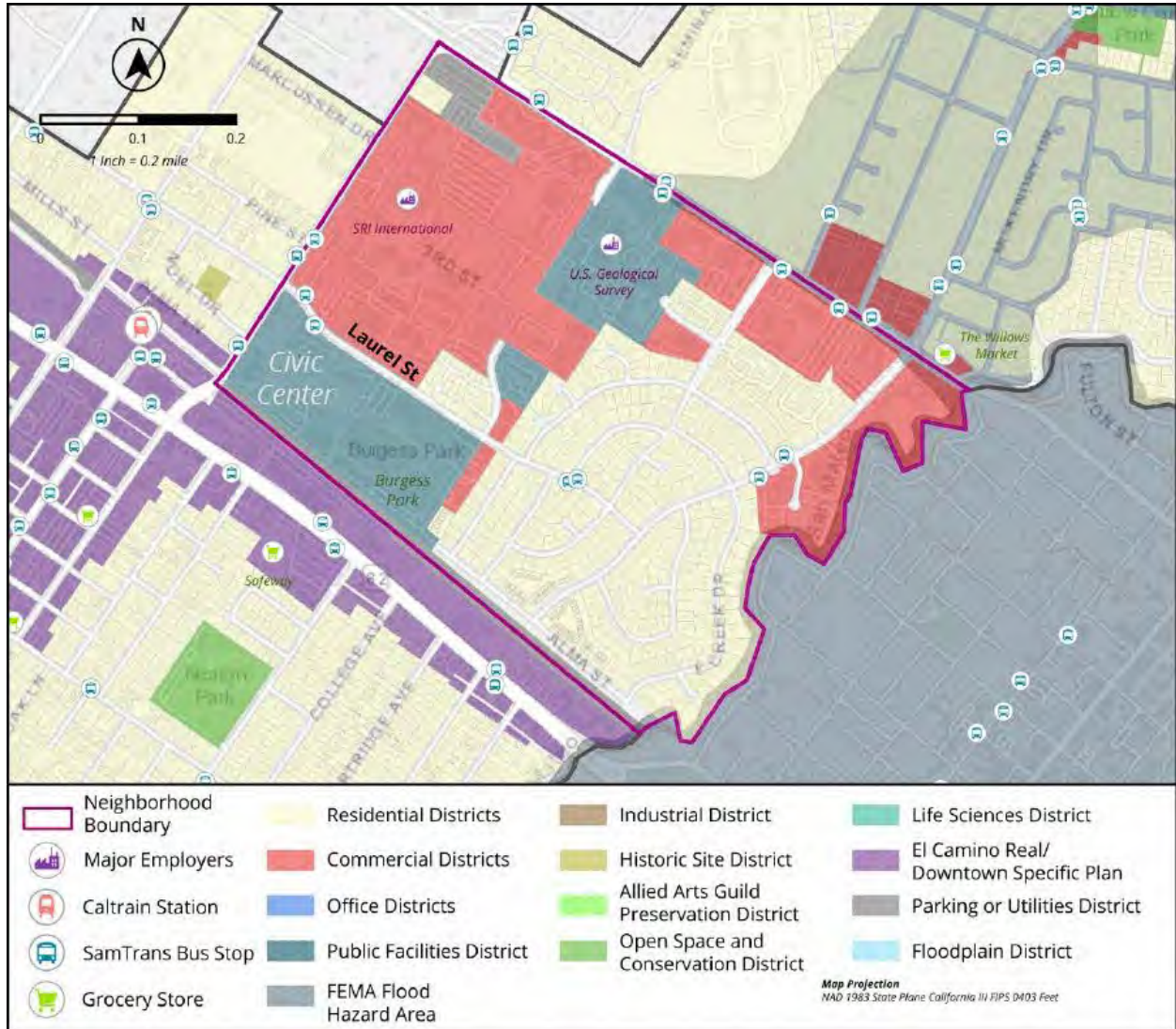
Felton Gables has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Linfield Oaks



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Linfield Oaks is comprised of a mix of residential, retail, and public facilities districts. Non-residential uses include the Stanford Research Institute (SRI International), City of Menlo Park government offices, and a local park. The neighborhood is within a half-mile of three grocery stores.

### **Transportation**

Alma Street limits the connectivity to and from Linfield Oaks, though residents can reach Bayfront Expressway (CA-84) after exiting the neighborhood from the west or southeast. Willow Road provides connectivity to the north end of the city. There is limited public transit service, entering Linfield Oaks from Laurel Street, and exiting through Willow Road.

### **Open Space**

Burgess Park is the only public open space in Linfield Oaks. The park has tennis courts, picnic areas, baseball fields and soccer fields available to reserve. Burgess Park is also adjacent to the Burgess Pool, Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center, Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Skate Park, and Arrillaga Family Gymnasium.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Linfield Oaks is not located in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Linfield Oaks has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

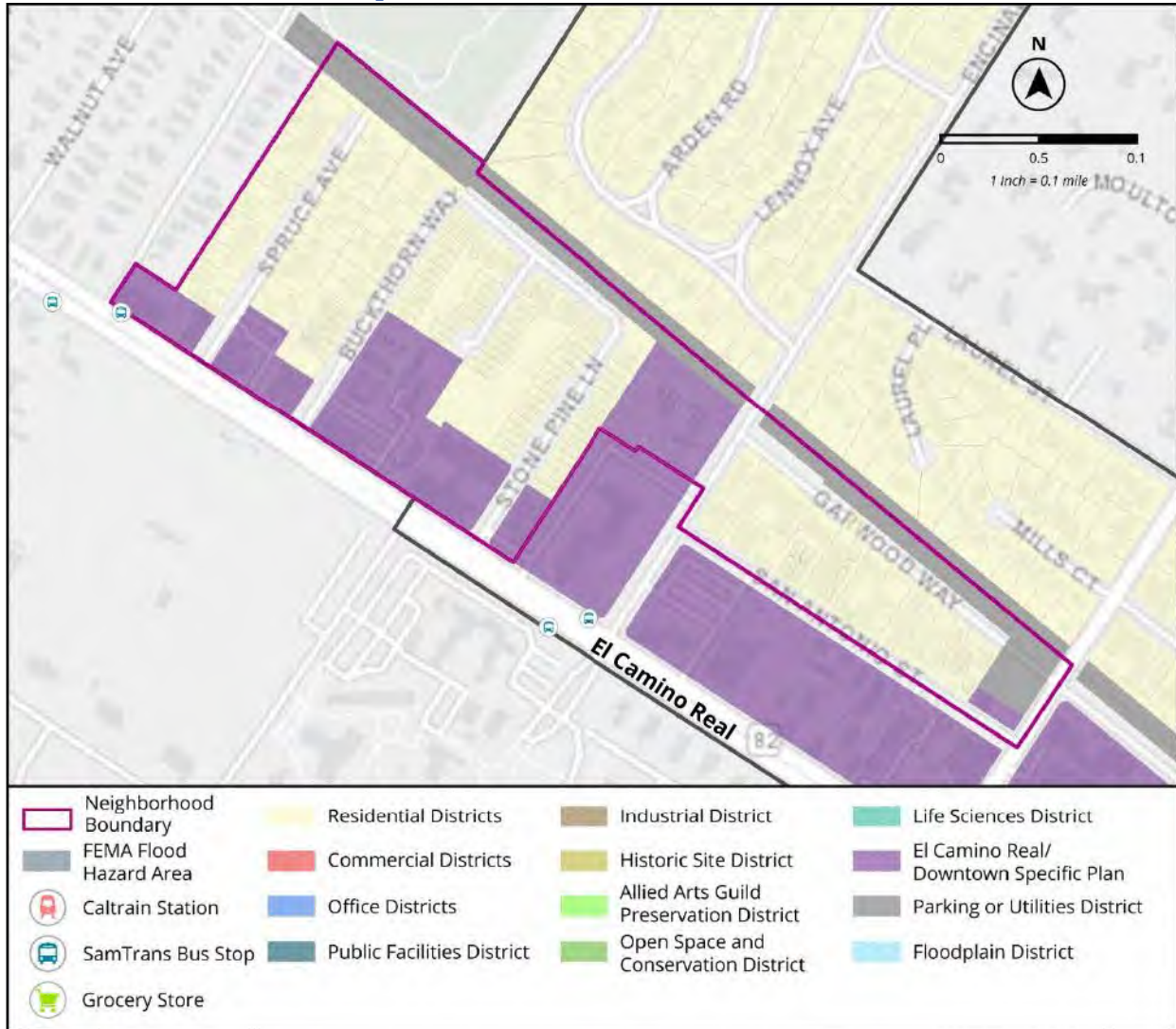
Linfield Oaks has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio neighborhood is made up mostly of low-rise apartments and detached single-family homes. About 50 percent of the neighborhood is under the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan. There are no grocery stores within or near the census tract.

### **Transportation**

The neighborhood has access to El Camino Real, providing residents with connectivity to and from the neighborhood as well as bus service. Caltrain tracks limit connectivity at the northern border of the neighborhood.

### **Open Space**

There are no open spaces or parks within the neighborhood.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio is not located within a flood hazard area.



## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

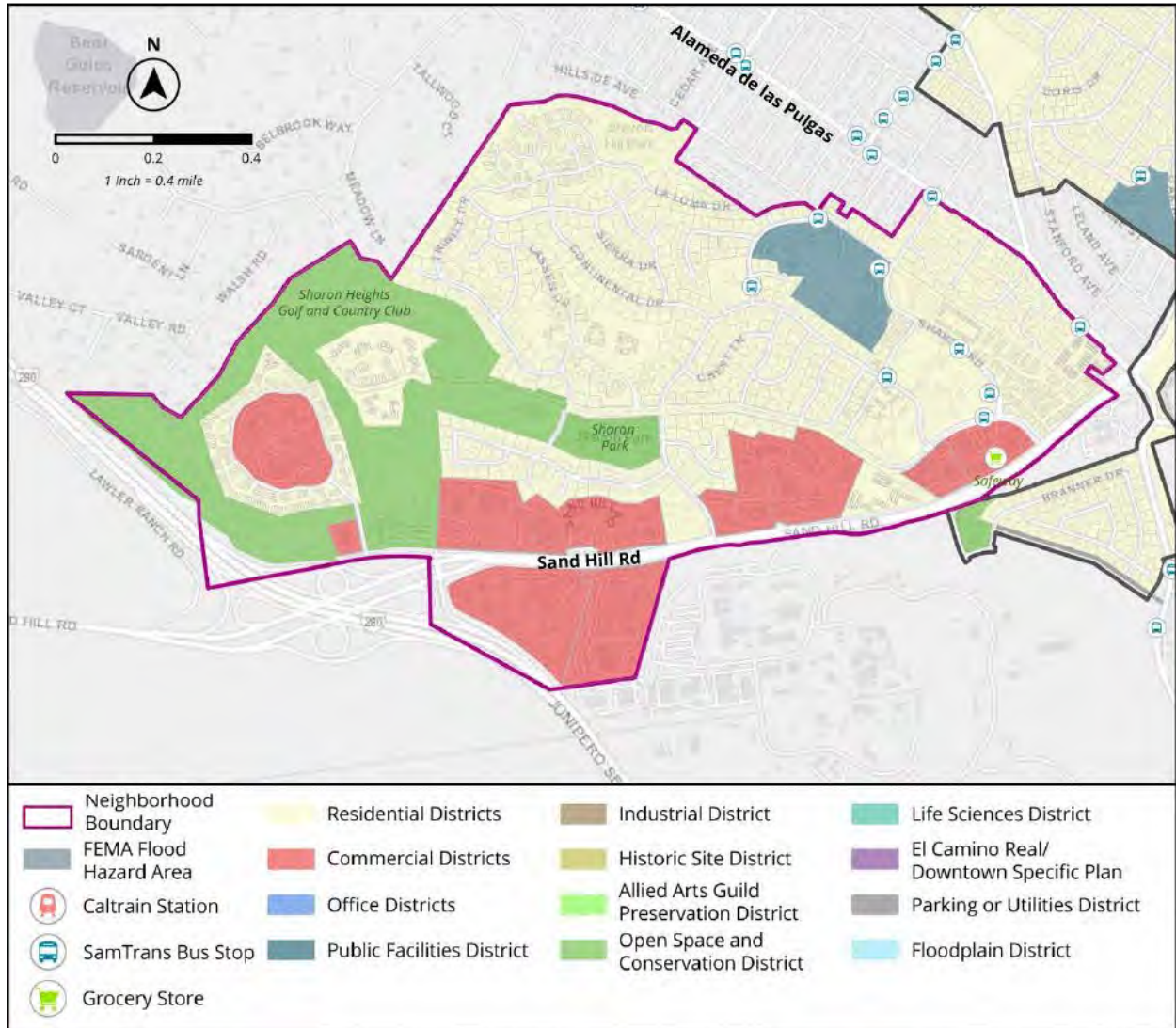
Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Sharon Heights



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Sharon Heights is made up of a mix of detached single-family homes, with medium-density apartments on the east and west sides of the neighborhood. Non-residential uses include offices, a country club, a local park, neighborhood commercial, a public middle school, a private elementary school (pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade), and a public school district office. Most households live further than a half-mile from the one grocery store within the neighborhood (Safeway at the Sharon Heights Shopping Center).

### **Transportation**

Sand Hill Road leads residents to and from the rest of the city. Alameda de las Pulgas provides connectivity to residents at the northwest of Sharon Heights. Public transportation in Sharon Heights is limited, with the only bus stops located to the west of Sharon Heights. Most streets do not have accessible sidewalks and there are no bicycle lanes.

### **Open Space**

There is one public open space, Sharon Park, and one private open space, the Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club. Picnic areas, playground, and the grass area are available for public usage. The Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club is a private country club, with golf, fine dining, and special events available for members and their guests.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Sharon Heights is not located within a flood hazard zone.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Sharon Heights has an overall Pollution Burden score of 47, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (9 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>-8.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	14	-1.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	41	-20.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	36	+32.4	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>78</b>	+17.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	74	+7.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	27	<b>-40.4</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	2	<b>-61.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>96</b>	<b>+33.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>78</b>	+2.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

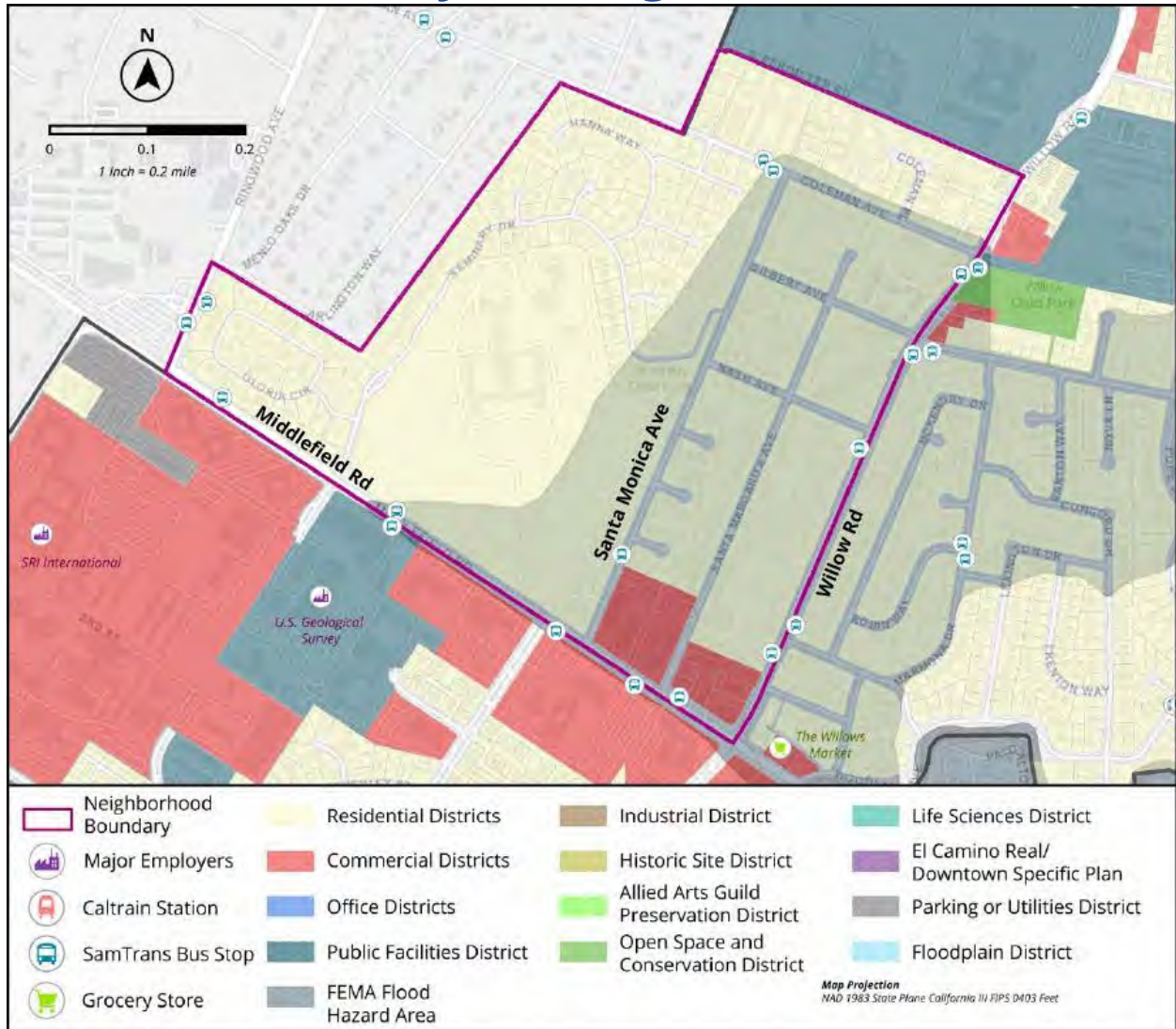
Sharon Heights has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (8 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	11	-13.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	16	-11.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	3	-5.7	8.7
Education	4	<b>-25.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>58</b>	<b>+26.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	23	-5.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>69</b>	<b>+27.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks is made of primarily detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include commercial offices at the south end of the census tract. There is one local park just outside of the census tract. There is one grocery store just outside the southeastern corner of the neighborhood that serves some residents.

### **Transportation**

Willow Road and Middlefield Road provide the neighborhood with connectivity to and from the rest of the city. Both roads are well serviced by public transit. Coleman Avenue and Santa Monica Avenue are serviced by low-frequency bus routes (typical wait times more than 15 minutes).

### **Open Space**

Willow Oaks Park is located just outside the northeastern corner of South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks. Willow Oaks Park has an off-leash dog park, public art exhibit, and tennis courts that are open to the public.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Approximately 40 percent of South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks is located in a flood hazard area.



## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks has an overall Pollution Burden score of 44, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (12 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-11.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	53	-8.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>77</b>	+16.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	68	+1.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>79</b>	+11.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	46	<b>-17.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	0	<b>-62.7</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>90</b>	+14.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	<b>-17.8</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks has an overall Population Characteristics score of 5, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average).

The four highest indicators (two tied indicators) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	8.7
Education	<b>22</b>	-7.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	<b>-22.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	20	<b>-8.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	<b>-39.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Stanford Hills



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Stanford Hills neighborhood is made up almost entirely of detached single-family homes. There is one open space area, the Stanford Hills Park. All homes in the Stanford Hills neighborhood are within a half-mile from the one grocery store just north of the neighborhood (Safeway at Sharon Heights Shopping Center).

### **Transportation**

Connectivity is limited to Branner Drive on the west side of the neighborhood which leads to Sand Hill Road. There are no public transit bus stops within the census tract. All streets have accessible sidewalks but there are no bicycle lanes.

### **Open Space**

The Stanford Hills Park is available for public use. Amenities at the park include a grass area, walking paths, and benches.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Stanford Hills is not located within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Stanford Hills has an overall Pollution Burden score of 47, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (9 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>-8.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	14	-1.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	41	-20.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	36	+32.4	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>78</b>	+17.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	74	+7.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	27	<b>-40.4</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	2	<b>-61.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>96</b>	<b>+33.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>78</b>	+2.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

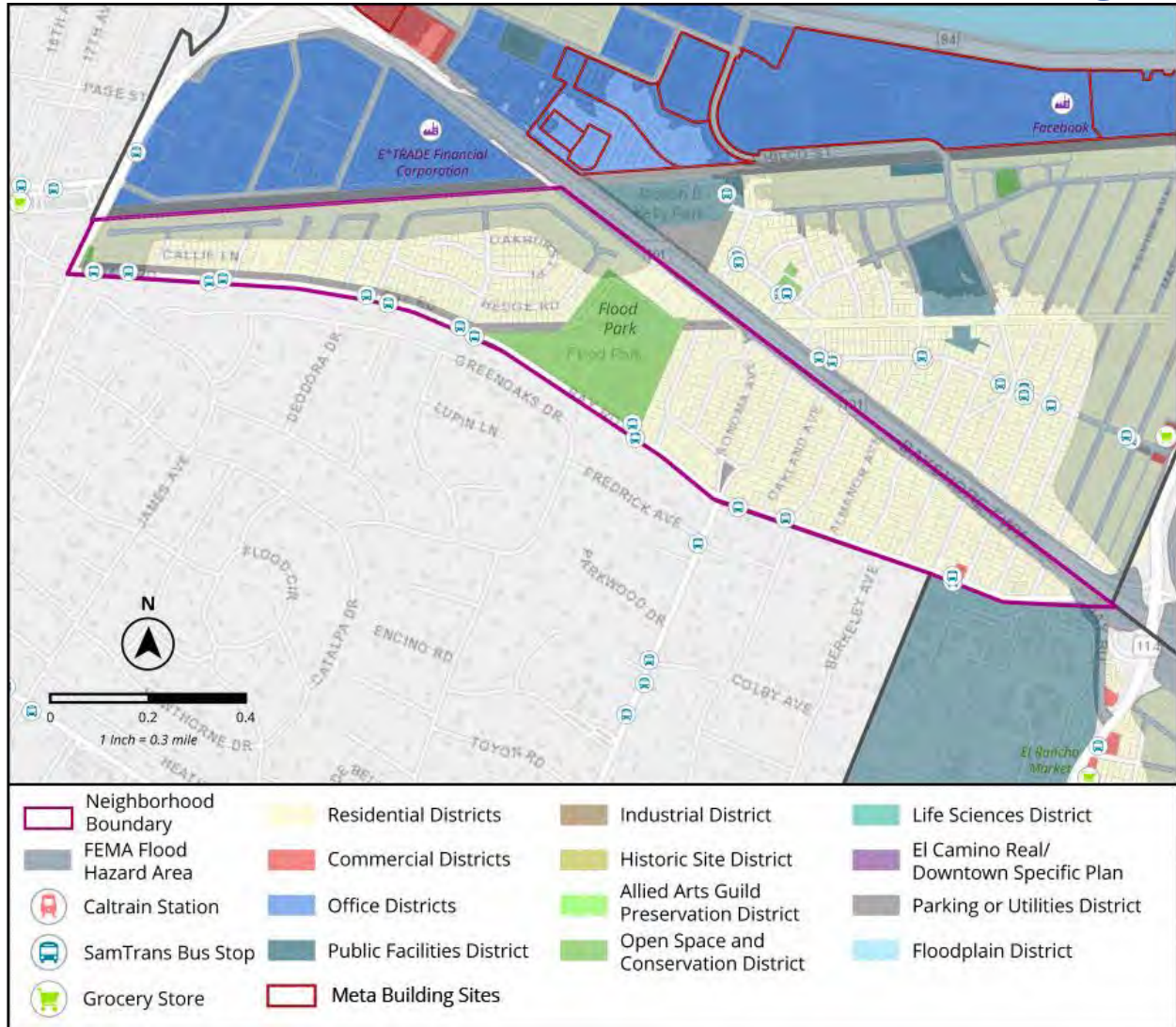
Stanford Hills has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (8 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	11	-13.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	16	-11.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	3	-5.7	8.7
Education	4	<b>-25.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>58</b>	<b>+26.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	23	-5.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>69</b>	<b>+27.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

**Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle** is made up almost entirely of detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include a local park and a single neighborhood commercial parcel adjacent to the Bright Angel Montessori Academy. Most homes in the neighborhood do not have any proximity to a grocery store within Menlo Park, though there are grocery stores nearby in other jurisdictions.

### **Transportation**

U.S. Highway 101 closes off the north side of Suburban Park and this results in residents from Suburban Park, Lorelei Manor, and Flood Triangle exiting only from Bay Road, the southern boundary of the neighborhood. SamTrans operates three school-oriented bus routes along Bay Road that may also be used by members of the general public. School-oriented bus routes generally have limited hours of operation timed with school bell schedules and pause operations on weekends and during the summer months.

### **Open Space**

Flood Park is a part of the San Mateo County Parks Foundation. Flood Park facilities such as the softball field, tennis courts and volleyball courts are available for public use. Group picnic areas and the baseball field may be reserved.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Approximately 15 percent of Suburban Park is in a flood hazard area.



## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle has an overall Pollution Burden score of 71, ranking 7<sup>th</sup> (15 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>+15.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	13	-2.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	<b>76</b>	+14.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	31	+3.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>95</b>	<b>+34.7</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	60	-6.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	70	+2.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	65	+1.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	56	-6.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>91</b>	+15.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	0	<b>-37.8</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	66	<b>+48.2</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

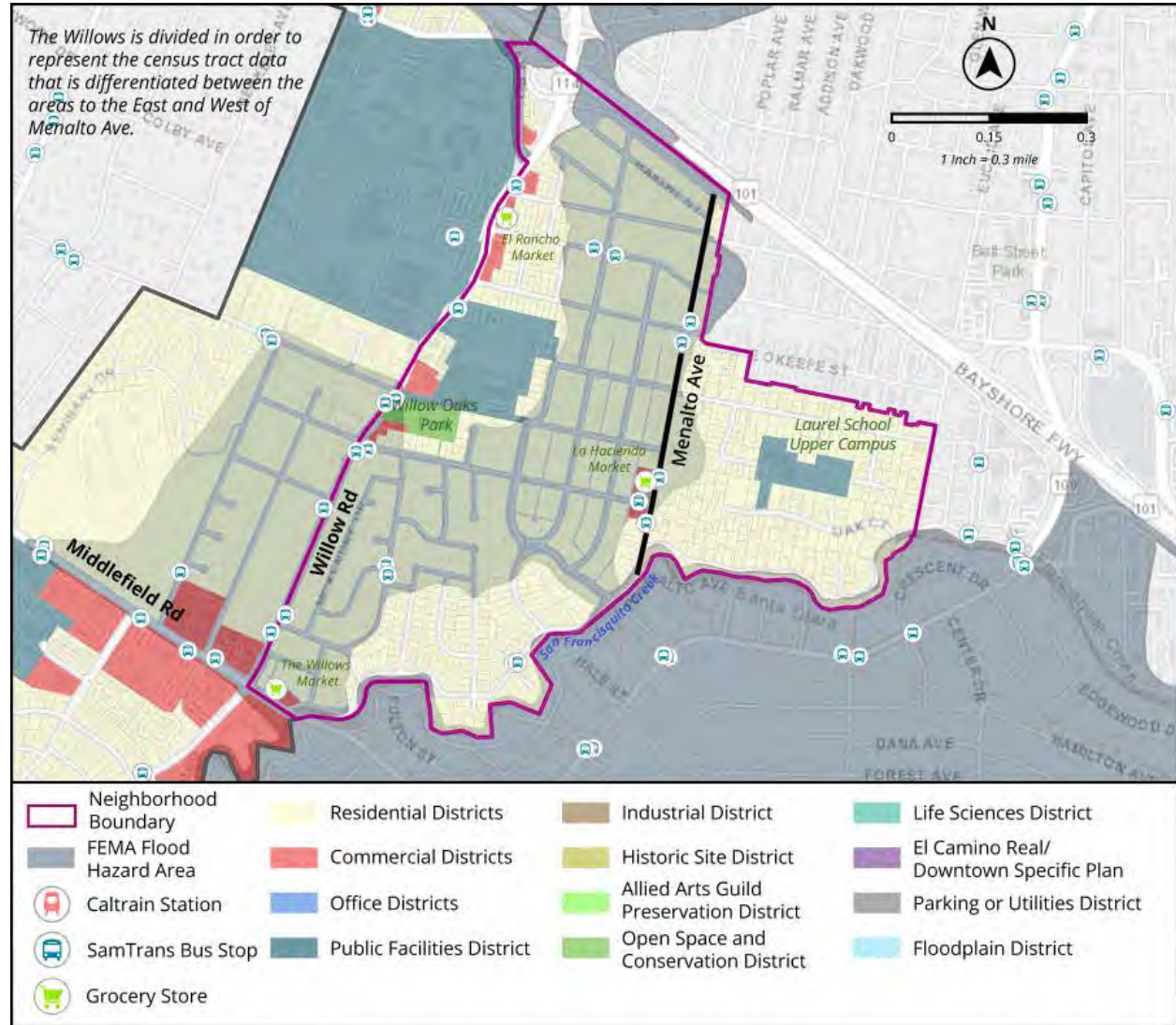
Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>22</b>	-2.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>19</b>	-8.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	6	<b>-25.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	4	-24.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>16</b>	-9.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	13	<b>-28.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# The Willows



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Willows neighborhood is made up primarily of detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include a public school (elementary), a private school (pre-kindergarten through high school), and a few gas stations and strip commercial buildings spaced out along Willow Road, Middlefield Road, and Menalto Avenue. Most of the neighborhood is within a half-mile of one of three grocery stores.

### **Transportation**

US-101 and San Francisquito Creek are barriers to connectivity in/out of the neighborhood. Two low frequency bus routes (typical wait times more than 15 minutes) run along Willow Road and Menalto Road. Most homes in the neighborhood are further than a quarter-mile from a bus stop. Most streets have Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant sidewalks and are bicycle friendly, with a Class II (dedicated traffic lane) bikeway along Willow Road.

### **Open Space**

Willow Oaks Park is the only public open space in the neighborhood. Laurel School Upper Campus' sports fields can be reserved for public use.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

About 75 percent of the neighborhood west of Menalto Avenue and 15 percent of the neighborhood east of Menalto Avenue is in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

The Willows has overall Pollution Burden scores of 44 (West of Menalto Avenue) and 73 (East of Menalto Avenue), ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (12 points less than the citywide average) and 8<sup>th</sup> (17 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators (four for East of Menalto Avenue, due to a tie) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-11.8</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>+17.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	10	+0.8	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	18	+2.8	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	53	-8.5	<b>85</b>	+23.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27	-0.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>77</b>	<b>+16.7</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>+24.7</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	68	+1.6	<b>86</b>	+19.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>79</b>	+11.6	84	+16.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	46	<b>-17.7</b>	66	+2.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	0	<b>-62.7</b>	10	<b>-52.7</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>90</b>	+14.4	73	-2.6	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	<b>90</b>	<b>+52.2</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

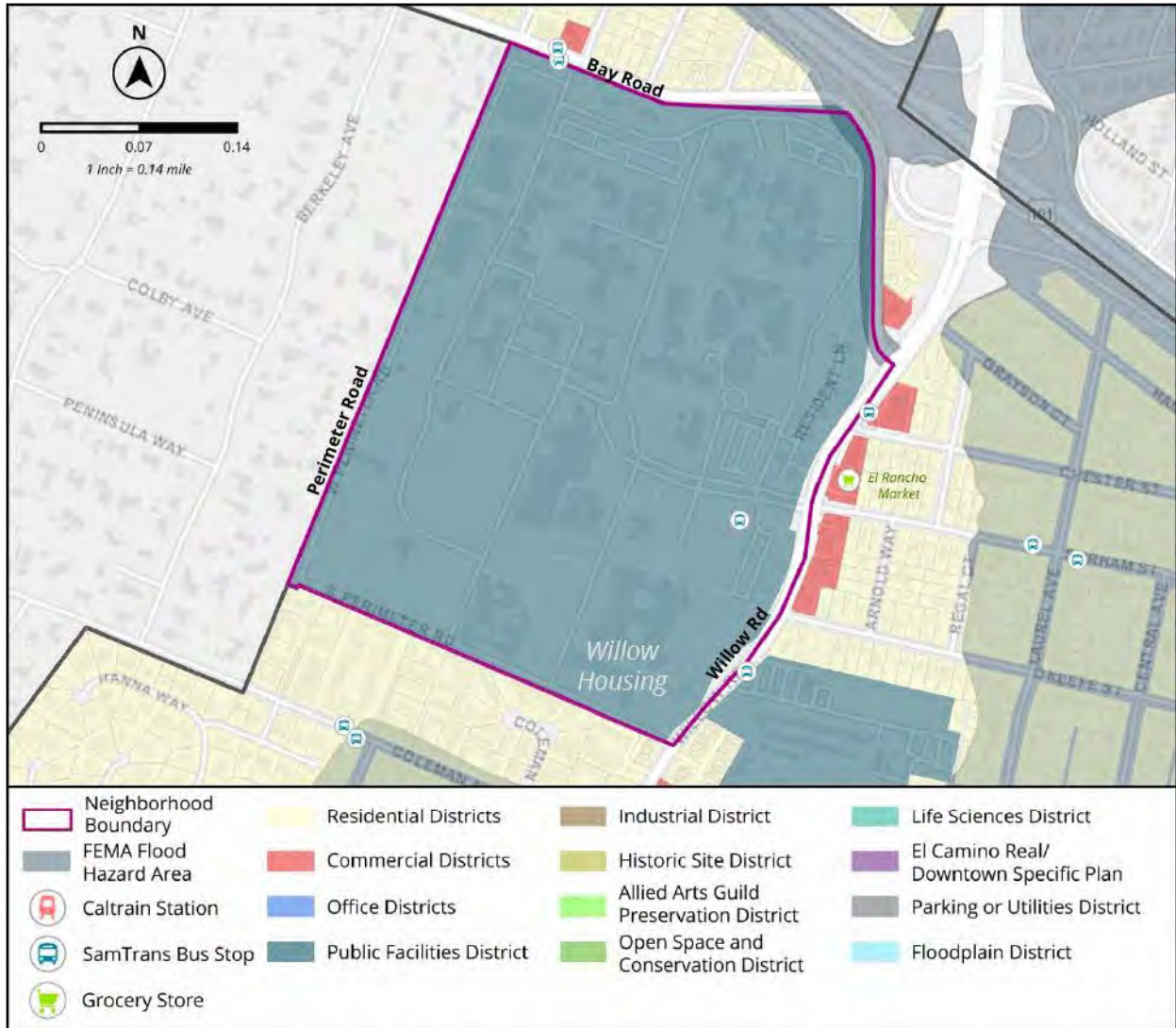
The Willows has overall Population Characteristics scores of 5 (West of Menalto Avenue) and 58 (East of Menalto Avenue), ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average) and 7<sup>th</sup> (39 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators (four for West of Menalto Avenue, due to a tie) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>+39.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	48	+23.1	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	69	+41.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	14	+5.3	8.7
Education	<b>22</b>	-7.0	<b>85</b>	<b>+56.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	<b>-22.5</b>	75	<b>+43.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	20	<b>-8.4</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>+50.6</b>	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	11	-14.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	<b>-39.2</b>	<b>80</b>	+38.8	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# VA Medical District



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical District consists strictly of the Menlo Park VA Medical Center, made up of medical buildings, open spaces, and housing, ranging from 1-2 stories tall. Willow Housing, located at the southern edge of the VA Medical District, is a 60-unit affordable housing community designed for veterans who are homeless or at risk of imminent homelessness.

### **Transportation**

Willow Road, Bay Road, Perimeter Road provide the VA Medical District with access to and from the neighborhood. There are three bus stops within the neighborhood, all located on Willow Road at the eastern side.

### **Open Space**

There are no public open space areas within the neighborhood, however there is open space within the VA Medical Center.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

The northeastern border of VA Medical District is located within a flood hazard area.



## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

VA Medical District has an overall Pollution Burden score of 44, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (12 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-11.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	53	-8.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>77</b>	+16.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	68	+1.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>79</b>	+11.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	46	<b>-17.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	0	<b>-62.7</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>90</b>	+14.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	<b>-17.8</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

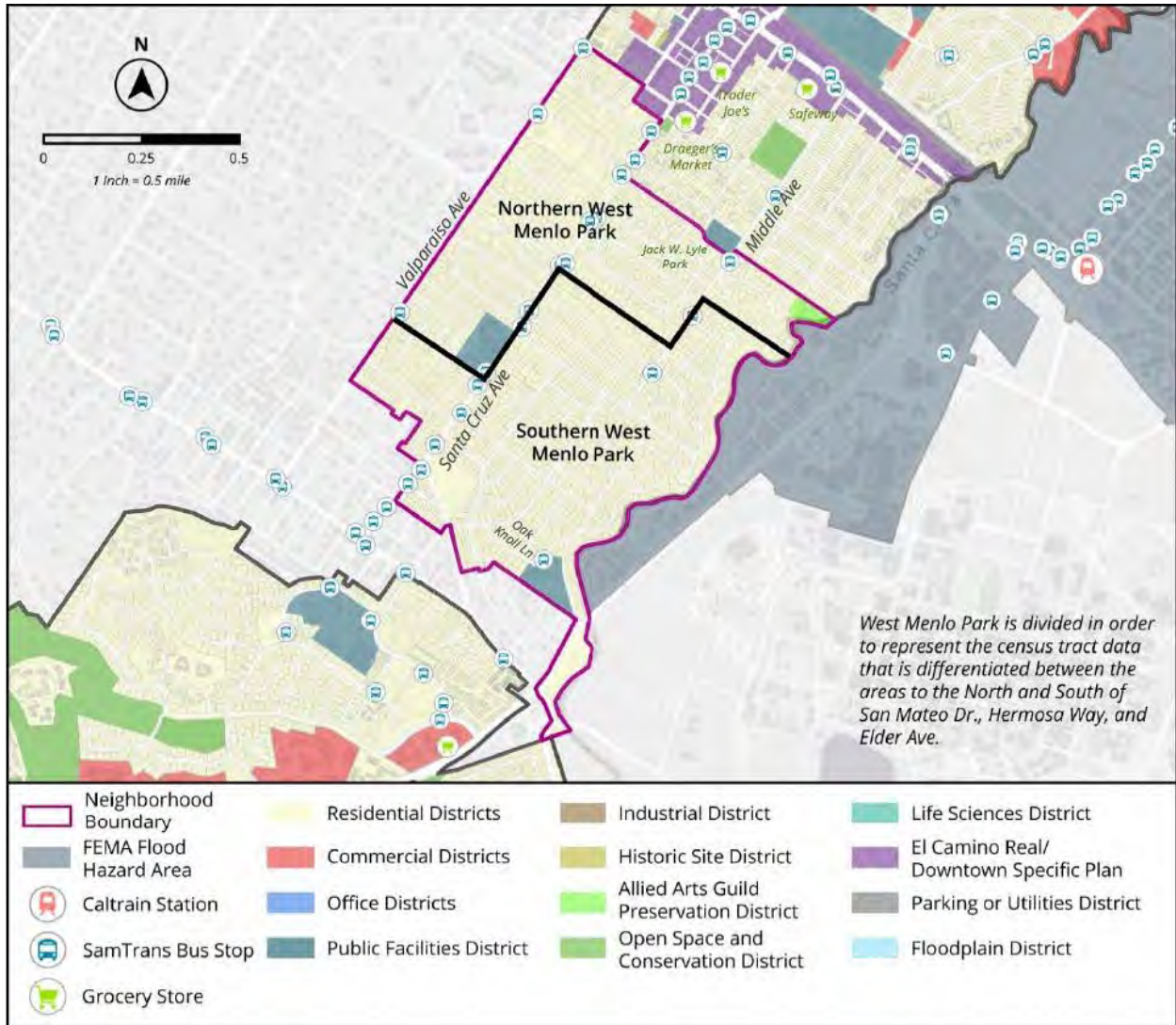
VA Medical District has an overall Population Characteristics score of 5, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average).

The four highest indicators (two tied indicators) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	8.7
Education	<b>22</b>	<b>-7.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	<b>-22.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	20	-8.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	<b>-39.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# West Menlo



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

West Menlo is made up primarily of detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include one public elementary school, one public middle school, one private elementary (pre-K-8), a church, a cemetery and an art gallery. About 20 percent of the neighborhood is within a half-mile of one of the four grocery stores located outside of the neighborhood, three north of it and one to the south.

### **Transportation**

Valparaiso Avenue and Santa Cruz Avenue are two arterial roads that provide connectivity to and from West Menlo. Santa Cruz Avenue is well-serviced by public transit, with bus stops located at each block. Valparaiso Avenue and Middle Avenue have limited service, with three bus stops each. Oak Knoll Lane has one bus stop.

### **Open Space**

There are no public open spaces in West Menlo. Jack W. Lyle Park is located outside of the northwest end of the neighborhood.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

The western border of West Menlo borders flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

West Menlo has overall Pollution Burden scores of 35 (North) and 26 (South), ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (21 points less than the citywide average) and 1<sup>st</sup> (30 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	Northern West Menlo	Difference from Citywide Average	Southern West Menlo Park	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>-20.8</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>-29.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	14	-1.2	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	48	<b>-13.5</b>	<b>47</b>	-14.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	25	-2.6	25	-2.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	20	<b>-40.3</b>	26	<b>-34.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	39	<b>-27.4</b>	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	54	-13.4	47	<b>-20.4</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>72</b>	+8.3	23	<b>-40.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>73</b>	+10.3	53	-9.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>78</b>	+2.4	<b>87</b>	+11.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	20	+2.2	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

West Menlo has overall Population Characteristics scores of 5 (North) and 1 (South), ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average) and 1<sup>st</sup> (18 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	Northern West Menlo	Difference from Citywide Average	Southern West Menlo	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-17.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>22</b>	-2.9	<b>20</b>	-4.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>51</b>	+23.2	3	-24.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	<b>8</b>	-0.7	8.7
Education	0	<b>-29.0</b>	1	<b>-28.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	0	<b>-31.5</b>	5	<b>-26.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	9	-19.4	2	-26.4	28.4
Unemployment	6	-19.7	<b>39</b>	+13.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>12</b>	<b>-29.2</b>	2	<b>-39.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Appendix: CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Scores

The following page contains the CalEnviroScreen scores organized in a table. Each column of the table details the percentile at which any listed indicator affects a neighborhood within Menlo Park. An indicator is a measure of a condition, such as Air Quality or proximity to Groundwater Threats. Other indicators provide information about demographics, such as the proportion of households in a census tract who do not speak English well or at all. These indicators can tell us which communities are considered more vulnerable to environmental hazards.

CalEnviroScreen is a web-based mapping tool created by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. CalEnviroScreen uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce a score for every census tract in the state. Each census tract is evaluated by 21 indicators and are given 21 scores based on the data. By averaging the indicator scores, CalEnviroScreen produces overall CalEnviroScreen scores (overall pollution burden; overall population characteristics) for comparisons between census tracts.

The "Overall Percentile EnviroScreen" for each census tract in Menlo Park is below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, even if Pollution Burden, Population Characteristics, or individual indicators are above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile. Because this "Overall Percentile" score is below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, it does not trigger a Underserved Community designation for any census tract in the city. However, the Underserved Communities – Tracts 6117 (West Bayfront, Belle Haven) and 6118 (East Bayfront) – have Overall Pollution Burden scores over 75 as well as low-income designations from HCD.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILES ANALYSIS

CENSUS TRACT AND NEIGHBORHOODS												
INDICATOR	6118 East Bayfront	6117 West Bayfront & Belle Haven	6121 The Willows East of Menalto Ave	6139 The Willows West of Menalto Ave; VA Medical District; & South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	6130 Sharon Heights & Stanford Hills	6126 Downtown & Allied Arts/Stanford Park North of University Ave	6116 Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	6127 Allied Arts/Stanford Park South of University Ave & Northern West Menlo	6125 Felton Gables; Central Menlo; Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio; Linfield Oaks; & El Camino Real Corridor	6128 Southern West Menlo	CITYWIDE AVERAGES	
	<b>Overall Percentile CalEnviroScreen</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>2</b>
POLLUTION BURDEN	<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b> <i>(Combined Score from all Pollution Indicators)</i>	<b>83</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>26</b>	55.8
	Air Quality: Ozone	10	9	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9.2
	Air Quality: PM2.5	17	16	18	15	14	15	13	14	15	15	15.2
	Diesel Particulate Matter	49	88	85	53	41	69	76	48	59	47	61.5
	Pesticide Use	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	3.6
	Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	32	27	28	28	26	31	25	26	25	27.6
	Traffic Impacts	60	94	85	77	78	36	95	20	32	26	60.3
	Drinking Water Contaminants	87	69	86	68	74	59	60	39	61	61	66.4
	Children's Lead Risk from Housing	99	96	84	79	27	59	70	54	59	47	67.4
	Cleanup Sites	82	89	66	46	2	96	65	72	96	23	63.7
	Groundwater Threats	98	61	10	0	96	90	56	73	90	53	62.7
	Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	85	83	73	90	78	50	91	78	41	87	75.6
	Impaired Water Bodies	84	0	90	34	34	34	0	34	34	34	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	21	63	0	0	0	8	66	20	0	0	17.8	
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b> <i>(Combined Score from all Population Characteristics Indicators)</i>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	18.6
	Asthma	47	24	48	21	11	21	22	22	13	20	24.9
	Low Birth Weight Infants	22	45	69	21	16	11	19	51	21	3	27.8
	Cardiovascular Disease	13	10	14	8	3	9	9	9	4	8	8.7
	Educational Attainment	86	82	85	22	4	6	2	0	2	1	29
	Linguistic Isolation	38	86	75	9	58	22	6	0	16	5	31.5
	Poverty	65	59	79	20	23	19	4	9	4	2	28.4
	Unemployment	74	46	11	27	27	6	16	6	5	39	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	90	83	80	2	69	32	13	12	29	2	41.2	



## Additional Methodology

The State Office of Planning and Research (OPR) recommends a "screening analysis" that incorporates community-specific data and issues unique to their communities, which might or might not be reflected in the statewide data sets. This screening analysis gives the City of Menlo Park (City) the ability to treat the three census tracts identified as potential Underserved Communities differently, as appropriate to the issues present in these communities. In Menlo Park, there are three census tracts which meet at least one of the three primary criteria noted by OPR and could be considered as containing Underserved Communities:

- Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront)
- Tract 6118 (Bayfront)
- Tract 6121 (The Willows)

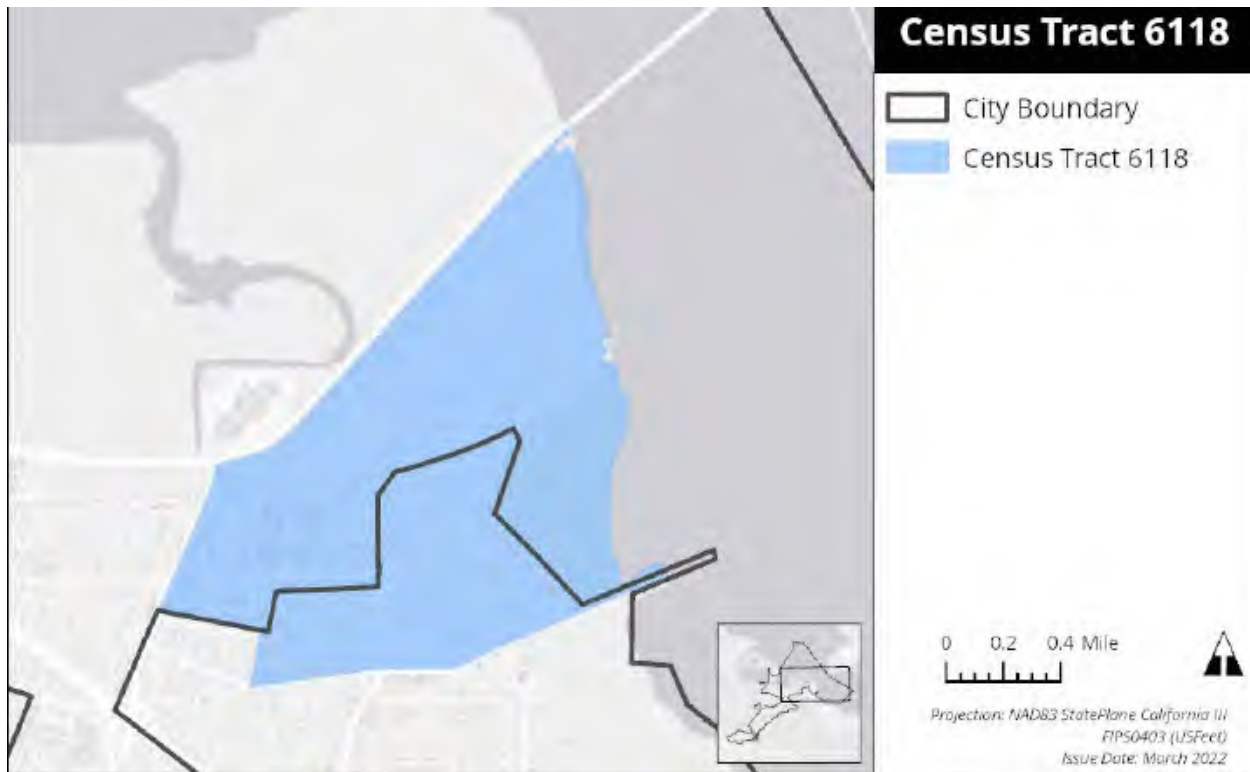
Census Tract 6117 has a clear history of different treatment and has a clear geographic distinction from the rest of Menlo Park. Census Tract 6118 shares this distinction, but Census Tract 6121 does not. Therefore, Census Tract 6118, containing Bayfront as well as portions of neighboring East Palo Alto, is identified as a Underserved Community in Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element. Census Tract 6121, which contains The Willows as well as East Palo Alto, is not identified as such.

The flexibility of OPR's recommended approach allows two neighboring jurisdictions to use different approaches for the same census tract. Treating Census Tract 6118 as a Underserved Community, but not Census Tract 6121, does not conflict with or limit any future decisions by East Palo Alto to identify their portion of Census Tracts 6118 and/or 6121 as Underserved Communities if they deem it appropriate.

### *Census Tract 6118 – Bayfront*

Bayfront is partially composed of Census Tract 6118, which spans Menlo Park and East Palo Alto (see Figure EJ-B-1). There are currently no residential units in the Menlo Park portion of the tract. The 950 residential units currently in this census tract are all located in the East Palo Alto portion of the tract.

**Figure EJ-B-1: Census Tract 6118 Map**



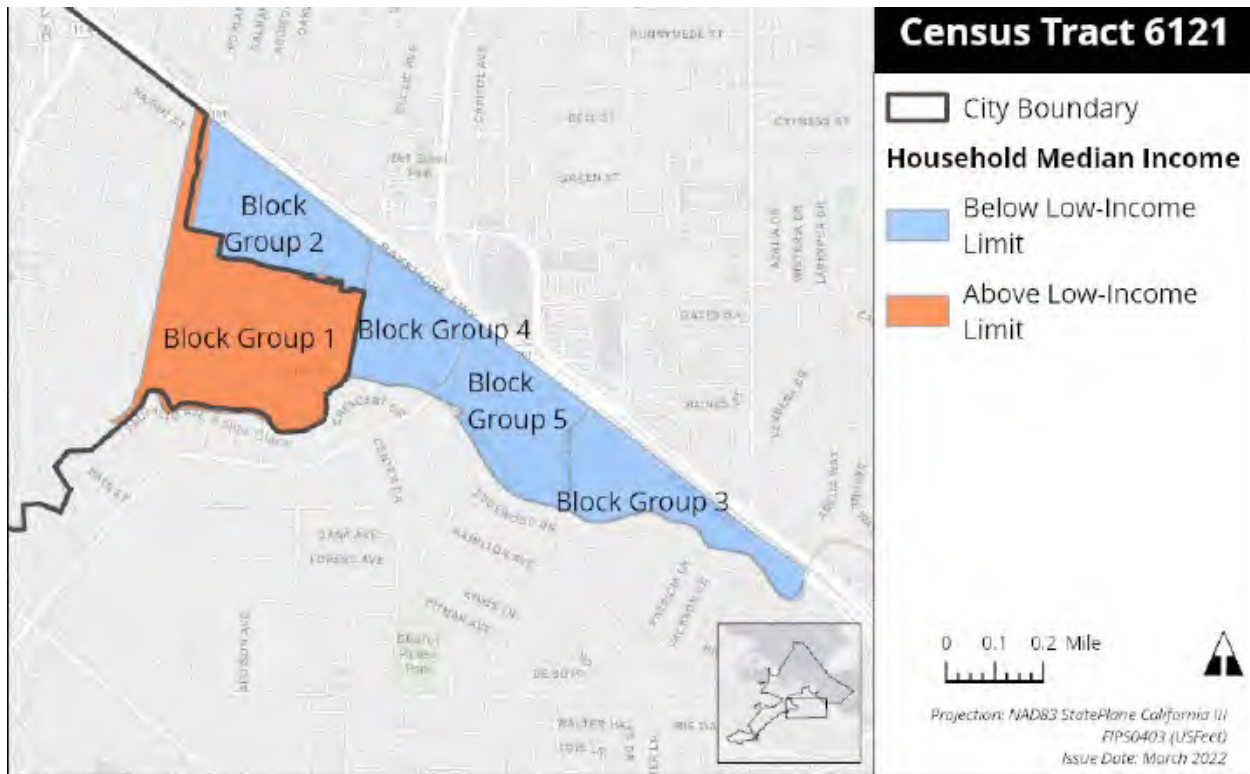
Even though there are currently no residential units in the Menlo Park portion of Census Tract 6118, the neighborhood qualifies as a Underserved Community because the tract-wide median income is below state income limits (see Figure EJ-B-2). The Environmental Justice Element will treat the area as a Underserved Community because it shares development history, current zoning, transportation, and school districts with the western portion of Bayfront.

#### *Census Tract 6121 – The Willows*

The Willows, one of Menlo Park's 16 neighborhoods, includes Census Tract 6121. This tract could be designated as an Environmental Justice Underserved Community because its median household incomes are below the threshold designated as low income (\$146,350 for a four-person household in 2021) by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Census Tract's median household income is \$57,627.

This Census Tract consists of five block groups. Only Block Group 1 is within Menlo Park. Block Groups 2-5 are located in East Palo Alto. The median household income of Block Group 1 in Menlo Park is well over the low-income threshold at \$174,844 and does not meet the Underserved Communities designation. Block Groups 2-5 in East Palo Alto are far under the low-income threshold and could qualify as Underserved Communities (see Figure EJ-A-3 and Table EJ-A-1).

**Figure EJ-B-2: Block Groups in Census Tract 6121**



**Table EJ-B-1: Median Household Income by Block Group in Census Tract 6121**

Block Group	Median Household Income
<i>In Menlo Park</i>	
Block Group 1	\$174,7844
<i>In East Palo Alto</i>	
Block Group 2	\$44,319
Block Group 3	\$67,097
Block Group 4	\$43,818
Block Group 5	\$47,396
<b>Census Tract 6121</b>	<b>\$57,627</b>
<b>HCD Low-Income Designation for San Mateo County<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$146,350</b>

All data from US Census American Communities Survey, 2015-2019 5-year estimates.

Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element does not identify Census Tract 6121 as a potential Underserved Community. While there may be environmental issues in the tract's portion of neighboring East Palo Alto, those issues do not apply to the high-income neighborhood of The Willows.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.smcgov.org/media/30286/download?inline=>

# Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

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**MAY 27, 2022**

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**PREPARED BY**  
**Climate Resilient Communities**



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***“¡Tienes una voz!” (You have a voice!) – Victoria Robledo, Belle Haven Community Leader and Focus Group Facilitator***

# Introduction

This report summarizes the processes and findings of three focus groups conducted by Climate Resilient Communities' (CRC) its partnering organizations: El Comite de Vecinos, Belle Haven Community Development Fund, and a group of three highly motivated and connected community leaders. These meetings were convened to solicit public input and raise awareness about the updates to the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements of the City of Menlo Park's General Plan. Belle Haven is a neighborhood in Menlo Park, lying east of Highway 101 and closest to the San Francisco Bay. Belle Haven is a historically redlined community, meaning residents who attempted to buy homes elsewhere were forbidden and forced to buy in Belle Haven, a practice that systematically prevented residents from building intergenerational wealth on the basis of their race.



In Belle Haven, as throughout the world, it will be the people who lack the monetary resources to respond and adapt who will be most affected by the impacts of climate change. Low-income communities and communities of color are on the frontlines of sea-level rise, extreme heat events, and are suffering more severe consequences from wildfire smoke exposure. These facts make the urgency and necessity of robust engagement with frontline communities a necessity for equitable and just climate adaptation. To that end, CRC has partnered with the City of Menlo Park to help elevate community voices and ensure equitable representation in the General Plan update process. The sustained participation and leadership of residents is the only pathway to fixing the issues currently contributing to the stark inequality between East and West Menlo Park. The three focus groups are just one of several projects to receive feedback and input from the Belle Haven community. These meetings took place on May 9th, May 13th, and May 20th of 2022. The sections that follow contain a summary of the methods and results of the three focus groups. The appendix includes original copies of reports from our three partnering groups.

# Executive Summary

This report summarizes the findings of three (3) focus groups conducted by the Belle Haven Community Development Fund (BHCDF), El Comite de Vecinos, and a group of three community leaders: Victoria Robledo, Karen Williams, and Telesia Alusa. Climate Resilient Communities trained each organization, provided logistical and financial support, and participated in outreach and facilitation wherever and whenever required. In total, **124 Belle Haven Residents** attended one of the focus groups to have their voices heard and contribute to a process they hope will bring about substantial change and investment in their community. The focus groups targeted specific sections of the community: the first was for parents and children, the second for Spanish speakers, and the third for a general audience. Each focus group was held at the Belle Haven Branch Library at 413 Ivy Dr.

After a brief presentation on what the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements are, what the update process means for the community, and a brief history of redlining and disinvestment in the area, residents had an opportunity to ask questions and walked table to table to identify their top environmental and safety priorities.

A summary of the top community-identified priorities and key issues is listed below with the number of residents who listed a various concern in parenthesis.

**Safety:** The three top safety concerns for residents attending each focus group were Air Quality with 53 residents listing it as a concern, tied with Hazardous Materials (53), and followed by Earthquakes (40). Data collected by the City of Menlo Park and CalEnviroScreen 4.0 validates their lived experience: Menlo Park's data shows the Belle Haven neighborhood has air quality and emissions that are 42% worse than the city at large and CalEnviroScreen data places Belle Haven above the 88<sup>th</sup> percentile statewide for Hazardous Waste exposure.

**Recommendations:** Based on these concerns, the city should consider appropriating funds for transportation infrastructure improvements that reduce traffic to improve air quality, work closely with other oversight agencies to identify and ameliorate legacy pollution, and initiate neighborhood specific disaster preparedness planning.

**Promoting Civic Engagement:** The top three community identified ways this project and others could promote the civic engagement of the Belle Haven Community are through making the information accessible (37), enhancing prior knowledge (35), and scheduling to avoid time conflicts (27). Accessible information includes content provided in different languages, content that is easily read and interpreted by a lay-person, and content provided in different formats (auditory, visual, etc.). The number of residents who identified prior knowledge as a constraint to participation speaks to a real need to conduct more education and capacity building in the community so residents feel comfortable participating in a public forum.

**Recommendations:** Residents would urge the city to make policies that ensure substantial and sustained multilingual outreach, expand its education and capacity building opportunities, and revamp existing protocols around the scheduling of public meetings.

**Reducing Pollution:** Residents were very concerned about the quality of air and the proliferation of asthma in their community. They saw immediate opportunities for air quality improvements by regulating residential and cut through traffic in the neighborhood (63), regulating emissions from stationary sources like industrial facilities (38), and protecting families from the impacts of wildfire smoke (37). When it comes to water pollution, data collected by the City of Menlo Park shows that

drinking water is 38% better in Belle Haven than that of the rest of the city.<sup>1</sup> This comes in contrast to CalEnviroScreen statistics that place the Belle Haven neighborhood in the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile statewide for groundwater threats. Residents would like assurances and clarity on the quality of the water (61) and programs to address recent water price hikes and ensure affordability (48).

**Recommendations:** The community would like to see the city make policies to 1) further incentivize the use of electric vehicles and pursue micro-mobility alternatives like subsidized electric bicycles 2) strengthen permitting requirements for polluting facilities and enforce existing regulations, 3) allocate funding for home weatherization and the distribution of air purifiers for residents with health conditions, 4) conduct regular tap water testing and hold workshops to explain the results, and 5) explore options to help families with water expenses.

**Public Facilities:** When it comes to public facilities, community members prioritized expanding and upgrading their community centers (50), creating affordable and accessible programs. Additionally, residents hoped to see more healthcare facilities in their community (47) because they currently have to travel substantial distances to receive even basic care. Residents also expressed strong support for updating the road structure so as to foster safe forms of transportation other than driving (45). This includes resident support for bike lanes, sidewalk improvements, and other public transportation upgrades.

**Recommendations:** To address community concerns around public facilities, residents suggest the City reexamine administrative policies governing community centers to encourage affordable and accessible programming and expand community centers. The city should seriously consider the creation of a community health clinic in Belle Haven and transportation infrastructure overhauls.

**Food Access:** All said, 63 residents said their Belle Haven neighborhood needed increased access to healthy and affordable foods. Belle Haven does not have a full-service grocery store; not a single resident of the 124 who participated in the process said food access was sufficient. Residents are interested primarily in a store that could offer high quality and healthy foods at low prices. They also saw opportunities to improve the Facebook Mobile Market by moving away from cell-phone based ordering or opening regular Farmer's Markets in Belle Haven to replicate what happens at Bloomhouse in East Palo Alto.

**Recommendations:** Existing development plans include space for a grocery store, but community members would like the City to ensure that the eventual occupant offer high quality, affordable food and be required to take food assistance vouchers and contain a pharmacy. Additionally, the city should look for opportunities and spaces to host a farmer's market.

**Ensuring Safe and Sanitary Homes:** Residents overwhelmingly supported the creation and expansion of programs that help people renovate their homes when faced with pest infestations (37), mold (35), or toxics like lead and asbestos (35). Housing quality is intimately tied to resident health and programs that outfit homes for resilience and health are vital to dissolving inequities within Menlo Park. A necessary part of ensuring safe and sanitary homes is keeping residents in stable housing. 52 residents expressed support for programs that would make housing affordable and 45 expressed support for policies that would protect renters from displacement. In written comments left by residents, they expressed support for rent control measures and preventing large companies from buying housing in the neighborhood. When it comes to residents' new home siting priorities, they would prefer new homes be located near grocery stores (45), community gardens (30), and parks (28). Many also insisted that new housing be built throughout the city, and not solely in Belle Haven.

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<sup>1</sup> Per the Neighborhood Profiles developed for the City for the Environmental Justice Element. ([Linked here](#))



**Recommendations:** Community members urge the City to begin investing in programs that offer homeowners and renters vital home safety repairs, enact and expand rent control ordinances, and promote the development of affordable housing throughout the city, not relying on Belle Haven alone to bear the brunt of nearly all new development.

**Physical Activity:** Encouraging additional physical activity can help improve the overall health of the community and, if done through modes of active transportation, can reduce local emissions leading to even more health benefits. To foster additional activity, existing barriers have to be addressed. 56 residents said there were barriers to being active and getting enough exercise, only 8 residents said there were no barriers. When it comes to promoting physical activity, residents prioritized increasing the prevalence of street lights and road lighting (35), upgrading, expanding and maintaining sidewalks (33), and other physical infrastructure changes (ie, bike share, covered rest areas, bike storage, etc.) (31). Residents pointed out existing sidewalks were not compliant with requirements under the Americans with Disability Act and that they feel unsafe walking and exercising due to the lack of lighting and severe traffic.

**Recommendations:** The community would like to see the city install streetlights along major residential corridors, assess the prevalence, accessibility, and ADA compliance of sidewalks in the neighborhood and look to add additional sidewalks where feasible. Additionally, a systematic assessment of neighborhood infrastructure should be undertaken and a major re-envisioning of streets and infrastructure is necessary to alleviate traffic, air quality issues, and promote active transport.

**Addressing Unique or Compounded Issues:** Residents saw several opportunities to address their unique challenges, which will only be exacerbated by climate change, sea level rise, and extreme heat. Residents suggested more trees (29) to reduce the prevalence and severity of extreme heat events while improving local air quality. They also saw opportunities to address noise pollution (25) by implementing traffic calming techniques and limiting the hours construction is taking place. They also thought attention should be paid to retrofitting buildings for resilience and energy efficiency (23) to protect their health on a multitude of fronts.

**Recommendations:** The community would like to see programs established that give residents trees, free of charge, and to see the City recommit to urban forestry efforts on public property by setting yearly urban canopy expansion goals. To address other resident concerns, residents encourage the creation of a publicly accessible ticketing system for requesting maintenance and repairs to public property, and a community driven process to find a solution to problems surrounding residential parking.

# Methodology

## Participant Demographics

Those who participated in the focus group meetings were representative of the neighborhood at large. The focus groups had substantial Latino representation and one of the focus groups was conducted entirely in Spanish to give everyone the opportunity to speak confidently in their first language — 44 residents attended that meeting. Black residents were well represented at both the general audience and parent and child meetings. There was also a strong showing from the Pacific Islander community at the general audience meeting.

Great attention was paid to make the meetings as accessible as possible. The meetings were held at the local public library, a place within walking distance so access to transportation was not a prerequisite. Dinner and drinks were provided and children were welcome to attend. A \$50 gift card was provided to each participant to compensate them for their expertise and recognize that they were taking time out of their busy schedules to help inform public decision making. Belle Haven is a working-class community where many residents work multiple jobs to support their families. Without these accessibility measures, attendance would have certainly been hurt. Implementing these accessibility measures was very successful in this instance, and if increased civic participation is how the inequalities between East and West Menlo Park are dissolved, expanding and mainstreaming them should be a priority.



## Outreach Methods

CRC coordinated with three other groups to conduct outreach to inform the community of these focus groups. The partners were the BHCDF, El Comité de Vecinos, and a group of three passionate community leaders. The outreach methodology consisted of each organization distributing the information through established relationship channels and leveraging their existing networks. Additionally, CRC created multilingual flyers to advertise each meeting and distributed them physically and electronically throughout the community. BHCDF circulated the flyer at local schools, El Comité conducted door-to-door canvassing, and the community leaders spoke to their neighbors door-to-door with CRC. CRC and each partner also circulated flyers through social media and to established Climate Change Community Teams in the area. The most effective form of outreach was through existing relationships and canvassing—when speaking with residents they were informed about the purpose of the meeting, told about the importance of their participation and told they'd receive dinner and a gift card for participating. Canvassers found that speaking about the health impacts of climate change, additional development, and traffic generated substantial interest in the meeting.

## Facilitation Methods

CRC and our partners co-created the content and procedure for each focus group, tailoring the material and format to best fit each audience. Each meeting consisted of a brief presentation of the

meeting objectives, information about the general plan update process, and a description of the environmental justice and safety elements. The partnering organizations saw the focus groups as an opportunity to further educate the community about its history and preserve its culture and character. To that end, each presentation also included a brief history of the neighborhood and an explanation of redlining and the discriminatory lending practices that continue to shape the community. This history served to ground the meeting in a shared experience and build trust and understanding among residents.



After the presentation, each meeting broke briefly for dinner. When people had finished eating, they were told to circulate to each table to complete the “jamboard” exercise. This consisted of drawing an ‘X’ alongside statements they agreed with. They could vote for as many or as few options as they saw fit. There were also provided Sticky Notes to comment on the items, add additional responses, or elaborate on their answer. There were 14 questions across the tables that residents had the opportunity to respond to. A facilitator was positioned at each table to answer questions, interpret materials, or

clarify the contents. After participants had time to circulate to each table, a survey was handed out and participants were asked to complete it and, for the first two groups, were asked to write any feedback they have in the margins. The final group simply completed the survey. The surveys were offered in Spanish and English and feedback was incorporated into the document before it was offered to the final focus group. Each participant returned their survey and then were handed their gift card after confirming they had signed in for the meeting.

# Results

Listed below are the combined results from all three focus groups. The comments listed came from the Sticky Notes used to extrapolate on responses. They have been lightly edited for clarity, but are otherwise true to form. Each area of discussion is bolded and underlined with the prompt for the exercise written in bold and the comments listed in bullet form. The (+X) denotes others who indicated agreement with the comment.

## Safety

<b>Top Safety Concerns</b>	
Air Quality	53
Drought Conditions	38
Earthquakes	40
Flooding	20
Hazardous Material	53
Heatwaves	33
Wildfire and Smoke	36
Sea level rise	19

### **Comments:**

- (+1) Home owners are required to have Flood Insurance and it is not affordable.
- Traffic & Public transportation (Down Hamilton people run stop signs).
- Crosswalks. You cannot assume you have the right of way.
- Sanitize sitting areas & benches, maintaining sidewalks clean.
- Willow rd & Bay front intersection is dangerous.
- Create safe walking route.
- Resources to unhoused people, they can be a hazard for community members and should be cared for.
- Programs and grants to help community centers, schools, and homes with air conditioning systems.
- More training and seminars on what to do in case of earthquakes and floods.
- Weatherization - AC & heaters for homes.
- Toxic waste - create a process to address this.
- Concern for air quality—families have members with Asthma.

## Promoting Civic Engagement

Yes	40
No	0

**Would you be willing to work with the city by working through community-based organizations and community leaders?**

Accessible information (language, etc)	35
Level of prior knowledge regarding the planning process	31
Time conflicts	27
Meeting format	26
Access to transportation	25
Power dynamics	17
Childcare	17

### **Improvements that could help you consider participating in these public decision-making processes**

#### **Comments:**

- I have tried calling the city multiple times, but no response. We need better communication.
  - Street lights are not maintained, the City should do regular, monthly maintenance in Belle Haven.
  - Respond to concerns emailed to the city and have a process for maintenance and community feedback.
  - Flyers & Outreach: Make sure they are in spanish as well.
  - Holding meetings in-person and in Belle haven or over Zoom with a lot of advertising. People have a lot of input, but may not have the time or have other conflicts.
- Provide community shuttles that are free for all to use.

- Have more meetings in the Belle Haven Library.
- The community wants to be better informed of when meetings of the city are happening.

### **Pollution Reduction**

<b>Pollution Sources of Concern</b>	
Traffic	63
Industrial Facilities	38
Wildfire Smoke	37
Gas Appliances	31
Smoking	21

**Comments:**

- EPA: Pulgas and Bay rd - Smell of a chemical since new development
- Rodents, pose health risks and can worsen breathing
- Traffic: Facebook Busses
- Less traffic commuting through the streets of the Belle Haven Community
- Dumbarton Smell is now closer to the Bayfront area, especially during the warm summers. The city used to spray to keep the smell away and should consider starting that again
- People drive too fast on Chilco. Speed bumps, firetrucks use the road but can do so elsewhere
- Sidewalks have lots of holes, a trip hazard and accessibility issue
- Solar in older homes is needed, but often require roof repairs
- Residents are concerned with the amount of cars in Belle Haven, some people block the side of the sidewalk with a trash bin just to save a spot for parking which makes it hard for other residents to pass by with their vehicle.
- We would like there to be bags for dog feces since some people don't pick up after their dog at public parks where children play and that is very bad since those feces have germs/bacteria.

<b>Water Concerns</b>	
Quality	61
Affordability	48
Accessibility	44

**Comments:**

- Water affordability: since water pipes have been renewed, cost has increased.
- Have more annual pickups from recolas and not make price for garbage pickup be so expensive to help reduce the garbage pollution.
- More disposable area for hazardous materials.

### **General Public Facilities Considerations**

<b>Priorities of Public Facilities</b>	
Community centers	50
Health care	47
Road structure encouraging and providing a safe route to walk, bike and use public transportation	45
Reliable internet access	42
Safe drinking water and wastewater services	38
Parks	36
Flood control	28

**Comments:**

- (+6) All the above
- (+1) Buses to transport children going to canada and high school
- Concerns with maintaining a local community center & Kelly park & Pool activities are affordable; Basketball, soccer & other activities.
- Prioritize Belle Haven Community members. Residents from the westside began to use the community center and they began a process to reserve the facilities, which made it hard for local BH residents to continue their use
- Local Belle Haven Community center should be for residents

- Community center: affordable programs & activities (Question: Are there going to be affordable programs & activities?)
- Reliable internet access: not have a strong internet affects youth (affecting their education) & elderly
- Assessment of sidewalks - street signs, the narrow sidewalks do not allow for strollers, wheelchairs, and other uses to use side walk when there are street signs placed almost in the middle. Hazardous for families
- Community Center: prioritize BH residents for rentals and making it affordable
- Local Health Care so that residents do not have to travel far
- Light improvement on Willow Road and Ivy Drive. Resident had a close call with police car that did not see the resident walking on crosswalk
- Safe Bike route - not safe for kids at the moment
- Hamilton, not safe
- More community spaces accessible for the use of the residents
- Closer pharmacy
- Affordable community programs
- Safety for bicycles/police safety tip program
- Grocery store needed
- Community center classes for youth and seniors, swim classes, expansion of the library
- Community center, classes for young youth
- Adding to park trees to bring oxygen for environment cleaner air

### Promoting Food Access

Yes	63
No	0

**Is it important to have more access to affordable and higher quality food? (In Belle Haven, near Belle Haven, neighboring cities)**

**Comments:**

- (+7) More grocery stores, food at markets is too expensive
- A Trader Joes is needed
- A super walmart, or something with affordable goods and services
- Winco or a Grocery Outlet would be preferred, so people can get healthy, affordable food
- (+2) Foodmax
- Sprouts
- (+4) A local pharmacy is greatly needed
- (+9) Safe stores
- (+8) Second Harvest - creating a location in Belle Haven
- (+7) Facebook has a mobile market on Sundays. Assess who is making use of the market and see if we can replicate Bloomhouse in Belle Haven
- (+6) More outreach on community gardens, location and hours to be made public
- (+6) A regular or affordable grocery store (at the moment we have little markets that are not affordable)
- (+5) Facebook Mobile Market: Increase access, so that you do not need to use mobile phone to make an order
- (+1) Promote Community Gardens
- (+1) Rent Planters & community gardens for families to cultivate organic veggies/fruit
- Affordable food - markets are expensive
- Move back the food giveaway to the Belle Haven Community
- Food for less (lower prices on food ESPECIALLY with the pandemic)
- A Walmart

- A grocery store with organic food that way residents have access to healthier food
- The grocery stores in Belle Haven sell food at a high price for bad quality food (health concern, food poisoning)
- Safe stores (cameras, police nearby)

### Promoting Safe and Sanitary Homes

Renovate homes that have...	
Pest infestation	37
Toxins like lead	35
Mold	35
Second/third hand smoke	33
Poor insulation	25
Plumbing and exposure	16
Water leaks	15

**Comments:**

- (+4) Mold: need to make sure there is enough air circulation
- (+4) Assistance Programs to help with indoor renovations and appliances
- (+1) Grants not loans
- No smoking at Belle Haven Park should be allowed.
- (+4) Rats
- Make living affordable
- (+4) Conduct home assessments to see if these concerns may be addressed. People may be scared to be cited.

- No cost programs.
- New pipes raised the cost of water.
- Construction caused more mice in people’s homes.
- Provide free resource to assist financially elderly/family with renovations, we lack knowledge about safe/sanitary conditions
- To make programs where residents can help out and clean the streets in Belle Haven (The city provides materials).
- To make a solution about construction since many rats from the areas that are being built go to where residents are living.

Affordability Priorities	
Make housing affordable	52
Protecting renters from displacement	45
Preserving existing affordable housing	37

**Comments:**

- Make housing affordable for people with low income and/or bad credit.
- (+1) Find a safe location to gather in case of emergencies.
- (+15) Prevent big companies from buying

homes/land in this area

- (+1) Displacement: When families moved out, their children also left, left their good jobs to be close to family and are no longer able to comeback.
- (+1) More renters than homeowners that can be due to barriers and hardships
- (+1) Hard to preserve affordable housing and will no longer be affordable for low and very low income families, only if someone is able to buy it and provide it as affordable
- (+1) Help and give our youth the opportunity to stay in the community
- No empty homes or apartments; make affordable after 90 days vacant
- Prevent LLC & companies from buying
- Monitor and regulate Airbnb
- Rent control for renters, landlords have raised the rent up by \$500
- Rent Control

- Available parking to Belle Haven Residents because homeowners who rent don't offer parking on their property to the renter, and they don't have enough money to pay for a permit from the city.

Site houses in neighborhoods with...	
Grocery stores	45
Community gardens	30
Parks	28
Work/education opportunities	26
Schoolyards	24
Access to road structure that encourages and provides a safe route to walk, bike, and use public transportation	17

**Comments:**

- New housing prices should not be raised for renters. Rent should be regulated.
- (+7) Increase awareness in promoting Jobtrain, Streetcode, other resources of job training and careers.
- (+5) Provide more opportunities for Youth to go to College and earn industry certificates that may take a few months. Many youth need to work to help sustain their family.
- (+2) Communication about Farmers Markets and adding more options

- A safeway that's affordable and organic

**Promoting Physical Activity**

Are there barriers to being active?	
Yes	56
No	8

**Comments:**

- The light on the Willow Rd. entry to the freeway confuses people.
- The traffic on Carlton Ave. makes it difficult to feel safe exercising.
- (+4) Child care

What improvements could help the community improve physical activity?	
Streetlights or lighting	35
Sidewalks	33
Improve public transportation infrastructure: covered rest areas, share, age friendly seating, bike storage	31
Provide safe routes to school to encourage active transportation	30
Bike lanes	25
Reliable, accessible, and convenient public transportation connecting homes to schools, work, and public facilities	24
Partnerships/agreements with schools, churches or other private properties to access more green spaces	10
No smoking policies	6

- (+3) Lack of time from working and commuting
- (+8) Access to community center and Kelly Park
- (+6) Regular group community exercise such as walking around the community
- Outdoor gym
- Community center gym
- Class for musical activities for adults, seniors and kids
- Sports for children, soccer and basketball
- (+2) Low cost programming
- More lights at night makes it hard to see/ people can't walk at night since they are afraid to walk outside in the dark.
- MORE POLICE at night to be on the lookout of drivers speeding or doing race shows
- Better communication with the community of Belle Haven and the City of Menlo Park also it's police department.



## Reducing Additional Unique or Compounded Health Risks:

What else should be addressed?	
More Trees	29
Noise Pollution	25
Retrofitting buildings & houses to improve energy efficiency	23
Cooling centers	19
Earthquake retrofit assistance	18
Temperature extremes	18
Smoke free multiunit housing	15
Efficient circulation	14
Conservation and recapture of water	14
Sea level rise	12

**Comments:**

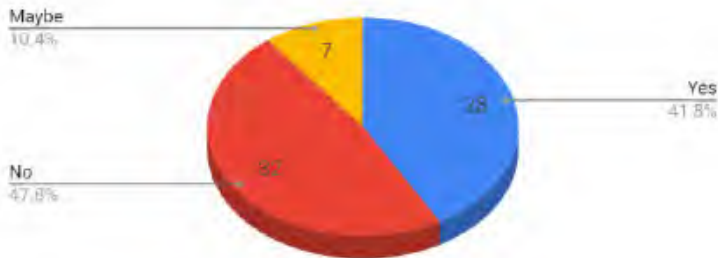
- The extreme chemical sewage smell that flows from Marsh Road and the Belle Haven community in the evening & 2:30 am from Facebook area
- Bad sewage smell and taste of drinking water
- Need speed bumps on streets to stop vehicle racing (1)
- Drainage outside have lots of rodents and insects that come to house
- More trees!
- Also to cut down branches when needed since it can be a danger to residents.
- Air sensors in apartments for the future so residents can see how the air they are breathing is.

# Capacity Building Needs

An exit poll was administered to two of the focus groups to inform facilitators about best practices and decide if alterations needed to be made to focus group facilitation. The results of the exit poll are presented in graphical form below. They demonstrate the success of the informative aspects of the focus groups presentations and underline the need for significant investments in community capacity building and education around existing environmental justice hazards. Very few residents were aware of the ongoing Environmental Justice and Safety elements update process but were very interested in the issues being discussed. This indicates that prior outreach methods were not particularly effective at reaching the Belle Haven community.

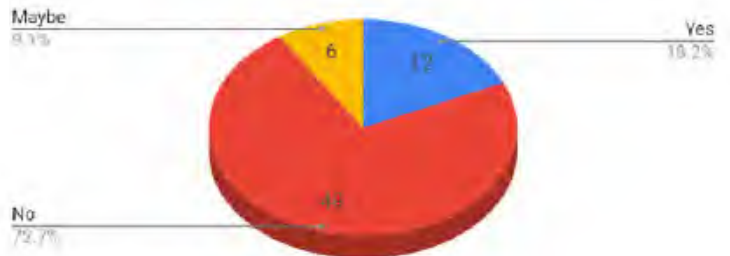
**Before you came to this discussion, did you know much about Belle Haven's history?**

(count = 67)



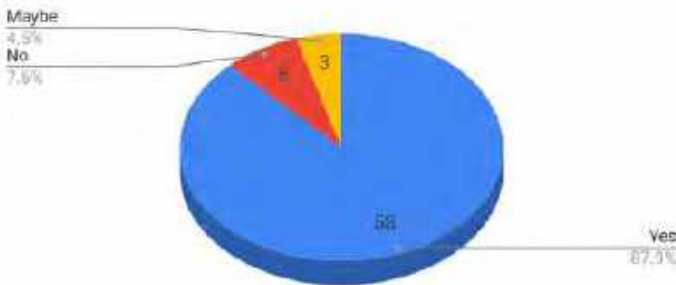
**Before you came, did you know much about the Environmental Justice Element?**

(count = 66)



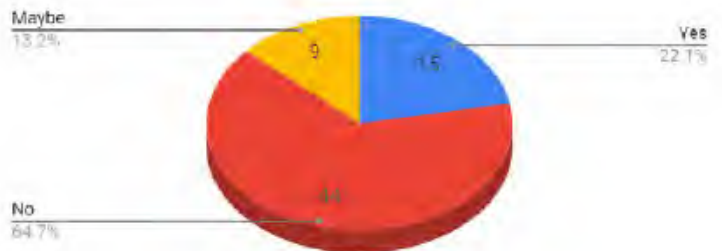
**Are the topics discussed important to you?**

(count = 66)



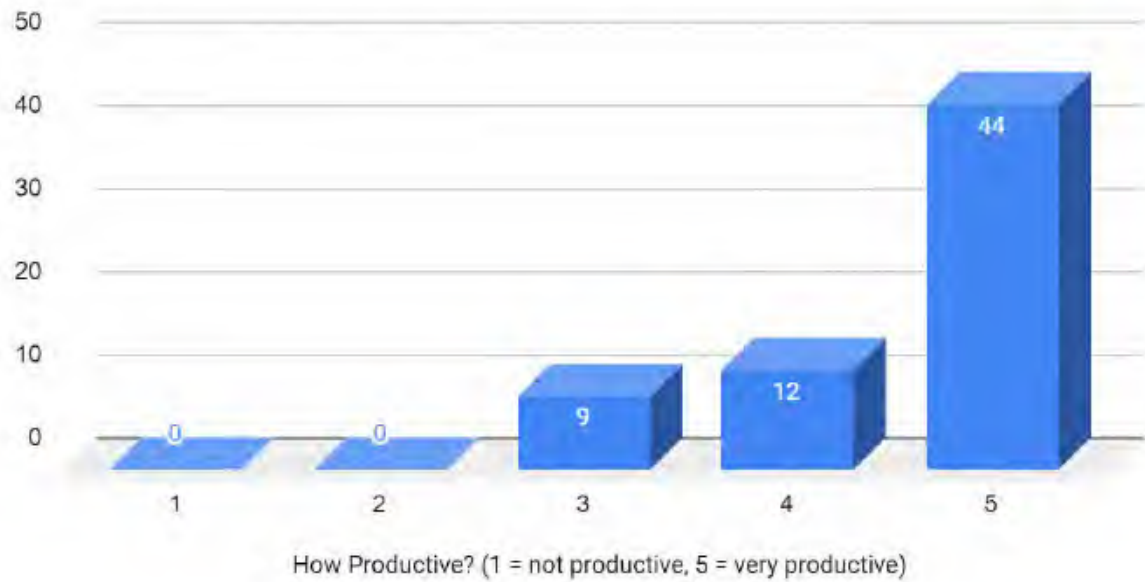
**Before you came, did you know much about the Safety Element?**

(count = 68)



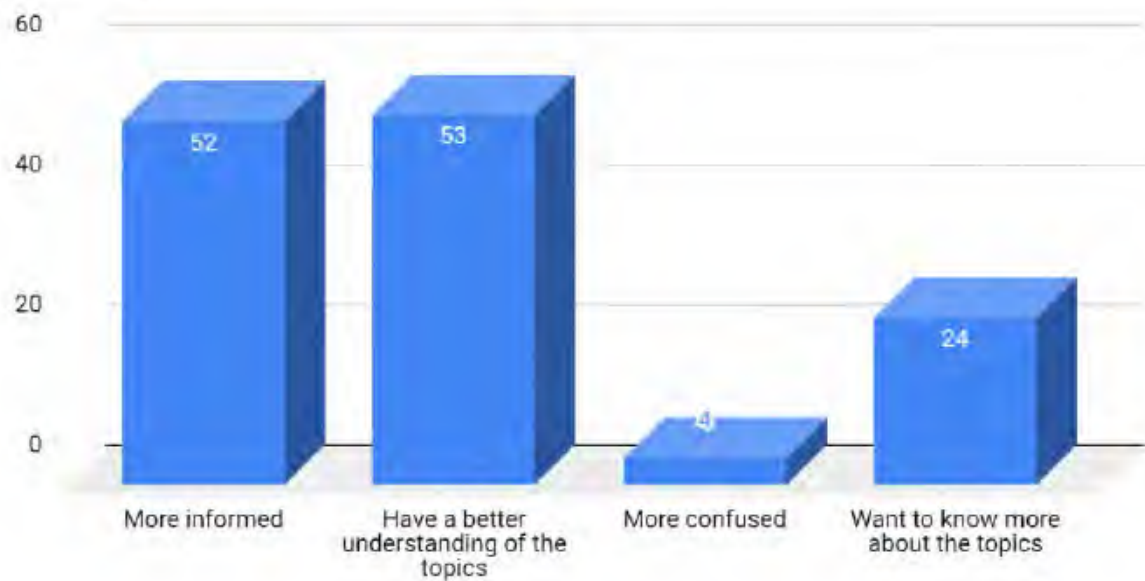
### Did you find the breakout activities productive?

(count = 65)



### What are your takeaways from this discussion?

(count = 67)





# Recommendations

Based on the cumulative results of three focus groups in which Belle Haven residents offered direct feedback on their environmental justice and safety priorities, the following areas of policy proposals should be evaluated and implemented with urgency.

**Safety:** Community members identified Air Quality, Hazardous Materials, and Earthquakes as their top safety concerns. To improve air quality, the city of Menlo Park should consider **appropriating funds for transportation infrastructure improvements** that reduce both residential and cut-through traffic. This can be achieved through traffic calming infrastructure like chicanes and speed bumps. To address concerns of residents about hazardous materials, Menlo Park should **work closely with other oversight agencies to identify and ameliorate legacy pollution**. This matter is urgent: as sea levels rise, the water table will be elevated in some places which can cause hazardous materials to circulate more widely and enter people’s homes through water and waste water infrastructure. To alleviate concerns around earthquakes, Menlo Park should **initiate neighborhood specific disaster preparedness planning** and work closely with Community Based Organizations and pre-existing CERT programming.

**Promoting Civic Engagement:** Residents identified information accessibility, prior knowledge, and time conflicts as key barriers to their civic participation. To address these concerns, residents would like the City of Menlo Park to **make policies to ensure substantial, sustained multilingual outreach** for important city meetings or any policy that will disproportionately affect the Belle Haven neighborhood. The City should **expand its education and capacity building opportunities** for residents so they have the confidence and background knowledge to participate in public forums. To carry this out, the City should partner with CBOs who have high community trust to further lower barriers to participation. Any and all outreach and capacity building workshops should compensate Belle Haven residents for their expertise and participation—barriers to public meetings and the levers of power is partially why current disparities exist. Finally, the City should **revamp existing protocols around the scheduling of public meetings** to ensure they take place outside of work hours and allow residents a wide range of options for participating.



**Reducing Pollution:** When it comes to opportunities to reduce air pollution in their community, participants identified residential and cut through traffic in the neighborhood, emissions from industrial facilities, and wildfire smoke as top concerns. In addition to changing physical infrastructure to reduce traffic and vehicle presence in the community, the City of Menlo Park should also **further incentivize the use of electric vehicles and pursue micro-mobility alternatives like discounted or subsidized bicycles, electric bicycles, and electric scooters**. To address emissions from industrial

sources, the City should work closely with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and other regulatory partners to find opportunities to **strengthen permitting requirements for polluting facilities and enforce existing laws surrounding the use of Best Available Control Technology (BACT)**. The City should take a proactive stance to wildfire smoke and treat it as the extreme public health crisis it is. The City should create programs to retrofit homes for smoke resilience by providing **funding for weatherization and the distribution of air purifiers for income qualified residents and those with health conditions**. When it comes to water pollution, Belle Haven residents are concerned about the quality and affordability of their water. The City should **conduct regular tap water testing and hold workshops to explain the results** and raise awareness of other potential groundwater threats. The city should **explore options to help families with water expenses**.

**Public Facilities:** When it comes to public facility provision, residents wanted greater access to community centers, healthcare facilities, and transportation upgrades that foster alternative modes of transit. To that end, the community recommends the City **reexamine administrative policies governing community centers to encourage affordable and accessible programming and look to expand existing facilities**. The City should consider policies incentivizing the **creation of a community health clinic in Belle Haven**. Currently, residents either have to cross Highway 101 to receive care, or travel several miles to the Ravenswood Clinic in East Palo Alto. Finally, as mentioned previously, major infrastructure investment is required to facilitate active and alternative modes of transportation.

**Food Access:** Residents are concerned about the community's access to healthy and affordable food. While a grocery store space is currently planned for the Willow Village development site, the City of Menlo Park **should ensure that the eventual occupant offer high quality, affordable food and be required to take food assistance vouchers and contain a pharmacy**. The city should look to CBO partnerships and find spaces to **sponsor a farmer's market** and expand access to Facebook's Mobile Market by requiring them to alter ordering processes to make them accessible to those without smart phones.

**Ensuring Safe and Sanitary Homes:** Residents want to see programs that help homeowners address issues with pests, mold, and toxics like lead and asbestos. They also want to see housing affordability and reduced displacement and gentrification. To that end, the community recommends the City **begin investing in programs that offer homeowners and renters vital home safety repairs**. These types of programs already exist through other funding sources and CBOs like El Concilio of San Mateo County, but additional resources could greatly expand access and awareness of these repair programs. Additionally, the City should urgently **enact Rent Control ordinances** and other measures to prevent displacement. The City should further coordinate with state housing authorities and other sources of funds to **expand the development of affordable housing throughout the city, and not force Belle Haven to bear the brunt of nearly all new development**.

**Physical Activity:** There are significant barriers to physical activity in the Belle Haven neighborhood. Among them are a lack of streetlights, unsafe or inaccessible sidewalks, and other infrastructure challenges. To address these concerns, residents would like to see the City **install streetlights along major residential corridors and conduct an assessment to ensure all are functional**. Further, the City should **assess the prevalence, accessibility, and ADA compliance of sidewalks in the neighborhood and look to add additional sidewalks where feasible**. Finally, it is clear that the

prevalence of traffic, speed of vehicles, and lack of infrastructure for alternative modes of transportation are a profound problem for many aspects of life in Belle Haven. **A systematic assessment of neighborhood infrastructure should be undertaken and a major re-envisioning of the infrastructure is necessary** to address resident concerns, achieve climate goals, and create a more equitable Menlo Park.

**Addressing Unique or Compounded Difficulties:** Several unique or compounded issues were identified by residents. Among them are a lack of trees, high noise pollution, and low building resilience. The community saw opportunities to address these issues by creating **programs to give residents free trees and redouble urban forestry efforts on public property by setting yearly urban canopy expansion goals**. Many studies suggest at least 40% Canopy coverage is necessary to alleviate the Urban Heat Island Effect—the City should set goals to achieve that level by 2045. Prior recommendations address building resilience and traffic reduction, these traffic calming measures will do a lot to reduce noise pollution. Many participants voiced in comments that they felt their reports to the City and requests for maintenance were never responded to, making them feel they weren't valued by the City. This could be addressed by **creating a publicly accessible ticketing system for requesting maintenance and repairs to public property**. The City should communicate to residents where in the queue a resident's request is and regularly report progress on addressing community member complaints. Many residents also expressed their concern with parking regulations and enforcement. To this end, residents recommend conducting **a community driven process to find a solution to residential parking** as it impacts air quality, quality of life, and a lack of parking could lead people to expanding their driveways, worsening extreme heat events.

# Conclusion

The outreach process for this project has been extremely successful and validates CRC's accessibility methodology. A lack of access to public discussions and decision-making processes for low income communities and communities of color is a major reason for the existing disparities between Belle Haven and other neighborhoods of Menlo Park. That is why equitable participation in decision-making practices is a cornerstone of the environmental justice movement. Through a just outreach process and strong meeting facilitation mechanics we were able to clearly hear the voices of residents in the Belle Haven Community. CRC is incredibly thankful for our community partners for their leadership throughout this process. Decades of systemic racism and disinvestment have hurt the community's faith in governmental processes, but once people have the opportunity to participate meaningfully in a public process, advocate to see their suggestions implemented, and see the resulting improvement in their lives, their faith in the governmental structures can begin to be restored. The residents of Belle Haven are eager to participate and will do so when the barriers to doing so are removed. If the City is serious about its commitments to environmental justice and reducing inequalities within their city, they will listen to the voices of Belle Haven residents and move quickly to address the history of neglect in this community. Belle Haven residents have created an extraordinary community and are thriving in the face of the adversity they've had to overcome. It is beyond time to act on the demands of justice and create better living conditions that provide support for a neighborhood that enriches the City and region.



# Appendix

To read the full report from each of our partner organizations, click the links below:

[Focus Group 1: Belle Haven Community Development Fund](#)

[Focus Group 2: El Comite de Vecinos](#)

[Focus Group 3: Community Leaders](#)

Menlo Park EJ+Safety Survey Final Report  
July 12, 2022  
Climate Resilient Communities

## Executive Summary

A coalition of community-based organizations conducted a survey for the City of Menlo Park's Environmental Justice and Safety Element. From May 20 through July 12, 2022, online and in-person surveys were deployed throughout the city, with a focus on Belle Haven. 420 total responses were collected. This report summarizes the survey design and results. Along with overall distributions of participant responses, given sufficient sample sizes of the subgroups Belle Haven residents (328) vs. non-Belle Haven residents (92) and Latinx households (171) and Black households (72) compared to White households (88), we were able to make claims of statistical significance disaggregating by neighborhood and race and ethnicity<sup>1</sup>. Of particular note are the following key findings:

- 1. A majority of respondents experienced poor air quality, traffic congestion, and dust and noise from construction as adverse environmental impacts within their households in the last ten years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than other Menlo Park households. Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than their White counterparts.**
  - a. The next most common environmental impacts (experienced by at least a quarter of respondents) were extreme heat both indoors and outdoors, lack of working air conditioning, poor tap water quality, and presence of mold in the home.
  - b. Particularly notable disparities between Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households: extreme heat indoors (51% vs. 34%) and outdoors (34% vs. 20%), poor tap water quality (31% vs. 12%), presence of mold (29% vs. 13%), poor soil quality (27% vs. 12%), flood-related travel disruptions (23% vs. 5%), and home insurance claims related to environmental issues (13% vs. 1%).
  - c. Particularly notable disparities between Latinx and White households: presence of mold (35% vs. 15%) and poor tap water quality (31% vs. 14%). Notably bucking the trend, Latinx households reported less experience of traffic congestion than White households (49% vs. 74%). It's possible that this finding

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<sup>1</sup> Pacific Islander households appeared to have statistically significant differences compared to White households across all topics, but the sample size was too small to have confidence in particular quantities. Sample sizes were too small for Native American and Other Race households to report any findings.

reflects prior literature on how minority populations may under-report “nuisance” issues while prioritizing more serious life and safety concerns<sup>2</sup>.

- d. Particularly notable disparities between Black and White households: poor tap water quality (33% vs. 14%).
  - e. Asian households, on the other hand, did not experience statistically significant differences compared to White households.
  - f. Recommendations: Implement air and noise pollution mitigation measures specifically in Belle Haven. Install sensors to measure outcomes before and after pilot interventions. Work with Belle Haven community organizations to scope pilot projects and ensure cultural competency when interventions are conducted at the household level.
- 2. More than a third of respondents experienced stress and anxiety, high blood pressure or cholesterol, COVID-19, and asthma within their households in the last ten years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than other Menlo Park households. Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than their White counterparts.**
- a. The next most common health issues (experienced by at least a quarter of respondents) were diabetes and obesity.
  - b. Particularly notable disparities between Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households: high blood pressure or cholesterol (54% vs. 32%), COVID-19 (50% vs. 21%), asthma (45% vs. 13%), diabetes (35% vs. 5%), and disability (21% vs. 8%).
  - c. Particularly notable disparities between Latinx and White households: high blood pressure or cholesterol (51% vs. 33%), COVID-19 (48% vs. 20%), asthma (41% vs. 19%), diabetes (33% vs. 5%), and heat stroke (20% vs. 4%). Notably bucking the trend, Latinx households reported less experience of stress and anxiety than White households (37% vs. 55%) - once again, a potential reflection of “nuisance”-related response bias.
  - d. Particularly notable disparities between Black and White households: Asthma (47% vs. 19%), disability (37% vs. 10%), and diabetes (35% vs. 5%).
  - e. Asian households, on the other hand, did not experience statistically significant differences compared to White households.
  - f. Recommendations: Conduct culturally competent outreach to inform Belle Haven residents of the prevalence of health issues in the neighborhood, environmental risk factors, and opportunities for preventative or supportive action.
- 3. About a third of respondents have spent more than \$100 in the past year on home repairs related to environmental damages or risks. More than a third of respondents have delayed home repairs due to cost, with significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities. A quarter of respondents, if faced with a \$400**

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<sup>2</sup> Kontokosta & Hong. *Bias in smart city governance: How socio-spatial disparities in 311 complaint behavior impact the fairness of data-driven decisions*. Sustainable Cities and Society, Volume 64, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2020.102503>.

**emergency expense, would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash, and would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money, with significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities.**

- a. Belle Haven households were more likely (43%) to have delayed repairs than non-Belle Haven households (22%), were more likely (31%) to need to rely on credit or borrowing than non-Belle Haven households (2%), and were less likely to consider the costs of housing (29%) and other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare (32%) *easy to cover*, compared to non-Belle Haven households (71% and 73%).
  - b. Latinx households were more likely (44%) to have delayed repairs than White households (25%), were more likely (33%) to need to rely on credit or borrowing than White households (10%), and were less likely to consider the costs of housing (17%) and other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare (23%) *easy to cover*, compared to White households (70% and 68%).
  - c. Black households were more likely (61%) to have delayed repairs than White households (25%), were more likely (40%) to need to rely on credit or borrowing than White households (10%), and were less likely to consider the costs of housing (20%) and other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare (23%) *easy to cover*, compared to White households (70% and 68%).
  - d. The findings on emergency expenses align with national averages, based on Federal Reserve research<sup>3</sup>.
  - e. Recommendations: Develop a rapid response program that can assist Belle Haven homeowners with emergency home repairs through a no-interest loan, including volunteer labor and donated materials.
- 4. More than a third of respondents would prioritize spending extra money on air conditioning, air purifiers, home repairs, and earthquake-related upgrades, compared to solar, rainwater capture, home insurance, or electrification.**
- a. There do not appear to be significant differences in priorities based on the presence of elderly household members, with the exception of an increased preference for rainwater capture or water recycling (33% vs. 23%).
  - b. Households that perceive themselves as financially burdened are less likely to prioritize electrification (13% vs. 27%) and more likely to prioritize home insurance (28% vs. 19%) and air conditioning (46% vs. 37%).
  - c. Recommendations: Expand reduced cost home weatherization and retrofit programs, as well as DIY air filter initiatives.
- 5. More than a third of respondents would prioritize public spending on pedestrian safety, road repairs, safer biking routes, street trees, and improved parks or community gardening, compared to public air quality monitoring, stormwater management, code enforcement, and flood barriers.**

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3

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/2022-economic-well-being-of-us-households-in-2021-dealing-with-unexpected-expenses.htm>

- a. Recommendations: While continuing to mitigate risk from less frequent climate hazards, deepen prioritization of public transportation and recreation infrastructure in Belle Haven.
- 6. From a safety perspective, Belle Haven households are more exposed to natural hazards like floods, but appear to have and value insurance as a resilience strategy. They also strongly prioritize transportation safety.**
- a. Belle Haven households are more likely to have experienced floods affecting neighborhood travel (23%) than non-Belle Haven households (5%).
  - b. Belle Haven households are more likely to have experienced a home insurance claim related to environmental issues (13%) than non-Belle Haven households (1%).
  - c. Belle Haven households appear to be more likely to carry earthquake insurance (60%) than non-Belle Haven households (45%), and more likely to carry flood insurance (69%) than non-Belle Haven households (35%).
  - d. Belle Haven households appear to place higher priority on home insurance than non-Belle Haven households as an individual household improvement.
  - e. Belle Haven households appear to place higher priority on pedestrian safety and road surface improvement than non-Belle Haven households as a neighborhood-level improvement.
  - f. Recommendations: Further study the prevalence of public and private insurance in Belle Haven to ensure equitable coverage. Ensure that major public investments in flood and earthquake risk mitigation are focused on supporting the most exposed and vulnerable Belle Haven residents.

The survey clarifies the extent of environmental, health, and financial disparities at the intersection of geography and race and ethnicity, with Belle Haven bearing the brunt of exposure to pollution and natural hazards and concentrating social and economic vulnerability. The implications for the City of Menlo Park's Environmental Justice and Safety Elements, as part of the General Plan update, include a clear need to prioritize public investments and policy preferences that support Belle Haven residents above and beyond non-Belle Haven residents in order to close longstanding disparities, shape culturally competent opportunities for Belle Haven residents of color to provide specific, substantive input into policies and programs, and ensure that communities who have felt civically disengaged or ignored receive clear signals of real-world improvements and appreciation for their patience.

## Acknowledgements

This survey would not have been possible without the leadership of the Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team, Belle Haven Action, El Comite, and Belle Haven Community Development Fund. The City of Menlo Park and M Group provided useful comments in the survey design process. City Systems prepared survey tools, conducted data analysis, and drafted this report.

# Survey Design

## Community Input

The survey design was primarily based on feedback from a Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team (BHCCCT) meeting on April 27, 2022. Participants were shown some prior examples of surveys conducted in and around Menlo Park and asked to share their recommendations for what questions should be in the Belle Haven survey. They also emphasized the importance of keeping the survey short, ideally under 10 questions. The resultant draft achieved a minimum question count by leveraging “check all that apply” style questions, which has the effect of combining many individual yes/no questions into one larger thematic bucket. Therefore, the survey was essentially about 50 yes/no questions, and enabled tallying percentages of respondents who responded affirmatively to each statement. Each question had an “Other” option which was cleaned and incorporated into final analysis. The overall thematic buckets were:

1. Adverse experiences of environmental impacts in the last 10 years
2. Adverse experiences of health problems in the last 10 years
3. Adverse experiences of financial stress in the last 10 years
4. Prioritization of personal risk mitigation expenditures
5. Prioritization of public risk mitigation expenditures

The survey also captured a limited set of demographic characteristics of the household:

1. # of household members, by age buckets
2. Races and ethnicities represented in the household

Other household characteristics can be identified using the home address, when provided. Using property data, we are able to identify tenure (renter vs. owner), size of home and number of bedrooms (from which we can identify the degree of overcrowding), age of structure, and estimated housing costs. We can also relate the home location to certain environmental exposures, like proximity to major roadways, amount of tree canopy, etc.

Generally, we expect to find many affirmative statements to be correlated within and across thematic buckets, and document these associations below. We pay particular attention to any significant differences in outcomes across demographic groups. We highlight particular vulnerable segments of the community who appear to have high amounts of pre-existing health risks and financial stress, and have already or have yet to experience environmental impacts, and estimate the total number of people/households who may be in need of assistance. The last two questions enable us to identify and quantify the most desirable resources at the household and community level. This information should directly inform nonprofit programs, grant applications, and longer term urban planning.

# Full Questionnaire

## Environmental Justice and Safety Survey

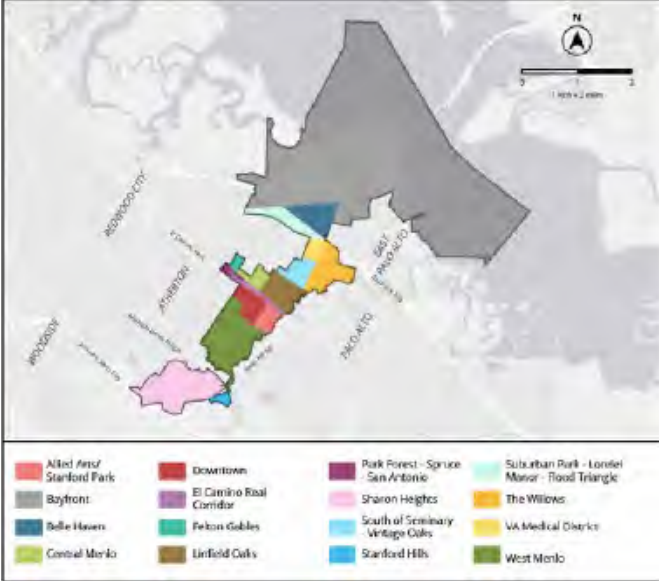
The goal of this survey is to inform action on environmental justice (addressing the disproportionate exposure of marginalized communities to environmental harms) and safety (protecting everyone from natural hazards) in our neighborhood. You will be asked about your direct experience of environmental harms, health challenges, and financial stress, as well as your priorities for household and neighborhood improvements. Thousands of homes are slated to be built within and near Belle Haven in the next decade, which could make some of these issues worse, unless our community speaks up about our concerns and needs. Thank you!

<p><b>1. Have you or your family been affected by any of the following in the last 10 years?</b> Check all that apply.</p> <p><i>We want to make sure the survey captures the full range of environmental issues you've experienced.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Poor air quality</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Poor soil quality</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Dust and noise from construction</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Presence of mold in my home</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Extreme heat in my home</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of working air conditioning</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Extreme heat affecting neighborhood travel</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Rain or weather-related flood damage to my home</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Floods affecting neighborhood travel</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Home insurance claim due to environmental issues</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other environmental issues: _____</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Traffic congestion</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Poor tap water quality</li></ul>
<p><b>2. Have any of the following health issues affected your household in the last 10 years?</b> Check all that apply.</p> <p><i>Environmental issues can cause health problems or make them worse. Local public health authorities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Asthma</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Cancer</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Obesity</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Migraines</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Heat stroke</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> High blood pressure or cholesterol</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive/birth challenges</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Stress and anxiety</li></ul>

<p><i>may not know how often health problems happen in your neighborhood. Sometimes not all health problems are addressed by healthcare.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Disability      <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health problems</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other health issues: _____</p>
<p><b>3. Which of the following applies to your household?</b> Check all that apply.</p> <p><i>Environmental issues can also cause financial stress, such as flood-related damage that needs repair. We want to make sure the survey identifies the level of financial insecurity in the community.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> My household can easily cover the cost of housing.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My household has spent more than \$100 in the past year on repairing damages caused by the environment or reducing potential impacts.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We have delayed repairs we want to do to our home (like roof, windows, mold) because of cost.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We do not have or need flood insurance.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We do not have earthquake insurance.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If my household faced a \$400 emergency expense, we would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In order to pay a \$400 emergency expense, my household would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other financial challenges: _____</p>
<p><b>4. Which of the following would you prioritize if you had extra money to spend on your household's environmental health and safety?</b> Write "1" in the box next to your first choice, "2" for your second choice, "3" for your third choice, as many choices as you'd like.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Replace gas appliances</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Solar panels or battery storage</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit</p>



	<input type="checkbox"/> Rainwater capture or water recycling <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy food (including gardening) <input type="checkbox"/> Home insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Other personal expenses: _____
<p><b>5. Which of the following would you prioritize for neighborhood improvements?</b> Write “1” in the box next to your first choice, “2” for your second choice, “3” for your third choice, as many choices as you’d like.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian safety (sidewalks, crosswalks, speed bumps) <input type="checkbox"/> Safer biking routes <input type="checkbox"/> Improved transit infrastructure (bus stops, signs, benches) <input type="checkbox"/> Improved roads (potholes) <input type="checkbox"/> Improved parks or community gardening <input type="checkbox"/> More street trees <input type="checkbox"/> Cool and clean air shelters (community center) <input type="checkbox"/> Flood barriers along rivers or bayfront <input type="checkbox"/> Improved storm drainage <input type="checkbox"/> Improved water supply (safe drinking, firefighting) <input type="checkbox"/> Air quality monitoring sensors in public spaces <input type="checkbox"/> Improved code enforcement (illegal parking) <input type="checkbox"/> Security cameras for safety and dumping <input type="checkbox"/> Other public investments: _____
<p><b>6. How many people live in your home?</b> Provide a number for each age range.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> # of Children 0-17 <input type="checkbox"/> # of Adults 18-29 <input type="checkbox"/> # of Adults 30-59 <input type="checkbox"/> # of Adults 60+

<p><b>7. What is your household race or ethnicity?</b> Check all that apply.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Latinx</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> White</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Black</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Asian</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Native American</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Latinx	<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Black	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American	<input type="checkbox"/> Other																		
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<p><b>8. Email</b> (to be entered into raffle for \$100 gift card)</p>																										
<p><b>9. Neighborhood</b></p>	 <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Allied Arts - Stanford Park</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Downtown</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Suburban Park - Lonsiel Manor - Flood Triangle</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Bayfront</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> El Camino Real Corridor</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Heights</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> The Willows</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Belle Haven</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Felton Gables</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> South of Serrano - Vintage Oaks</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> VA Medical Districts</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Central Menlo</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Linfield Oaks</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Stanford Hills</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> West Menlo</td> </tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Allied Arts - Stanford Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Bayfront</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Belle Haven</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Centro Menlo</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Downtown</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> El Camino Real Corridor</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Felton Gables</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Linfield Oaks</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Allied Arts - Stanford Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Downtown	<input type="checkbox"/> Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio	<input type="checkbox"/> Suburban Park - Lonsiel Manor - Flood Triangle	<input type="checkbox"/> Bayfront	<input type="checkbox"/> El Camino Real Corridor	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Heights	<input type="checkbox"/> The Willows	<input type="checkbox"/> Belle Haven	<input type="checkbox"/> Felton Gables	<input type="checkbox"/> South of Serrano - Vintage Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> VA Medical Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Central Menlo	<input type="checkbox"/> Linfield Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Stanford Hills	<input type="checkbox"/> West Menlo	<input type="checkbox"/> Allied Arts - Stanford Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Bayfront	<input type="checkbox"/> Belle Haven	<input type="checkbox"/> Centro Menlo	<input type="checkbox"/> Downtown	<input type="checkbox"/> El Camino Real Corridor	<input type="checkbox"/> Felton Gables	<input type="checkbox"/> Linfield Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Heights <input type="checkbox"/> South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks <input type="checkbox"/> Stanford Hills <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle <input type="checkbox"/> The Willows <input type="checkbox"/> VA Medical District <input type="checkbox"/> West Menlo
<b>10. Address</b> (optional)	

## Canvassing Strategy

The existing race and ethnicity distribution of Menlo Park and Belle Haven, according to the 2020 Decennial Census, are shown below.

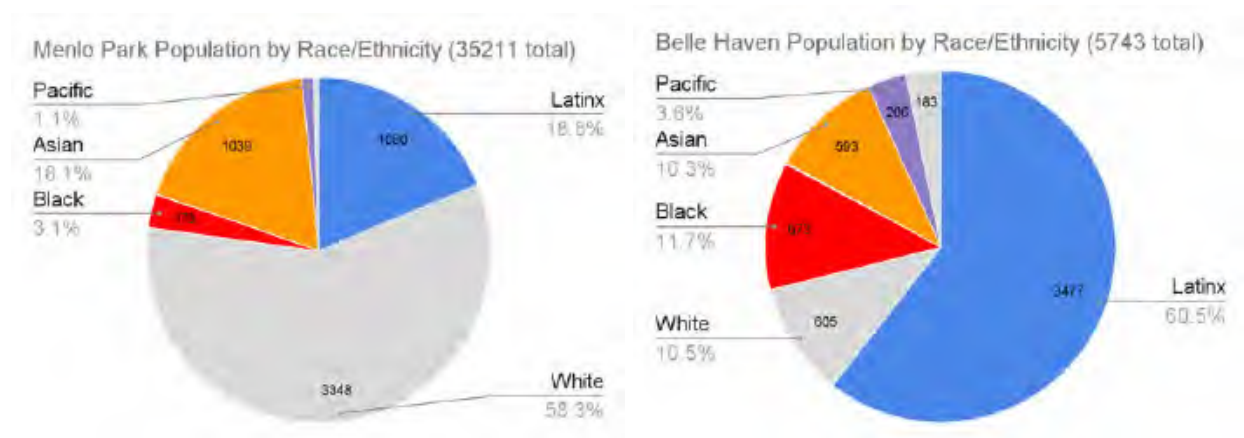


Figure 1. Menlo Park and Belle Haven population by race and ethnicity, 2020 Decennial Census.

Our chosen sampling strategy was to strive to survey equal proportions of Latinx, White, Black, and Asian respondents (i.e., 50 each). Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander, American Indian & Alaska Native, and Other Race were expected to reach insufficient sample size. With these sample sizes, if we see differences on any one yes/no question of about 27 percentage points, those would be statistically significant findings. This same reasoning can be used to compare groups of respondents categorized by the presence of youth or elderly, or by renter vs. owner.

We trained canvassing teams from local community-based organizations to walk specified blocks in pairs, with a focus on Belle Haven given their local knowledge. Because the distribution of race and ethnicity is quite heterogeneous in Belle Haven (see maps below), we assigned specific blocks through random simulation that were expected to yield the most equal proportions of Latinx, White, Black, and Asian respondents. Canvassing teams received a list of addresses going around the block in one direction, and were asked to record whether they attempted to knock, talked to someone, and/or got a survey. We evaluated progress towards demographic targets midway through the survey period and used this progress to reassign blocks for the canvassing teams.



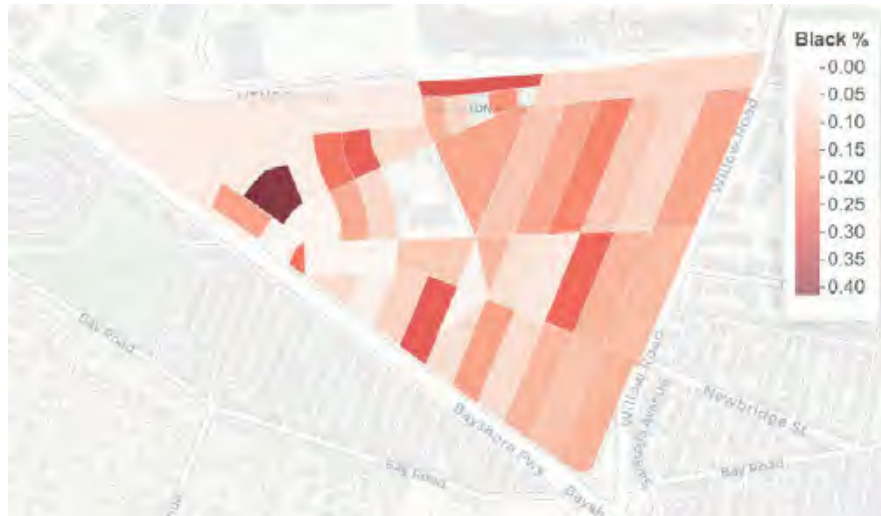


Figure 2. Belle Haven total population, % Latinx, and % Black by block, 2020 Decennial Census.

## Results

As of July 12, we had access to 420 total survey responses. 303 were paper responses collected from focus groups or door-to-door surveying. 117 were online form responses.

## Menlo Park Neighborhoods

Participants were asked to select one of the Housing Element designated neighborhoods on the online survey. Almost all paper surveys were completed by Belle Haven residents.

Table 1. Distribution of survey participants by neighborhood.

Neighborhood	# Survey Participants	% Survey Participants
Belle Haven	328	78.1
West Menlo	17	4
The Willows	15	3.6
Centro Menlo	13	3.1
Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	13	3.1
Sharon Heights	9	2.1
Downtown	7	1.7
Linfield Oaks	6	1.4
Allied Arts - Stanford Park	4	1

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	3	0.7
El Camino Real Corridor	2	0.5
Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio	2	0.5
Bayfront	1	0.2

## Race and Ethnicity

Participants were asked to check all races/ethnicities that applied to their household. 18 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 402, treating multiple options as fractions of a whole household, we observe the following distribution.

*Table 2. Distribution of survey participant households by race and ethnicity.*

Race/Ethnicity	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Menlo Park HHs, 2020 Census
Latino/Latinx	171	42.5	18.8
White	88	22	58.3
Black	72	17.8	3.1
Pacific Islander	35	8.7	1.1
Asian	27	6.8	18.1
Other	8	2	0.5
Native American	1	0.3	0.1

*Table 3. Belle Haven distribution of survey participant households by race and ethnicity.*

Race/Ethnicity	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Belle Haven HHs, 2020 Census
Latino/Latinx	167	53.9	60.5
Black	70	22.7	11.7
Pacific Islander	35	11.3	3.6
White	23	7.3	10.5
Asian	11	3.5	10.3
Other	3	1	3.2
Native American	1	0.3	0.1

Overall, the current distribution of participants somewhat resembles the real Belle Haven population, with overrepresentation of Black and Pacific Islander populations.

## Age

The # of household members of different ages represented within the participant pool are below. Some respondents mistakenly checked boxes instead of filling in numbers; these were conservatively converted to 1. 4+ responses were converted to 4.

*Table 4. Distribution of survey participant household members by age.*

Age	# Household Members	% Participant Household Members	% Menlo Park Population, 2016-2020 ACS
Children 0-17	397	25.8	24.6
Adults 18-29	283	18.4	14.6
Adults 30-59	528	34.3	39.5
Adults 60+	331	21.5	21.2

*Table 5. Belle Haven distribution of survey participant household members by age.*

Age	# Household Members	% Participant Household Members	% Belle Haven Population, 2016-2020 ACS
Children 0-17	345	27	26.2
Adults 18-29	246	19.2	17.4
Adults 30-59	433	33.9	44.6
Adults 60+	254	19.9	11.8

Overall, the current distribution of participants by age somewhat represents the real Belle Haven and Menlo Park age distribution, with overrepresentation of elderly residents.

## Tenure

Using public Secured Property Tax data from San Mateo County<sup>4</sup>, we were able to match 243 responses to specific parcels by address. On balance, the subset that provided addresses appears comparable to the full cohort, with some underrepresentation of White respondents.

<sup>4</sup> <https://datahub.smcgov.org/Government/Secured-Property-Taxes/pmvw-bs84>

Table 6. Distribution of survey participants that provided a matchable address by race and ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	# Households	% Survey Participants, with Address	% Survey Participants, Full
Latino/Latinx	102	43.8	42.5
Black	46	19.6	17.8
White	37	15.9	22
Pacific Islander	31	13.3	8.7
Asian	16	6.8	6.8
Other	1	0.4	2
Native American	0	0.2	0.3

Based on this subset, it appears that the survey overrepresented renter households significantly, as seen in the table below.

Table 7. Distribution of survey participants by tenure.

Tenure	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Belle Haven HHs, 2016-2020 ACS	% Menlo Park HHs, 2016-2020 ACS
Owner	93	38.3	0.52	0.6
Renter	150	61.7	0.48	0.4

## Overcrowding

Using Assessor data from San Mateo County<sup>5</sup>, we were able to match 223 responses to residential parcels with recorded information about the number of rooms. Using the U.S. Census Bureau’s definition of overcrowding, we found that the respondents experienced degrees of overcrowding that were comparable to Belle Haven per the American Community Survey, though this result should be considered an underestimate because of the way we rounded the household size responses. In fact, all of the surveyed households experiencing overcrowding were from Belle Haven.

Table 8. Distribution of survey participants by degree of overcrowding.

Condition	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Belle Haven HHs, 2016-2020 ACS	% Menlo Park HHs, 2016-2020 ACS
Overcrowding (> 1 persons/room)	45	0.20	0.18	0.04

<sup>5</sup> Provided with permission for nonprofit use by the San Mateo County Housing Department and Office of Sustainability.



Severe Overcrowding (> 1.5persons/room)	11	0.05	0.05	0.03
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## Environmental Impact

Respondents were asked: “Have you or your family been affected by any of the following in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.” 5 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 415, we observe the following distribution. The asterisks denote a statistically significant difference between households in Belle Haven and not in Belle Haven: a single asterisk reflects 90% confidence, two asterisks reflect 95% confidence, and three asterisks reflect 99% confidence. Statistical significance is a function of the difference between the proportions of the two groups, as well as the number of respondents in each group. The larger the difference and the larger both samples, the greater our confidence in a true population-level difference.

*Table 9. % of survey participant households by environmental impacts experienced. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Environmental Impact	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Poor air quality	73.3	72.8	73.5
Traffic congestion	65.5	72.8	63.4
Dust and noise from construction	52.9	45.7	54.9
Extreme heat in my home	46.9	33.7	50.6 ***
Extreme heat affecting neighborhood travel	30.7	19.6	33.8 **
Lack of working air conditioning	30	26.1	31.1
Poor tap water quality	26.9	12	31.1 ***
Presence of mold in my home	25.2	13	28.7 ***
Poor soil quality	23.3	12	26.5 ***
Floods affecting neighborhood travel	18.8	5.4	22.6 ***
Rain or weather-related flood damage to my home	15	8.7	16.8 *
Home insurance claim related to environmental issues	10	1.1	12.5 ***

The following table disaggregates the key results by race and ethnicity. The racial categories Native American and Other were excluded due to insufficient sample size. The asterisks denote a statistically significant difference between the given group and the White population.

*Table 10. % of survey participant households that experienced environmental impacts, by race and ethnicity. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Environmental Impact	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific
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					Islander
Traffic congestion	74.4	49.1 ***	68.8	79.9	94.3 **
Poor air quality	69.1	71.3	66.2	78.7	97.1 ***
Dust and noise from construction	51.3	41.7	62.7	38.4	82.9 ***
Extreme heat in my home	38	54.8 **	45	38.4	28.6
Lack of working air conditioning	24.2	41 **	25.4	22	17.1
Extreme heat affecting neighborhood travel	18.1	27.7	28	16.5	74.3 ***
Poor soil quality	14.7	21.8	28.4 *	20.1	20
Presence of mold in my home	14.7	35.3 ***	30.5 **	12.8	5.7
Poor tap water quality	14.1	31.4 ***	33.3 ***	14.6	25.7
Rain or weather-related flood damage to my home	7.8	17.7 *	16.6	5.5	20
Floods affecting neighborhood travel	7.4	16.1 *	7	7.3	82.9 ***
Home insurance claim related to environmental issues	3.4	12.3 **	12.6 *	3.7	2.9

The findings for Pacific Islander households include notably high proportions across many result areas. These may be inflated due to a considerably lower sample size (35) than we had for Latinx households (174), White households (87), and Black households (72). However, our Asian sample was also considerably lower (27), but without statistically significant differences compared to White households. Therefore, we interpret the Pacific Islander findings to reflect a true difference compared to White households, though perhaps not to the degree observed.

Other responses included:

- Noise from cars, trains, and planes (7)
- Litter or smell (4)
- Tree cover loss (3)
- Parking or traffic congestion (3)
- Noise from neighbor air conditioning, lawn work (3)
- Fire risk (2)
- Animal pests (2)
- Road safety
- High energy costs
- Sea level rise
- Lack of food access outside of business hours
- Lack of public water fountains
- Roof damage

## Health Issues

Respondents were asked: “Have any of the following health issues affected your household in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.” 44 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 376, we observe the following distribution.

*Table 11. Distribution of survey participant households by health issues experienced. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Health Issue	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Stress and anxiety	49.8	58.7	47.3 *
High blood pressure or cholesterol	49	31.5	54 ***
COVID-19	43.3	20.7	49.7 ***
Asthma	37.6	13	44.5 ***
Diabetes	28.8	5.4	35.4 ***
Obesity	26.2	16.3	29 **
Mental health problems	23.8	27.2	22.9
Migraines	22.1	20.7	22.6
Disability	18.3	7.6	21.3 ***
Cancer	17.9	12	19.5
Heat stroke	14	7.6	15.9 *
Reproductive/birth challenges	3.6	4.3	3.4

*Table 12. % of survey participant households that experienced health issues, by race and ethnicity. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Health Issue	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
Stress and anxiety	56.1	37.1 ***	49.2	67.1	71.4
High blood pressure or cholesterol	33	50.9 ***	50.3 **	36.6	74.3 ***
Mental health problems	26.7	26.8	22.8	14.6	2.9 ***
Migraines	23.5	24	19.3	26.8	5.7 **
COVID-19	19.8	47.9 ***	39.6 **	32.9	91.4 ***
Asthma	18.5	41.3 ***	47.1 ***	15.9	71.4 ***
Cancer	15.8	19.2	15.4	3.7	17.1
Obesity	14.5	29.6 **	22.8	14	51.4 ***
Disability	9.5	16.5	36.8 ***	3.7	8.6

Diabetes	5.2	32.5 ***	35 ***	12.8	65.7 ***
Heat stroke	3.8	20.1 ***	10.5	12.8	14.3 *
Reproductive/birth challenges	3.8	4.6	0.7	7.3	NA

Other responses included:

- Allergies (10)
- Lung/sinus infection (2)
- Aging, dementia
- Food poisoning
- Learning disability

## Financial Stress

Respondents were asked: “Which of the following applies to your household? Check all that apply.” 36 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 384, we observe the following distribution.

*Table 13. Distribution of survey participant households by financial stresses experienced. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Financial Stress	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
We do not have earthquake insurance.	43.1	55.4	39.6 ***
My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare.	41.2	72.8	32.3 ***
We do not have or need flood insurance.	38.3	65.2	30.8 ***
We have delayed repairs we want to do to our home (like roof windows mold) because of cost.	38.3	21.7	43 ***
My household can easily cover the cost of housing.	38.1	70.7	29 ***
My household has spent more than \$100 in the past year on repairing damages caused by the environment or reducing potential impacts.	31.2	31.5	31.1
In order to pay a \$400 emergency expense my household would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money.	25	2.2	31.4 ***
If my household faced a \$400 emergency expense we would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash.	24.8	6.5	29.9 ***

Table 14. % of survey participant households that experienced financial stresses, by race and ethnicity. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \* $P < 0.10$ , \*\* $P < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.01$ .

Financial Stress	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
My household can easily cover the cost of housing.	70.2	16.7 ***	19.8 ***	50.6 *	91.4 **
My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare.	67.9	23.1 ***	22.6 ***	50.6	94.3 ***
We do not have or need flood insurance.	66	31.5 ***	31.9 ***	47.6	8.6 ***
We do not have earthquake insurance.	55.7	42.5 *	42	51.2	8.6 ***
My household has spent more than \$100 in the past year on repairing damages caused by the environment or reducing potential impacts.	29.6	30	35.4	31.1	40
We have delayed repairs we want to do to our home (like roof windows mold) because of cost.	24.5	44.2 ***	61.1 ***	36.6	2.9 **
In order to pay a \$400 emergency expense my household would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money.	9.6	33.1 ***	39.9 ***	12.8	2.9
If my household faced a \$400 emergency expense we would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash.	9.4	30.1 ***	43.4 ***	4.9	5.7

Other responses included:

- Unemployment (2)
- High property taxes (2)

## Household Improvement

Respondents were asked: “Which of the following would you prioritize if you had extra money to spend on your household’s environmental health and safety? Select only one bubble for each column.” 25 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 395, we observe the following distribution of top #1 and #2 choices. Note that Belle Haven respondents were more likely to fill out the survey with more than one #1 choice, which is likely to have led to an overestimate of the degree of statistical significance in comparisons across groups.

Table 15. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \* $P < 0.10$ , \*\* $P < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.01$ .

Household Improvement	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	41.2	27.2	45.1 ***
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	39.3	18.5	45.1 ***
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	38.3	27.2	41.5 **
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	34.8	13	40.9 ***
Healthy food (including gardening)	31.7	13	36.9 ***
Solar panels or battery storage	29.5	37	27.4
Rainwater capture or water recycling	27.9	23.9	29
Home insurance	23.1	4.3	28.4 ***
Replace gas appliances	19.3	19.6	19.2
Other	3.6	3.3	3.7

Table 16. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \* $P < 0.10$ , \*\* $P < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.01$ .

Household Improvement	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
Solar panels or battery storage	36.2	34.6	21 *	31.1	14.3 **
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	28.9	54.1 ***	43.6 *	28.7	11.4 *
Rainwater capture or water recycling	28.3	30.7	25.6	20.1	14.3
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	25.1	44.8 ***	49.9 ***	34.8	34.3
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	23.8	42.4 ***	27	25.6	57.1 ***
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	20.8	51.1 ***	40.3 **	37.8	17.1
Replace gas appliances	18.7	19.9	16.1	16.5	22.9
Healthy food (including gardening)	15.3	38 ***	32.6 **	20.1	45.7 ***
Home insurance	9.6	35.1 ***	26.3 ***	3.7	5.7
Other	2.3	5.6	4.9	NA	NA

We also investigated whether there was any difference in household improvement priorities across households with (195) or without (225) elderly members. There do not appear to be

statistically significant differences, with the exception of preferences for rainwater capture or water recycling.

*Table 17. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of households with or without elderly members. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Household Improvement	All Households	Households without Elderly	Households with Elderly
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	41.2	38.7	44.1
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	39.3	37.3	41.5
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	38.3	41.3	34.9
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	34.8	35.1	34.4
Healthy food (including gardening)	31.7	31.1	32.3
Solar panels or battery storage	29.5	30.7	28.2
Rainwater capture or water recycling	27.9	23.1	33.3 **
Home insurance	23.1	24	22.1
Replace gas appliances	19.3	17.8	21
Other	3.6	2.7	4.6

We also investigated whether there was any difference in household improvement priorities across households with (220) or without (200) financial burden, based on affirming either of the statements from the survey question on financial stress: “My household can easily cover the cost of housing”; “My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare”. Households that perceive themselves as financially burdened are less likely to prioritize electrification and more likely to prioritize home insurance and air conditioning.

*Table 18. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of households financially burdened or not. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Household Improvement	All Households	Households not Financially Burdened	Households Financially Burdened
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	41.2	36.5	45.5 *
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	39.3	35	43.2
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	38.3	34	42.3
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	34.8	36	33.6

Healthy food (including gardening)	31.7	33	30.5
Solar panels or battery storage	29.5	31	28.2
Rainwater capture or water recycling	27.9	27.5	28.2
Home insurance	23.1	18.5	27.3 **
Replace gas appliances	19.3	26.5	12.7 ***
Other	3.6	3	4.1

Other responses included:

- Products to reduce extreme cold (2)
- Drought-tolerant landscaping (2)
- Lead paint abatement
- Electric vehicles
- Gas for gas vehicles
- Construction of accessory dwelling unit
- Private schooling
- Renter’s insurance
- Outdoor shading

## Neighborhood Improvement

Respondents were asked: “Which of the following would you prioritize for neighborhood improvements? Select only one bubble for each column.” 9 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 411, we observe the following distribution of top #1 and #2 choices. Note that Belle Haven respondents were more likely to fill out the survey with more than one #1 choice, which is likely to have led to an overestimate of the degree of statistical significance in comparisons across groups.

*Table 19. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred neighborhood improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Neighborhood Improvement	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Pedestrian safety (sidewalks, crosswalks, speed bumps)	45	28.3	49.7 ***
Improved roads (potholes)	42.1	18.5	48.8 ***
Safer biking routes	38.1	30.4	40.2
More street trees	35.2	15.2	40.9 ***
Improved parks or community gardening	33.8	14.1	39.3 ***
Improved water supply (safe drinking, firefighting)	32.1	13	37.5 ***
Security cameras for safety and dumping	31.9	13	37.2 ***



Cool and clean air shelters (community center)	29.5	4.3	36.6 ***
Improved transit infrastructure (bus stops, signs, benches)	29.3	16.3	32.9 ***
Air quality monitoring sensors in public spaces	25.7	13	29.3 ***
Improved storm drainage	23.3	6.5	28 ***
Improved code enforcement (illegal parking)	21.2	5.4	25.6 ***
Flood barriers along rivers or bayfront	20.7	5.4	25 ***
Other	6	6.5	5.8

Table 20. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred neighborhood improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.

Neighborhood Improvement	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
Safer biking routes	35.3	49.6 **	35.2	27.4	5.7 ***
Pedestrian safety (sidewalks, crosswalks, speed bumps)	30.4	57.2 ***	41.5	36.6	22.9
More street trees	25.3	48.5 ***	30.8	7.3 *	25.7
Improved roads (potholes)	24.3	44.8 ***	44.8 **	12.8	71.4 ***
Improved transit infrastructure (bus stops, signs, benches)	22.1	35.4 **	30.8	23.8	14.3
Improved parks or community gardening	20.9	48.9 ***	28	16.5	8.6
Improved water supply (safe drinking, firefighting)	16.2	40.2 ***	32.6 **	16.5	37.1 **
Security cameras for safety and dumping	15.8	37.8 ***	36.4 ***	36.6 **	20
Air quality monitoring sensors in public spaces	14.5	32.7 ***	28.7 **	21.3	11.4
Improved storm drainage	11.9	32.8 ***	19.6	1.8	17.1
Flood barriers along rivers or bayfront	11.3	27.8 ***	21.7	3.7	14.3
Improved code enforcement (illegal parking)	10.2	27 ***	28.7 ***	7.3	5.7
Cool and clean air shelters (community center)	7.7	45 ***	32.9 ***	6.7	8.6
Other	5.1	7.3	6.3	3.7	NA

Other responses included:

- Reduce crime (3)
- Reduce noise pollution from trains (3)
- Electrification of trains
- Landscape freeway interchange at Willow Rd
- Transit service on Dumbarton Rail corridor

- Supermarket access near Dumbarton Rail corridor
- Undergrounding of power lines
- Dog park
- Tennis courts
- Reduce parking fees
- Cutting down of very large trees
- School crossing guards

**City of Menlo Park**

# Climate Resilient Communities Prioritization Workshop Summary



**May 2024**

Empowering community voices to  
implement equitable climate solutions  
for unity, resilience, & justice

**Prepared For:**  
City of Menlo Park



## Climate Resilient Communities

May 2nd & 9th, 2024

567 Hamilton Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025

*Description: This report summarizes the outcomes of two workshops on the Environmental Justice (“EJ”) and Safety Element Update for the City of Menlo Park’s General Plan. It was organized by Climate Resilient Communities (“CRC”) for Spanish-speaking residents and members of the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, on May 2nd and May 9th, 2024. The primary facilitators were CRC Staff representatives and members of the identified Underserved Communities which includes Belle Haven and Bayfront residents of Menlo Park.*

### Participant Demographics

- The May 2 Spanish workshop was attended by 33 individuals.
- The May 9 English workshop was attended by 48 individuals.
- Nearly all participants were members of the Belle Haven Community.
- Cumulative participants engaged throughout the EJ Element process totals approximately 1,800 residents, which represents more than 25% of Belle Haven residents.

### Key Take-Aways

- 1** The top priorities of Belle Haven residents are Safe, Sanitary, and Stable homes and Access to Healthy and Affordable food. This demonstrated the financial precarity of the community through their clear emphasis on access to basic needs and services. The EJ Element should offer clear paths to addressing these concerns.
- 2** There are massive disparities between the Belle Haven neighborhood and the South side of Menlo Park, separated by the 101 Freeway. Several participants in the workshop indicated they lacked the literacy to participate in the worksheet activity without facilitator help, something entirely absent from many perceptions of Menlo Park.
- 3** Accountability remains a top concern for residents. They have little trust that their participation will result in meaningful change and are reluctant to believe that the programs and policies will be implemented. Many residents are feeling acute stress and want to see improvements made in their community while seeing the displacement pressure alleviated. Many environmental concerns take a back seat to the more immediate concerns about displacement, gentrification, and access to healthy food and living environments.



# Key Quotes from Worksheet Comments:



"Living here is expensive and many times we have to pay rent no matter what and our health is affected because we can't afford quality food."

"Housing is a human rights issue, addressing the displacement and ensuring residents that make up this community can stay in the community is the top priority."



"Rent control is #1 because it can allow people time to save to purchase a house in the future."

"Rent is so expensive! We need better rent control laws for low income families!"

"There are a lot of residents who've had to move away because of rent hikes and discriminatory home buying practices. There are renter-to-owner issues that need to be addressed by laws."



"My number 1 is increasing the number of trees in the community which will help with significant air pollutants and overall health."

"Environmental justice is essential for the growth of the community."

"We need to have banks and grocery stores in this area because there are lots of seniors who don't have vehicles and have to wait at the bus stops for long periods and some are afraid of being onboard."



"As I age, after I retired I am unable to afford to live."

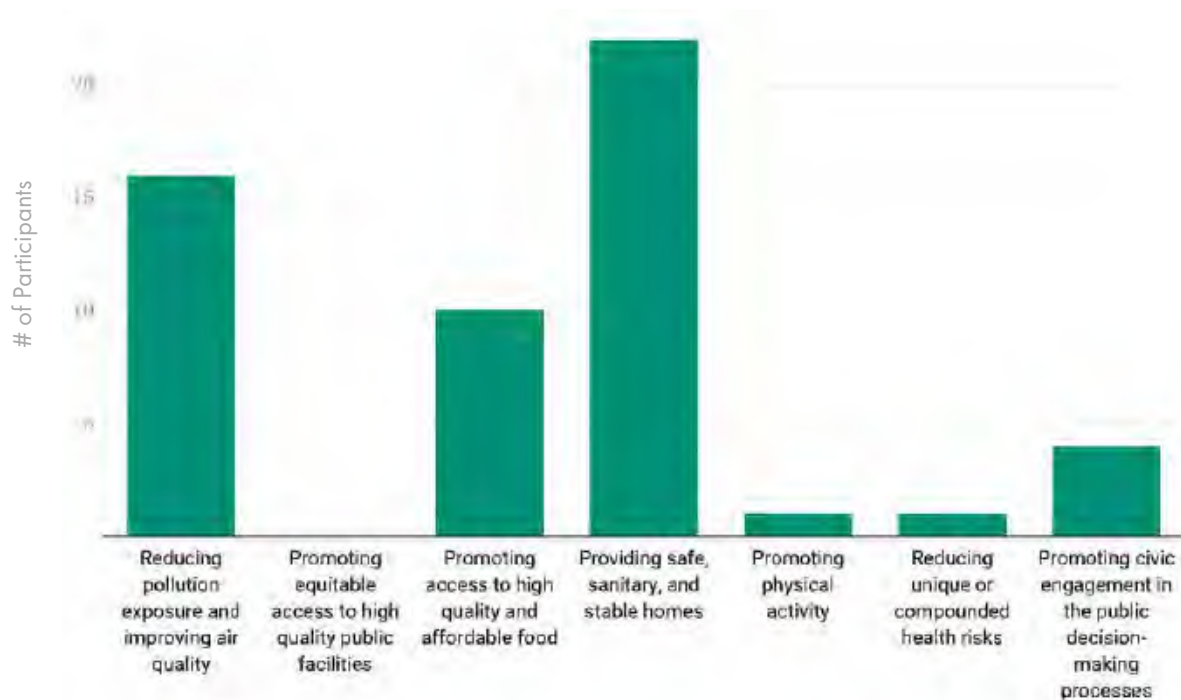
Summary of Worksheet Exercise

Prioritization Workshop Summary



### Key Statistics

- Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes was the top priority, receiving a plurality of first place rankings. 41% of residents stated it was their top concern.
- The #2 priority was Healthy and Affordable Food. 30% of residents stated it was their top concern. The #3 priority was Reducing Pollution Exposure, as 18% of residents placed this at the top.
- Among the seven programs in the Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes, 48% of residents placed anti-displacement as their top priority, while 21% of others stated down-payment assistance as their top priority.



# Recommendations

01

## EJ Element Reporting Requirements & Accountability

Increase opportunities for accountability through strict reporting requirements on EJ Element Programs and Policies. Identify a primary and secondary department and/or staff person responsible for implementation and, as appropriate, at least two potential funding sources in the implementation guide.

02

## Goal 5 Language Towards "Safety, Sanitary, and Stable"

Ensure "Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing" is used in Goal 5 language and throughout the document, replacing "Safe and Sanitary Homes."

03

## Strengthening in Policy Language

Strengthen program and policy language throughout the EJ Element, for example by changing encourage to ensure or could to should/shall.

04

## Anti-Displacement Actions

Elevate Anti-Displacement Actions into the EJ Element, accelerate timelines for creation and implement interim steps as soon as possible:

- Specifically, move 7.J.3 from the Implementation Guide to the Environmental Justice Element itself, retaining it as a program under Goal 5
- Modify 5.G to say "Ensure that the City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E supports households and neighborhoods in Underserved Communities. This will include studying at a minimum the following:
  - the creation of a rental inventory of all homes
  - updated or expanded rent control laws
  - rent increase mitigations such as longer noticing requirements
  - community and tenant opportunity to purchase policies
  - revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper subsidies
  - relocation assistance for tenants
  - just cause eviction protections regardless of tenant duration
  - strengthened tenant harassment ordinances
  - examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs.



# Objectives & Methodology

## Objectives

- Identify community priorities within Environmental Justice topic areas
- Prioritize programs within goal areas to identify most pressing stressors and opportunities
- Engage residents in civic processes and receive feedback to structure general plan
- Provide update on Safety Element revisions document based on community feedback

## Methodology



### Outreach

- Reached out to resident contacts via email, text and phone calls to our network
- Contacted other Belle Haven nonprofits (Belle Haven Action, Belle Haven Empowered, Belle Haven Community Development Fund), distributing online registration form
- Collaborated with Belle Haven Climate Change Community Teams (CCCTs) to promote event and reach further networks
- Distributed flyers door to door and at 3 tabling events



### Facilitation

Our attached agenda (see appendix) explains the general outline of the meeting, which was the same for both discussions. It began with a presentation before attendees participated in a guided worksheet and small group exercise. This consisted of filling out worksheets asking residents to rank their priorities on a list and then discuss why they ranked things the way they did. Participants ranked all options relative to one another and had an area to provide written comments. Every 10 minutes the topic changed, with two minutes to work on the ranking and 8 minutes to discuss the results with facilitators taking notes and asking questions. After completing their worksheets and offering comments, people returned their completed worksheets and received their participant compensation.



# Agenda & Summary of Discussions

Time	Agenda
5:30pm	Participants Arrive and Begin Dinner
6:10pm	People Directed to the Sanctuary for the Presentation
6:15pm	Presentation Began from M-Group Explaining Work Done-to-Date
6:30pm	Breakout Activity: Guided Worksheet Exercise
7:45pm	Reconvene/Close: Collect Worksheets & Distribute Compensation

## Summary of Discussions (Spanish):

**(Facilitator 1 - Chase)** The residents of Menlo Park spoke on the various concerns that they have about their community. One of the larger concerns is the air quality around the neighborhoods in Belle Haven due to the highway being close in proximity and the construction going on at the elementary school. Residents with breathing issues or asthma are greatly affected by the dust and other pollutants in the air. Residents also mentioned that Resilience Hubs are also of importance and it would be within the best interest of the community to outfit public buildings with things to relieve community members during times of climate events such as heat waves, atmospheric rivers, etc.

A lack of affordable housing and resources for lower income families were also a huge concern. Residents talked about how many lower income residents did not have many options when it comes to homes and them having sufficient space for the pricing.

In addition to this, there is not enough low income housing within the community. Transportation was a concern as well, bus routes and general public or group transportation either did not live up to the community standards or did not meet them at all. SamTrans was either not entirely reliable or didn't fulfill the needs of the community and although it uses an electric vehicle, it was deemed to do more harm than good.

**(Facilitator 2 - Najiha)** For comments about the workshop itself, participants needed to be assured that their feedback would be heard and distributed to the city. There is a great mistrust between city officials and the residents. Major concerns were for air quality, housing stability, and results. They don't want reporting in and of itself, but to see the tangible results throughout the community. Some participants weren't able to read at all so facilitators stepped in to help interpret the worksheet activity, allowing them to select their top

priority. This wasn't very effective and resulted in some skewed results because some residents resorted to just answering in sequential order. It was difficult for them to remember all the options as they were read aloud - some options were wordy. Primary feedback centered around distrust, not really thinking their concerns were going to yield any results, or that any actions would be taken as a direct result of voicing their concerns.

**(Facilitator 3 - Alba)** Air quality, health and affordable housing were very important overall. The community members connected with other topics like, SamTrans and the special project to provide transport, but the system to get it was not serving the community members as planned. Others pointed out that one of the Programs in the EJ Element were focused on reducing water bills, but residents asked about electricity as a greater expense.

Community members mentioned as top priority owning land as a community to then being able to regulate it and share it to have affordable housing. Another community member did not prioritize the internet to avoid it leading to youth becoming more sedentary as they surf the net or play games or stream. All mentioned food and housing as top priorities.

## Summary of Discussions (English):

The discussions held in English were very similar. The top three priorities were Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing, Healthy and Affordable Food, and Reducing Pollution Exposure. Many justified the focus on housing and displacement prevention as being the foundation of a community—what is the use in cleaning the environment if they're ultimately forced to live elsewhere? Residents pointed to the role housing plays in overall health and the high degree of their neighbors that live in unsafe or unstable conditions. They saw healthy and affordable foods as vital and pointed out the lack of a grocery store in the community as something that degrades health and contributes to other problems like traffic and air quality as people are forced to drive elsewhere to access basic services like food, banking, and medical care.

Many residents placed civic engagement as their lowest priority. They felt that decisions have always been made without them and didn't see how participating in any of the processes would change their lives. Many residents voiced that they had tried to participate in the past, many for decades and have not seen their action result in anything meaningful. This demonstrates the importance of tangible improvements made in the community as a result of this process—failure to do so risks further disenfranchisement and disengagement.

“Housing is a human rights issue, addressing the displacement and ensuring residents that make up this community can stay in the community is the top priority.”

-- Belle Haven Resident



# Appendix & Attachments

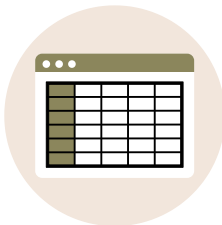
## Attachments (all included as separate documents):



**Appendix 1** - English Menlo Park EJE Feedback: Contains a transcription of notes written by facilitators and all written comments on worksheets collected from participants, both organized by subject area.



**Appendix 2** - Spanish Menlo Park EJE Feedback: Contains a transcription of notes written by facilitators and all written comments on worksheets collected from participants, both organized by subject area.



**Appendix 3** - An excel workbook with raw data from the prioritization worksheet. This is the data used to generate the graphs above.



**Climate Resilient Communities is immensely grateful for the collaboration and support of both M-Group and the Belle Haven Community for being able to make this research and prioritization efforts possible.**


At its inception in 2016, Climate Resilient Communities was a volunteer-driven commitment to helping residents reduce their energy costs, improve home health, and gain access to local resources like subsidized solar panels and home energy audits, and weatherization upgrades.

Through the support of our funders, our growth has allowed CRC to expand community-based solutions that center local voices in order to increase capacity to adapt to climate change threats like extreme heat, flooding, and water, food, and energy security, alongside environmental justice education.

**We thank you for your review on the prioritization progress & our research towards and for the communities we serve.**

## Contact

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@crc-climate 

English Menlo Park EJE Feedback

**Large Post It Comments:**

Overall:

Top:

- Homes - stable homes are foundation, apartments aren't habitable and that creates significant health problems
- Affordable food - people need to be fed
- Physical Activity - more holistic solutions come from a healthy start with our kids. If they are not active in their youth, that will negative shape the rest of their lives
- Our biggest priority is to provide safe, sanitary and stable homes
- We also want to make sure that we are a part of promoting access to high quality and affordable food

Bottom:

- Engagement - we know that the City will make decisions without us anyways, like they always do

Goal 1:

- Public infrastructure, wants to see progress reported on, need to see results
- Seeing same problems - 40/50 years down the line
- Public infrastructure demonstrates that it is getting done and it is clearly a start to what needs to happen next
- Annual reports help create evidence and a track record
  - Written progress makes me feel like it is getting done and they are actively assessing what has been done and what is working
  - Does "annual" mean at the beginning, middle or end of the year? We would prefer to have all three
- Prioritize Belle Haven, shows up progress - annually!
- Infrastructure - everything is old and the new Community Center is the only new building
  - We need to start now because we know that it is going to take a while
- Most important is air pollution
- We do not think it is important to prioritize public infrastructure because work with people first and then get to this
- We want to see that "reporting" is accessible
- The other side of Menlo Park has state of the art infrastructure, but there isn't one nearby. The infrastructure we are thinking of are hubs for children to develop themselves and build community.
- We need to prioritize public infrastructure so that people in Belle Haven feel safe and supported in enhancing their community
- We want to access how well the EJ policies and programs address health risks

Goal 2:

- Buses aren't being used
- Education and outreach are essential
- Significant polluters should be held accountable. They would rather pay a fine than do something about it
- More knowledge about how to legally dump and it should be free to use the dump
- Got to be made aware of issues and how to act pinned between pollution points
- Choices are being made to install EV charging by SamTrans without community input
- We want more education and awareness on what "green infrastructure" is
- We know the problems with air quality but we want to see action and data-driven results that demonstrate advancement and justice
- Solar panels are BEYOND CRITICAL but I hesitate because I don't trust PG&E's grid capacity in Belle Haven. I have only heard horrible things from folks who have spent a lot of money and time installing solar panels just to have PG&E not be there to support the installation by turning over the energy
- It is important to hold major polluters accountable for SURE
- Do you only need flood insurance if you have a loan on your home as a homeowner?  
More research is needed
  - Despite this question, people who live in the flood zones/low lying areas need to have real and tangible protections too
- I believe most of us would take care of our public spaces if it was more convenient and affordable to legally dump
- We really like and have had positive experiences with the garbage company doing bulky pick ups!
- The garbage company needs to remove the charge/cost on the size of my curbside bin
- WE NEED MORE TREES!!! The difference in air quality, more pollinators/diversity, more shade BUT I don't want to have those trees damage my plumbing or mess with my allergies
- Work with polluters to mitigate and stop, they can go electric much more easily than we can
- It is important to stop illegal dumping because of the health hazards, fire risk and rodents
- We recommend that you revise the City rules so that the City can act to protect health
- Urban greening and carpooling can wait
- It isn't just us here in Belle Haven or just me as one person, we know the City can do more than us alone
- Most important is to revise regulations in the City to reduce pollution because we need to address this program in our community
- It is not important to to develop urban forest because we don't know if there is a need for the trees in our community
- We want a better understanding for how to work with "significant polluters"
- There should be a fee reduction at waste sites
- Pollution impacts the already problematic and systemic health disparities based on racial demographics. It disproportionately impacts people of color (Zoning/redlining.
- Educating the youth about climate resilience will address: accessibility, info spread, better advocacy for our roads/streets

- Important to think about how to diversify ethnic food options
- Why haven't all stores implemented EBT? Do they lose profit when EBT is used at their store?
- Grocery stores are limited in Belle Haven and results in food scarcity
- Want similar resources to Berkeley High School that has nutritional meals for students
- Electrical modifications are needed because the homes are old
- Double panel windows will help to condense sound too and cuts down on PG&E bills
- Bus system is getting better, they pick up/drop off more often than what I remember from before
- Small drug stores like CVS and Trader Joe's would be so great to have in our neighborhood too
- We need to develop an UFMP
- It is also important to minimize/mitigate illegal dumping

Goal 3:

- Amenities closed at the times communities need them
- Improving financial access to healthcare without insurance barrier, with the expectation that there will be quality healthcare provided despite no cost and no insurance
- Fire dept open all the time, why not the amenities?
- My home must be safe and reliable for power during a natural disaster. I feel like it is more important to me to upgrade my home so I know I am safe and can invite people over when things get tough.
- Very important to identify PRIVATE locations for Resilience Hubs too
  - Resilience Hubs need to be accessible to folks in motorized wheelchairs
  - The new community center will be dangerous to drive to in an extreme storm. I don't feel comfortable using that space as a Resilient Hub in the future
- Have programs for kids and facilities to understand the steps in green infrastructure
- We want to see our public facilities kept clean and the waste is properly disposed
- Housing for low income seniors is important
- We want more communication and transparency between Belle Haven residents and the City to talk about existing programs
- Want to see more bank connections so that there are loans for the community. We want to feel the sufficiency of keeping money here in our community specifically
- PG&E is going crazy with all the rate discrepancies, hikes and extra charges. We feel absolutely brutalized when it comes to making sure the lights are on in our homes. What is going on with this and how is PCE or the City looking to intervene?
- It is not important to identify and improve buildings because we do not understand what a Resilience Hub is and do not find that term relevant or engaging as a community
- It is very important to make sure there is Internet for all so that kids can have access along with every single other community member
- Support affordable Internet access to learn more about community programs. That connection is essential for understanding the digital resources and educational campaigns that are happening by the City
- Public buildings should be identified as our resilience hubs

- We want to ensure that our recreational facilities provide residents with access to parks, community centers and other safe places to gather and connect

Goal 4:

- Resources like SNAP available - provide access and more information is needed
- We want high quality resources and in collaboration with local stores
- SNAP access to essential care materials
- What does and does not count towards EBT
- Increase knowledge and signage (ads) for food access - we need more information and access points
- Encouraging health and clean eating with fresh food locally like at a Farmer's Market is important
- Misinformation and lots of questions about if farmer's markets were still happening in Belle Haven and where they are at currently
- Gardening in general is really important, especially teaching people and a community garden how to take it home
- I want to lump the farmers market initiatives with community gardens and use those spaces as a hub for teaching, eating and spending time in my community
- Is groundwater a part of this? I want to see more trends, see more research because what I have observed now is very concerning in my own backyard
- Everyone needs to know about food assistance programs, not just some folks
- Grocery stores need to be closer to the community because seniors do not have cars and have to take the bus to get anywhere. The transportation system is not reliable enough for that to be the way they get their food.
- Most important to address the price of food because it is so expensive. We recommend prioritizing SNAP grocery stores, promoting farmer markings and identifying how to promote deeper accessibility in Belle Haven
- The City must tell people about existing programs
- Everyone will accept benefits, increased access and an increase in affordability
- Community gardens can help share resources
- We voted for encouragement of the community at the bottom because the current programs people already know about are not working. We clearly need new programs that make more sense for this community.
- Proximity matters in providing healthy food - it must be walkable! Other ways to make it more accessible include smaller businesses, accessibility, universal SNAP and food delivery to seniors
- Inform low-income households and make sure the information makes sense to them
- ENcourage healthy food options

Goal 5:

- Education prevention for youth to not become houseless - prepare in advance through financial education pathways
- Noticing a ballooning interest on loans
- Down payment and first-time homeowners assistance
- Properties are being sold with toxic releases present



- Toxic building materials in houses
- Nonchalance of government to address these issues is so, so frustrating
- Rent control is necessary, we recommend \$6000 for 2 bed, 2 bath
- Anti-displacement sounds intriguing, we all in this group want to see that because we continue to see more and more folks living in their cars but wanting to stay in the community despite not being able to afford to live here
- We have NO rent control laws, that is easily the most important because it doesn't exist at all and hasn't been piloted at all in the area
- So much traffic because people can't afford to live here, they have to pass through to get to more affordable housing on the other side of the Bay
- It has taken a while for Belle Haven residents to see and feel the impacts of gentrification but it is very clear at this point in time
- Multilingual resources need to also be plainly worded so that you do not need to be highly education to understand and feel like you are included in that resource
- Most important to Identify and resolve rent control issues and housing issues for renters
- We do not feel it is a priority now to ensure that the City has an anti-displacement policy or initiative
- Down payments help a lot and we want more classes for homebuyers
- Displacement is a major issue!! The rent to own model is not working in our community
- There is a major problem with soil quality in Belle Haven. It is critical to have a clean foundation and if it is contaminated, people will have to move
- Housing needs to be fair and affordable
- Multilingual tenant information is really important
  - Students are transferring from different countries and are having issues assimilating because of the language berries
- Speeding by Mt. Eden Seboral is unsafe for crossing children
- Ensure the City's Anti-Displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven specifically and in particular
- Electrification of homes and the water quality in the home are very important to us

Goal 6:

- Zoning parking issues, we continue to move our cars to avoid tickets
- ID barriers to physical education, safe routes to school
- Kids spend a lot of time navigating through traffic
- Lighting is terrible in the neighborhood and diminishes safety of those using active transportation after the sun goes down
- We know and deeply care about physical activity - we have known and felt that priority our whole lives and that makes this section easier to rank and visualize in the community
- Lots of people like to walk in the neighborhood. Are there more natural trails that we can use that connect to the Bay? What types of trails already exist and are they used regularly now?
- Crossing guards are very important with how much traffic there is in Belle Haven
- There are too many crossing guards, clearly there are plenty of those folks doing the work
- Seeing the assessment and development of safer routes to school is really important

- Speeding is a huge problem on Hamilton Ave - speed bumps or other slowing impediments are necessary
- Sideshows, or reckless driving and tricks, are getting out of hand. We know the police are trying but it is still a major issue that needs to be addressed.
- Our priority is to update the master plan because I want to improve the environment
- It is less important to implement education campaigns because it was the last option on the list but I got to the bottom of my ballot and only have that left
- More comprehensive and ongoing educational campaigns would help a lot in our community!
- Identify and eliminate barrier to our door physical activities are essential
- We want to see increased safety as a result of educational campaigns

Goal 7:

- Stipends for council and stipends for commissioners too - we like what is going on and look forward to more
- Want to group all the civic engagement initiatives into one priority project/campaign
- Educational opportunities are really important to keeping everyone involved and continuing to be thoughtfully involved longer term
- We really need more often and relevant disaster preparedness resources that are TANGIBLE and make sense with how to use
- Need more clarity on what "maintaining EJ Element" means in context. How is the City asking the community to be involved with this?
- It is really important to promote/evaluate educational workshops because people want to know how to get involved and want to stay involved longer term
- We do not think it is important to maintaining the EJE because the community is already not consider at all so what is the point?
- We need more disaster preparedness resources in Belle Haven
- We need to encourage more resources are leveraged for in person outreach because that is how this community connects and shares information

Other:

- Example
- Example

**Worksheet Comments:**

Overall:

- Safe and stable homes, food and reducing health risks top priority because they are the most important to living day to day. Reducing pollution and improving air quality is also very important as well as promoting civic engagement in public decision making to make the neighborhood population feel like they have a voice and that they become more involved.
- Housing is not only a major issue in the state but especially in the disadvantaged communities, that is the most important. The less important on this is physical activity because that is much more of an individual's discipline.
- With all of the traffic air quality is a must, food is next on my list followed by housing.

- Everything can be improved but physical activity and high quality facilities are mostly taken care of.
- It is very important to have good housing and food.
- Stable homes are the foundation of a good community. Lowest priority is civic engagement, it looks good here today.
- Clean air is most important for your health.
- We need to be able to nourish ourselves with quality food. Air quality is important and preventing displacement is as well. If we take care of those we'll address unique and compounded health problems, facilities is lowest on my list.
- Air quality is very important, East Menlo Park has worse air than the rest of Menlo.
- All are important but promoting physical activity is most important for the environment so there is less pollution.
- I ranked safe sanitary and stable homes as the top priority because there isn't enough nice living spaces on this side of Menlo Park.
- Living in unsafe spaces, unstable or uninhabitable conditions creates many health health issues, you need security to thrive. Decisions are often made without citizen input all the time.
- We ranked safe, sanitary, and stable homes number one because it is better to live in a clean safe home than outdoors in poor air quality.
- We ranked providing safe sanitary and stable homes because our priorities should lie in homes so they can be safe for our families and future generations.
- We rate providing safe sanctuary and stable homes number 1.
- My priority is homes, health care and physical/health risks.
- *Living here is expensive and many times we have to pay rent no matter what and our health is affected because we can't afford quality food.*
- More support for elderly folks, improve air quality.
- Top priority is housing and food.
- Air quality is a top priority due to all the construction work that is going on.
- Affordable and safe housing is crucial, civic engagement gives people a voice and opinions. Air quality can cause health risks and reducing health risks is key to living a long life.
- Promoting physical activity for our youth early in life will help decrease health risks. Improving air quality will also help reduce health issues.
- People in underserved areas are obese, this needs to be addresses. Air pollution creates asthma and lung issues. Safe and sanitary homes is anti-displacement.
- Physical activity is lower bodily health can be improved through individual actions. Outreach and education is important, knowing is half the battle.
- The cost of living is so high and is insane. People can make the best decisions about physical activity.
- If we want to tackle the air pollution, stop building in Belle Haven. That is the reason we have air pollution and stop tearing down 40 foot trees.
- If we can't keep the community we have here, what is it all for? We have to make things better for the people who have been here and fighting for a long time, so homes is a top

priority. We have to improve health, there is more than enough food to go around, it is about getting it to the people who need it.

- *Housing is a human rights issue, addressing the displacement and ensuring residents that make up this community can stay in the community is the top priority.*
- Impacts from the state highway are extreme, we should learn lessons about food insecurity from the pandemic food insecurity nutrition and health. People need to be able to easily voice their issues and concerns to governments.
- Housing is the top concern, we need to keep our current community housed and create opportunities. The community is surrounded by highways so air quality is also a top priority.
- Everything ties together.
- We need to make sure everyone is healthy.
- Having a safe and stable home is the most important because it all comes down to needing a roof over your head that way you aren't as exposed to air pollution.

Goal 1:

- The other side of Menlo Park has very good infrastructure. Look!
- traffic
- *Environmental justice is essential for the growth of the community.*
- We need infrastructure investment, we are last in our needs.
- If you prioritize you can assess what is needed and then can check annually on the progress.
- *As I age, after I retired I am unable to afford to live.*
- I live in Belle Haven so to me personally infrastructure improvements are very important to be done and health risks be addressed.
- Public infrastructure is most important because the community can see the impacts, less important is annual reporting because we'll see the progress.
- We need to know about the outcomes of the EJE and see how well it is working. Follow up in the community on progress.
- Working on the improvements in the community is needed to make real progress.
- Top priority is roads, potholes, making buildings disaster ready. Then give an account of what has been done.
- Infrastructure improvements will take the longest so they should be prioritized first. Reporting on progress can wait till things are actually being accomplished.
- We need to be informed on the plans for development.
- We need to prioritize infrastructure so that it is better for the children.
- Address health risks is most important because we face those risks every day.
- *The priority should be fixing the community because there's been a lot of neglect—buildings, schools and street are not updated. There is more congestion in the community as well so public works needs to address that.*
- Providing better infrastructure is our #1 because better spaces for children allow them to grow in their school. If you put time and effort into your childrens school they'll feel more willing to learn because youre putting time into them. As a student it makes you feel cared about that makes you want to learn.

- Children's lives matter so we need to make sure they have safe spaces.
- Actionable improvements will help everyone even when not all people are in the loop with reports and assessments.
- Prioritizing investment in Belle Haven is vital, reporting yearly is also vital.
- It is important for infrastructure to be improved quickly and reported annually to make sure there is progress.

Goal 2:

- I have to study more on this.
- Reduce pollution produces health.
- Reducing pollution exposure is essential for good health.
- Car pooling is great and we need to know if we really need flood insurance or not.
- Top priorities to me is that we need to reduce pollution by educating people on better and more ethical ways to dump things.
- Most important is educational outreach and least important is improving the number of trees.
- Education is the key for tomorrow and the least important is the electrification, there's issues that haven't been resolved.
- Working with the best technology is important to minimize air pollution.
- Bus electrification would cut down pollution, informing the public is important.
- Reducing fees at landfills will reduce illegal dumping, the legal options have to be easiest.
- Increase outreach and awareness of flood insurance it is important to prepare for the unexpected.
- The city needs to follow through on the laws put in place to protect residents.
- If people are dumping frequently more affordable fees might make them less likely to do so.
- Illegal dumping affects us and makes its way into the ocean.
- My number 1 is increasing the number of trees in the community which will help with significant air pollutants and overall health.
- Improve quality of life by opening a drugstore. Carpooling to events is already happening.

Goal 3:

- We need support for low income people, programs have to be affordable!
- Belle Haven needs more support from the city.
- Community local businesses should be preferred.
- We need a restroom at the park on Ivy Drive.
- Most important is health least is community bank.
- Provide all residents with access regardless of their economic situation. Internet is important.
- Banks are essential to a thriving community in California otherwise where will people bank and get loans? Internet can wait because many people already have it on their phones.

- *We need to have banks and grocery stores in this area because there are lots of seniors who don't have vehicles and have to wait at the bus stops for long periods and some are afraid of being onboard.*
- The internet is important because we communicate with each other and the world/generations.
- New center needs to be accessible to everyone.
- In order to thrive and be self-sufficient we need our own financial institutions. If we have strong banking relationships we can fund many of the things we need in the community.
- Internet is our top priority because the internet is how we communicate and learn on topics like Belle Haven's infrastructure.
- Waste disposal will keep the environment clean and reduce air pollution.
- More accountability to the city, we need a dental clinic over the counter prescriptions.
- 

Goal 4:

- We need more grocery stores for the elderly and the community to walk to for safety.
- Homeless people need housing and food.
- Affordable and healthy food is a great idea but in California it is hard.
- We have plenty of programs for food but none for vegan or vegetarian options.
- Home and community gardens will help support residents who live in apartments, organic gardens for year round crops. We can grow enough to support families and a farmers market.
- Now that I am retired it is more difficult to access food from home. Local small markets do not carry healthy foods period.
- Walkable stores is a huge factor.
- Least important is SNAP because it is already available most important is to inform low income people about the resources that are already available.
- SNAP is a lifesaver in this area.
- Encouraging community gardens will encourage residents to share their wealth with each other.
- We need access to high quality and affordable food. Vegan and vegetarian don't really matter unless those people are allergic to some stuff.
- Create new community gardens to provide more access to plants, fruit, soil, and gardening supplies.
- We need more stores that have clean food options. It takes transportation and more money to access more nutritious and clean food.
- A lot of stores don't offer an EBT option which shouldn't be normalized. We should have an option available to people who need SNAP or EBT. A lot of nutritious stores like trader joes or whole foods or high end stores don't have SNAP or EBT eligibility.
- Everyone should have the opportunity to shop for affordable foods.
- We need more affordable healthy and high quality foods.

Goal 5:

- I rank the highest due to the lack of rent control in our community. First time home buyers need to know what the qualifications and requirements are.
- Reduce water bills! We need help, bad! The bill is too high!
- Downpayment assistance is good, but the monthly payment will still be a problem!
- Housing affordability is very important.
- PG&E bills are higher than water bills, that should be addressed first.
- We have enough apartments here we don't need a land trust to make more of them.
- *Rent control is #1 because it can allow people time to save to purchase a house in the future.*
- Education about existing programs is important for all in regards to homes.
- Toxic soil has to be alleviated, you need to start from a clean and healthy foundation then build.
- It is better for people who come in to learn other languages to communicate with others.
- Ensuring anti-displacement is focused in Belle Haven is important and community land trust for affordable new housing.
- *There are a lot of residents who've had to move away because of rent hikes and discriminatory home buying practices. There are renter-to-owner issues that need to be addressed by laws.*
- Educational workshops would give everyone a chance to make our community more inclusive and opportunities to be heard by people who can relate.
- *Rent is so expensive! We need better rent control laws for low income families!*
- Pass rent control! And offer down payment assistance for first time buyers.
- Rent control is #1 and soil contamination is last.

Goal 6:

- We need crossing guards at key intersections because of extreme traffic in the evening.
- Flashing lights near the playgrounds are needed.
- Excessive speeding and insufficient lighting.
- We have a safe routes, it needs to be followed.
- My top priority is the safe routes to school because I have young children who are not safe.
- Most important is eliminating barriers for physical activity least important is updated the plans because that is not tangible work.
- We should have these plans drawn out in advance so safety can be reviewed and prioritized.
- Children need to be able to go to school safely.
- Sidewalks need to be accessible, how can we be active without them.
- Safe street crossing would reduce jay walking and unnecessary risks.
- Physical activity is big, encouraging more bike riding and walking will decrease the pollution.
- Implement education campaigns to help people feel safe and confident walking biking and taking transit.

Goal 7:

- We need workshops at least once a month in Belle Haven for the residents to know what is available.
- We need insurance we can afford.
- Anything to do with Belle Haven should always have Belle Haven involved!
- Language justice applies to everything.
- Belle Haven voices need to be heard.
- Regular meetings are very important.
- Outreach will help people decide what they want to do with their communities.
- We want everyone to be educated about their decisions and want everyone to be educated about them.
- Alert systems would help keep everyone safe and connected.
- Promote and evaluate educational workshops and feasibly compensate. Encourage resources for in-person outreach at the community hub.



Spanish Menlo Park EJE Feedback

**Large Post It Comments:**

Overall:

- Reduce the exposure to contamination and to better air quality
- Promote access to high quality food and high quality public facilities

Goal 1:

- Prioritize bettering the public infrastructure necessary in Belle Haven
- Inform yearly how to consider and prioritize Belle Haven in the planes to better the infrastructure

Goal 2:

- Work with the prime contaminators to minimize their contamination through the use of the best technology available
- Implement and update the Climate Action Plan of the City to better the quality of air and reduce the emissions of greenhouse gasses

Goal 3:

- Identify and better the public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Resilience Hubs
- Install infrastructure that permits easy elimination of waste in parks and streets

Goal 4:

- Support the availability of agricultural markets, agricultural positions, ethnic markets, and healthy food mobile markets. Carry out an ample divulgation and participation to publicize these markets
- Foment and simplify the development process of community gardens. Facilitate the creation or betterment of a community garden in a timeframe of 3 years

Goal 5:

- Guarantee that the Anti-Displacement Strategy of the city supports homes in Belle Haven
- Identify and resolve, in the manner that is possible, whatever possible toxic contamination of the soil in developed residential communities, particularly in Belle Haven

Goal 6:

- Identify and eliminate barriers to physical activity including sidewalks, bike lanes, and lack of safe crosswalks. Reduce the speed limit, provide sufficient street lighting, and lack of gardens or trees that provide shade in Belle Haven
- Implement educative campaigns to increase the security and commodity of people that walk, ride bikes, and use public transit

Goal 7:

- Promote and evaluate educational workshops that encourage the residents of Belle Haven in the processes of making public decisions
- Foment Resources for divulgation in person, better the community campus of Belle Haven like community centers for learning and opportunities to connect the residents with resources and foment the participation in public meetings, events and making decisions

**Worksheet Comments:**

Overall:

- Wanting to better air quality due to having issues with asthma
- Want to promote physical activity
- Reduce contamination
- All are very important to improve the city
- All are top priorities and for the children as well.
- For me, contamination and bettering the air quality because contaminated air can bring many health problems.
- We need more clean air for the health of people, pets, and elders.
- Air is important for health.
- Air is important for health. Free transportation is convenient for people.
- Air is important for health
- It's good to have a good environment. I picked 7 because all the options are important.
- Air is important for health. Free transportation is convenient for those who use it.
- Unite for the community.
- I think it's important to improve the air to be healthy.
- We need clean air for the elderly, pets, kids, and adults.

Goal 1:

- Yearly updates over the progress and the monthly results of the EJ Element
- The streets need to be improved to increase safety on the roads
- To have more information about the food (what's healthy vs. what's unhealthy)
- Very important to prioritize climate change.
- Keep the community informed.
- Flooding causes trees to fall, more communication
- Trees fall when it floods. We need more communication.
- Flooding causes trees to fall.
- It's necessary that they inform us about the progress and results.
- Flooding causes trees to fall. Inform people about environmental justice.
- Air is important for health and the community.
- To be informed about the progress happening in the city.

Goal 2:

- To clean the air, but it's difficult to assign one number to order the prioritize the issues because they are all important
- We have to educate people about the importance of air quality
- Contamination is very important
- All are priorities for a better city.
- What's important for me is clean air that's uncontaminated.
- Talk with the companies, reduce contamination
- Talk with companies to reduce contamination x 3
- Work with the people to reduce contamination.
- It's good for our lives to improve the environment even though all options are important.
- Reduce exposure to homes.
- It's important to improve the environmental air for the community.

Goal 3:

- Belle Haven needs resilience hubs
- Very good idea to work with the schools
- Working with schools is a very good option to implement with the kids.
- We need more community spaces for the community
- Kids programs and success in schools
- There isn't a community space where there are programs.
- There aren't any community spaces where there are programs
- Fix the potholes in the street.
- There isn't a community space. X 2
- Support access to internet affordability. Work with the schools to support.
- 

Goal 4:

- Promote access to healthy food because Belle Haven is a food desert
- All are priorities with this topic of food.
- All are priority
- \*Mobile farmers markets \* Spanish- English programs.
- Improve the quality of foods.
- More mobile farmers markets, more EBT money for more
- More money for EBT each month.
- It'd be great to have a community garden.
- More mobile farmers markets. More money for EBT for more.
- There are no community spaces, more programs, and there are homeless people.
- Example

Goal 5:

- To help the renters have rent control
- There is a need to reduce the cost of water
- Help renters to keep rent control.
- Workshops for kids to support them

- Clean the streets after fireworks.
- The buildings are empty for many years. X2
- Lots of support, programming and places to live.

Goal 6:

- Implement educational campaigns
- Belle Haven needs more streets lights, sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike lanes for safety
- Take care of pedestrians. Bike ways.
- Implement secure walkways for kids to cross over to schools.
- You can't see the lines for bicycles on the street.
- Workshops for kids to learn about bike safety.
- You can't see the bike lanes. X2
- Safety is important for people walking and biking.
- Lots and more transportation. Workshops for kids.

Goal 7:

- The community needs prepared for disasters
- The residents of the community need to know what is happening in the community to be better prepared
- English classes
- Provide Emergency kits before composting.
- Emergency kits, implement shelters for safe places during disasters.
- Protect the kids.
- Good communication between the city and community.
- More all-spanish workshops.
- Good communication with the community and the city. X2
- Lots of participation and support thank you.

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	7	2	5	5	5	2	2	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	3	6	2	2	3	3	5
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	7	3	4	4	1	2
Promoting physical activity	4	4	5	4	6	3	5	7	7
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	5	6	2	4	7	6	6	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	7	3	7	6	7	4	6

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	6	2	2	7	2	2	1	2	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	5	7	4	6	7	7	2	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	3	1	4	3	3	7	4	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	3	5	1	1	4	1	4
Promoting physical activity	7	6	6	3	6	6	3	7	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	3	5	5	2	5	5	5	3	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	4	4	7	1	4	4	6	5	5

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	7	6	3	5	1	6	6	4	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	5	6	3	2	3	7	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	1	5	4	4	1	1	2	1
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	2	3	4	2	1	4
Promoting physical activity	6	2	1	7	5	7	3	5	2
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	4	2	6	6	5	4	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	1	7	7	1	7	2	5	7	6

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	5	5	5	4	4	1	5	3	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	4	4	2	6	7	6	4	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	1	1	1	3	2	4	2	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	2	2	2	1	1	6	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	3	3	3	5	7	5	4	5	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	7	7	7	6	3	2	3	6	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	6	7	5	3	7	7	7

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	3	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	4
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	6	4	3	4	7	7	5	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	2	3
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	5	1	6	3	5	1	2
Promoting physical activity	5	5	3	6	7	5	3	6	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	6	4	6	7	3	6	2	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	7	7	7	5	5	4	6	7	1

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	4	4	4	1	6	2	5	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	6	6	6	5	5	7	6	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	2	2	6	2	3	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	1	1	5	3	1	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	4	7	7	3	7	4	4	3	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	3	3	1	4	3	5	4	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	5	5	7	2	7	6	7	7

Overall	Total	Average	Top Ranked
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	168	3.1111	16
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	273	5.0556	0
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	138	2.5556	10
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	137	2.537	22
Promoting physical activity	263	4.8704	1
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	243	4.5	1
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	290	5.3704	4

Overall	Total	Average	Top Ranks
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	168	3.05	16
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	273	4.96	0
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	138	2.51	10
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	137	2.49	22
Promoting physical activity	263	4.78	1
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	243	4.42	1
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	290	5.27	4

Overall	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	7	2	5	5	5	2	2	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	3	6	2	2	3	3	5
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	7	3	4	4	1	2
Promoting physical activity	4	4	5	4	6	3	5	7	7
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	5	6	2	4	7	6	6	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	7	3	7	6	7	4	6

Overall	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	6	2	2	7	2	2	1	2	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	5	7	4	6	7	7	2	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	3	1	4	3	3	7	4	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	3	5	1	1	4	1	4
Promoting physical activity	7	6	6	3	6	6	3	7	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	3	5	5	2	5	5	5	3	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	4	4	7	1	4	4	6	5	5

Overall	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	7	6	3	5	1	6	6	4	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	5	6	3	2	3	7	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	1	5	4	4	1	1	2	1
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	2	3	4	2	1	4
Promoting physical activity	6	2	1	7	5	7	3	5	2
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	4	2	6	6	5	4	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	1	7	7	1	7	2	5	7	6

Overall	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	5	5	5	4	4	1	5	3	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	4	4	2	6	7	6	4	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	1	1	1	3	2	4	2	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	2	2	2	1	1	6	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	3	3	3	5	7	5	4	5	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	7	7	7	6	3	2	3	6	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	6	7	5	3	7	7	7

Overall	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	3	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	4
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	6	4	3	4	7	7	5	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	2	3
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	5	1	6	3	5	1	2
Promoting physical activity	5	5	3	6	7	5	3	6	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	6	4	6	7	3	6	2	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	7	7	7	5	5	4	6	7	1

Overall	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	4	4	4	1	6	2	5	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	6	6	6	5	5	7	6	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	2	2	6	2	3	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	1	1	5	3	1	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	4	7	7	3	7	4	4	3	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	3	3	1	4	3	5	4	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	5	5	7	2	7	6	7	7

Overall	Total	Average	Top Ranks
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	355.1	3.11	16
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	551	5.06	0
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	288.5	2.56	10
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	298.5	2.54	22
Promoting physical activity	531.8	4.87	1
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	491.4	4.50	1
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	589.3	5.37	4

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	1	1	3	2	2	2	3	2	1	1
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	3	2	1	1	3	4	2	1	4	3
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	2	3	2	3	1	1	1	3	2	2
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	3	3	2	1	3	1	1	4	1	1
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	1	2	4	3	1	2	4	3	3	3
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	2	4	3	2	2	3	2	1	4	2
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	4	1	1	4	4	4	3	2	2	4

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	3	1	2	2	4	4	4	2	2	2
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	2	4	3	4	2	2	1	4	3	3

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	1	1	4	1	1	1	59
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	2	3	2	3	4	2	92
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	4	2	3	2	2	3	95
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	3	4	1	4	3	4	114

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	3	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	4
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1	2	4	2	9	4	4	2	3
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	2	3	5	3	6	5	5	3	2
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	5	4	1	5	8	1	1	5	1
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	4	6	6	4	2	6	6	4	5
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	6	5	3	6	3	3	3	6	7
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	7	7	9	8	4	7	10	8	6
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in	8	8	10	9	5	9	9	9	9
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	9	10	7	7	7	10	7	7	8
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	10	9	8	10	10	8	8	10	10

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	4	1	4	5	3	1	7	2	2
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	2	7	5	6	5	3	8	3	3
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	1	5	3	1	4	4	6	1	1
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	3	3	8	2	7	2	4	4	4
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	7	8	7	10	10	6	9	9	9
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	6	2	2	4	8	5	10	5	5
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	10	9	9	9	6	9	1	7	8
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in	9	10	6	8	9	7	3	8	10
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	5	1	1	3	2	8	5	6	6
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	8	4	10	7	4	10	2	10	7

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	1	7	4	1	4	5	2	2	6
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	4	6	10	4	5	3	4	10	1
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	2	2	5	2	2	4	7	3	2
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	6	5	1	7	1	8	3	1	5
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	5	4	6	8	10	9	10	9	3
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	8	3	7	3	9	7	5	7	9
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	7	8	8	10	3	1	9	6	7
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in	10	1	2	5	8	2	8	8	10
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	3	9	9	6	6	10	1	5	4
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	9	10	3	9	7	6	6	4	8

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	4	5	2	3	4	1	7	6	110
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	5	10	3	5	7	3	6	7	166
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	2	2	7	4	3	4	2	5	118
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	1	1	4	7	5	2	3	4	132
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	10	10	5	10	2	7	10	9	245
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	9	10	10	8	9	9	4	3	209
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	3	3	6	6	6	6	5	2	230
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in Belle Haven	8	10	9	9	8	8	8	6	266
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	6	10	1	2	1	5	1	1	189
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	7	10	8	1	10	10	9	8	270



Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	1	8	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	6
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	2	2	7	2	4	7	7	2	3	5
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	3	3	2	4	1	2	2	4	4	7
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	4	4	3	5	5	3	3	5	2	4
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	8	5	8	3	6	8	8	3	5	3
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	5	6	6	7	8	6	6	7	7	8
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	6	7	4	6	3	4	4	6	6	1
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	7	8	5	8	7	5	5	8	8	2

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	1	8	4	7	5	6	4	4	5	5
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	5	7	3	1	7	7	3	5	2	1
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	3	5	5	3	1	2	2	8	4	4
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	4	1	1	5	2	1	6	7	1	2
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	6	4	8	4	6	5	5	6	6	3
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	8	6	7	8	3	4	8	3	8	6
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	2	2	2	6	4	3	7	2	7	7
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	7	3	6	2	8	8	1	1	3	8

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	7	7	6	3	6	7	4	8	8	7
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	5	8	4	2	7	8	8	7	6	1
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	8	6	1	4	8	1	1	1	4	3
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	4	5	2	7	2	5	2	2	1	5
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	3	4	3	6	5	2	7	3	5	4
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	1	1	5	5	1	6	6	6	2	8
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	2	2	7	1	3	3	5	5	3	6
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	6	3	8	8	4	4	3	4	7	2

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	8	3	2	7	155
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	7	6	1	8	160
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	1	4	8	3	122
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	2	2	4	2	113
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	3	1	6	5	167
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	4	8	3	4	187
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	5	5	7	1	144
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	6	3	5	6	179

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	1	1	3	1	3	3	3	1	2	2
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	2	2	4	2	2	4	4	2	5	1
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	3	3	1	3	5	1	1	3	1	4
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	4	4	5	4	4	5	5	5	3	5
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	5	5	2	5	1	2	2	4	4	3

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	4	3	2	2	1	5	3	5	1	4
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	3	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	3
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	2	4	5	5	4	1	4	2	3	1
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	1	2	3	3	3	2	2	4	5	2
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	1	5	4	4	5	4	5	3	4	5

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	4	2	1	1	5	1	4	4	1	1
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	3	3	2	2	1	5	5	3	2	2
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	2	5	4	5	3	4	3	5	4	4
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	1	4	3	3	2	2	1	2	3	3
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	5	1	5	4	4	3	2	1	5	5

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	1	2	3	1	1	2	84
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	2	1	4	2	5	1	89
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	3	5	2	4	4	3	116
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	4	3	1	3	2	4	112
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	5	4	5	5	3	5	135

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	1	1	7	2	2	7	7	2	6	4
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	2	2	6	4	5	6	6	4	4	3
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	3	3	2	1	7	2	2	1	2	7
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	4	4	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	6
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process <i>Offer down payment assistance for homebuyers</i>	5	5	4	6	3	4	4	6	5	1
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	6	6	5	7	4	5	5	7	7	2
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	7	7	1	5	6	1	1	5	1	5

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	5	7	6	7	2	7	4	2	1	7
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	6	3	5	5	6	4	6	5	4	3
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	3	5	3	6	3	3	7	7	6	6
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	2	4	7	4	7	6	2	6	7	2
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process <i>Offer down payment assistance for homebuyers</i>	4	6	4	3	1	1	3	1	5	4
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	7	2	2	2	4	5	5	3	3	5
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	1	1	1	1	5	2	1	4	2	1

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	1	6	7	1	4	7	4	5	3	7
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	4	2	2	6	3	6	7	4	6	6
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	5	5	1	5	7	2	6	6	5	4
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	6	7	4	2	6	3	3	1	4	3
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process <i>Offer down payment assistance for homebuyers</i>	2	1	3	7	2	4	2	2	2	2
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	7	3	5	3	5	5	5	7	7	5
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	3	1	6	4	1	1	1	3	1	1

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	7	7	3	4	3	1	7	6	7	5
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	6	2	6	3	4	4	5	2	2	4
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	3	4	7	1	1	5	6	5	5	6
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	2	3	4	2	2	6	4	4	3	3
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process <i>Offer down payment assistance for homebuyers</i>	1	1	2	5	5	7	3	1	1	2
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	4	6	5	6	6	3	2	3	4	7
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	5	5	1	7	7	2	1	7	6	1

Goal 5	Ranking	Total	Top Ranks
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	7	189	6
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	6	179	0
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	5	173	5
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	2	154	2
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process <i>Offer down payment assistance for homebuyers</i>	3	133	9
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	4	194	0
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	1	123	20

**Goal 6**

Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice

Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking

1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	2
2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	1
3	4	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	3
4	2	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4

**Goal 6**

Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice

Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking

1	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	3	1
2	4	2	3	2	2	2	4	2	2
4	2	3	2	3	1	3	1	1	3
3	3	4	4	4	4	4	2	4	4

**Goal 6**

Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice

Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking

3	1	3	1	1	1	4	2	1	1
4	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
1	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	3
2	4	2	3	4	4	2	4	3	4

**Goal 6**

Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice

Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Total

3	1	1	2	55
4	3	2	1	75
2	2	4	3	95
1	4	3	4	116

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	1	1	2	5	4	2	2	7	3	1
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	2	2	4	7	3	4	4	10	9	2
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	3	3	3	10		3	3	5	7	5
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	4	4	10	9	6	10	10	9	8	3
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	4
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	6	6	5	8	2	5	5	8	5	6
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	7	7	6	6	10	6	6	6	4	7
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven	8	8	7	2	9	7	7	2	1	9
Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.										
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	9	9	8	3	8	8	8	3	10	10
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	10	10	9	4	7	9	9	4	2	8

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	5	4	4	2	3	4	1	8	6	1
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	4	8	10	3	2	1	2	1	5	2
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	6	5	3	4	9	9	4	5	4	5
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	3	3	9	9	5	7	3	9	3	3
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	2	2	2	7	1	2	9	2	1	4
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	1	7	8	6	7	10	6	6	2	6
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	10	6	6	5	8	3	8	3	10	7
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven	7	1	1	1	4	5	7	7	7	8
Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.										
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	8	9	5	8	10	6	10	10	8	9
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	9	10	7	9	6	8	5	4	9	10

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	10	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	5	1
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	1	10	6	5	6	2	2	1	1	3
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	9	2	5	8	10	9	4	3	4	4
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	2	3	2	10	8	8	3	4	10	9
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	6	6	3	1	7	7	6	5	3	2
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	3	7	4	3	5	3	5	6	6	6
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	8	9	10	9	4	10	7	7	7	5
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven	4	4	9	7	2	4	9	8	2	1
Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.										
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	5	8	7	2	3	5	8	9	9	8
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	1	5	8	6	9	6	10	10	8	9

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	6	1	2	1	103
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	9	8	3	2	144
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	5	2	1	3	165
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	4	3	8	4	205
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	7	4	6	5	126
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	2	9	5	8	187
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	8	6	10	6	237
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven	3	5	4	10	180
Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.					
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	10	7	7	7	254
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	1	10	9	9	250

# City of Menlo Park

## Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment.

The Action Guide lists Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, programs, and action items. The community-prioritized goals lead the Action Guide, followed by the other goals in sequential order.

Policies and programs are under the goals in sequential order, while action items are under the program they implement. The organizing structure and color scheme, demonstrated below, allows for easy reference:

Item	Structure	Example
Goal	<b>EJ#</b>	<b>EJ1</b>
<i>Policy</i>	<i>EJ#.#</i>	<i>EJ1.1</i>
Program	<b>EJ#.X</b>	<b>EJ1.A</b>
Action Item	<b>EJ#.X.#</b>	<b>EJ1.A.1</b>

The Action Guide includes details on programs and action items, organized under three groups: Descriptive Information, Implementation, and Time Frame. The structure and presentation style of the Action Guide may evolve over time.

## Descriptive Information

### Column A: ID

Identification of the policy, program, or action item corresponding to the goal they support (e.g., EJ4):

- Policies are given a number (e.g., EJ4.1)
- Programs are given a letter (e.g., EJ4.D)
- Action items are given a letter and a number (e.g., EJ4.D.1)

### Column B: Policy / Program / Action Item Text

Text of the policy, program, or action item.

### Column C: Classification

Identification of whether the row is a policy, program, or action item.

### Column D: In Progress?

If City and/or partners are currently conducting a process that would accomplish the objective of the program or action item, this column includes a brief description. As the City fulfills programs and action items, and initiates activity on additional programs and action items, this column may be updated.

## Implementation

Implementation data describes who would likely lead carrying out the program or action item and what funding is potentially available to fulfill it. Also included in this section are supporting City departments and partners outside City government, such as County authorities or non-governmental organizations.

### Column E: Lead Role

The City department or division who would likely lead the implementation of the program or action item.



### Column F: Supporting Role

City departments or divisions, as well as partner organizations, that may support implementation of the program or action item.

### Column G: Funding Source(s)

Potential sources of funding that may support program or action item implementation.

### Time Frame

The estimated time frame for programs and action items is arranged into two components: initiation (when work will begin) and completion (when work will be finished).

### Column H: Initiation

The programs and action items are sorted into four categories: those that can be started in a short-term time frame, a medium-term time frame, a long-term time frame, and those that are in progress. As the City fulfills programs and action items, and initiates action on additional programs and action items, this column may be updated. For the purposes of the Environmental Justice Element, the time frames are defined accordingly:

- **In Progress:** Already in progress. These are highlighted in gold in the Action Guide.
- **Short-Term:** Zero to three years from Element adoption, estimated
- **Medium-Term:** More than three and less than six years from Element adoption, estimated
- **Long-Term:** Six years or more from Element adoption, estimated

### Column I: Completion

The programs and action items are sorted into four categories: those that can be accomplished in a short-term time frame, a medium-term time frame, a long-term time frame, and those that are ongoing from initiation of work. For the purposes of the Environmental Justice Element, the time frames are defined accordingly:

- **Ongoing from Initiation:** Estimated to be worked on indefinitely
- **Short-Term:** Zero to three years from beginning of work on the item, estimated
- **Medium-Term:** More than three and less than six years from beginning of work on the item, estimated
- **Long-Term:** Six years or more from beginning of work on the item, estimated

Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element Action Guide								
DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>Community Priority #1: Goal EJ5. Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes</b>								
<i>EJ5.1</i>	<i>Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe, sanitary, and stable homes, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ5.2</i>	<i>Maintain and develop safe, sanitary, and stable homes across all locations and affordability ranges, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ5.3</i>	<i>Support housing development distribution throughout the city and not concentrated within Menlo Park's underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ5.A</b>	Identify, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments and work with property owners to resolve issues, particularly in underserved communities.	Program	The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. The Safety Element (Table S-4) includes a list of sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation.	Community Development	San Mateo County Environmental Health Services, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	Department of Food and Agriculture (Healthy Soils Demonstration Program)	<b>In Progress</b>	Short Term
<b>EJ5.B</b>	Conduct outreach to potentially eligible households regarding programs that support safe, sanitary, and stable homes.	Program	-	Community Development	California Department of Community Services and Development, City Manager's Office	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ5.C</b>	Create or partner with providers to provide a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters with questions. If such resources already exist, conduct proactive outreach and education to inform the community of available resources. Hold culturally competent, in-language outreach workshops.	Program	-	Community Development	Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ5.D	Identify opportunities to support a Community Land trust or other fiscal vehicle to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Community Development Department, MidPen Housing Community Land Trust	BMR Housing Fund	Long Term	Long Term
EJ5.E	Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F (regarding collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART)) and helping to facilitate first-time homeowner workshops for residents in underserved communities.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Local Community Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ5.F	Promote funds and subsidies that minimize the passing through of any upfront investment costs of building electrification on to tenants.	Program	-	Sustainability Division	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Medium Term
EJ5.G	Ensure that City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This will include consideration, at a minimum, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rental inventory of all dwelling units</li> <li>- Updated or expanded rent control laws</li> <li>- Rent increase mitigations, such as longer noticing requirements</li> <li>- Community and tenant opportunity to purchase</li> <li>- Revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper affordability (e.g., subsidies)</li> <li>- Expand relocation assistance for tenants</li> <li>- Just Cause Eviction protections regardless of tenant duration</li> <li>- Strengthened anti-tenant harassment ordinances</li> <li>- An examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs</li> </ul>	Program	Sixth Cycle Housing Element includes Program H2.E focusing on developing an Anti-Displacement Strategy	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department	General Fund	Short Term	Long Term
EJ5.H	As part of an anti-displacement program and to ensure stable housing, support increasing access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction by conducting community outreach, education, and engagement to ensure renters are aware of this resource. Include progress reports on usage annually.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Community Priority #2: Goal EJ4. Promote access to high quality and affordable food</b>								

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ4.1</b>	<i>Encourage adequate food access to fresh and healthy foods for all residents, particularly those in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ4.A</b>	Work with grocery stores and online food service delivery and meal providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food (e.g., reduced or waived delivery service fees). Encourage and support the acceptance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), CalFresh, and other governmental food assistance programs that increase food security.	Program	-	Community Development	Local Grocery Stores (e.g., Safeway, Trader Joe's), Local Grocery Delivery Services (e.g., Uber Eats, GrubHub, DoorDash), CalFresh	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.B</b>	Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual fliers, community events, information at shelters and food banks, as well as other appropriate outreach methods.	Program	-	Community Development	Communications and Public Engagement Division, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Homeless Outreach Team, San Mateo County Human Services Agency	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.C</b>	Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at municipal buildings and City-participating events. Encourage sourcing food from local small businesses.	Program	-	All City Departments	Sustainability Division	General Fund	Long Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.D</b>	Encourage and facilitate the establishment and operation of a farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets in underserved communities. Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)	Long Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.D.1</b>	At existing and future farmer's markets, or similar events, offer free or subsidized space for vendors who provide healthy, fresh, and affordable food for underserved communities.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.E</b>	Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens within or adjacent to neighborhoods and housing development sites. Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years of Environmental Justice Element adoption.	Program	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.E.1</b>	Explore identifying unused City-owned property to support community gardens. Encourage community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily and mixed-use development projects.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Short Term	Short Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ4.E.2	Identify private properties suitable for community gardens on vacant or undeveloped lots, or other opportunities for community-supported agriculture within the community. Encourage community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily and mixed-use development projects.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Short Term	Short Term
EJ4.E.3	Facilitate the installation of community gardens at senior centers and senior housing facilities.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	Community Development, Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g. Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ4.E.4	Develop programs and encourage developments that make smaller planter boxes or garden beds accessible for apartment dwellers.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>Community Priority #3: Goal EJ2. Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality</b>								
EJ2.1	<i>Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality (both indoor and outdoor), and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.2	<i>Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale, as well as collaborate on countywide and regional efforts. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve watershed and human health.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.3	<i>Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to promote and encourage urban greening on public and private projects (e.g., bioswales, raingardens, habitat restoration) in areas with relatively less tree canopy or other greenery to provide health and safety benefits to underserved communities residents.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.4	<i>Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards and maximize air quality (both indoor and outdoor) in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.5	<i>Work with Caltrans on improvements on State-owned rights of way.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.6	<i>When updating or installing transportation infrastructure, consider factors such as stormwater management, Universal Design Principles and attractive green roadway design.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.A	Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City's jurisdiction (e.g., gas stations, automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.	Program	-	Community Development	Peninsula Clean Energy, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Westbay Sanitary District, San Mateo County Environmental Health, San Mateo County Fire, Sustainability Division	Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.B	Implement and periodically update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Program	The Climate Action Plan is subject to annual progress reports as a standalone document are scheduled for 2028 update .Starting in 2024, the City will implement a zero emission landscaping equipment rule to improve air quality and reduce emissions.	Sustainability Division	City Manager's Office	General Fund, grants (e.g., California Energy Commission, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy, and CALFIRE)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.C	Conduct proactive education and outreach about indoor and outdoor air quality and protective actions that can be taken to both improve air quality inside one's home and to minimize exposure to poor air quality index days.	Program	-	Sustainability Division	Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), City Manager's Office, Peninsula Clean Energy, County Office of Sustainability	Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.C.1	Identify and implement methods and avenues for public education and outreach about air quality issues in the community.	Action Item	-	All City Departments	Public Works, Communications and Public Engagement Division, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), City Manager's Office, Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County Sustainability Department	-	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.C.2	Support the distribution of air purifiers and/or other air cleaning devices within underserved communities, especially for sensitive populations.	Action Item	-	Sustainability Division	Police, Sustainability Division, San Mateo County Sustainability Department	General Fund	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation

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EJ2.D	Minimize and mitigate illegal solid waste dumping (as defined in 7.04.030 of the Municipal Code), potentially through minimizing fees for disposal at landfills in collaboration with South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA).	Program	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.D.1	Conduct proactive outreach in underserved communities to inform households of free trash pickup days and solid waste disposal opportunities and programs, including the ACT Menlo Park reporting app. Outreach can include signage about ACT Menlo Park along Pierce Road.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement, Recology, Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.D.2	Explore ways to subsidize or eliminate fees for disposal at landfills and implement for underserved communities	Action Item	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement, Recology, Public Works	Clean California (Local Grants)	Long Term	Ongoing upon commencement
EJ2.E	Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan and update, as necessary, to incorporate environmental justice. Focus on underserved communities and implement programs in this Element, in coordination with related regional efforts.	Program	-	Public Works	Community Development	General Fund	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.1	Support efforts by other agencies to abate hazardous, polluted, or toxic sites. Encourage incorporating sea-level rise and groundwater rise in their remediation decisions.	Action Item	-	If on private property then Community development, if for public projects then Public Works	San Mateo County Health, Department of Water Resources, OneShoreline	Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)	Short Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.2	Prioritize comprehensive undergrounding of utilities in underserved communities on private and public property to promote resilience.	Action Item	The Menlo Park Municipal Code requires the undergrounding of electric and communication service connections on private property under certain circumstances. Some categories of private development in Office (O), Life Sciences (LS) and Residential Mixed Use (R-MU) Zoning Districts require undergrounding of overhead electric distribution lines of less than sixty (60) kilovolts and communication lines along the property frontage. The specified zoning districts are adjacent to and serve underserved communities.	Public Works	Community Development, City Manager's Office, utilities (e.g., PG&E)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), PG&E Rule 20 Program, Community Amenities Fund, Bonds per project specific deferred frontage agreements	In Progress	Medium Term

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EJ2.E.3	Focus green stormwater improvements for areas at risk of flooding with an emphasis on underserved communities.	Action Item	Public Works evaluates all opportunities to plan for and incorporate green stormwater improvements, including areas at risk of flooding and within underserved communities, per the City's 2019 Green Infrastructure Plan.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.E.4	Support West Bay Sanitary District, the respective responsible agency, in their efforts to prevent sewage discharges during large stormwater events. In the event of occurrence, coordinate with the responsible agency in conducting proactive, extensive, and prolonged community outreach and education to inform underserved communities of protective actions and risks. The City can coordinate with agencies to promptly share their information with the City Council and community after storms.	Action Item	-	Public Works	City Manager's Office, West Bay Sanitary District, East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Fair Oaks Sewer Maintenance District	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning and Project Development Grant)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.5	Collaborate with landowners to decrease the risk of flooding by advancing watershed management projects that reduce and/or store runoff during rainfall events, including the installation of green infrastructure and Low Impact Development (LID) practices, and improve the condition in the floodplain, for example through floodplain restoration or improvement.	Action Item	The City coordinates the incorporation of Low Impact Development (LID) and green infrastructure elements into project stormwater management designs.	Public Works	OneShoreline, Department of Water Resources, City Manager's Office, Community Development	Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (Infrastructure State Revolving Fund (ISRF) Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.E.6	Encourage green infrastructure in future developments, including using green infrastructure as preferred alternative.	Action Item	Green infrastructure, including Low Impact Development (LID), is currently utilized for stormwater management and treatment in development projects.	Public Works	Community Development, City Manager's Office, Sustainability Division	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term



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EJ2.E.7	Establish requirements for major development and redevelopment projects to construct and maintain urban greening projects in the adjacent public right of way. Community benefits for such projects could include shade trees for pedestrian and biking routes.	Action Item	The existing heritage tree ordinance has requirements for tree planting on private properties and replacement of trees in the public right of way. The City is currently updating administrative guidelines.	Public Works	Caltrans, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, Canopy	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grants	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.E.8	Restore and enhance parks, natural lands and large open spaces and explore expansion of the City's natural areas preservation system through land transfers and acquisitions of undeveloped/unprotected private and public lands.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	City Manager's Office, Community Development, Public Works, Save The Bay, California Department of Conservation	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.F	Increase community outreach and awareness of the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, including the Community Rating System, and the potential benefits to homeowners (e.g., reduced insurance premiums)	Program	-	Communications and Public Engagement Division	Public Works	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.G	Develop incentives to encourage shared commute programs and alternative methods of travel for city events, meetings, and official business.	Program	-	City Manager's Office, Public Works	SamTrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Public Works, Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Long Term

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EJ2.H	Collaborate with SamTrans and Ravenswood City School District, as well as Meta and other large employers to leverage transportation electrification initiatives to prioritize bus electrification in underserved communities.	Program	SamTrans anticipated being fully electric by 2034, in compliance with State law requiring transit fleets be all electric by 2040.	Public Works	Sustainability Division, SamTrans, Ravenswood City School District, Large Local Businesses (over 50 employees, e.g., Meta, SRI International, Grail, others)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.I	Consider revisions to applicable City regulations that will reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life in underserved communities.	Program	Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance, Municipal Code Chapter 7.30 (Smoking Regulated or Prohibited), Building Code amendments.	All City Departments	-	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.I.1	Review truck routes and/or identify and pursue measures for reductions to diesel emissions in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.I.2	Identify, evaluate and implement potential mitigation measures that support Caltrans mitigation efforts to reduce noise and air quality impacts from adjacent freeways and highways, particularly those impacting underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.I.3	Install improved vegetative buffers between freeways and highways and adjacent land uses to reduce noise and air quality impacts, upon identification of the roadway segments for such installations.	Action Item	Landscaping work on the Willow/US-101 interchange is in the design phase as of early 2024.	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning) Community Amenities Fund	In Progress	Long Term

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EJ2.I.4	Review and update the Transportation Toolkit (Appendix I to the Transportation Master Plan) and the City's standard design details to incorporate Universal Design principles to enhance access for all people.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Long Term	Medium Term
EJ2.I.5	Support roadway design that integrates green stormwater infrastructure into traffic calming (where appropriate) and includes trees, landscape buffer areas, public art, public space, and other visual enhancement.	Action Item	The City is currently integrating green stormwater infrastructure in roadway design, but is limited by the available space/right-of-way where landscape buffers can be incorporated.	Public Works	Caltrans, Library and Community Services	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.I.6	Consider rezoning and limiting the intensity and usage of industrially zoned properties and/or other means such as landscaping to ensure a healthier and safer separation between residential and industrial uses.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ2.I.7	Explore reductions to parking requirements with the intent to encourage balanced live, work, and play environments.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ2.I.8	Inform residents and organizations in underserved communities of the permit application process for temporary street closures for temporary events such as farmers' markets, arts and craft fairs, bicycle and pedestrian events, and other public events. Consider easing the permitting process for temporary street closures in the city.	Action Item	An update to the special event permitting process was made in 2022.	Police	City Manager's Office, City Attorney's Office, Community Development, Public Works.	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Short Term

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EJ2.J	Develop Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park within four years of the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	The City applied for CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant for Urban Forest Management Plan in May 2024. This grant requires projects to be completed by March 31, 2028. The City has budgeted \$250,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as matching funds.	Public Works	Sustainability Division, Canopy	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 Planning Grant), United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) Grants, CALFIRE grants. City of Menlo Park Heritage Tree in-lieu fee program	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.J.1	Urban canopy expansion prioritizing underserved communities and areas vulnerable to urban heat effects, using tools such as the Tree Equity Score and Bay Area Greenprint.	Action Item	The City is currently updating administrative guidelines, adding more City approved consulting arborists to the list, and working towards securing grant funds for Urban Forest: Developing a Master Plan for Menlo Park.	Public Works	Canopy	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), Community Amenities Fund	In Progress	Short Term
EJ2.J.2	Implement equitable canopy expansion procedures and promote and maintain healthy and vibrant trees that may require dedicating additional resources within the City Arborist Division, Public Works.	Action Item	The City is working towards the development of an urban forest management plan, updating administrative guidelines, and adding more City approved consulting arborists. One additional employee was added to the Trees maintenance section in 2022-23. In May 2024, the City applied for the CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant to develop an Urban Forest Management Plan for Menlo Park.	City Manager's Office, Public Works	Sustainability Division, Public Works	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program),	In Progress	Short Term

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EJ2.J.3	Include trees, landscape buffer areas, public art, public space, and other visual enhancements in roadway projects, emphasizing tree planting and landscaping along all streets.	Action Item	Routine maintenance is conducted every 5 years. Residents may request evaluation of work needs outside of routine maintenance, which is on a 5-year cycle.	Public Works	Community Development, Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), Community Amenities Fund (north of 101 implementation of Action Item 2.N.3)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.J.4	Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to prioritize the retention of mature street trees in public rights of way or City-owned parcels during infrastructure modifications. (e.g., using solutions such as bulb-outs, basin expansion, and sidewalk re-routing.)	Action Item	The City has preservation requirements for heritage and street trees.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.J.5	Coordinate with property owners to help preserve mature trees by replacing any that require removal in any redevelopment process. Explore opportunities to transplant trees and vegetation that require removal during construction to other places within underserved communities. Consider requiring multiple new trees be planted for each mature tree removed.	Action Item	The City is updating administrative guidelines and adding more City approved consulting arborists to the list.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.K	Prioritize relief from extreme heat (Safety Element Program S1.T) in underserved communities. Information on these resources shall be provided at community facilities (e.g., BHCC).	Program	The City currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public.	Library and Community Services	Communications and Public Engagement	General Fund	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Goal EJ1. Address unique and compounded health risks</b>								

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<i>EJ1.1</i>	<i>Prioritize programs that address the unique and compounded health risks present in underserved communities currently and in the future.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.2</i>	<i>Reduce climate vulnerability in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.3</i>	<i>Strengthen collaboration efforts with residents in underserved communities, particularly on public improvement projects.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.4</i>	<i>Prioritize active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) improvements, transit incentives, and neighborhood connectivity in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ1.A</b>	Prioritize public/capital improvements needed in underserved communities with priority allocation of funding, available to the City locally and from regional, statewide, and federal entities, for such projects, and to address climate change.	Program	-	City Manager's Office, Public Works	Community Development, Sustainability Division	General Fund, General Capital Fund, Countywide Transportation Sales Tax Funds (Measure A & W), State and Federal Gas Taxes	Short Term	Long Term
<b>EJ1.A.1</b>	Support (to the extent possible and subject to funding limitations) non-governmental agencies' grant applications and projects that will specifically help implement the Environmental Justice Element and address highlighted issues in underserved communities such as safe housing, increased tree coverage, recreational resources, active transportation, environmental concerns, air quality.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	Bayfront Mitigation Fund (project specific) Community Amenities Fund (projects specific)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.B</b>	Prepare publicly available reports annually to describe how underserved communities are considered and prioritized in capital improvement plans, departmental work plans, and budgets within four years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	-	All City Departments	-	General Fund	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.C</b>	Develop and publicize annual or every-other-year reports that measure progress and outcomes of the implementation of the Environmental Justice Element programs within six years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.D</b>	Review CalEnviroScreen to support evaluation of Environmental Justice Element policies and programs.	Program	-	Community Development	California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, All City Departments	General Fund	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Goal EJ3. Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities</b>								
<i>EJ3.1</i>	<i>Prioritize providing public facilities and programming for underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ3.2</i>	<i>Ensure accessibility of public facilities for all community members, especially those in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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<b>EJ3.3</b>	<i>Support programs that increase access to public and private health resources for underserved communities in locations that are convenient and accessible.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ3.4</b>	<i>Coordinate with local school districts, transit operators, and other public agencies to provide adequate public facilities, improvements, and programs in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ3.A</b>	Identify, renovate, and retrofit candidate public buildings in underserved communities to serve as Climate Resilience Centers as outlined by the California Strategic Growth Council. These buildings should be places where the community already regularly gathers, such as libraries, community centers, or the Belle Haven neighborhood substation.	Program	-	Public Works	Sustainability Division, Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.B</b>	Work with relevant departments to install infrastructure allowing for easy disposal of pet and animal waste at parks and along highly trafficked streets.	Program	-	Public Works	City Manager's Office	General Fund	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.C</b>	Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills. In addition, expand outreach and community access to the City Library's laptop and wireless hotspot, or similar, borrowing programs.	Program	The City currently offers laptop lending and wi-fi hotspots free to residents at the library with their library card.	Library and Community Services	Local Internet Providers (e.g., AT&T, Xfinity, Spectrum), San Mateo County Public Works, California Public Utilities Commission, Administrative Services Department/Information Technology Department	California Advanced Services Fund: Broadband Public Housing Account	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.D</b>	Seek to form partnerships, particularly with community based organizations and businesses, and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ3.D.1</b>	Encourage local transit providers to establish and maintain routes and services that provide underserved communities with convenient access to health service facilities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	SamTrans, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

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EJ3.D.2	Partner with local transit providers to provide a comprehensive system of para-transit service for seniors and people of all abilities and enhance service within the city and to regional public facilities, especially for access to health care and other needs.	Action Item	-	Public Works	SamTrans, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.D.3	Identify means of supporting a citywide paramedicine program providing health care delivery, pop-up clinics, and home visits, especially to those most vulnerable or underserved, such as seniors and residents of underserved communities through partnering with health care services.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, City Manager's Office, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.D.4	Identify a partner who can provide a community health clinic in Belle Haven.	Action Item	A Community health clinic has been proposed as part of Belle Haven Elementary School redesign by Ravenswood City School District.	City Manager's Office	Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.E	Coordinate with schools and other local organizations (e.g., Boys and Girls Club) to support after-school activities and related outreach/communications generally.	Program	-	Library and Community Services	Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.E.1	Coordinate with the Ravenswood City School District to help publicize affordable after school care options/programs and explore opportunities to enhance transportation options for youth to BHCC.	Action Item	Ravenswood City School District has a number of after school care options/programs and the City can help publicize and enhance usage. City vans provide transportation to BHCC for youth enrolled in the City's after school program, however, there is not transportation for youth interested in going to BHCC after school but are not enrolled in the City's program.	Library and Community Services	Communications and Public Engagement, Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.E.2	Encourage joint use of recreational fields.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	Public Works, Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term



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EJ3.F	Seek to form partnerships or other agreements with a banking specialist and other identified partners to provide a community bank or banking services in the underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Local banks	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.G	Ensure delivery on the needs of underserved communities through the City's Programming Plans currently in place and continue to adapt programming based on community feedback through regular community surveys and outreach.	Program	City staff, with input from the community, Belle Haven Community Campus subcommittee and working group, Library Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission, have developed robust programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus. City will continue to adapt programming to community needs through regular community surveys and outreach that solicit community feedback.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ3.G.1	During facility renovations, install distributed solar panels and battery storage over facility parking lots for resiliency and heat reduction.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Community Campus is an all-electric, zero combustion, net zero energy public building with onsite renewable energy generation, battery microgrid, and electric vehicle charging stations. The facility is built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum environmental standards, and its structural design is resilient to serve as an emergency shelter. Construction is complete.	Public Works	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department, Menlo Park Public Works Department, Silicon Valley Clean Energy, Menlo Park Building Division	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Complete	Short Term

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EJ3.G.2	Provide equitable access to programs at the Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities.	Action Item	Programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) emphasize equitable access to programs through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities. Menlo Park residents who live or attend K-12 school within the service area of BHCC are eligible for hyperlocal resident enrollment fees at BHCC.	Library and Community Services	Library and Community Services Department, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.3	Providing community programming for all age groups, including older teens and older adults not considered seniors.	Action Item	The City provides and is working to develop additional programming for all age groups, including teens and older adults not considered seniors, and will continue to adapt programming to meet community needs and desires as they change over time, with community input.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.4	Provide childcare, potentially with funding support for residents of underserved communities.	Action Item	The City provides childcare with funding support for underserved communities at the Belle Haven Child Development Center (BHCCDC) and Belle Haven Youth Center (BHYC). Tuition is subsidized based on income level with grant funding from the State and other sources.	Library and Community Services	Local Childcare Organizations	California Department of Education	In Progress	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.G.5	Communicate with the Ravenswood City School District to enhance an understanding of preferred amenities and activities that can be included at Belle Haven Community Campus.	Action Item	Communication between the City and the Ravenswood City School District is ongoing. The School District partners with Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring, and City Year to provide before-school and after-school care. These collaborations offer both academic support and enrichment activities and the City continually seeks opportunities to amplify support for youth and families.	Library and Community Services	Ravenswood City School District, Communications and Public Engagement	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.6	Provide safe and highly visible pathways that connect residential areas in underserved communities to the new community center. Safety and visibility features should include adequate lighting.	Action Item	The Vision Zero Action Plan identifies high priority systemic safety issues to be addressed in all neighborhoods, with a focus on underserved communities.	Public Works	Library and Community Services, Community Development	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.7	Support the inclusion of artwork (e.g., murals) that reflects the diversity and culture of underserved communities at community centers and beyond. Include community artifacts and testaments to community history in the community center.	Action Item	Belle Haven Community Campus will include exhibits and displays focused on Belle Haven history, people, and neighborhood stories, rotating exhibits by local artists, interpretive artworks and multimedia.	Library and Community Services	Local Art Initiatives (e.g., Elevate Art Menlo Park, Allied Arts Guild)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ3.G.8</b>	Uplift culturally relevant holiday events at Belle Haven Community Campus to foster a feeling of belonging among all residents.	Action Item	The City is committed to work with community members to create more culturally relevant events is ongoing, including through mini-grants.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
<b>EJ3.G.9</b>	Facilitate yoga classes and other opportunities for regular community-gathering physical activities, such as walking groups and/or hiking programs for the underserved communities. Plan programs suitable to multiple age groups and abilities.	Action Item	The City currently offers yoga, Zumba, line-dancing and other movement classes for various age groups. Work with the community to develop new opportunities for community-oriented physical activities such as walking and/or hiking programs is ongoing.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
<b>EJ3.H</b>	Ensure that recreational facilities throughout Menlo Park provide all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles, with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities.	Program	City prioritizes access for all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles.	Library and Community Services	Public Works, Community Development	General Fund	In Progress	Long Term
<b>EJ3.H.1</b>	Provide public facilities that are well designed, energy efficient, maintained, and compatible with adjacent land uses.	Action Item	-	All City Departments	Community Development	General Fund	Medium Term	Long Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.H.2	Offer substantially reduced costs for recreation activities, particularly to residents of underserved communities based on economic need.	Action Item	Programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) emphasize equitable access to programs through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities. Menlo Park residents who live or attend K-12 school within the service area of BHCC are eligible for hyperlocal resident enrollment fees at BHCC.	Library and Community Services	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	General Fund	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.H.3	In coordination with the City's Parks and Recreational Facilities Master Plan, provide public restroom facilities at parks in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department, Menlo Park Public Works Department	General Fund, Recreation In-Lieu Fee Fund	Short Term	Long Term
EJ3.H.4	Expand hours for public recreation facilities to allow working people to take advantage of the facilities. This should include open hours until 9:00 p.m. on weekdays and possibly shortened hours on weekends.	Action Item	-	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	-	General Fund	Short Term	Short Term
<b>Goal EJ6. Encourage physical activity and active transportation</b>								
EJ6.1	<i>Prioritize programs that encourage physical activity in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.2	<i>Support physically active lifestyles through investment in complete streets and active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) and safety in underserved communities</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.3	<i>Prioritize the implementation of traffic and transit improvements in underserved communities to reduce excessive speed, limit cut through traffic, and make streets comfortable and accessible places for all users and abilities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.A	Identify and eliminate, barriers to outdoor physical activity, such as damaged, incomplete, blocked, or littered sidewalks and bike paths, lack of safe street crossings and direct connections, excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping and shade trees along streets in underserved communities.	Program	-	Public Works	Community Development, Sustainability Division	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.B	In concurrence with the City's Vision Zero Action Plan, develop and implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling and taking transit. These efforts should include education for people using all modes.	Program	-	Public Works	Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, SamTrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ6.C	Coordinate with Ravenswood City School District to expand the Safe Routes to School program, including potential for increased crossing guards at key intersections.	Program	-	Public Works	Ravenswood City School District	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ6.D	Prepare to update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan (best practice is to update every 10-15 years) to improve environmental justice.	Program	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities), Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation Grants (Safe Streets and Roads for All, Sustainable Transportation Planning)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ6.D.1	Consider community solutions for addressing concerns related to parking (e.g., idling and noise, parking availability challenges) in underserved communities and explore the creation of Residential Preferential Parking (RPP) programs.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Police	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.D.2	Seek opportunities to improve pedestrian safety, at all Willow Road intersections.	Action Item	The City adopted the Vision Zero Action Plan in January 2024. The City is working on a Willow Road bicycle and pedestrian improvement project.	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
EJ6.D.3	Consider strategies to reduce excessive speed and cut-through traffic in underserved communities.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan is nearly complete and the City is coordinating with Caltrans to complete signal improvements at Willow and Newbridge	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ6.D.4	Install traffic calming measures to reduce speeds, as well as flashing stop signs in underserved communities, particularly around schools during pick-up and drop-off periods.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan is near completion. The Plan has completed speed humps near Belle Haven Elementary School, and bulbouts along Ivy, Chilco, Terminal and Newbridge.	Public Works	Caltrans, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, Ravenswood City School District, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Short Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.D.5	Install bikeways on Ivy Drive, ideally Class I or Class IV.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Long Term	Long Term
EJ6.D.6	Expand the network of safe, accessible, and appealing pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including pedestrian connections within and in between neighborhoods. Poles, signs, or other impediments in the center of sidewalks should be modified to improve accessibility and sidewalk safety.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ6.D.7	Install lighting to encourage walking and safe travel at night. This may begin with installation on Ivy Drive, Hamilton Avenue, Chilco Street, Newbridge Street, and at public buildings at parks. It should continue after subsequent community outreach that identifies other streets and locations with inadequate lighting, prioritizing underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Community Development	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Short Term	Long Term
<b>Goal EJ7. Create equitable civic and community engagement</b>								
<i>EJ7.1</i>	<i>Prioritize civic and community engagement programs that enhance the participation and inclusion of underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ7.2</i>	<i>Keep residents informed about governmental meetings and actions by ensuring transparency and accessibility in government and decision making.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-



DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ7.3</b>	<i>Treat all members of the community fairly and promote equity and capacity building toward creating a healthy environment and just community.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ7.A</b>	Promote and evaluate capacity-building efforts to educate and involve traditionally underrepresented populations, including underserved communities, in the public decision-making process.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.1</b>	Partner with community-based organizations that have relationships, trust and cultural competency with target communities to outreach on local initiatives and issues and allow them the use of space in the Belle Haven Community Campus at no cost.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.2</b>	Use culturally appropriate approaches to public participation and involvement in a partnership with community based organization.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.3</b>	Deploy educational workshops for City staff to enhance understanding social injustice and housing needs pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.4</b>	Provide training for decision makers, City staff, applicants, and public on social justice issues that affect community members.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.B</b>	All meetings with an agendized item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the underserved community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as satellite meeting centers, simulcasting, and/or remote participation. Consider hardcopy materials for outreach, particularly door-to-door outreach.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Library and Community Services	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.C</b>	Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation (such as food and refreshments, stipends, on-site child care) at community outreach events in underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D</b>	Pursue equitable civic and community engagement.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.1</b>	Initiate outreach efforts as early as possible in the decision-making process before significant resources have been invested.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.2</b>	Conduct open meetings on issues affecting land use and the environment.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Public Works	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.3</b>	At least twice per year, beginning immediately following Environmental Justice Element Adoption, conduct City Council meetings in underserved communities.	Action Item	The Planning Commission and City Council will review and recommend/consider adoption of the Environmental Justice Element at BHCC.	Community Development	-	General Fund	<b>In Progress</b>	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.4</b>	Encourage representation from all districts on City boards and commissions.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.D.5	Evaluate scheduling of public meetings in order to allow for a wide range of participation options around typical and atypical working hours.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.6	Coordinate outreach efforts between City departments to avoid duplication and encourage that all Menlo Park community stakeholders receive notification and information.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.7	Inform the public on decisions – and seek feedback on decisions – using multiple communication methods, including traditional and online forms of communication.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.8	Incorporate multilingual outreach, announcements and noticing into City procedures for public meetings and hearings and offer interpretation services at all meetings and workshops on environmental issues.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.9	Consider offering childcare at key meetings and workshops on environmental issues affecting entire neighborhoods and the city as a whole.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.10	Distribute contact information (such as phone numbers to call) for various departments, programs and other functions in the City organization in underserved communities and in appropriate languages.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.E	Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the BHCC as a community hub for learning and engagement opportunities strengthened with partner organizations. These will connect residents in underserved communities with pre-existing city and state resources as well as encourage resident participation in public meetings, events, and decision making.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.E.1	Provide resources at BHCC about environmental safety, including flooding, extreme heat, and other issues identified in the Safety Element. Consider having a concierge or dedicated staff/resources to provide outreach on local mitigation efforts in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, Public Works, Sustainability Division	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.F	Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating City Councilmembers and appointed commissioners for the time they spend in their positions to make the positions more accessible to residents of underserved communities.	Program	A Planning Commission stipend pilot program was added in the 2023-2024 budget.	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	In Progress	Short Term
EJ7.G	Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions.	Program	SamTrans currently operates a countywide paratransit service.	Library and Community Services	SamTrans, Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.H	Ensure that disaster preparedness planning as described in the Safety Element includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park's underserved communities. Upon adoption of the Environmental Justice Element, conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that may include participation and information dissemination at public event and/or fairs in underserved communities with proactive encouragement and opportunity for the residents to sign up for emergency alert systems.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Menlo Park Fire Protection District	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.I	Encourage the sustained engagement and involvement of underserved communities in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. Maintain membership and partnership with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority during their oversight of levee installations and expansions protecting underserved communities.	Program	The SAFER Bay Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in 2022 and provides engagement and involvement opportunities.	Public Works	City Manager's Office, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ7.J	Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Annual reporting, at a minimum, should be provided to the City Council and made available on the City website.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.1	Monitoring programming at community centers for usage, popularity, and equitable access, including an annual report on community center programming to Council. The report shall include community outreach and will recommend any updates to programming and outreach methods to address inequitable access.	Action Item	The City currently collects usage data and statistics, and provides monthly usage reports to Library Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission. Annual report to City Council is currently under development.	Library and Community Services	-	General Fund	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.2	Publish an annual report on the progress of the Transportation Master Plan, beginning a year after adoption of the updated Transportation Master Plan.	Action Item	An online map showing completed projects is published on the City website.  Further status/dashboard information about the Transportation Master Plan and Vision Zero Action Plan is under development.	Public Works	Community Development Department, Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.J.3	Diligently implement all state laws and mandated bias and sensitivity training requirements for law enforcement officers, current and new upon hire, who may interact with historically discriminated groups. The Police Department shall maintain records as required by state law to show vigilant compliance with all state laws and California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requirements. The Police Department includes documentation of records generated in compliance with the department's "Bias-Based Policing" policy as well as California's Racial and Identity Profiling Act in its quarterly reporting to the community through City Council.	Action Item	-	Police	City Manager's Office	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.4	Prepare and publicize an annual report describing the City's progress on promoting and evaluating capacity-building efforts per Program EJ7.D. This report shall also evaluate outreach methods and recommend adjusting outreach strategies to reflect best practices and results.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.K	The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.L	The City Council shall consider the community-identified environmental justice priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation

**RESOLUTION NO. XXXX****RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK  
ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL PLAN TO UPDATE THE  
SAFETY ELEMENT**

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park (“City”) General Plan includes the Open Space/Conservation, Noise, and Safety Elements in a combined document that was last comprehensively updated on May 21, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Safety Element requires revision and updating to ensure compliance with current State law and regulations, including Senate Bill 379 (2015), Senate Bill 1035 (2018), Senate Bill 99 (2019), and Senate Bill 272 (2023); and

WHEREAS, the update to the Safety Element (“Project”) intentionally focuses on revision and updating to ensure compliance with current State law and regulations, and the Open Space/Conservation and Noise Elements are unchanged; and

WHEREAS, the Safety Element incorporates by reference the current San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and City of Menlo Park Annex, approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 2021, as required by Assembly Bill 2140 (2006) to increase opportunities for financial assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and

WHEREAS, the City conducted an extensive community outreach and engagement process that was inclusive and intentional to ensure the Safety Element reflects the community’s input and values while meeting state requirements and included activities such as community meetings, pop-ups, focus groups, English-Spanish translation/interpretation services, and surveys; and

WHEREAS, community meetings were held on August 26, 2021; April 5, 2022; February 9, 2023; February 10, 2023; May 2, 2024; and May 9, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed and provided feedback on the draft Safety Element on June 20, 2023 and June 3, 2024 and received and considered all public comment; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed and provided feedback on the draft Safety Element on June 20, 2023 and June 18, 2024 and received and considered all public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Project requires discretionary action by the City and therefore the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA,” Public Resources Code §21000 *et seq.*) and CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15000 *et seq.*) require analysis and a determination regarding the Project’s environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the City is the lead agency, as defined by CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, and is therefore responsible for the preparation, consideration, certification, and approval of environmental documents for the Project; and

WHEREAS, as part of adopting the ConnectMenlo General Plan Update in 2016, the City prepared and certified the ConnectMenlo EIR, and for the Housing Element Update project (i.e., update to the Housing Element, update to the Safety Element, new Environmental Justice

Element, and associated changes including zoning amendments), a subsequent environmental impact report (SEIR) was prepared (State Clearinghouse No. 1990030530) which incorporated and revised the ConnectMenlo EIR to ensure that environmental aspects of the Housing Element Update were evaluated, and the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6808 on January 31, 2023 certifying the SEIR and taking associated CEQA actions; and

WHEREAS, CEQA recognizes that the specificity of environmental analysis for approval of a project is related to the nature and level of detail of the project being studied, does not require an agency to engage in speculation or conjecture as to potential impacts, and allows an agency to forego environmental analysis of project impacts upon determining it would be too speculative; and

WHEREAS, the amendment to the General Plan to update the Safety Element was considered in the certified SEIR and ultimately, the SEIR determined that an evaluation of potential environmental effects of the updated Safety Element was neither appropriate nor required under CEQA, as the Safety Element is primarily a policy document addressing general City direction so that it would be too speculative and uncertain to consider future development that might arise from the Safety Element, and the SEIR noted that any future proposed physical action associated with the Safety Element would undergo its own environmental analysis; and

WHEREAS, the certified SEIR concluded that the City's decision not to include such an evaluation was based on the purpose and characteristics of the Safety Element and as informed and supported by statute, regulation, and applicable case law indicating that such an analysis was not required by CEQA under such circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing as prescribed by law to consider the amendment to the General Plan to update the Safety Element on August 26, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission adopted Planning Commission Resolution No. 2024-035, on file with the Office of the City Clerk and incorporated by this reference, recommending that the City Council adopt an amendment to the General Plan to update the Safety Element; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing as prescribed by law to consider the Planning Commission's recommendation and the amendment to the General Plan to update the Safety Element on September 24, 2024, and received and considered public comment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Menlo Park, acting by and through its City Council, having considered and been fully advised in the matter and good cause appearing therefore, as follows:

**Section 1. Recitals.**

The following recitations are true and correct and are hereby incorporated into this resolution.

**Section 2. General Plan Consistency.**

The update to the Safety Element (part of the City's combined Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements document) is consistent with the purposes of the General Plan in that the amendment supports a variety of objectives such as: promoting the orderly development of Menlo Park and its surrounding area (Land Use Goal LU-1); enhancing collaboration with adjacent jurisdictions (Land Use Policy LU-1.5); maintaining and enhancing the stability of Menlo Park's residential neighborhoods (Land Use Goal LU-2); promoting property maintenance

(Land Use Policy LU-2.8); avoiding development in areas with hazards to life or property (Land Use Policy LU-7.7); coordinating sea level rise/flood protection and planning (Land Use Program LU-7.G and LU-7.H); and encouraging resilient housing designs (Housing Element Policy H6.2).

**Section 3. Environmental Review.**

The amendment to the General Plan to update the Safety Element was addressed in the previously certified SEIR and no further environmental consideration is required under CEQA, and staff is directed to process a Notice of Determination to that effect.

**Section 4. Adoption.**

The amendment to the General Plan to update the Safety Element including the current San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and City of Menlo Park Annex, approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 2021 is hereby adopted (Exhibit A).

**Section 5. Effective Date.**

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the City Council.

I, Judi A. Herren, City Clerk of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing City Council Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said City Council on the twenty-fourth day of September, 2024, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of said City on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_, 2024.

---

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

Exhibit:

- A. Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements (amendments only to the Safety Element)

# City of Menlo Park

## Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements

Original Adoption: May 21, 2013  
Safety Element Update Adoption: \_\_\_\_\_



## Acknowledgments

### Safety (2024)

#### City Council

Drew Combs, Vice Mayor  
Maria Doerr, Councilmember  
Ray Mueller, Councilmember (former)  
Betsy Nash, Councilmember  
Cecilia Taylor, Mayor  
Jen Wolosin, Councilmember

#### Planning Commission

Andrew Barnes (former)  
Katie Behroozi  
Chris DeCardy (former)  
Linh Dan Do  
Michael Doran (former)  
Andrew Ehrich, Vice Chair  
Katie Ferrick  
Cynthia Harris (former)  
Camille Kennedy (former)  
Henry Riggs (former)  
Jennifer Schindler, Chair  
Misha Silin  
Ross Silverstein  
Michele Tate (former)  
David Thomas (former)

#### City Staff

Deanna Chow, Community Development Director  
Tom Smith, Principal Planner  
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## Technical Appendices

The *San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP)*, including the City of Menlo Park Annex, is incorporated and adopted by reference into the Safety Element, available online at the County of San Mateo’s website ([smc.gov.org/dem/multijurisdictional-local-hazard-mitigation-plan](http://smc.gov.org/dem/multijurisdictional-local-hazard-mitigation-plan)). The MJLHMP is presented in two volumes: Volume 1 includes planning area-wide elements and Volume 2 includes planning partner annexes, including one for the City of Menlo Park. This two-volume MJLHMP was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA’s Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The MJLHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities.

Menlo Park’s *2030 Climate Action Plan (2021)* is incorporated and adopted by reference into the Safety Element, available online from the City of Menlo Park’s website ([menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/City-Managers-Office/Sustainability/Climate-Action-Plan](http://menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/City-Managers-Office/Sustainability/Climate-Action-Plan)).



Note: The *City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update, General Plan Consistency Update and Zoning Ordinance Amendments Environmental Assessment*, prepared April 4, 2013, is available at the City of Menlo Park Community Development Department. The Environmental Assessment contains background technical analysis prepared for the Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements of the Menlo Park General Plan adopted May 21, 2013. The background sections in this document provide a summary of the information and technical analysis contained in the Environmental Assessment. The 2024 update of the Safety Element supersedes the prior information and technical analysis contained in the April 4, 2013 Environmental Assessment. Section VII (Safety Background) contains new information and analysis applicable to the 2024 update of the Safety Element.

## Introduction

### Section I

## Overview

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### **A** Purposes and Requirements of the Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements



The Open Space/ Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements reflect current conditions, important community issues and relevant State laws related to environmental conditions in Menlo Park. The elements focus on providing direction as to how to protect community safety and to maintain a clean, safe and healthy environment including air and water quality, noise, greenhouse gas, conservation

of energy and minimizing impacts of development in hazardous or environmentally sensitive habitat areas.

A general plan is required to address the specified provisions of each of the seven mandated elements listed in Government Code §65302 — land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise and safety — to the extent that the provisions are locally relevant. Cities and counties that have identified disadvantaged communities must also address environmental justice in their general plans, including air quality. The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has prepared General Plan Guidelines to provide a broad overview of what a general plan might contain. Jurisdictions may combine elements of their general plan, as appropriate, but all elements of a general plan have equal weight under the law. In this document, the Open Space and Conservation Elements have been combined because of the many overlapping issues addressed.

#### **Open Space/Conservation Element Requirements**

The Open Space/Conservation Element of the Menlo Park General Plan combines two of the seven elements required by State law (California Government Code, Section 65300 et. seq.) — Open Space and Conservation. Open Space issues include policies and programs to maintain, expand and improve Menlo Park’s open space and recreation areas, while Conservation institutes policies and programs to conserve natural resources. Under State law, parks are encompassed within the mandate of the Open Space Element.



Both Open Space and Conservation Elements have been required as part of local General Plans since 1970. In enacting these requirements, it was the intent of the State Legislature to assure that cities recognize that open space land is a limited and valuable resource and to assure that every city and county will prepare and carry out an open space plan.

Section 65560 and 65561 of the Government Code specifies the contents of an Open Space Element. State policy with regard to open space is described in Section 65561 as follows:

- "(1) That the preservation of open-space land . . . is necessary not only for the maintenance of the economy of the state, but also for the assurance of the continued availability of land for the production of food and fiber, for the enjoyment of scenic beauty, for recreation, and for the use of natural resources.*
- (2) That discouraging premature and unnecessary conversion of open-space land to urban uses is a matter of public interest and will be of benefit to urban dwellers because it will discourage non-contiguous development patterns which unnecessarily increase the costs of community services to community residents.*
- (3) That the anticipated increase in the population of the state demands that cities, counties, and the state at the earliest possible date make definite plans for the preservation of valuable open-space land and take positive action to carry out such plans by the adoption and strict administration of laws, ordinances, rules and regulations as authorized by this chapter or by other appropriate methods.*
- (4) That in order to assure that the interests of all its people are met in the orderly growth and development of the state and the preservation and conservation of its resources, it is necessary to provide for the development by the state, regional agencies, counties and cities, including charter cities, of statewide coordinated plans for the conservation and preservation of open-space lands.*
- (5) That for these reasons this article is necessary for the promotion of the general welfare and for the protection of the public interest in open-space land."*

Below is an excerpt from Section 65302(d) of the California Government Code covering Conservation Elements.

*"A conservation element for the conservation, development, and utilization of natural*

*resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources. The conservation element shall consider the effect of development within the jurisdiction, as described in the land use element, on natural resources located on public lands, including military installations. That portion of the conservation element including waters shall be developed in coordination with any countywide water agency and with all district and city agencies, including flood management, water conservation, or groundwater agencies that have developed, served, controlled, managed, or conserved water of any type for any purpose in the county or city for which the plan is prepared. Coordination shall include the discussion and evaluation of any water supply and demand information described in Section 65352.5, if that information has been submitted by the water agency to the city or county.*

*The conservation element may also cover all of the following:*

- (A) The reclamation of land and waters.*
- (B) Prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other waters.*
- (C) Regulation of the use of land in stream channels and other areas required for the accomplishment of the conservation plan.*
- (D) Prevention, control, and correction of the erosion of soils, beaches, and shores.*
- (E) Protection of watersheds.*
- (F) The location, quantity and quality of the rock, sand and gravel resources.*

*Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2009, the conservation element shall identify rivers, creeks, streams, flood corridors, riparian habitats, and land that may accommodate floodwater for purposes of groundwater recharge and storm-water management.”*

### **Noise Element Requirements**

A Noise Element has been required as part of local General Plans since 1971. The State Legislature adopted the California Noise Control Act of 1973, which defined the following findings and policy:

- (1) Excessive noise is a serious hazard to the public health and welfare.
- (2) Exposure to certain levels of noise can result in physiological, psychological, and economic damage.
- (3) There is a continuous and increasing bombardment of noise in urban, suburban, and rural areas.
- (4) Government has by and large not taken the steps necessary to provide for the control, abatement, and prevention of unwanted and hazardous noise.
- (5) It is the policy of the State to provide an environment for all Californians free from noise that jeopardizes their health or welfare.



To implement this policy, Section 65302(f) of the California Government Code requires each city to have a Noise Element as part of its General Plan. The Government Code states that the Noise Element should be prepared according to guidelines established by the State Department of Health Services, Office of Noise Control. The excerpt below is from Section 65302(f) of the Government Code.

- “(f) A noise element which shall identify and appraise noise problems in the community. The noise element shall recognize the guidelines established by the Office of Noise Control in the State Department of Health Services and shall analyze and quantify, to the extent practicable, as determined by the legislative body, current and projected noise levels for all of the following sources:*
- (1) Highway and freeways.*
  - (2) Primary arterials and major local streets.*
  - (3) Passenger and freight on-line railroad operations and ground rapid transit systems.*
  - (4) Commercial, general aviation, heliport, helistop, and military airport operations, aircraft overflights, jet engine test stands, and all other ground facilities and maintenance functions related to airport operation.*
  - (5) Local industrial plants, including, but not limited to, railroad classification yards.*
  - (6) Other ground stationary noise sources identified by local agencies as contributing to the community noise environment.*

*Noise contours shall be shown for all of these sources and stated in terms of community noise equivalent level (CNEL) or day-night average level (Ldn). The noise contours shall be prepared on the basis of noise monitoring or following generally accepted noise modeling techniques for the various sources identified in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive.*

*The noise contours shall be used as a guide for establishing a pattern of land uses in the land use element that minimizes the exposure of community residents to excessive noise.*

*The noise element shall include implementation measures and possible solutions that address existing and foreseeable noise problems, if any. The adopted noise element shall serve as a guideline for compliance with the state’s noise insulation standards.”*

## Safety Element Requirements

Safety issues have been required to be addressed as part of local general plans since 1971. The San Fernando earthquake of February 1971, which claimed 64 lives and resulted in over \$500 million in property damage, and devastating wildland fires in September and October of 1970, were largely responsible for prompting the Legislature to pass this requirement. The following citation is from Government Code Section 65302(g)(1):

*“A safety element for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence; liquefaction; and other seismic hazards identified pursuant to Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 2690) of Division 2 of the Public Resources Code, and other geologic hazards known to the legislative body; flooding; and wildland and urban fires. The safety element shall include mapping of known seismic and other geologic hazards. It shall also address evacuation routes, military installations, peakload water supply requirements, and minimum road widths and clearances around structures, as those items relate to identified fire and geologic hazards.”*

Since the previous Safety Element was adopted in 2013, there have been several updates requiring safety elements to include climate change vulnerability and adaptation, and increased attention to wildfire and evacuation routes.

- **Senate Bill (SB) 1241 (2012):** Regarding wildfire hazards specifically, jurisdictions in a State Responsibility Area (SRA) or jurisdictions with Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ), are required to revise their safety element to include information about wildfire hazards and risks, as well as goals, policies, objectives and implementation measures for the protection of the community from unreasonable fire risk. *Note: Menlo Park does not fall in an SRA or VHFHSZ. SB 1241 does not apply to this document.*
- **SB 379 (2015):** Jurisdictions are required to complete a vulnerability assessment; develop climate adaptation and resilience goals, policies and objectives; and develop a set of feasible implementation measures addressing climate change adaptation and resiliency.
- **SB 1035 (2018):** Jurisdictions must review and update climate adaption and resiliency strategies in the safety element upon each revision of the housing element or local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP or multijurisdictional local hazard mitigation plan: MJLHMP), but not less than once every 8 years.
- **SB 99 (2019):** Identify residential development in hazard areas without at least two emergency evacuation routes.
- **SB 272 (2023):** By January 1, 2034, develop a sea level rise plan as part of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan that is subject to

approval by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

In addition, Assembly Bill (AB) 747 (2019) requires local jurisdictions that have not adopted a LHMP or MJLHMP before January 1, 2022 to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios in the Safety Element. AB 1409 (2021) added the requirement to also identify evacuation locations. Menlo Park is part of the San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was adopted in 2021. Therefore, the information required by AB 747 and AB 1409 do not apply to the 2024 update of the Safety Element. However, this analysis will be required upon the next revision of the LHMP or MJLHMP.

## **B** Definitions of Key Terms

### **Definitions**

#### *Open Space/Conservation*

- Baylands.** Areas along a bay that are permanently wet or periodically covered with shallow water, such as saltwater and freshwater marshes, open or closed brackish marshes, swamps, mudflats, and fans.
- Biotic Community.** A group of living organisms characterized by a distinctive combination of both animal and plant species in a particular habitat.
- Conservation.** Conservation is the wise management of renewable and non-renewable resources to prevent the unnecessary waste, destruction or neglect of resources for the enjoyment of future generations, such as water, air and energy systems. The preservation of these resources is concerned with the quality and quantity of the resource. Conservation areas may sustain a rare species and/or natural resource that cannot be restored or replaced. The purpose of conservation areas is to provide a protected location where the properties of a natural resource may be observed and enjoyed without risk of endangering the resource.
- Endangered Species.** A species of animal or plant that is considered endangered when its prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes.
- Habitat.** The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs.
- Historic Preservation.** The preservation of historically significant structures and neighborhoods until such time as, and in order to facilitate, restoration and rehabilitation of the building(s) to a former condition.
- Joint Powers Authority (JPA).** A legal arrangement that enables two or more units of government to share authority in order to plan and carry out a specific program or set of

programs that serves both units.

- **Open Space.** An open area that is primarily maintained in its natural condition and is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use for the purposes of (1) the preservation of natural resources, (2) the managed production of resources, (3) outdoor recreation, or (4) public health and safety. In some cases this definition includes pathways, landscaping and other improvements that are maintained. The provision of open space is intended to offer residents and visitors opportunities for quiet introspection in a location that provides visual relief from buildings, concrete and noise associated with more urban life.
- **Park.** A park is an improved, primarily unobstructed area, with landscaping and recreational equipment such as play apparatuses and/or basketball courts. In some cases this definition includes property with recreation buildings or structures. The purpose of parks is to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and physical exercise near to residential and employment areas.
- **Plan Bay Area.** Plan Bay Area is an integrated long-range transportation and land-use/housing plan for the San Francisco Bay Area. Legislation calls upon the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to adopt a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), which will coordinate land use and transportation in the regional transportation plan.
- **Rare or Endangered Species.** A species of animal or plant listed in: Sections 670.2 or 670.5, Title 14, California Administrative Code; or Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 17.11 or Section 17.2, pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act designating species as rare, threatened, or endangered.
- **Regional Park.** A park typically 150-500 acres in size focusing on activities and natural features not included in most other types of parks and often based on a specific scenic or recreational opportunity.
- **Riparian Lands.** Riparian lands are comprised of the vegetative and wildlife areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams. Riparian areas are delineated by the existence of plant species normally found near freshwater.
- **Sustainability.** Community use of natural resources in a way that does not jeopardize the ability of future generations to live and prosper.
- **Wetlands.** Transitional area between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or the land is covered by shallow water. Under a "unified" methodology now used by all Federal agencies, wetlands are defined as "those areas meeting certain criteria for hydrology, vegetation, and soils."

#### *Noise*

- **A-Weighted Decibel (dBA).** An overall frequency-weighted sound level in decibels that approximates the frequency response of the human ear.

- ❑ **Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL).** The energy-average of the A-weighted sound levels occurring during a 24-hour period, with 5 dB added to the levels occurring during the period from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and 10 dB added to the sound levels occurring during the period from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- ❑ **dBA.** The "A-weighted" scale for measuring sound in decibels; weighs or reduces the effects of low and high frequencies in order to simulate human hearing. Every increase of 10 dBA doubles the perceived loudness though the noise is actually ten times more intense.
- ❑ **Day-Night Sound Level (Ldn).** The energy-average of the A-weighted sound levels occurring during a 24-hour period, with 10 dB added to the sound levels occurring during the period from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- ❑ **Decibel (dB).** A unit measure of sound on a logarithmic scale.
- ❑ **Equivalent Continuous Noise Level (Leq).** The mean of the noise level, energy averaged over the measurement period, such as the 24-hour CNEL used by the State of California.
- ❑ **Noise.** Sound that is loud, unpleasant, unexpected, or otherwise undesirable.
- ❑ **Noise Attenuation.** Reduction of the level of a noise source using a substance, material, or surface, such as earth berms and/or solid concrete walls.
- ❑ **Noise Contour.** A line connecting points of equal noise level as measured on the same scale. Noise levels greater than the 60 Ldn contour (measured in dBA) require noise attenuation in residential development.
- ❑ **Sound.** A disturbance created by a vibrating object, which, when transmitted by pressure waves through a medium such as air, is capable of being detected by a receiving mechanism, such as the human ear or a microphone.
- ❑ **Statistical Sound Level (Ln).** The sound level that is exceeded "n" percent of time during a given sample period. For example, the L50 level is the statistical indicator of the time-varying noise signal that is exceeded 50 percent of the time (during each sampling period); that is, half of the sampling time, the changing noise levels are above this value and half of the time they are below it. This is called the "median sound level." The L10 level, likewise, is the value that is exceeded 10 percent of the time (i.e. near the maximum) and this is often known as the "intrusive sound level." The L90 is the sound level exceeded 90 percent of the time and is often considered the "effective background level" or "residual noise level."

#### *Safety*

- ❑ **Critical Use Structures.** Critical use structures include those required for effective disaster response (emergency operating centers, police and fire stations, medical facilities), lifelines (gas, water, sewage, and electrical systems), and structures whose failure would be catastrophic (dams).

- Fault.** A fracture in the earth's crust forming a boundary between shifting rock masses.
- Fire Hazard Zone.** An area where, due to slope, fuel, weather, or other fire-related conditions, the potential loss of life and property from a fire necessitates special fire protection measures and planning before development occurs.
- Flood, 100-Year and 500-Year.** The magnitude of a flood expected to occur on the average every 100 or 500 years, based on historical data. The 100-year flood has a 1/100, or one percent, chance of occurring in any given year. The 500-year flood has a 1/500, or two-tenths of one percent, chance of occurring in any given year.
- Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).** For each community, the official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated areas of special flood hazard and the risk premium zones applicable to that community.
- Hazardous Material.** Any substance that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. The term includes, but is not limited to, hazardous substances and hazardous wastes.
- High-Occupancy Structure.** All pre-1935 buildings with over 25 occupants, and all pre-1976 buildings with more than 100 occupants.
- Landslide.** A general term for a falling mass of soil or rocks.
- Liquefaction.** The transformation of loose water-saturated granular materials (such as sand or silt) from a solid into a liquid state that can occur during an earthquake.
- Mercalli Intensity Scale.** A subjective measure of the observed effects (human reactions, structural damage, geologic effects) of an earthquake. Expressed in Roman numerals from I to XII.
- Richter Scale.** A measure of the size or energy release of an earthquake at its source. The scale is logarithmic; the wave amplitude of each number on the scale is 10 times greater than that of the previous whole number.
- Seiche.** An earthquake-generated wave in an enclosed body of water such as a lake, reservoir, or bay.
- Sensitive Populations.** Sensitive populations include those persons or groups of persons particularly vulnerable and in need of special attention in an emergency or disaster situation. Examples of sensitive populations include older adults, pregnant women, children, people with disabilities, access and functional needs, multiple chemical sensitivities, etc.
- State Responsibility Areas.** As used in the Safety Element of the general plan, areas of the state in which the financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires has been

determined by the State Board of Forestry (pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4125) to be primarily the responsibility of the State of California.

- Tsunami.** A large ocean wave generated by an earthquake in or near the ocean.

## Acronyms

AAQS	Ambient air quality standards
AB	Assembly Bill
ABAG	Association of Bay Area Governments
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BCDC	San Francisco Bay Area Conservation and Development Commission
CAP	City of Menlo Park Climate Action Plan
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBC	California Building Code
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGS	California Geological Society
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CDMG	California Division of Mines and Geology (State Resources Agency)
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
dB/ dBA	Decibel/"A-weighted" decibel
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
ECR/DSP	El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
Ldn	Day and Night Average Sound Level
Leq	Sound Energy Equivalent Level
MJLHMP	Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
M	Magnitude (Richer Scale)
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OPR	Governor's Office of Planning and Research
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SFBAAB	San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin
STOPPP	San Mateo Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
TACs	Toxic Air Contaminants
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey



## Goals, Policies and Implementing Programs

### Section II

# Open Space/Conservation Goals, Policies and Programs

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## **A** The Need for Open Space and Conservation



The Open Space/Conservation Element addresses issues related to the use, preservation, management and sustainability of land-based resources in Menlo Park, whether that land is dedicated to active recreation use, passive use or the protection of natural resources and environmental quality.

A central concern of the Open Space/Conservation Element, in considering the location, design, intensity and type of land uses in the City, is to continue to protect important natural resources and areas. Open Space and Conservation helps prevent the wasteful destruction and neglect of Menlo Park's natural resources, particularly scarce resources. The City recognizes that natural resources must be maintained for their economic and recreational use as well as for their ecological and scenic value.

The approach to natural resource conservation includes:

- Preserve the natural state, unique appeal and visual amenities of Menlo Park's bay lands and shoreline.
- Protect the wildlife habitat, scenic value and natural character of the San Francisquito Creek and Atherton Creek riparian corridors.
- Protect sensitive species and natural communities.
- Preserve open areas needed for protection from natural hazards.
- Maintain, preserve and enhance contiguous open space on Stanford lands within Menlo Park's unincorporated sphere of influence.
- Protect lands that have inherent qualities to provide visual amenity, including topographic features, views or vistas, street landscape areas, scenic water areas, creeks and the San Francisco Bay.

- Provide landscaped areas that visually and environmentally enhance the community.

## **B** Open Space/Conservation Goals



### **Goal OSC1 — MAINTAIN, PROTECT AND ENHANCE OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Protect, conserve and enhance valuable natural resources, open areas and designated open space lands rich in scenic value, wildlife or of a fragile ecological nature through conservation and restoration efforts.**

*Natural features and resources have shaped both the growth and form of Menlo Park and provide many of the attractive characteristics of the area. The City has a responsibility to maintain and protect these assets for future generations, and to*

*anticipate future needs.*

### **Goal OSC2 — PROVIDE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

**Develop and maintain a parks and recreation system to provide areas and facilities conveniently located, sustainable, properly designed and well-maintained to serve the recreation needs and promote healthy living of residents, workers and visitors to Menlo Park.**

*Park and recreation facilities play a critical role in determining the quality of life in Menlo Park. The City is committed to ongoing improvements to address the recreational needs of its residents. Numerous parks, public spaces and playing fields are integral to the life of the City. Recreational facilities and playing fields are well maintained.*

### **Goal OSC3 — PROTECT AND ENHANCE HISTORIC RESOURCES**

**Protect and enhance cultural and historical resources for their aesthetic, scientific, educational, and cultural values.**

*It is the goal of Menlo Park to have protected and maintained historic buildings and archaeological resources as part of Menlo Park's cultural heritage. City policy has been to protect and build upon the historic character that exists in the City. City policy also protects known archeological resources to the maximum extent feasible.*

**Goal OSC4 — PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING**  
**Promote a sustainable energy supply and implement the City’s Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the sustainability of actions by City government, residents, and businesses in Menlo Park. This includes promoting land use patterns that reduce the number and length of motor vehicle trips, and encouraging recycling, reduction and reuse programs.**

*Menlo Park’s Climate Action Plan addresses greenhouse gas emissions through planned emission reduction strategies covering the City’s operations and life in the community at large. But, it is important to recognize that a major determinant in the City of Menlo Park’s success in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions will be the actions taken by regional, State and national bodies across all sectors. The City’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through such actions as land use and transportation initiatives and reducing, reusing and recycling resources, also consider the broader sustainability benefits that accompany local climate protection efforts, such as cleaner air and water, healthier people and local economic development.*

**Goal OSC5 — ENSURE HEALTHY AIR QUALITY AND WATER QUALITY**  
**Enhance and preserve air quality in accord with State and regional standards, and encourage the coordination of total water quality management including both supply and wastewater treatment.**

*The Open Space/Conservation Element is intended to ensure that high quality air and water are available to all who reside, work and play in the City. The City seeks to mitigate the effects of vehicular pollution by supporting policies that promote more environmentally friendly forms of transport as well as promote land use design practices that are more efficient. Maintaining and improving water quality is essential to protect public health, wildlife, and watersheds, and to ensure opportunities for public recreation and economic development in Menlo Park.*

## **C** Open Space/Conservation Policies and Implementing Programs

### *Goal OSC1*

### MAINTAIN, PROTECT AND ENHANCE OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

#### ***Policies***

- OSC1.1 **Natural Resources Integration with Other Uses.** Protect Menlo Park's natural environment and integrate creeks, utility corridors, and other significant natural and scenic features into development plans.
- OSC1.2 **Habitat for Open Space and Conservation Purposes.** Preserve, protect, maintain and enhance water, water-related areas, plant and wildlife habitat for open space and conservation purposes.
- OSC1.3 **Sensitive Habitats.** Require new development on or near sensitive habitats to provide baseline assessments prepared by qualified biologists, and specify requirements relative to the baseline assessments.
- OSC1.4 **Habitat Enhancement.** Require new development to minimize the disturbance of natural habitats and vegetation, and requires revegetation of disturbed natural habitat areas with native or non-invasive naturalized species.
- OSC1.5 **Invasive, Non-Native Plant Species.** Avoid the use of invasive, non-native species, as identified on the lists of invasive plants maintained at the California Invasive Plant Inventory and United States Department of Agriculture invasive and noxious weeds database, or other authoritative sources, in landscaping on public property.
- OSC1.6 **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and Flood Management Project.** Continue to support and participate in Federal and State efforts related to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and flood management project. Provide public access to the Bay for scenic enjoyment and recreation opportunities as well as conservation education opportunities related to the open Bay, the sloughs, and the marshes.
- OSC1.7 **San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority.** Continue efforts through San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority to enhance the value of the

creek as a community amenity for trails and open space, conservation and educational opportunities.

- OSC1.8 **Regional Open Space Preservation Efforts.** Support regional and sub-regional efforts to acquire, develop and maintain open space conservation lands.
- OSC1.9 **Federal, State and County Open Space and Conservation Programs.** Make maximum use of Federal, State and county programs wherever possible in all matters concerned with open space and conservation.
- OSC1.10 **Public Education and Stewardship.** Promote public education, environmental programs, and stewardship of open space and natural resources conservation.
- OSC1.11 **Sustainable Landscape Practices.** Encourage the enhancement of boulevards, plazas and other urban open spaces in high-density and mixed-use residential developments, commercial and industrial areas with landscaping practices that minimize water usage.
- OSC1.12 **Landscaping and Plazas.** Include landscaping and plazas on public and private lands, and well-designed pedestrian and bicycle facilities in areas of intensive non-vehicular activity. Require landscaping for shade, surface runoff, or to obscure parked cars in extensive parking areas.
- OSC1.13 **Yard and Open Space Requirements in New Development.** Ensure that required yard and open spaces are provided for as part of new multi-family residential, mixed-use, commercial and industrial development.
- OSC1.14 **Protection of Conservation and Scenic Areas.** Protect conservation and scenic areas from deterioration or destruction by vandalism, private actions or public actions.
- OSC1.15 **Heritage Trees.** Protect Heritage Trees, including during construction activities through enforcement of the Heritage Tree Ordinance (Chapter 13.24 of the Municipal Code).
- OSC1.16 **Visual Amenities in Public Improvements.** Require that all public improvements to facilities, such as streets, civic structures and major municipal projects, recognize the need for visual amenities such as landscaping, public plazas, public art, and pedestrian and bicycle access.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC1.A **Provide Incentives for Maintaining Private Lands in Open Space.** Establish programs to provide incentives for maintaining private lands in open space and for insuring open areas within future developments through programs including but not limited, to cluster development, acquisition of a permanent open space easement, and/or transfer of development rights.
- OSC1.B **Continue Subdivision Assessments.** Continue subdivision assessments for parks and open space purposes consistent with the Subdivision Ordinance.
- OSC1.C **Promote Environmental Stewardship.** Promote public education, environmental programs and stewardship of natural resources and open space preservation within the City.

### ***Goal OSC2***

## **PROVIDE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**



### ***Policies***

- OSC2.1 **Open Space for Recreation Use.** Provide open space lands for a variety of recreation opportunities, make improvements, construct facilities and maintain programs that incorporate sustainable practices that promote healthy living and quality of life.
- OSC2.2 **Planning for Residential Recreational Needs.** Work with residential developers to ensure that parks and recreational facilities planned to serve new development will be available concurrently with need.
- OSC2.3 **Recreation Requirements for New Development.** Require dedication of improved land, or payment of fee in lieu of, for park and recreation land for all residential uses.

- OSC2.4 **Parkland Standards.** Strive to maintain the standard of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.
- OSC2.5 **Schools for Recreational Use.** Coordinate with the local school districts to continue to operate school sites for local recreation purposes.
- OSC2.6 **Pedestrian and Bicycle Paths.** Develop pedestrian and bicycle paths consistent with the recommendations of local and regional trail and bicycle route projects, including the Bay Trail.
- OSC2.7 **Conservation of Resources at City Facilities.** Reduce consumption of water, energy, landfilled waste, and fossil fuels in the construction, operations and maintenance of City owned and/or operated facilities.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC2.A **Support Regional Open Space, Conservation and Recreational Efforts.** Coordinate with Mid-Peninsula Regional Park District, San Mateo County and other regional open space and conservation measures to ensure recreational opportunities at existing and future parks and trails.
- OSC2.B **Evaluate Recreational Needs.** Evaluate park facilities on a regular basis for their overall function and ability to meet recreational needs. Provide new amenities as needed and based on financial resources to support changing needs of the population and recreational trends.

## ***Goal OSC3***

### **PROTECT AND ENHANCE HISTORIC RESOURCES**

#### ***Policies***

- OSC3.1 **Prehistoric or Historic Cultural Resources Investigation and Preservation.** Preserve historical and cultural resources to the maximum extent practical.
- OSC3.2 **Prehistoric or Historic Cultural Resources Protection.** Require significant historic or prehistoric artifacts be examined by a qualified consulting archaeologist or historian for appropriate protection and preservation, and to ensure compliance with local, State and Federal regulations.
- OSC3.3 **Archaeological or Paleontological Resources Protection.** Protect prehistoric or historic cultural resources either on site or through appropriate documentation as a condition of removal. Require that when a development

project has sufficient flexibility, avoidance and preservation of the resource shall be the primary mitigation measure, unless the City identifies superior mitigation. If resources are documented, undertake coordination with descendants and/or stakeholder groups, as warranted.

- OSC3.4 **Prehistoric or Historic Cultural Resources Found During Construction.** Require that if cultural resources, including archaeological or paleontological resources, are uncovered during grading or other on-site excavation activities, construction shall stop until appropriate mitigation is implemented.
- OSC3.5 **Consultation with Native American Tribes.** Consult with those Native American tribes with ancestral ties to the Menlo Park city limits regarding General Plan Amendments and land use policy changes.
- OSC3.6 **Identification of Potential Historic Resources.** Identify historic resources for the historic district in the Zoning Ordinance and require design review of proposals affecting historic buildings.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC3.A **Evaluate Historic Resources Around the Downtown Specific Plan Area.** Hire a cultural resources professional to conduct a Historic Resources Survey of potential infill sites around the Downtown Specific Plan to determine whether the designated infill housing sites, or adjacent lots, contain buildings eligible to the California Register and/or the historic zoning designation.
- OSC3.B **Support a Study of Cultural Resources on the Veterans Affairs' Clinic Site.** Work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure study and protection of cultural resources through oversight by a cultural resource professional of any proposed development on the vacant portion of the Veterans Affairs' Clinic site.

## ***Goal OSC4***

### **PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING**

#### ***Policies***

- OSC4.1 **Sustainable Approach to Land Use Planning to Reduce Resource Consumption.** Encourage, to the extent feasible, (1) a balance and match between jobs and housing, (2) higher density residential and mixed-use development to be located adjacent to commercial centers and transit corridors, and (3) retail and office areas to be located within walking and biking distance of transit or existing and proposed residential developments.



- OSC4.2 **Sustainable Building.** Promote and/or establish environmentally sustainable building practices or standards in new development that would conserve water and energy, prevent stormwater pollution, reduce landfilled waste, and reduce fossil fuel consumption from transportation and energy activities.
- OSC4.3 **Renewable Energy.** Promote the installation of renewable energy technology, such as, on residences and businesses through education, social marketing methods, establishing standards and/or providing incentives.
- OSC4.4 **Vehicles Using Alternative Fuel.** Explore the potential for installing infrastructure for vehicles that use alternative fuel, such as electric plug in recharging stations.
- OSC4.5 **Energy Standards in Residential and Commercial Construction.** Encourage projects to achieve a high level of energy conservation exceeding standards set forth in the California Energy Code for Residential and Commercial development.
- OSC4.6 **Waste Reduction Target.** Strive to meet the California State Integrated Waste Management Board per person target of waste generation per person per day through their source reduction, reuse, and recycling programs.
- OSC4.7 **Waste Management Collaboration.** Continue to support and participate in efforts such as the South Bayside Waste Management Authority, which provides waste reduction, recycling, and solid waste programs and solutions.
- OSC4.8 **Waste Diversion.** Develop and implement a zero waste policy, or implement standards, incentives, or other programs that would lead the community towards a zero waste goal.
- OSC4.9 **Climate Action Planning.** Undertake annual review and updates, as needed, to the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP).
- OSC4.10 **Energy Upgrade California.** Consider actively marketing and providing additional incentives for residents and businesses to participate in local, State, and/or Federal renewable or energy conservation programs.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC4.A **Develop a Residential Energy Efficiency Program.** Develop an energy efficiency/renewable energy program or policy for the residential and commercial sectors through education, social marketing methods, standards and/or incentive

programs to the degree feasible.

- OSC4.B **Monitor the City's Climate Action Plan.** Establish a Climate Action Plan monitoring and progress reporting program.
- OSC4.C **Expand the Green Business Program.** Expand Green Business Certification Program/Include Green Business education to new business permit applicants.
- OSC4.D **Promote Local Food Production.** Develop a promotion and education program to encourage local and/or organic food production, including community gardens.

### *Goal OSC5*

## ENSURE HEALTHY AIR AND WATER QUALITY

### ***Policies***

- OSC5.1 **Air and Water Quality Standards.** Continue to apply standards and policies established by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program (SMCWPPP), and City of Menlo Park Climate Action Plan through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and other means as applicable.
- OSC5.2 **Development in Industrial Areas.** Evaluate development projects in industrial areas for impacts to air and water resources in relation to truck traffic, hazardous materials use and production-level manufacturing per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and require measures to mitigate potential impacts to less than significant levels.
- OSC5.3 **Water Conservation.** Encourage water-conserving practices in businesses, homes and institutions.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC5.A **Expand Water Conservation Programs.** Expand the Menlo Park Municipal Water District's conservation programs through education, social marketing methods, establishing standards, and providing incentives.

## Section III

# Noise Goals, Policies and Programs

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## **A** The Importance of Noise Attenuation



The purpose of the Noise Element is to appraise existing noise problems in the community and to provide guidance to the community and developers for avoiding problems in the future. It also can provide the basis for code enforcement and other regulations, including implementation of the City's Noise Ordinance to control nuisance noise.

Noise is part of everyday life in a community and is generally defined as unwanted sound. Whether a sound is unwanted depends on when and where it occurs, what the listener is doing when it occurs, characteristics of the sound (loudness, pitch and duration, speech or music content, irregularity), and how intrusive it is above background sound levels. Acceptable levels of noise vary from land use to land use. Also, in any one location, the noise level will vary over time, from the lowest background or ambient levels to that of passing airplanes or construction equipment. Various techniques have been developed that measure the effects of noise levels over a period of time.

It is difficult to specify noise levels that are generally acceptable to everyone. What is annoying to one person may be unnoticed by another. Standards may be based on documented complaint activity in response to noise levels, or based on studies on the ability of people to sleep, talk, or work under various noise conditions. All such studies, however, recognize that individual responses vary considerably. Standards usually address the needs of most of the general population. With this caution in mind, noise standards for planning purposes need to examine outdoor and indoor noise levels acceptable for different uses. The standards must relate to existing conditions in the City so that they are realistically enforceable and consistent with other General Plan policies.

## **B** Noise Goal



### *Goal N1 — ACHIEVE ACCEPTABLE NOISE LEVELS*

**It is the goal of Menlo Park to have acceptable noise levels.**

*Excessive noise is a concern for many residents of Menlo Park. These concerns can be managed with proper mitigation or through the implementation of the City's noise ordinance. The City of Menlo Park recognizes the issue of noise and has standards to protect the peace, health and safety of residents and the community from unreasonable noise from any and all sources in the community and to strive to locate uses compatible to the area to minimize escalation of noise from mobile and stationary sources.*

## **C** Noise Policies and Implementing Programs

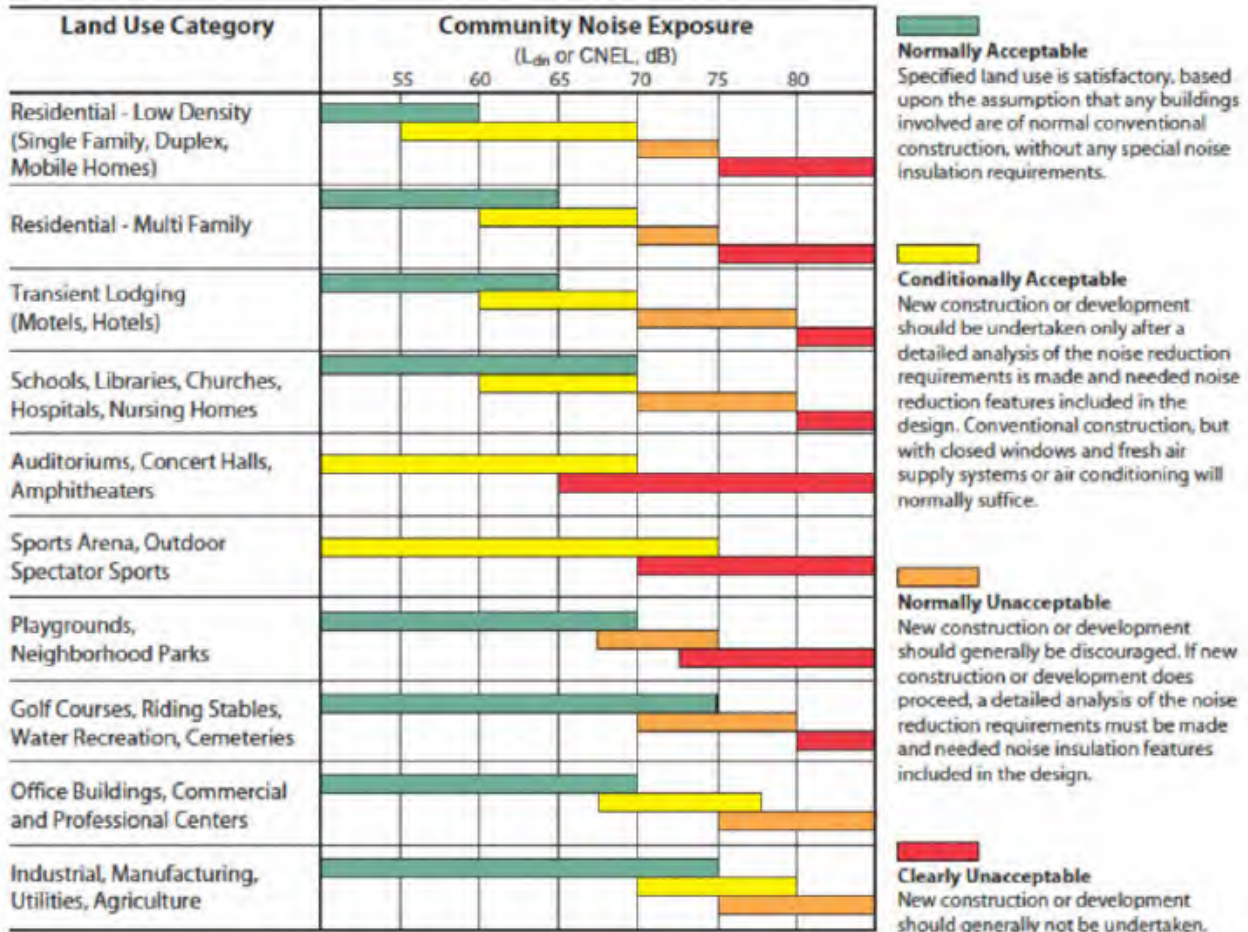
### *Goal N1*

### **ACHIEVE ACCEPTABLE NOISE LEVELS**

#### ***Policies***

- N1.1 Compliance with Noise Standards.** Consider the compatibility of proposed land uses with the noise environment when preparing or revising community and/or specific plans. Require new projects to comply with the noise standards of local, regional, and building code regulations, including but not limited to the City's Municipal Code, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, and subdivision and zoning codes.
- N1.2 Land Use Compatibility Noise Standards.** Protect people in new development from excessive noise by applying the City's Land Use Compatibility Noise Standards for New Development (see chart on the next page) to the siting and required mitigation for new uses in existing noise environments.

### Land Use Compatibility Noise Standards for New Development



**N1.3 Exterior and Interior Noise Standards for Residential Use Areas.** Strive to achieve acceptable interior noise levels and exterior noise levels for backyards and/or common usable outdoor areas in new residential development, and reduce outdoor noise levels in existing residential areas where economically and aesthetically feasible.

**N1.4 Noise Sensitive Uses.** Protect existing residential neighborhoods and noise sensitive uses from unacceptable noise levels and vibration impacts. Noise sensitive uses include, but are not limited to, hospitals, schools, religious facilities, convalescent homes and businesses with highly sensitive equipment. Discourage the siting of noise-sensitive uses in areas in excess of 65 dBA CNEL without appropriate mitigation and locate noise sensitive uses away from noise sources unless mitigation measures are included in development plans.

**N1.5 Planning and Design of New Development to Reduce Noise Impacts.** Design residential developments to minimize the transportation-related noise

impacts to adjacent residential areas and encourage new development to be site planned and architecturally designed to minimize noise impacts on noise-sensitive spaces. Proper site planning can be effective in reducing noise impacts.

- N1.6 **Noise Reduction Measures.** Encourage the use of construction methods, state-of-the-art noise abating materials and technology and creative site design including, but not limited to, open space, earthen berms, parking, accessory buildings, and landscaping to buffer new and existing development from noise and to reduce potential conflicts between ambient noise levels and noise-sensitive land uses. Use sound walls only when other methods are not practical or when recommended by an acoustical expert.
- N1.7 **Noise and Vibration from New Non-Residential Development.** Design non-residential development to minimize noise impacts on nearby uses. Where vibration impacts may occur, reduce impacts on residences and businesses through the use of setbacks and/or structural design features that reduce vibration to levels at or below the guidelines of the Federal Transit Administration near rail lines and industrial uses.
- N1.8 **Potential Annoying or Harmful Noise.** Preclude the generation of annoying or harmful noise on stationary noise sources, such as construction and property maintenance activity and mechanical equipment.
- N1.9 **Transportation Related Noise Attenuation.** Strive to minimize traffic noise through land use policies, traffic-calming methods to reduce traffic speed, law enforcement and street improvements, and encourage other agencies to reduce noise levels generated by roadways, railways, rapid transit, and other facilities.
- N1.10 **Nuisance Noise.** Minimize impacts from noise levels that exceed community sound levels through enforcement of the City's Noise Ordinance. Control unnecessary, excessive and annoying noises within the City where not preempted by Federal and State control through implementation and updating of the Noise Ordinance.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- N1.A **Require Acoustical Studies.** Require acoustical studies for all new multi-family residential projects within the projected Ldn 60 dB noise contours so that noise mitigation measures can be incorporated into project design and site planning.

- N1.B **Reduce Existing Vehicular Noise Through Enforcement.** Actively enforce the provisions of the California Motor Vehicle Code pertaining to vehicle speed and noise emission.
- N1.C **Consider Noise Impacts in Street Design.** Employ noise mitigation practices and materials, as necessary, when designing future streets and when improvements occur along existing road segments. Mitigation measures should consider quieter pavements and emphasize the establishment of natural buffers or setbacks between the arterial roadways and adjoining noise-sensitive areas. Strive to maintain smooth street surfaces adjacent to land uses that are sensitive to noise intrusion.
- N1.D **Minimize Construction Activity Noise.** Minimize the exposure of nearby properties to excessive noise levels from construction-related activity through CEQA review, conditions of approval and enforcement of the City's Noise Ordinance.
- N1.E **Consider Noise Levels in City Equipment Purchases.** Include noise specifications in requests for equipment information and bids for new City equipment and consider this information as part of evaluation of the bids. The City of Menlo Park should consider noise emission when purchasing vehicles, construction equipment, etc. This consideration should be balanced with the required performance and cost.
- N1.F **Work with Other Agencies to Reduce Transportation-Related Noise Levels.** Work closely with Caltrans, San Mateo County Department of Public Works and other jurisdictions to reduce noise levels along State highways and county roadways through or near the City.
- N1.G **Monitor Airport Noise.** Engage airport authorities and participate in regional planning efforts to ensure future activities and flight patterns at commercial airports do not negatively impact noise levels in the city.
- N1.H **Work with Railroad Operators to Reduce Noise and Vibration Levels.** Work with the railroad operators (e.g, Caltrain, Union Pacific, etc.) to reduce, to the extent possible, the contribution of railroad train noise and vibration to Menlo Park's noise environment.
- N1.I **Work with Neighboring Communities When Implementing Noise Policies and Programs.** Work with neighboring communities to ensure compliance with the land use and noise compatibility policies contained in this Noise Element at Menlo Park's boundaries.
- N1.J **Evaluate Noise Related Impacts of City Actions as Appropriate.** Analyze in detail the potential noise impacts of any actions that the City may take or act upon which could significantly alter noise level in the community.

## Section IV

# Safety Goals, Policies and Programs

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## **A** Overview of Safety Considerations

The Safety Element provides a framework for planning for and responding to potential hazards in the city. The purpose of the Safety Element is to identify and appraise risks in the community and provide high-level strategies for mitigating risks and ensuring the wellness of the community, city services, and infrastructure. The Safety Element focuses on protection of the community from hazards associated with climate change, earthquakes, floods, fires, toxic waste, and other hazards. In addition, issues such as disaster preparedness and residential areas without two emergency evacuation routes are addressed.

Some level of risk associated with these factors is unavoidable; the Safety Element is the means by which the City defines what measures will be undertaken to reduce these risks. The extent of a hazard depends on local conditions since most hazards are confined to a particular area or site. Various health and safety hazards should be considered in planning the location, design, intensity, density, and type of land uses in a given area. Long-term costs to the City, such as maintenance, liability exposure, and emergency services are potentially greater where high hazards exist.

The Safety Element of the General Plan is aimed at reducing potential risk of death, injuries, damage to property, and the economic and social disruptions resulting from fire, flood, geologic and other hazards. The General Plan provides policies and standards for the type, location, intensity, and design of development in areas of potential hazards. The intent is not to remove all risks associated with each specific type of hazard, but to reduce risks to life and property and to make informed decisions about land use and development near these hazards. A safety element is required to identify unreasonable risks and provide policies for the protection of the community from such risks.<sup>1</sup> The traditional risks entailed are slope instability, seismic risks, flooding, and fire. More recently, after the passage of SB 379 (2015), climate change risks are required for consideration.

The Safety Element is supported by San Mateo County's Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP), the City of Menlo Park's 2030 CAP, San Mateo County's 2015 Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), and anticipated sea level rise planning as required by SB 272 (2023). These resources are subsequently discussed in the

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<sup>1</sup> Gov. Code § 65302(g)(1)



“Relationship to Other Plans” section. The MJLHMP provides several of the required maps for the Safety Element.

## **B** Safety Goal

### GOAL S1 — ASSURE A SAFE COMMUNITY

Minimize risk to life and damage to the environment and property from natural and human-caused hazards, and assure community emergency and disaster preparedness and a high level of public safety services and facilities.

## **C** Safety Policies and Implementing Programs

### Goal S1

#### ASSURE A SAFE COMMUNITY

##### **Policies**

##### *General Safety Policies*

- S1.1 **Location of Future Development.** Permit development only in those areas where potential danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the community can be adequately mitigated.
- S1.2 **Location of Public Improvements.** Avoid locating public improvements and utilities in areas with identified flood, geologic and/or soil hazards to avoid any extraordinary maintenance and operating expenses. When the location of public improvements and utilities in such areas cannot be avoided, assure that effective mitigation measures will be implemented.
- S1.3 **Hazard Data and Standards.** Integrate hazard data (flood, earthquake, sea level rise, etc.) and risk evaluations into the development review process and maintain, develop and adopt up-to-date FEMA standards to reduce the level of risk from natural and human-caused hazards for all land uses.
- S1.4 **Inter-Jurisdictional Cooperation.** Continue to improve inter-jurisdictional cooperation with regard to public safety concerns related to natural hazard disaster response and mitigation.
- S1.5 **New Habitable Structures.** Require that all new habitable structures

incorporate adequate hazard mitigation measures to reduce identified risks from natural and human-caused hazards.

- S1.6 **Design and Location of Utilities.** Monitor appropriate location, design, construction, maintenance, and inspection standards for utility systems traversing hazard areas within the City limits. This would include evaluating and upgrading outdated systems and infrastructure, integrating green infrastructure as much as practical, coordinating with the State Public Utilities Commission, and locating new utility systems away from potential hazard areas.
- S1.7 **Hazard Reduction.** Continue to require new development to reduce the seismic vulnerability of buildings and susceptibility to other hazards through enforcement of the California Building Standards Code and other programs.
- S1.8 **Safety Element Updates.** Review and comprehensively revise the Safety Element whenever there is a change in relevant state law and/or new standards reflecting new scientific data or evidence related to prevention of natural and human hazards becomes available. Coordinate revisions with countywide planning efforts, other General Plan elements, and City emergency plans.
- S1.9 **Community Safety Services and Facilities.** In coordination with other agencies, maintain adequate and cost-effective levels of safety services, facilities, and programs to address safety concerns in Menlo Park.
- S1.10 **Safety Review of Development Projects.** Continue to require hazard mitigation, fire prevention, and adequate access for emergency vehicles in new development.
- S1.11 **Visibility and Access to Address Safety Concerns.** Require that development be designed to permit maximum visibility and access to law enforcement, ambulance, and fire control vehicles consistent with privacy and other design considerations.
- S1.12 **Provide a Safe Transportation System.** Aligning with Circulation Element policies CIRC-1.1 through CIRC-1.9, provide and maintain a safe circulation system that promotes a healthy, safe, and active community throughout Menlo Park.
- S1.13 **Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Funding.** Identify ways to maximize opportunities to secure federal funding for mitigation and

disaster recovery projects. This could include inter-jurisdictional cooperation (S1.4).

#### Geologic and Seismic Safety Policies

- S1.14 **Geotechnical Studies.** Continue to require site-specific geologic and geotechnical studies for land development or construction in areas of potential land instability as shown on the State and/or local geologic hazard maps or identified through other means.
- S1.15 **Potential Land Instability.** Prohibit development in areas of potential land instability identified on State and/or local geologic hazard maps, or identified through other means, unless a geologic investigation demonstrates hazards can be mitigated to an acceptable level as defined by the State of California, consistent with any applicable State and local standard and requirement.
- S1.16 **Funding Earthquake Resistance Improvements.** Support State and Federal financial assistance or tax incentive programs to encourage repair, demolition or abatement of earthquake hazardous structures.

#### Hazardous Materials Policies

- S1.17 **Hazardous Materials Regulations.** Review and strengthen, if necessary, regulations for the structural design and/or uses involving hazardous materials to minimize risk to local populations. Enforce compliance with current State and local requirements for the manufacturing, use, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials, and the designation of appropriate truck routes in Menlo Park.
- S1.18 **Potential Exposure of New Residential Development to Hazardous Materials.** Minimize risk associated with hazardous materials by assessing exposure to hazardous materials of new residential development and sensitive populations near existing industrial and manufacturing areas.
- S1.19 **Potential Hazardous Materials Conditions Investigation.** Continue to require developers to conduct an investigation of soils, groundwater, and buildings affected by hazardous materials potentially released from prior land uses in areas historically used for commercial or industrial uses, and identify and implement mitigation measures to avoid adversely affecting the environment or the health and safety of residents or new uses.
- S1.20 **Disposal of Existing Hazardous Materials on Sites Planned for Housing.** Continue to require that sites planned for housing be cleared of

hazardous materials (e.g., paint, solvents, chlorine) and the hazardous materials disposed in compliance with State, county, and Federal laws.

- S1.21 **Pipeline Safety.** Require, to the extent practical, that new pipelines and other channels carrying hazardous materials be placed to avoid residential areas and, in particular, areas where the population is less mobile.

#### Sea Level Rise and Flood Hazard Management Policies

- S1.22 **Flood and Tsunami Hazard Planning and Mapping.** Consider the threat of flooding and tsunamis in planning and management practices to minimize risk to life, environment, and property, and maintain tsunami hazard zones maps and flood maps as new information is provided by FEMA and other regional agencies. Permit only uses and development where damage and impacts to health and safety can be minimized in the event of inundation.

- S1.23 **Flood Damage Prevention.** Continue to apply standards for any construction projects (new structures and existing structures proposed for substantial improvement) in areas of special flood hazard in accordance with FEMA and the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, including the use of flood-resistant construction materials and construction methods that minimize flood damage. To the extent practicable, locate new essential public facilities outside of flood zones, such as City operations facilities, police and fire stations, and hospitals, unless risks are minimized.

- S1.24 **Potential Dam Inundation.** Consider potential risks from dam inundation in the development approval process.

- S1.25 **Dam Safety.** Support programs by the California Division of Safety of Dams to retrofit or replace dams or to increase earthquake resistance of dams and mitigate impacts of dam failures. State efforts to inspect dams and evaluate dam safety requirements shall also be supported.

- S1.26 **Creeks and Drainage-ways.** Minimize undue erosion of creek banks. Protect creek-side habitat by limiting development within 50 feet of the creek bank and provide maintenance access along creeks where appropriate and consistent with State law.

- S1.27 **Erosion and Sediment Control.** Continue to require the use of best management practices for erosion and sediment control measures with proposed development in compliance with applicable regional regulations.

- S1.28 **Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Requirements.** Enforce stormwater pollution prevention practices and appropriate watershed management plans in the RWQCB general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements, the San Mateo County Water Pollution Prevention Program, and the City's Stormwater Management Program. Revise, as necessary, City plans so they integrate water quality and watershed protection with water supply, flood management, habitat protection, groundwater recharge, and other sustainable development principles and policies.
- S1.29 **Sea Level Rise and Flood Protection.** Collaborate in regional sea level rise planning and consider sea level rise in siting new facilities or residences. Ensure that new development, substantial retrofits, critical facilities, City-owned buildings, and existing and future flood management infrastructures are planned and designed to accommodate climate change hazards, including increases in flooding, sea level rise, and rising groundwater, based on the best available science.

*Fire Safety Policies*

- S1.30 **Fire Equipment and Personnel Access.** Require adequate access and clearance, to the maximum extent practical, for fire equipment, fire suppression personnel, and evacuation for high occupancy structures in coordination with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.
- S1.31 **Coordination with the Menlo Park Fire District.** Encourage City-Fire District coordination in the planning process and require, where appropriate, development applications to be reviewed by the Menlo Park Fire Protection District prior to project approval by the City.
- S1.32 **Fire Resistant Design.** Encourage new homes to incorporate fire resistant design and strategies such as the use of fire-resistant materials and landscaping, and creating defensible space (e.g., areas free of highly flammable vegetation).

*Public Safety and Emergency Response Policies*

- S1.33 **Location of Critical Facilities.** Locate critical facilities (e.g., hospitals, schools, Emergency Operations Center (E.O.C.)) to minimize impacts from hazards.

- S1.34 **Continued Functioning of Utilities and Critical Use Facilities (Essential Service Buildings).** Encourage local public utilities and service providers to locate and design facilities and systems to ensure continued service in emergency conditions. Maintain structural and operational integrity of essential public facilities during flooding and other emergency conditions.
- S1.35 **Disaster Preparedness Planning.** Ensure disaster preparedness in cooperation with other public agencies and appropriate public-interest organizations. Encourage and support residents to organize in volunteer response groups and collaborate with all related Public Safety Agencies for a coordinated response. Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park’s Underserved Communities.
- S1.36 **Community Preparedness.** Embrace FEMA’s Whole Community approach by encouraging improved safety programs for schools, institutions, and industries to promote greater public awareness of all types of hazards and appropriate responses and support the San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management’s efforts for countywide preparedness, response and protection services and activities for large-scale incidents and disasters.
- S1.37 **Emergency Notification System.** Continue to support and improve on the Emergency Notification System for disaster information release in emergencies. Maintain official communication updates to the City website and communication outlets (e.g., SMC Alerts and social media channels).
- S1.38 **Emergency Connectors and Evacuation Routes.** Maintain a system of emergency connectors and evacuation routes as part of the City’s disaster planning.
- S1.39 **Emergency Vehicle Access.** Require that all private roads be designed to allow access for emergency vehicles as a prerequisite to the granting of permits and approvals for construction.
- S1.40 **Public Health.** Collaborate with county health services (and other health services as appropriate) on communication and mitigation/adaptation strategies during public health crises, such as communicable and infectious diseases.
- S1.41 **Heat Adaptation.** Support strategies to help reduce the heat island effect and minimize its effect on the Menlo Park community.

## ***Implementing Programs***

### *General Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.A **Link the City’s Housing and Safety Elements.** Continue to review and revise the Safety Element, as necessary, concurrently with updates to the General Plan Housing Element in response to new state guidance on new data or evidence related to prevention of natural and human hazards become available.
- S1.B **Maintain Up-to-Date Hazard Maps and Databases.** Maintain databases and maps of geologic and other hazards to identify areas prone to hazards for planning purposes on an on-going basis concurrently with updates to the General Plan Housing Element.
- S1.C **Review Building Code Updates.** Continue to review State Building Code updates and incorporate local amendments as appropriate to require that new construction be designed under the most current safety standards. The review of updates should also consider requirements for facilities housing sensitive populations.
- S1.D **Require Early Investigation of Potential Hazard Conditions.** Require that potential geologic, seismic, soils, and/or hydrologic problems confronting public or private development be thoroughly investigated at the earliest stages of the design process, and that these topics be comprehensively evaluated in the environmental review process by technical experts.
- S1.E **Modify the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances as Needed to Address Hazard Mitigation.** Modify the Zoning Ordinance as needed when new information on natural hazards becomes available, and to provide for hazard reduction measures as part of the design criteria for development review. Review the Subdivision Ordinance and modify as needed to include hazard reduction in the process of dividing land for development.
- S1.F **Work with the Public Utilities Commission.** Work with the California Public Utilities Commission to require public utilities to apply the policies in the Safety Element to the planning and operation of their facilities, and to coordinate their activities with local planning agencies.
- S1.G **Share Hazard Data with Other Agencies.** Participate in a cooperative countywide program to pool natural hazard data developed through special studies or via the project review process and continue to update and implement the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### *Geologic and Seismic Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.H **Enforce Seismic Risk Analysis and Adequate Construction Standards.** Enforce seismic risk analysis and adequate construction standards through the building permit and inspection process.

- S1.I **Review Approach to Buildings in High Seismic Risk Areas.** Continue to support the California Residential Mitigation Program's (CRMP) Earthquake Brace & Bolt program and consider establishing a program to help both residential and non-residential property owners identify if they own a building in a high seismic hazard risk area or a seismically vulnerable building, including soft-story buildings, and identify what incentives exist to encourage repair or demolition.

*Hazardous Materials Implementing Programs*

- S1.J **Require Health and Safety Plan for Hazardous Materials.** Require the preparation of health and safety plans to be used to protect the general public and all workers in construction areas from potentially hazardous materials. The plan shall describe the practices and procedures to protect worker health in the event of an accidental release of hazardous materials or if previously undiscovered hazardous materials are encountered during construction. The plan shall include items such as spill prevention, cleanup and evacuation procedures. The plan will help protect the public and workers by providing procedures and contingencies that will help reduce the exposure to hazardous materials.

- S1.K **Track Remediation Needs for Existing Known Hazardous Soils and Other Hazardous Materials.** Monitor remediation of existing known hazards, such as contaminated soils and clean-up of leaking or abandoned underground storage tanks.

*Flood Management, Tsunami and Dam Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.L **Evaluate New Community Facilities Proposed in Dam Inundation Zones.** Require that new community facilities located within dam inundation zones evaluate the potential for flooding and the impact on evacuation during the development approval process.

- S1.M **Sea Level Rise Planning.** Collaborate with other agencies to develop a sea level rise plan as part of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan that is subject to approval by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, as applicable, on or before January 1, 2034. As part of this collaboration, consider and implement OneShoreline recommendations, as appropriate, to plan for future conditions impacted by climate change including those related to sea level rise.

*Fire Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.N **Fire Sprinkler Requirements.** Work with the Fire District to evaluate whether to encourage sprinkler requirements that are beyond State minimum code.

*Public Safety and Emergency Response Implementing Programs*



- S1.O **Investigate Potential Impact of Train Derailment on Emergency Services.** Coordinate with Caltrain and Union Pacific. Expand to encompass emergency plans for all transit and paratransit operators.
- S1.P **Encourage Disaster Drills in Schools.** Coordinate with private schools in conducting disaster drills in schools, augmented with a community awareness campaign on how, when, and where young people in primary and secondary schools are to be reunited with their guardians. Coordinate with public school districts and the County as appropriate.
- S1.Q **Coordinate the General Plan with City Emergency Planning Efforts.** Implement the Safety Element with other General Plan elements and City emergency plans — the Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) and Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) — and make necessary revisions.
- S1.R **Outreach for Sensitive Populations.** Develop disaster preparedness response capabilities, recovery operations, evacuation planning, outreach, and education for sensitive populations. Engagement should include prevention, shelter-in-place, and evacuation plans. Special care should be given to engage individuals who require in-home support.
- S.1S **Public Communication.** Develop communication protocols – including a language access policy – for disseminating information to the Menlo Park community, including public-facing businesses (such as retail and restaurants) and congregative living facilities, during public health crises.
- S1.T **Public Heat Respite.** Incorporate public respite areas from heat when remodeling or developing new public buildings and open space. This could include landscaping, architectural, or design features as well as policies to allow community members into public buildings on days and nights with extreme heat (e.g., cooling centers).
- S1.U **Heat Island Minimization.** Develop street tree and landscaping policies that minimize heat islands within Menlo Park, particularly in Underserved Communities (see Figure S.13. Heat Island Effect Map).

## Background

### Section V

## Open Space/Conservation Background

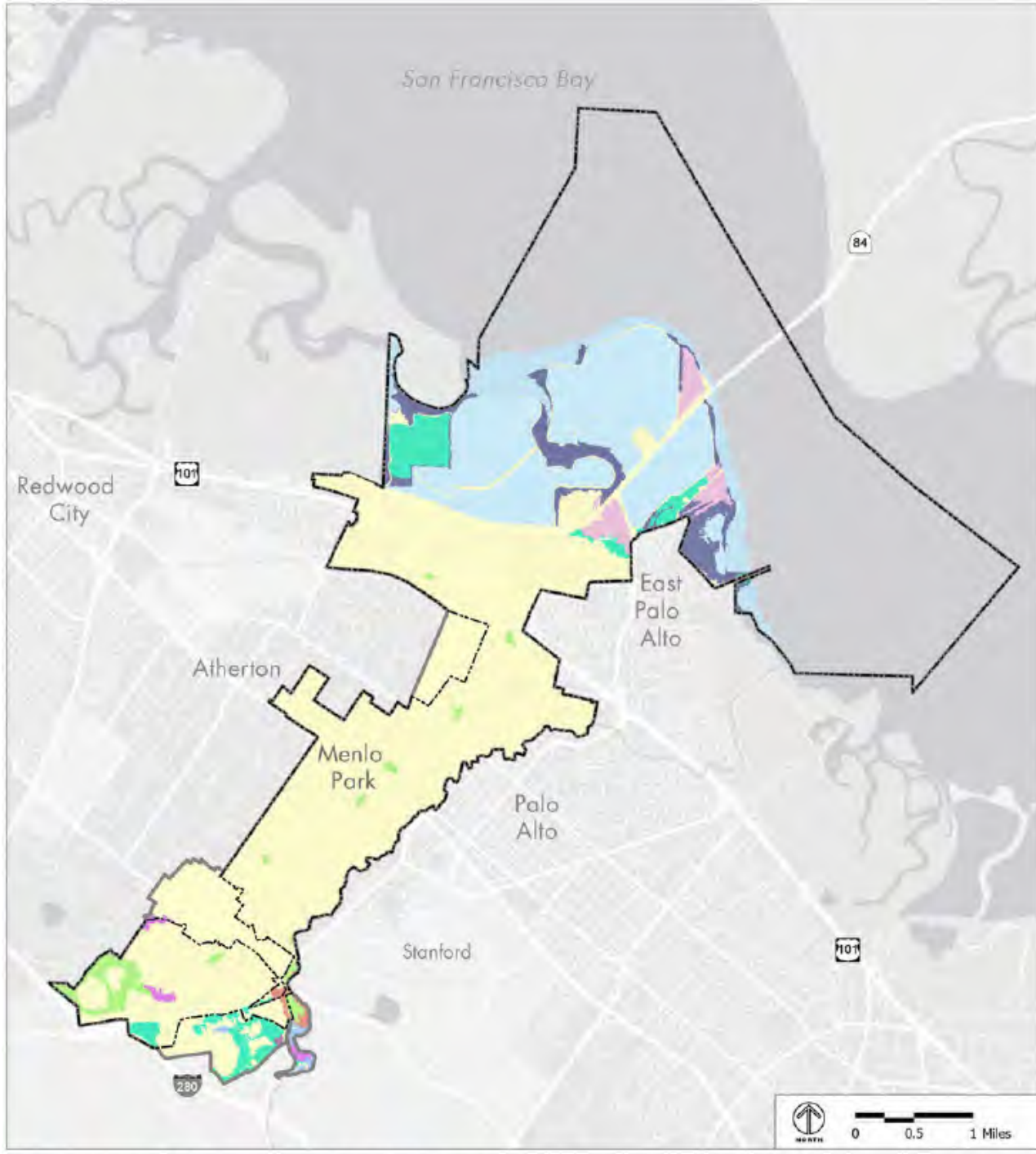
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### **A** Natural Resources

Menlo Park stretches from 326 feet above sea level in the foothills of Jasper Ridge (located outside the City limits and part of the Santa Cruz Mountains) in the west, through the flatlands in the center of the valley, to sea level at the marshes and mudflats of San Francisco Bay in the west. The City's center is relatively flat, with slopes of approximately 0.5 to 0.8 percent. The higher, hilly portion of the City is west of the street Alameda de las Pulgas. The lower, flatter portion of the City is east of Alameda de las Pulgas. Topography helps to define several sub-areas of the City from a natural resources standpoint, as follows:

- (1) **Eastern.** The eastern edge of the City, east of U.S. 101 to the Bay, consists of near-sea-level elevation flat land roughly 4 to 10 feet above sea level. This area is comprised of coastal salt marshes, mudflats, as well as urbanized land or baylands.
- (2) **Central.** Central Menlo Park, lying west of U.S. 101 and east of Alameda de las Pulgas, is gently sloping from roughly 20 feet above sea level to 130 feet above sea level, and consists mostly of flat, urbanized area. The southern border of central Menlo Park is flanked by the San Francisquito Creek riparian canopy and channel.
- (3) **Western.** The far western side of Menlo Park, located from the western edge of Alameda de las Pulgas to City limits, is roughly 130 to 300 feet above sea level and consists of the hilly grasslands below Jasper Ridge, which have been partially urbanized.

The natural community types in Menlo Park are defined by a combination of dominant plant community characteristics, landform, land use and ecological function. They include the Coastal Salt Marsh and Salt Ponds; Tidal Mudflats; San Francisquito Creek; Oak Woodlands; and Grasslands. Existing vegetation in Menlo Park is shown on the map on the next page.



Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2012; ESRI 2010; USDE Forest Service, March 2007.

- |  |                          |             |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|
| California Bay                                 | Riparian Mixed Hardwoods | City Limits |
| Annual Grasses and Forbs                       | Tule - Cattail           |             |
| Coast Live Oak                                 | Urban                    |             |
| Non-Native/Ornamental Conifer/Hardwood Mixture | Valley Oak               |             |
| Non-Native/Ornamental Grass                    | Water                    |             |
| Pickleweed - Cordgrass                         |                          |             |

### Existing Vegetation

## Description of Natural Resources Types

### Coastal Salt Marsh and Salt Ponds

Salt ponds and marshes once covered the edges of Bay, including the baylands in Menlo Park. In 1850, the conversion of these marshes through diking and filling began, and by 1969, just 75 square miles remained throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Menlo Park has large, intact marshes within its borders. Ravenswood Slough, Westpoint Slough, and Flood Point Slough contribute to the approximately 2,300 acres of tidal mudflats and 300 acres of salt marsh of the City.



These salt and brackish water marshes that border the Bay are a part of the Don Edwards Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and are associated with the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. Most of the salt ponds and marshes in or near Menlo Park have been (or will be) restored to or are retained in their natural state.

Coastal salt marshes are closely associated with tidal action and are characterized by sloughs (marshy creeks). These habitats are dominated by native species such as pickleweed and edged by cordgrass and salt grass. Coastal salt marshes are high biodiversity wildlife habitats, and are associated with a wide variety of native shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, waterfowl, fish, and crustaceans. Special status species are not uncommon in San Francisco Bay Area salt marshes.

### Tidal Mudflats

Tidal mudflats consist of unvegetated mud deposits along the shoreline that are regularly inundated and exposed by the tides of the Bay waters. These mudflats provide a habitat for a wide variety of crabs, snails, sea squirts, clams, mussels, and tubeworms. These species offer a rich feeding ground of macro-invertebrates to tens of thousands of migratory and resident shorebirds that travel from as far as Canada and Alaska. At higher tides, large marine species such as leopard sharks, starry flounder, and bat rays feed on these same macro-invertebrates. Migratory birds are an example of the special status species found in this habitat.

### San Francisquito Creek

In the urbanized portion of Menlo Park, San Francisquito Creek is the main creek. It originates west of Menlo Park just below Searsville Lake in Jasper Ridge, defines the southern border of Menlo Park for roughly three miles from the intersection of Alpine Road and Junipero Serra Boulevard, until it reaches Euclid Avenue near U.S. 101, then turns eastward and empties into the bay from within the borders of East Palo Alto. San

Francisquito Creek flows through Menlo Park largely in its natural alignment where it forms the southern boundary of the Menlo Park City limits.

Riparian vegetation around San Francisquito Creek spans a 25-75 meter-wide space, depending on adjacent land use and topography, and its canopy consists primarily of native trees—willow, bay laurels, redwoods, alders, cottonwoods, California buckeye, valley oaks, and coast live oaks. San Francisquito Creek shrub vegetation commonly consists of native species such as blackberry, and poison oak. In the urbanized lower reaches of the creek, non-native exotics such as eucalyptus, black locust, acacia, bamboo, pines, and redwoods are mixed in with the native plant species.

Riparian habitats, even in heavily urbanized areas, are very valuable to wildlife, providing food, water, and shelter in one location. Riparian habitat is associated with a wide variety of native resident and migratory songbirds, raptors, rodents, bats, and other mammals, as well as fish and amphibians. Urban creeks, such as San Francisquito that have preserved canopies and/or understories, are usually the most species rich, and some of these species are under special protections.

### **Oak Woodlands**

Mature oaks provide nesting and foraging opportunities for birds, including raptors. They also provide essential food resources for animals that include acorns in their diet, such as squirrels and woodpeckers. Other wildlife species that commonly nest or den in woodland habitat include mammals such as woodrats and deer mice, and birds such as owls, raptors, and songbirds. Native reptiles and amphibians associated with this habitat include snakes, newts, and salamanders. Contiguous oak woodlands with mature trees are relatively biodiverse and species rich, and some species found in these habitats are under special protections.

### **Grasslands**

The foothills of Menlo Park are located on the City's western border and are dominated by common non-native annual grasses. Portions of this area have been developed for housing and related uses, while another portion of these foothills, owned by Stanford University, have been preserved as open space. Plant species include wild oats, Italian ryegrass, foxtail barley, yellow star thistle, field bindweed, prickly lettuce, prickly ox-tongue, and field mustard. The grasslands are also dotted with taller trees and shrubs, including native California species such as coyote bush, toyon, valley oak, and coast live oak. Adult, large circumference non-native trees, such as black walnut, red gum, and acacia, are also present. This open space area provides important foraging habitat for raptors, native prey and predator mammals, and reptiles. Grasslands which are large and contiguous are usually the most species-rich. Some grassland species, such as nesting raptors, are under special protection.

### **Developed Baylands**

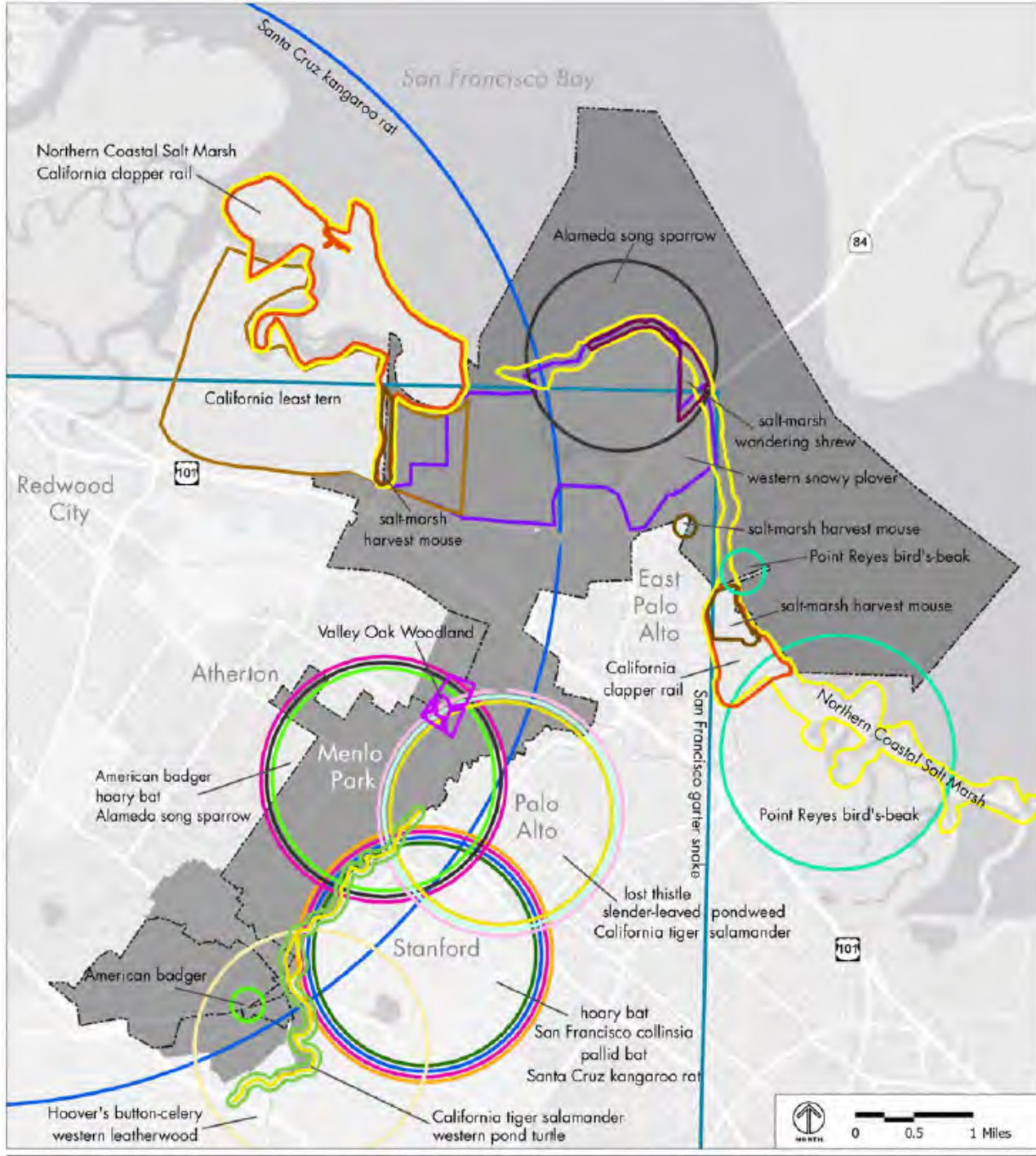
Developed sites in eastern Menlo Park along the bayshore have been built on diked and filled coastal marshes. These marshes were converted in the 1960s to create more land for development. In the process, these marshes have been cut off from tidal influence and filled with materials to raise their surface level and fill in their slough channels. While in some cases such bayfill lands can start to revert to wetland conditions, Menlo Park's developed bayland areas are primarily paved, landscaped with non-native plants, and disturbed with automobile activity. Developed salt marsh areas typically have relatively low habitat values. Species found in the urbanized baylands are similar to other urbanized areas.

### **Urbanized Area**

The well-landscaped, suburban character of developed areas of Menlo Park includes parks, backyards, and vacant lots that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species that have adapted to human disturbance. Native and ornamental trees and shrubs in the urban area provide nesting sites for songbirds such as scrub jays, brewer's black birds, and American crows. Parks and quiet streets provide foraging grounds for opportunistic predator and prey wildlife, including turkey vultures, coyotes, and raccoons. Few urban species are under special protections, although a few, such as the red-tailed hawk, are designated protected species.

### **Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species**

The locations of sightings of special-status plant and wildlife species are shown in the map on the next page. Following the map is a table listing the special-status plant and wildlife species that have the potential for occurring in Menlo Park. They include those listed under the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts, plants listed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California and wildlife designated as Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2012; ESRI 2010; California National Diversity Database, 2012.

Common Name (CNDDDB)					
	Alameda song sparrow		Hoover's button-celery		Valley Oak Woodland
	American badger		Northern Coastal Salt Marsh		hoary bat
	California clapper rail		Point Reyes bird's-beak		lost thistle
	California least tern		San Francisco collinsia		pallid bat
	California tiger salamander		San Francisco garter snake		salt-marsh harvest mouse
			Santa Cruz kangaroo rat		salt-marsh wandering shrew
					slender-leaved pondweed
					western leatherwood
					western pond turtle
					western snowy plover

City Limit

**Special Status Plant and Wildlife Species**

California Natural Diversity Database Special Status Species in Menlo Park (2013)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Presence	Federal List	California List	CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife	California Native Plant Society	General Habitat	Micro Habitation
<b>Sensitive Habitat</b>								
	Northern Coastal Salt Marsh	Extant	None	None				
	Valley Oak Woodland	Extant	None	None				
<b>Sensitive Plants</b>								
<i>Chloropyron mantiforme</i> ssp. <i>palustre</i>	Point Reyes bird's-beak	Possibly Extirpated	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Coastal salt marsh	Usually in coastal salt marsh with <i>Salicornia</i> , <i>distichlis</i> , <i>jaumea</i> , and <i>spartina</i> .
<i>Cirsium praeritense</i>	Lost thistle	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants presumed extinct in California.	Little information exists on this plant; it was collected from the Palo Alto area at the turn of the 20th century.	Although not seen since 1901, this <i>cirsium</i> is thought to be quite distinct from other <i>cirsium</i> s.
<i>Collinsia multicolor</i>	San Francisco collinsia	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal scrub	On decomposed shale (mudstone) mixed with humus.
<i>Dirca occidentalis</i>	western leatherwood	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Upland forest, chaparral, woodland, riparian forest, riparian woodland	On brushy slopes, mesic sites; mostly in mixed evergreen and foothill woodland communities.
<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>hooveri</i>	Hoover's button-celery	Possibly Extirpated	None	None		Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.	Vernal pools	Alkaline depressions, vernal pools, roadside ditches and other wet places near the coast.
<i>Stuckenia filiformis</i>	Slender-leaved pondweed	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Marshes and swamps	Shallow, clear water of lakes and drainage channels.
<b>Sensitive Animals</b>								
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	California tiger salamander	Extirpated	Threatened	Threatened	Special Concern		Central Valley DPS federally listed as threatened. Santa Barbara and Sonoma Counties DPS federally listed as endangered	Need underground refuges, especially ground squirrel burrows and vernal pools or other seasonal water sources for breeding
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid bat	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting	Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.
<i>Athene cucularia</i>	Western burrowing owl	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, shrub lands	Burrows into ground. Uses a variety of natural and artificial burrowing sites. Prefers short grasses.
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	Western snowy plover	Presumed Extant	Threatened	None	Special Concern		Sandy beaches, salt pond levees and shores of large alkali lakes	Needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting.
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern harrier	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, salt marshes, open habitats with rodent populations	Ground nesting, typically near shrubs in marshes.
<i>Dipodomys venustus venustus</i>	Santa Cruz kangaroo rat	Presumed Extant	None	None			Silverleaf manzanita mixed chaparral in the Zayante sand hills ecosystem of the Santa Cruz Mountains	Needs soft, well-drained sand.



California Natural Diversity Database Special Status Species in Menlo Park (2013) — Continued

Scientific Name	Common Name	Presence	Federal List	California List	CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife	California Native Plant Society	General Habitat	Micro Habitation
<b>Sensitive Animals</b>								
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	Western pond turtle	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation	Need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary bat	Presumed Extant	None	None			Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding	Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths. Requires water.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead shrike	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, shrub-grasslands, savannah	Nests in landscaping trees and shrubs. Uses barbed wire to impale prey, and for perching.
<i>Reithrodontomys raviventris</i>	Salt-marsh harvest mouse	Presumed Extant	Endangered	Endangered			Only in the saline emergent wetlands of San Francisco Bay and its tributaries	Pickweed is primary habitat. Do not burrow, build loosely organized nests. Require higher areas for flood escape.
<i>Sorex vagrans halicoeles</i>	Salt-marsh wandering shrew	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Salt marshes of the south arm of San Francisco Bay	Medium high marsh 6-8 ft above sea level where abundant driftwood is scattered among <i>Salicornia</i> .
<i>Spinus lawrenci</i>	Lawrence's gold finch	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Uplands, non-native grasslands, ruderal	Forages from seed-bearing plants, such as thistles.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American Badger	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable (easy to dig) soils.	Needs sufficient food, friable soils & open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i>	San Francisco garter snake	Presumed Extant	Endangered	Endangered			Vicinity of freshwater marshes, ponds and slow moving streams in San Mateo County and extreme Northern Santa Cruz County.	Prefers dense cover and water depths of at least one foot. Upland areas near water are also very important.
	Tree Nesting Raptors	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, woodlands	Trees

Source: California Natural Diversity Database, 2013; City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update, General Plan Consistency Update and Zoning Ordinance Amendments Environmental Assessment prepared April 2, 2013

The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) indicates 21 special status plant species, animal species or sensitive habitat types with recorded occurrences in the Menlo Park vicinity. Additionally, another five special status animals species are known to occur based on other reports done in Menlo Park.

**Special-Status Plant Species**

Six plant species with special-status have been recorded in Menlo Park. These species have varied status, but each is considered rare by the California Native Plant Society. Three of these special status plant species have been recorded in the Menlo Park vicinity, the Hoover's button-celery, Point Reyes bird's-beak, and slender-leaved pondweed, and are associated with wet or marshy conditions such as those found in riparian, wetlands, or marshes of the eastern Menlo Park baylands, and central Menlo Park's San Francisquito Creek area. Two other plants, the western leatherwood and San Francisco collinsia, are associated with drier conditions, such as those of the grasslands on the western edge of Menlo Park. The sixth species, the lost thistle, has been assigned a category indicating likely extinction or extreme rarity within California.

### **Special-Status Animal Species**

Thirteen bird, mammal, reptile, fish, and invertebrate species with special-status have recorded occurrences in Menlo Park as reported by the California Natural Diversity Database. Another four species were found in recent local studies, bringing the total to 17 special status animal species. Information on habitat association, or conditions under which an animal is typically found, assists in predicting its likelihood of occurrence. The habitat association and ranking of these species are described below.

Six of the special-status animal species with recorded occurrences in the Menlo Park vicinity are associated with wetland habitat, specifically with the salt marsh at the northeastern edge of the City. Of these, the California clapper rail, California least tern, salt-marsh harvest mouse, and western snowy plover each are listed as protected on the Federal Endangered Species List. The two other species, the Alameda song sparrow and the salt marsh wandering shrew, are afforded protection through State listing as species of special concern.

Four of the special-status animal species with CNDDDB recorded occurrences in Menlo Park are associated with the grasslands on the western boundary of the City, and the oak woodlands in the center of the City. These four grassland or woodland associated special status species are the American badger, pallid bat, hoary bat, and Santa Cruz kangaroo rat. The American badger and pallid bat are State Species of Special Concern.

Two special-status animal species with CNDDDB recorded occurrences in Menlo Park are associated with (freshwater) wetlands and riparian habitats such as those of San Francisquito Creek. These are the San Francisco garter snake and western pond turtle. The San Francisco garter snake is on the Federal endangered species list. The western pond turtle is a State of California species of special concern. A third species associated with San Francisquito Creek, the steelhead (a member of the salmon fish family), is Federally threatened.

### **Sensitive Habitats and Wildlife Dispersal Corridors**

The CNDDDB search identifies two types of sensitive habitat within the Menlo Park area — coastal salt marsh and oak woodland. Coastal salt marsh occurs on the eastern edge of Menlo Park where the baylands have not been converted. The oak woodland occurs within the center of Menlo Park, and consists of a large patch of native habitat situated within the otherwise urbanized City center. In addition to serving as valuable habitat, riparian areas serve as important travel corridors for wildlife. San Francisquito Creek's intact, multi-layered canopy of riparian habitat and large creek channel serves as an important wildlife dispersal corridor.

## **B** Parks and Recreation Facilities



The Menlo Park Community Services Department owns and operates parks and recreational facilities in the City of Menlo Park. The City has adopted a goal of maintaining a ratio of five acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents. Currently, the City provides a net of 220.86 acres of parkland for the residents, with a ratio of 6.79 acres per capita. A detailed list of available parks and recreation facilities located in Menlo Park is shown in the table on the next page.

### Parks and Recreation Facilities in Menlo Park (2013)

Name	Location	Size	Description
<b>Facilities</b>			
Arrillaga Family Recreation Center	700 Alma Street	10,000 sq2	A kitchen, lobby area, offices, and 2 patios, 7 main rooms for purposes of banquets, meetings, exercise, dance, and enrichment activities.
Arrillaga Family Gymnasium	600 Alma Street	24,100 sq2	Two full size basketball courts, 3 volleyball courts, 4 badminton courts, and 4 cross-court basketball, a conference room, offices, lobby area, restrooms, and locker rooms.
Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center	501 Laurel Street	19,380 sq2	A state of the art gymnastics facility, 2 multipurpose rooms, office area, lobby, restrooms, and storage.
Burgess Pool	501 Laurel Street	22,700 sq2	Three pools- performance pool, instructional pool (covered during winter months), and kiddie pool (summer only). The facility contracted to Team Sheeper LLC (Menlo Swim and Sport).
Menlo Children's Center	801 Laurel Street	13,000 sq2	Licensed preschool (18 months to 5 years) and school age (Kindergarten to 5th Grade) services.
Belle Haven Child Development Center	410 Ivy Drive	6,600 sq2	(Licensed by the Department of Social Services.) Quality subsidized, full-time child development services.
Belle Haven After School Center	100 Terminal Ave	2,485 sq2	(Licensed by the Department of Social Services.) Care for children in kindergarten to 6th grade.
Senior Center	110 Terminal Ave	11,000 sq2	Health, recreational, and educational programs, as well as cultural events and social services for older adults. Nutritionally balanced hot meals and door-to-door local transportation to and from the Center are offered on weekdays for minimal cost to the registered patrons. Weekly brown bag through Second Harvest Food Bank, Farmer's Market, monthly free health screenings, HI CAP and tax assistance are also available.
Onetta Harris Community Center	100 Terminal Ave	11,000 sq2	A gym, weight room, computer lab, a large multipurpose room with adjacent kitchen, 3 classrooms, and office space.
Belle Haven Pool	100 Terminal Ave	6,300 sq2	Currently a seasonal pool that is open from mid-June to the end of August; a 25 meter pool with an additional shallow area as well as a small kiddie pool.
<b>Parks</b>			
Bedwell/Bayfront Park	Bayfront Expressway & Marsh Road	155 Acres	An extensive trail system, as part of the San Francisco Bay Trail, allowing hiking, running, bicycling, dog walking, bird watching, kite flying, and photography.
Burgess Park	Alma Street & Burgess Drive	9.31 acres	Little league baseball field; soccer field (300' x 200'); regulation baseball field; open play field; skate park; 2 lighted tennis courts, children's playground; picnic areas, and restrooms.
Jack W. Lyle Park	Middle Ave & Fremont Street	4.55 acres	Walking path with benches; Open Play field; Half-court basketball; Children's (5 to 12 year old) Playground; and Tot-Lot (2 to 5 year old) Playground.
Fremont Park	Santa Cruz Avenue & University Drive	0.38 acres	Lighted walkways; benches; picnic areas, drinking fountain, and open grass areas. It is home to the City of Menlo Park Summer Concert Series and other downtown parties.
Joseph B. Kelly Park	100 Terminal Ave	8.3 acres	A synthetic turf soccer field with lights, full size track with 4 different exercise apparatuses, lighted tennis courts, lighted basketball court, benches, bleachers, and a full men's and women's bathroom facility.
Marketplace Park	Market Place & Hamilton Avenue	1 acre	Playground, open grass areas, and walkways.
Nealon Park	800 Middle Avenue	9 acres	Five lighted tennis courts, softball field, playground, picnic areas, grass areas, and an off-leash dog area.
Seminary Oaks Park	Seminary Drive & Santa Monica Avenue	3.51 acres	Walking path with benches; open play field; "Serenity Rock Garden"; children's playground, and tot-lot playground.

**Parks and Recreation Facilities in Menlo Park (2013) — Continued**

Name	Location	Size	Description
<b>Parks</b>			
Sharon Hills Park	Altschul Avenue & Valparaiso Avenue	12.5 acres	Walking paths and benches.
Sharon Park	Sharon Park Drive & Monte Rosa Drive	9.83 acres	A small lake with fountain; gazebo; walking path with benches; shaded picnic area; grass areas; natural wooded area; and tot-lot playground.
Stanford Hills Park	Sand Hill Road & Branner Drive	3.11 acres	Benches, walkways, picnic tables, and a large grass area.
Tinker Park	Santa Cruz Avenue & Olive Street	0.54 acres	Tot-lot playground and picnic area.
Willow Oaks Park	Willow Street & Colmen Ave	2.63 acres	Three lighted tennis courts, children's playground, tot-lot playground, public area, off leash dog area, little league field, and large open play field for soccer and other sports.
Hamilton Park	Hamilton Ave	1.2 acres	A play structure, picnic tables, and open grass area.
<b>Total</b>		<b>232 acres</b>	

Source: City of Menlo Park

**Regional Parks and Preserves**

In addition to the City's parks facilities, Menlo Park residents have access to a range of regional parks and open space, including the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Wunderlich County Park, Huddart County Park, and San Francisco Bay Trail also provide recreational opportunities for Menlo Park residents. Flood Park, a 26-acre facility owned by San Mateo County Parks Department, provides a place for picnicking and strolling. The City and the County have discussed transferring it to the City because of the County's budget deficit. However, there are no plans to move forward at this time. Furthermore, the residents of Menlo Park have access to the 373-acre Ravenswood Preserve located largely within Menlo Park and owned and managed by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The southern portion of the preserve offers pedestrian and bicycle access along the shore and levees along the marshland.

**School Facilities**

The City has joint use agreements with La Entrada, Oak Knoll, Belle Haven, Hillview, and Willow Oaks Schools for use of fields after school hours, as follows:

- (1) **La Entrada:** soccer, basketball, baseball, and tennis courts; playground
- (2) **Oak Knoll:** soccer, basketball and baseball
- (3) **Belle Haven:** basketball and baseball
- (4) **Hillview:** soccer, football, lacrosse, basketball court, track
- (5) **Willow Oaks School:** baseball and soccer

### **Private Facilities**

The Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club is located in the Sharon Heights neighborhood near Sand Hill Road and Interstate 280. A portion of the Stanford University Golf Course is located within the City of Menlo Park and its Sphere of Influence along Sand Hill Road and Alpine Road. In addition, a few private, fee-based facilities are available in Menlo Park, such as small yoga and dance studios.

## **C Historic Resources**

The City of Menlo Park was originally the home of Ohlone Indians. The Ohlone lived off the land and due to the abundance of food they did not practice agriculture. Evidences of their civilization are still being unearthed on the Filoli estate in Woodside, and along San Francisquito Creek.

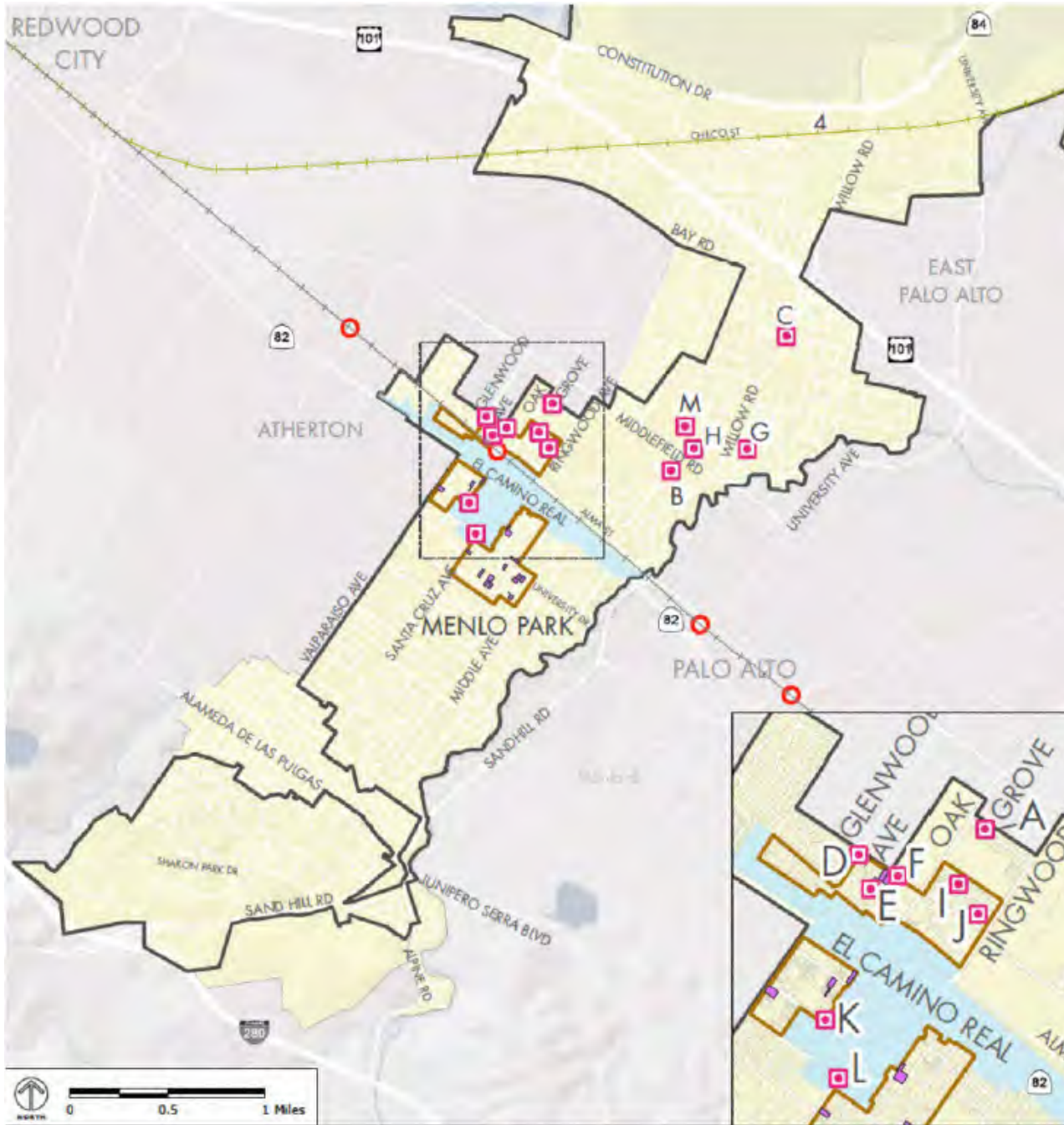
In 1769 Spanish rule was introduced to the area when the exploration party led by Don Gaspar de Portola camped near "El Palo Alto" after their momentous discovery of San Francisco Bay. The colonizing of the Peninsula began after the expedition of Juan Bautista DeAnza passed through Menlo Park on its way to establishing Mission Dolores and the Presidio of San Francisco in 1776. The mission padres, explorers, military personnel, travelers and settlers occupied certain areas, developing and populating the land.

In 1854 Dennis J. Oliver and Daniel McGlynn purchased 1,700 acres from the Don Jose Dario Arguello family that had legally obtained the title to the land in 1853. Around this time Menlo Park received its official name when Oliver and McGlynn erected an arch with the words "Menlo Park" on it to honor their former home in Menlough, County Galway, Ireland. In 1863, the Southern Pacific Railroad was extended to the community of Menlo Park. During this same period, the downtown area of Menlo Park began to develop along Oak Grove Avenue between the railroad station and El Camino Real. By 1870, twelve buildings situated between the railroad station and El Camino Real in the vicinity of Oak Grove Avenue were constructed, consisting of two general stores, three hotels, livery stables, saloons, and three blacksmith shops. The first store in Menlo Park was on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and El Camino Real.

On March 23, 1874, Menlo Park became the second incorporated city in San Mateo County, although only for a short time. The purpose was to provide a quick way to raise money for road repairs. This incorporation, including Fair Oaks (later Atherton) and Ravenswood (later East Palo Alto), lasted only until 1876. Churches were founded, schools were opened and businesses were established. Menlo Park's population increased slowly until World War I. In 1917, 27,000 soldiers were stationed at Camp Fremont in Menlo Park. Menlo Park's first gas and water services, its first paved streets, and an increase in businesses were a direct result of the transient military population.

The original Dumbarton Bridge opened in 1927, connecting the South Bay and East Bay. In 1931, the Bayshore Highway (now Highway 101) linked Menlo Park and San Francisco. In 1940, Menlo Park's population was 3,258. World War II brought about many changes in the small town. Between 1943 and 1946 another military installation, Dibble General Hospital, was built on the old Timothy Hopkins estate to care for the thousands of soldiers injured in the South Pacific in World War II. Following World War II, in the 1950s, the hospital campus became the site of the Menlo Park Civic Center, Stanford Research Institute (today's SRI International), and the United States Geological Survey. Today Menlo Park is a suburban residential community with a variety of businesses, including high-tech industries.

The map on the next page identifies historic resources near the downtown. *Additional information on historic resources is available in the Environmental Assessment.*



Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2013; ESRI 2010; FHA 200

- Historic Resources
- CalTrain Stations
- Infill Areas around Downtown
- City Limits
- Sphere of Influence
- El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan

### Existing Historic Resources Near Downtown Menlo Park



## **D** Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Menlo Park experiences a coastal Mediterranean climate, which consists of long dry, relatively cool summers and wet, mild winters. The City receives approximately 15.5 inches of rain annually, primarily experienced from the five-month stretch between November and April.

The climate is dominated by the strength and location of a semi-permanent, subtropical high-pressure cell. During the summer, the Pacific high-pressure cell is centered over the northeastern Pacific Ocean, resulting in stable meteorological conditions and a steady northwesterly wind flow. Upwelling of cold ocean water from below the surface because of the northwesterly flow produces a band of cold water off the California coast. The cool and moisture-laden air approaching the coast from the Pacific Ocean is further cooled by the presence of the cold-water band, resulting in condensation and the presence of fog and stratus clouds along the Northern California coast. In the winter, the Pacific high-pressure cell weakens and shifts southward, resulting in wind flow offshore, the absence of upwelling, and the occurrence of storms. Weak inversions coupled with moderate winds result in a low air pollution potential.

### **Air Quality**

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is the regional air quality agency for the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin (SFBAAB), which comprises all of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties; the southern portion of Sonoma County; and the southwestern portion of Solano County. Air quality in this area is determined by such natural factors as topography, meteorology, and climate, in addition to the presence of existing air pollution sources and ambient conditions.

Ambient air quality standards (AAQS) have been adopted at State and Federal levels for criteria air pollutants. In addition, both the State and Federal government regulate the release of toxic air contaminants (TACs). Jurisdictions in the Bay Area are also subject to the regulations imposed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Existing levels of ambient air quality and historical trends and projections in the vicinity of Menlo Park show occasional violations of both the State and Federal Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) standards and the Federal Fine Particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) standard. The State and Federal

Course Particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) standards have not been exceeded in the last five years in the vicinity of Menlo Park.

### **Sensitive Receptors**

Some land uses are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others due to the types of population groups or activities involved. Sensitive population groups include children, the elderly, the acutely ill, and the chronically ill, especially those with cardio-respiratory diseases. Residential areas are also considered sensitive receptors to air pollution because residents (including children and the elderly) tend to be at home for extended periods of time, resulting in sustained exposure to any pollutants present. Other sensitive receptors include retirement facilities, hospitals, and schools.

Recreational land uses are considered moderately sensitive to air pollution. Although exposure periods are generally short, exercise places a high demand on respiratory functions, which can be impaired by air pollution. In addition, noticeable air pollution can detract from the enjoyment of recreation. Industrial, commercial, retail, and office areas are considered the least sensitive to air pollution. Exposure periods are relatively short and intermittent, as the majority of the workers tend to stay indoors most of the time. In addition, the working population is generally the healthiest segment of the public.

### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Scientists have concluded that human activities are contributing to global climate change by adding large amounts of heat-trapping gases, known as GHG, to the atmosphere. The primary source of these GHG is fossil fuel use. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified four major GHG—water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)—that are the likely cause of an increase in global average temperatures observed within the 20th and 21st centuries. Other GHG identified by the IPCC that contribute to global warming to a lesser extent include nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and chlorofluorocarbons. The major GHG are briefly described below.

- (1) **Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)** enters the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal), solid waste, trees and wood products, and respiration, and also as a result of other chemical reactions (e.g. manufacture of cement). Carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere (sequestered) when it is absorbed by plants as part of the biological carbon cycle.
- (2) **Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)** is emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices and from the decay of organic waste in municipal landfills and water treatment facilities.

- (3) **Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)** is emitted during agricultural and industrial activities as well as during combustion of fossil fuels and solid waste.
- (4) **Fluorinated gases** are synthetic, strong GHGs that are emitted from a variety of industrial processes. Fluorinated gases are sometimes used as substitutes for ozone-depleting substances. These gases are typically emitted in smaller quantities, but because they are potent GHGs, they are sometimes referred to as High global warming potential gases.
- (5) **Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)** are GHGs covered under the 1987 Montreal Protocol and used for refrigeration, air conditioning, packaging, insulation, solvents, or aerosol propellants. Since they are not destroyed in the lower atmosphere (troposphere, stratosphere), CFCs drift into the upper atmosphere where, given suitable conditions, they break down ozone. These gases are also ozone-depleting gases and are therefore being replaced by other compounds that are GHGs covered under the Kyoto Protocol.
- (6) **Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)** are a group of human-made chemicals composed of carbon and fluorine only. These chemicals (predominantly perfluoromethane [CF<sub>4</sub>] and perfluoroethane [C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>]) were introduced as alternatives, along with HFCs, to the ozone-depleting substances. In addition, PFCs are emitted as by-products of industrial processes and are also used in manufacturing. PFCs do not harm the stratospheric ozone layer, but they have a high global warming potential.

### **City Actions to Promote Sustainability**

The City maintains several environmental programs under the City's Public Works Department. The City's environmental programs promote sustainable environmental practices and policies Citywide and within City-owned facilities and open space areas. The City adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2020 to reduce municipal and community GHG emissions.

The City's Public Works Department is also responsible for developing a more functional and efficient roadway network for the effective movement of people and goods. The division promotes the use of public transit, ride sharing, bicycles, and walking as commuting alternatives to single-occupant automobiles. The City operates a trip reduction program and was the first City on the Peninsula to establish a shuttle program.

The City also manages two Caltrain shuttle bus routes, the Willow and Marsh shuttles, which operate during the AM and PM peak hours taking passengers from Caltrain to their workplaces, schools, shopping, or appointments. In addition, the City manages a Midday shuttle service, a community service route open to the general public but focusing on the senior community. For residents who do not live within an easy walking distance of a SamTrans stop or the Midday shuttle service stop, Menlo Park offers a

twice weekly shopper's shuttle service that picks up passengers at their homes and provides rides to specific shopping areas.

### **City of Menlo Park Climate Change Action Plan (CAP)**

The City of Menlo Park has prepared and updated its community-wide GHG emissions inventory several times since the release of the City's 2005 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis, which was prepared by the City with assistance from ICLEI in 2007. In 2020, the City adopted an updated Climate Action Plan (CAP): 2030 Climate Action Plan. This plan includes GHG emissions inventories and strategies to reduce GHG emissions within the City.

## **E Water Quality**

The City is located within the 50-square mile San Francisquito Creek watershed, which includes portions of both Santa Clara County and San Mateo County. The uppermost elevations of the watershed are west of Highway 35 (locally known as Skyline Boulevard), and its lowest points are in East Palo Alto where San Francisquito Creek empties into the San Francisco Bay. The southernmost edge of the watershed is in the Los Trancos Regional Preserve near Palo Alto, and its northern most edge is Sweeny Ridge in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Water flows west to east through natural creeks and streams and channelized waterways. In the undeveloped marshes, water flows through Flood Slough and Ravenswood Slough. In the urbanized portion of Menlo Park, the main creek system is San Francisquito Creek. In general, the creek flows in a northeasterly direction, flows through Menlo Park largely in its natural alignment, and it forms the southern boundary of the City limits. Riparian vegetation around the creek spans a 25- to 75-meter-wide space, depending on adjacent land use and topography, consisting primarily of willow, bay laurels, redwoods, alders, cottonwoods, dogwoods, valley oaks, and coast live oaks.

### **Groundwater Aquifers**

The City is situated above the Santa Clara Valley groundwater basin and San Mateo sub-basin. The San Mateo sub-basin is bounded by the Santa Cruz Mountains to the west, the Bay to the east, San Francisquito Creek to the south, and the Westside basin to the north. A relatively shallow water table aquifer overlies confined and semi-confined aquifers near the margins of the Bay, with most wells constructed to draw from the deeper portions. Recharge of the groundwater occurs through infiltration into streambeds and through percolation of rain on the valley floor. Well data from the California Department of Water Resources indicate that groundwater recharge in the City increases from the hilly west to the flatter eastern portions of the City, and decreases with increasing depth.

## Water Quality

Menlo Park is within the San Francisquito Creek Watershed. More specifically, runoff from development within Menlo Park will eventually discharge to San Francisquito Creek, which ultimately discharges into South San Francisco Bay.

### **Beneficial Uses of Water Bodies in Menlo Park**

The beneficial uses of the surface water bodies in Menlo Park have been designated in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Region (Basin Plan). These potential and beneficial uses include:

#### *Designated Beneficial Uses of Surface Water in Menlo Park*

**South San Francisco Bay:** Commercial and sport fishing; Estuarine habitat; Industrial service supply; Fish migration; Navigation; Preservation of rare and endangered species; Water contact recreation; Non-contact water recreation; Shellfish harvesting; Fish spawning; and Wildlife habitat.

**San Francisquito Creek:** Cold freshwater habitat; Fish migration; Water contact recreation; Non-contact water recreation; Fish spawning; and Wildlife habitat.

#### *Designated Beneficial Uses of Groundwater in Menlo Park*

**Santa Clara Valley (San Mateo Sub-Basin):** Municipal and domestic water supply; Industrial process water supply; Industrial service water supply; and Agricultural water supply (potential).

### Impaired Water Bodies in Menlo Park

In accordance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, the State must present USEPA with a list of impaired water bodies that do not meet water quality standards. Listed impaired water bodies within Menlo Park are shown in the table below.

**List of Impaired Water Bodies in Menlo Park**

Pollutant	Potential Source	Status of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
<b>San Francisquito Creek</b>		
Diazinon	Urban runoff/storm sewers	Approved (2007)
Sedimentation/siltation	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
Trash	Illegal dumping; urban runoff/storm sewers	Planned (2021)
<b>South San Francisco Bay</b>		
Chlordane	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
DDT	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
Dieldrin	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
Dioxin compounds	Atmospheric deposition	Planned (2019)
Invasive species	Ballast water	Planned (2019)
Furan compounds	Atmospheric deposition	Planned (2019)
Mercury	Industrial and municipal point sources; resource extraction; atmospheric deposition; natural sources; nonpoint sources	Approved (2008)
PCBs	Unknown nonpoint sources	Approved (2010)
Selenium	Domestic use of groundwater	Planned (2019)

Source: State Water Resources Control Board. 2010 Integrated Report, Clean Water Act, Section 303(d) List, January 13, 2013; City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update, General Plan Consistency Update and Zoning Ordinance Amendments Environmental Assessment prepared April 2, 2013

Once a water body has been placed on the 303(d) list of impaired waters, states are required to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to address each pollutant causing impairment. A TMDL defines how much of a pollutant a water body can tolerate and still meet water quality standards. TMDLs have been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for diazinon in San Francisquito Creek and mercury and PCBs in South San Francisco Bay.

The Basin Plan also contains water quality criteria for groundwater. Menlo Park is within the San Mateo Plain Sub-basin of the Santa Clara Valley Groundwater Basin. Groundwater in this sub-basin is generally characterized as calcium magnesium calcium carbonate water and the mineral content is very “hard,” averaging 471 mg/l of calcium carbonate. Some wells have reported concentrations of nitrate-nitrogen that exceed USEPA maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).

Groundwater contamination can result from releases of hazardous materials from underground storage tanks or historical industrial activities. There are about 20 Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) or Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) hazardous waste cleanup sites within Menlo Park. If groundwater de-watering activities are required as part of the construction efforts, a more detailed assessment of the potential for contaminated groundwater to be present is warranted.

## Section VI

# Noise Background

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## **A** Background on Sound and Sound Measurement



The Noise Element is most closely associated with the Land Use and Circulation Elements of the Menlo Park General Plan. Specific concerns are addressed in this Element and in the Land Use and Circulation Element. Issues are: (1) establishment of noise compatible land uses; (2) regulation of new development to limit noise impacts on noise-sensitive

uses; (3) minimization of traffic noise; (4) enforcement of noise standards to protect the existing quality of life; and (5) insulation of residences exposed to excessive levels of noise.

### **Characteristics of Sound**

Noise is most often defined as unwanted sound. Whether a sound is unwanted depends on when and where it occurs, what the listener is doing when it occurs, characteristics of the sound (loudness, pitch and duration, speech or music content, irregularity) and how intrusive it is above background sound levels. Although sound can be easily measured, the perception of noise and the physical response to sound complicate the analysis of its impact on people. People judge the relative magnitude of sound sensation in subjective terms such as “noisiness” or “loudness.”

Sound is the result of the vibration of an object, which is transmitted through the air in waves that in turn vibrate the eardrum. Sound can be described in terms of amplitude (loudness), frequency (pitch), or duration (time), and is measured in a logarithmic scale using units called decibels (dB). Since the human ear is not equally sensitive to sound at all frequencies, a special A-weighted filter decibel measurement (dBA) is used to simulate human hearing.

Another measure of sound is called the Day-Night Weighted Average (Ldn), which is the average dBA sound level during a 24-hour day. Sound levels during the night are weighted over those during daylight hours, by adding 10 dB to actual sound levels during the period from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. to recognize the increased annoyance factor related to noise at night.



## Noise Levels

The outdoor noise environment throughout the United States varies considerably. Outdoor Day-Night Average (Ldn) sound levels can be as low as 30 to 40 dBA (Ldn) in wilderness areas and as high as 85-90 dBA (Ldn) in noisy industrial urban areas. In Menlo Park, Ldn levels in residential areas are as low as 45 dBA (Ldn) in areas shielded from major roads and as high as 65-75 dBA (Ldn) along highways and major roads.

### Typical Noise Levels

Common Outdoor Sound Levels	Noise Level Db (A)	Common Indoor Sound Levels
Commercial Airliner Takeoff at 1,000 feet	110	Rock Band
	100	Ambulance Siren at 100 feet
Gas Lawn Mower at 3 feet	90	Food Blender at 3 feet
Diesel Truck at 50 feet	80	Garbage Disposal at 3 feet
Noisy Urban Daytime		Shouting at 3 feet
	70	
Commercial Area	60	Vacuum Cleaner at 10 feet
		Normal Speech at 3 feet
Quiet Urban Daytime	50	Large Business Office
		Dishwasher Next Room
Quiet Urban Nighttime	40	Small Theatre
Quiet Suburban Nighttime		Large Conference Room
	30	
Quiet Rural Nighttime	20	Bedroom at Night
Rustling Leaves		Broadcast & Recording Studio
	10	Soft Whisper
	0	Threshold of Hearing

Construction operations generally include a wide range of activities that can generate groundborne vibration. In general, blasting and demolition of structures generate the highest vibrations. Vibratory compactors or rollers, pile drivers, and pavement breakers can generate perceptible amounts of vibration at up to 200 feet. Heavy trucks can also generate groundborne vibrations, which can vary, depending on vehicle type, weight, and pavement conditions. Potholes, pavement joints, discontinuities, differential settlement of pavement, etc., all increase the vibration levels from vehicles passing over

a road surface. Construction vibration is normally of greater concern than vibration from normal traffic flows on streets and freeways with smooth pavement conditions. Trains generate substantial quantities of vibration due to their engines, steel wheels, heavy loads, and wheel-rail interactions. The table below shows various construction equipment noise emission levels.

### Construction Equipment Noise Emission Levels

Construction Equipment	Typical Noise Level (dBA) at 50 Feet	Construction Equipment	Typical Noise Level (dBA) at 50 Feet
Air Compressor	81	Pile-Driver (Impact)	101
Backhoe	80	Pile-Driver (Sonic)	96
Ballast Equalizer	82	Pneumatic Tool	85
Ballast Tamper	83	Pump	76
Compactor	82	Rail Saw	90
Concrete Mixer	85	Rock Drill	98
Concrete Pump	71	Roller	74
Concrete Vibrator	76	Saw	76
Crane, Derrick	88	Scarifier	83
Crane, Mobile	83	Scraper	89
Dozer	85	Shovel	82
Generator	81	Spike Driver	77
Grader	85	Tie Cutter	84
Impact Wrench	85	Tie Handler	80
Jack Hammer	88	Tie Inserter	85
Loader	85	Truck	88
Paver	89		

Source: Federal Transit Administration, Transit Noise, and Vibration Impact Assessment, 2006.

### Acceptable Noise Levels and Attitude Surveys About Noise

Acceptable levels of noise vary from land use to land use. Also, in any one location, the noise level will vary over time, from the lowest background or ambient levels to that of passing airplanes or construction equipment. Various techniques have been developed that measure the effects of noise levels over a period of time. It is difficult to specify noise levels that are generally acceptable to everyone. What is annoying to one person may be unnoticed by another. Standards may be based on documented complaint activity in response to noise levels, or based on studies on the ability of people to sleep, talk, or work under various noise conditions. All such studies, however, recognize that individual responses vary considerably. Standards usually address the needs of most of the general population.

Attitude surveys are used to measure annoyance felt in a community for noises intruding into homes or affecting outdoor activity areas. In these surveys, it has been determined that the causes for annoyance include interference with hearing, radio and television reception, sleep and rest, and house vibrations. The Ldn as a measure of noise has been found to provide a valid correlation of noise level and the percentage of people annoyed.

When measuring the percentage of the population highly annoyed, the threshold for ground vehicle noise is about 55 dBA Ldn. At an Ldn of about 60 dBA, approximately 2% of the population is highly annoyed. When the Ldn increases to 70 dBA, the percentage of the population highly annoyed increases to about 12% of the population. There is, therefore, an increase of about 1% per dBA from an Ldn of 60 to 70 dBA. From an Ldn of 70 to 80 dBA, each decibel increases by about 2% the percentage of people highly annoyed.

Unlike linear units such as inches or pounds, decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale. Because of the physical characteristics of noise transmission and perception, the relative loudness of sound does not closely match the actual amounts of sound energy. The table below presents the subjective effect of changes in sound pressure levels.

**Change in Apparent Loudness**

± 3 dB	Threshold of human perceptibility
± 5 dB	Clearly noticeable change in noise level
± 10 dB	Half or twice as loud
± 20 dB	Much quieter or louder

Source: Bies and Hansen 2009.

**Approximate Exterior-to-Interior Noise Reduction Achieved by Structures**

Building Type	Window Condition	Exterior-to-Interior Noise Reduction	Maximum Exterior CNEL Value for 45 dB Interior CNEL Value
All	Open	10 dB	55 dB
Light Frame	Ordinary sash, closed	20 dB	65 dB
Masonry	Single pane, closed	25 dB	70 dB
Masonry	Sound-rated windows, closed	35 dB	80 dB

Source: Federal Highway Administration

Because community receptors are more sensitive to unwanted noise intrusion during the evening and nighttime hours, State law requires that, for planning purposes and to

account for this increased receptiveness of noise, an artificial decibel increment is to be added to quiet-time noise levels to calculate a 24-hour CNEL (Community Noise Equivalent Level) noise metric. CNEL is the average sound level over a 24 hour period, with a penalty of 5 dB added for the evening hours from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and a penalty of 10 dB added for the nighttime hours of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. CNEL It is very similar in nature (and in results) to the Ldn, but with the added penalty for the evening period.

### **Psychological and Physiological Effects of Noise**

Physical damage to human hearing begins at prolonged exposure to noise levels higher than 85 dBA. Exposure to high noise levels affects the entire system; prolonged noise exposure in excess of 75 dBA increases body tensions, thereby affecting blood pressure and functions of the heart and nervous system. Extended periods of noise exposure above 90 dBA results in permanent cell damage, which is the main driver for employee hearing protection regulations in the workplace. For community environments, the ambient or background noise problem is widespread and generally more concentrated in urban areas than in outlying, less-developed areas. Elevated ambient noise levels can result in noise interference (e.g. speech interruption/masking, sleep disturbance, disturbance of concentration) and cause annoyance. Since most people do not routinely work with decibels or A-weighted sound levels, it is often difficult to appreciate what a given sound pressure level (SPL) number means.

### **Noise Sensitive Receptors**

Certain land uses are particularly sensitive to noise and vibration, including residential, school and open space/recreation areas where quiet environments are necessary for enjoyment, public health, and safety. Sensitive land uses within Menlo Park include residences, schools, places of worship and recreational areas. These uses are regarded as sensitive because they are where citizens most frequently engage in activities that are likely to be disturbed by noise, such as reading, studying, sleeping, resting, or otherwise engaging in quiet or passive recreation. Commercial and industrial uses are not considered noise sensitive uses and often themselves generate more noise than they receive from other uses.

## **B Noise Regulation**

To limit population exposure to physically and/or psychologically damaging as well as intrusive noise levels, the Federal government, the State of California, various county governments, and most municipalities in the state have established standards and ordinances to control noise.

### **State of California Building Code**

The State of California's noise insulation standards are codified in the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, *Building Standards Administrative Code*, Part 2, *California Building*

*Code.* These noise standards are applied to new construction in California for the purpose of interior noise compatibility from exterior noise sources. Acoustical studies that accompany building plans must demonstrate that the structure has been designed to limit interior noise in habitable rooms to acceptable noise levels. For new residential buildings, schools, and hospitals, the acceptable interior noise limit is 45 dBA CNEL.

### **State of California Land Use Compatibility Criteria**

The table below is a land use compatibility chart for community noise adopted by the State of California as part of its General Plan Guidelines. It provides cities with a tool to gauge the compatibility of new land uses relative to existing and future noise levels by identifying normally acceptable, conditionally acceptable and clearly unacceptable noise levels for various land uses. A conditionally acceptable designation implies new development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features are incorporated in the design. By comparison, a normally acceptable designation indicates that standard construction can occur with no special noise reduction requirements.

### **Menlo Park Municipal Code (Noise Ordinance)**

Menlo Park addresses noise in various capacities under multiple chapters of its municipal code. Noise is primarily addressed in Chapter 8.06 (Noise); additional chapters making brief mention of minor and/or incidental noise issues and regulations include Chapters 8.07 (Leaf Blowers), 8.12 (Business Operations after Midnight), 8.28 (Parks and Recreation), 9.26 (Poultry and Rabbits), 11.64 (Transportation Systems Management), and 13.18 (Use of Public Rights-of-Way).

Chapter 8.06 (Noise) contains the primary set of statutes through which Menlo Park regulates noise. For all noise measurements pursuant to the noise ordinance, the municipal code specifies standard procedures for conducting noise measurements, with specifications for sound-meter settings and placement. Section 8.06.030 sets maximum noise levels at any residential receiving property to a maximum of 60 dBA during the daytime hours between 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and to 50 dBA during the nighttime hours between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. The ordinance applies an additional 5 dBA penalty to sounds of a particularly annoying nature, such as tones, screeches, whines, and pulses, among others. The ordinance also includes a qualitative standard that prohibits noises that can be reasonably determined to be disturbing to an entire neighborhood or any considerable number of residents.

The Menlo Park noise ordinance also contains a number of qualified exceptions to the limitations stipulated in the ordinance; these include construction, powered equipment, and leaf blowers, deliveries, social gatherings, pavement sweeping, garbage collection, and animals. Additionally, the ordinance contains general exemptions for emergencies and emergency warning devices, sporting and City-permitted events, City and State projects, and the normal operation of typical motor vehicles. Of these, the most notable

exceptions and exemptions for the purposes of this analysis include those for construction, motor vehicles, and deliveries.

Construction activities are exempted from the noise ordinance between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; construction activities are only allowed on Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and only if they are being personally undertaken by property owners performing maintenance or improvements. Despite these allowances for weekend residential maintenance, the ordinance still prohibits the use of any equipment that results in noise levels exceeding 85 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. Construction that is sufficiently quiet so as to be fully compliant with the basic exterior noise limitations set out by the ordinance is generally allowed at any time.

Notwithstanding specialized vehicle equipment or sound amplification systems, noise from the normal operation of motor vehicles (including cars, trucks, busses, trains, and airplanes) is exempted from the provisions of the noise ordinance. Noise from deliveries to food retailers and restaurants are generally excepted from the ordinance, while noise from other commercial and industrial deliveries are generally excepted between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Temporally and geographically specific exceptions for street sweeping and garbage collection are also described in detail by the noise ordinance.

### **Other City Noise Standards**

In addition to Chapter 8.06 (Noise), there are several other chapters in the Menlo Park municipal code that mention noise. In Chapter 8.07 (Leaf Blowers), the municipal code mentions that leaf blowers are a source of loud noise and stipulates that operators of these devices must wear ear protection. In Chapter 8.12 (Business Operations after Midnight), Section 8.12.040 indicates that a permit for late-night business operations may be revoked if noise from the establishment exceeds that foreseen by the permit. Chapter 8.28 (Parks and Recreation) prohibits the creation of obtrusive noise in parks. Section 9.26.080 of Chapter 9.26 (Poultry and Rabbits) prohibits the keeping of animals or fowl that cause unreasonable and disturbing noise for residents. In the goals of Chapter 11.64 (Transportation Systems Management), it is stated that noise reduction through decreased traffic is a goal of the chapter. Finally, in Chapter 13.18 (Use of Public Rights-of-Way), Section 13.18.110 (Regulations) stipulates that all regulations, including those related to noise, apply to the construction, operation, maintenance, and repair of facilities in the public rights-of-way.

## **C Existing and Future Noise Environment**

## Roadways

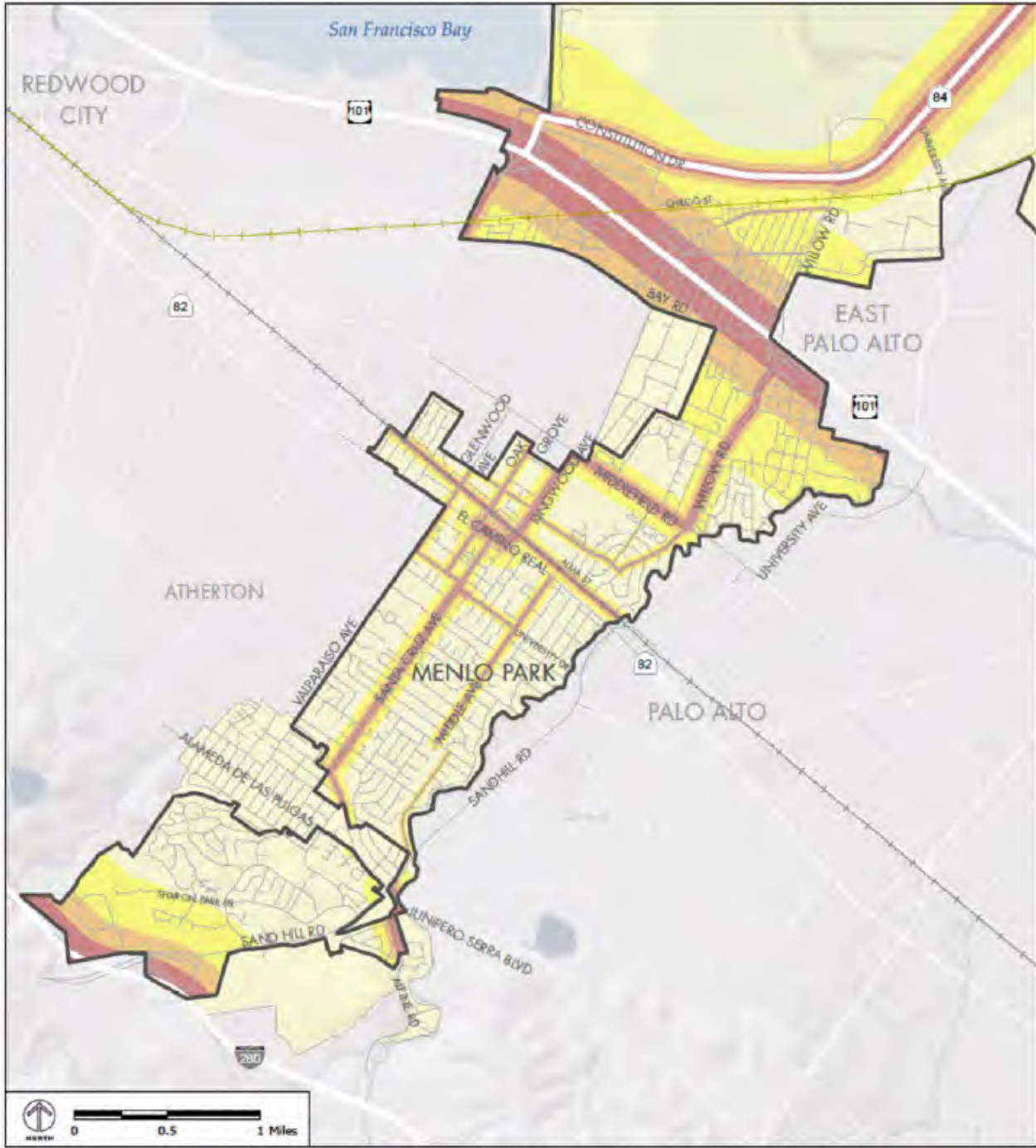
Freeways that run along the City's northeastern and southwestern boundaries are U.S. Highway 101 and Interstate 280, respectively; Highway 84, which becomes the Dumbarton Bridge, also runs east to west across the northern end of the City. In addition to the previously mentioned highways, major roadways running northwest to southeast through Menlo Park include El Camino Real and Middlefield Road. Major northeast to southwest roadways include Willow Road, Ravenswood Avenue, Santa Cruz Avenue, and Sand Hill Road. Together, these highways and streets comprise the major roads in the City of Menlo Park. The table below shows existing and future roadway noise levels. Following the table is a map showing noise contours for the year 2035.

**Existing and Future Noise Levels Along Major Streets in Menlo Park  
CNEL at 100 Feet (dBA)**

<b>Roadway</b>	<b>Segment</b>	<b>Existing</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Haven Ave	City Limits-Bayfront Expwy/Marsh Rd	62.6	64.5	1.9
Marsh Rd	Bay Rd-Bohannon Dr/Florence St	70.4	72.6	2.2
Marsh Rd	Bohannon Dr/Florence St-Scott Dr	71.2	73.3	2.1
Hamilton Ave	Chilco St-Willow Rd	59.8	62	2.1
Willow Rd	Laurel St-Middlefield Rd	61.1	63.5	2.4
Willow Rd	Middlefield Rd-Gilbert Ave	68.2	70.6	2.4
Willow Rd	Gilbert Ave-Coleman Ave	68.2	70.6	2.4
Willow Rd	Coleman Ave-Durham St/Hospital Ave	68.5	70.8	2.3
Willow Rd	Durham St/Hospital Ave-Bay Rd	69.1	71.2	2.1
Middlefield Rd	Ravenswood Ave-Willow Rd	69.2	70.9	1.7
Laurel St	Glenwood Ave-Oak Grove Ave	59.9	61.6	1.7
Laurel St	Oak Grove Ave-Ravenswood Ave	60.4	61.4	1
Laurel St	Ravenswood Ave-Willow Rd	60.9	62.8	1.9
University Dr	Middle Ave-Menlo Ave	61.5	63.2	1.7
University Dr	Menlo Ave-Santa Cruz Ave	66.4	67.9	1.5
University Dr	Santa Cruz Ave-Oak Grove Ave	62.4	63.6	1.2
University Dr	Oak Grove Ave-Valparaiso Ave	61.3	62.6	1.3
Valparaiso Ave/Glenwood Ave	University Dr-El Camino Real	65.2	66.6	1.4
Valparaiso Ave/Glenwood Ave	El Camino Real-Laurel St	61.7	63	1.3
Oak Grove Ave	University Dr -El Camino Real	64	65	1.1
Oak Grove Ave	El Camino Real-Laurel St	63.8	65.2	1.4
Oak Grove Ave	Laurel St-Middlefield Rd	63.3	64.3	1
Ravenswood Ave	El Camino Real-Alma St	68.9	70.9	2
Ravenswood Ave	Alma St-Laurel St	67	68.8	1.8
Ravenswood Ave	Laurel St-Middlefield Rd	67.6	69.2	1.6
Santa Cruz Ave	Alameda de las Pulgas Ave/Orange Ave	64.7	66.3	1.6
Santa Cruz Ave	Avy Ave/Orange Ave-Olive St	67.1	68.8	1.7
Santa Cruz Ave	Olive St-University Dr	67.4	69	1.6
Santa Cruz Ave	University Dr-Crane St	63.5	65.3	1.8
Santa Cruz Ave	Crane St-El Camino Real	63.1	65.2	2.1
Middle Ave	Olive St-University Dr	63.6	65.1	1.5
Middle Ave	University Dr-El Camino Real	63.8	65.3	1.5
Alpine Rd/Santa Cruz Ave	Junipero Serra Blvd-City Limits	70.6	71.6	1
Alpine Rd/Santa Cruz Avenue	Sand Hill Rd-Junipero Serra Blvd	71.7	72.9	1.1
Linfield Drive	Middlefield Rd - Laurel St	55.9	57.2	1.3
Oak Avenue	Sand Hill Rd - Olive St	58	59.6	1.6
El Camino Real	Oak Grove - Ravenswood	71.2	72.9	1.7
US 101	N/O Marsh Rd	82.3	83.2	1
US 101	S/O Marsh Rd	81.8	82.9	1.1
US 101	S/O Willow Rd	82	83.2	1.2
US 101	S/O University	82	83.2	1.2
SR 84	Marsh Rd - Willow Rd	70.8	73	2.2
SR 84	Willow Rd - University Ave	73.4	75.2	1.8
SR 84	W/O University Ave	74.9	76.4	1.5
I-280	N/O Sand Hill	80	81.4	1.4
I-280	S/O Sand Hill	79.6	81	1.4

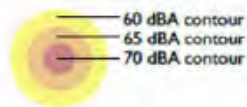
Source: Noise Study conducted for the Environmental Assessment (2013)





Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2012; ESRI 2010; FHA 2002.

- Dumbarton Rail Corridor
- CalTrain ROW
- City Limits
- Sphere of Influence



### 2035 Noise Contours

### Train Noise

One major and one minor rail line traverse Menlo Park. One rail line, which crosses the northern-most portion of the City from east to west, is a little-used segment of a former

Union Pacific line, which once crossed San Francisco Bay. This railway currently consists of a single track and the rail bridge that served as the connection for this line that is no longer functional; however, this bridge is planned for reconstruction and future use as part of the Dumbarton Rail Project.

The second and more major rail line which crosses Menlo Park is the Caltrain right-of-way, which bisects a portion of Menlo Park along the City's short northwest-southeast axis. The Caltrain tracks run in the area between Camino Real and Alma Road, entering the City at Watkins Avenue and exiting to Palo Alto at San Francisquito Creek. Caltrain runs on a double track throughout its entire length through Menlo Park, and its right-of-way is owned and administered by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board. Menlo Park is served by one Caltrain station along this line, and though there are currently only 65 weekday daily stops at this station (either northbound or southbound), more than 90 trains pass either north or south through Menlo Park on a daily basis during the work week. The sheer number of passings by these diesel-powered commuter trains ensures that the activity along the Caltrain railway contributes significantly to the ambient noise environment of nearby areas of Menlo Park.

### **Heliports**

There are no heliports within Menlo Park; however, Stanford University Hospital does operate one heliport, which is located approximately 0.4-mile to the southeast of the nearest border with Menlo Park.

### **Aircraft Noise**

Menlo Park is located approximately 6 miles to the northwest of Moffet Federal Airfield, 14 miles to the northwest of the San Jose International Airport, 15 miles to the southeast of San Francisco International Airport, and 18 miles to the south of Oakland International Airport. Menlo Park is also located in close proximity to two smaller airports; with portions of Menlo Park as near as 2 miles from the Palo Alto Airport and other areas of Menlo Park as near as approximately 4 miles from the San Carlos Airport. Additional small airports in the vicinity include the Hayward Executive Airport, at 11 miles away, and the Half Moon Bay airport, at 16 miles away. Although Menlo Park does receive some noise from aircraft using these facilities, Menlo Park does not fall within the airport land use planning areas, runway protection zones, or the 55 dBA CNEL noise contours of any of these airports.

### **Stationary Source Noise**

Stationary sources of noise may occur from all types of land uses. Menlo Park is mostly developed with residential, commercial and some light industrial uses. Commercial uses can generate noise from heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) systems, loading docks, trash compactors, and other sources. Industrial uses may generate noise from HVAC systems, loading docks, and machinery required for manufacturing processes.

Noise generated by commercial uses is generally short and intermittent. Industrial uses may generate noise on a more continual basis, or intermittently, depending on the processes and types of machinery involved.

In addition to on-site mechanical equipment, which generates stationary noise, warehousing and industrial land uses generate substantial truck traffic that results in additional sources of noise on local roadways in the vicinity of industrial operations.

The vast majority of Menlo Park's limited industrial operations are located in the far northern reaches of the city, and are usually separated from sensitive uses, such as residences, by either rail lines or by major roads. In both cases, this added distance serves to decrease the noise perceived by these receptors and, in the case of major roads, the noise from the roads was generally observed to exceed that from the industrial uses. Residential areas with the greatest potential to be impacted by noise from industrial operations include those along the previously mentioned Union Pacific rail right-of-way (Dumbarton Rail Corridor) and those along the northern end of Willow Road between Ivy Drive and the Bayfront Expressway.

Outdoor activities that occur on school campuses throughout Menlo Park also generate noticeable levels of noise in the vicinity of the campus. While it is preferable to have schools located within a residential setting to support the neighborhood, noise generated on both the weekdays (from physical education classes and sports programs) and weekends (from use of the fields and stadiums by youth organizations) can elevate community noise levels.

## Section VII

# Safety Background

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The Safety Element is an element required to be included within the General Plan, under California Government Code Section 65302(g). The goal of the Safety Element is to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social disruptions from fires, floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides, climate change, and other hazards. The Safety Element relates to topics also mandated under land use, conservation, environmental justice, and open space. With climate change and sea level rise presenting potential risks and hazards, the Safety Element also serves to address climate risk, including consideration of vulnerabilities, mitigations, and actions to respond to potential impacts.

The Safety Element provides information and establishes policies to protect against identified hazards. Regarding flooding, the Safety Element includes information on flood hazards and flood hazard zones, flood plain maps, dam inundation areas, levee protection zones, sea level and groundwater rise, and inundation areas, historical flooding, existing or planned development in flood hazard zones, and agencies responsible for flood protection. Regarding fire hazard, the Safety Element includes information on fire hazard severity zone maps and wildfire hazard areas, historical wildfires, location of existing or planned land uses in very high fire hazard severity zones and in state responsibility areas, and agencies responsible for fire protection. With this information, the Safety Element is required to include goals, policies, and programs for protection against unreasonable risk of such hazards, including avoiding development in hazard areas where feasible or minimizing potential damage, maintaining operation of essential public facilities, designing adequate infrastructure, and establishing cooperative relations with agencies responsible for protection against hazards.

The City of Menlo Park adopted the MJLHMP on November 16, 2021. Cities that have an adopted hazard mitigation plan, climate adaptation plan, or substantially equivalent provisions in their general plans may use that information in the Safety Element to comply with requirements for Safety Elements under Government Code Section 65302(g)(4), and shall summarize and incorporate by reference into the Safety Element the other general plan provisions, climate adaptation plan or document.

AB 747 (2019) requires local jurisdictions that have not adopted a LHMP or MJLHMP before January 1, 2022 to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios in the Safety Element. AB 1409 (2021) added the requirement to also identify evacuation locations. Menlo Park is part of the San Mateo County MJLHMP which was adopted in 2021, prior to January 1, 2022. Therefore, the information required by AB 747 and AB 1409 do not apply to the

2024 update of the Safety Element. However, this analysis will be required upon the next revision of the MJLHMP.

## Relationship to Other Plans

### Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of Menlo Park planning area was completed as part of the San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP). It was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA's 2011 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The MJLHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short- and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. The Countywide MJLHMP includes two volumes: Volume 1 includes countywide issues and Volume 2 includes "annexes" for each partner jurisdiction, including Menlo Park.

The MJLHMP helps San Mateo County and the City of Menlo Park (as well as other partner jurisdictions) remain eligible for various types of pre- and post-disaster community assistance, such as grants, from FEMA and the State government. The current MJLHMP is available at the City of Menlo Park and linked on the City's website.

The MJLHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. Hazards that are discussed in the MJLHMP include: dam failures, droughts, earthquakes, floods, landslides, sea level rise, severe weather, tsunamis, wildfires, climate change, public health emergencies, terrorism, and hazardous materials. The MJLHMP shall be consulted for actions to ensure the safety of the community from known environmental hazards.

The County's Department of Emergency Management led the MJLHMP update, in coordination with County departments, all twenty San Mateo County cities (including the City of Menlo Park), and regional special districts. The process was informed by a steering committee and robust public engagement.

Outreach for the MJLHMP was conducted by the County Office of Sustainability, focusing on socially vulnerable groups that are typically under-represented in safety

planning. Mitigation themes brought forward by the community included capacity building, infrastructure, eliminating barriers to access, and managing multiple, interrelated hazards. The three hazards identified as the highest risk for Menlo Park were sea level rise, earthquakes, and landslides. Community-recommended ideas for mitigation of sea level rise and earthquake hazards include:

- **Sea Level Rise:** Promoting flood-conscious architecture, completing drainage ditch maintenance, improving evacuation signage
- **Earthquakes:** Safety training, retrofit training, emergency kit distribution

Landslide hazard mitigation measures were not discussed in the outreach summary. The full outreach summary is available in English and Spanish on the County website.<sup>2</sup>

### Climate Action Plan

Menlo Park adopted a resolution declaring a climate emergency in 2019 (Resolution 6535 (Dec. 10, 2019)). The City adopted a 2030 CAP in 2020 and amended it in 2021. The CAP guides the citywide strategy to reach carbon neutrality (i.e., 90% reduction and removal of remaining 10%) by 2030. The document includes goals and implementation actions to electrify municipal, residential, and commercial buildings; increase electric vehicle usage; reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT); and develop a climate adaptation plan to protect the community from the impacts of climate change.

The Safety Element complements the CAP by providing data and contextual information on climate risks in Menlo Park.

The CAP directs the City to develop a climate adaptation plan, stating that “The Safety Element in Menlo Park’s General Plan, which was updated in 2013, will be updated to bring it into compliance with recent changes in General Plan law, including SB 379 (Climate Adaptation and Resiliency.)”<sup>3</sup> The MJLHMP includes a vulnerability assessment, resiliency goals and policies, and implementation actions and is incorporated into this Safety Element by reference. The vulnerability assessment is described under Section G: Climate Adaptation and Resiliency.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.smcgov.org/media/23131/download>

<sup>3</sup> Menlo Park CAP (June 2020), page 9.

## Emergency Operations Plan

The City's Emergency Operations Plan was adopted in 2014 and is being revised to address new and emerging threats impacting the hazards and risks of the city.

The Safety Element supports the Emergency Operations Plan by providing jurisdiction-level context to hazards that may lead to emergencies and disasters. As the Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) and Emergency Operations Plan are adjusting to the emerging threats such as climate change, the Safety Element may need to be reviewed and revised accordingly.

## Sea Level Rise Planning (SB 272)

Senate Bill 272 (2023) requires that a local government, lying in whole or in part within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, develop a sea level rise plan as part of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan on or before January 1, 2034. This shoreline resiliency plan would be subject to approval by BCDC. The City of Menlo Park is within the jurisdiction of BCDC and thus is subject to SB 272. In response to SB 272, the Safety Element includes S1.M, an implementing program for ongoing sea level rise planning, which serves as a guide for the future development of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan.

In order to best address the multijurisdictional aspects of sea level rise planning, Menlo Park will work collaboratively with neighboring cities, San Mateo County, and other regional partners rather than pursue its own plan that may complicate resiliency efforts for others and for the city itself.

## Outreach

Concurrent with the 2023-2031 Housing Element update, the City of Menlo Park conducted a series of outreach efforts that also considered Safety Element topics.

On August 26, 2021, the City held a community meeting to share information about housing equity, environmental justice, and safety issues in Menlo Park and provide an opportunity to receive input from the public. The information provided and feedback received helped form policies for the Housing, Environmental Justice, and Safety Elements. Comments most closely associated with the Safety Element included questions about how more housing would reduce pollution and housing burden in Belle Haven, concerns about air quality and safety in Belle Haven, and statements about the need to protect communities affected by sea level rise.

Between July and September 2021, a survey was conducted to support the updates to the 2023-2031 Housing Element, the Safety Element, and preparation of the City’s first Environmental Justice Element. The intent of the survey was to gain a better understanding of community values and priorities and to create a foundation for future conversations about possible solutions and policy changes. The survey was advertised via a citywide mailer, on virtual platforms, at community meetings, in focus groups, and interviews. The survey was available for completion digitally and in paper format. Below are highlighted findings:

- With regard to concerns about hazards, the top areas of high concern were drought (76% of 684 respondents), wildfire and smoke (68%), air quality (68%), and heatwaves (48%) (see Table S-1).
- In gauging how people thought their neighborhoods have been affected by various hazards, the survey found that respondents considered their neighborhoods to be most highly affected by wildfire and smoke (48%), air quality (43%), and drought conditions (41%). Respondents thought their neighborhoods have not been as affected by flooding (84%), sea level rise (84%), and earthquakes (67%), and listed them as areas of least effect (see Table S-2).

**Table S-1.** Survey Question: How Concerned Are You About Each Hazard?

	High concern	Medium concern	Low concern
Wildfire and smoke	68%	24%	8%
Heatwaves	48%	37%	15%
Drought conditions	76%	19%	6%
Flooding	15%	27%	58%
Earthquakes	29%	47%	23%
Sea level rise	28%	38%	34%
Air quality	68%	25%	6%

Source: City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update: Summary of Community Outreach January 2022. Data is from July to September 2021 Survey.

**Table S-2.** Survey Question: Has your neighborhood been affected by wildfire smoke, heatwaves, drought, flooding and other climate hazards?

	Highly affected	Somewhat affected	Not affected
Wildfire and smoke	48%	43%	10%
Heatwaves	32%	51%	17%
Drought conditions	41%	45%	14%
Flooding	5%	11%	84%
Earthquakes	8%	25%	67%
Sea level rise	5%	11%	84%
Air quality	43%	44%	13%



Source: City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update: Summary of Community Outreach January 2022. Data is from July to September 2021 Survey.

Additional outreach documentation can be found in the appendices to the Environmental Justice Element concerning outreach.

A study session was held on June 20, 2023, to obtain feedback from the community, the City Council, and the Planning Commission on both the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements. Two subsequent study sessions were conducted on June 3, 2024 and June 18, 2024, with the Planning Commission and City Council, respectively.

## **A** Geologic Hazards



### **Seismicity**

Menlo Park, like much of the San Francisco Bay area, is vulnerable to seismic activity due to the presence of several active faults in the region. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act has resulted in the identification of earthquake fault zones, which identify areas around surface traces of active faults and where the potential for surface rupture exists. The closest and most prominent active fault

near the city is the San Andreas Fault System, which is located about 2.5 miles west of Interstate 280 and the western boundary of the city. There are no Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones that have been mapped within Menlo Park and the potential for ground rupture is therefore considered low.

Although, there are no Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones in the city that would likely result in ground rupture, groundshaking from the San Andreas Fault and other major earthquake faults may still be experienced within the city. Other major faults include the Monte Vista Fault (approximately 3 miles to the south), the Butano Fault (approximately 10 miles to the south), the Hayward Fault (approximately 13 miles to the east), and the Calaveras Fault (approximately 19 miles to the east). Although the Hayward Fault is not the closest fault to Menlo Park, it poses the greatest risk to the Bay Area's critical infrastructure and key resources and would have devastating impacts on the region.

Magnitude is the measure of energy release by an earthquake. This measure is expressed as whole numbers and decimals, where each whole number is an order of magnitude greater than the preceding whole number. For example, the California Geologic Survey describes a magnitude 6.0 quake as releasing approximately as much energy as 6,270 tons of the explosive material TNT (trinitrotoluene), a magnitude 7.0 as

199,000 tons, a magnitude 8.0 as 6.27 million tons, and a magnitude 9.0 as 99 million tons. The April 1906 earthquake on the San Andreas Fault, estimated between magnitude (M) 7.7 and M 8.3, was the largest seismic event in recent history that affected Menlo Park. More recently, the M 6.9 Loma Prieta earthquake of October 1989 on the San Andreas Fault caused significant damage throughout the Bay Area, but no deaths were reported in San Mateo County.

The severity of ground shaking depends on several variables such as earthquake magnitude; hypocenter proximity; and local geology including the properties of unconsolidated sediments, groundwater conditions, and topographic setting. In general, ground shaking hazards are most pronounced in areas that are underlain by loosely consolidated soil/sediment.

The USGS estimated that the probability of a magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake prior to 2036 occurring in the Bay Area is 63 percent.<sup>4</sup>

Individually, the forecasted probability for each individual fault to produce an M 6.7 or greater seismic event in the next 30 years is as follows: 31 percent for the Hayward Fault, 21 percent for the San Andreas Fault, 7 percent for the Calaveras Fault, and 6 percent for the San Gregorio Fault. Earthquakes of this magnitude can create ground accelerations severe enough to cause major damage to structures and foundations not designed to resist the forces generated by earthquakes. Underground utility lines are also susceptible where they lack sufficient flexibility to accommodate the seismic ground motion.

In the event of an earthquake of this magnitude, the seismic forecasts presented on the Association of Bay Area Governments' website (developed by a cooperative working group that included the USGS and the California Geological Society (CGS) suggest that most parts of Menlo Park southwest of Highway 101 are expected to experience "strong" shaking, and most areas east of Highway 101 are expected to experience "very strong" shaking, with areas located within 1 mile of the Dumbarton Bridge expected to experience "violent" shaking.<sup>5</sup> Possible groundshaking intensities are shown in Figure S-1Figure S-2. Butano Earthquake Scenario to Figure S-4.

The MJLHMP provides further evaluation of earthquake intensity in Menlo Park. The perceived and observed effect of an earthquake on the surface is known as intensity, and the Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) Scale is the method used to classify earthquake intensity in the United States. The lowest intensity, MMI I categorizes shaking that is not felt except by very few under especially favorable conditions, and the

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<sup>4</sup> "What is the probability that an earthquake will occur in the Los Angeles Area? In the San Francisco Bay area?" (USGS: Last accessed November 18, 2022). Available at <https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-probability-earthquake-will-occur-los-angeles-area-san-francisco-bay-area>

<sup>5</sup> Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), 2012. GIS Viewer, Hazards Maps Earthquake Shaking Scenarios.

highest intensity, MMI X categorizes shaking that is extreme and the level of damage includes destruction of well-built wooden structures and most masonry and frame structures. The MJLHMP finds the city may experience intensities of Mercalli Intensity Scale VI (strong perceived shaking/ potential light damage) to VII (severe perceived shaking/ potential moderate-heavy damage). Intensities may also vary based on the origin and magnitude of the earthquake.

Earthquakes can also produce secondary hazards, such as tsunamis, landslides, and liquefaction. A tsunami is a large tidal wave generated by an earthquake, landslide, or volcanic eruption. Seiches are waves that oscillate in enclosed water bodies, such as reservoirs, lakes, ponds, or semi-enclosed bodies of water such as San Francisco Bay. Seiches may be triggered by moderate or large submarine earthquakes, or sometimes by large onshore earthquakes. The following map of tsunami hazard areas (Figure S-7. Tsunami Hazard Areas) shows that a very small portion of the Menlo Park planning area would be impacted by a seismically-induced sea wave (tsunami). Liquefaction (a phenomenon involving loose, saturated, cohesionless soil that experiences temporary loss of strength during cyclic loading, such as from strong ground shaking during earthquakes) occurs when the soil is oversaturated with water, creating ground instability which can lead to buildings and road foundations to sink. Eastern parts of Menlo Park, particularly those areas underlain by Bay Muds, are judged to have a very high potential for seismically-induced liquefaction.

The performance of human-made structures during a major seismic event varies considerably due to a number of factors, most importantly:

- Location with respect to:
  - Active fault traces
  - Areas prone to liquefaction
  - Seismically-induced landslides;
- Type of building construction (i.e., wood frame, unreinforced masonry, non-ductile concrete frame);
- Building Age; and
- Proximity, magnitude, and intensity of the seismic event itself.

In general, evidence from past earthquakes shows that wood frame structures tend to perform well especially when their foundations are properly designed and anchored.

Older, unreinforced masonry structures, on the other hand, do not perform as well, especially if they have not undergone appropriate seismic retrofitting. Soft story

buildings<sup>6</sup> or multi-story buildings with one or more floors that are “soft” because of structural design, could also be more vulnerable to seismic impacts if they have not been designed to withstand ground shaking and other earthquake-induced impacts. A building is considered to be “soft story” if it has a floor that is 70% less stiff than the floor above it. Soft stories are typically associated with open plan retail spaces and parking garages, and they are often on the lower stories of a building. Soft-story collapse is one of the leading causes of earthquake damage to private residences.<sup>7</sup>

Applicable building code requirements, such as Menlo Park’s seismic hazard identification program (Chapter 12.46) and those found in the California Building Code (CBC), include seismic requirements that are designed to ensure the satisfactory performance of building materials under prescribed seismic conditions. The City updates its building code following each update of the CBC, which occurs on three year intervals.

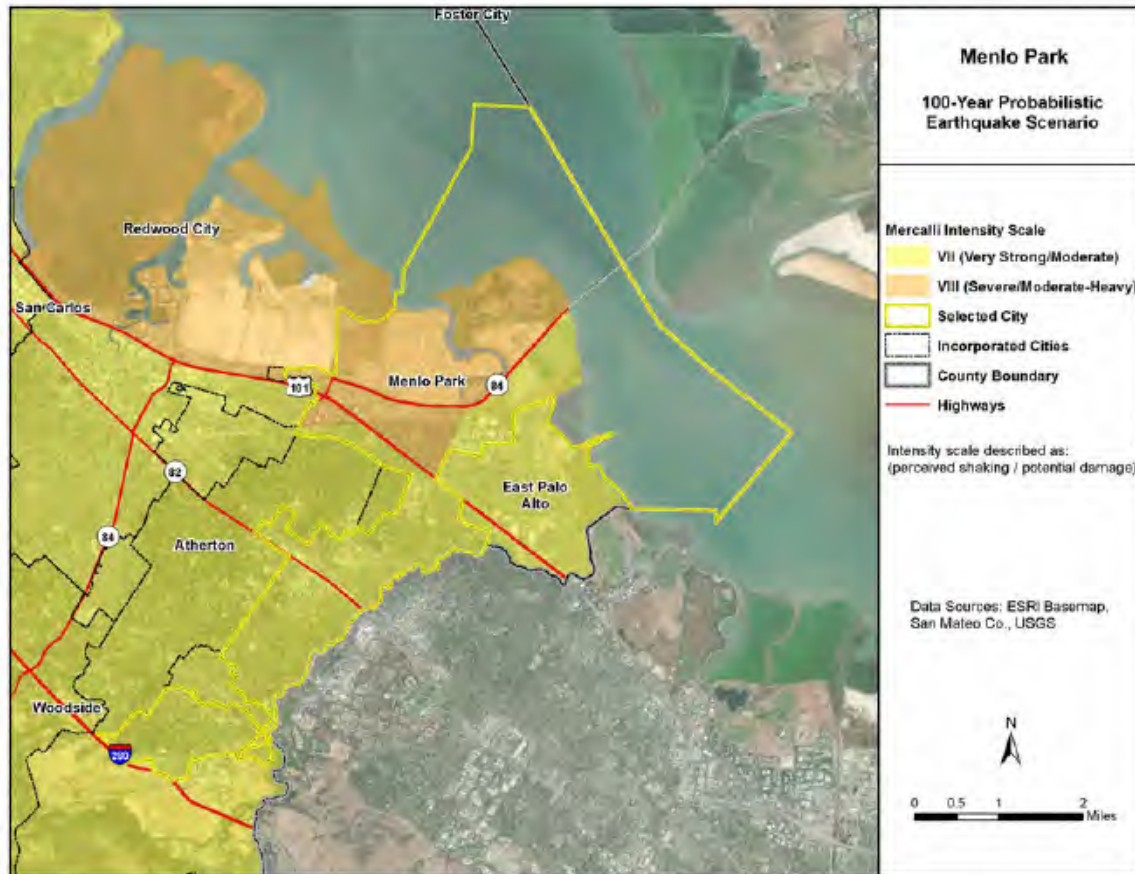
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<sup>6</sup> “Soft-story residential buildings are those that have open parking or commercial space on the first floor and housing on higher floors. In an earthquake, ground shaking causes such structures to sway and sometimes to collapse.”; “Soft Story Resources (Policy)” (ABAG), available at <https://abag.ca.gov/soft-story-resources-policy>

<sup>7</sup> County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Figure S-1 is a combined map of predicted shaking from all possible earthquakes over the course of 10,000 years. The map shows the ground motion scenario in 100 years, a 1-percent annual chance event. If an earthquake happens, the City of Menlo Park would most likely experience a very strong to severe ground shaking with moderate to moderate-heavy potential damage.

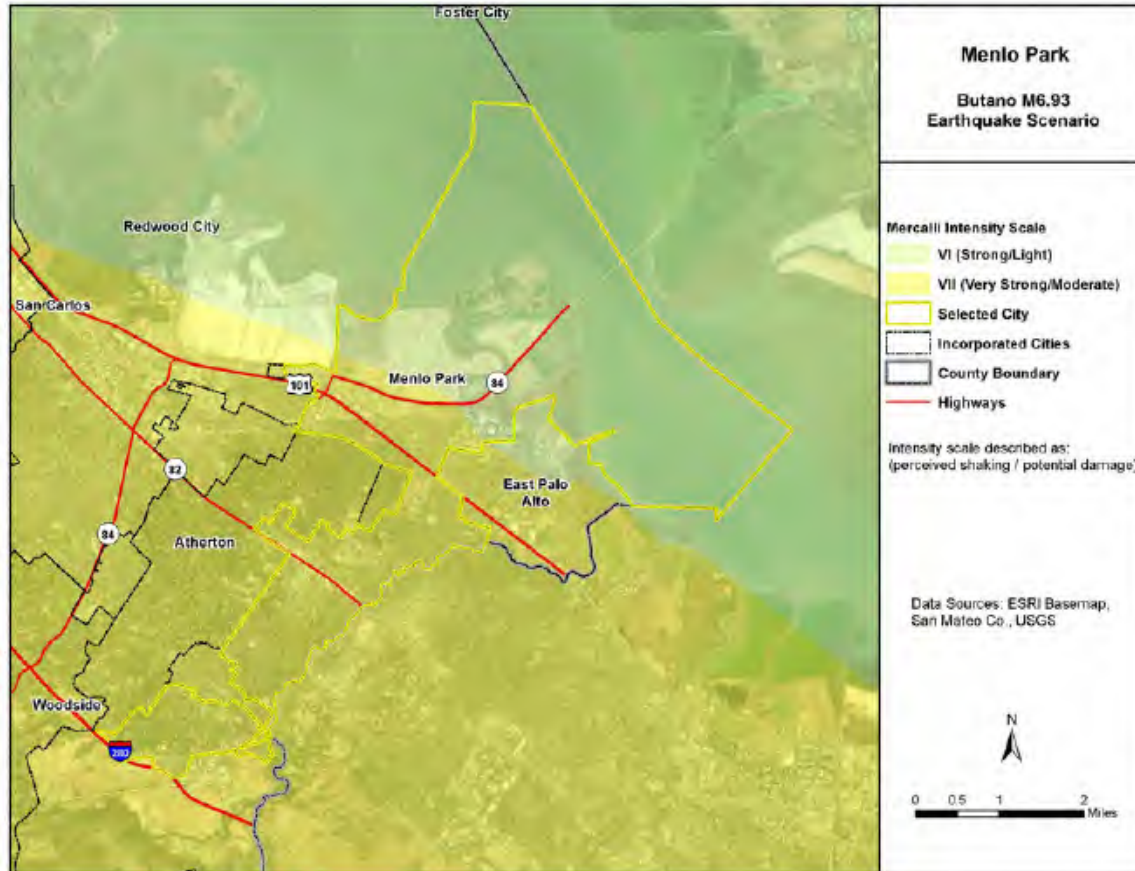
**Figure S-1. 100-year Probabilistic Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-2 uses a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-6.93 event on the Butano Fault with an epicenter 17.5 miles south of Redwood City occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience a very strong ground shaking with moderate potential damage.

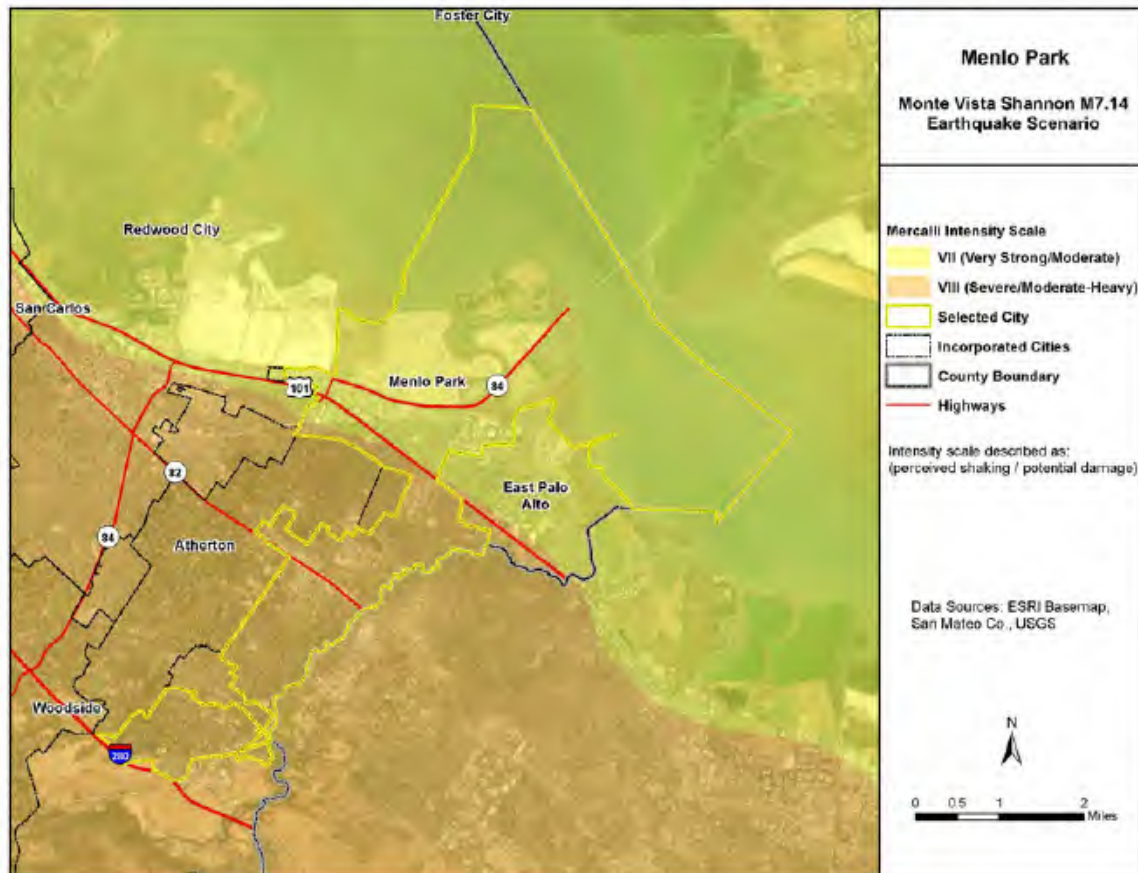
**Figure S-2. Butano Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-3 uses a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-7.14 event on the Monte Vista Shannon Fault with an epicenter 16 miles south-southeast of Redwood City occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience very strong to severe ground shaking with moderate to moderate-heavy potential damage.

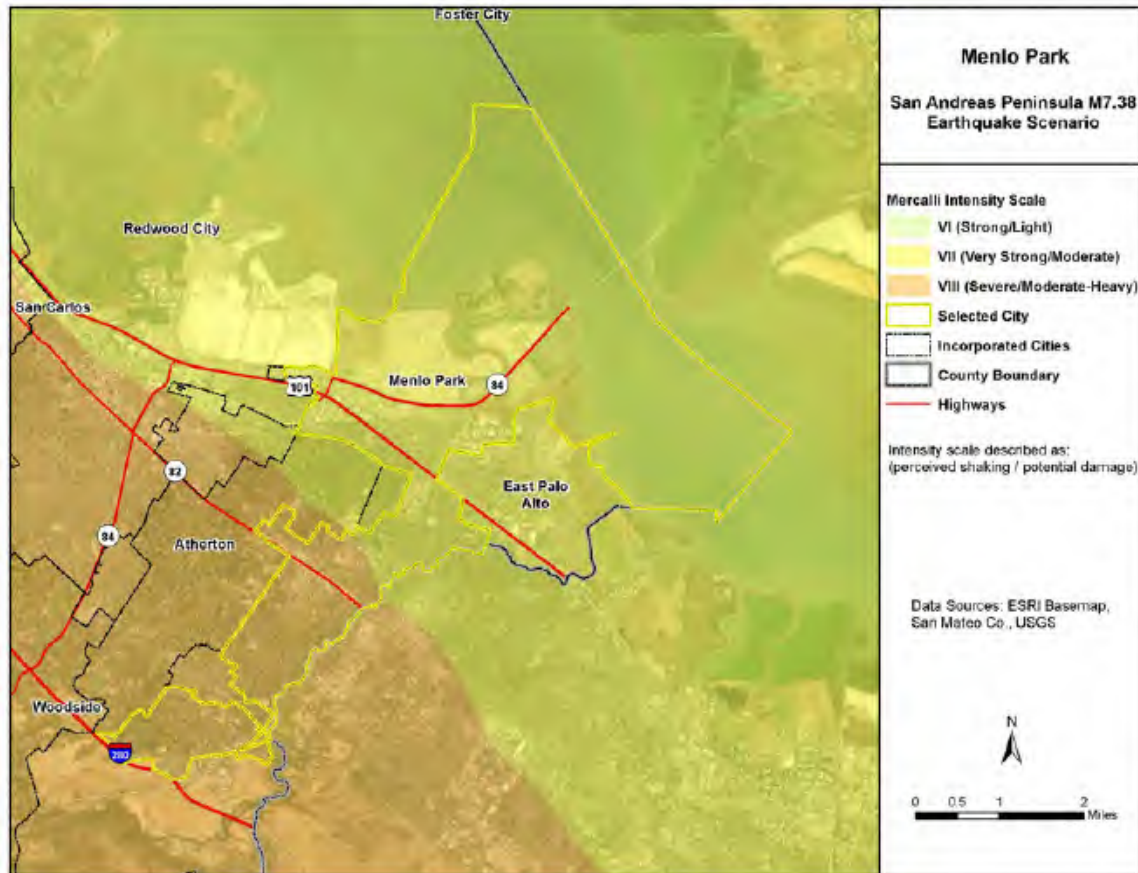
**Figure S-3. Monte Vista Shannon Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-4 indicates a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-7.38 event on the San Andreas Fault with an epicenter 4 miles west of Belmont occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience very strong to severe ground shaking with moderate to moderate-heavy potential damage.

**Figure S-4. San Andreas Peninsula Earthquake Scenario**

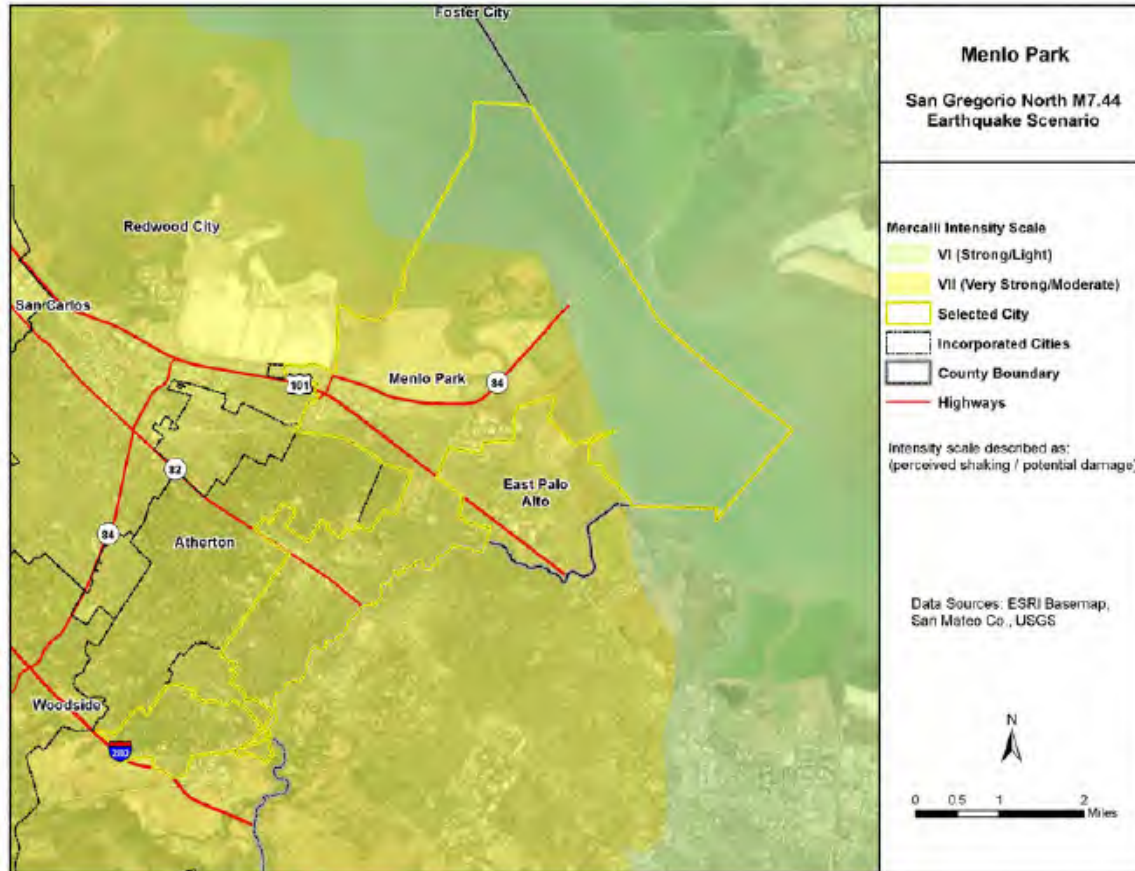


Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes



Figure S-5 indicates a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-7.44 event on the San Gregorio Fault with an epicenter 4 miles south of Half Moon Bay occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience very strong ground shaking with moderate potential damage.

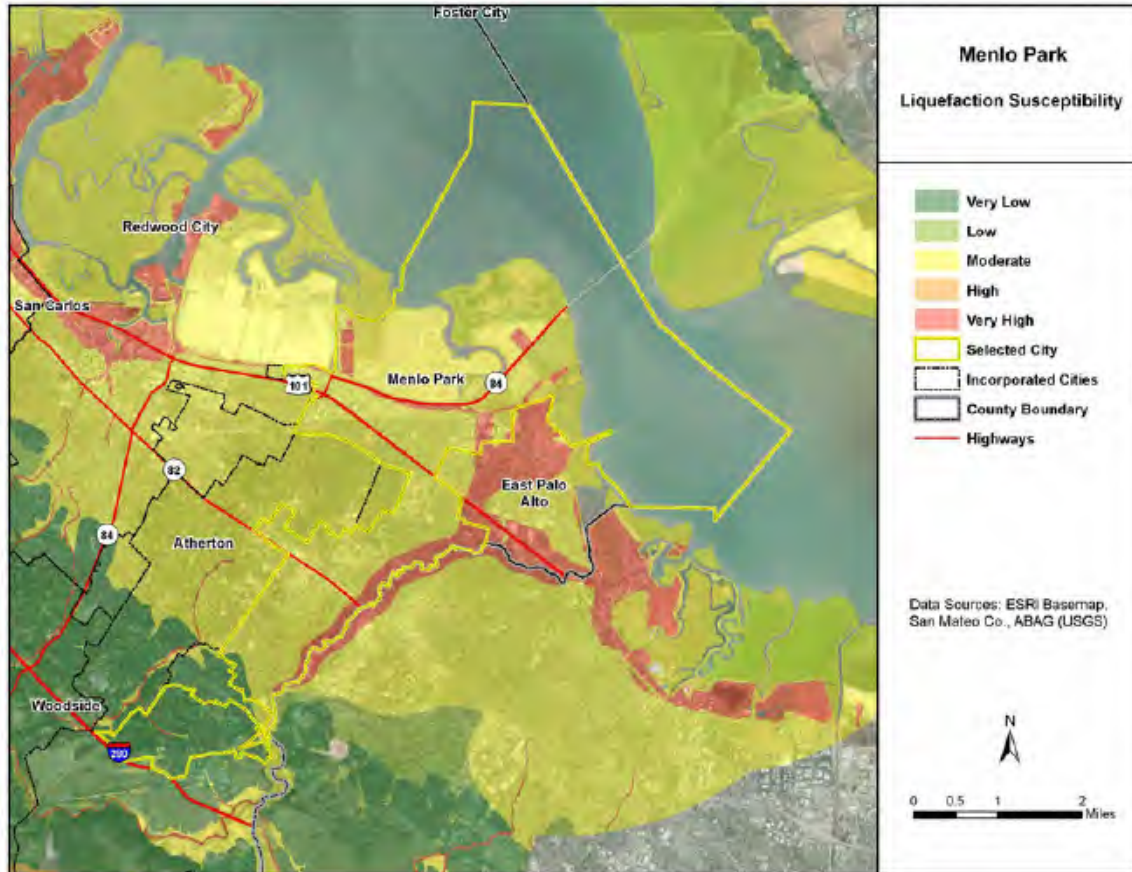
**Figure S-5. San Gregorio North Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) creates maps based on soil characteristics to help identify locations subject to liquefaction. NEHRP soil types define the locations that will be significantly impacted by an earthquake. The areas that are commonly most affected by ground shaking have NEHRP Soils D, E and F. As a result, most of the City would experience a moderate to very high liquefaction susceptibility (see Figure S-6).

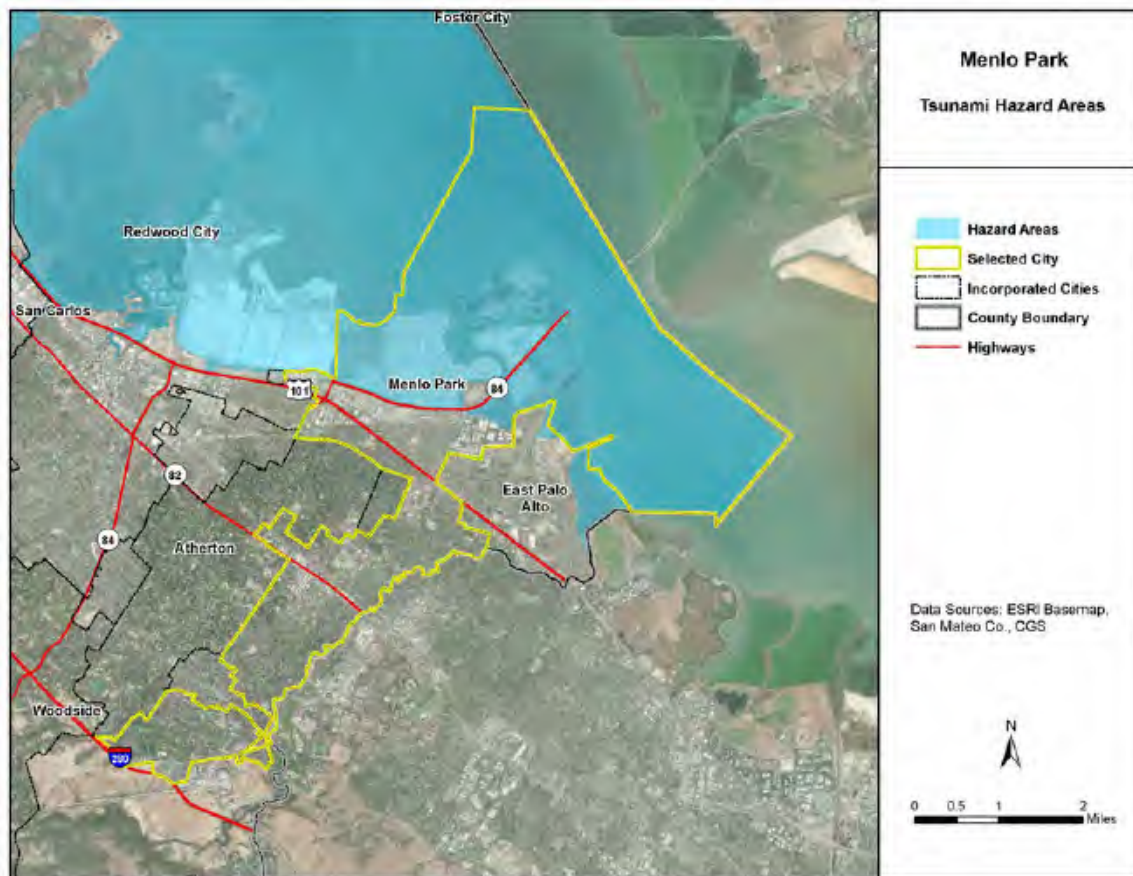
**Figure S-6. Liquefaction Susceptibility**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Recent tsunami modeling uses probabilistic tsunami hazard analysis to compute tsunami waves from sources from around the Pacific Ocean and results in inundation models that are associated with different probabilities of exceedance over time. The California Geological Survey, Seismic Hazards Program, Tsunami Unit selected the 975-year average return period tsunami model, with a 5% probability of exceedance in 50 years, as a basis for the minimum hazard level. As a result, a tsunami would affect the areas near Highway 84 (see Figure S-7).

**Figure S-7. Tsunami Hazard Areas**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

## Landslides, Erosion and Subsidence

Landslides are gravity-driven movements of earth materials that may include rock, soil, unconsolidated sediment, or combinations of such materials. The rate of landslide movement can vary considerably. Some move rapidly as in a soil or rock avalanche, while other landslides creep or move slowly for extended periods of time. The susceptibility of a given area to landslides depends on many variables, although the general characteristics that influence landslide hazards are well understood. The factors

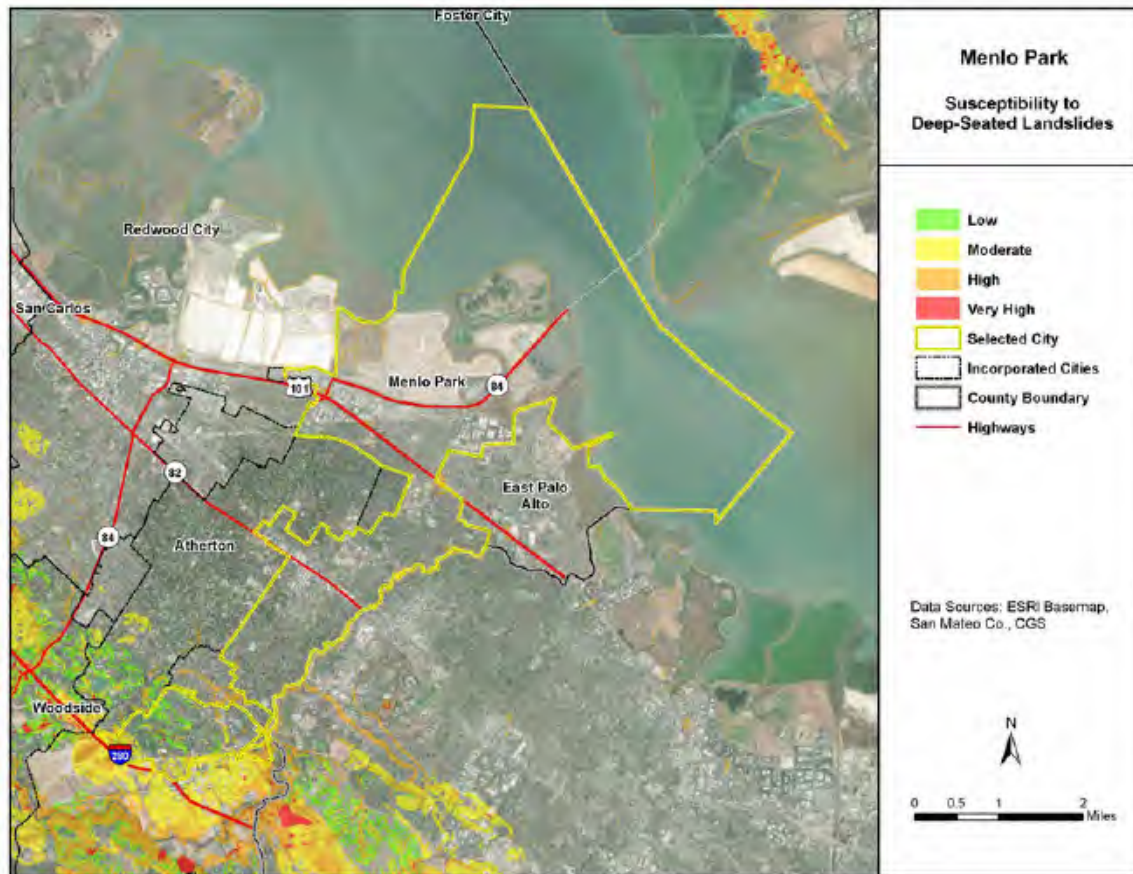
that influence the probability of a landslide and its relative level of risk include the following:

- (1) **Slope Material:** Loose, unconsolidated soils and soft, weak rocks are more hazardous than are firm, consolidated soils or hard bedrock.
- (2) **Slope Steepness:** Most landslides occur on moderate to steep slopes.
- (3) **Structure and Physical Properties of Materials:** This includes the orientation of layering and zones of weakness relative to slope direction.
- (4) **Water Content:** Increased water content increases landslide hazard by decreasing friction and adding weight to the materials on a slope.
- (5) **Vegetation Coverage:** Abundant vegetation with deep roots promote slope stability.
- (6) **Proximity to Areas of Erosion or Human-made Cuts:** Undercutting slopes can greatly increase landslide potential.
- (7) **Earthquake Ground Motions:** Strong seismic ground motions can trigger landslides in marginally stable slopes or loosen slope materials, and also increase the risk of future landslides.

Landslides have the potential to occur within Menlo Park, most notably on some of the hilly slopes that lie west of the Alameda de las Pulgas roadway. In general, landslides are commonly associated with bedrock outcrops of the Franciscan Formation, which frequently form steeper slopes. Shale is the most unstable of the rock types within the Franciscan Formation, whereas sandstone and conglomerate tend to be more stable with a lower landslide risk. Much of the upland areas in Menlo Park are typified by shallow soil that overlies Franciscan bedrock very close to the surface. Landslides are not an issue in parts of the city where the topography is flat.

Figure S-8 and associated data show the relative likelihood of deep-seated landsliding based on regional estimates of rock strength and steepness of slopes. On the most basic level, weak rocks and steep slopes are most likely to generate landslides. The map uses detailed information on the location of past landslides, the location and relative strength of rock units, and steepness of slope to estimate susceptibility to deep-seated landsliding. As a result, the City would experience low to moderate landslides.

**Figure S-8. Susceptibility to Deep-Seated Landslides**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Subsidence hazards are known to be present in the diked baylands due to the highly compressible nature of the underlying fill as well as historical groundwater overdraft. Areas susceptible to earthquake-induced subsidence include those areas underlain by thick layers of colluvial material (loose, unconsolidated sediments) or poorly engineered fill. This fill was reported to have settled historically with hydro-compaction being an element of the settlement as well. Land subsidence occurred within the low-lying areas, mainly along the Bay margins.

Expansive soils can change dramatically in volume depending on moisture content. When wet, these soils can expand; conversely, when dry, they can contract or shrink. Sources of moisture that can trigger this shrink-swell phenomenon include seasonal rainfall, landscape irrigation, utility leakage, and/or perched groundwater. Expansive soil can exhibit wide cracks in the dry season, and changes in soil volume have the potential to damage concrete slabs, foundations, and pavement. Special building/structure design or soil treatment are often needed in areas with expansive soils. Shrink-swell potential ranges from high along the marshlands of San Francisco Bay, to moderate in the center of the City, and to low in the western foothills.

## **B** Hydrology (Flooding and Rise in Sea Level)

### **Flooding and Dam Failure**

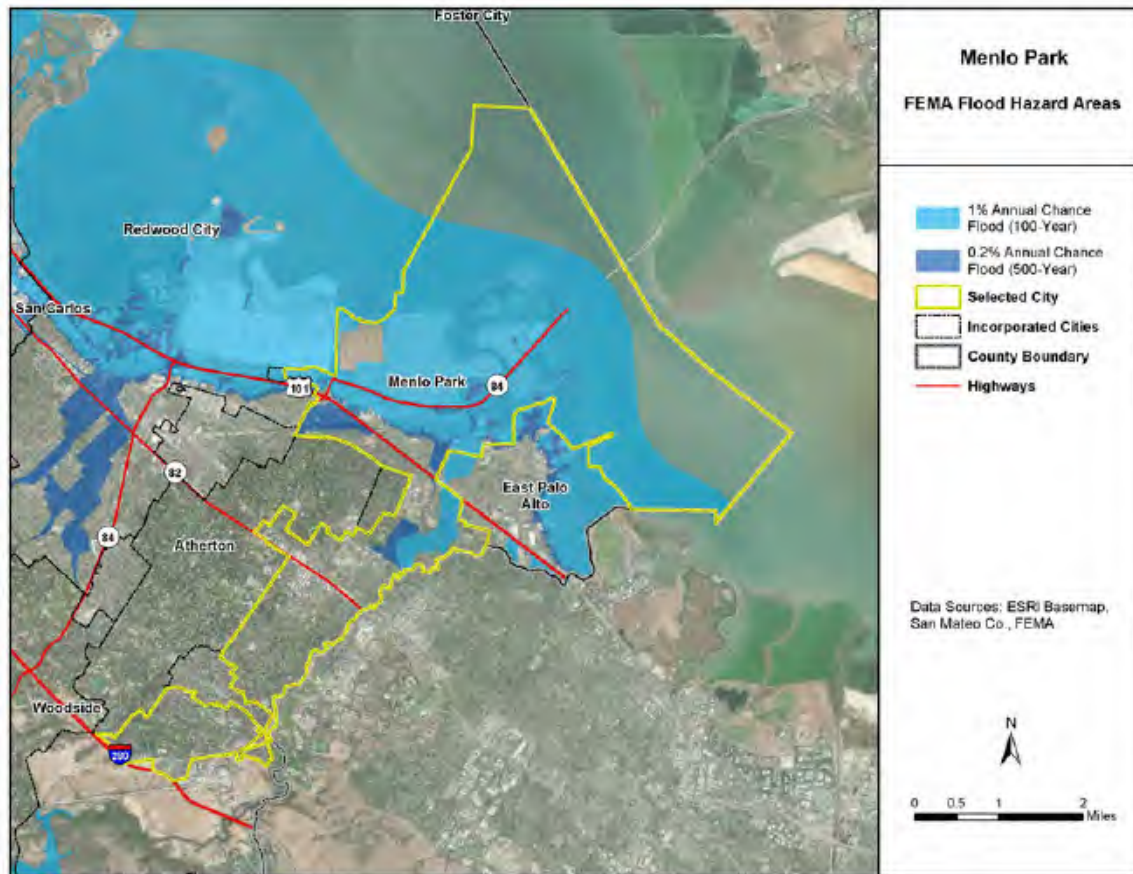
FEMA prepares maps of the 100-year flood hazard area of U.S. communities. Areas within the 100-year flood hazard area have a one percent risk of flooding in any given year. Maps are also available for 500-year floods, which mean that in any given year, the risk of flooding in the designated area is 0.2 percent.

In some locations, FEMA also provides a measurement of base flood elevation for the 100-year flood, which is the minimum height of the flood waters during a 100-year event. Base flood elevation is reported in feet above sea level. Depth of flooding is determined by subtracting the land's height above sea level from the base flood elevation. Areas within the 100-year flood hazard area that are financed by Federally-backed mortgages are subject to mandatory Federal insurance requirements and building standards to reduce flood damage.

The northernmost portion of Menlo Park, including much of the area between State Route 84 and Highway 101, is within the 100-year floodplain subject to tidal flooding from San Francisco Bay. In addition, portions of Menlo Park between Middlefield Road and Highway 101 are within the 100-year floodplain due to overflow from San Francisquito Creek. The MJLHMP identifies numerous critical facilities, including shelters, health facilities, safety and security facilities, communications facilities, energy facilities, hazardous materials locations, and transportation facilities throughout the city, as shown in the Critical Facilities maps in the following sections. A number of these facilities (Bedwell Bayfront Park Landfill and Gas Flare, and Chrysler Pump Station, and a Menlo Park Police Neighborhood Service Center) are located in areas identified as 100-year and 500-year flood hazard areas.

Flood hazard areas are from the countywide effective FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) dated April 5, 2019. Some parts of the City may experience flooding, especially areas closer to the San Francisco Bay.

**Figure S-9. Flood Hazard Areas**

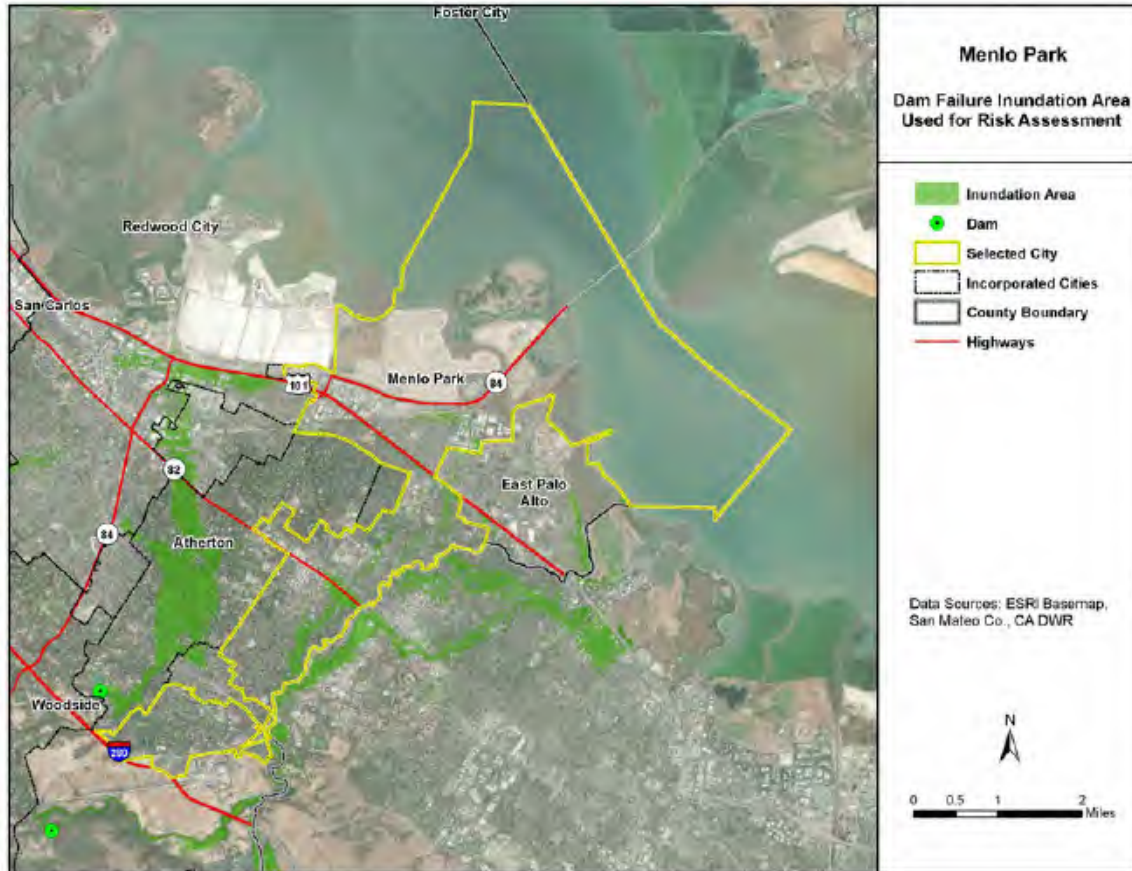


Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Dam failures can be caused by overtopping caused by floods or precipitation that exceeds dam capacity, damage to the foundation of the dam, or structural failures of the dam. Several reservoirs in the area present the remote risk of downstream inundation in the event of a dam failure as the result of an earthquake or other catastrophic event. According to the California Department of Water Resources dam failure inundation maps, portions of Menlo Park are within the Searsville, Felt Lake, and Foothill Park dam inundation zones. A dam failure at Felt Lake would affect the Arrillaga Gym and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Although dam inundation areas for Bear Gulch are not located within City limits, they do cover some areas in proximity to the western City limits. Dam failures have been rare in San Mateo County with only one recorded dam failure in 1926, which did not impact Menlo Park.

Inundation maps are based on a hypothetical failure of a dam or critical appurtenant structure and the information depicted on the maps is approximate. Some parts of Menlo Park would be affected if a dam failed nearby.

**Figure S-10. Dam Failure Inundation Area**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA), in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, are implementing improvements to provide 100-year flood protection for flood-prone reaches of San Francisquito Creek both upstream and downstream from Highway 101.

The California Department of Water Resources is required to inspect dams, reservoirs, and appurtenant structures once per fiscal year, with the exception of low hazard potential dams that would be inspected at least every two fiscal years. Owners of dams are required to operate critical outlet and spillway control features on an annual basis and to demonstrate their full operability in the presence of the Department every three years or as directed by the Department.



## Sea Level and Groundwater Rise

California Executive Order S-13-2008 states that all State agencies planning construction projects in areas vulnerable to sea level rise must consider a range of sea level rise scenarios for the years 2050 and 2100 to assess project vulnerability and to the extent feasible, reduce expected risks from sea level rise.

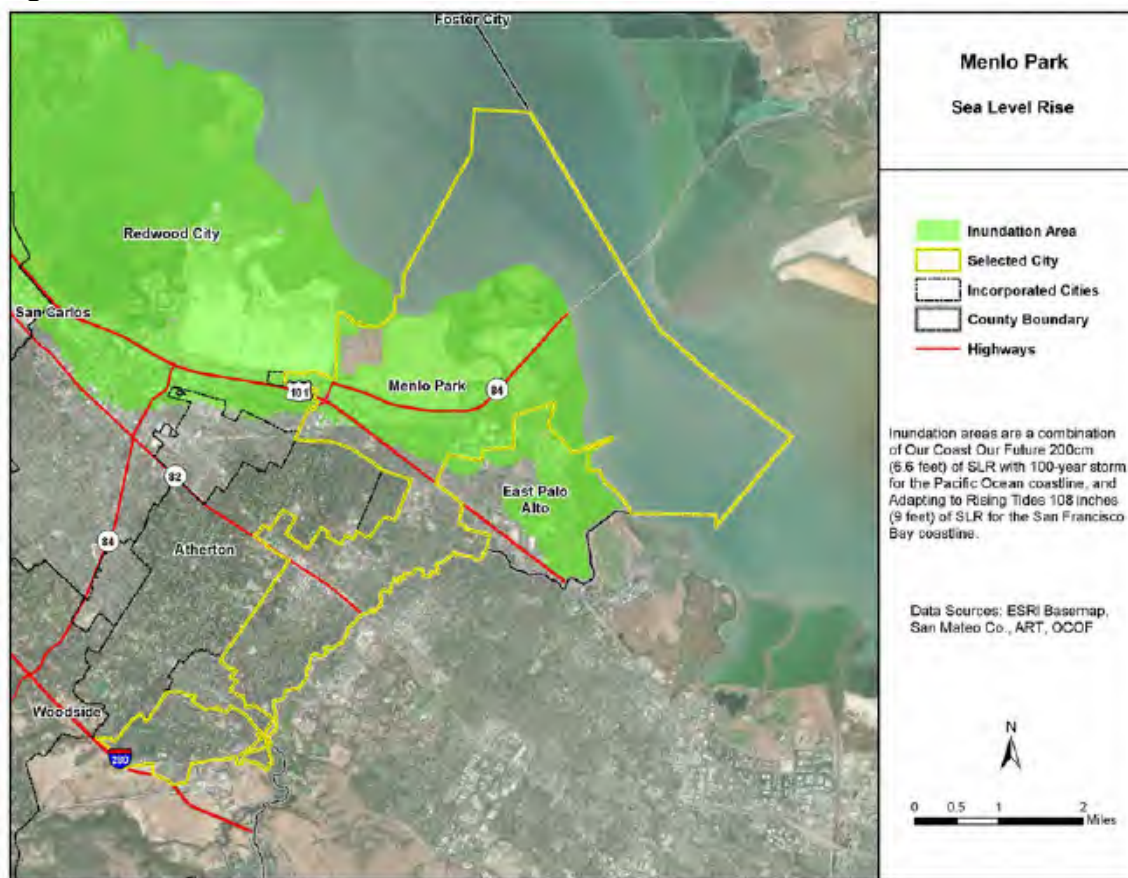
As a result of decades of increasing atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide and methane as a result of fossil fuel consumption, rising temperatures worldwide have warmed the atmosphere and the world's oceans. Sea level rise, in turn reflects both melting glaciers and the expansion of seawater as it warms. Different scenarios and predictive models result in different estimates in the magnitude of sea level rise. The California Fourth Climate Assessment projects a 2.5-foot rise in sea level rise by 2100. Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) program, which is a collaboration between BCDC and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Coastal Management maps different sea level rise scenarios. Sea level rise can cause flood damage to property and infrastructure. In Menlo Park, the Bayfront and Belle Haven neighborhoods are most vulnerable to sea level rise. These neighborhoods may expect damage from storm activity in combination with higher sea levels. Key factors that will further exacerbate the impacts of sea level rise include high tides, storm surge, El Niño winter storms, storm waves, and high runoff rates from rivers and creeks. Much of the damage, as shown in Figure S-11, will occur north of US-101.

The MJLHMP estimates that Menlo Park currently has 998 structures at risk of inundation due to sea level rise, and 4,576 residents living in areas at risk.<sup>8</sup> The MJLHMP additionally estimates that 38 critical facilities are at risk of inundation in the city due to sea level rise including facilities related to communications, energy, food and water, hazardous material, health and medical, safety and security, and transportation. The City has efforts underway to address sea level rise including collaboration with BCDC and adjacent jurisdictions and groups, including, but not limited to, City of East Palo Alto, County of San Mateo, City of Redwood City, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority, and OneShoreline (San Mateo County Flood & Sea Level Rise Resiliency District), to develop a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan. The Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan is a region-wide plan for the Bay shoreline that guides the creation of coordinated, locally-planned sea level rise adaptation actions that work together to meet regional goals.

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<sup>8</sup> County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Figure S-11. Sea Level Rise

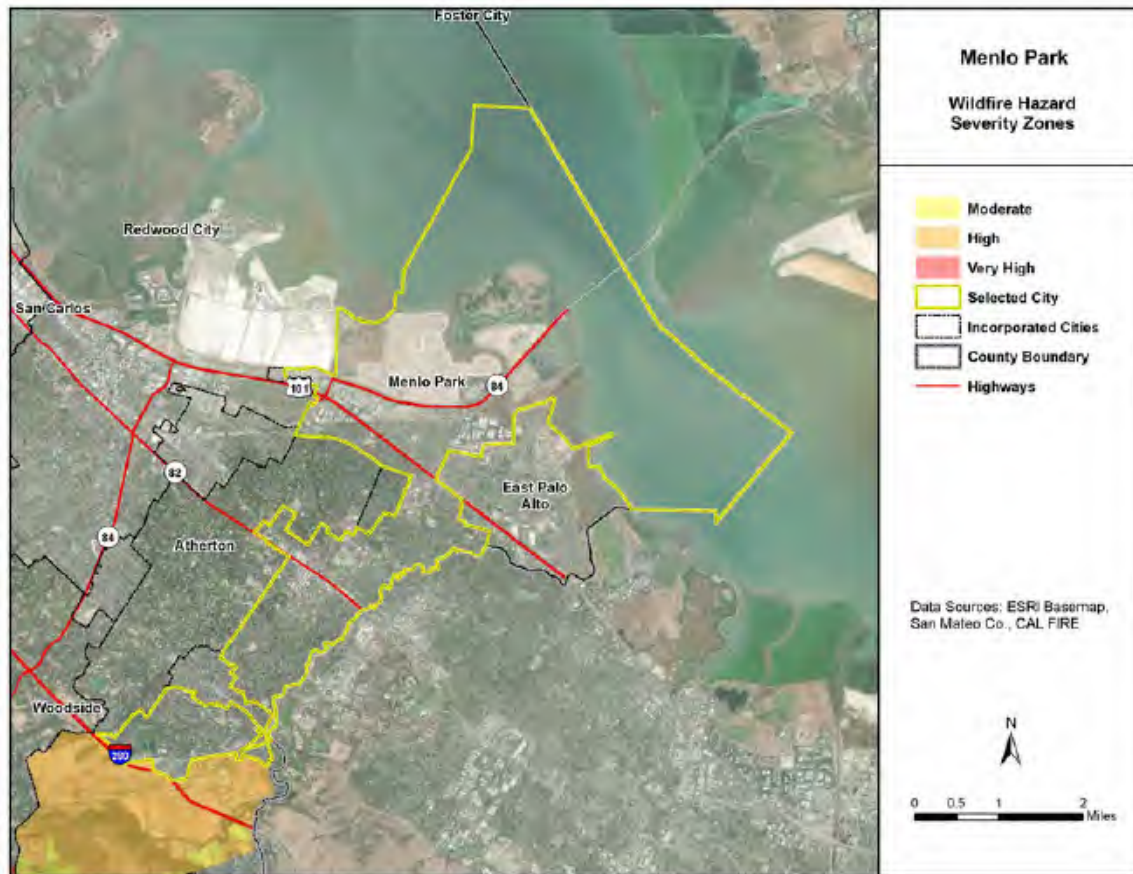


Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

## C Fire Hazards

The severity of the wildfire hazard is determined by the relationship between three factors — (1) fuel classification, (2) topography, and (3) critical fire weather frequency. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) defines Fire Hazard Severity Zones for areas within the state. A fire hazard is defined as a “measure of the likelihood of an area burning and how it burns,” with a zone being an area characterized by a particular level of fire hazard. CAL FIRE’s Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps indicate areas for which the State of California has fiscal responsibility for wildland fire protection services as the State Responsibility Area, and areas for which local jurisdictions have fiscal responsibility as the Local Responsibility Area. Menlo Park does not contain any fire hazard severity zones. However, there is a high Fire Hazard Severity zone identified as a State Responsibility Area just outside of the southwestern City Limits (see Figure S-12).

**Figure S-12. Wildfire Hazard Severity Zones**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The frequency and length of wildfire season is increasing as the result of climate change. This trend combined with human activity that is exacerbating wildfire risk could result in more frequent and intense wildfires in the future. The most recent notable wildfire that has impacted the city was the August 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire in Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties. As of mid-2021, this fire was recorded as the 12<sup>th</sup> most destructive wildfire in California history. While wildfires have a lower chance of causing the destruction of property in Menlo Park, nearby burning wildfires can expose the community to health-related impacts of poor air quality.

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District reviews development plans within the city. At the planning review phase, the Fire District considers capacity to serve the development and provides initial comments and conditions. At building permit submittal, the Fire District confirms development would meet requirements for fire safety. In review of proposed projects, the Fire District considers peakload water

supply requirements to serve the development, road widths, and clearances around structures.

## Fire Stations

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District serves Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto, and parts of unincorporated San Mateo County. There are five fire stations strategically located within or adjacent to the city's boundaries that serve Menlo Park:

- Fire Station 1: 300 Middlefield Road
- Fire Station 4: 3322 Alameda de las Pulgas (in nearby unincorporated San Mateo County, and can serve Menlo Park)
- Fire Station 5: 4101 Fair Oaks Avenue
- Fire Station 6: 700 Oak Grove Avenue
- Fire Station 77: 1467 Chilco Street

## D Extreme Temperatures

Climate change is causing rising temperatures across the Bay Area. According to the California 4<sup>th</sup> Climate Assessment, average temperatures throughout the Bay Area are expected to increase by 3.3 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050. Extreme heat days are defined as any day where the daily maximum or minimum temperature exceeds the 98<sup>th</sup> historical percentile of daily maximum or minimum temperatures from 1961-1990.<sup>9</sup> In Menlo Park, maximum temperatures that exceed 97.2 degrees Fahrenheit are classified as extreme heat. In 2021, Menlo Park experienced five extreme heat days. By 2050, the number of extreme heat days in the city is projected to increase to 11 days.

Warmer temperatures can cause an increased risk of heat-related illnesses, including heat exhaustion and heat stroke. In addition to health impacts, rising temperatures can result in worsening air quality due to the formation of ground-level ozone and an increased risk of wildfires. Populations that are more acutely impacted by heat include older adults, outdoor workers, unhoused individuals, and low-income communities of color.

The City of Menlo Park currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public. The Belle Haven Community Campus and the Menlo Park Library cooling centers are open every day, with all the facilities operating from June to October during each facility's

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<sup>9</sup> *Extreme Heat Days and Warm Nights*. Cal-Adapt. <https://cal-adapt.org/tools/extreme-heat/>. This tool was used to identify extreme heat day temperatures for location.

regular operating hours. On dates when the National Weather Service issues an excessive heat warning, the City Manager may designate additional hours or locations to respond to community needs.

The Belle Haven Community Campus is an all-electric, zero combustion, net zero energy public building with onsite renewable energy generation, battery microgrid, and electric vehicle charging stations. The facility is built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum environmental standards, and its structural design is resilient to serve as an emergency shelter.

## Climate Adaptation and Resiliency

Climate change is a long-term shift in temperature and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, such as through variations in solar cycles, however human activities have been the main driver of climate change since the 1800s, primarily due to burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas<sup>10</sup>. The release of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere through human activities around the Earth traps the sun's heat and raises temperatures. Carbon dioxide is the most commonly known greenhouse gas, but methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gas also contribute to warming. The major scientific agencies such as NASA and the NOAA have found evidence that climate change is occurring through global temperature rise, warming oceans, shrinking ice sheets in Greenland and the Antarctic, glacial retreat around the world, decreased snow cover, sea level rise, declining arctic sea ice, extreme temperature events, and ocean acidification from absorption of carbon dioxide. The associated impacts from climate changes present risks of hazards affecting both the natural and built environments, not only at a global level but also at a local level.

Climate change impact concerns for San Mateo County and the region include:<sup>11</sup>

- A significant temperature increase by mid-century
- High year-to-year variability within very wet and very dry years
- Longer and deeper droughts
- Sea level rise, even with emissions reductions
- Extreme heat events, increased air pollution
- Socioeconomic inequity in different abilities to prepare for and recover from heatwaves and fires
- Heatwaves increasing health risk due to urban heat island and lack of local cooling infrastructure
- Climate less suitable for evergreen forests (e.g., redwoods and Douglas fir)
- Sea level and groundwater rise impact on wetlands and wildlife

On December 10, 2019, the Menlo Park City Council adopted Resolution No. 6535 declaring a climate emergency. The City adopted the 2030 Climate Action Plan in July 2020 and approved amendments to it in April 2021. According to the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, climate change will continue to exacerbate environmental hazards in cities and threaten damage to property and people. As the result of past discriminatory policies and planning practices, communities of color and low-income communities nationwide are more likely to live in areas that have a higher risk from climate impacts, including flooding, urban heat islands, and poor air

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<sup>10</sup> What is Climate Change. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>

<sup>11</sup> 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 1-Planning-Area-Wide Elements. County of San Mateo

quality.<sup>12</sup> In addition, these communities may face additional challenges to coping with the impacts of climate change, such as limited financial resources.

Climate adaptation and resiliency strategies are required considerations within Safety Elements, which aim to identify potential hazards from climate change that may affect a community and the strategies to respond to such potential hazards. A vulnerability assessment presents the means to identify impacts from climate change.

### **Vulnerability Assessment**

The Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) included an assessment of vulnerabilities and the ability of the City to adapt. The MJLHMP addresses climate change and sea level rise risks and impacts, as well as climate adaptation and resiliency strategies and listed actions for the City in addressing these hazards. Per Government Code Section 65302(g)(4), if a local jurisdiction has not adopted a local hazard mitigation plan, beginning on or before January 1, 2022, the Safety Element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to the city or county. The City of Menlo Park adopted the MJLHMP before January 1, 2022. Cities that have an adopted hazard mitigation plan, climate adaptation plan, or substantially equivalent provisions in their general plans may use that information in the Safety Element to comply with requirements for Safety Elements under Government Code Section 65302(g)(4), and shall summarize and incorporate by reference into the Safety Element the other general plan provisions, climate adaptation plan or document.

The MJLHMP identifies a high risk for sea level rise/climate change as a hazard affecting the community. In addition, to direct climate impacts such as sea level rise, the vulnerability assessment addresses indirect climate impacts across key sectors including infrastructure, buildings, natural systems, economic assets, and populations. Broader vulnerabilities at the countywide level that were identified would affect the city as well.

#### *Infrastructure*

The high variability in expected weather and the extensiveness of drought conditions places greater impact on the ability of infrastructure and systems to accommodate demand. For prolonged droughts, conservation of water and efficient management of water resources would be required to reduce overuse of water resources. For heavy rain events, infrastructure to manage runoff would need to be at capacities that would be able to handle the volume of runoff. Additionally, pro-active planning to prevent/address tree failure, street flooding due to blocked drains, and loss of electricity should be pursued.

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<sup>12</sup> Urban Sustainability Directors Network.  
[https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn\\_guide\\_to\\_equitable\\_community-driven\\_climate\\_preparedness-high\\_res.pdf](https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn_guide_to_equitable_community-driven_climate_preparedness-high_res.pdf)

In addition to policies and programs in the Safety Element, the MJLHMP includes several relevant actions:

- Action MPK-3 will integrate the MJLHMP into other plans and programs that support infrastructure investments.
- Action MPK-24 will plan, design, and implement the water infrastructure improvements recommended in the Water System Master Plan.
- Action MPK-28 will support green infrastructure projects that enhance resiliency to natural disasters.
- Action MPK-29 will identify and pursue strategies to enhance recycled water infrastructure planning/implementation.

### *Buildings*

Development and buildings would be most likely to be directly impacted by sea-level rise. As shown in Figure S-11, the risk of sea level rise has greatest potential to affect areas north of Highway 101. Indirect impacts from climate change may include the availability of water resources to support development where prolonged droughts affect supply. Without adequate measures to address sea level rise, this could mean a reduction in available land for building new development and could displace residents of the Bayfront and Belle Haven neighborhoods over time.

In addition to policies and programs in the Safety Element, the MJLHMP includes several relevant actions:

- Action MPK-1 will when appropriate, support retro-fitting, purchase or relocation of structures located in high hazard areas and prioritize those structures that have experienced repetitive losses.
- Action MPK-8 will work with building officials to identify ways to improve the jurisdiction's Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) classification.

### *Natural Systems*

Climate change causing rising sea levels can negatively affect wetland habitats because of the limited potential of wetlands to relocate and reestablish inland. In addition to rising sea levels, a rise in bay waters can permanently take out wildlife and subsequent habitat due to the marshes and wetlands along the bay being taken up by development. Reduced rainfall, drought, and warmer weather would negatively impact amphibians and reptiles. Wildfires may destroy habitats, negatively affecting birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

The Safety Element identifies multiple actions to safeguard natural systems and reduce the risk from environmental impacts. Some plans currently in place to address this are the Habitat Conservation Plan and the Shoreline Management Plan. Some actions in the MJLHMP that will be conducted to save floodplains and natural systems include:



- Action MPK-7, which involves continuing to maintain good standing and compliance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) via floodplain management programs.
- Action MPK-28 will support green infrastructure projects that enhance resiliency to natural disasters and incorporate green design elements into hazard mitigation projects where feasible.

### *Economic Assets*

Climate change may disrupt development through impacts to infrastructure and building. Without upgrades to infrastructure, issues such as a strained power grid, rising costs for construction, or worsening roads could become more common due to wildfires, more frequent droughts and flooding, as well as less precipitation. The urban heat island effect and pollution from greenhouse emitting automobiles and trucks pose a serious public health issue. In addition, sea level rise could remove some existing land for development impacting an already high cost housing market for development. Without proper mitigation, this can impact costs of living in Menlo Park and could even drive business out of town due to the high costs.

The Safety Element includes plans and actions that can be taken by Menlo Park to mitigate economic issues. For example, the City of Menlo Park has an economic development plan that can serve as a groundwork for economic prosperity. But, it should be reviewed to ensure it is in line with environmental issues. In addition, the Climate Action Plan also has economic contingencies as new mitigation technologies or sectors are activated in the future.

In addition to policies and programs in the Safety Element, the MJLHMP includes Action MPK-2, which states the integration of the hazard mitigation plan and CalEnviroScreen into other plans, ordinances, and programs that dictate land use decisions within the community, including the General Plan Safety Element and Environmental Justice Element.

### *Populations*

In addition to the potential effects of climate change on the community through impacts to infrastructure and buildings, populations may experience further impacts from air quality impacts and urban heat island effects.

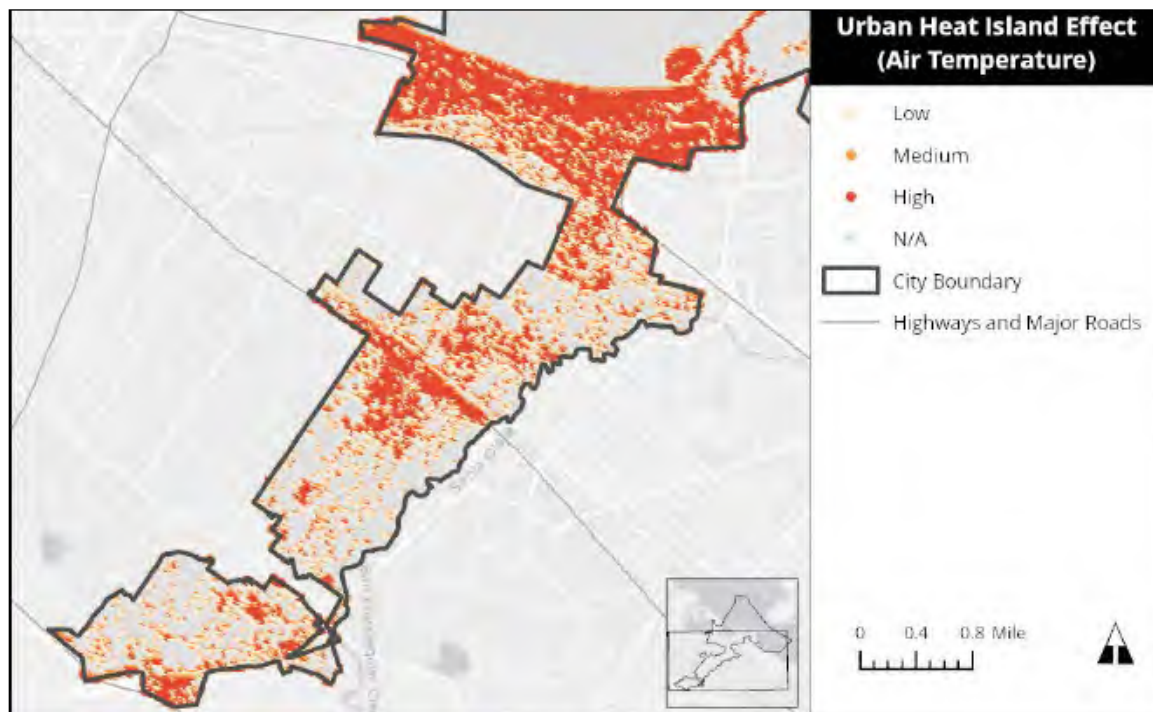
Where climate change increases temperatures, precipitation, and duration of conditions of fire risk, the frequency and intensity of wildfires can also increase. Air quality impacts from smoke carried across the region may impact sensitive local populations.

Heat waves can pose increased health risks due to urban heat islands and lack of cooling infrastructure. An urban heat island occurs in urban areas that experience

higher temperatures relative to outlying areas. The effect occurs due to structures, such as buildings, roads, and other infrastructure, absorbing and re-emitting the sun's heat more than natural landscapes. Urban areas become islands of higher temperature due to limited greenery and concentrated development, with temperatures that can be about 1 to 7°F higher during the daytime and 2 to 5°F higher during the nighttime than outlying areas.<sup>13</sup> In Menlo Park, the areas experiencing the highest urban heat island effect generally occur in the eastern part of the city adjacent to the bay (including the Belle Haven area) and in the downtown area, as shown in

Figure S-13.

**Figure S-13. Urban Heat Island Effect**



Source: Bay Area Greenprint. Data from March 2015. For a definition of how data was calculated, visit <https://www.bayareagreenprint.org/glossary/#urbanheatislandair>.

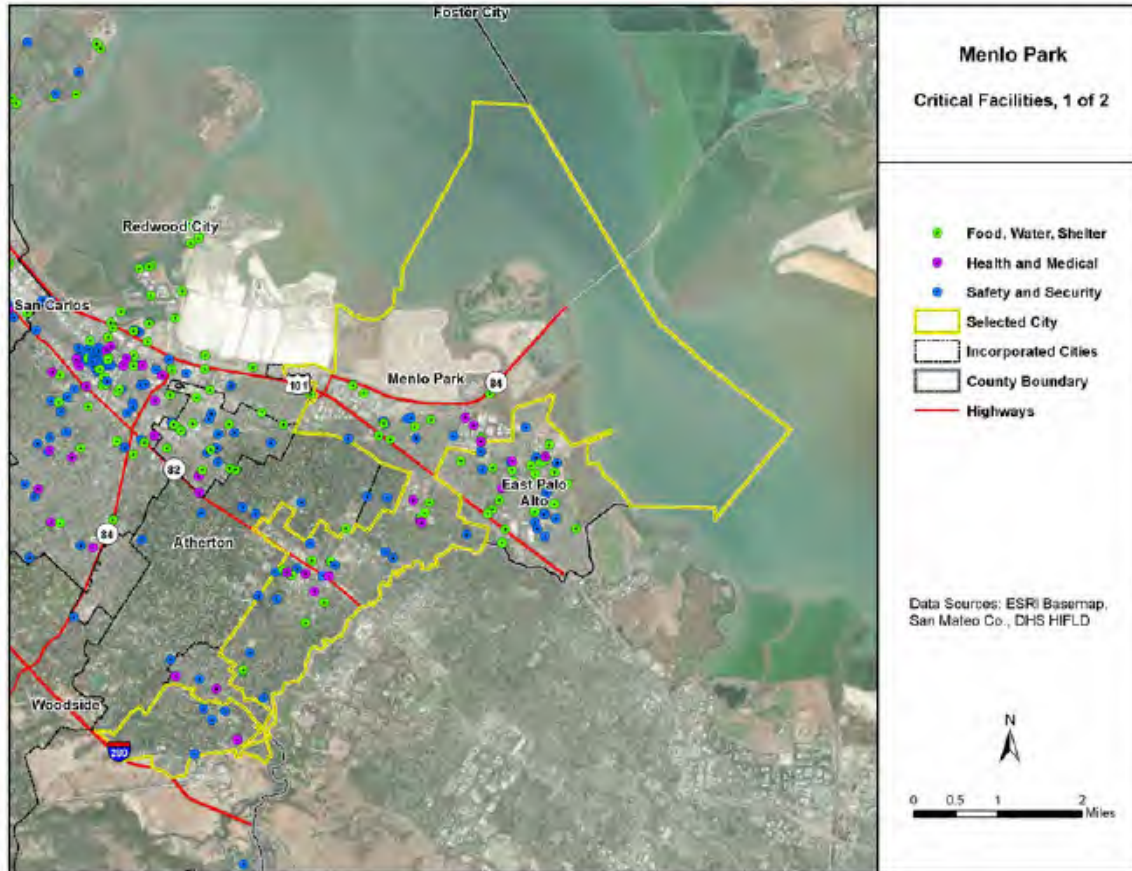
### Vulnerable Facilities

City-specific vulnerabilities identified in the MJLHMP include public facilities located in either flood hazard, high liquefaction, or sea level rise areas. The facilities include the Belle Haven Community Campus, Belle Haven Child Development Center, Menlo Park Police Neighborhood Services Center, Belle Haven Branch Library, Bedwell Bayfront Park Landfill and Gas Flare, Chrysler Pump Station, U.S. Veterans Administration

<sup>13</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. Heat Island Effect, <https://www.epa.gov/heatislands>, accessed August 8, 2022.

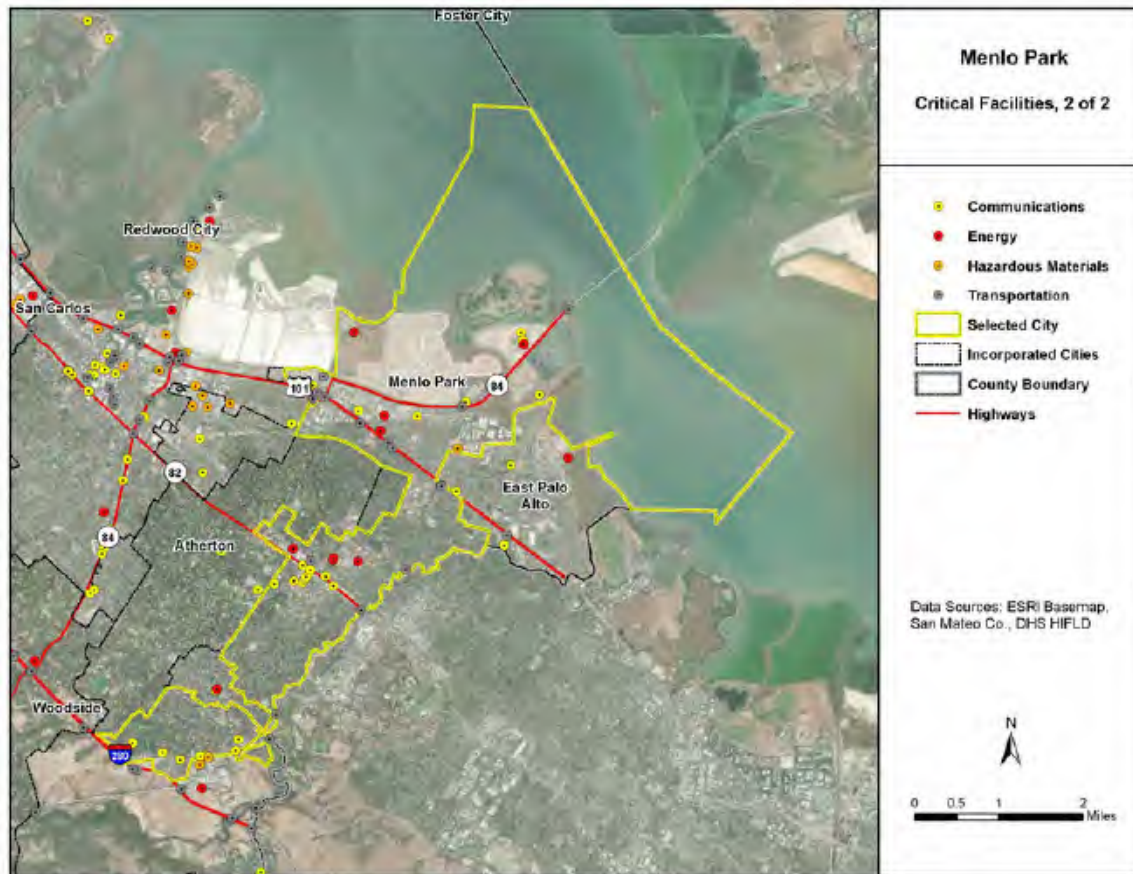
Medical Center, and Nealon Park Little House and Nursery School (see Figure S-14 and Figure S-15).

**Figure S-14. Critical Facilities, Part 1**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-15. Critical Facilities, Part 2



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The MJLHMP identifies feasible methods to avoid or minimize climate change impacts associated with new uses of land. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including:

- Action MPK-2 (integrating the hazard mitigation plan into other plans that dictate land use decisions)
- Action MPK-5 (continue to participate in floodplain management programs)
- Action MPK-12 (produce flood hazard maps accounting for flooding due to climate change)
- Action MPK-13 (prepare a climate adaptation and resiliency plan)
- Action MPK-16 (incentives for retrofits)
- Action MPK-21 (provide education on Climate Action Plan goals and strategies)
- Action MPK-26 (consider FEMA 100-year tide and sea level rise data in land use planning and shoreline development)
- Action MPK-28 (support green infrastructure projects)

The MJLHMP contains policies related to location of new essential facilities outside of at-risk areas as feasible, implementation of construction methods to minimize damage, and designation of adequate and feasible infrastructure located in at-risk areas. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including:

- Action MPK-3 (integrate the hazard mitigation plan into other plans that support infrastructure investment)
- Action MPK-7 (mitigation controls and ensuring protections for vulnerable critical facilities)
- Action MPK-8 (maintenance and plans for drains, ditches, and waterways for flood protection)
- Action MPK-11 (upgrade Chrysler Pump station to improve Bayfront flood protection)
- Action MPK-15 (program for maintaining and replacing emergency generators at critical facilities)
- Action MPK-17 (identify areas vulnerable to localized flooding and capital projects to mitigate)
- Action MPK-19 (review and update the Emergency Operation Plan)
- Action MPK-22 (develop an emergency water storage and supply project)
- Action MPK-23 (ensure functionality of emergency water storage reservoir)
- Action MPK-27 (identify and plan updates to utility systems, equipment, and critical facilities)
- Action MPK-30 (improve community response to flood emergencies including early warning system and education)
- Action MPK-31 (emergency action plans for Bayfront Canal and Atherton Channel)
- Action MPK-32 (enhance long-term resilience for communities and critical infrastructure along the shoreline south of Whipple Road to Marsh Road)
- Action MPK-33 (complete and oversee operation for Bayfront Canal and Atherton Channel Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration Project)
- Action MPK-34 (advance long-term resilience for communities and critical assets adjacent to San Francisquito Creek and nearby shoreline areas)

The MJLHMP provides guidelines for working cooperatively with local, regional, state, and federal agencies. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including:

- Action MPK-4 (support Countywide initiatives and participate in plan maintenance)

- Action MPK-9 (coordination with San Francisquito Creek JPA)
- Action MPK-10 (coordination with California Coastal Conservancy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services)
- Action MPK-14 (continue to participate with San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District)

The MJLHMP identifies natural infrastructure that may be used in adaptation projects, where feasible. As provided in Government Code Section 65302(g)(4)(C)(v), “natural infrastructure” means using natural ecological systems or processes to reduce vulnerability to climate change related hazards, or other related climate change effects, while increasing the long-term adaptive capacity of coastal and inland areas by perpetuating or restoring ecosystem services. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including: MPK-18 (shoreline management plan to protect and enhance the coastline with trails, parks, and wildlife refuge).

**Adaptive Capacity**

The MJLHMP identifies the City’s adaptive capacity to respond to climate change. The 2021 MJLHMP evaluated and rated the ability of the City to adapt to climate change, as provided in Table S-3, with additional detail incorporated as part of the 2024 Safety Element update. In general, the technical capacity ranges from low to medium. Implementation capacity generally ranges from medium to high. Public capacity is noted as medium in terms of understanding the risk of climate change, but the capacity to residents, economy, and ecosystem to adapt is uncertain.

**Table S-3. Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change**

Criterion	Evaluation	Rating
Technical Capacity		
Jurisdiction-level understanding of potential climate change impacts	<p>Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) and sustainability staff update the CAP as needed based on the biennial findings of the community’s greenhouse gas emissions inventory analysis. The Plan outlines strategies that may take several years to implement by the City, its residents, and businesses.</p> <p>One of the primary anticipated impacts of climate change is sea level rise and more frequent and severe flooding. The City is pursuing the SAFER Bay project through a grant application to FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program to protect the community from sea level rise and flooding. This is consistent with the General Plan Land Use</p>	Med.

	<p>Element Goal LU-7: Promote the implementation and maintenance of sustainable development, facilities, and services to meet the needs of the Menlo Park community. This project application proposes to construct approximately 3.7 miles of nature-based flood management and sea level rise barriers along the San Francisco Bay shoreline. This would be a significant advancement toward the ultimate goal of providing full flood protection for the residents and business near the Bay. As of July 2021, FEMA has selected the SAFER Bay project for further evaluation. Staff has incorporated funding to support this work into the fiscal year 2021-22 capital improvement program. This project aligns with the City's 2030 CAP goal to develop a climate action adaptation plan. Because this is a large project, more staff capacity may be needed and is being assessed as the City awaits notification from FEMA regarding the grant award.</p>	
Jurisdiction-level monitoring of climate change impacts	In partnership with the County, air quality monitors were installed for public health and safety and the data is available on publicly accessible portals. More capacity would be needed to increase monitoring the impacts of climate change.	Med.
Technical resources to assess proposed strategies for feasibility and externalities	The City could use more technical resources to assess the proposed strategies for feasibility and externalities.	Low
Jurisdiction-level capacity for development of greenhouse gas emissions inventory	The City is partnering with San Mateo County on regular emissions inventories.	Med.
Capital planning and land use decisions informed by potential climate impacts	<p>The City has a number of ordinances, plans, and projects to address climate impacts through capital planning and land use decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal Code Section 16.43.140 is a green and sustainable building ordinance, which requires developers to submit zero waste management plans to document how the project will reduce waste during the construction and occupancy phase. This ordinance will help the City meet its zero waste goal of 90% diversion by 2035.</li> <li>• The City is updating the Safety Element to comply with the changes to SB 379.</li> <li>• Development projects, both commercial and residential, need to be assessed by the standards set by the California Environmental Quality Act, which may require preparation of environmental impact reports.</li> <li>• The Belle Haven Community Campus will be an all-electric building, eliminating use of natural gas.</li> </ul>	Med.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City adopted the sustainable fleet policy in 2020, which will contribute to the City’s 2030 zero carbon goal.</li> <li>• The City has undertaken master planning efforts in most capital planning areas in the last five years. These efforts have helped identify funding and project needs (e.g., facilities, streets, transportation, parks, stormwater, etc.), but additional resources (funding and staff or consultants) will be needed to deliver the needed projects to address expected climate impacts. Funds to operate and maintain new infrastructure for adapting to climate change will also be needed.</li> <li>• Potentially more staff resources are needed to process building permits and more outreach is needed to educate the public about all-electric construction.</li> </ul>	
<p>Participation in regional groups addressing climate risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A councilmember is a board member of Peninsula Clean Energy, which offers renewable energy to Menlo Park residents. Peninsula Clean Energy offers electricity powered 100 percent by renewable and carbon-free sources as of 2021. With renewable energy powering an all-electric building, the occupants and indoor air quality may significantly improve health and safety.</li> <li>• Both councilmember and staff participate in South Bay Waste Management Authority and Technical Advisory Committee monthly meetings to discuss innovative waste reduction and recycling programs. For instance, the group is discussing the upcoming Senate Bill 1383, which is to enforce a more stringent organics program and surplus food recovery. When food waste decomposes in the landfill without air, it creates methane, which is harmful to the environment.</li> <li>• Staff and a councilmember liaison participate in with San Mateo Flood &amp; Sea Level Rise District to discuss climate change impacts of sea level rise and flooding across jurisdictional boundaries. Menlo Park City Council also supported pursuit of the SAFER Bay project for a FEMA BRIC grant application, which proposes to construct approximately 3.7 miles of nature-based flood management and sea level rise barriers along the San Francisco Bay shoreline. This would be a significant advancement toward the ultimate goal of providing full flood protection for the residents and business near the Bay. As of July 2021, FEMA has selected the SAFER Bay project for further evaluation. Staff has incorporated funding to support this work into the fiscal year 2021-22 capital improvement program.</li> <li>• The City partners with local organizations to help monitor and implement climate change goals. For instance, Joint Venture Silicon Valley’s Beyond Gasoline Initiative will assist in reaching the goal to increase new EV vehicle ownership to 100% by 2025 and to reduce gasoline sales by 10% a year from the 2018 baseline.</li> <li>• City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) staff manage the County’s stormwater program and permitting requirements. City staff actively participate in C/CAG’s stormwater committees, and a City Councilmember serves on the C/CAG board.</li> <li>• Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) is an international non-governmental organization that promotes sustainable</li> </ul>	<p>Med.</p>



	<p>development and provides technical consulting to help the City meet its sustainability initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bay Area Water Supply &amp; Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) and Flows to Bay offer various water conservation programs, such as rain barrel rebates and Lawn Be Gone programs.</li> </ul>	
Implementation Capacity		
Clear authority/mandate to consider climate change impacts during public decision-making processes	<p>On December 10, 2019, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6535 declaring a climate emergency. During public decision-making processes, internal and external stakeholders must comply with the City's sustainability-related policies and ordinances. The City would need more capacity or to reduce other projects and priorities to adopt and implement programs, ordinances, or solutions to further advance in climate change adaptation.</p>	Med.
Identified strategies for greenhouse gas mitigation efforts	<p>Menlo Park City Council adopted the 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) in July 2020 and approved amendments to it in April 2021. The CAP outlines six goals to reach zero carbon by 2030. Five of these goals address mitigation, as listed below. The CAP goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore policy/program options to convert 95 percent of existing buildings to all-electric by 2030</li> <li>• Increase electric vehicle ownership and decrease gasoline sales</li> <li>• Increase access to EV charging infrastructure in multi-family and commercial properties</li> <li>• Reduce vehicle miles traveled by 25 percent or an amount recommended by the Complete Streets Commission</li> <li>• Eliminate the use of fossil fuels from municipal operations.</li> </ul> <p>The scope of work for 2021 implementation is the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a cost effectiveness analysis on various policy/program pathways towards achieving 95% electrification by 2030.</li> <li>• Collaborate with Joint Venture Silicon Valley to increase the number of new vehicle purchases to be electric vehicles (EV) and decrease gasoline sales by 10%.</li> <li>• Promote and market incentives to expand access to EV charging stations in multi-family and commercial properties.</li> <li>• Reduce vehicle miles traveled through the SB2 Housing grant, completion of Transportation Management Association feasibility study, and implementation of vehicle miles traveled guidelines for new development.</li> <li>• Update the Safety Element of Menlo Park's General Plan to respond to SB 379.</li> <li>• Utilize current resources and available budget toward eliminating fossil fuels in building the new Menlo Park Community Campus.</li> <li>• Replace fossil fuel appliances/assets at the end of life with non-fossil fuel options unless infeasible</li> <li>• Utilize current resources and available budget toward eliminating fossil fuels in building the new Menlo Park Community Campus.</li> <li>• Replace fossil fuel appliances/assets at the end of life with non-fossil fuel options unless infeasible</li> </ul>	High

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pilot program to transition landscaping equipment for gas from electric</li> </ul> <p>The City is in the process of updating the scope of work for 2025-2030 implementation.</p>	
Identified strategies for adaptation to impacts	<p>The sixth goal from the City’s CAP is to develop a climate adaptation plan. The City has participated in past regional efforts to develop adaptation plans for sea level rise, including the SAFER Bay Feasibility Study, led by the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority; and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s Dumbarton Bridge West Approach + Adjacent Communities Resilience Study. The City has applied for a FEMA BRIC grant to support implementation of the first phase of the SAFER Bay project and would continue to partner with other stakeholders to complete the project.</p>	High
Champions for climate action in local government departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City Manager’s Office has a sustainability division to implement the climate action plan and collaborate across departments to adopt climate-related policies and initiatives. More capacity is needed to adopt and implement new programs, ordinances, and implement the CAP goals.</li> <li>• As of fiscal year 2020-21, the City has 109 fleet vehicles, which include vehicles, motorcycles, and parking enforcement buggies. Out of the total fleet vehicles, twenty-one are hybrids and four are all-electric vehicles. The City is waiting for technology to advance for electric utility vehicles, which may be available within the next three years. Public Works is also transitioning its maintenance equipment to electric.</li> <li>• Green and sustainable building requirements apply to multiple zoning districts throughout Menlo Park.</li> <li>• In 2015, several solar photovoltaic panels were installed on various City facilities. In 2024, the City signed power purchase agreements with Peninsula Clean Energy to install solar on the remaining City facilities.</li> <li>• The City installed electric vehicle charging stations for public use with capacity to charge 8 vehicles at City Hall and 27 vehicles at the Belle Haven Community Campus.</li> <li>• The Police Department is currently transitioning their paper parking permits to paperless permits.</li> <li>• The Community Development and Public Works Departments transitioned from paper permitting applications to electronic submittals.</li> <li>• The City’s transportation demand management coordinator provides support to local employers and City employees to provide information about non-single occupancy vehicle travel options, which can help reduce vehicle miles traveled and emissions from transportation mobile sources.</li> </ul>	Med.
Political support for implementing climate change adaptation strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Council adopted a resolution to declare climate emergency, which demands accelerated actions on the climate crisis and requests regional collaboration to address climate change. The City Council also approved a resolution in 2019 to reaffirm the City’s commitment to tackle climate change at a local level.</li> <li>• In Fiscal Year 2023-2024, 14 of 61 Council priority projects are related to the CAP.</li> </ul>	High

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Menlo Park City Council also supported pursuit of the SAFER Bay project FEMA BRIC grant application.</li> <li>• The Environmental Quality Commission continues to advise City Council on implementing the CAP goals.</li> </ul>	
Financial resources devoted to climate change adaptation	The City filed a FEMA BRIC grant application, which would help develop a climate action adaptation plan to protect the community from sea level rise and flooding. More capacity is likely to be needed in this effort and other climate change adaptation.	Med.
Local authority over sectors likely to be negative impacted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code Enforcement officers may be impacted if new building regulations are adopted that require enforcement resources, but not enough information is known at this time to assign a rating.</li> <li>• Gas and oil manufacturing sectors may be negatively impacted if the City reduces its gasoline consumption (either for vehicles or for building appliances). This impact would be related to the 2030 CAP goals and the reach codes, but not enough information is known at this time to assign a rating.</li> </ul>	Unsure
<b>Public Capacity</b>		
Local residents knowledge of and understanding of climate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), a commission body made up of seven Menlo Park residents, created the 2030 CAP. The Complete Streets Commission, another resident-based commission body of seven members, developed Transportation Master Plan Implementation Recommendations that include VMT reduction as a key strategy.</li> <li>• Strong advocacy occurs when climate policies are considered by City Council. Several residents expressed interest to ban gas leaf blowers by adopting an ordinance.</li> <li>• More outreach needs to be done to understand the community's knowledge and understanding of climate risk. A resolution was approved in April 2021 for the scope of work for implementation of the CAP and to educate residents about climate emergency and to include health, socio-economic, and racial equity in policymaking and climate solutions.</li> </ul>	Med.
Local residents support of adaptation efforts	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure
Local residents' capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure
Local economy current capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure
Local ecosystems capacity to adapt to climate	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure

impacts		
High = Capacity exists and is in use; Medium = Capacity may exist but is not used or could use some improvement; Low = Capacity does not exist or could use substantial improvement; Unsure= Not enough information is known to assign a rating.		

Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes (Note: Table S-3 includes 2024 updates from the 2021 MJLHMP)

Menlo Park will increase resiliency to future climate impacts through adaptation policies in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Climate Action Plan. In addition, there are adaptation policies that focus on the city’s Underserved Communities in the Environmental Justice Element. Climate change exacerbates existing hazards, such as flooding and extreme temperatures, and the hazard mitigation and adaptation policies in this Safety Element are designed to allow the city to adapt to additional climate risks during the planning period.

## **F** Hazardous Materials

The term “hazardous material” is defined in different ways for different regulatory programs. The California Health and Safety Code Section 25501 definition of a hazardous material is “any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment.”

Once a hazardous material is released, it moves from the source to a point of contact with the community or environment through an exposure pathway. To reach that point of contact, the exposure pathway must have: (1) a contamination source or point of release; (2) a transport mechanism from the source to the air, surface water, groundwater, or soil; (3) contact point where people are exposed to contaminated air, surface water, groundwater or soil; and (4) a route of entry into the body. Routes of entry include ingestion (eating or drinking), inhalation (breathing), and absorption (skin contact). If any of these requirements for an exposure pathway are not present, the pathway is incomplete and no exposure or risk is possible. In some cases, although a pathway is complete, the likelihood that exposure will occur is very small.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. Table S-4 lists the sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation. More information and definitions can be found on the EnviroStor website.

**Table S-4. Hazardous Waste and Clean Up Sites**

Project Name	Status	Project Type	Address
Beltramo Property	Certified / Operation & Maintenance	Voluntary Cleanup	1459 San Antonio Street And 1460 El Camino Real
Derry Lane Mixed Use Development	Active	State Response	Derry Lane
Former Norge / Atherton Village Cleaners	Active	State Response	1438 El Camino Real
Former Peninsula Sportsmen's Club	Refer: Rwqcb	Voluntary Cleanup	East Of University Avenue
General Circuits Inc.	Refer: Epa	Corrective Action	3549 J Haven Avenue
Hillview Middle School	Certified	School Cleanup	1100 Elder Avenue
Menlo Park West Campus	Certified / Operation & Maintenance	Voluntary Cleanup	312-314 Constitution Drive
Menlo Tech	Refer: Rwqcb	Evaluation	188 Constitution Drive
O'Connor School	Active	School Cleanup	275 Elliott Drive
Sanford Metal Processing Co.	Refer: Other Agency	Tiered Permit	990 O'Brien Drive
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center	Refer: Other Agency	Tiered Permit	2575 Sand Hill Road
Tyco Electronics Corporation	Certified / Operation & Maintenance	Corrective Action	300 Constitution Dr

Source: Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor website, accessed April 5, 2024.

The State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) tracks sites that have potential to impact water quality, which include Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Sites, Department of Defense Sites, and Cleanup Program Sites. The Water Board's Geotracker program identifies the locations of these sites, listed below. LUST sites are scattered throughout the city, concentrated along El Camino Real and in downtown Menlo Park. LUST sites are a common source of soil and groundwater contamination. A wide variety of industries have historically used underground storage tanks for gasoline, diesel, waste oils, solvents, and other chemicals. Prior to regulation in the 1980s, these underground tanks typically were not monitored or provided with secondary containment. If a tank leaked, the contents could migrate to the soil and groundwater. Under the Site Cleanup Program, the Board regulates and oversees the investigation and cleanup of non-federally owned sites where recent or historical unauthorized releases of pollutants to the environment, including soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment, have occurred. Several locations that are listed under the Site Cleanup Program have been identified within Menlo Park. These are found mostly in the downtown area and the northeastern portion of the city. Sites that have open cases or are closed but with land use restrictions are shown in Table S-5.

**Table S-5. Underground Storage Tank and Cleanup Program Sites**

Site Name	Site Type	Status	Address
3705 Haven Avenue	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	3705 Haven Avenue
Hotel Moxy Development	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	3723 Haven Avenue

Site Name	Site Type	Status	Address
Edison Technology Park	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Long Term Management	3477-3522 Edison Way
Launderland Dry Cleaners	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	995 El Camino Real
Menlo Flats	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	165 Jefferson Drive
Menlo Portal	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	115 Independence Drive & 104-110 Constitution Drive
Menlo Uptown	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	141 Jefferson Drive (And 172 - 188 Constitution Drive)
New Guild Cleaners (Former)	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	961 El Camino Real
Norge/ Atherton Cleaners, Former	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	1438 El Camino Real
Peninsula Arts Guild	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Long Term Management	949 El Camino Real
Sharon Heights Cleaners	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	325 Sharon Park Drive
Siltec	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	3705-3723 Haven Avenue
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC Groundwater Volatile Organic Compound (Voc) Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC Research Yard-SSRL / Ir-6 Drainage Channel Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC Tritium Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC West SLAC/ Campus Area/ Ir-8 Drainage Channel Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
Wo Sing Cleaners	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	570 Derry Lane

Source: State Water Resources Control Board, GeoTracker website, <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>, accessed April 5, 2024.

## **G** Emergency Preparedness

The MJLHMP directs the update of the City's 2014 Emergency Operation Plan to include new FEMA guidelines in order to receive federal funding and address SB160: Cultural Competence (which requires a county to integrate cultural competence, into its emergency plan). The City developed the EOP to better prepare for responses to emergency situations that could result from natural disasters and technological incidents. To better prepare for these emergencies, the City estimated the potential risks associated with earthquakes, flooding, wildland fire, and other disasters. Based on this evaluation, various preparation strategies were developed.

In 2024, the City hired an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator to focus on the following objectives of the Emergency Services Program (ESP):

**Objective 1: Operational Readiness:** ESP works with all City departments to promote resilience to threats and risks of all types. This is a measure of the ability of the City to handle a major critical incident or disaster. People, infrastructure (facilities), supplies, and training are all elements of this. ESP manages the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located in City Hall, along with other assets.

**Objective 2: Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA):** ESP leads the process to understand what risks the City faces. Often known as a Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) processes, this ongoing activity involves updates of Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) (facility inventories, registries) and awareness of the sorts of risks such as those listed in the Menlo Park annex to the regional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) and the National Planning Scenarios.

**Objective 3: Policy & Plans:** ESP leads or coordinates the development and maintenance of policies and plans related to disasters, critical incidents, and City safety. The City's Emergency Operations Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), and various department plans are all part of this activity.

**Objective 4: Emergency Public Information:** ESP coordinates with the Public Information Officers (PIOs) to develop protocols for communication with the public and with partners.

**Objective 5: Whole Community Engagement:** ESP develops structures to link non-governmental organizations (NGOs), residents, and businesses to the Incident Command System (ICS). Elements of this include MPC Ready, ARES/RACES Amateur (ham) Radio, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers and many more.

**Objective 6:** Training and Exercises: In compliance with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), ESP works with community and partner stakeholders, such the Menlo Park Fire District, the County of San Mateo and others to develop training and exercises.

**Objective 7:** Grant Management: ESP seeks funding and manages awarded grants pertaining to emergency management and homeland security.

**Objective 8:** Technology: ESP coordinates with other city departments to deploy new technologies for emergency services.

**Objective 9:** Regionalization: ESP participates in the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), in addition to the San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Operational Area and our mutual aid relationships with other agencies.

### Emergency Routes

The Safety Element is required to address evacuation routes according to Government Code Section 65302(g)(1). This often goes hand-in-hand with fire evacuation needs, though it could also consider sea level rise, seismic events including earthquakes and tsunamis, or other hazards. Menlo Park's Safety Element includes policy S1.37 (Emergency Connectors and Evacuation Routes) to "Maintain a system of emergency connectors and evacuation routes as part of the City's disaster planning." The Police Department is the primary agency for establishing emergency evacuation routes. Evacuation routes are generally the City's major arterial streets. However, the appropriate evacuation routes depend upon the type of incident (whether it is a flood, fire, earthquake, etc.) and then which routes have the least hazards, the least traffic stress and the most residential accessibility. Neighborhood disaster programs provide information and help to coordinate resident and business responses during the first 72 hours of an emergency event.

Under Government Code Section 65302(g)(5), upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2020, the Safety Element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to identify residential developments in any hazard area identified in the safety element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes (see Figure 2.16).

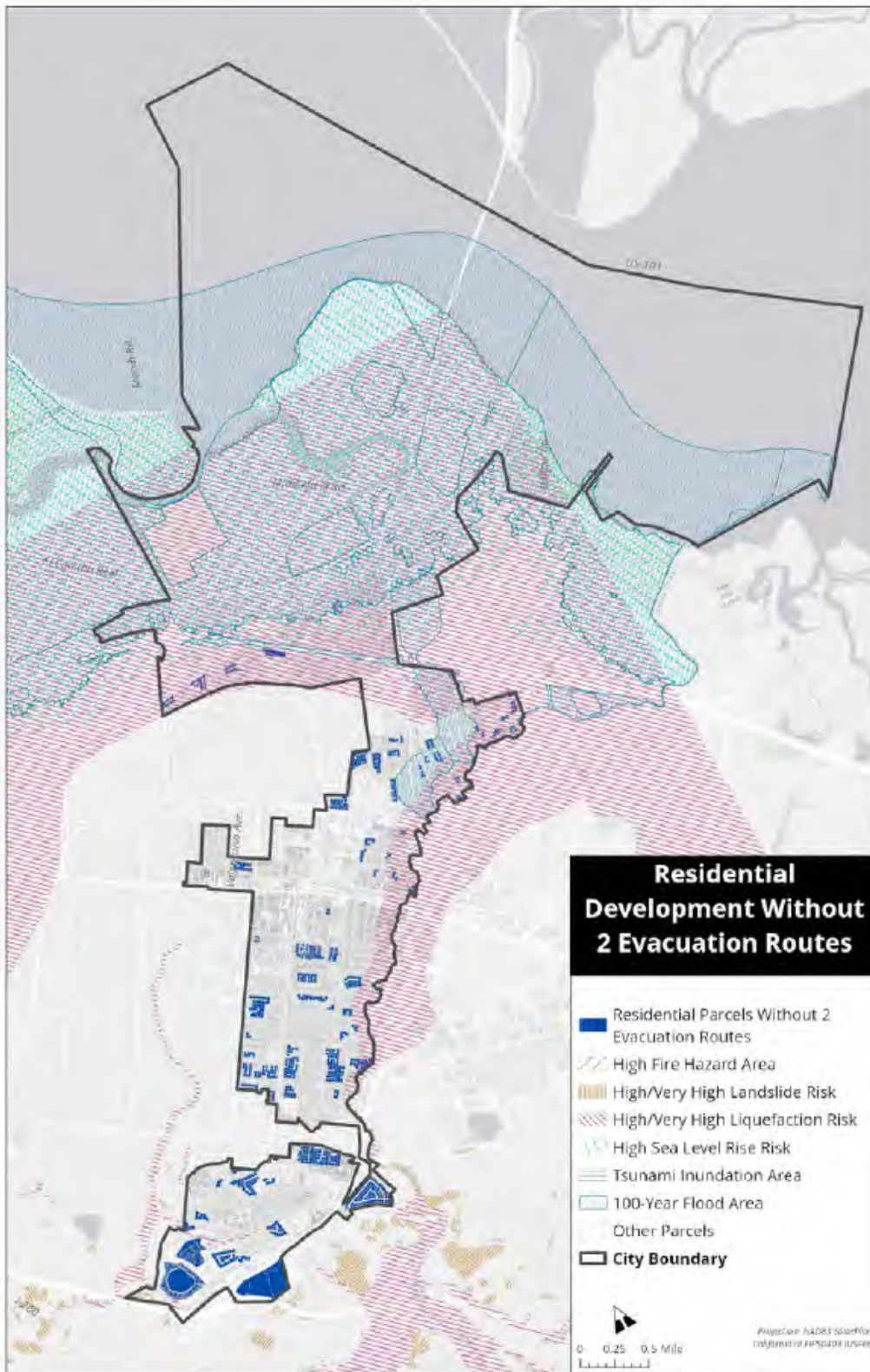
Per Government Code Section 65302.15, amended following the adoption of AB 1409 in 2021, upon the next revision of a local hazard mitigation plan on or



after January 1, 2022, the Safety Element shall be updated as necessary to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability and evacuation locations under a range of emergency scenarios. A city that has adopted a local hazard mitigation plan, emergency operations plan, or other document that fulfills commensurate goals and objectives may use that information in the Safety Element to comply by summarizing and incorporating it into the Safety Element. This evacuation route update will be done upon the next revision of a local hazard mitigation plan to be developed once the current MJLHMP requires an update. The current MJLHMP was adopted in 2021.

There are several residential developments within the city that only have one evacuation route, some of which are in hazard zones. Evacuation routes are determined as roadways that allow ingress and egress. Any residential subdivision with only one roadway (such as a parcel on a cul-de-sac) is identified as having only one route. This map, Figure S-16, may be used as reference for residential areas at increased risk during fire evacuation needs. It could also be used for reference in sea level rise, seismic events including earthquakes and tsunamis, or other hazards.

Figure S-16. Residential Development Without Two Evacuation Routes



# City of Menlo Park

## Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements

Original Adoption: May 21, 2013  
Safety Element Update Adoption: \_\_\_\_\_

## Acknowledgments

### Safety (2024)

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## Technical Appendices

The *San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP)*, including the City of Menlo Park Annex, is incorporated and adopted by reference into the Safety Element, available online at the County of San Mateo’s website ([smc.gov.org/dem/multijurisdictional-local-hazard-mitigation-plan](http://smc.gov.org/dem/multijurisdictional-local-hazard-mitigation-plan)). The MJLHMP is presented in two volumes: Volume 1 includes planning area-wide elements and Volume 2 includes planning partner annexes, including one for the City of Menlo Park. This two-volume MJLHMP was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA’s Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The MJLHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities.

Menlo Park’s *2030 Climate Action Plan (2021)* is incorporated and adopted by reference into the Safety Element, available online from the City of Menlo Park’s website ([menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/City-Managers-Office/Sustainability/Climate-Action-Plan](http://menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/City-Managers-Office/Sustainability/Climate-Action-Plan)).



Note: The *City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update, General Plan Consistency Update and Zoning Ordinance Amendments Environmental Assessment*, prepared April 4, 2013, is available at the City of Menlo Park Community Development Department. The Environmental Assessment contains background technical analysis prepared for the Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements of the Menlo Park General Plan adopted May 21, 2013. The background sections in this document provide a summary of the information and technical analysis contained in the Environmental Assessment. The 2024 update of the Safety Element supersedes the prior information and technical analysis contained in the April 4, 2013 Environmental Assessment. Section VII (Safety Background) contains new information and analysis applicable to the 2024 update of the Safety Element.



## Introduction

### Section I

## Overview

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### **A** Purposes and Requirements of the Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements



The Open Space/ Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements reflect current conditions, important community issues and relevant State laws related to environmental conditions in Menlo Park. The elements focus on providing direction as to how to protect community safety and to maintain a clean, safe and healthy environment including air and water quality, noise, greenhouse gas, conservation

of energy and minimizing impacts of development in hazardous or environmentally sensitive habitat areas.

A general plan is required to address the specified provisions of each of the seven mandated elements listed in Government Code §65302 — land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise and safety — to the extent that the provisions are locally relevant. Cities and counties that have identified disadvantaged communities must also address environmental justice in their general plans, including air quality. The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has prepared General Plan Guidelines to provide a broad overview of what a general plan might contain. Jurisdictions may combine elements of their general plan, as appropriate, but all elements of a general plan have equal weight under the law. In this document, the Open Space and Conservation Elements have been combined because of the many overlapping issues addressed.

#### **Open Space/Conservation Element Requirements**

The Open Space/Conservation Element of the Menlo Park General Plan combines two of the seven elements required by State law (California Government Code, Section 65300 et. seq.) — Open Space and Conservation. Open Space issues include policies and programs to maintain, expand and improve Menlo Park’s open space and recreation areas, while Conservation institutes policies and programs to conserve natural resources. Under State law, parks are encompassed within the mandate of the Open Space Element.



Both Open Space and Conservation Elements have been required as part of local General Plans since 1970. In enacting these requirements, it was the intent of the State Legislature to assure that cities recognize that open space land is a limited and valuable resource and to assure that every city and county will prepare and carry out an open space plan.

Section 65560 and 65561 of the Government Code specifies the contents of an Open Space Element. State policy with regard to open space is described in Section 65561 as follows:

- "(1) That the preservation of open-space land . . . is necessary not only for the maintenance of the economy of the state, but also for the assurance of the continued availability of land for the production of food and fiber, for the enjoyment of scenic beauty, for recreation, and for the use of natural resources.*
- (2) That discouraging premature and unnecessary conversion of open-space land to urban uses is a matter of public interest and will be of benefit to urban dwellers because it will discourage non-contiguous development patterns which unnecessarily increase the costs of community services to community residents.*
- (3) That the anticipated increase in the population of the state demands that cities, counties, and the state at the earliest possible date make definite plans for the preservation of valuable open-space land and take positive action to carry out such plans by the adoption and strict administration of laws, ordinances, rules and regulations as authorized by this chapter or by other appropriate methods.*
- (4) That in order to assure that the interests of all its people are met in the orderly growth and development of the state and the preservation and conservation of its resources, it is necessary to provide for the development by the state, regional agencies, counties and cities, including charter cities, of statewide coordinated plans for the conservation and preservation of open-space lands.*
- (5) That for these reasons this article is necessary for the promotion of the general welfare and for the protection of the public interest in open-space land."*

Below is an excerpt from Section 65302(d) of the California Government Code covering Conservation Elements.

*"A conservation element for the conservation, development, and utilization of natural*

*resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources. The conservation element shall consider the effect of development within the jurisdiction, as described in the land use element, on natural resources located on public lands, including military installations. That portion of the conservation element including waters shall be developed in coordination with any countywide water agency and with all district and city agencies, including flood management, water conservation, or groundwater agencies that have developed, served, controlled, managed, or conserved water of any type for any purpose in the county or city for which the plan is prepared. Coordination shall include the discussion and evaluation of any water supply and demand information described in Section 65352.5, if that information has been submitted by the water agency to the city or county.*

*The conservation element may also cover all of the following:*

- (A) The reclamation of land and waters.*
- (B) Prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other waters.*
- (C) Regulation of the use of land in stream channels and other areas required for the accomplishment of the conservation plan.*
- (D) Prevention, control, and correction of the erosion of soils, beaches, and shores.*
- (E) Protection of watersheds.*
- (F) The location, quantity and quality of the rock, sand and gravel resources.*

*Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2009, the conservation element shall identify rivers, creeks, streams, flood corridors, riparian habitats, and land that may accommodate floodwater for purposes of groundwater recharge and storm-water management.”*

### **Noise Element Requirements**

A Noise Element has been required as part of local General Plans since 1971. The State Legislature adopted the California Noise Control Act of 1973, which defined the following findings and policy:

- (1) Excessive noise is a serious hazard to the public health and welfare.
- (2) Exposure to certain levels of noise can result in physiological, psychological, and economic damage.
- (3) There is a continuous and increasing bombardment of noise in urban, suburban, and rural areas.
- (4) Government has by and large not taken the steps necessary to provide for the control, abatement, and prevention of unwanted and hazardous noise.
- (5) It is the policy of the State to provide an environment for all Californians free from noise that jeopardizes their health or welfare.

To implement this policy, Section 65302(f) of the California Government Code requires each city to have a Noise Element as part of its General Plan. The Government Code states that the Noise Element should be prepared according to guidelines established by the State Department of Health Services, Office of Noise Control. The excerpt below is from Section 65302(f) of the Government Code.

- “(f) A noise element which shall identify and appraise noise problems in the community. The noise element shall recognize the guidelines established by the Office of Noise Control in the State Department of Health Services and shall analyze and quantify, to the extent practicable, as determined by the legislative body, current and projected noise levels for all of the following sources:*
- (1) Highway and freeways.*
  - (2) Primary arterials and major local streets.*
  - (3) Passenger and freight on-line railroad operations and ground rapid transit systems.*
  - (4) Commercial, general aviation, heliport, helistop, and military airport operations, aircraft overflights, jet engine test stands, and all other ground facilities and maintenance functions related to airport operation.*
  - (5) Local industrial plants, including, but not limited to, railroad classification yards.*
  - (6) Other ground stationary noise sources identified by local agencies as contributing to the community noise environment.*

*Noise contours shall be shown for all of these sources and stated in terms of community noise equivalent level (CNEL) or day-night average level (Ldn). The noise contours shall be prepared on the basis of noise monitoring or following generally accepted noise modeling techniques for the various sources identified in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive.*

*The noise contours shall be used as a guide for establishing a pattern of land uses in the land use element that minimizes the exposure of community residents to excessive noise.*

*The noise element shall include implementation measures and possible solutions that address existing and foreseeable noise problems, if any. The adopted noise element shall serve as a guideline for compliance with the state’s noise insulation standards.”*

## Safety Element Requirements

Safety issues have been required to be addressed as part of local general plans since 1971. The San Fernando earthquake of February 1971, which claimed 64 lives and resulted in over \$500 million in property damage, and devastating wildland fires in September and October of 1970, were largely responsible for prompting the Legislature to pass this requirement. The following citation is from Government Code Section 65302(g)(1):

*“A safety element for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence; liquefaction; and other seismic hazards identified pursuant to Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 2690) of Division 2 of the Public Resources Code, and other geologic hazards known to the legislative body; flooding; and wildland and urban fires. The safety element shall include mapping of known seismic and other geologic hazards. It shall also address evacuation routes, military installations, peakload water supply requirements, and minimum road widths and clearances around structures, as those items relate to identified fire and geologic hazards.”*

Since the previous Safety Element was adopted in 2013, there have been several updates requiring safety elements to include climate change vulnerability and adaptation, and increased attention to wildfire and evacuation routes.

- **Senate Bill (SB) 1241 (2012):** Regarding wildfire hazards specifically, jurisdictions in a State Responsibility Area (SRA) or jurisdictions with Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ), are required to revise their safety element to include information about wildfire hazards and risks, as well as goals, policies, objectives and implementation measures for the protection of the community from unreasonable fire risk. *Note: Menlo Park does not fall in an SRA or VHFHSZ. SB 1241 does not apply to this document.*
- **SB 379 (2015):** Jurisdictions are required to complete a vulnerability assessment; develop climate adaptation and resilience goals, policies and objectives; and develop a set of feasible implementation measures addressing climate change adaptation and resiliency.
- **SB 1035 (2018):** Jurisdictions must review and update climate adaption and resiliency strategies in the safety element upon each revision of the housing element or local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP or multijurisdictional local hazard mitigation plan: MJLHMP), but not less than once every 8 years.
- **SB 99 (2019):** Identify residential development in hazard areas without at least two emergency evacuation routes.
- **SB 272 (2023):** By January 1, 2034, develop a sea level rise plan as part of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan that is subject to

approval by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

In addition, Assembly Bill (AB) 747 (2019) requires local jurisdictions that have not adopted a LHMP or MJLHMP before January 1, 2022 to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios in the Safety Element. AB 1409 (2021) added the requirement to also identify evacuation locations. Menlo Park is part of the San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was adopted in 2021. Therefore, the information required by AB 747 and AB 1409 do not apply to the 2024 update of the Safety Element. However, this analysis will be required upon the next revision of the LHMP or MJLHMP.

## **B** Definitions of Key Terms

### **Definitions**

#### *Open Space/Conservation*

- Baylands.** Areas along a bay that are permanently wet or periodically covered with shallow water, such as saltwater and freshwater marshes, open or closed brackish marshes, swamps, mudflats, and fans.
- Biotic Community.** A group of living organisms characterized by a distinctive combination of both animal and plant species in a particular habitat.
- Conservation.** Conservation is the wise management of renewable and non-renewable resources to prevent the unnecessary waste, destruction or neglect of resources for the enjoyment of future generations, such as water, air and energy systems. The preservation of these resources is concerned with the quality and quantity of the resource. Conservation areas may sustain a rare species and/or natural resource that cannot be restored or replaced. The purpose of conservation areas is to provide a protected location where the properties of a natural resource may be observed and enjoyed without risk of endangering the resource.
- Endangered Species.** A species of animal or plant that is considered endangered when its prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes.
- Habitat.** The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs.
- Historic Preservation.** The preservation of historically significant structures and neighborhoods until such time as, and in order to facilitate, restoration and rehabilitation of the building(s) to a former condition.
- Joint Powers Authority (JPA).** A legal arrangement that enables two or more units of government to share authority in order to plan and carry out a specific program or set of

programs that serves both units.

- **Open Space.** An open area that is primarily maintained in its natural condition and is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use for the purposes of (1) the preservation of natural resources, (2) the managed production of resources, (3) outdoor recreation, or (4) public health and safety. In some cases this definition includes pathways, landscaping and other improvements that are maintained. The provision of open space is intended to offer residents and visitors opportunities for quiet introspection in a location that provides visual relief from buildings, concrete and noise associated with more urban life.
- **Park.** A park is an improved, primarily unobstructed area, with landscaping and recreational equipment such as play apparatuses and/or basketball courts. In some cases this definition includes property with recreation buildings or structures. The purpose of parks is to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and physical exercise near to residential and employment areas.
- **Plan Bay Area.** Plan Bay Area is an integrated long-range transportation and land-use/housing plan for the San Francisco Bay Area. Legislation calls upon the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to adopt a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), which will coordinate land use and transportation in the regional transportation plan.
- **Rare or Endangered Species.** A species of animal or plant listed in: Sections 670.2 or 670.5, Title 14, California Administrative Code; or Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 17.11 or Section 17.2, pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act designating species as rare, threatened, or endangered.
- **Regional Park.** A park typically 150-500 acres in size focusing on activities and natural features not included in most other types of parks and often based on a specific scenic or recreational opportunity.
- **Riparian Lands.** Riparian lands are comprised of the vegetative and wildlife areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams. Riparian areas are delineated by the existence of plant species normally found near freshwater.
- **Sustainability.** Community use of natural resources in a way that does not jeopardize the ability of future generations to live and prosper.
- **Wetlands.** Transitional area between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or the land is covered by shallow water. Under a "unified" methodology now used by all Federal agencies, wetlands are defined as "those areas meeting certain criteria for hydrology, vegetation, and soils."

#### *Noise*

- **A-Weighted Decibel (dBA).** An overall frequency-weighted sound level in decibels that approximates the frequency response of the human ear.

- Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL).** The energy-average of the A-weighted sound levels occurring during a 24-hour period, with 5 dB added to the levels occurring during the period from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and 10 dB added to the sound levels occurring during the period from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- dBA.** The "A-weighted" scale for measuring sound in decibels; weighs or reduces the effects of low and high frequencies in order to simulate human hearing. Every increase of 10 dBA doubles the perceived loudness though the noise is actually ten times more intense.
- Day-Night Sound Level (Ldn).** The energy-average of the A-weighted sound levels occurring during a 24-hour period, with 10 dB added to the sound levels occurring during the period from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- Decibel (dB).** A unit measure of sound on a logarithmic scale.
- Equivalent Continuous Noise Level (Leq).** The mean of the noise level, energy averaged over the measurement period, such as the 24-hour CNEL used by the State of California.
- Noise.** Sound that is loud, unpleasant, unexpected, or otherwise undesirable.
- Noise Attenuation.** Reduction of the level of a noise source using a substance, material, or surface, such as earth berms and/or solid concrete walls.
- Noise Contour.** A line connecting points of equal noise level as measured on the same scale. Noise levels greater than the 60 Ldn contour (measured in dBA) require noise attenuation in residential development.
- Sound.** A disturbance created by a vibrating object, which, when transmitted by pressure waves through a medium such as air, is capable of being detected by a receiving mechanism, such as the human ear or a microphone.
- Statistical Sound Level (Ln).** The sound level that is exceeded "n" percent of time during a given sample period. For example, the L50 level is the statistical indicator of the time-varying noise signal that is exceeded 50 percent of the time (during each sampling period); that is, half of the sampling time, the changing noise levels are above this value and half of the time they are below it. This is called the "median sound level." The L10 level, likewise, is the value that is exceeded 10 percent of the time (i.e. near the maximum) and this is often known as the "intrusive sound level." The L90 is the sound level exceeded 90 percent of the time and is often considered the "effective background level" or "residual noise level."

#### *Safety*

- Critical Use Structures.** Critical use structures include those required for effective disaster response (emergency operating centers, police and fire stations, medical facilities), lifelines (gas, water, sewage, and electrical systems), and structures whose failure would be catastrophic (dams).



- Fault.** A fracture in the earth's crust forming a boundary between shifting rock masses.
- Fire Hazard Zone.** An area where, due to slope, fuel, weather, or other fire-related conditions, the potential loss of life and property from a fire necessitates special fire protection measures and planning before development occurs.
- Flood, 100-Year and 500-Year.** The magnitude of a flood expected to occur on the average every 100 or 500 years, based on historical data. The 100-year flood has a 1/100, or one percent, chance of occurring in any given year. The 500-year flood has a 1/500, or two-tenths of one percent, chance of occurring in any given year.
- Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).** For each community, the official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated areas of special flood hazard and the risk premium zones applicable to that community.
- Hazardous Material.** Any substance that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. The term includes, but is not limited to, hazardous substances and hazardous wastes.
- High-Occupancy Structure.** All pre-1935 buildings with over 25 occupants, and all pre-1976 buildings with more than 100 occupants.
- Landslide.** A general term for a falling mass of soil or rocks.
- Liquefaction.** The transformation of loose water-saturated granular materials (such as sand or silt) from a solid into a liquid state that can occur during an earthquake.
- Mercalli Intensity Scale.** A subjective measure of the observed effects (human reactions, structural damage, geologic effects) of an earthquake. Expressed in Roman numerals from I to XII.
- Richter Scale.** A measure of the size or energy release of an earthquake at its source. The scale is logarithmic; the wave amplitude of each number on the scale is 10 times greater than that of the previous whole number.
- Seiche.** An earthquake-generated wave in an enclosed body of water such as a lake, reservoir, or bay.
- Sensitive Populations.** Sensitive populations include those persons or groups of persons particularly vulnerable and in need of special attention in an emergency or disaster situation. Examples of sensitive populations include older adults, pregnant women, children, people with disabilities, access and functional needs, multiple chemical sensitivities, etc.
- State Responsibility Areas.** As used in the Safety Element of the general plan, areas of the state in which the financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires has been

determined by the State Board of Forestry (pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4125) to be primarily the responsibility of the State of California.

- Tsunami.** A large ocean wave generated by an earthquake in or near the ocean.

## Acronyms

AAQS	Ambient air quality standards
AB	Assembly Bill
ABAG	Association of Bay Area Governments
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BCDC	San Francisco Bay Area Conservation and Development Commission
CAP	City of Menlo Park Climate Action Plan
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBC	California Building Code
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGS	California Geological Society
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CDMG	California Division of Mines and Geology (State Resources Agency)
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
dB/ dBA	Decibel/"A-weighted" decibel
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
ECR/DSP	El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
Ldn	Day and Night Average Sound Level
Leq	Sound Energy Equivalent Level
MJLHMP	Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
M	Magnitude (Richer Scale)
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OPR	Governor's Office of Planning and Research
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SFBAAB	San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin
STOPPP	San Mateo Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
TACs	Toxic Air Contaminants
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey

## Goals, Policies and Implementing Programs

### Section II

# Open Space/Conservation Goals, Policies and Programs

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## **A** The Need for Open Space and Conservation



The Open Space/Conservation Element addresses issues related to the use, preservation, management and sustainability of land-based resources in Menlo Park, whether that land is dedicated to active recreation use, passive use or the protection of natural resources and environmental quality.

A central concern of the Open Space/Conservation Element, in considering the location, design, intensity and type of land uses in the City, is to continue to protect important natural resources and areas. Open Space and Conservation helps prevent the wasteful destruction and neglect of Menlo Park's natural resources, particularly scarce resources. The City recognizes that natural resources must be maintained for their economic and recreational use as well as for their ecological and scenic value.

The approach to natural resource conservation includes:

- Preserve the natural state, unique appeal and visual amenities of Menlo Park's bay lands and shoreline.
- Protect the wildlife habitat, scenic value and natural character of the San Francisquito Creek and Atherton Creek riparian corridors.
- Protect sensitive species and natural communities.
- Preserve open areas needed for protection from natural hazards.
- Maintain, preserve and enhance contiguous open space on Stanford lands within Menlo Park's unincorporated sphere of influence.
- Protect lands that have inherent qualities to provide visual amenity, including topographic features, views or vistas, street landscape areas, scenic water areas, creeks and the San Francisco Bay.

- Provide landscaped areas that visually and environmentally enhance the community.

## **B** Open Space/Conservation Goals



### **Goal OSC1 — MAINTAIN, PROTECT AND ENHANCE OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Protect, conserve and enhance valuable natural resources, open areas and designated open space lands rich in scenic value, wildlife or of a fragile ecological nature through conservation and restoration efforts.**

*Natural features and resources have shaped both the growth and form of Menlo Park and provide many of the attractive characteristics of the area. The City has a responsibility to maintain and protect these assets for future generations, and to*

*anticipate future needs.*

### **Goal OSC2 — PROVIDE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

**Develop and maintain a parks and recreation system to provide areas and facilities conveniently located, sustainable, properly designed and well-maintained to serve the recreation needs and promote healthy living of residents, workers and visitors to Menlo Park.**

*Park and recreation facilities play a critical role in determining the quality of life in Menlo Park. The City is committed to ongoing improvements to address the recreational needs of its residents. Numerous parks, public spaces and playing fields are integral to the life of the City. Recreational facilities and playing fields are well maintained.*

### **Goal OSC3 — PROTECT AND ENHANCE HISTORIC RESOURCES**

**Protect and enhance cultural and historical resources for their aesthetic, scientific, educational, and cultural values.**

*It is the goal of Menlo Park to have protected and maintained historic buildings and archaeological resources as part of Menlo Park's cultural heritage. City policy has been to protect and build upon the historic character that exists in the City. City policy also protects known archeological resources to the maximum extent feasible.*

**Goal OSC4 — PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING**  
**Promote a sustainable energy supply and implement the City’s Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the sustainability of actions by City government, residents, and businesses in Menlo Park. This includes promoting land use patterns that reduce the number and length of motor vehicle trips, and encouraging recycling, reduction and reuse programs.**

*Menlo Park’s Climate Action Plan addresses greenhouse gas emissions through planned emission reduction strategies covering the City’s operations and life in the community at large. But, it is important to recognize that a major determinant in the City of Menlo Park’s success in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions will be the actions taken by regional, State and national bodies across all sectors. The City’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through such actions as land use and transportation initiatives and reducing, reusing and recycling resources, also consider the broader sustainability benefits that accompany local climate protection efforts, such as cleaner air and water, healthier people and local economic development.*

**Goal OSC5 — ENSURE HEALTHY AIR QUALITY AND WATER QUALITY**  
**Enhance and preserve air quality in accord with State and regional standards, and encourage the coordination of total water quality management including both supply and wastewater treatment.**

*The Open Space/Conservation Element is intended to ensure that high quality air and water are available to all who reside, work and play in the City. The City seeks to mitigate the effects of vehicular pollution by supporting policies that promote more environmentally friendly forms of transport as well as promote land use design practices that are more efficient. Maintaining and improving water quality is essential to protect public health, wildlife, and watersheds, and to ensure opportunities for public recreation and economic development in Menlo Park.*

## **C** Open Space/Conservation Policies and Implementing Programs

### *Goal OSC1*

### MAINTAIN, PROTECT AND ENHANCE OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

#### ***Policies***

- OSC1.1 **Natural Resources Integration with Other Uses.** Protect Menlo Park's natural environment and integrate creeks, utility corridors, and other significant natural and scenic features into development plans.
- OSC1.2 **Habitat for Open Space and Conservation Purposes.** Preserve, protect, maintain and enhance water, water-related areas, plant and wildlife habitat for open space and conservation purposes.
- OSC1.3 **Sensitive Habitats.** Require new development on or near sensitive habitats to provide baseline assessments prepared by qualified biologists, and specify requirements relative to the baseline assessments.
- OSC1.4 **Habitat Enhancement.** Require new development to minimize the disturbance of natural habitats and vegetation, and requires revegetation of disturbed natural habitat areas with native or non-invasive naturalized species.
- OSC1.5 **Invasive, Non-Native Plant Species.** Avoid the use of invasive, non-native species, as identified on the lists of invasive plants maintained at the California Invasive Plant Inventory and United States Department of Agriculture invasive and noxious weeds database, or other authoritative sources, in landscaping on public property.
- OSC1.6 **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and Flood Management Project.** Continue to support and participate in Federal and State efforts related to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and flood management project. Provide public access to the Bay for scenic enjoyment and recreation opportunities as well as conservation education opportunities related to the open Bay, the sloughs, and the marshes.
- OSC1.7 **San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority.** Continue efforts through San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority to enhance the value of the

creek as a community amenity for trails and open space, conservation and educational opportunities.

- OSC1.8 **Regional Open Space Preservation Efforts.** Support regional and sub-regional efforts to acquire, develop and maintain open space conservation lands.
- OSC1.9 **Federal, State and County Open Space and Conservation Programs.** Make maximum use of Federal, State and county programs wherever possible in all matters concerned with open space and conservation.
- OSC1.10 **Public Education and Stewardship.** Promote public education, environmental programs, and stewardship of open space and natural resources conservation.
- OSC1.11 **Sustainable Landscape Practices.** Encourage the enhancement of boulevards, plazas and other urban open spaces in high-density and mixed-use residential developments, commercial and industrial areas with landscaping practices that minimize water usage.
- OSC1.12 **Landscaping and Plazas.** Include landscaping and plazas on public and private lands, and well-designed pedestrian and bicycle facilities in areas of intensive non-vehicular activity. Require landscaping for shade, surface runoff, or to obscure parked cars in extensive parking areas.
- OSC1.13 **Yard and Open Space Requirements in New Development.** Ensure that required yard and open spaces are provided for as part of new multi-family residential, mixed-use, commercial and industrial development.
- OSC1.14 **Protection of Conservation and Scenic Areas.** Protect conservation and scenic areas from deterioration or destruction by vandalism, private actions or public actions.
- OSC1.15 **Heritage Trees.** Protect Heritage Trees, including during construction activities through enforcement of the Heritage Tree Ordinance (Chapter 13.24 of the Municipal Code).
- OSC1.16 **Visual Amenities in Public Improvements.** Require that all public improvements to facilities, such as streets, civic structures and major municipal projects, recognize the need for visual amenities such as landscaping, public plazas, public art, and pedestrian and bicycle access.



### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC1.A **Provide Incentives for Maintaining Private Lands in Open Space.** Establish programs to provide incentives for maintaining private lands in open space and for insuring open areas within future developments through programs including but not limited, to cluster development, acquisition of a permanent open space easement, and/or transfer of development rights.
- OSC1.B **Continue Subdivision Assessments.** Continue subdivision assessments for parks and open space purposes consistent with the Subdivision Ordinance.
- OSC1.C **Promote Environmental Stewardship.** Promote public education, environmental programs and stewardship of natural resources and open space preservation within the City.

### ***Goal OSC2***

## **PROVIDE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**



### ***Policies***

- OSC2.1 **Open Space for Recreation Use.** Provide open space lands for a variety of recreation opportunities, make improvements, construct facilities and maintain programs that incorporate sustainable practices that promote healthy living and quality of life.
- OSC2.2 **Planning for Residential Recreational Needs.** Work with residential developers to ensure that parks and recreational facilities planned to serve new development will be available concurrently with need.
- OSC2.3 **Recreation Requirements for New Development.** Require dedication of improved land, or payment of fee in lieu of, for park and recreation land for all residential uses.

- OSC2.4 **Parkland Standards.** Strive to maintain the standard of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.
- OSC2.5 **Schools for Recreational Use.** Coordinate with the local school districts to continue to operate school sites for local recreation purposes.
- OSC2.6 **Pedestrian and Bicycle Paths.** Develop pedestrian and bicycle paths consistent with the recommendations of local and regional trail and bicycle route projects, including the Bay Trail.
- OSC2.7 **Conservation of Resources at City Facilities.** Reduce consumption of water, energy, landfilled waste, and fossil fuels in the construction, operations and maintenance of City owned and/or operated facilities.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC2.A **Support Regional Open Space, Conservation and Recreational Efforts.** Coordinate with Mid-Peninsula Regional Park District, San Mateo County and other regional open space and conservation measures to ensure recreational opportunities at existing and future parks and trails.
- OSC2.B **Evaluate Recreational Needs.** Evaluate park facilities on a regular basis for their overall function and ability to meet recreational needs. Provide new amenities as needed and based on financial resources to support changing needs of the population and recreational trends.

## ***Goal OSC3***

### **PROTECT AND ENHANCE HISTORIC RESOURCES**

#### ***Policies***

- OSC3.1 **Prehistoric or Historic Cultural Resources Investigation and Preservation.** Preserve historical and cultural resources to the maximum extent practical.
- OSC3.2 **Prehistoric or Historic Cultural Resources Protection.** Require significant historic or prehistoric artifacts be examined by a qualified consulting archaeologist or historian for appropriate protection and preservation, and to ensure compliance with local, State and Federal regulations.
- OSC3.3 **Archaeological or Paleontological Resources Protection.** Protect prehistoric or historic cultural resources either on site or through appropriate documentation as a condition of removal. Require that when a development

project has sufficient flexibility, avoidance and preservation of the resource shall be the primary mitigation measure, unless the City identifies superior mitigation. If resources are documented, undertake coordination with descendants and/or stakeholder groups, as warranted.

- OSC3.4 **Prehistoric or Historic Cultural Resources Found During Construction.** Require that if cultural resources, including archaeological or paleontological resources, are uncovered during grading or other on-site excavation activities, construction shall stop until appropriate mitigation is implemented.
- OSC3.5 **Consultation with Native American Tribes.** Consult with those Native American tribes with ancestral ties to the Menlo Park city limits regarding General Plan Amendments and land use policy changes.
- OSC3.6 **Identification of Potential Historic Resources.** Identify historic resources for the historic district in the Zoning Ordinance and require design review of proposals affecting historic buildings.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC3.A **Evaluate Historic Resources Around the Downtown Specific Plan Area.** Hire a cultural resources professional to conduct a Historic Resources Survey of potential infill sites around the Downtown Specific Plan to determine whether the designated infill housing sites, or adjacent lots, contain buildings eligible to the California Register and/or the historic zoning designation.
- OSC3.B **Support a Study of Cultural Resources on the Veterans Affairs' Clinic Site.** Work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure study and protection of cultural resources through oversight by a cultural resource professional of any proposed development on the vacant portion of the Veterans Affairs' Clinic site.

## ***Goal OSC4***

### **PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING**

#### ***Policies***

- OSC4.1 **Sustainable Approach to Land Use Planning to Reduce Resource Consumption.** Encourage, to the extent feasible, (1) a balance and match between jobs and housing, (2) higher density residential and mixed-use development to be located adjacent to commercial centers and transit corridors, and (3) retail and office areas to be located within walking and biking distance of transit or existing and proposed residential developments.

- OSC4.2 **Sustainable Building.** Promote and/or establish environmentally sustainable building practices or standards in new development that would conserve water and energy, prevent stormwater pollution, reduce landfilled waste, and reduce fossil fuel consumption from transportation and energy activities.
- OSC4.3 **Renewable Energy.** Promote the installation of renewable energy technology, such as, on residences and businesses through education, social marketing methods, establishing standards and/or providing incentives.
- OSC4.4 **Vehicles Using Alternative Fuel.** Explore the potential for installing infrastructure for vehicles that use alternative fuel, such as electric plug in recharging stations.
- OSC4.5 **Energy Standards in Residential and Commercial Construction.** Encourage projects to achieve a high level of energy conservation exceeding standards set forth in the California Energy Code for Residential and Commercial development.
- OSC4.6 **Waste Reduction Target.** Strive to meet the California State Integrated Waste Management Board per person target of waste generation per person per day through their source reduction, reuse, and recycling programs.
- OSC4.7 **Waste Management Collaboration.** Continue to support and participate in efforts such as the South Bayside Waste Management Authority, which provides waste reduction, recycling, and solid waste programs and solutions.
- OSC4.8 **Waste Diversion.** Develop and implement a zero waste policy, or implement standards, incentives, or other programs that would lead the community towards a zero waste goal.
- OSC4.9 **Climate Action Planning.** Undertake annual review and updates, as needed, to the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP).
- OSC4.10 **Energy Upgrade California.** Consider actively marketing and providing additional incentives for residents and businesses to participate in local, State, and/or Federal renewable or energy conservation programs.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC4.A **Develop a Residential Energy Efficiency Program.** Develop an energy efficiency/renewable energy program or policy for the residential and commercial sectors through education, social marketing methods, standards and/or incentive

programs to the degree feasible.

- OSC4.B **Monitor the City's Climate Action Plan.** Establish a Climate Action Plan monitoring and progress reporting program.
- OSC4.C **Expand the Green Business Program.** Expand Green Business Certification Program/Include Green Business education to new business permit applicants.
- OSC4.D **Promote Local Food Production.** Develop a promotion and education program to encourage local and/or organic food production, including community gardens.

### *Goal OSC5*

## ENSURE HEALTHY AIR AND WATER QUALITY

### ***Policies***

- OSC5.1 **Air and Water Quality Standards.** Continue to apply standards and policies established by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program (SMCWPPP), and City of Menlo Park Climate Action Plan through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and other means as applicable.
- OSC5.2 **Development in Industrial Areas.** Evaluate development projects in industrial areas for impacts to air and water resources in relation to truck traffic, hazardous materials use and production-level manufacturing per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and require measures to mitigate potential impacts to less than significant levels.
- OSC5.3 **Water Conservation.** Encourage water-conserving practices in businesses, homes and institutions.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC5.A **Expand Water Conservation Programs.** Expand the Menlo Park Municipal Water District's conservation programs through education, social marketing methods, establishing standards, and providing incentives.

## Section III

# Noise Goals, Policies and Programs

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## **A** The Importance of Noise Attenuation



The purpose of the Noise Element is to appraise existing noise problems in the community and to provide guidance to the community and developers for avoiding problems in the future. It also can provide the basis for code enforcement and other regulations, including implementation of the City's Noise Ordinance to control nuisance noise.

Noise is part of everyday life in a community and is generally defined as unwanted sound. Whether a sound is unwanted depends on when and where it occurs, what the listener is doing when it occurs, characteristics of the sound (loudness, pitch and duration, speech or music content, irregularity), and how intrusive it is above background sound levels. Acceptable levels of noise vary from land use to land use. Also, in any one location, the noise level will vary over time, from the lowest background or ambient levels to that of passing airplanes or construction equipment. Various techniques have been developed that measure the effects of noise levels over a period of time.

It is difficult to specify noise levels that are generally acceptable to everyone. What is annoying to one person may be unnoticed by another. Standards may be based on documented complaint activity in response to noise levels, or based on studies on the ability of people to sleep, talk, or work under various noise conditions. All such studies, however, recognize that individual responses vary considerably. Standards usually address the needs of most of the general population. With this caution in mind, noise standards for planning purposes need to examine outdoor and indoor noise levels acceptable for different uses. The standards must relate to existing conditions in the City so that they are realistically enforceable and consistent with other General Plan policies.

## B Noise Goal



### Goal N1 — ACHIEVE ACCEPTABLE NOISE LEVELS

**It is the goal of Menlo Park to have acceptable noise levels.**

*Excessive noise is a concern for many residents of Menlo Park. These concerns can be managed with proper mitigation or through the implementation of the City's noise ordinance. The City of Menlo Park recognizes the issue of noise and has standards to protect the peace, health and safety of residents and the community from unreasonable noise from any and all sources in the community and to strive to locate uses compatible to the area to minimize escalation of noise from mobile and stationary sources.*

## C Noise Policies and Implementing Programs

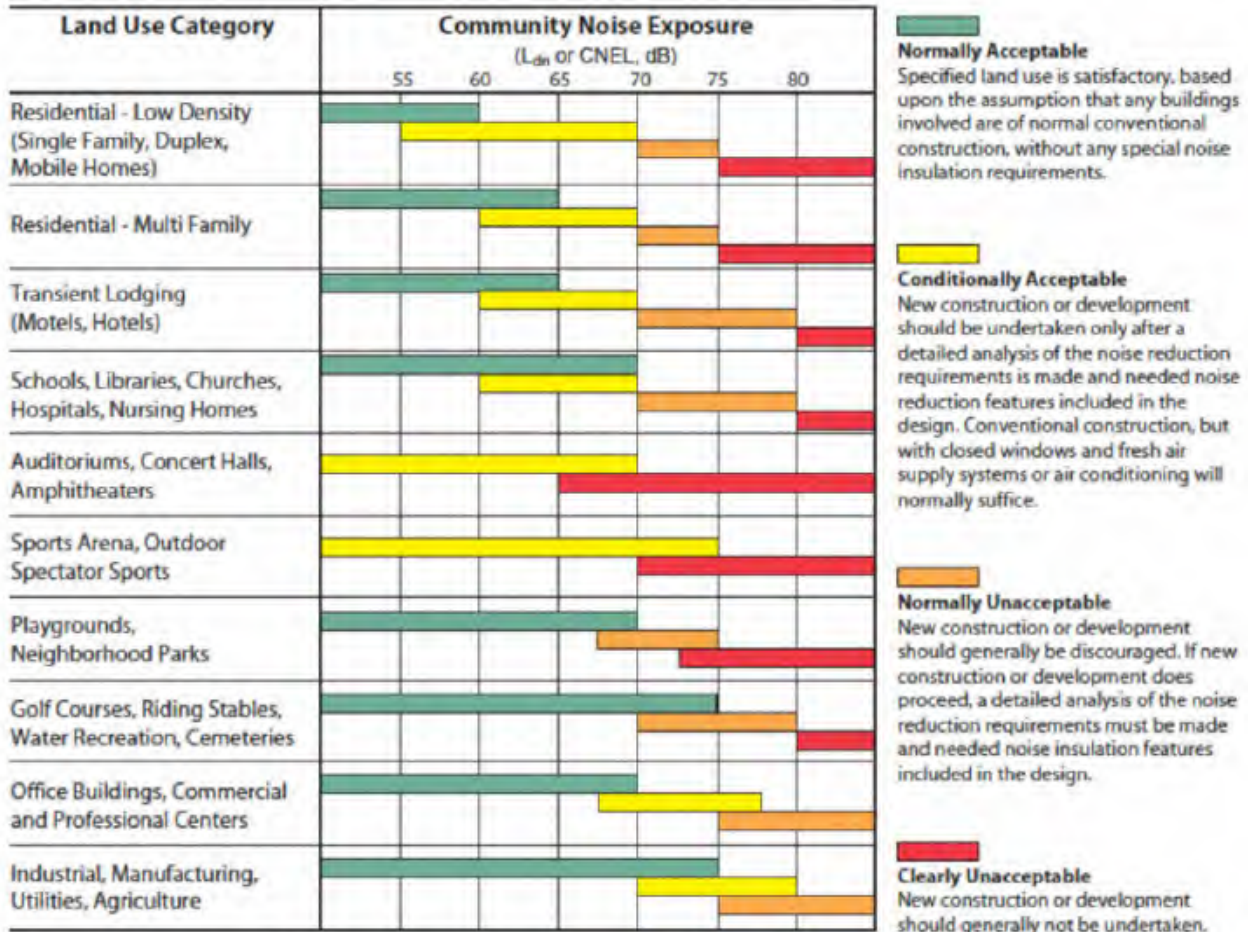
### Goal N1

### ACHIEVE ACCEPTABLE NOISE LEVELS

#### **Policies**

- N1.1 **Compliance with Noise Standards.** Consider the compatibility of proposed land uses with the noise environment when preparing or revising community and/or specific plans. Require new projects to comply with the noise standards of local, regional, and building code regulations, including but not limited to the City's Municipal Code, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, and subdivision and zoning codes.
- N1.2 **Land Use Compatibility Noise Standards.** Protect people in new development from excessive noise by applying the City's Land Use Compatibility Noise Standards for New Development (see chart on the next page) to the siting and required mitigation for new uses in existing noise environments.

### Land Use Compatibility Noise Standards for New Development



**N1.3 Exterior and Interior Noise Standards for Residential Use Areas.** Strive to achieve acceptable interior noise levels and exterior noise levels for backyards and/or common usable outdoor areas in new residential development, and reduce outdoor noise levels in existing residential areas where economically and aesthetically feasible.

**N1.4 Noise Sensitive Uses.** Protect existing residential neighborhoods and noise sensitive uses from unacceptable noise levels and vibration impacts. Noise sensitive uses include, but are not limited to, hospitals, schools, religious facilities, convalescent homes and businesses with highly sensitive equipment. Discourage the siting of noise-sensitive uses in areas in excess of 65 dBA CNEL without appropriate mitigation and locate noise sensitive uses away from noise sources unless mitigation measures are included in development plans.

**N1.5 Planning and Design of New Development to Reduce Noise Impacts.** Design residential developments to minimize the transportation-related noise



impacts to adjacent residential areas and encourage new development to be site planned and architecturally designed to minimize noise impacts on noise-sensitive spaces. Proper site planning can be effective in reducing noise impacts.

- N1.6 **Noise Reduction Measures.** Encourage the use of construction methods, state-of-the-art noise abating materials and technology and creative site design including, but not limited to, open space, earthen berms, parking, accessory buildings, and landscaping to buffer new and existing development from noise and to reduce potential conflicts between ambient noise levels and noise-sensitive land uses. Use sound walls only when other methods are not practical or when recommended by an acoustical expert.
- N1.7 **Noise and Vibration from New Non-Residential Development.** Design non-residential development to minimize noise impacts on nearby uses. Where vibration impacts may occur, reduce impacts on residences and businesses through the use of setbacks and/or structural design features that reduce vibration to levels at or below the guidelines of the Federal Transit Administration near rail lines and industrial uses.
- N1.8 **Potential Annoying or Harmful Noise.** Preclude the generation of annoying or harmful noise on stationary noise sources, such as construction and property maintenance activity and mechanical equipment.
- N1.9 **Transportation Related Noise Attenuation.** Strive to minimize traffic noise through land use policies, traffic-calming methods to reduce traffic speed, law enforcement and street improvements, and encourage other agencies to reduce noise levels generated by roadways, railways, rapid transit, and other facilities.
- N1.10 **Nuisance Noise.** Minimize impacts from noise levels that exceed community sound levels through enforcement of the City's Noise Ordinance. Control unnecessary, excessive and annoying noises within the City where not preempted by Federal and State control through implementation and updating of the Noise Ordinance.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- N1.A **Require Acoustical Studies.** Require acoustical studies for all new multi-family residential projects within the projected Ldn 60 dB noise contours so that noise mitigation measures can be incorporated into project design and site planning.

- N1.B **Reduce Existing Vehicular Noise Through Enforcement.** Actively enforce the provisions of the California Motor Vehicle Code pertaining to vehicle speed and noise emission.
- N1.C **Consider Noise Impacts in Street Design.** Employ noise mitigation practices and materials, as necessary, when designing future streets and when improvements occur along existing road segments. Mitigation measures should consider quieter pavements and emphasize the establishment of natural buffers or setbacks between the arterial roadways and adjoining noise-sensitive areas. Strive to maintain smooth street surfaces adjacent to land uses that are sensitive to noise intrusion.
- N1.D **Minimize Construction Activity Noise.** Minimize the exposure of nearby properties to excessive noise levels from construction-related activity through CEQA review, conditions of approval and enforcement of the City's Noise Ordinance.
- N1.E **Consider Noise Levels in City Equipment Purchases.** Include noise specifications in requests for equipment information and bids for new City equipment and consider this information as part of evaluation of the bids. The City of Menlo Park should consider noise emission when purchasing vehicles, construction equipment, etc. This consideration should be balanced with the required performance and cost.
- N1.F **Work with Other Agencies to Reduce Transportation-Related Noise Levels.** Work closely with Caltrans, San Mateo County Department of Public Works and other jurisdictions to reduce noise levels along State highways and county roadways through or near the City.
- N1.G **Monitor Airport Noise.** Engage airport authorities and participate in regional planning efforts to ensure future activities and flight patterns at commercial airports do not negatively impact noise levels in the city.
- N1.H **Work with Railroad Operators to Reduce Noise and Vibration Levels.** Work with the railroad operators (e.g, Caltrain, Union Pacific, etc.) to reduce, to the extent possible, the contribution of railroad train noise and vibration to Menlo Park's noise environment.
- N1.I **Work with Neighboring Communities When Implementing Noise Policies and Programs.** Work with neighboring communities to ensure compliance with the land use and noise compatibility policies contained in this Noise Element at Menlo Park's boundaries.
- N1.J **Evaluate Noise Related Impacts of City Actions as Appropriate.** Analyze in detail the potential noise impacts of any actions that the City may take or act upon which could significantly alter noise level in the community.

## Section IV

# Safety Goals, Policies and Programs

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## **A** Overview of Safety Considerations

The Safety Element provides a framework for planning for and responding to potential hazards in the city. The purpose of the Safety Element is to identify and appraise risks in the community and provide high-level strategies for mitigating risks and ensuring the wellness of the community, city services, and infrastructure. The Safety Element focuses on protection of the community from hazards associated with climate change, earthquakes, floods, fires, toxic waste, and other hazards. In addition, issues such as disaster preparedness and residential areas without two emergency evacuation routes are addressed.

Some level of risk associated with these factors is unavoidable; the Safety Element is the means by which the City defines what measures will be undertaken to reduce these risks. The extent of a hazard depends on local conditions since most hazards are confined to a particular area or site. Various health and safety hazards should be considered in planning the location, design, intensity, density, and type of land uses in a given area. Long-term costs to the City, such as maintenance, liability exposure, and emergency services are potentially greater where high hazards exist.

The Safety Element of the General Plan is aimed at reducing potential risk of death, injuries, damage to property, and the economic and social disruptions resulting from fire, flood, geologic and other hazards. The General Plan provides policies and standards for the type, location, intensity, and design of development in areas of potential hazards. The intent is not to remove all risks associated with each specific type of hazard, but to reduce risks to life and property and to make informed decisions about land use and development near these hazards. A safety element is required to identify unreasonable risks and provide policies for the protection of the community from such risks.<sup>1</sup> The traditional risks entailed are slope instability, seismic risks, flooding, and fire. More recently, after the passage of SB 379 (2015), climate change risks are required for consideration.

The Safety Element is supported by San Mateo County's Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP), the City of Menlo Park's 2030 CAP, San Mateo County's 2015 Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), and anticipated sea level rise planning as required by SB 272 (2023). These resources are subsequently discussed in the

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<sup>1</sup> Gov. Code § 65302(g)(1)

“Relationship to Other Plans” section. The MJLHMP provides several of the required maps for the Safety Element.

## **B** Safety Goal

### GOAL S1 — ASSURE A SAFE COMMUNITY

Minimize risk to life and damage to the environment and property from natural and human-caused hazards, and assure community emergency and disaster preparedness and a high level of public safety services and facilities.

## **C** Safety Policies and Implementing Programs

### Goal S1

#### ASSURE A SAFE COMMUNITY

##### **Policies**

##### *General Safety Policies*

- S1.1 **Location of Future Development.** Permit development only in those areas where potential danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the community can be adequately mitigated.
- S1.2 **Location of Public Improvements.** Avoid locating public improvements and utilities in areas with identified flood, geologic and/or soil hazards to avoid any extraordinary maintenance and operating expenses. When the location of public improvements and utilities in such areas cannot be avoided, assure that effective mitigation measures will be implemented.
- S1.3 **Hazard Data and Standards.** Integrate hazard data (flood, earthquake, sea level rise, etc.) and risk evaluations into the development review process and maintain, develop and adopt up-to-date FEMA standards to reduce the level of risk from natural and human-caused hazards for all land uses.
- S1.4 **Inter-Jurisdictional Cooperation.** Continue to improve inter-jurisdictional cooperation with regard to public safety concerns related to natural hazard disaster response and mitigation.
- S1.5 **New Habitable Structures.** Require that all new habitable structures

incorporate adequate hazard mitigation measures to reduce identified risks from natural and human-caused hazards.

- S1.6 **Design and Location of Utilities.** Monitor appropriate location, design, construction, maintenance, and inspection standards for utility systems traversing hazard areas within the City limits. This would include evaluating and upgrading outdated systems and infrastructure, integrating green infrastructure as much as practical, coordinating with the State Public Utilities Commission, and locating new utility systems away from potential hazard areas.
- S1.7 **Hazard Reduction.** Continue to require new development to reduce the seismic vulnerability of buildings and susceptibility to other hazards through enforcement of the California Building Standards Code and other programs.
- S1.8 **Safety Element Updates.** Review and comprehensively revise the Safety Element whenever there is a change in relevant state law and/or new standards reflecting new scientific data or evidence related to prevention of natural and human hazards becomes available. Coordinate revisions with countywide planning efforts, other General Plan elements, and City emergency plans.
- S1.9 **Community Safety Services and Facilities.** In coordination with other agencies, maintain adequate and cost-effective levels of safety services, facilities, and programs to address safety concerns in Menlo Park.
- S1.10 **Safety Review of Development Projects.** Continue to require hazard mitigation, fire prevention, and adequate access for emergency vehicles in new development.
- S1.11 **Visibility and Access to Address Safety Concerns.** Require that development be designed to permit maximum visibility and access to law enforcement, ambulance, and fire control vehicles consistent with privacy and other design considerations.
- S1.12 **Provide a Safe Transportation System.** Aligning with Circulation Element policies CIRC-1.1 through CIRC-1.9, provide and maintain a safe circulation system that promotes a healthy, safe, and active community throughout Menlo Park.
- S1.13 **Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Funding.** Identify ways to maximize opportunities to secure federal funding for mitigation and

disaster recovery projects. This could include inter-jurisdictional cooperation (S1.4).

#### Geologic and Seismic Safety Policies

- S1.14 **Geotechnical Studies.** Continue to require site-specific geologic and geotechnical studies for land development or construction in areas of potential land instability as shown on the State and/or local geologic hazard maps or identified through other means.
- S1.15 **Potential Land Instability.** Prohibit development in areas of potential land instability identified on State and/or local geologic hazard maps, or identified through other means, unless a geologic investigation demonstrates hazards can be mitigated to an acceptable level as defined by the State of California, consistent with any applicable State and local standard and requirement.
- S1.16 **Funding Earthquake Resistance Improvements.** Support State and Federal financial assistance or tax incentive programs to encourage repair, demolition or abatement of earthquake hazardous structures.

#### Hazardous Materials Policies

- S1.17 **Hazardous Materials Regulations.** Review and strengthen, if necessary, regulations for the structural design and/or uses involving hazardous materials to minimize risk to local populations. Enforce compliance with current State and local requirements for the manufacturing, use, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials, and the designation of appropriate truck routes in Menlo Park.
- S1.18 **Potential Exposure of New Residential Development to Hazardous Materials.** Minimize risk associated with hazardous materials by assessing exposure to hazardous materials of new residential development and sensitive populations near existing industrial and manufacturing areas.
- S1.19 **Potential Hazardous Materials Conditions Investigation.** Continue to require developers to conduct an investigation of soils, groundwater, and buildings affected by hazardous materials potentially released from prior land uses in areas historically used for commercial or industrial uses, and identify and implement mitigation measures to avoid adversely affecting the environment or the health and safety of residents or new uses.
- S1.20 **Disposal of Existing Hazardous Materials on Sites Planned for Housing.** Continue to require that sites planned for housing be cleared of

hazardous materials (e.g., paint, solvents, chlorine) and the hazardous materials disposed in compliance with State, county, and Federal laws.

- S1.21 **Pipeline Safety.** Require, to the extent practical, that new pipelines and other channels carrying hazardous materials be placed to avoid residential areas and, in particular, areas where the population is less mobile.

#### Sea Level Rise and Flood Hazard Management Policies

- S1.22 **Flood and Tsunami Hazard Planning and Mapping.** Consider the threat of flooding and tsunamis in planning and management practices to minimize risk to life, environment, and property, and maintain tsunami hazard zones maps and flood maps as new information is provided by FEMA and other regional agencies. Permit only uses and development where damage and impacts to health and safety can be minimized in the event of inundation.

- S1.23 **Flood Damage Prevention.** Continue to apply standards for any construction projects (new structures and existing structures proposed for substantial improvement) in areas of special flood hazard in accordance with FEMA and the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, including the use of flood-resistant construction materials and construction methods that minimize flood damage. To the extent practicable, locate new essential public facilities outside of flood zones, such as City operations facilities, police and fire stations, and hospitals, unless risks are minimized.

- S1.24 **Potential Dam Inundation.** Consider potential risks from dam inundation in the development approval process.

- S1.25 **Dam Safety.** Support programs by the California Division of Safety of Dams to retrofit or replace dams or to increase earthquake resistance of dams and mitigate impacts of dam failures. State efforts to inspect dams and evaluate dam safety requirements shall also be supported.

- S1.26 **Creeks and Drainage-ways.** Minimize undue erosion of creek banks. Protect creek-side habitat by limiting development within 50 feet of the creek bank and provide maintenance access along creeks where appropriate and consistent with State law.

- S1.27 **Erosion and Sediment Control.** Continue to require the use of best management practices for erosion and sediment control measures with proposed development in compliance with applicable regional regulations.

- S1.28 **Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Requirements.** Enforce stormwater pollution prevention practices and appropriate watershed management plans in the RWQCB general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements, the San Mateo County Water Pollution Prevention Program, and the City's Stormwater Management Program. Revise, as necessary, City plans so they integrate water quality and watershed protection with water supply, flood management, habitat protection, groundwater recharge, and other sustainable development principles and policies.
- S1.29 **Sea Level Rise and Flood Protection.** Collaborate in regional sea level rise planning and consider sea level rise in siting new facilities or residences. Ensure that new development, substantial retrofits, critical facilities, City-owned buildings, and existing and future flood management infrastructures are planned and designed to accommodate climate change hazards, including increases in flooding, sea level rise, and rising groundwater, based on the best available science.

*Fire Safety Policies*

- S1.30 **Fire Equipment and Personnel Access.** Require adequate access and clearance, to the maximum extent practical, for fire equipment, fire suppression personnel, and evacuation for high occupancy structures in coordination with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.
- S1.31 **Coordination with the Menlo Park Fire District.** Encourage City-Fire District coordination in the planning process and require, where appropriate, development applications to be reviewed by the Menlo Park Fire Protection District prior to project approval by the City.
- S1.32 **Fire Resistant Design.** Encourage new homes to incorporate fire resistant design and strategies such as the use of fire-resistant materials and landscaping, and creating defensible space (e.g., areas free of highly flammable vegetation).

*Public Safety and Emergency Response Policies*

- S1.33 **Location of Critical Facilities.** Locate critical facilities (e.g., hospitals, schools, Emergency Operations Center (E.O.C.)) to minimize impacts from hazards.



- S1.34 **Continued Functioning of Utilities and Critical Use Facilities (Essential Service Buildings).** Encourage local public utilities and service providers to locate and design facilities and systems to ensure continued service in emergency conditions. Maintain structural and operational integrity of essential public facilities during flooding and other emergency conditions.
- S1.35 **Disaster Preparedness Planning.** Ensure disaster preparedness in cooperation with other public agencies and appropriate public-interest organizations. Encourage and support residents to organize in volunteer response groups and collaborate with all related Public Safety Agencies for a coordinated response. Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park’s Underserved Communities.
- S1.36 **Community Preparedness.** Embrace FEMA’s Whole Community approach by encouraging improved safety programs for schools, institutions, and industries to promote greater public awareness of all types of hazards and appropriate responses and support the San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management’s efforts for countywide preparedness, response and protection services and activities for large-scale incidents and disasters.
- S1.37 **Emergency Notification System.** Continue to support and improve on the Emergency Notification System for disaster information release in emergencies. Maintain official communication updates to the City website and communication outlets (e.g., SMC Alerts and social media channels).
- S1.38 **Emergency Connectors and Evacuation Routes.** Maintain a system of emergency connectors and evacuation routes as part of the City’s disaster planning.
- S1.39 **Emergency Vehicle Access.** Require that all private roads be designed to allow access for emergency vehicles as a prerequisite to the granting of permits and approvals for construction.
- S1.40 **Public Health.** Collaborate with county health services (and other health services as appropriate) on communication and mitigation/adaptation strategies during public health crises, such as communicable and infectious diseases.
- S1.41 **Heat Adaptation.** Support strategies to help reduce the heat island effect and minimize its effect on the Menlo Park community.

## ***Implementing Programs***

### *General Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.A **Link the City’s Housing and Safety Elements.** Continue to review and revise the Safety Element, as necessary, concurrently with updates to the General Plan Housing Element in response to new state guidance on new data or evidence related to prevention of natural and human hazards become available.
- S1.B **Maintain Up-to-Date Hazard Maps and Databases.** Maintain databases and maps of geologic and other hazards to identify areas prone to hazards for planning purposes on an on-going basis concurrently with updates to the General Plan Housing Element.
- S1.C **Review Building Code Updates.** Continue to review State Building Code updates and incorporate local amendments as appropriate to require that new construction be designed under the most current safety standards. The review of updates should also consider requirements for facilities housing sensitive populations.
- S1.D **Require Early Investigation of Potential Hazard Conditions.** Require that potential geologic, seismic, soils, and/or hydrologic problems confronting public or private development be thoroughly investigated at the earliest stages of the design process, and that these topics be comprehensively evaluated in the environmental review process by technical experts.
- S1.E **Modify the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances as Needed to Address Hazard Mitigation.** Modify the Zoning Ordinance as needed when new information on natural hazards becomes available, and to provide for hazard reduction measures as part of the design criteria for development review. Review the Subdivision Ordinance and modify as needed to include hazard reduction in the process of dividing land for development.
- S1.F **Work with the Public Utilities Commission.** Work with the California Public Utilities Commission to require public utilities to apply the policies in the Safety Element to the planning and operation of their facilities, and to coordinate their activities with local planning agencies.
- S1.G **Share Hazard Data with Other Agencies.** Participate in a cooperative countywide program to pool natural hazard data developed through special studies or via the project review process and continue to update and implement the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### *Geologic and Seismic Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.H **Enforce Seismic Risk Analysis and Adequate Construction Standards.** Enforce seismic risk analysis and adequate construction standards through the building permit and inspection process.

- S1.I **Review Approach to Buildings in High Seismic Risk Areas.** Continue to support the California Residential Mitigation Program's (CRMP) Earthquake Brace & Bolt program and consider establishing a program to help both residential and non-residential property owners identify if they own a building in a high seismic hazard risk area or a seismically vulnerable building, including soft-story buildings, and identify what incentives exist to encourage repair or demolition.

*Hazardous Materials Implementing Programs*

- S1.J **Require Health and Safety Plan for Hazardous Materials.** Require the preparation of health and safety plans to be used to protect the general public and all workers in construction areas from potentially hazardous materials. The plan shall describe the practices and procedures to protect worker health in the event of an accidental release of hazardous materials or if previously undiscovered hazardous materials are encountered during construction. The plan shall include items such as spill prevention, cleanup and evacuation procedures. The plan will help protect the public and workers by providing procedures and contingencies that will help reduce the exposure to hazardous materials.

- S1.K **Track Remediation Needs for Existing Known Hazardous Soils and Other Hazardous Materials.** Monitor remediation of existing known hazards, such as contaminated soils and clean-up of leaking or abandoned underground storage tanks.

*Flood Management, Tsunami and Dam Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.L **Evaluate New Community Facilities Proposed in Dam Inundation Zones.** Require that new community facilities located within dam inundation zones evaluate the potential for flooding and the impact on evacuation during the development approval process.

- S1.M **Sea Level Rise Planning.** Collaborate with other agencies to develop a sea level rise plan as part of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan that is subject to approval by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, as applicable, on or before January 1, 2034. As part of this collaboration, consider and implement OneShoreline recommendations, as appropriate, to plan for future conditions impacted by climate change including those related to sea level rise.

*Fire Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.N **Fire Sprinkler Requirements.** Work with the Fire District to evaluate whether to encourage sprinkler requirements that are beyond State minimum code.

*Public Safety and Emergency Response Implementing Programs*

- S1.O **Investigate Potential Impact of Train Derailment on Emergency Services.** Coordinate with Caltrain and Union Pacific. Expand to encompass emergency plans for all transit and paratransit operators.
- S1.P **Encourage Disaster Drills in Schools.** Coordinate with private schools in conducting disaster drills in schools, augmented with a community awareness campaign on how, when, and where young people in primary and secondary schools are to be reunited with their guardians. Coordinate with public school districts and the County as appropriate.
- S1.Q **Coordinate the General Plan with City Emergency Planning Efforts.** Implement the Safety Element with other General Plan elements and City emergency plans — the Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) and Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) — and make necessary revisions.
- S1.R **Outreach for Sensitive Populations.** Develop disaster preparedness response capabilities, recovery operations, evacuation planning, outreach, and education for sensitive populations. Engagement should include prevention, shelter-in-place, and evacuation plans. Special care should be given to engage individuals who require in-home support.
- S.1S **Public Communication.** Develop communication protocols – including a language access policy – for disseminating information to the Menlo Park community, including public-facing businesses (such as retail and restaurants) and congregative living facilities, during public health crises.
- S1.T **Public Heat Respite.** Incorporate public respite areas from heat when remodeling or developing new public buildings and open space. This could include landscaping, architectural, or design features as well as policies to allow community members into public buildings on days and nights with extreme heat (e.g., cooling centers).
- S1.U **Heat Island Minimization.** Develop street tree and landscaping policies that minimize heat islands within Menlo Park, particularly in Underserved Communities (see Figure S.13. Heat Island Effect Map).

## Background

### Section V

## Open Space/Conservation Background

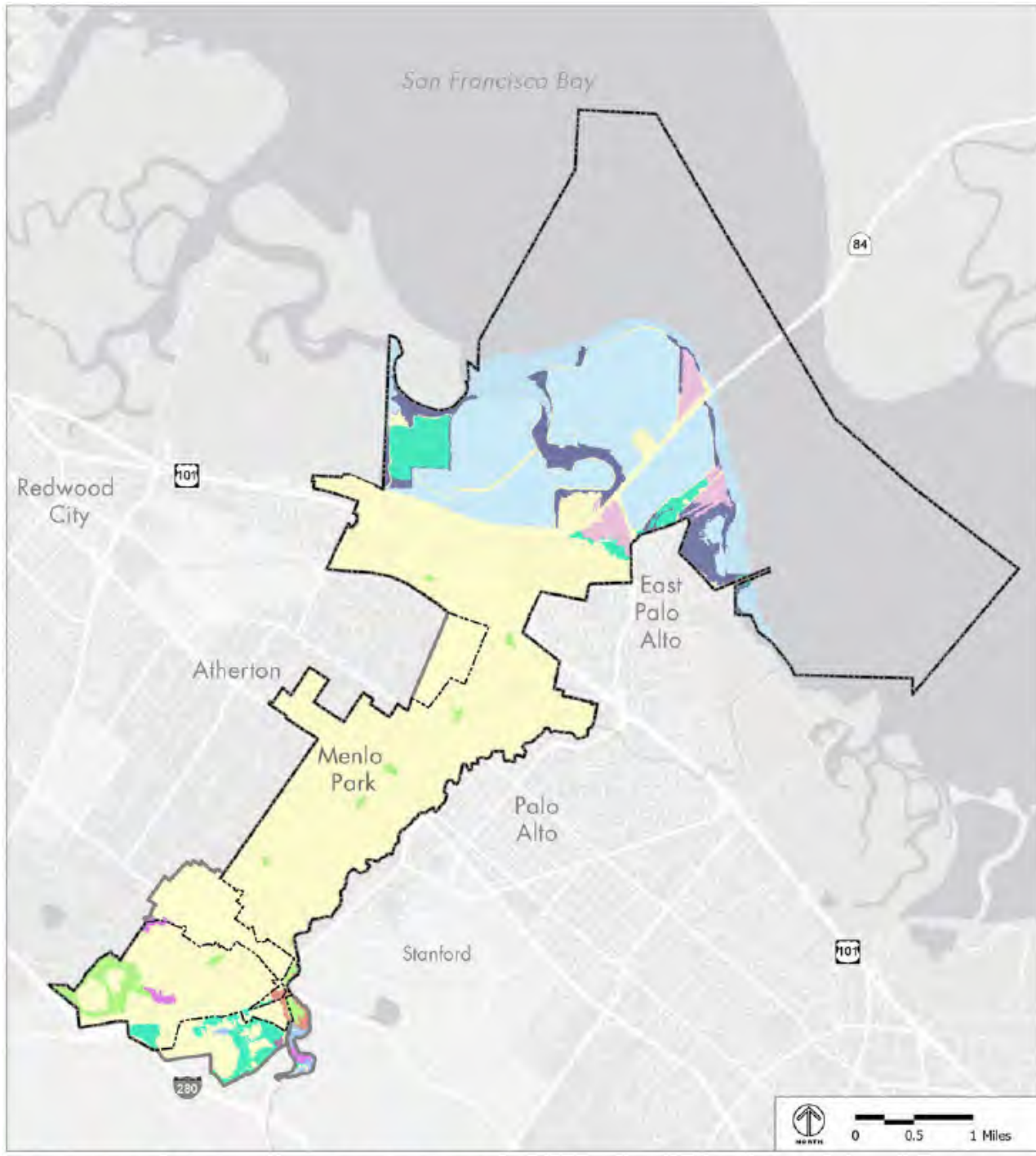
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### **A** Natural Resources

Menlo Park stretches from 326 feet above sea level in the foothills of Jasper Ridge (located outside the City limits and part of the Santa Cruz Mountains) in the west, through the flatlands in the center of the valley, to sea level at the marshes and mudflats of San Francisco Bay in the west. The City's center is relatively flat, with slopes of approximately 0.5 to 0.8 percent. The higher, hilly portion of the City is west of the street Alameda de las Pulgas. The lower, flatter portion of the City is east of Alameda de las Pulgas. Topography helps to define several sub-areas of the City from a natural resources standpoint, as follows:

- (1) **Eastern.** The eastern edge of the City, east of U.S. 101 to the Bay, consists of near-sea-level elevation flat land roughly 4 to 10 feet above sea level. This area is comprised of coastal salt marshes, mudflats, as well as urbanized land or baylands.
- (2) **Central.** Central Menlo Park, lying west of U.S. 101 and east of Alameda de las Pulgas, is gently sloping from roughly 20 feet above sea level to 130 feet above sea level, and consists mostly of flat, urbanized area. The southern border of central Menlo Park is flanked by the San Francisquito Creek riparian canopy and channel.
- (3) **Western.** The far western side of Menlo Park, located from the western edge of Alameda de las Pulgas to City limits, is roughly 130 to 300 feet above sea level and consists of the hilly grasslands below Jasper Ridge, which have been partially urbanized.

The natural community types in Menlo Park are defined by a combination of dominant plant community characteristics, landform, land use and ecological function. They include the Coastal Salt Marsh and Salt Ponds; Tidal Mudflats; San Francisquito Creek; Oak Woodlands; and Grasslands. Existing vegetation in Menlo Park is shown on the map on the next page.



Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2012; ESRI 2010; USDE Forest Service, March 2007.

- |  |                          |             |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|
| California Bay                                 | Riparian Mixed Hardwoods | City Limits |
| Annual Grasses and Forbs                       | Tule - Cattail           |             |
| Coast Live Oak                                 | Urban                    |             |
| Non-Native/Ornamental Conifer/Hardwood Mixture | Valley Oak               |             |
| Non-Native/Ornamental Grass                    | Water                    |             |
| Pickleweed - Cordgrass                         |                          |             |

**Existing Vegetation**

## Description of Natural Resources Types

### Coastal Salt Marsh and Salt Ponds

Salt ponds and marshes once covered the edges of Bay, including the baylands in Menlo Park. In 1850, the conversion of these marshes through diking and filling began, and by 1969, just 75 square miles remained throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Menlo Park has large, intact marshes within its borders. Ravenswood Slough, Westpoint Slough, and Flood Point Slough contribute to the approximately 2,300 acres of tidal mudflats and 300 acres of salt marsh of the City.



These salt and brackish water marshes that border the Bay are a part of the Don Edwards Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and are associated with the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. Most of the salt ponds and marshes in or near Menlo Park have been (or will be) restored to or are retained in their natural state.

Coastal salt marshes are closely associated with tidal action and are characterized by sloughs (marshy creeks). These habitats are dominated by native species such as pickleweed and edged by cordgrass and salt grass. Coastal salt marshes are high biodiversity wildlife habitats, and are associated with a wide variety of native shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, waterfowl, fish, and crustaceans. Special status species are not uncommon in San Francisco Bay Area salt marshes.

### Tidal Mudflats

Tidal mudflats consist of unvegetated mud deposits along the shoreline that are regularly inundated and exposed by the tides of the Bay waters. These mudflats provide a habitat for a wide variety of crabs, snails, sea squirts, clams, mussels, and tubeworms. These species offer a rich feeding ground of macro-invertebrates to tens of thousands of migratory and resident shorebirds that travel from as far as Canada and Alaska. At higher tides, large marine species such as leopard sharks, starry flounder, and bat rays feed on these same macro-invertebrates. Migratory birds are an example of the special status species found in this habitat.

### San Francisquito Creek

In the urbanized portion of Menlo Park, San Francisquito Creek is the main creek. It originates west of Menlo Park just below Searsville Lake in Jasper Ridge, defines the southern border of Menlo Park for roughly three miles from the intersection of Alpine Road and Junipero Serra Boulevard, until it reaches Euclid Avenue near U.S. 101, then turns eastward and empties into the bay from within the borders of East Palo Alto. San

Francisquito Creek flows through Menlo Park largely in its natural alignment where it forms the southern boundary of the Menlo Park City limits.

Riparian vegetation around San Francisquito Creek spans a 25-75 meter-wide space, depending on adjacent land use and topography, and its canopy consists primarily of native trees—willow, bay laurels, redwoods, alders, cottonwoods, California buckeye, valley oaks, and coast live oaks. San Francisquito Creek shrub vegetation commonly consists of native species such as blackberry, and poison oak. In the urbanized lower reaches of the creek, non-native exotics such as eucalyptus, black locust, acacia, bamboo, pines, and redwoods are mixed in with the native plant species.

Riparian habitats, even in heavily urbanized areas, are very valuable to wildlife, providing food, water, and shelter in one location. Riparian habitat is associated with a wide variety of native resident and migratory songbirds, raptors, rodents, bats, and other mammals, as well as fish and amphibians. Urban creeks, such as San Francisquito that have preserved canopies and/or understories, are usually the most species rich, and some of these species are under special protections.

### **Oak Woodlands**

Mature oaks provide nesting and foraging opportunities for birds, including raptors. They also provide essential food resources for animals that include acorns in their diet, such as squirrels and woodpeckers. Other wildlife species that commonly nest or den in woodland habitat include mammals such as woodrats and deer mice, and birds such as owls, raptors, and songbirds. Native reptiles and amphibians associated with this habitat include snakes, newts, and salamanders. Contiguous oak woodlands with mature trees are relatively biodiverse and species rich, and some species found in these habitats are under special protections.

### **Grasslands**

The foothills of Menlo Park are located on the City's western border and are dominated by common non-native annual grasses. Portions of this area have been developed for housing and related uses, while another portion of these foothills, owned by Stanford University, have been preserved as open space. Plant species include wild oats, Italian ryegrass, foxtail barley, yellow star thistle, field bindweed, prickly lettuce, prickly ox-tongue, and field mustard. The grasslands are also dotted with taller trees and shrubs, including native California species such as coyote bush, toyon, valley oak, and coast live oak. Adult, large circumference non-native trees, such as black walnut, red gum, and acacia, are also present. This open space area provides important foraging habitat for raptors, native prey and predator mammals, and reptiles. Grasslands which are large and contiguous are usually the most species-rich. Some grassland species, such as nesting raptors, are under special protection.



### **Developed Baylands**

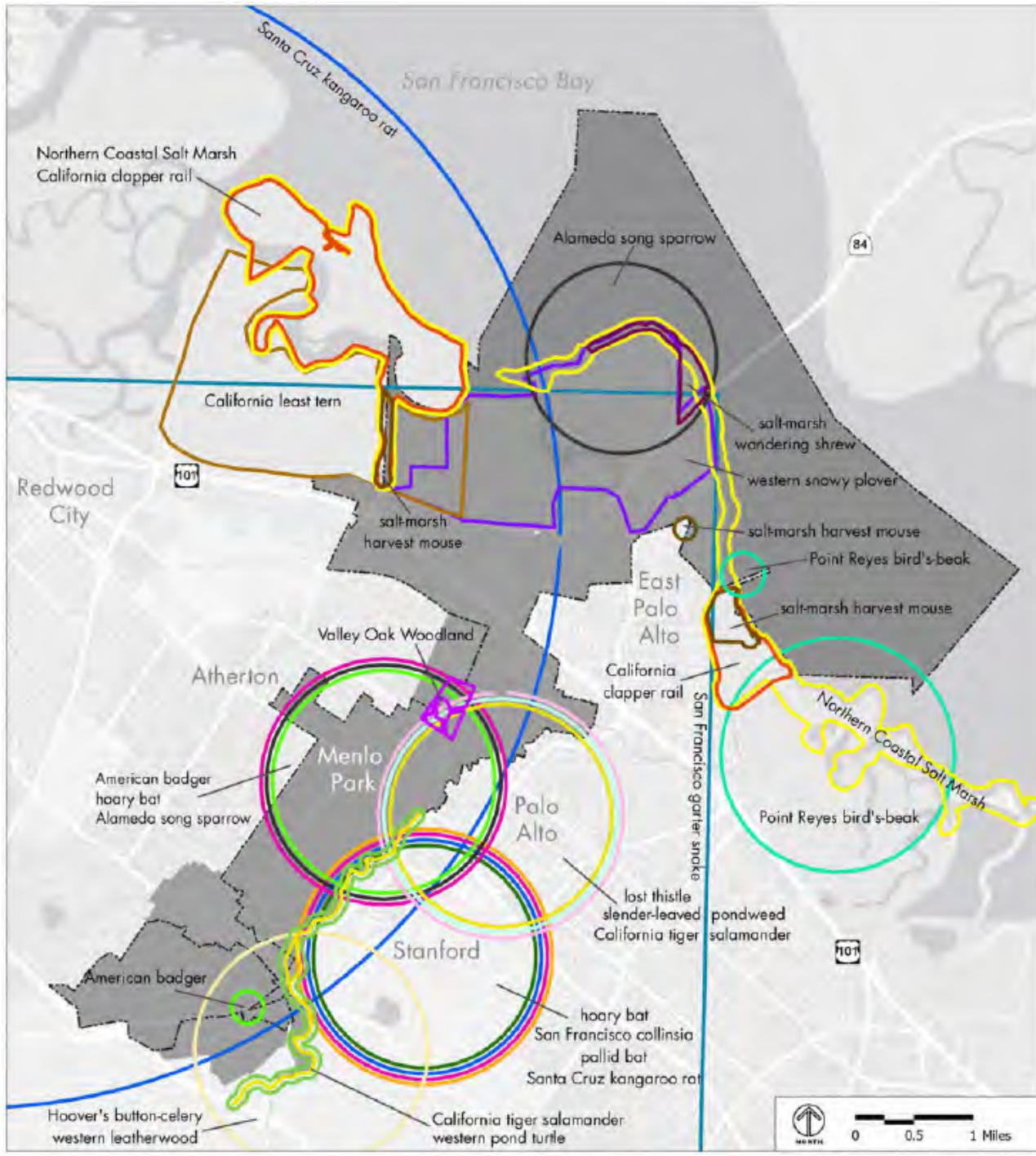
Developed sites in eastern Menlo Park along the bayshore have been built on diked and filled coastal marshes. These marshes were converted in the 1960s to create more land for development. In the process, these marshes have been cut off from tidal influence and filled with materials to raise their surface level and fill in their slough channels. While in some cases such bayfill lands can start to revert to wetland conditions, Menlo Park's developed bayland areas are primarily paved, landscaped with non-native plants, and disturbed with automobile activity. Developed salt marsh areas typically have relatively low habitat values. Species found in the urbanized baylands are similar to other urbanized areas.

### **Urbanized Area**

The well-landscaped, suburban character of developed areas of Menlo Park includes parks, backyards, and vacant lots that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species that have adapted to human disturbance. Native and ornamental trees and shrubs in the urban area provide nesting sites for songbirds such as scrub jays, brewer's black birds, and American crows. Parks and quiet streets provide foraging grounds for opportunistic predator and prey wildlife, including turkey vultures, coyotes, and raccoons. Few urban species are under special protections, although a few, such as the red-tailed hawk, are designated protected species.

### **Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species**

The locations of sightings of special-status plant and wildlife species are shown in the map on the next page. Following the map is a table listing the special-status plant and wildlife species that have the potential for occurring in Menlo Park. They include those listed under the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts, plants listed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California and wildlife designated as Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2012; ESRI 2010; California National Diversity Database, 2012.

Common Name (CNDDDB)					
	Alameda song sparrow		Hoover's button-celery		Valley Oak Woodland
	American badger		Northern Coastal Salt Marsh		hoary bat
	California clapper rail		Point Reyes bird's-beak		lost thistle
	California least tern		San Francisco collinsia		pallid bat
	California tiger salamander		San Francisco garter snake		salt-marsh harvest mouse
			Santa Cruz kangaroo rat		salt-marsh wandering shrew
					slender-leaved pondweed
					western leatherwood
					western pond turtle
					western snowy plover
					City Limit

**Special Status Plant and Wildlife Species**

### California Natural Diversity Database Special Status Species in Menlo Park (2013)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Presence	Federal List	California List	CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife	California Native Plant Society	General Habitat	Micro Habitation
<b>Sensitive Habitat</b>								
	Northern Coastal Salt Marsh	Extant	None	None				
	Valley Oak Woodland	Extant	None	None				
<b>Sensitive Plants</b>								
<i>Chloropyron mantiforme</i> ssp. <i>palustre</i>	Point Reyes bird's-beak	Possibly Extirpated	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Coastal salt marsh	Usually in coastal salt marsh with <i>Salicornia</i> , <i>distichlis</i> , <i>jaumea</i> , and <i>spartina</i> .
<i>Cirsium praeritense</i>	Lost thistle	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants presumed extinct in California.	Little information exists on this plant; it was collected from the Palo Alto area at the turn of the 20th century.	Although not seen since 1901, this <i>cirsium</i> is thought to be quite distinct from other <i>cirsium</i> s.
<i>Collinsia multicolor</i>	San Francisco collinsia	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal scrub	On decomposed shale (mudstone) mixed with humus.
<i>Dirca occidentalis</i>	western leatherwood	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Upland forest, chaparral, woodland, riparian forest, riparian woodland	On brushy slopes, mesic sites; mostly in mixed evergreen and foothill woodland communities.
<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>hooveri</i>	Hoover's button-celery	Possibly Extirpated	None	None		Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.	Vernal pools	Alkaline depressions, vernal pools, roadside ditches and other wet places near the coast.
<i>Stuckenia filiformis</i>	Slender-leaved pondweed	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Marshes and swamps	Shallow, clear water of lakes and drainage channels.
<b>Sensitive Animals</b>								
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	California tiger salamander	Extirpated	Threatened	Threatened	Special Concern		Central Valley DPS federally listed as threatened. Santa Barbara and Sonoma Counties DPS federally listed as endangered	Need underground refuges, especially ground squirrel burrows and vernal pools or other seasonal water sources for breeding
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid bat	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting	Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.
<i>Athene cucularia</i>	Western burrowing owl	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, shrub lands	Burrows into ground. Uses a variety of natural and artificial burrowing sites. Prefers short grasses.
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	Western snowy plover	Presumed Extant	Threatened	None	Special Concern		Sandy beaches, salt pond levees and shores of large alkali lakes	Needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting.
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern harrier	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, salt marshes, open habitats with rodent populations	Ground nesting, typically near shrubs in marshes.
<i>Dipodomys venustus venustus</i>	Santa Cruz kangaroo rat	Presumed Extant	None	None			Silverleaf manzanita mixed chaparral in the Zayante sand hills ecosystem of the Santa Cruz Mountains	Needs soft, well-drained sand.

California Natural Diversity Database Special Status Species in Menlo Park (2013) — *Continued*

Scientific Name	Common Name	Presence	Federal List	California List	CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife	California Native Plant Society	General Habitat	Micro Habitation
<b>Sensitive Animals</b>								
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	Western pond turtle	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation	Need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary bat	Presumed Extant	None	None			Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding	Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths. Requires water.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead shrike	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, shrub-grasslands, savannah	Nests in landscaping trees and shrubs. Uses barbed wire to impale prey, and for perching.
<i>Reithrodontomys raviventris</i>	Salt-marsh harvest mouse	Presumed Extant	Endangered	Endangered			Only in the saline emergent wetlands of San Francisco Bay and its tributaries	Pickweed is primary habitat. Do not burrow, build loosely organized nests. Require higher areas for flood escape.
<i>Sorex vagrans halicoeles</i>	Salt-marsh wandering shrew	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Salt marshes of the south arm of San Francisco Bay	Medium high marsh 6-8 ft. above sea level where abundant driftwood is scattered among <i>Salicornia</i> .
<i>Spinus lawrenci</i>	Lawrence's gold finch	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Uplands, non-native grasslands, ruderal	Forages from seed-bearing plants, such as thistles.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American Badger	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable (easy to dig) soils.	Needs sufficient food, friable soils & open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i>	San Francisco garter snake	Presumed Extant	Endangered	Endangered			Vicinity of freshwater marshes, ponds and slow moving streams in San Mateo County and extreme Northern Santa Cruz County.	Prefers dense cover and water depths of at least one foot. Upland areas near water are also very important.
	Tree Nesting Raptors	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, woodlands	Trees

Source: California Natural Diversity Database, 2013; City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update, General Plan Consistency Update and Zoning Ordinance Amendments Environmental Assessment prepared April 2, 2013

The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) indicates 21 special status plant species, animal species or sensitive habitat types with recorded occurrences in the Menlo Park vicinity. Additionally, another five special status animals species are known to occur based on other reports done in Menlo Park.

**Special-Status Plant Species**

Six plant species with special-status have been recorded in Menlo Park. These species have varied status, but each is considered rare by the California Native Plant Society. Three of these special status plant species have been recorded in the Menlo Park vicinity, the Hoover's button-celery, Point Reyes bird's-beak, and slender-leaved pondweed, and are associated with wet or marshy conditions such as those found in riparian, wetlands, or marshes of the eastern Menlo Park baylands, and central Menlo Park's San Francisquito Creek area. Two other plants, the western leatherwood and San Francisco collinsia, are associated with drier conditions, such as those of the grasslands on the western edge of Menlo Park. The sixth species, the lost thistle, has been assigned a category indicating likely extinction or extreme rarity within California.

### **Special-Status Animal Species**

Thirteen bird, mammal, reptile, fish, and invertebrate species with special-status have recorded occurrences in Menlo Park as reported by the California Natural Diversity Database. Another four species were found in recent local studies, bringing the total to 17 special status animal species. Information on habitat association, or conditions under which an animal is typically found, assists in predicting its likelihood of occurrence. The habitat association and ranking of these species are described below.

Six of the special-status animal species with recorded occurrences in the Menlo Park vicinity are associated with wetland habitat, specifically with the salt marsh at the northeastern edge of the City. Of these, the California clapper rail, California least tern, salt-marsh harvest mouse, and western snowy plover each are listed as protected on the Federal Endangered Species List. The two other species, the Alameda song sparrow and the salt marsh wandering shrew, are afforded protection through State listing as species of special concern.

Four of the special-status animal species with CNDDDB recorded occurrences in Menlo Park are associated with the grasslands on the western boundary of the City, and the oak woodlands in the center of the City. These four grassland or woodland associated special status species are the American badger, pallid bat, hoary bat, and Santa Cruz kangaroo rat. The American badger and pallid bat are State Species of Special Concern.

Two special-status animal species with CNDDDB recorded occurrences in Menlo Park are associated with (freshwater) wetlands and riparian habitats such as those of San Francisquito Creek. These are the San Francisco garter snake and western pond turtle. The San Francisco garter snake is on the Federal endangered species list. The western pond turtle is a State of California species of special concern. A third species associated with San Francisquito Creek, the steelhead (a member of the salmon fish family), is Federally threatened.

### **Sensitive Habitats and Wildlife Dispersal Corridors**

The CNDDDB search identifies two types of sensitive habitat within the Menlo Park area — coastal salt marsh and oak woodland. Coastal salt marsh occurs on the eastern edge of Menlo Park where the baylands have not been converted. The oak woodland occurs within the center of Menlo Park, and consists of a large patch of native habitat situated within the otherwise urbanized City center. In addition to serving as valuable habitat, riparian areas serve as important travel corridors for wildlife. San Francisquito Creek's intact, multi-layered canopy of riparian habitat and large creek channel serves as an important wildlife dispersal corridor.

## **B** Parks and Recreation Facilities



The Menlo Park Community Services Department owns and operates parks and recreational facilities in the City of Menlo Park. The City has adopted a goal of maintaining a ratio of five acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents. Currently, the City provides a net of 220.86 acres of parkland for the residents, with a ratio of 6.79 acres per capita. A detailed list of available parks and recreation facilities located in Menlo Park is shown in the table on the next page.

### Parks and Recreation Facilities in Menlo Park (2013)

Name	Location	Size	Description
<b>Facilities</b>			
Arrilaga Family Recreation Center	700 Alma Street	10,000 sq2	A kitchen, lobby area, offices, and 2 patios, 7 main rooms for purposes of banquets, meetings, exercise, dance, and enrichment activities.
Arrilaga Family Gymnasium	600 Alma Street	24,100 sq2	Two full size basketball courts, 3 volleyball courts, 4 badminton courts, and 4 cross-court basketball, a conference room, offices, lobby area, restrooms, and locker rooms.
Arrilaga Family Gymnastics Center	501 Laurel Street	19,380 sq2	A state of the art gymnastics facility, 2 multipurpose rooms, office area, lobby, restrooms, and storage.
Burgess Pool	501 Laurel Street	22,700 sq2	Three pools- performance pool, instructional pool (covered during winter months), and kiddie pool (summer only). The facility contracted to Team Sheeper LLC (Menlo Swim and Sport).
Menlo Children's Center	801 Laurel Street	13,000 sq2	Licensed preschool (18 months to 5 years) and school age (Kindergarten to 5th Grade) services.
Belle Haven Child Development Center	410 Ivy Drive	6,600 sq2	(Licensed by the Department of Social Services.) Quality subsidized, full-time child development services.
Belle Haven After School Center	100 Terminal Ave	2,485 sq2	(Licensed by the Department of Social Services.) Care for children in kindergarten to 6th grade.
Senior Center	110 Terminal Ave	11,000 sq2	Health, recreational, and educational programs, as well as cultural events and social services for older adults. Nutritionally balanced hot meals and door-to-door local transportation to and from the Center are offered on weekdays for minimal cost to the registered patrons. Weekly brown bag through Second Harvest Food Bank, Farmer's Market, monthly free health screenings, HI CAP and tax assistance are also available.
Onetta Harris Community Center	100 Terminal Ave	11,000 sq2	A gym, weight room, computer lab, a large multipurpose room with adjacent kitchen, 3 classrooms, and office space.
Belle Haven Pool	100 Terminal Ave	6,300 sq2	Currently a seasonal pool that is open from mid-June to the end of August; a 25 meter pool with an additional shallow area as well as a small kiddie pool.
<b>Parks</b>			
Bedwell/Bayfront Park	Bayfront Expressway & Marsh Road	155 Acres	An extensive trail system, as part of the San Francisco Bay Trail, allowing hiking, running, bicycling, dog walking, bird watching, kite flying, and photography.
Burgess Park	Alma Street & Burgess Drive	9.31 acres	Little league baseball field; soccer field (300' x 200'); regulation baseball field; open play field; skate park; 2 lighted tennis courts, children's playground; picnic areas, and restrooms.
Jack W. Lyle Park	Middle Ave & Fremont Street	4.55 acres	Walking path with benches; Open Play field; Half-court basketball; Children's (5 to 12 year old) Playground; and Tot-Lot (2 to 5 year old) Playground.
Fremont Park	Santa Cruz Avenue & University Drive	0.38 acres	Lighted walkways; benches; picnic areas, drinking fountain, and open grass areas. It is home to the City of Menlo Park Summer Concert Series and other downtown parties.
Joseph B. Kelly Park	100 Terminal Ave	8.3 acres	A synthetic turf soccer field with lights, full size track with 4 different exercise apparatuses, lighted tennis courts, lighted basketball court, benches, bleachers, and a full men's and women's bathroom facility.
Marketplace Park	Market Place & Hamilton Avenue	1 acre	Playground, open grass areas, and walkways.
Nealon Park	800 Middle Avenue	9 acres	Five lighted tennis courts, softball field, playground, picnic areas, grass areas, and an off-leash dog area.
Seminary Oaks Park	Seminary Drive & Santa Monica Avenue	3.51 acres	Walking path with benches; open play field; "Serenity Rock Garden"; children's playground, and tot-lot playground.

**Parks and Recreation Facilities in Menlo Park (2013) — Continued**

Name	Location	Size	Description
<b>Parks</b>			
Sharon Hills Park	Altschul Avenue & Valparaiso Avenue	12.5 acres	Walking paths and benches.
Sharon Park	Sharon Park Drive & Monte Rosa Drive	9.83 acres	A small lake with fountain; gazebo; walking path with benches; shaded picnic area; grass areas; natural wooded area; and tot-lot playground.
Stanford Hills Park	Sand Hill Road & Branner Drive	3.11 acres	Benches, walkways, picnic tables, and a large grass area.
Tinker Park	Santa Cruz Avenue & Olive Street	0.54 acres	Tot-lot playground and picnic area.
Willow Oaks Park	Willow Street & Colmen Ave	2.63 acres	Three lighted tennis courts, children's playground, tot-lot playground, public area, off leash dog area, little league field, and large open play field for soccer and other sports.
Hamilton Park	Hamilton Ave	1.2 acres	A play structure, picnic tables, and open grass area.
<b>Total</b>		<b>232 acres</b>	

Source: City of Menlo Park

**Regional Parks and Preserves**

In addition to the City's parks facilities, Menlo Park residents have access to a range of regional parks and open space, including the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Wunderlich County Park, Huddart County Park, and San Francisco Bay Trail also provide recreational opportunities for Menlo Park residents. Flood Park, a 26-acre facility owned by San Mateo County Parks Department, provides a place for picnicking and strolling. The City and the County have discussed transferring it to the City because of the County's budget deficit. However, there are no plans to move forward at this time. Furthermore, the residents of Menlo Park have access to the 373-acre Ravenswood Preserve located largely within Menlo Park and owned and managed by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The southern portion of the preserve offers pedestrian and bicycle access along the shore and levees along the marshland.

**School Facilities**

The City has joint use agreements with La Entrada, Oak Knoll, Belle Haven, Hillview, and Willow Oaks Schools for use of fields after school hours, as follows:

- (1) **La Entrada:** soccer, basketball, baseball, and tennis courts; playground
- (2) **Oak Knoll:** soccer, basketball and baseball
- (3) **Belle Haven:** basketball and baseball
- (4) **Hillview:** soccer, football, lacrosse, basketball court, track
- (5) **Willow Oaks School:** baseball and soccer



### **Private Facilities**

The Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club is located in the Sharon Heights neighborhood near Sand Hill Road and Interstate 280. A portion of the Stanford University Golf Course is located within the City of Menlo Park and its Sphere of Influence along Sand Hill Road and Alpine Road. In addition, a few private, fee-based facilities are available in Menlo Park, such as small yoga and dance studios.

## **C Historic Resources**

The City of Menlo Park was originally the home of Ohlone Indians. The Ohlone lived off the land and due to the abundance of food they did not practice agriculture. Evidences of their civilization are still being unearthed on the Filoli estate in Woodside, and along San Francisquito Creek.

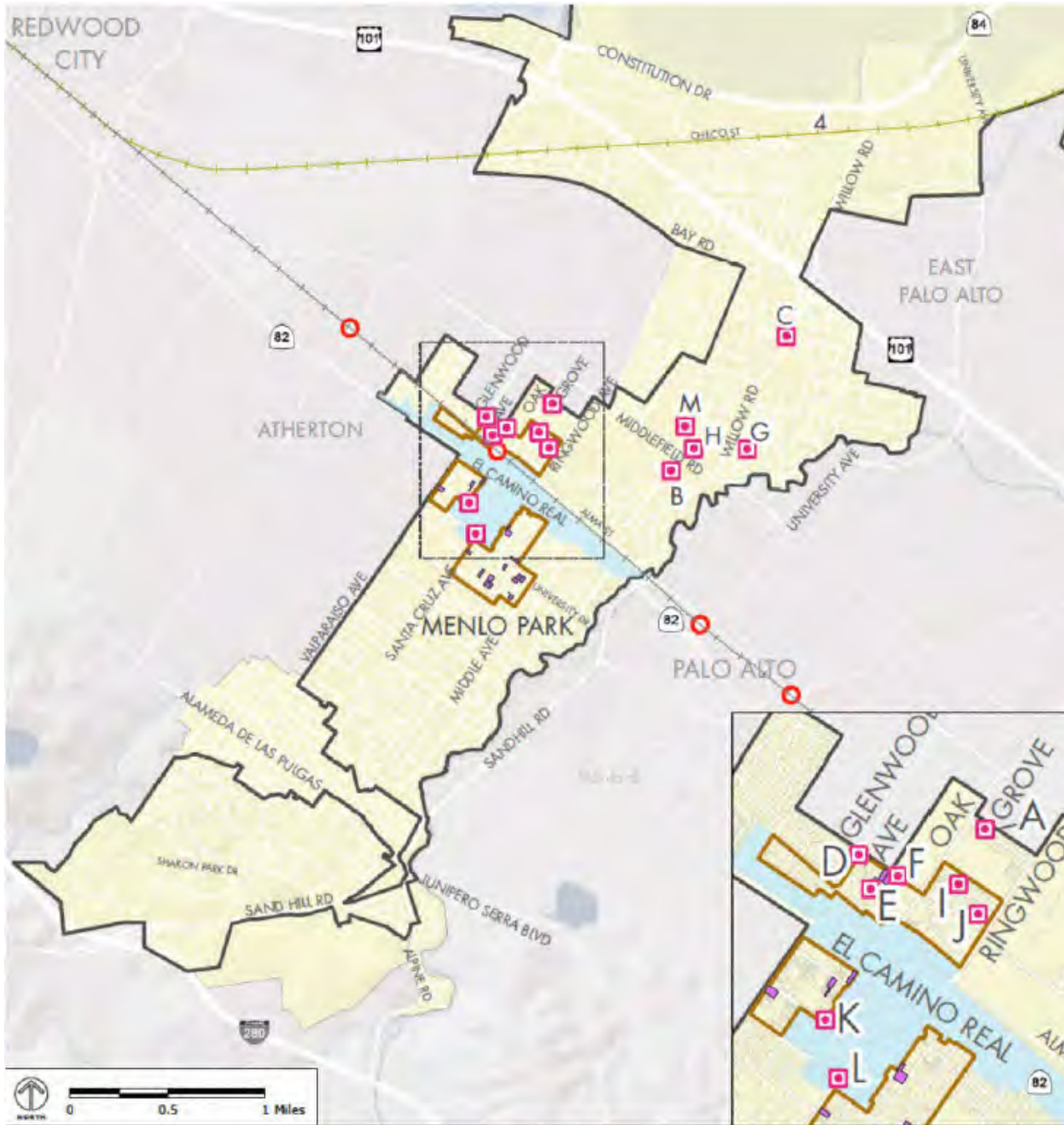
In 1769 Spanish rule was introduced to the area when the exploration party led by Don Gaspar de Portola camped near "El Palo Alto" after their momentous discovery of San Francisco Bay. The colonizing of the Peninsula began after the expedition of Juan Bautista DeAnza passed through Menlo Park on its way to establishing Mission Dolores and the Presidio of San Francisco in 1776. The mission padres, explorers, military personnel, travelers and settlers occupied certain areas, developing and populating the land.

In 1854 Dennis J. Oliver and Daniel McGlynn purchased 1,700 acres from the Don Jose Dario Arguello family that had legally obtained the title to the land in 1853. Around this time Menlo Park received its official name when Oliver and McGlynn erected an arch with the words "Menlo Park" on it to honor their former home in Menlough, County Galway, Ireland. In 1863, the Southern Pacific Railroad was extended to the community of Menlo Park. During this same period, the downtown area of Menlo Park began to develop along Oak Grove Avenue between the railroad station and El Camino Real. By 1870, twelve buildings situated between the railroad station and El Camino Real in the vicinity of Oak Grove Avenue were constructed, consisting of two general stores, three hotels, livery stables, saloons, and three blacksmith shops. The first store in Menlo Park was on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and El Camino Real.

On March 23, 1874, Menlo Park became the second incorporated city in San Mateo County, although only for a short time. The purpose was to provide a quick way to raise money for road repairs. This incorporation, including Fair Oaks (later Atherton) and Ravenswood (later East Palo Alto), lasted only until 1876. Churches were founded, schools were opened and businesses were established. Menlo Park's population increased slowly until World War I. In 1917, 27,000 soldiers were stationed at Camp Fremont in Menlo Park. Menlo Park's first gas and water services, its first paved streets, and an increase in businesses were a direct result of the transient military population.

The original Dumbarton Bridge opened in 1927, connecting the South Bay and East Bay. In 1931, the Bayshore Highway (now Highway 101) linked Menlo Park and San Francisco. In 1940, Menlo Park's population was 3,258. World War II brought about many changes in the small town. Between 1943 and 1946 another military installation, Dibble General Hospital, was built on the old Timothy Hopkins estate to care for the thousands of soldiers injured in the South Pacific in World War II. Following World War II, in the 1950s, the hospital campus became the site of the Menlo Park Civic Center, Stanford Research Institute (today's SRI International), and the United States Geological Survey. Today Menlo Park is a suburban residential community with a variety of businesses, including high-tech industries.

The map on the next page identifies historic resources near the downtown. *Additional information on historic resources is available in the Environmental Assessment.*



Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2013; ESRI 2010; FHA 200

- Historic Resources
- CalTrain Stations
- Infill Areas around Downtown
- City Limits
- Sphere of Influence
- El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan

### Existing Historic Resources Near Downtown Menlo Park

## **D** Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Menlo Park experiences a coastal Mediterranean climate, which consists of long dry, relatively cool summers and wet, mild winters. The City receives approximately 15.5 inches of rain annually, primarily experienced from the five-month stretch between November and April.

The climate is dominated by the strength and location of a semi-permanent, subtropical high-pressure cell. During the summer, the Pacific high-pressure cell is centered over the northeastern Pacific Ocean, resulting in stable meteorological conditions and a steady northwesterly wind flow. Upwelling of cold ocean water from below the surface because of the northwesterly flow produces a band of cold water off the California coast. The cool and moisture-laden air approaching the coast from the Pacific Ocean is further cooled by the presence of the cold-water band, resulting in condensation and the presence of fog and stratus clouds along the Northern California coast. In the winter, the Pacific high-pressure cell weakens and shifts southward, resulting in wind flow offshore, the absence of upwelling, and the occurrence of storms. Weak inversions coupled with moderate winds result in a low air pollution potential.

### **Air Quality**

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is the regional air quality agency for the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin (SFBAAB), which comprises all of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties; the southern portion of Sonoma County; and the southwestern portion of Solano County. Air quality in this area is determined by such natural factors as topography, meteorology, and climate, in addition to the presence of existing air pollution sources and ambient conditions.

Ambient air quality standards (AAQS) have been adopted at State and Federal levels for criteria air pollutants. In addition, both the State and Federal government regulate the release of toxic air contaminants (TACs). Jurisdictions in the Bay Area are also subject to the regulations imposed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Existing levels of ambient air quality and historical trends and projections in the vicinity of Menlo Park show occasional violations of both the State and Federal Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) standards and the Federal Fine Particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) standard. The State and Federal

Course Particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) standards have not been exceeded in the last five years in the vicinity of Menlo Park.

### **Sensitive Receptors**

Some land uses are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others due to the types of population groups or activities involved. Sensitive population groups include children, the elderly, the acutely ill, and the chronically ill, especially those with cardio-respiratory diseases. Residential areas are also considered sensitive receptors to air pollution because residents (including children and the elderly) tend to be at home for extended periods of time, resulting in sustained exposure to any pollutants present. Other sensitive receptors include retirement facilities, hospitals, and schools.

Recreational land uses are considered moderately sensitive to air pollution. Although exposure periods are generally short, exercise places a high demand on respiratory functions, which can be impaired by air pollution. In addition, noticeable air pollution can detract from the enjoyment of recreation. Industrial, commercial, retail, and office areas are considered the least sensitive to air pollution. Exposure periods are relatively short and intermittent, as the majority of the workers tend to stay indoors most of the time. In addition, the working population is generally the healthiest segment of the public.

### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Scientists have concluded that human activities are contributing to global climate change by adding large amounts of heat-trapping gases, known as GHG, to the atmosphere. The primary source of these GHG is fossil fuel use. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified four major GHG—water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)—that are the likely cause of an increase in global average temperatures observed within the 20th and 21st centuries. Other GHG identified by the IPCC that contribute to global warming to a lesser extent include nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and chlorofluorocarbons. The major GHG are briefly described below.

- (1) **Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)** enters the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal), solid waste, trees and wood products, and respiration, and also as a result of other chemical reactions (e.g. manufacture of cement). Carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere (sequestered) when it is absorbed by plants as part of the biological carbon cycle.
- (2) **Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)** is emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices and from the decay of organic waste in municipal landfills and water treatment facilities.

- (3) **Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)** is emitted during agricultural and industrial activities as well as during combustion of fossil fuels and solid waste.
- (4) **Fluorinated gases** are synthetic, strong GHGs that are emitted from a variety of industrial processes. Fluorinated gases are sometimes used as substitutes for ozone-depleting substances. These gases are typically emitted in smaller quantities, but because they are potent GHGs, they are sometimes referred to as High global warming potential gases.
- (5) **Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)** are GHGs covered under the 1987 Montreal Protocol and used for refrigeration, air conditioning, packaging, insulation, solvents, or aerosol propellants. Since they are not destroyed in the lower atmosphere (troposphere, stratosphere), CFCs drift into the upper atmosphere where, given suitable conditions, they break down ozone. These gases are also ozone-depleting gases and are therefore being replaced by other compounds that are GHGs covered under the Kyoto Protocol.
- (6) **Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)** are a group of human-made chemicals composed of carbon and fluorine only. These chemicals (predominantly perfluoromethane [CF<sub>4</sub>] and perfluoroethane [C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>]) were introduced as alternatives, along with HFCs, to the ozone-depleting substances. In addition, PFCs are emitted as by-products of industrial processes and are also used in manufacturing. PFCs do not harm the stratospheric ozone layer, but they have a high global warming potential.

### **City Actions to Promote Sustainability**

The City maintains several environmental programs under the City's Public Works Department. The City's environmental programs promote sustainable environmental practices and policies Citywide and within City-owned facilities and open space areas. The City adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2020 to reduce municipal and community GHG emissions.

The City's Public Works Department is also responsible for developing a more functional and efficient roadway network for the effective movement of people and goods. The division promotes the use of public transit, ride sharing, bicycles, and walking as commuting alternatives to single-occupant automobiles. The City operates a trip reduction program and was the first City on the Peninsula to establish a shuttle program.

The City also manages two Caltrain shuttle bus routes, the Willow and Marsh shuttles, which operate during the AM and PM peak hours taking passengers from Caltrain to their workplaces, schools, shopping, or appointments. In addition, the City manages a Midday shuttle service, a community service route open to the general public but focusing on the senior community. For residents who do not live within an easy walking distance of a SamTrans stop or the Midday shuttle service stop, Menlo Park offers a

twice weekly shopper's shuttle service that picks up passengers at their homes and provides rides to specific shopping areas.

### **City of Menlo Park Climate Change Action Plan (CAP)**

The City of Menlo Park has prepared and updated its community-wide GHG emissions inventory several times since the release of the City's 2005 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis, which was prepared by the City with assistance from ICLEI in 2007. In 2020, the City adopted an updated Climate Action Plan (CAP): 2030 Climate Action Plan. This plan includes GHG emissions inventories and strategies to reduce GHG emissions within the City.

## **E Water Quality**

The City is located within the 50-square mile San Francisquito Creek watershed, which includes portions of both Santa Clara County and San Mateo County. The uppermost elevations of the watershed are west of Highway 35 (locally known as Skyline Boulevard), and its lowest points are in East Palo Alto where San Francisquito Creek empties into the San Francisco Bay. The southernmost edge of the watershed is in the Los Trancos Regional Preserve near Palo Alto, and its northern most edge is Sweeny Ridge in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Water flows west to east through natural creeks and streams and channelized waterways. In the undeveloped marshes, water flows through Flood Slough and Ravenswood Slough. In the urbanized portion of Menlo Park, the main creek system is San Francisquito Creek. In general, the creek flows in a northeasterly direction, flows through Menlo Park largely in its natural alignment, and it forms the southern boundary of the City limits. Riparian vegetation around the creek spans a 25- to 75-meter-wide space, depending on adjacent land use and topography, consisting primarily of willow, bay laurels, redwoods, alders, cottonwoods, dogwoods, valley oaks, and coast live oaks.

### **Groundwater Aquifers**

The City is situated above the Santa Clara Valley groundwater basin and San Mateo sub-basin. The San Mateo sub-basin is bounded by the Santa Cruz Mountains to the west, the Bay to the east, San Francisquito Creek to the south, and the Westside basin to the north. A relatively shallow water table aquifer overlies confined and semi-confined aquifers near the margins of the Bay, with most wells constructed to draw from the deeper portions. Recharge of the groundwater occurs through infiltration into streambeds and through percolation of rain on the valley floor. Well data from the California Department of Water Resources indicate that groundwater recharge in the City increases from the hilly west to the flatter eastern portions of the City, and decreases with increasing depth.

## Water Quality

Menlo Park is within the San Francisquito Creek Watershed. More specifically, runoff from development within Menlo Park will eventually discharge to San Francisquito Creek, which ultimately discharges into South San Francisco Bay.

### **Beneficial Uses of Water Bodies in Menlo Park**

The beneficial uses of the surface water bodies in Menlo Park have been designated in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Region (Basin Plan). These potential and beneficial uses include:

#### *Designated Beneficial Uses of Surface Water in Menlo Park*

**South San Francisco Bay:** Commercial and sport fishing; Estuarine habitat; Industrial service supply; Fish migration; Navigation; Preservation of rare and endangered species; Water contact recreation; Non-contact water recreation; Shellfish harvesting; Fish spawning; and Wildlife habitat.

**San Francisquito Creek:** Cold freshwater habitat; Fish migration; Water contact recreation; Non-contact water recreation; Fish spawning; and Wildlife habitat.

#### *Designated Beneficial Uses of Groundwater in Menlo Park*

**Santa Clara Valley (San Mateo Sub-Basin):** Municipal and domestic water supply; Industrial process water supply; Industrial service water supply; and Agricultural water supply (potential).



### Impaired Water Bodies in Menlo Park

In accordance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, the State must present USEPA with a list of impaired water bodies that do not meet water quality standards. Listed impaired water bodies within Menlo Park are shown in the table below.

**List of Impaired Water Bodies in Menlo Park**

Pollutant	Potential Source	Status of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
<b>San Francisquito Creek</b>		
Diazinon	Urban runoff/storm sewers	Approved (2007)
Sedimentation/siltation	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
Trash	Illegal dumping; urban runoff/storm sewers	Planned (2021)
<b>South San Francisco Bay</b>		
Chlordane	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
DDT	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
Dieldrin	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
Dioxin compounds	Atmospheric deposition	Planned (2019)
Invasive species	Ballast water	Planned (2019)
Furan compounds	Atmospheric deposition	Planned (2019)
Mercury	Industrial and municipal point sources; resource extraction; atmospheric deposition; natural sources; nonpoint sources	Approved (2008)
PCBs	Unknown nonpoint sources	Approved (2010)
Selenium	Domestic use of groundwater	Planned (2019)

Source: State Water Resources Control Board. 2010 Integrated Report, Clean Water Act, Section 303(d) List, January 13, 2013; City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update, General Plan Consistency Update and Zoning Ordinance Amendments Environmental Assessment prepared April 2, 2013

Once a water body has been placed on the 303(d) list of impaired waters, states are required to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to address each pollutant causing impairment. A TMDL defines how much of a pollutant a water body can tolerate and still meet water quality standards. TMDLs have been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for diazinon in San Francisquito Creek and mercury and PCBs in South San Francisco Bay.

The Basin Plan also contains water quality criteria for groundwater. Menlo Park is within the San Mateo Plain Sub-basin of the Santa Clara Valley Groundwater Basin. Groundwater in this sub-basin is generally characterized as calcium magnesium calcium carbonate water and the mineral content is very “hard,” averaging 471 mg/l of calcium carbonate. Some wells have reported concentrations of nitrate-nitrogen that exceed USEPA maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).

Groundwater contamination can result from releases of hazardous materials from underground storage tanks or historical industrial activities. There are about 20 Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) or Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) hazardous waste cleanup sites within Menlo Park. If groundwater de-watering activities are required as part of the construction efforts, a more detailed assessment of the potential for contaminated groundwater to be present is warranted.

## Section VI

# Noise Background

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## **A** Background on Sound and Sound Measurement



The Noise Element is most closely associated with the Land Use and Circulation Elements of the Menlo Park General Plan. Specific concerns are addressed in this Element and in the Land Use and Circulation Element. Issues are: (1) establishment of noise compatible land uses; (2) regulation of new development to limit noise impacts on noise-sensitive

uses; (3) minimization of traffic noise; (4) enforcement of noise standards to protect the existing quality of life; and (5) insulation of residences exposed to excessive levels of noise.

### **Characteristics of Sound**

Noise is most often defined as unwanted sound. Whether a sound is unwanted depends on when and where it occurs, what the listener is doing when it occurs, characteristics of the sound (loudness, pitch and duration, speech or music content, irregularity) and how intrusive it is above background sound levels. Although sound can be easily measured, the perception of noise and the physical response to sound complicate the analysis of its impact on people. People judge the relative magnitude of sound sensation in subjective terms such as “noisiness” or “loudness.”

Sound is the result of the vibration of an object, which is transmitted through the air in waves that in turn vibrate the eardrum. Sound can be described in terms of amplitude (loudness), frequency (pitch), or duration (time), and is measured in a logarithmic scale using units called decibels (dB). Since the human ear is not equally sensitive to sound at all frequencies, a special A-weighted filter decibel measurement (dBA) is used to simulate human hearing.

Another measure of sound is called the Day-Night Weighted Average (Ldn), which is the average dBA sound level during a 24-hour day. Sound levels during the night are weighted over those during daylight hours, by adding 10 dB to actual sound levels during the period from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. to recognize the increased annoyance factor related to noise at night.

### Noise Levels

The outdoor noise environment throughout the United States varies considerably. Outdoor Day-Night Average (Ldn) sound levels can be as low as 30 to 40 dBA (Ldn) in wilderness areas and as high as 85-90 dBA (Ldn) in noisy industrial urban areas. In Menlo Park, Ldn levels in residential areas are as low as 45 dBA (Ldn) in areas shielded from major roads and as high as 65-75 dBA (Ldn) along highways and major roads.

#### Typical Noise Levels

Common Outdoor Sound Levels	Noise Level Db (A)	Common Indoor Sound Levels
Commercial Airliner Takeoff at 1,000 feet	110	Rock Band
	100	Ambulance Siren at 100 feet
Gas Lawn Mower at 3 feet	90	Food Blender at 3 feet
Diesel Truck at 50 feet	80	Garbage Disposal at 3 feet
Noisy Urban Daytime		Shouting at 3 feet
	70	
Commercial Area	60	Vacuum Cleaner at 10 feet
		Normal Speech at 3 feet
Quiet Urban Daytime	50	Large Business Office
		Dishwasher Next Room
Quiet Urban Nighttime	40	Small Theatre
Quiet Suburban Nighttime		Large Conference Room
	30	
Quiet Rural Nighttime	20	Bedroom at Night
Rustling Leaves		Broadcast & Recording Studio
	10	Soft Whisper
	0	Threshold of Hearing

Construction operations generally include a wide range of activities that can generate groundborne vibration. In general, blasting and demolition of structures generate the highest vibrations. Vibratory compactors or rollers, pile drivers, and pavement breakers can generate perceptible amounts of vibration at up to 200 feet. Heavy trucks can also generate groundborne vibrations, which can vary, depending on vehicle type, weight, and pavement conditions. Potholes, pavement joints, discontinuities, differential settlement of pavement, etc., all increase the vibration levels from vehicles passing over

a road surface. Construction vibration is normally of greater concern than vibration from normal traffic flows on streets and freeways with smooth pavement conditions. Trains generate substantial quantities of vibration due to their engines, steel wheels, heavy loads, and wheel-rail interactions. The table below shows various construction equipment noise emission levels.

### Construction Equipment Noise Emission Levels

Construction Equipment	Typical Noise Level (dBA) at 50 Feet	Construction Equipment	Typical Noise Level (dBA) at 50 Feet
Air Compressor	81	Pile-Driver (Impact)	101
Backhoe	80	Pile-Driver (Sonic)	96
Ballast Equalizer	82	Pneumatic Tool	85
Ballast Tamper	83	Pump	76
Compactor	82	Rail Saw	90
Concrete Mixer	85	Rock Drill	98
Concrete Pump	71	Roller	74
Concrete Vibrator	76	Saw	76
Crane, Derrick	88	Scarifier	83
Crane, Mobile	83	Scraper	89
Dozer	85	Shovel	82
Generator	81	Spike Driver	77
Grader	85	Tie Cutter	84
Impact Wrench	85	Tie Handler	80
Jack Hammer	88	Tie Inserter	85
Loader	85	Truck	88
Paver	89		

Source: Federal Transit Administration, Transit Noise, and Vibration Impact Assessment, 2006.

### Acceptable Noise Levels and Attitude Surveys About Noise

Acceptable levels of noise vary from land use to land use. Also, in any one location, the noise level will vary over time, from the lowest background or ambient levels to that of passing airplanes or construction equipment. Various techniques have been developed that measure the effects of noise levels over a period of time. It is difficult to specify noise levels that are generally acceptable to everyone. What is annoying to one person may be unnoticed by another. Standards may be based on documented complaint activity in response to noise levels, or based on studies on the ability of people to sleep, talk, or work under various noise conditions. All such studies, however, recognize that individual responses vary considerably. Standards usually address the needs of most of the general population.

Attitude surveys are used to measure annoyance felt in a community for noises intruding into homes or affecting outdoor activity areas. In these surveys, it has been determined that the causes for annoyance include interference with hearing, radio and television reception, sleep and rest, and house vibrations. The Ldn as a measure of noise has been found to provide a valid correlation of noise level and the percentage of people annoyed.

When measuring the percentage of the population highly annoyed, the threshold for ground vehicle noise is about 55 dBA Ldn. At an Ldn of about 60 dBA, approximately 2% of the population is highly annoyed. When the Ldn increases to 70 dBA, the percentage of the population highly annoyed increases to about 12% of the population. There is, therefore, an increase of about 1% per dBA from an Ldn of 60 to 70 dBA. From an Ldn of 70 to 80 dBA, each decibel increases by about 2% the percentage of people highly annoyed.

Unlike linear units such as inches or pounds, decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale. Because of the physical characteristics of noise transmission and perception, the relative loudness of sound does not closely match the actual amounts of sound energy. The table below presents the subjective effect of changes in sound pressure levels.

**Change in Apparent Loudness**

± 3 dB	Threshold of human perceptibility
± 5 dB	Clearly noticeable change in noise level
± 10 dB	Half or twice as loud
± 20 dB	Much quieter or louder

Source: Bies and Hansen 2009.

**Approximate Exterior-to-Interior Noise Reduction Achieved by Structures**

Building Type	Window Condition	Exterior-to-Interior Noise Reduction	Maximum Exterior CNEL Value for 45 dB Interior CNEL Value
All	Open	10 dB	55 dB
Light Frame	Ordinary sash, closed	20 dB	65 dB
Masonry	Single pane, closed	25 dB	70 dB
Masonry	Sound-rated windows, closed	35 dB	80 dB

Source: Federal Highway Administration

Because community receptors are more sensitive to unwanted noise intrusion during the evening and nighttime hours, State law requires that, for planning purposes and to

account for this increased receptiveness of noise, an artificial decibel increment is to be added to quiet-time noise levels to calculate a 24-hour CNEL (Community Noise Equivalent Level) noise metric. CNEL is the average sound level over a 24 hour period, with a penalty of 5 dB added for the evening hours from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and a penalty of 10 dB added for the nighttime hours of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. CNEL It is very similar in nature (and in results) to the Ldn, but with the added penalty for the evening period.

### **Psychological and Physiological Effects of Noise**

Physical damage to human hearing begins at prolonged exposure to noise levels higher than 85 dBA. Exposure to high noise levels affects the entire system; prolonged noise exposure in excess of 75 dBA increases body tensions, thereby affecting blood pressure and functions of the heart and nervous system. Extended periods of noise exposure above 90 dBA results in permanent cell damage, which is the main driver for employee hearing protection regulations in the workplace. For community environments, the ambient or background noise problem is widespread and generally more concentrated in urban areas than in outlying, less-developed areas. Elevated ambient noise levels can result in noise interference (e.g. speech interruption/masking, sleep disturbance, disturbance of concentration) and cause annoyance. Since most people do not routinely work with decibels or A-weighted sound levels, it is often difficult to appreciate what a given sound pressure level (SPL) number means.

### **Noise Sensitive Receptors**

Certain land uses are particularly sensitive to noise and vibration, including residential, school and open space/recreation areas where quiet environments are necessary for enjoyment, public health, and safety. Sensitive land uses within Menlo Park include residences, schools, places of worship and recreational areas. These uses are regarded as sensitive because they are where citizens most frequently engage in activities that are likely to be disturbed by noise, such as reading, studying, sleeping, resting, or otherwise engaging in quiet or passive recreation. Commercial and industrial uses are not considered noise sensitive uses and often themselves generate more noise than they receive from other uses.

## **B Noise Regulation**

To limit population exposure to physically and/or psychologically damaging as well as intrusive noise levels, the Federal government, the State of California, various county governments, and most municipalities in the state have established standards and ordinances to control noise.

### **State of California Building Code**

The State of California's noise insulation standards are codified in the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, *Building Standards Administrative Code*, Part 2, *California Building*

*Code.* These noise standards are applied to new construction in California for the purpose of interior noise compatibility from exterior noise sources. Acoustical studies that accompany building plans must demonstrate that the structure has been designed to limit interior noise in habitable rooms to acceptable noise levels. For new residential buildings, schools, and hospitals, the acceptable interior noise limit is 45 dBA CNEL.

### **State of California Land Use Compatibility Criteria**

The table below is a land use compatibility chart for community noise adopted by the State of California as part of its General Plan Guidelines. It provides cities with a tool to gauge the compatibility of new land uses relative to existing and future noise levels by identifying normally acceptable, conditionally acceptable and clearly unacceptable noise levels for various land uses. A conditionally acceptable designation implies new development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features are incorporated in the design. By comparison, a normally acceptable designation indicates that standard construction can occur with no special noise reduction requirements.

### **Menlo Park Municipal Code (Noise Ordinance)**

Menlo Park addresses noise in various capacities under multiple chapters of its municipal code. Noise is primarily addressed in Chapter 8.06 (Noise); additional chapters making brief mention of minor and/or incidental noise issues and regulations include Chapters 8.07 (Leaf Blowers), 8.12 (Business Operations after Midnight), 8.28 (Parks and Recreation), 9.26 (Poultry and Rabbits), 11.64 (Transportation Systems Management), and 13.18 (Use of Public Rights-of-Way).

Chapter 8.06 (Noise) contains the primary set of statutes through which Menlo Park regulates noise. For all noise measurements pursuant to the noise ordinance, the municipal code specifies standard procedures for conducting noise measurements, with specifications for sound-meter settings and placement. Section 8.06.030 sets maximum noise levels at any residential receiving property to a maximum of 60 dBA during the daytime hours between 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and to 50 dBA during the nighttime hours between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. The ordinance applies an additional 5 dBA penalty to sounds of a particularly annoying nature, such as tones, screeches, whines, and pulses, among others. The ordinance also includes a qualitative standard that prohibits noises that can be reasonably determined to be disturbing to an entire neighborhood or any considerable number of residents.

The Menlo Park noise ordinance also contains a number of qualified exceptions to the limitations stipulated in the ordinance; these include construction, powered equipment, and leaf blowers, deliveries, social gatherings, pavement sweeping, garbage collection, and animals. Additionally, the ordinance contains general exemptions for emergencies and emergency warning devices, sporting and City-permitted events, City and State projects, and the normal operation of typical motor vehicles. Of these, the most notable



exceptions and exemptions for the purposes of this analysis include those for construction, motor vehicles, and deliveries.

Construction activities are exempted from the noise ordinance between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; construction activities are only allowed on Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and only if they are being personally undertaken by property owners performing maintenance or improvements. Despite these allowances for weekend residential maintenance, the ordinance still prohibits the use of any equipment that results in noise levels exceeding 85 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. Construction that is sufficiently quiet so as to be fully compliant with the basic exterior noise limitations set out by the ordinance is generally allowed at any time.

Notwithstanding specialized vehicle equipment or sound amplification systems, noise from the normal operation of motor vehicles (including cars, trucks, busses, trains, and airplanes) is exempted from the provisions of the noise ordinance. Noise from deliveries to food retailers and restaurants are generally excepted from the ordinance, while noise from other commercial and industrial deliveries are generally excepted between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Temporally and geographically specific exceptions for street sweeping and garbage collection are also described in detail by the noise ordinance.

### **Other City Noise Standards**

In addition to Chapter 8.06 (Noise), there are several other chapters in the Menlo Park municipal code that mention noise. In Chapter 8.07 (Leaf Blowers), the municipal code mentions that leaf blowers are a source of loud noise and stipulates that operators of these devices must wear ear protection. In Chapter 8.12 (Business Operations after Midnight), Section 8.12.040 indicates that a permit for late-night business operations may be revoked if noise from the establishment exceeds that foreseen by the permit. Chapter 8.28 (Parks and Recreation) prohibits the creation of obtrusive noise in parks. Section 9.26.080 of Chapter 9.26 (Poultry and Rabbits) prohibits the keeping of animals or fowl that cause unreasonable and disturbing noise for residents. In the goals of Chapter 11.64 (Transportation Systems Management), it is stated that noise reduction through decreased traffic is a goal of the chapter. Finally, in Chapter 13.18 (Use of Public Rights-of-Way), Section 13.18.110 (Regulations) stipulates that all regulations, including those related to noise, apply to the construction, operation, maintenance, and repair of facilities in the public rights-of-way.

## **C Existing and Future Noise Environment**

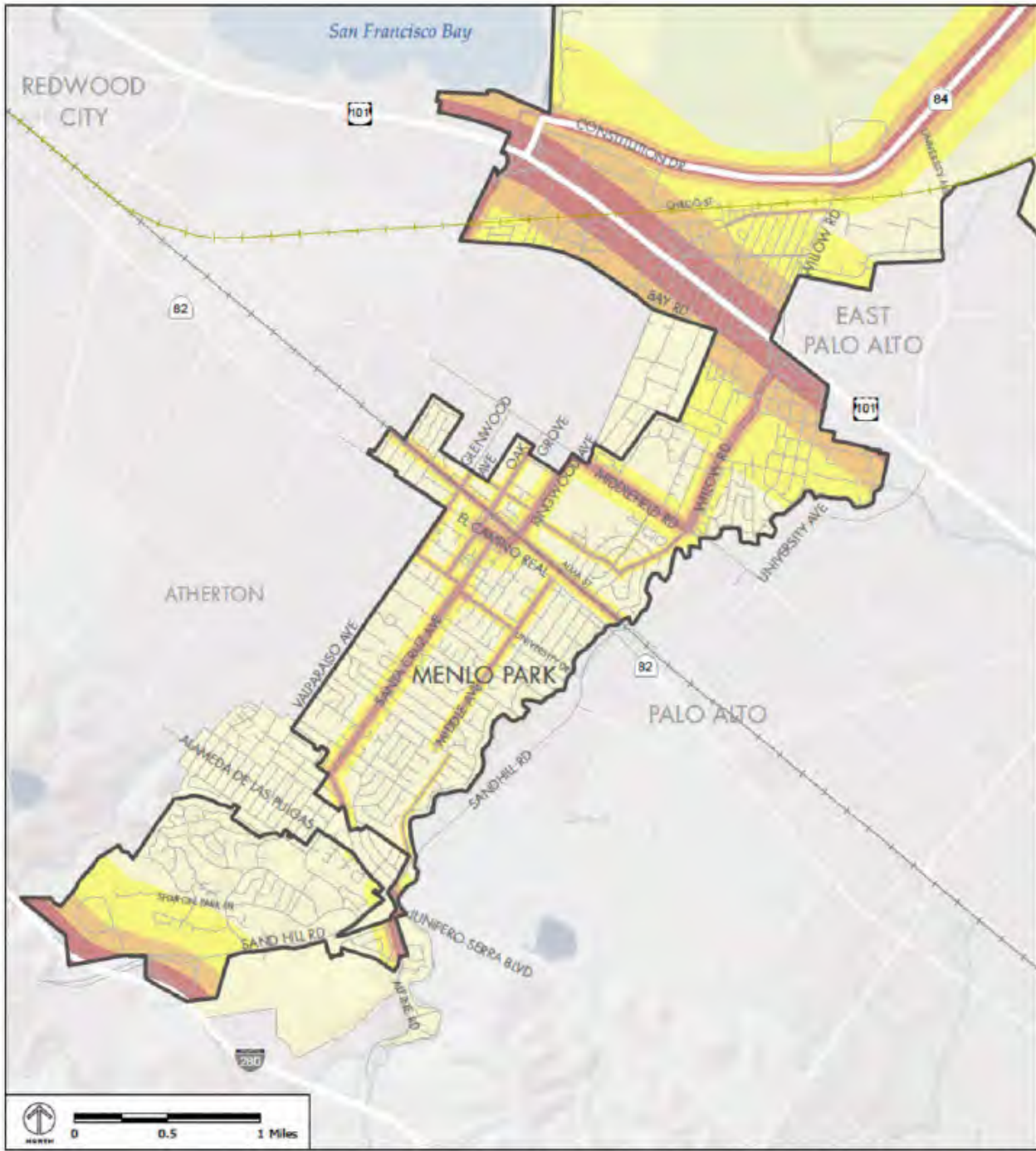
## Roadways

Freeways that run along the City's northeastern and southwestern boundaries are U.S. Highway 101 and Interstate 280, respectively; Highway 84, which becomes the Dumbarton Bridge, also runs east to west across the northern end of the City. In addition to the previously mentioned highways, major roadways running northwest to southeast through Menlo Park include El Camino Real and Middlefield Road. Major northeast to southwest roadways include Willow Road, Ravenswood Avenue, Santa Cruz Avenue, and Sand Hill Road. Together, these highways and streets comprise the major roads in the City of Menlo Park. The table below shows existing and future roadway noise levels. Following the table is a map showing noise contours for the year 2035.

**Existing and Future Noise Levels Along Major Streets in Menlo Park  
CNEL at 100 Feet (dBA)**

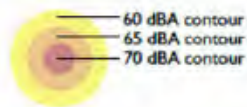
<b>Roadway</b>	<b>Segment</b>	<b>Existing</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Haven Ave	City Limits-Bayfront Expwy/Marsh Rd	62.6	64.5	1.9
Marsh Rd	Bay Rd-Bohannon Dr/Florence St	70.4	72.6	2.2
Marsh Rd	Bohannon Dr/Florence St-Scott Dr	71.2	73.3	2.1
Hamilton Ave	Chilco St-Willow Rd	59.8	62	2.1
Willow Rd	Laurel St-Middlefield Rd	61.1	63.5	2.4
Willow Rd	Middlefield Rd-Gilbert Ave	68.2	70.6	2.4
Willow Rd	Gilbert Ave-Coleman Ave	68.2	70.6	2.4
Willow Rd	Coleman Ave-Durham St/Hospital Ave	68.5	70.8	2.3
Willow Rd	Durham St/Hospital Ave-Bay Rd	69.1	71.2	2.1
Middlefield Rd	Ravenswood Ave-Willow Rd	69.2	70.9	1.7
Laurel St	Glenwood Ave-Oak Grove Ave	59.9	61.6	1.7
Laurel St	Oak Grove Ave-Ravenswood Ave	60.4	61.4	1
Laurel St	Ravenswood Ave-Willow Rd	60.9	62.8	1.9
University Dr	Middle Ave-Menlo Ave	61.5	63.2	1.7
University Dr	Menlo Ave-Santa Cruz Ave	66.4	67.9	1.5
University Dr	Santa Cruz Ave-Oak Grove Ave	62.4	63.6	1.2
University Dr	Oak Grove Ave-Valparaiso Ave	61.3	62.6	1.3
Valparaiso Ave/Glenwood Ave	University Dr-El Camino Real	65.2	66.6	1.4
Valparaiso Ave/Glenwood Ave	El Camino Real-Laurel St	61.7	63	1.3
Oak Grove Ave	University Dr -El Camino Real	64	65	1.1
Oak Grove Ave	El Camino Real-Laurel St	63.8	65.2	1.4
Oak Grove Ave	Laurel St-Middlefield Rd	63.3	64.3	1
Ravenswood Ave	El Camino Real-Alma St	68.9	70.9	2
Ravenswood Ave	Alma St-Laurel St	67	68.8	1.8
Ravenswood Ave	Laurel St-Middlefield Rd	67.6	69.2	1.6
Santa Cruz Ave	Alameda de las Pulgas Ave/Orange Ave	64.7	66.3	1.6
Santa Cruz Ave	Avy Ave/Orange Ave-Olive St	67.1	68.8	1.7
Santa Cruz Ave	Olive St-University Dr	67.4	69	1.6
Santa Cruz Ave	University Dr-Crane St	63.5	65.3	1.8
Santa Cruz Ave	Crane St-El Camino Real	63.1	65.2	2.1
Middle Ave	Olive St-University Dr	63.6	65.1	1.5
Middle Ave	University Dr-El Camino Real	63.8	65.3	1.5
Alpine Rd/Santa Cruz Ave	Junipero Serra Blvd-City Limits	70.6	71.6	1
Alpine Rd/Santa Cruz Avenue	Sand Hill Rd-Junipero Serra Blvd	71.7	72.9	1.1
Linfield Drive	Middlefield Rd - Laurel St	55.9	57.2	1.3
Oak Avenue	Sand Hill Rd - Olive St	58	59.6	1.6
El Camino Real	Oak Grove - Ravenswood	71.2	72.9	1.7
US 101	N/O Marsh Rd	82.3	83.2	1
US 101	S/O Marsh Rd	81.8	82.9	1.1
US 101	S/O Willow Rd	82	83.2	1.2
US 101	S/O University	82	83.2	1.2
SR 84	Marsh Rd - Willow Rd	70.8	73	2.2
SR 84	Willow Rd - University Ave	73.4	75.2	1.8
SR 84	W/O University Ave	74.9	76.4	1.5
I-280	N/O Sand Hill	80	81.4	1.4
I-280	S/O Sand Hill	79.6	81	1.4

Source: Noise Study conducted for the Environmental Assessment (2013)



Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2012; ESRI 2010; FHA 2002.

- Dumbarton Rail Corridor
- CalTrain ROW
- City Limits
- Sphere of Influence



**2035 Noise Contours**

**Train Noise**

One major and one minor rail line traverse Menlo Park. One rail line, which crosses the northern-most portion of the City from east to west, is a little-used segment of a former

Union Pacific line, which once crossed San Francisco Bay. This railway currently consists of a single track and the rail bridge that served as the connection for this line that is no longer functional; however, this bridge is planned for reconstruction and future use as part of the Dumbarton Rail Project.

The second and more major rail line which crosses Menlo Park is the Caltrain right-of-way, which bisects a portion of Menlo Park along the City's short northwest-southeast axis. The Caltrain tracks run in the area between Camino Real and Alma Road, entering the City at Watkins Avenue and exiting to Palo Alto at San Francisquito Creek. Caltrain runs on a double track throughout its entire length through Menlo Park, and its right-of-way is owned and administered by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board. Menlo Park is served by one Caltrain station along this line, and though there are currently only 65 weekday daily stops at this station (either northbound or southbound), more than 90 trains pass either north or south through Menlo Park on a daily basis during the work week. The sheer number of passings by these diesel-powered commuter trains ensures that the activity along the Caltrain railway contributes significantly to the ambient noise environment of nearby areas of Menlo Park.

### **Heliports**

There are no heliports within Menlo Park; however, Stanford University Hospital does operate one heliport, which is located approximately 0.4-mile to the southeast of the nearest border with Menlo Park.

### **Aircraft Noise**

Menlo Park is located approximately 6 miles to the northwest of Moffet Federal Airfield, 14 miles to the northwest of the San Jose International Airport, 15 miles to the southeast of San Francisco International Airport, and 18 miles to the south of Oakland International Airport. Menlo Park is also located in close proximity to two smaller airports; with portions of Menlo Park as near as 2 miles from the Palo Alto Airport and other areas of Menlo Park as near as approximately 4 miles from the San Carlos Airport. Additional small airports in the vicinity include the Hayward Executive Airport, at 11 miles away, and the Half Moon Bay airport, at 16 miles away. Although Menlo Park does receive some noise from aircraft using these facilities, Menlo Park does not fall within the airport land use planning areas, runway protection zones, or the 55 dBA CNEL noise contours of any of these airports.

### **Stationary Source Noise**

Stationary sources of noise may occur from all types of land uses. Menlo Park is mostly developed with residential, commercial and some light industrial uses. Commercial uses can generate noise from heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) systems, loading docks, trash compactors, and other sources. Industrial uses may generate noise from HVAC systems, loading docks, and machinery required for manufacturing processes.

Noise generated by commercial uses is generally short and intermittent. Industrial uses may generate noise on a more continual basis, or intermittently, depending on the processes and types of machinery involved.

In addition to on-site mechanical equipment, which generates stationary noise, warehousing and industrial land uses generate substantial truck traffic that results in additional sources of noise on local roadways in the vicinity of industrial operations.

The vast majority of Menlo Park's limited industrial operations are located in the far northern reaches of the city, and are usually separated from sensitive uses, such as residences, by either rail lines or by major roads. In both cases, this added distance serves to decrease the noise perceived by these receptors and, in the case of major roads, the noise from the roads was generally observed to exceed that from the industrial uses. Residential areas with the greatest potential to be impacted by noise from industrial operations include those along the previously mentioned Union Pacific rail right-of-way (Dumbarton Rail Corridor) and those along the northern end of Willow Road between Ivy Drive and the Bayfront Expressway.

Outdoor activities that occur on school campuses throughout Menlo Park also generate noticeable levels of noise in the vicinity of the campus. While it is preferable to have schools located within a residential setting to support the neighborhood, noise generated on both the weekdays (from physical education classes and sports programs) and weekends (from use of the fields and stadiums by youth organizations) can elevate community noise levels.

## Section VII

# Safety Background

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The Safety Element is an element required to be included within the General Plan, under California Government Code Section 65302(g). The goal of the Safety Element is to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social disruptions from fires, floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides, climate change, and other hazards. The Safety Element relates to topics also mandated under land use, conservation, environmental justice, and open space. With climate change and sea level rise presenting potential risks and hazards, the Safety Element also serves to address climate risk, including consideration of vulnerabilities, mitigations, and actions to respond to potential impacts.

The Safety Element provides information and establishes policies to protect against identified hazards. Regarding flooding, the Safety Element includes information on flood hazards and flood hazard zones, flood plain maps, dam inundation areas, levee protection zones, sea level and groundwater rise, and inundation areas, historical flooding, existing or planned development in flood hazard zones, and agencies responsible for flood protection. Regarding fire hazard, the Safety Element includes information on fire hazard severity zone maps and wildfire hazard areas, historical wildfires, location of existing or planned land uses in very high fire hazard severity zones and in state responsibility areas, and agencies responsible for fire protection. With this information, the Safety Element is required to include goals, policies, and programs for protection against unreasonable risk of such hazards, including avoiding development in hazard areas where feasible or minimizing potential damage, maintaining operation of essential public facilities, designing adequate infrastructure, and establishing cooperative relations with agencies responsible for protection against hazards.

The City of Menlo Park adopted the MJLHMP on November 16, 2021. Cities that have an adopted hazard mitigation plan, climate adaptation plan, or substantially equivalent provisions in their general plans may use that information in the Safety Element to comply with requirements for Safety Elements under Government Code Section 65302(g)(4), and shall summarize and incorporate by reference into the Safety Element the other general plan provisions, climate adaptation plan or document.

AB 747 (2019) requires local jurisdictions that have not adopted a LHMP or MJLHMP before January 1, 2022 to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios in the Safety Element. AB 1409 (2021) added the requirement to also identify evacuation locations. Menlo Park is part of the San Mateo County MJLHMP which was adopted in 2021, prior to January 1, 2022. Therefore, the information required by AB 747 and AB 1409 do not apply to the

2024 update of the Safety Element. However, this analysis will be required upon the next revision of the MJLHMP.

## Relationship to Other Plans

### Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of Menlo Park planning area was completed as part of the San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP). It was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA's 2011 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The MJLHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short- and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. The Countywide MJLHMP includes two volumes: Volume 1 includes countywide issues and Volume 2 includes "annexes" for each partner jurisdiction, including Menlo Park.

The MJLHMP helps San Mateo County and the City of Menlo Park (as well as other partner jurisdictions) remain eligible for various types of pre- and post-disaster community assistance, such as grants, from FEMA and the State government. The current MJLHMP is available at the City of Menlo Park and linked on the City's website.

The MJLHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. Hazards that are discussed in the MJLHMP include: dam failures, droughts, earthquakes, floods, landslides, sea level rise, severe weather, tsunamis, wildfires, climate change, public health emergencies, terrorism, and hazardous materials. The MJLHMP shall be consulted for actions to ensure the safety of the community from known environmental hazards.

The County's Department of Emergency Management led the MJLHMP update, in coordination with County departments, all twenty San Mateo County cities (including the City of Menlo Park), and regional special districts. The process was informed by a steering committee and robust public engagement.

Outreach for the MJLHMP was conducted by the County Office of Sustainability, focusing on socially vulnerable groups that are typically under-represented in safety



planning. Mitigation themes brought forward by the community included capacity building, infrastructure, eliminating barriers to access, and managing multiple, interrelated hazards. The three hazards identified as the highest risk for Menlo Park were sea level rise, earthquakes, and landslides. Community-recommended ideas for mitigation of sea level rise and earthquake hazards include:

- **Sea Level Rise:** Promoting flood-conscious architecture, completing drainage ditch maintenance, improving evacuation signage
- **Earthquakes:** Safety training, retrofit training, emergency kit distribution

Landslide hazard mitigation measures were not discussed in the outreach summary. The full outreach summary is available in English and Spanish on the County website.<sup>2</sup>

### Climate Action Plan

Menlo Park adopted a resolution declaring a climate emergency in 2019 (Resolution 6535 (Dec. 10, 2019)). The City adopted a 2030 CAP in 2020 and amended it in 2021. The CAP guides the citywide strategy to reach carbon neutrality (i.e., 90% reduction and removal of remaining 10%) by 2030. The document includes goals and implementation actions to electrify municipal, residential, and commercial buildings; increase electric vehicle usage; reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT); and develop a climate adaptation plan to protect the community from the impacts of climate change.

The Safety Element complements the CAP by providing data and contextual information on climate risks in Menlo Park.

The CAP directs the City to develop a climate adaptation plan, stating that “The Safety Element in Menlo Park’s General Plan, which was updated in 2013, will be updated to bring it into compliance with recent changes in General Plan law, including SB 379 (Climate Adaptation and Resiliency.)”<sup>3</sup> The MJLHMP includes a vulnerability assessment, resiliency goals and policies, and implementation actions and is incorporated into this Safety Element by reference. The vulnerability assessment is described under Section G: Climate Adaptation and Resiliency.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.smcgov.org/media/23131/download>

<sup>3</sup> Menlo Park CAP (June 2020), page 9.

## Emergency Operations Plan

The City's Emergency Operations Plan was adopted in 2014 and is being revised to address new and emerging threats impacting the hazards and risks of the city.

The Safety Element supports the Emergency Operations Plan by providing jurisdiction-level context to hazards that may lead to emergencies and disasters. As the Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) and Emergency Operations Plan are adjusting to the emerging threats such as climate change, the Safety Element may need to be reviewed and revised accordingly.

## Sea Level Rise Planning (SB 272)

Senate Bill 272 (2023) requires that a local government, lying in whole or in part within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, develop a sea level rise plan as part of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan on or before January 1, 2034. This shoreline resiliency plan would be subject to approval by BCDC. The City of Menlo Park is within the jurisdiction of BCDC and thus is subject to SB 272. In response to SB 272, the Safety Element includes S1.M, an implementing program for ongoing sea level rise planning, which serves as a guide for the future development of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan.

In order to best address the multijurisdictional aspects of sea level rise planning, Menlo Park will work collaboratively with neighboring cities, San Mateo County, and other regional partners rather than pursue its own plan that may complicate resiliency efforts for others and for the city itself.

## Outreach

Concurrent with the 2023-2031 Housing Element update, the City of Menlo Park conducted a series of outreach efforts that also considered Safety Element topics.

On August 26, 2021, the City held a community meeting to share information about housing equity, environmental justice, and safety issues in Menlo Park and provide an opportunity to receive input from the public. The information provided and feedback received helped form policies for the Housing, Environmental Justice, and Safety Elements. Comments most closely associated with the Safety Element included questions about how more housing would reduce pollution and housing burden in Belle Haven, concerns about air quality and safety in Belle Haven, and statements about the need to protect communities affected by sea level rise.

Between July and September 2021, a survey was conducted to support the updates to the 2023-2031 Housing Element, the Safety Element, and preparation of the City’s first Environmental Justice Element. The intent of the survey was to gain a better understanding of community values and priorities and to create a foundation for future conversations about possible solutions and policy changes. The survey was advertised via a citywide mailer, on virtual platforms, at community meetings, in focus groups, and interviews. The survey was available for completion digitally and in paper format. Below are highlighted findings:

- With regard to concerns about hazards, the top areas of high concern were drought (76% of 684 respondents), wildfire and smoke (68%), air quality (68%), and heatwaves (48%) (see Table S-1).
- In gauging how people thought their neighborhoods have been affected by various hazards, the survey found that respondents considered their neighborhoods to be most highly affected by wildfire and smoke (48%), air quality (43%), and drought conditions (41%). Respondents thought their neighborhoods have not been as affected by flooding (84%), sea level rise (84%), and earthquakes (67%), and listed them as areas of least effect (see Table S-2).

**Table S-1.** Survey Question: How Concerned Are You About Each Hazard?

	High concern	Medium concern	Low concern
Wildfire and smoke	68%	24%	8%
Heatwaves	48%	37%	15%
Drought conditions	76%	19%	6%
Flooding	15%	27%	58%
Earthquakes	29%	47%	23%
Sea level rise	28%	38%	34%
Air quality	68%	25%	6%

Source: City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update: Summary of Community Outreach January 2022. Data is from July to September 2021 Survey.

**Table S-2.** Survey Question: Has your neighborhood been affected by wildfire smoke, heatwaves, drought, flooding and other climate hazards?

	Highly affected	Somewhat affected	Not affected
Wildfire and smoke	48%	43%	10%
Heatwaves	32%	51%	17%
Drought conditions	41%	45%	14%
Flooding	5%	11%	84%
Earthquakes	8%	25%	67%
Sea level rise	5%	11%	84%
Air quality	43%	44%	13%

Source: City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update: Summary of Community Outreach January 2022. Data is from July to September 2021 Survey.

Additional outreach documentation can be found in the appendices to the Environmental Justice Element concerning outreach.

A study session was held on June 20, 2023, to obtain feedback from the community, the City Council, and the Planning Commission on both the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements. Two subsequent study sessions were conducted on June 3, 2024 and June 18, 2024, with the Planning Commission and City Council, respectively.

## **A** Geologic Hazards



### **Seismicity**

Menlo Park, like much of the San Francisco Bay area, is vulnerable to seismic activity due to the presence of several active faults in the region. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act has resulted in the identification of earthquake fault zones, which identify areas around surface traces of active faults and where the potential for surface rupture exists. The closest and most prominent active fault

near the city is the San Andreas Fault System, which is located about 2.5 miles west of Interstate 280 and the western boundary of the city. There are no Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones that have been mapped within Menlo Park and the potential for ground rupture is therefore considered low.

Although, there are no Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones in the city that would likely result in ground rupture, groundshaking from the San Andreas Fault and other major earthquake faults may still be experienced within the city. Other major faults include the Monte Vista Fault (approximately 3 miles to the south), the Butano Fault (approximately 10 miles to the south), the Hayward Fault (approximately 13 miles to the east), and the Calaveras Fault (approximately 19 miles to the east). Although the Hayward Fault is not the closest fault to Menlo Park, it poses the greatest risk to the Bay Area's critical infrastructure and key resources and would have devastating impacts on the region.

Magnitude is the measure of energy release by an earthquake. This measure is expressed as whole numbers and decimals, where each whole number is an order of magnitude greater than the preceding whole number. For example, the California Geologic Survey describes a magnitude 6.0 quake as releasing approximately as much energy as 6,270 tons of the explosive material TNT (trinitrotoluene), a magnitude 7.0 as

199,000 tons, a magnitude 8.0 as 6.27 million tons, and a magnitude 9.0 as 99 million tons. The April 1906 earthquake on the San Andreas Fault, estimated between magnitude (M) 7.7 and M 8.3, was the largest seismic event in recent history that affected Menlo Park. More recently, the M 6.9 Loma Prieta earthquake of October 1989 on the San Andreas Fault caused significant damage throughout the Bay Area, but no deaths were reported in San Mateo County.

The severity of ground shaking depends on several variables such as earthquake magnitude; hypocenter proximity; and local geology including the properties of unconsolidated sediments, groundwater conditions, and topographic setting. In general, ground shaking hazards are most pronounced in areas that are underlain by loosely consolidated soil/sediment.

The USGS estimated that the probability of a magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake prior to 2036 occurring in the Bay Area is 63 percent.<sup>4</sup>

Individually, the forecasted probability for each individual fault to produce an M 6.7 or greater seismic event in the next 30 years is as follows: 31 percent for the Hayward Fault, 21 percent for the San Andreas Fault, 7 percent for the Calaveras Fault, and 6 percent for the San Gregorio Fault. Earthquakes of this magnitude can create ground accelerations severe enough to cause major damage to structures and foundations not designed to resist the forces generated by earthquakes. Underground utility lines are also susceptible where they lack sufficient flexibility to accommodate the seismic ground motion.

In the event of an earthquake of this magnitude, the seismic forecasts presented on the Association of Bay Area Governments' website (developed by a cooperative working group that included the USGS and the California Geological Society (CGS) suggest that most parts of Menlo Park southwest of Highway 101 are expected to experience "strong" shaking, and most areas east of Highway 101 are expected to experience "very strong" shaking, with areas located within 1 mile of the Dumbarton Bridge expected to experience "violent" shaking.<sup>5</sup> Possible groundshaking intensities are shown in Figure S-1Figure S-2. Butano Earthquake Scenario to Figure S-4.

The MJLHMP provides further evaluation of earthquake intensity in Menlo Park. The perceived and observed effect of an earthquake on the surface is known as intensity, and the Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) Scale is the method used to classify earthquake intensity in the United States. The lowest intensity, MMI I categorizes shaking that is not felt except by very few under especially favorable conditions, and the

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<sup>4</sup> "What is the probability that an earthquake will occur in the Los Angeles Area? In the San Francisco Bay area?" (USGS: Last accessed November 18, 2022). Available at <https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-probability-earthquake-will-occur-los-angeles-area-san-francisco-bay-area>

<sup>5</sup> Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), 2012. GIS Viewer, Hazards Maps Earthquake Shaking Scenarios.

highest intensity, MMI X categorizes shaking that is extreme and the level of damage includes destruction of well-built wooden structures and most masonry and frame structures. The MJLHMP finds the city may experience intensities of Mercalli Intensity Scale VI (strong perceived shaking/ potential light damage) to VII (severe perceived shaking/ potential moderate-heavy damage). Intensities may also vary based on the origin and magnitude of the earthquake.

Earthquakes can also produce secondary hazards, such as tsunamis, landslides, and liquefaction. A tsunami is a large tidal wave generated by an earthquake, landslide, or volcanic eruption. Seiches are waves that oscillate in enclosed water bodies, such as reservoirs, lakes, ponds, or semi-enclosed bodies of water such as San Francisco Bay. Seiches may be triggered by moderate or large submarine earthquakes, or sometimes by large onshore earthquakes. The following map of tsunami hazard areas (Figure S-7. Tsunami Hazard Areas) shows that a very small portion of the Menlo Park planning area would be impacted by a seismically-induced sea wave (tsunami). Liquefaction (a phenomenon involving loose, saturated, cohesionless soil that experiences temporary loss of strength during cyclic loading, such as from strong ground shaking during earthquakes) occurs when the soil is oversaturated with water, creating ground instability which can lead to buildings and road foundations to sink. Eastern parts of Menlo Park, particularly those areas underlain by Bay Muds, are judged to have a very high potential for seismically-induced liquefaction.

The performance of human-made structures during a major seismic event varies considerably due to a number of factors, most importantly:

- Location with respect to:
  - Active fault traces
  - Areas prone to liquefaction
  - Seismically-induced landslides;
- Type of building construction (i.e., wood frame, unreinforced masonry, non-ductile concrete frame);
- Building Age; and
- Proximity, magnitude, and intensity of the seismic event itself.

In general, evidence from past earthquakes shows that wood frame structures tend to perform well especially when their foundations are properly designed and anchored.

Older, unreinforced masonry structures, on the other hand, do not perform as well, especially if they have not undergone appropriate seismic retrofitting. Soft story

buildings<sup>6</sup> or multi-story buildings with one or more floors that are “soft” because of structural design, could also be more vulnerable to seismic impacts if they have not been designed to withstand ground shaking and other earthquake-induced impacts. A building is considered to be “soft story” if it has a floor that is 70% less stiff than the floor above it. Soft stories are typically associated with open plan retail spaces and parking garages, and they are often on the lower stories of a building. Soft-story collapse is one of the leading causes of earthquake damage to private residences.<sup>7</sup>

Applicable building code requirements, such as Menlo Park’s seismic hazard identification program (Chapter 12.46) and those found in the California Building Code (CBC), include seismic requirements that are designed to ensure the satisfactory performance of building materials under prescribed seismic conditions. The City updates its building code following each update of the CBC, which occurs on three year intervals.

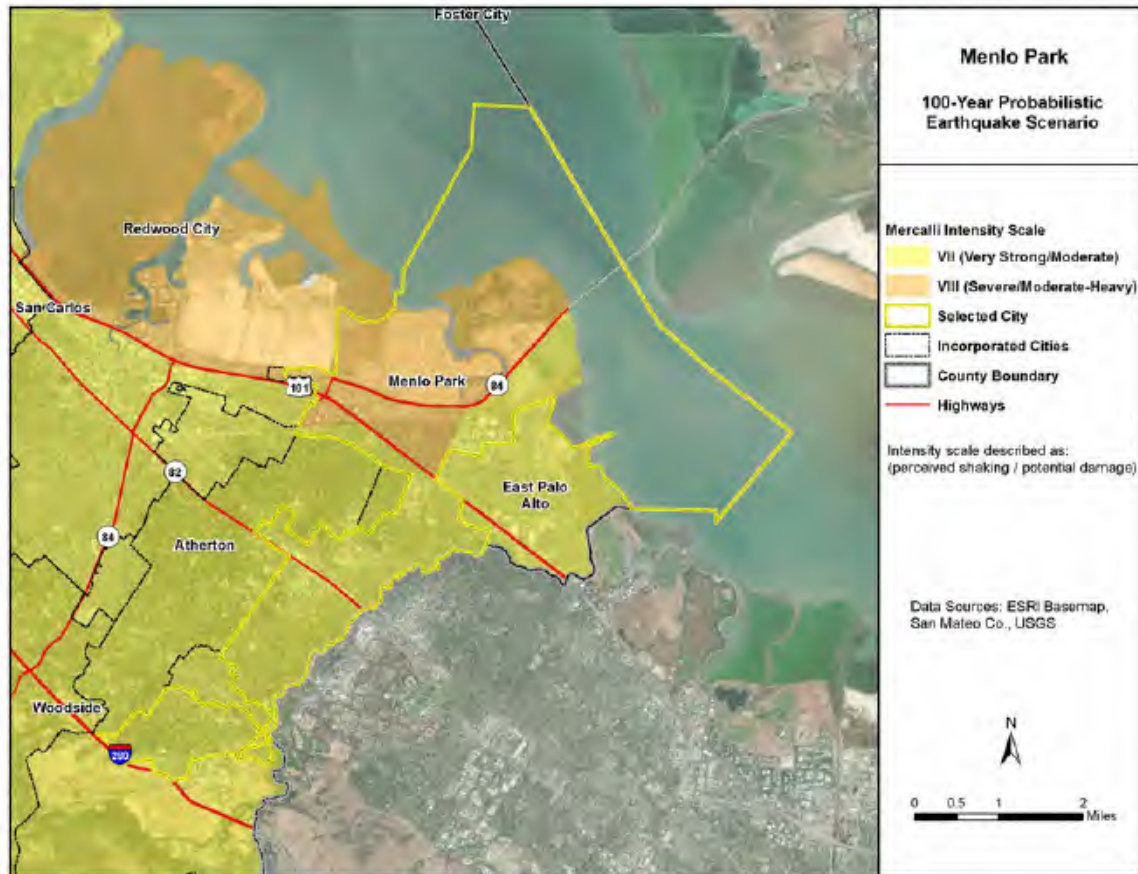
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<sup>6</sup> “Soft-story residential buildings are those that have open parking or commercial space on the first floor and housing on higher floors. In an earthquake, ground shaking causes such structures to sway and sometimes to collapse.”; “Soft Story Resources (Policy)” (ABAG), available at <https://abag.ca.gov/soft-story-resources-policy>

<sup>7</sup> County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Figure S-1 is a combined map of predicted shaking from all possible earthquakes over the course of 10,000 years. The map shows the ground motion scenario in 100 years, a 1-percent annual chance event. If an earthquake happens, the City of Menlo Park would most likely experience a very strong to severe ground shaking with moderate to moderate-heavy potential damage.

**Figure S-1. 100-year Probabilistic Earthquake Scenario**

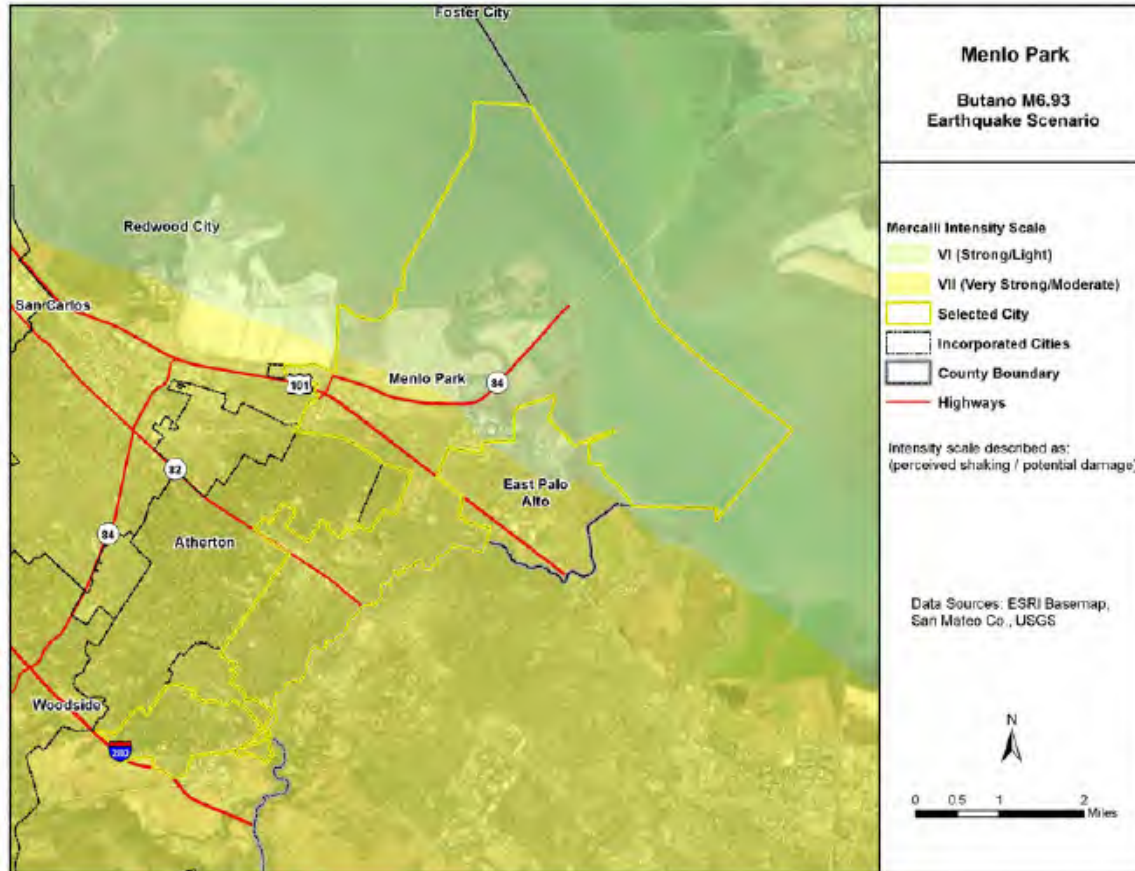


Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes



Figure S-2 uses a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-6.93 event on the Butano Fault with an epicenter 17.5 miles south of Redwood City occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience a very strong ground shaking with moderate potential damage.

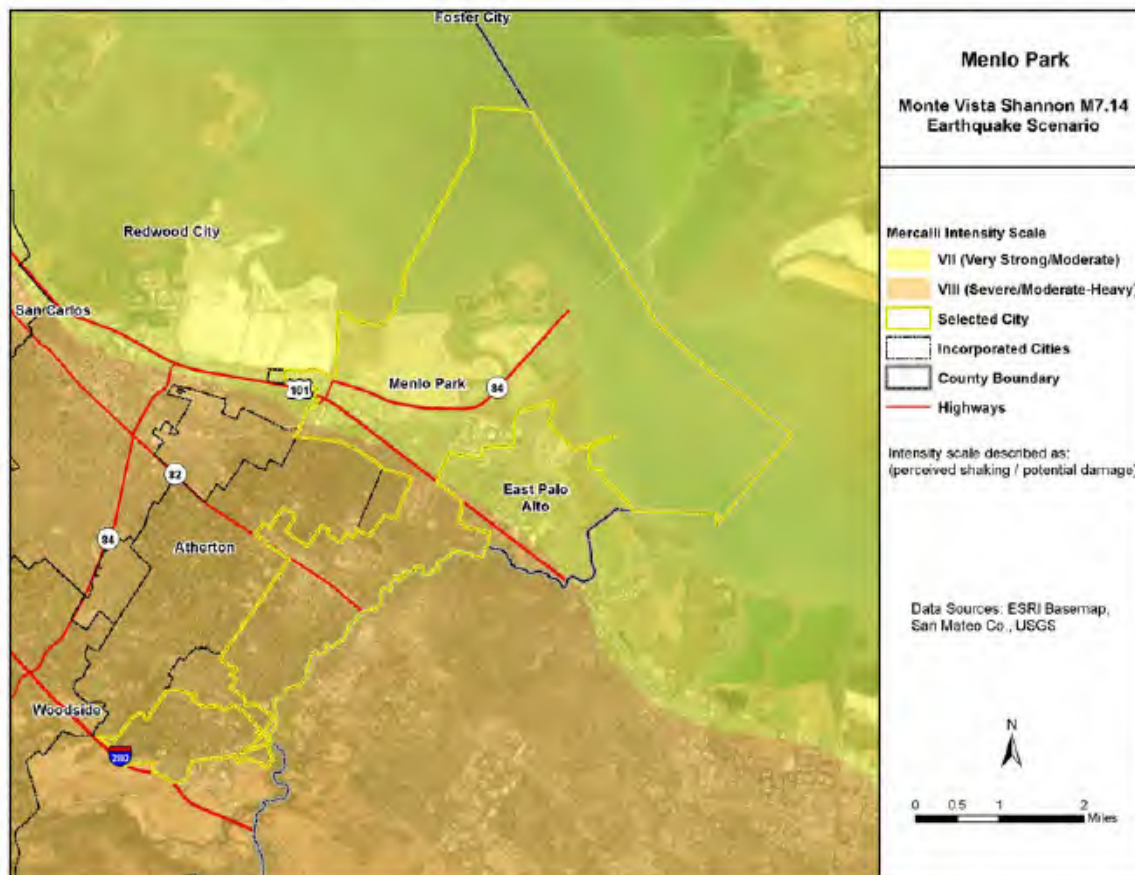
**Figure S-2. Butano Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-3 uses a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-7.14 event on the Monte Vista Shannon Fault with an epicenter 16 miles south-southeast of Redwood City occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience very strong to severe ground shaking with moderate to moderate-heavy potential damage.

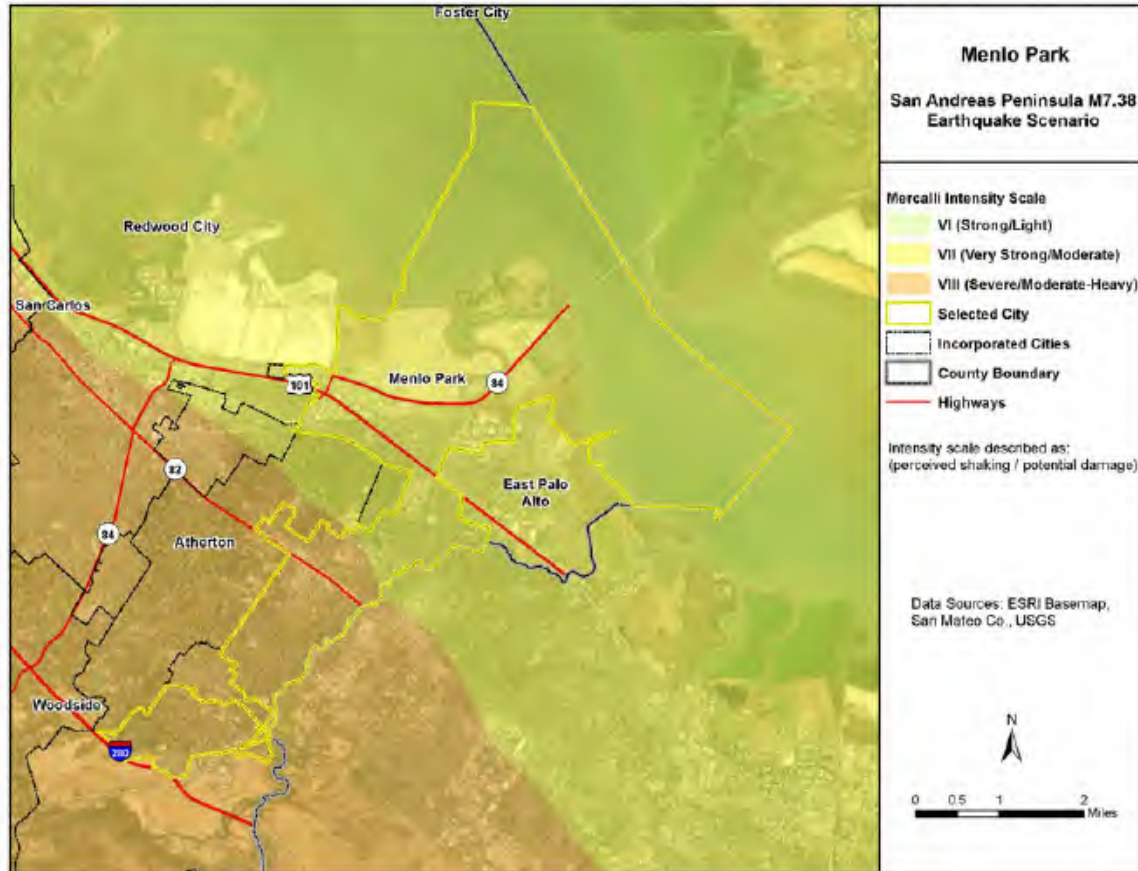
**Figure S-3. Monte Vista Shannon Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-4 indicates a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-7.38 event on the San Andreas Fault with an epicenter 4 miles west of Belmont occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience very strong to severe ground shaking with moderate to moderate-heavy potential damage.

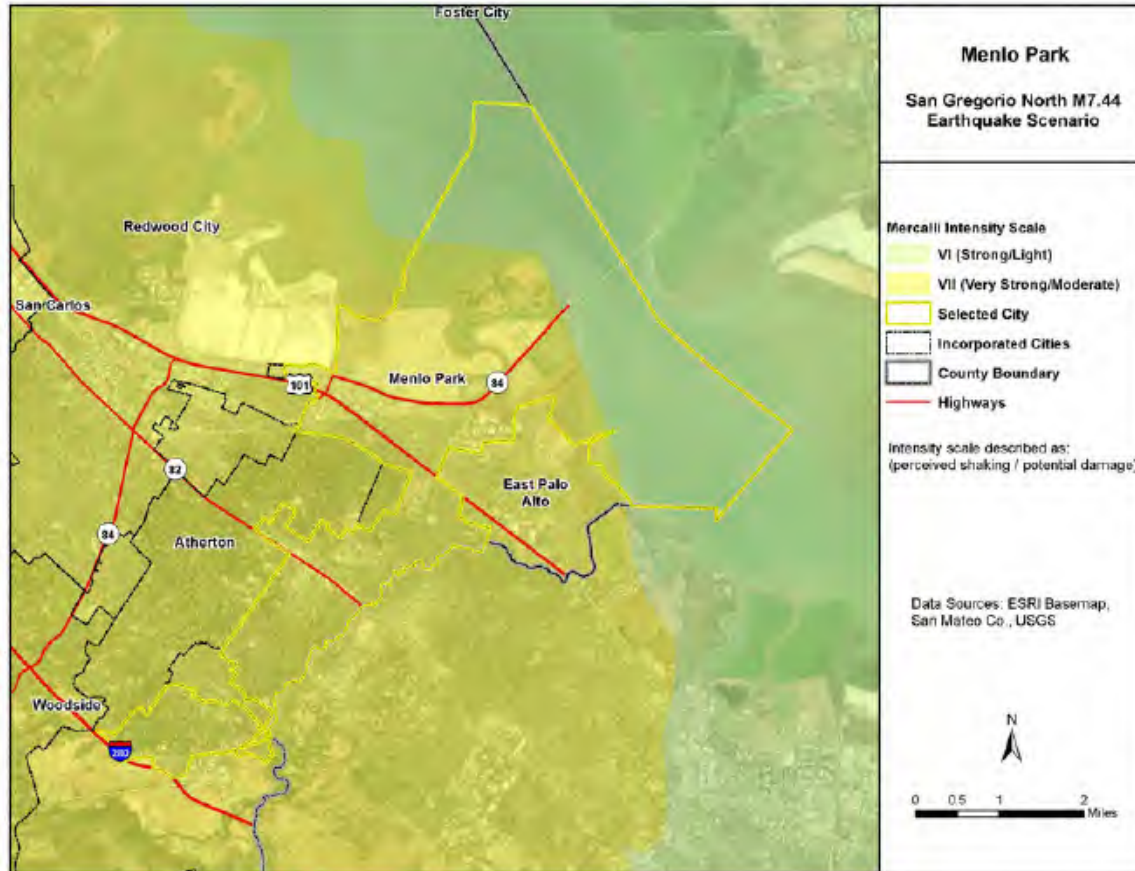
**Figure S-4. San Andreas Peninsula Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-5 indicates a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-7.44 event on the San Gregorio Fault with an epicenter 4 miles south of Half Moon Bay occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience very strong ground shaking with moderate potential damage.

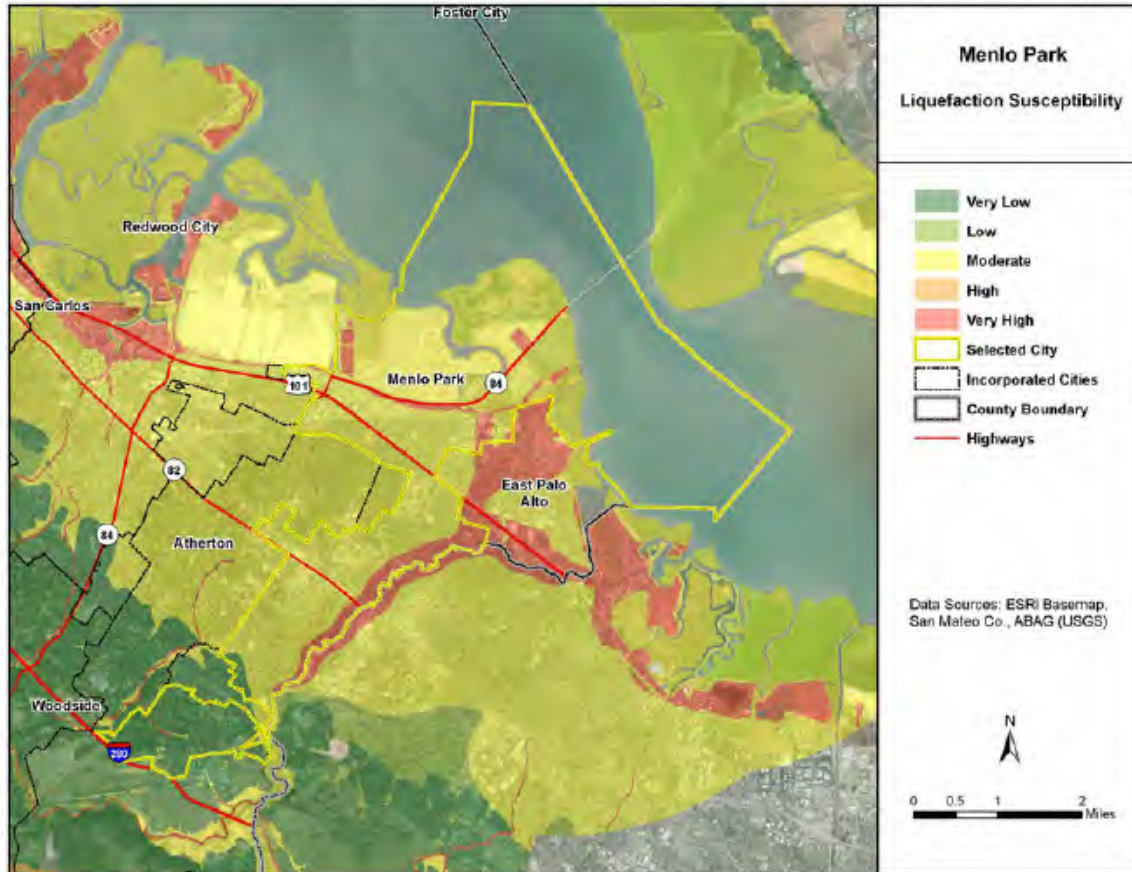
**Figure S-5. San Gregorio North Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) creates maps based on soil characteristics to help identify locations subject to liquefaction. NEHRP soil types define the locations that will be significantly impacted by an earthquake. The areas that are commonly most affected by ground shaking have NEHRP Soils D, E and F. As a result, most of the City would experience a moderate to very high liquefaction susceptibility (see Figure S-6).

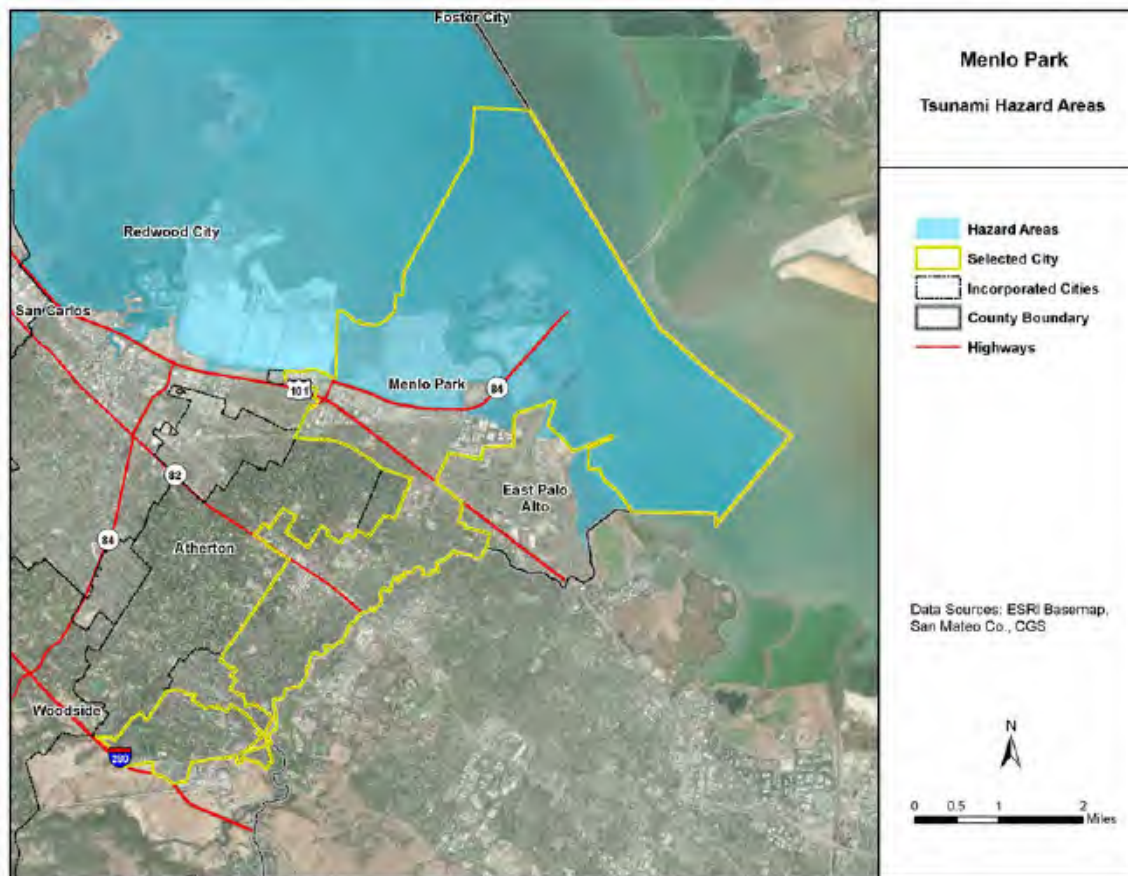
**Figure S-6. Liquefaction Susceptibility**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Recent tsunami modeling uses probabilistic tsunami hazard analysis to compute tsunami waves from sources from around the Pacific Ocean and results in inundation models that are associated with different probabilities of exceedance over time. The California Geological Survey, Seismic Hazards Program, Tsunami Unit selected the 975-year average return period tsunami model, with a 5% probability of exceedance in 50 years, as a basis for the minimum hazard level. As a result, a tsunami would affect the areas near Highway 84 (see Figure S-7).

**Figure S-7. Tsunami Hazard Areas**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

## **Landslides, Erosion and Subsidence**

Landslides are gravity-driven movements of earth materials that may include rock, soil, unconsolidated sediment, or combinations of such materials. The rate of landslide movement can vary considerably. Some move rapidly as in a soil or rock avalanche, while other landslides creep or move slowly for extended periods of time. The susceptibility of a given area to landslides depends on many variables, although the general characteristics that influence landslide hazards are well understood. The factors

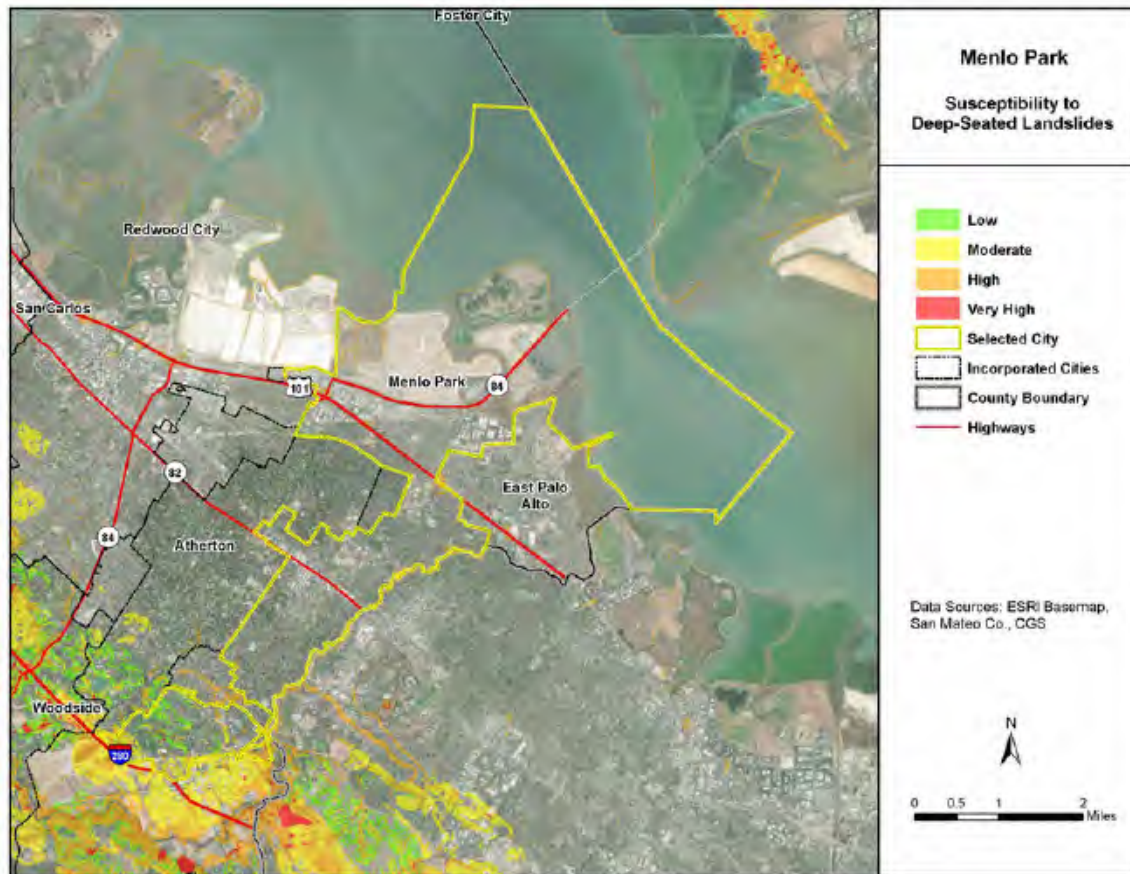
that influence the probability of a landslide and its relative level of risk include the following:

- (1) **Slope Material:** Loose, unconsolidated soils and soft, weak rocks are more hazardous than are firm, consolidated soils or hard bedrock.
- (2) **Slope Steepness:** Most landslides occur on moderate to steep slopes.
- (3) **Structure and Physical Properties of Materials:** This includes the orientation of layering and zones of weakness relative to slope direction.
- (4) **Water Content:** Increased water content increases landslide hazard by decreasing friction and adding weight to the materials on a slope.
- (5) **Vegetation Coverage:** Abundant vegetation with deep roots promote slope stability.
- (6) **Proximity to Areas of Erosion or Human-made Cuts:** Undercutting slopes can greatly increase landslide potential.
- (7) **Earthquake Ground Motions:** Strong seismic ground motions can trigger landslides in marginally stable slopes or loosen slope materials, and also increase the risk of future landslides.

Landslides have the potential to occur within Menlo Park, most notably on some of the hilly slopes that lie west of the Alameda de las Pulgas roadway. In general, landslides are commonly associated with bedrock outcrops of the Franciscan Formation, which frequently form steeper slopes. Shale is the most unstable of the rock types within the Franciscan Formation, whereas sandstone and conglomerate tend to be more stable with a lower landslide risk. Much of the upland areas in Menlo Park are typified by shallow soil that overlies Franciscan bedrock very close to the surface. Landslides are not an issue in parts of the city where the topography is flat.

Figure S-8 and associated data show the relative likelihood of deep-seated landsliding based on regional estimates of rock strength and steepness of slopes. On the most basic level, weak rocks and steep slopes are most likely to generate landslides. The map uses detailed information on the location of past landslides, the location and relative strength of rock units, and steepness of slope to estimate susceptibility to deep-seated landsliding. As a result, the City would experience low to moderate landslides.

**Figure S-8. Susceptibility to Deep-Seated Landslides**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Subsidence hazards are known to be present in the diked baylands due to the highly compressible nature of the underlying fill as well as historical groundwater overdraft. Areas susceptible to earthquake-induced subsidence include those areas underlain by thick layers of colluvial material (loose, unconsolidated sediments) or poorly engineered fill. This fill was reported to have settled historically with hydro-compaction being an element of the settlement as well. Land subsidence occurred within the low-lying areas, mainly along the Bay margins.

Expansive soils can change dramatically in volume depending on moisture content. When wet, these soils can expand; conversely, when dry, they can contract or shrink. Sources of moisture that can trigger this shrink-swell phenomenon include seasonal rainfall, landscape irrigation, utility leakage, and/or perched groundwater. Expansive soil can exhibit wide cracks in the dry season, and changes in soil volume have the potential to damage concrete slabs, foundations, and pavement. Special building/structure design or soil treatment are often needed in areas with expansive soils. Shrink-swell potential ranges from high along the marshlands of San Francisco Bay, to moderate in the center of the City, and to low in the western foothills.



## **B** Hydrology (Flooding and Rise in Sea Level)

### **Flooding and Dam Failure**

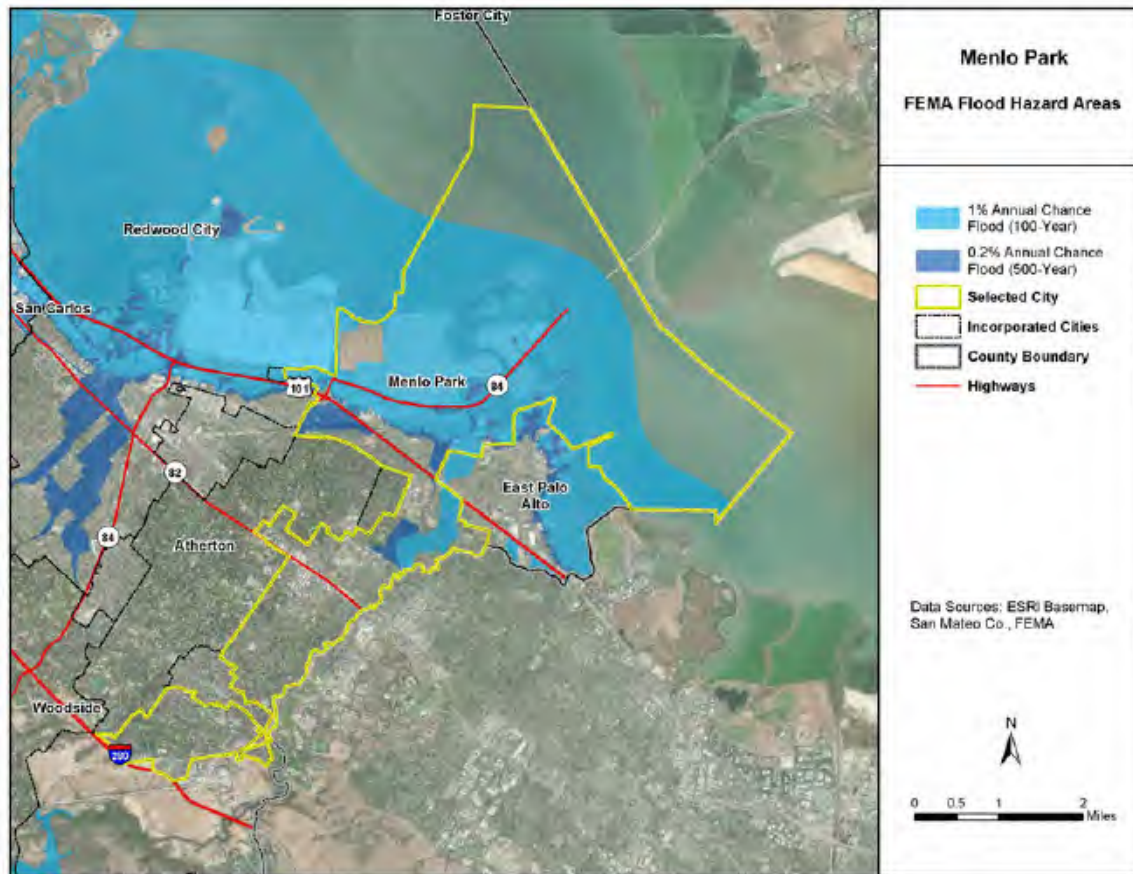
FEMA prepares maps of the 100-year flood hazard area of U.S. communities. Areas within the 100-year flood hazard area have a one percent risk of flooding in any given year. Maps are also available for 500-year floods, which mean that in any given year, the risk of flooding in the designated area is 0.2 percent.

In some locations, FEMA also provides a measurement of base flood elevation for the 100-year flood, which is the minimum height of the flood waters during a 100-year event. Base flood elevation is reported in feet above sea level. Depth of flooding is determined by subtracting the land's height above sea level from the base flood elevation. Areas within the 100-year flood hazard area that are financed by Federally-backed mortgages are subject to mandatory Federal insurance requirements and building standards to reduce flood damage.

The northernmost portion of Menlo Park, including much of the area between State Route 84 and Highway 101, is within the 100-year floodplain subject to tidal flooding from San Francisco Bay. In addition, portions of Menlo Park between Middlefield Road and Highway 101 are within the 100-year floodplain due to overflow from San Francisquito Creek. The MJLHMP identifies numerous critical facilities, including shelters, health facilities, safety and security facilities, communications facilities, energy facilities, hazardous materials locations, and transportation facilities throughout the city, as shown in the Critical Facilities maps in the following sections. A number of these facilities (Bedwell Bayfront Park Landfill and Gas Flare, and Chrysler Pump Station, and a Menlo Park Police Neighborhood Service Center) are located in areas identified as 100-year and 500-year flood hazard areas.

Flood hazard areas are from the countywide effective FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) dated April 5, 2019. Some parts of the City may experience flooding, especially areas closer to the San Francisco Bay.

**Figure S-9. Flood Hazard Areas**

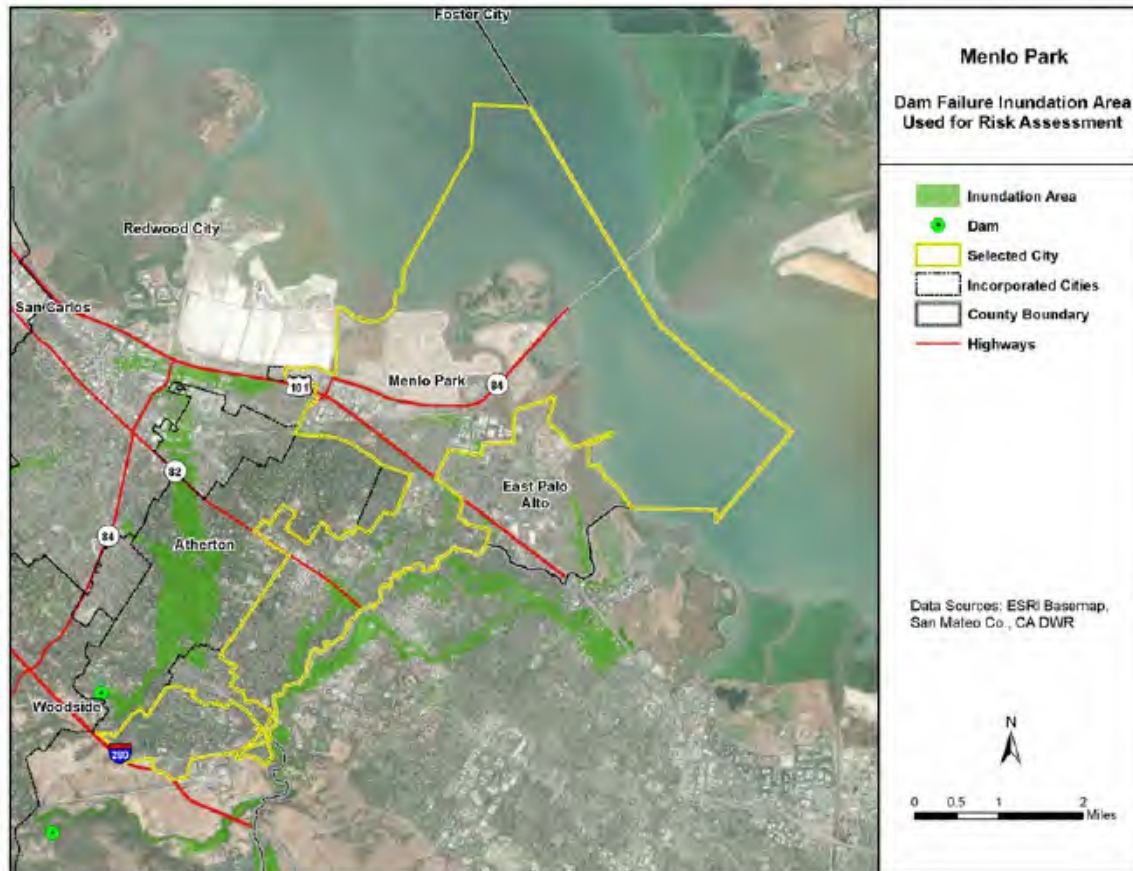


Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Dam failures can be caused by overtopping caused by floods or precipitation that exceeds dam capacity, damage to the foundation of the dam, or structural failures of the dam. Several reservoirs in the area present the remote risk of downstream inundation in the event of a dam failure as the result of an earthquake or other catastrophic event. According to the California Department of Water Resources dam failure inundation maps, portions of Menlo Park are within the Searsville, Felt Lake, and Foothill Park dam inundation zones. A dam failure at Felt Lake would affect the Arrillaga Gym and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Although dam inundation areas for Bear Gulch are not located within City limits, they do cover some areas in proximity to the western City limits. Dam failures have been rare in San Mateo County with only one recorded dam failure in 1926, which did not impact Menlo Park.

Inundation maps are based on a hypothetical failure of a dam or critical appurtenant structure and the information depicted on the maps is approximate. Some parts of Menlo Park would be affected if a dam failed nearby.

**Figure S-10. Dam Failure Inundation Area**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA), in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, are implementing improvements to provide 100-year flood protection for flood-prone reaches of San Francisquito Creek both upstream and downstream from Highway 101.

The California Department of Water Resources is required to inspect dams, reservoirs, and appurtenant structures once per fiscal year, with the exception of low hazard potential dams that would be inspected at least every two fiscal years. Owners of dams are required to operate critical outlet and spillway control features on an annual basis and to demonstrate their full operability in the presence of the Department every three years or as directed by the Department.

## Sea Level and Groundwater Rise

California Executive Order S-13-2008 states that all State agencies planning construction projects in areas vulnerable to sea level rise must consider a range of sea level rise scenarios for the years 2050 and 2100 to assess project vulnerability and to the extent feasible, reduce expected risks from sea level rise.

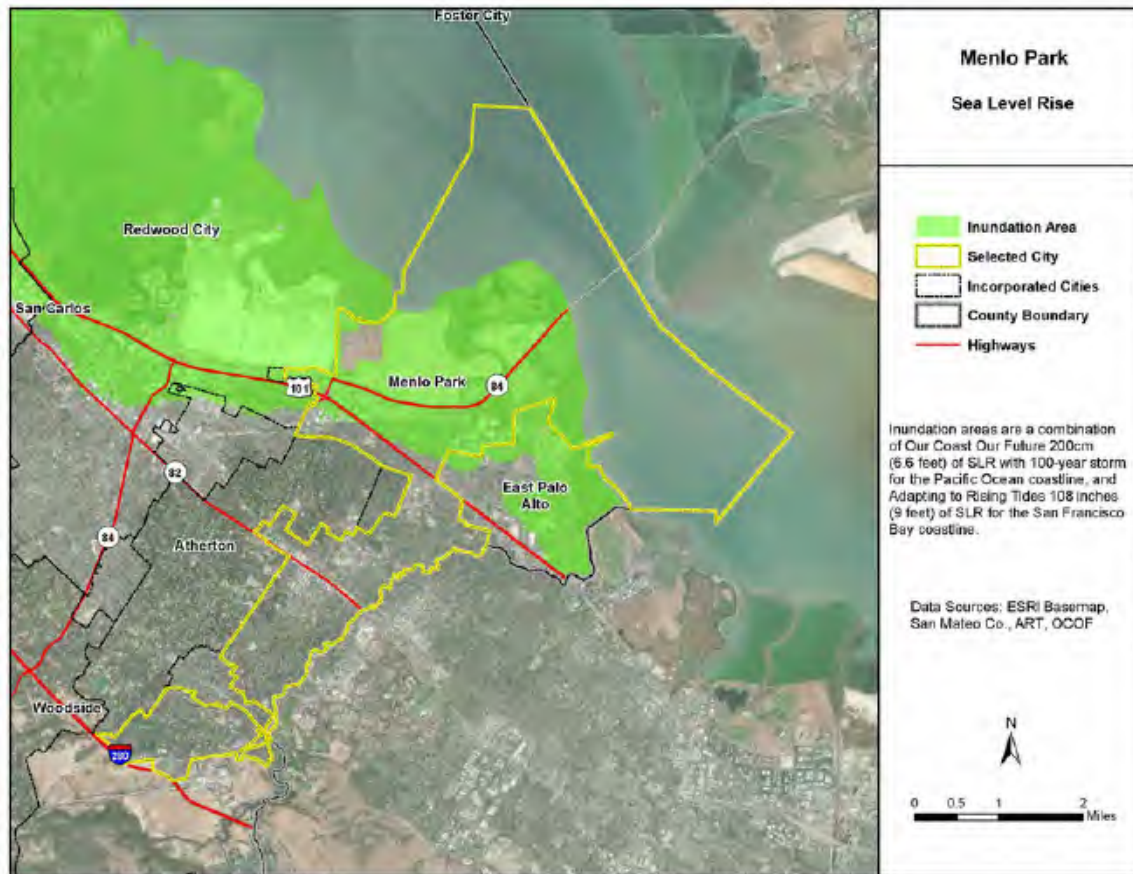
As a result of decades of increasing atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide and methane as a result of fossil fuel consumption, rising temperatures worldwide have warmed the atmosphere and the world's oceans. Sea level rise, in turn reflects both melting glaciers and the expansion of seawater as it warms. Different scenarios and predictive models result in different estimates in the magnitude of sea level rise. The California Fourth Climate Assessment projects a 2.5-foot rise in sea level rise by 2100. Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) program, which is a collaboration between BCDC and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Coastal Management maps different sea level rise scenarios. Sea level rise can cause flood damage to property and infrastructure. In Menlo Park, the Bayfront and Belle Haven neighborhoods are most vulnerable to sea level rise. These neighborhoods may expect damage from storm activity in combination with higher sea levels. Key factors that will further exacerbate the impacts of sea level rise include high tides, storm surge, El Niño winter storms, storm waves, and high runoff rates from rivers and creeks. Much of the damage, as shown in Figure S-11, will occur north of US-101.

The MJLHMP estimates that Menlo Park currently has 998 structures at risk of inundation due to sea level rise, and 4,576 residents living in areas at risk.<sup>8</sup> The MJLHMP additionally estimates that 38 critical facilities are at risk of inundation in the city due to sea level rise including facilities related to communications, energy, food and water, hazardous material, health and medical, safety and security, and transportation. The City has efforts underway to address sea level rise including collaboration with BCDC and adjacent jurisdictions and groups, including, but not limited to, City of East Palo Alto, County of San Mateo, City of Redwood City, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority, and OneShoreline (San Mateo County Flood & Sea Level Rise Resiliency District), to develop a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan. The Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan is a region-wide plan for the Bay shoreline that guides the creation of coordinated, locally-planned sea level rise adaptation actions that work together to meet regional goals.

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<sup>8</sup> County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Figure S-11. Sea Level Rise

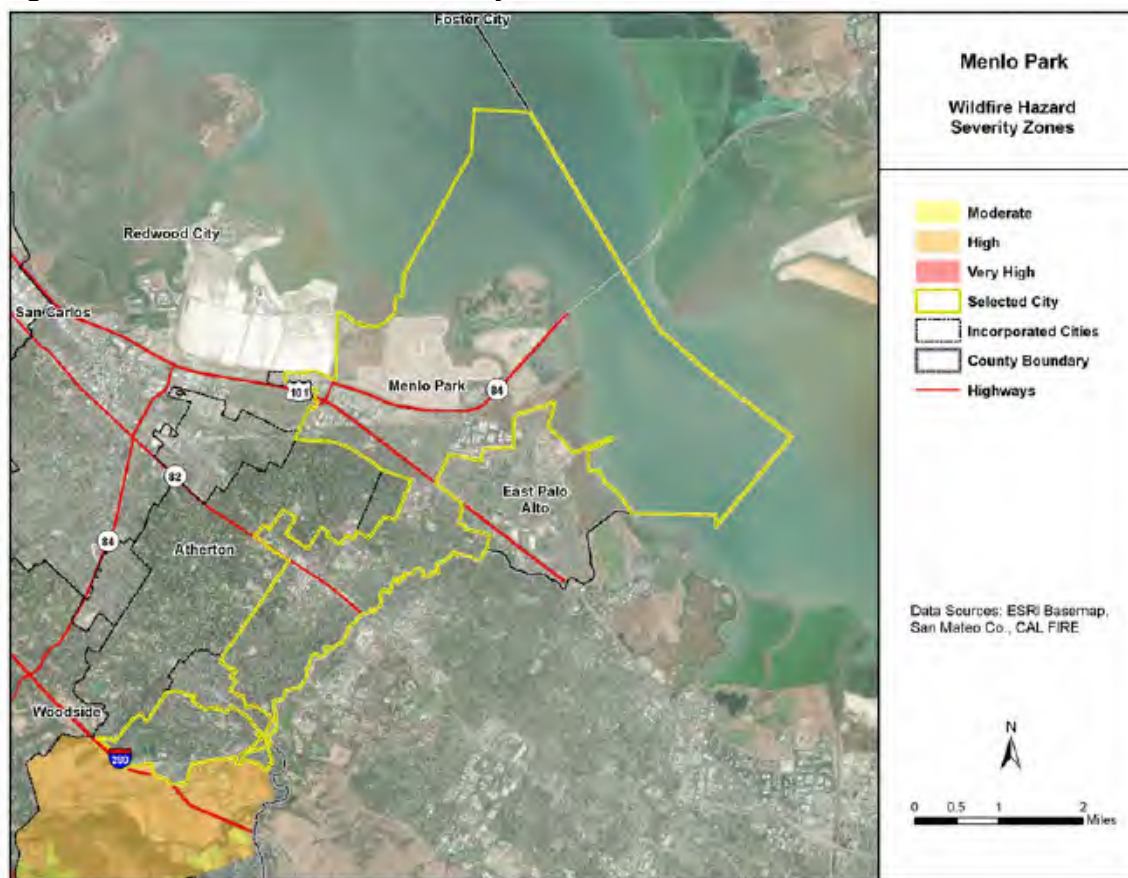


Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

## C Fire Hazards

The severity of the wildfire hazard is determined by the relationship between three factors — (1) fuel classification, (2) topography, and (3) critical fire weather frequency. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) defines Fire Hazard Severity Zones for areas within the state. A fire hazard is defined as a “measure of the likelihood of an area burning and how it burns,” with a zone being an area characterized by a particular level of fire hazard. CAL FIRE’s Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps indicate areas for which the State of California has fiscal responsibility for wildland fire protection services as the State Responsibility Area, and areas for which local jurisdictions have fiscal responsibility as the Local Responsibility Area. Menlo Park does not contain any fire hazard severity zones. However, there is a high Fire Hazard Severity zone identified as a State Responsibility Area just outside of the southwestern City Limits (see Figure S-12).

**Figure S-12. Wildfire Hazard Severity Zones**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The frequency and length of wildfire season is increasing as the result of climate change. This trend combined with human activity that is exacerbating wildfire risk could result in more frequent and intense wildfires in the future. The most recent notable wildfire that has impacted the city was the August 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire in Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties. As of mid-2021, this fire was recorded as the 12<sup>th</sup> most destructive wildfire in California history. While wildfires have a lower chance of causing the destruction of property in Menlo Park, nearby burning wildfires can expose the community to health-related impacts of poor air quality.

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District reviews development plans within the city. At the planning review phase, the Fire District considers capacity to serve the development and provides initial comments and conditions. At building permit submittal, the Fire District confirms development would meet requirements for fire safety. In review of proposed projects, the Fire District considers peakload water

supply requirements to serve the development, road widths, and clearances around structures.

### Fire Stations

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District serves Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto, and parts of unincorporated San Mateo County. There are five fire stations strategically located within or adjacent to the city's boundaries that serve Menlo Park:

- Fire Station 1: 300 Middlefield Road
- Fire Station 4: 3322 Alameda de las Pulgas (in nearby unincorporated San Mateo County, and can serve Menlo Park)
- Fire Station 5: 4101 Fair Oaks Avenue
- Fire Station 6: 700 Oak Grove Avenue
- Fire Station 77: 1467 Chilco Street

## **D** Extreme Temperatures

Climate change is causing rising temperatures across the Bay Area. According to the California 4<sup>th</sup> Climate Assessment, average temperatures throughout the Bay Area are expected to increase by 3.3 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050. Extreme heat days are defined as any day where the daily maximum or minimum temperature exceeds the 98<sup>th</sup> historical percentile of daily maximum or minimum temperatures from 1961-1990.<sup>9</sup> In Menlo Park, maximum temperatures that exceed 97.2 degrees Fahrenheit are classified as extreme heat. In 2021, Menlo Park experienced five extreme heat days. By 2050, the number of extreme heat days in the city is projected to increase to 11 days.

Warmer temperatures can cause an increased risk of heat-related illnesses, including heat exhaustion and heat stroke. In addition to health impacts, rising temperatures can result in worsening air quality due to the formation of ground-level ozone and an increased risk of wildfires. Populations that are more acutely impacted by heat include older adults, outdoor workers, unhoused individuals, and low-income communities of color.

The City of Menlo Park currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public. The Belle Haven Community Campus and the Menlo Park Library cooling centers are open every day, with all the facilities operating from June to October during each facility's

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<sup>9</sup> *Extreme Heat Days and Warm Nights*. Cal-Adapt. <https://cal-adapt.org/tools/extreme-heat/>. This tool was used to identify extreme heat day temperatures for location.

regular operating hours. On dates when the National Weather Service issues an excessive heat warning, the City Manager may designate additional hours or locations to respond to community needs.

The Belle Haven Community Campus is an all-electric, zero combustion, net zero energy public building with onsite renewable energy generation, battery microgrid, and electric vehicle charging stations. The facility is built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum environmental standards, and its structural design is resilient to serve as an emergency shelter.



## Climate Adaptation and Resiliency

Climate change is a long-term shift in temperature and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, such as through variations in solar cycles, however human activities have been the main driver of climate change since the 1800s, primarily due to burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas<sup>10</sup>. The release of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere through human activities around the Earth traps the sun's heat and raises temperatures. Carbon dioxide is the most commonly known greenhouse gas, but methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gas also contribute to warming. The major scientific agencies such as NASA and the NOAA have found evidence that climate change is occurring through global temperature rise, warming oceans, shrinking ice sheets in Greenland and the Antarctic, glacial retreat around the world, decreased snow cover, sea level rise, declining arctic sea ice, extreme temperature events, and ocean acidification from absorption of carbon dioxide. The associated impacts from climate changes present risks of hazards affecting both the natural and built environments, not only at a global level but also at a local level.

Climate change impact concerns for San Mateo County and the region include:<sup>11</sup>

- A significant temperature increase by mid-century
- High year-to-year variability within very wet and very dry years
- Longer and deeper droughts
- Sea level rise, even with emissions reductions
- Extreme heat events, increased air pollution
- Socioeconomic inequity in different abilities to prepare for and recover from heatwaves and fires
- Heatwaves increasing health risk due to urban heat island and lack of local cooling infrastructure
- Climate less suitable for evergreen forests (e.g., redwoods and Douglas fir)
- Sea level and groundwater rise impact on wetlands and wildlife

On December 10, 2019, the Menlo Park City Council adopted Resolution No. 6535 declaring a climate emergency. The City adopted the 2030 Climate Action Plan in July 2020 and approved amendments to it in April 2021. According to the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, climate change will continue to exacerbate environmental hazards in cities and threaten damage to property and people. As the result of past discriminatory policies and planning practices, communities of color and low-income communities nationwide are more likely to live in areas that have a higher risk from climate impacts, including flooding, urban heat islands, and poor air

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<sup>10</sup> What is Climate Change. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>

<sup>11</sup> 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 1-Planning-Area-Wide Elements. County of San Mateo

quality.<sup>12</sup> In addition, these communities may face additional challenges to coping with the impacts of climate change, such as limited financial resources.

Climate adaption and resiliency strategies are required considerations within Safety Elements, which aim to identify potential hazards from climate change that may affect a community and the strategies to respond to such potential hazards. A vulnerability assessment presents the means to identify impacts from climate change.

### **Vulnerability Assessment**

The Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) included an assessment of vulnerabilities and the ability of the City to adapt. The MJLHMP addresses climate change and sea level rise risks and impacts, as well as climate adaptation and resiliency strategies and listed actions for the City in addressing these hazards. Per Government Code Section 65302(g)(4), if a local jurisdiction has not adopted a local hazard mitigation plan, beginning on or before January 1, 2022, the Safety Element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to the city or county. The City of Menlo Park adopted the MJLHMP before January 1, 2022. Cities that have an adopted hazard mitigation plan, climate adaptation plan, or substantially equivalent provisions in their general plans may use that information in the Safety Element to comply with requirements for Safety Elements under Government Code Section 65302(g)(4), and shall summarize and incorporate by reference into the Safety Element the other general plan provisions, climate adaptation plan or document.

The MJLHMP identifies a high risk for sea level rise/climate change as a hazard affecting the community. In addition, to direct climate impacts such as sea level rise, the vulnerability assessment addresses indirect climate impacts across key sectors including infrastructure, buildings, natural systems, economic assets, and populations. Broader vulnerabilities at the countywide level that were identified would affect the city as well.

#### *Infrastructure*

The high variability in expected weather and the extensiveness of drought conditions places greater impact on the ability of infrastructure and systems to accommodate demand. For prolonged droughts, conservation of water and efficient management of water resources would be required to reduce overuse of water resources. For heavy rain events, infrastructure to manage runoff would need to be at capacities that would be able to handle the volume of runoff. Additionally, pro-active planning to prevent/address tree failure, street flooding due to blocked drains, and loss of electricity should be pursued.

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<sup>12</sup> Urban Sustainability Directors Network.  
[https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn\\_guide\\_to\\_equitable\\_community-driven\\_climate\\_preparedness-high\\_res.pdf](https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn_guide_to_equitable_community-driven_climate_preparedness-high_res.pdf)

In addition to policies and programs in the Safety Element, the MJLHMP includes several relevant actions:

- Action MPK-3 will integrate the MJLHMP into other plans and programs that support infrastructure investments.
- Action MPK-24 will plan, design, and implement the water infrastructure improvements recommended in the Water System Master Plan.
- Action MPK-28 will support green infrastructure projects that enhance resiliency to natural disasters.
- Action MPK-29 will identify and pursue strategies to enhance recycled water infrastructure planning/implementation.

### *Buildings*

Development and buildings would be most likely to be directly impacted by sea-level rise. As shown in Figure S-11, the risk of sea level rise has greatest potential to affect areas north of Highway 101. Indirect impacts from climate change may include the availability of water resources to support development where prolonged droughts affect supply. Without adequate measures to address sea level rise, this could mean a reduction in available land for building new development and could displace residents of the Bayfront and Belle Haven neighborhoods over time.

In addition to policies and programs in the Safety Element, the MJLHMP includes several relevant actions:

- Action MPK-1 will when appropriate, support retro-fitting, purchase or relocation of structures located in high hazard areas and prioritize those structures that have experienced repetitive losses.
- Action MPK-8 will work with building officials to identify ways to improve the jurisdiction's Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) classification.

### *Natural Systems*

Climate change causing rising sea levels can negatively affect wetland habitats because of the limited potential of wetlands to relocate and reestablish inland. In addition to rising sea levels, a rise in bay waters can permanently take out wildlife and subsequent habitat due to the marshes and wetlands along the bay being taken up by development. Reduced rainfall, drought, and warmer weather would negatively impact amphibians and reptiles. Wildfires may destroy habitats, negatively affecting birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

The Safety Element identifies multiple actions to safeguard natural systems and reduce the risk from environmental impacts. Some plans currently in place to address this are the Habitat Conservation Plan and the Shoreline Management Plan. Some actions in the MJLHMP that will be conducted to save floodplains and natural systems include:

- Action MPK-7, which involves continuing to maintain good standing and compliance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) via floodplain management programs.
- Action MPK-28 will support green infrastructure projects that enhance resiliency to natural disasters and incorporate green design elements into hazard mitigation projects where feasible.

### *Economic Assets*

Climate change may disrupt development through impacts to infrastructure and building. Without upgrades to infrastructure, issues such as a strained power grid, rising costs for construction, or worsening roads could become more common due to wildfires, more frequent droughts and flooding, as well as less precipitation. The urban heat island effect and pollution from greenhouse emitting automobiles and trucks pose a serious public health issue. In addition, sea level rise could remove some existing land for development impacting an already high cost housing market for development. Without proper mitigation, this can impact costs of living in Menlo Park and could even drive business out of town due to the high costs.

The Safety Element includes plans and actions that can be taken by Menlo Park to mitigate economic issues. For example, the City of Menlo Park has an economic development plan that can serve as a groundwork for economic prosperity. But, it should be reviewed to ensure it is in line with environmental issues. In addition, the Climate Action Plan also has economic contingencies as new mitigation technologies or sectors are activated in the future.

In addition to policies and programs in the Safety Element, the MJLHMP includes Action MPK-2, which states the integration of the hazard mitigation plan and CalEnviroScreen into other plans, ordinances, and programs that dictate land use decisions within the community, including the General Plan Safety Element and Environmental Justice Element.

### *Populations*

In addition to the potential effects of climate change on the community through impacts to infrastructure and buildings, populations may experience further impacts from air quality impacts and urban heat island effects.

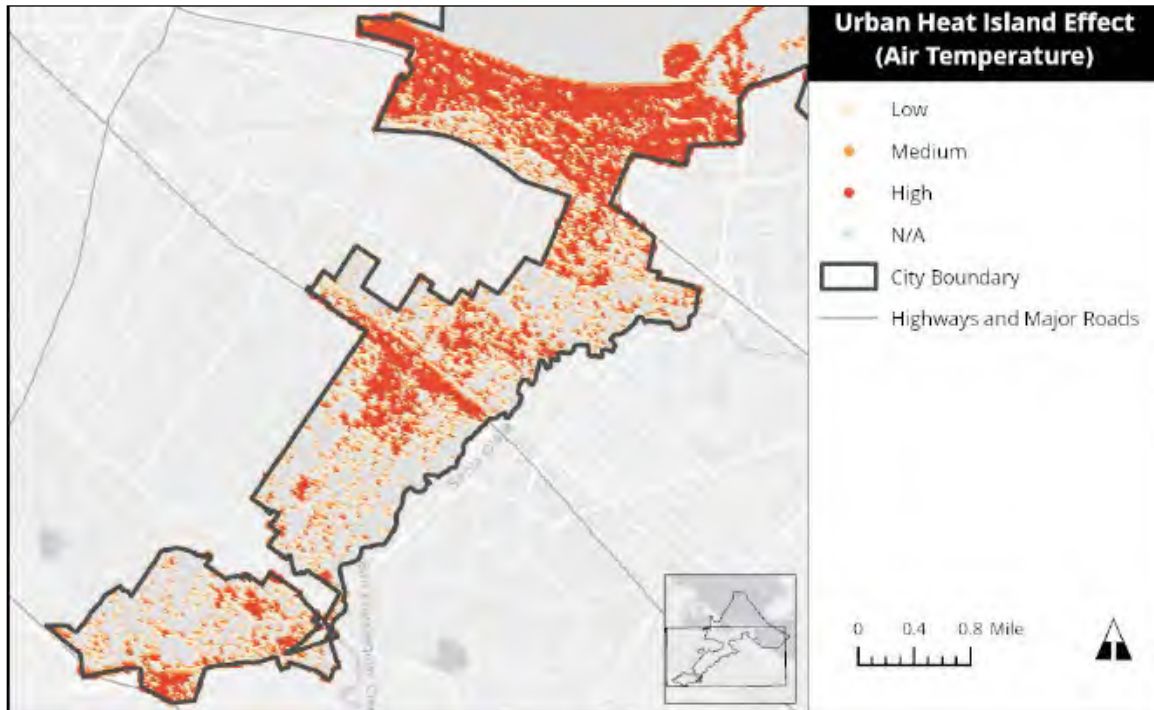
Where climate change increases temperatures, precipitation, and duration of conditions of fire risk, the frequency and intensity of wildfires can also increase. Air quality impacts from smoke carried across the region may impact sensitive local populations.

Heat waves can pose increased health risks due to urban heat islands and lack of cooling infrastructure. An urban heat island occurs in urban areas that experience

higher temperatures relative to outlying areas. The effect occurs due to structures, such as buildings, roads, and other infrastructure, absorbing and re-emitting the sun's heat more than natural landscapes. Urban areas become islands of higher temperature due to limited greenery and concentrated development, with temperatures that can be about 1 to 7°F higher during the daytime and 2 to 5°F higher during the nighttime than outlying areas.<sup>13</sup> In Menlo Park, the areas experiencing the highest urban heat island effect generally occur in the eastern part of the city adjacent to the bay (including the Belle Haven area) and in the downtown area, as shown in

Figure S-13.

**Figure S-13. Urban Heat Island Effect**



Source: Bay Area Greenprint. Data from March 2015. For a definition of how data was calculated, visit <https://www.bayareagreenprint.org/glossary/#urbanheatislandair>.

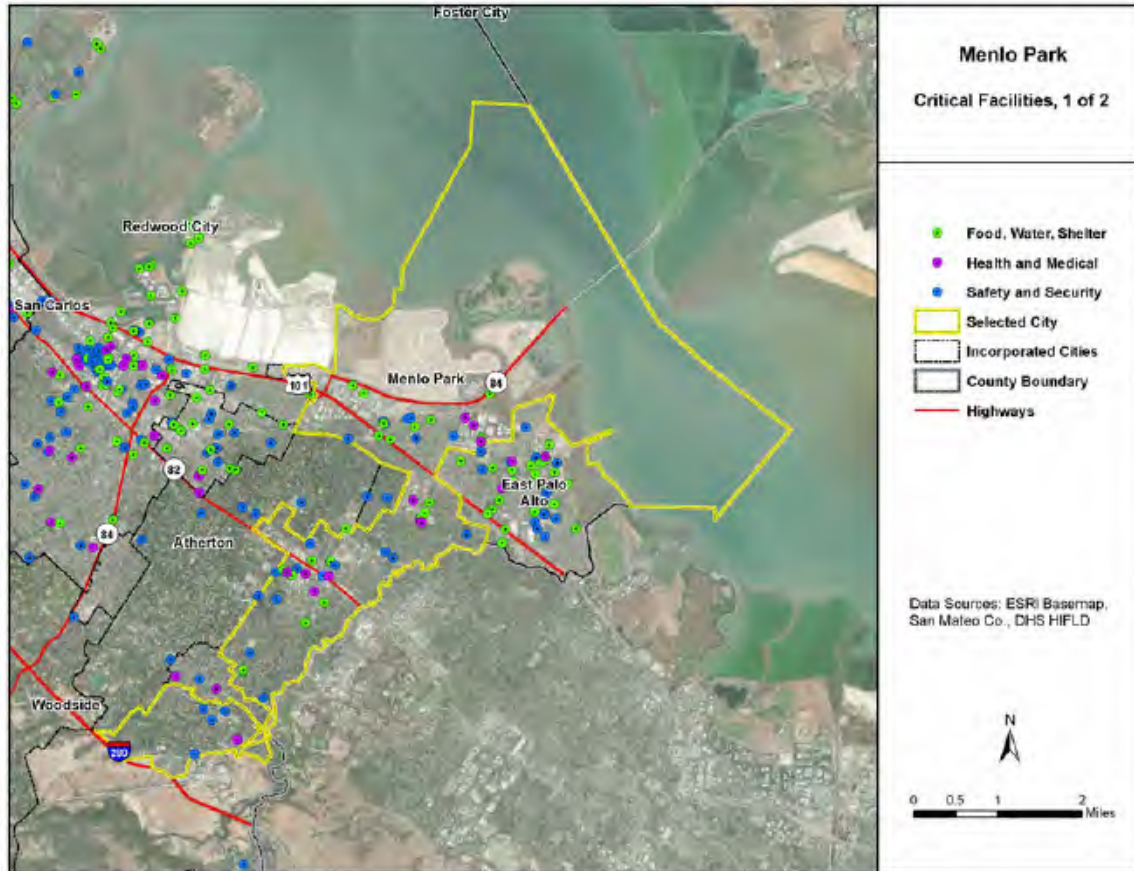
### Vulnerable Facilities

City-specific vulnerabilities identified in the MJLHMP include public facilities located in either flood hazard, high liquefaction, or sea level rise areas. The facilities include the Belle Haven Community Campus, Belle Haven Child Development Center, Menlo Park Police Neighborhood Services Center, Belle Haven Branch Library, Bedwell Bayfront Park Landfill and Gas Flare, Chrysler Pump Station, U.S. Veterans Administration

<sup>13</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. Heat Island Effect, <https://www.epa.gov/heatislands>, accessed August 8, 2022.

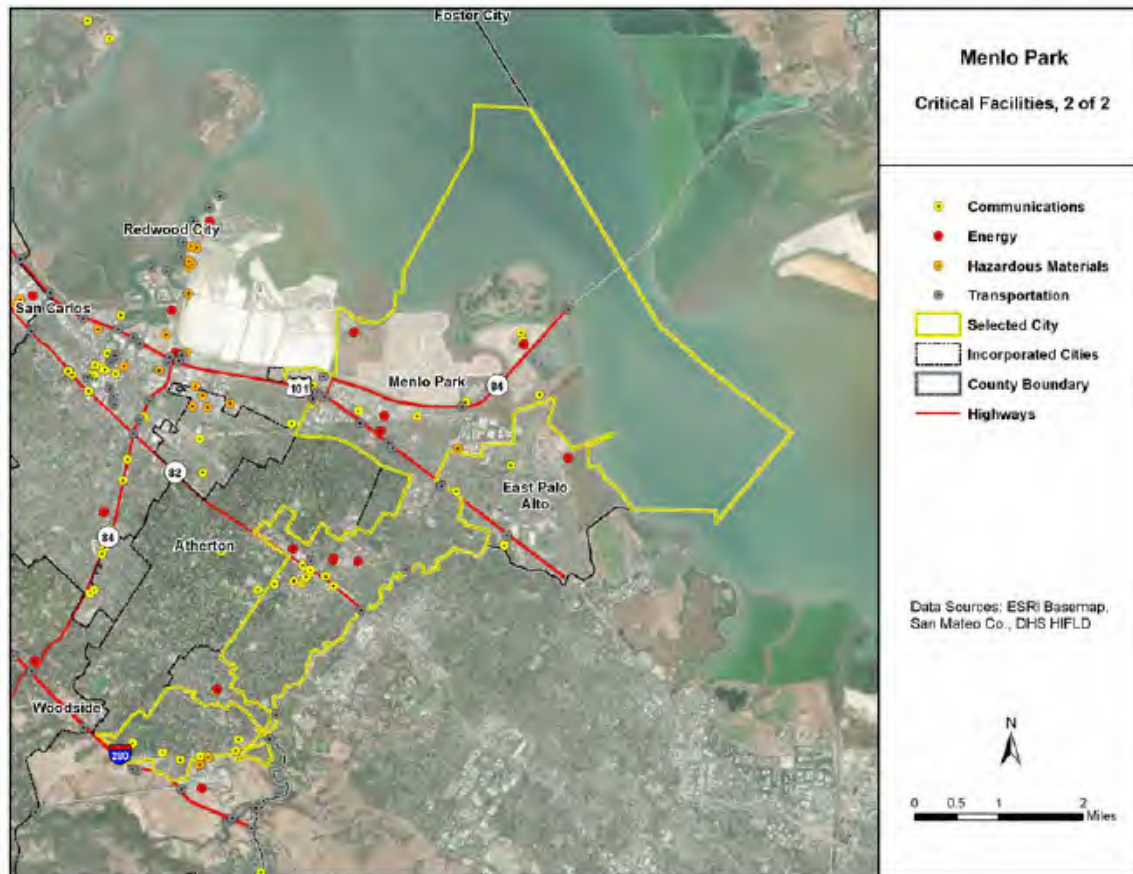
Medical Center, and Nealon Park Little House and Nursery School (see Figure S-14 and Figure S-15).

**Figure S-14. Critical Facilities, Part 1**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-15. Critical Facilities, Part 2



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The MJLHMP identifies feasible methods to avoid or minimize climate change impacts associated with new uses of land. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including:

- Action MPK-2 (integrating the hazard mitigation plan into other plans that dictate land use decisions)
- Action MPK-5 (continue to participate in floodplain management programs)
- Action MPK-12 (produce flood hazard maps accounting for flooding due to climate change)
- Action MPK-13 (prepare a climate adaptation and resiliency plan)
- Action MPK-16 (incentives for retrofits)
- Action MPK-21 (provide education on Climate Action Plan goals and strategies)
- Action MPK-26 (consider FEMA 100-year tide and sea level rise data in land use planning and shoreline development)
- Action MPK-28 (support green infrastructure projects)

The MJLHMP contains policies related to location of new essential facilities outside of at-risk areas as feasible, implementation of construction methods to minimize damage, and designation of adequate and feasible infrastructure located in at-risk areas. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including:

- Action MPK-3 (integrate the hazard mitigation plan into other plans that support infrastructure investment)
- Action MPK-7 (mitigation controls and ensuring protections for vulnerable critical facilities)
- Action MPK-8 (maintenance and plans for drains, ditches, and waterways for flood protection)
- Action MPK-11 (upgrade Chrysler Pump station to improve Bayfront flood protection)
- Action MPK-15 (program for maintaining and replacing emergency generators at critical facilities)
- Action MPK-17 (identify areas vulnerable to localized flooding and capital projects to mitigate)
- Action MPK-19 (review and update the Emergency Operation Plan)
- Action MPK-22 (develop an emergency water storage and supply project)
- Action MPK-23 (ensure functionality of emergency water storage reservoir)
- Action MPK-27 (identify and plan updates to utility systems, equipment, and critical facilities)
- Action MPK-30 (improve community response to flood emergencies including early warning system and education)
- Action MPK-31 (emergency action plans for Bayfront Canal and Atherton Channel)
- Action MPK-32 (enhance long-term resilience for communities and critical infrastructure along the shoreline south of Whipple Road to Marsh Road)
- Action MPK-33 (complete and oversee operation for Bayfront Canal and Atherton Channel Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration Project)
- Action MPK-34 (advance long-term resilience for communities and critical assets adjacent to San Francisquito Creek and nearby shoreline areas)

The MJLHMP provides guidelines for working cooperatively with local, regional, state, and federal agencies. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including:

- Action MPK-4 (support Countywide initiatives and participate in plan maintenance)



- Action MPK-9 (coordination with San Francisquito Creek JPA)
- Action MPK-10 (coordination with California Coastal Conservancy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services)
- Action MPK-14 (continue to participate with San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District)

The MJLHMP identifies natural infrastructure that may be used in adaptation projects, where feasible. As provided in Government Code Section 65302(g)(4)(C)(v), “natural infrastructure” means using natural ecological systems or processes to reduce vulnerability to climate change related hazards, or other related climate change effects, while increasing the long-term adaptive capacity of coastal and inland areas by perpetuating or restoring ecosystem services. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including: MPK-18 (shoreline management plan to protect and enhance the coastline with trails, parks, and wildlife refuge).

### Adaptive Capacity

The MJLHMP identifies the City’s adaptive capacity to respond to climate change. The 2021 MJLHMP evaluated and rated the ability of the City to adapt to climate change, as provided in Table S-3, with additional detail incorporated as part of the 2024 Safety Element update. In general, the technical capacity ranges from low to medium. Implementation capacity generally ranges from medium to high. Public capacity is noted as medium in terms of understanding the risk of climate change, but the capacity to residents, economy, and ecosystem to adapt is uncertain.

**Table S-3. Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change**

Criterion	Evaluation	Rating
Technical Capacity		
Jurisdiction-level understanding of potential climate change impacts	<p>Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) and sustainability staff update the CAP as needed based on the biennial findings of the community’s greenhouse gas emissions inventory analysis. The Plan outlines strategies that may take several years to implement by the City, its residents, and businesses.</p> <p>One of the primary anticipated impacts of climate change is sea level rise and more frequent and severe flooding. The City is pursuing the SAFER Bay project through a grant application to FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program to protect the community from sea level rise and flooding. This is consistent with the General Plan Land Use</p>	Med.

	<p>Element Goal LU-7: Promote the implementation and maintenance of sustainable development, facilities, and services to meet the needs of the Menlo Park community. This project application proposes to construct approximately 3.7 miles of nature-based flood management and sea level rise barriers along the San Francisco Bay shoreline. This would be a significant advancement toward the ultimate goal of providing full flood protection for the residents and business near the Bay. As of July 2021, FEMA has selected the SAFER Bay project for further evaluation. Staff has incorporated funding to support this work into the fiscal year 2021-22 capital improvement program. This project aligns with the City's 2030 CAP goal to develop a climate action adaptation plan. Because this is a large project, more staff capacity may be needed and is being assessed as the City awaits notification from FEMA regarding the grant award.</p>	
Jurisdiction-level monitoring of climate change impacts	In partnership with the County, air quality monitors were installed for public health and safety and the data is available on publicly accessible portals. More capacity would be needed to increase monitoring the impacts of climate change.	Med.
Technical resources to assess proposed strategies for feasibility and externalities	The City could use more technical resources to assess the proposed strategies for feasibility and externalities.	Low
Jurisdiction-level capacity for development of greenhouse gas emissions inventory	The City is partnering with San Mateo County on regular emissions inventories.	Med.
Capital planning and land use decisions informed by potential climate impacts	<p>The City has a number of ordinances, plans, and projects to address climate impacts through capital planning and land use decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal Code Section 16.43.140 is a green and sustainable building ordinance, which requires developers to submit zero waste management plans to document how the project will reduce waste during the construction and occupancy phase. This ordinance will help the City meet its zero waste goal of 90% diversion by 2035.</li> <li>• The City is updating the Safety Element to comply with the changes to SB 379.</li> <li>• Development projects, both commercial and residential, need to be assessed by the standards set by the California Environmental Quality Act, which may require preparation of environmental impact reports.</li> <li>• The Belle Haven Community Campus will be an all-electric building, eliminating use of natural gas.</li> </ul>	Med.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City adopted the sustainable fleet policy in 2020, which will contribute to the City’s 2030 zero carbon goal.</li> <li>• The City has undertaken master planning efforts in most capital planning areas in the last five years. These efforts have helped identify funding and project needs (e.g., facilities, streets, transportation, parks, stormwater, etc.), but additional resources (funding and staff or consultants) will be needed to deliver the needed projects to address expected climate impacts. Funds to operate and maintain new infrastructure for adapting to climate change will also be needed.</li> <li>• Potentially more staff resources are needed to process building permits and more outreach is needed to educate the public about all-electric construction.</li> </ul>	
<p>Participation in regional groups addressing climate risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A councilmember is a board member of Peninsula Clean Energy, which offers renewable energy to Menlo Park residents. Peninsula Clean Energy offers electricity powered 100 percent by renewable and carbon-free sources as of 2021. With renewable energy powering an all-electric building, the occupants and indoor air quality may significantly improve health and safety.</li> <li>• Both councilmember and staff participate in South Bay Waste Management Authority and Technical Advisory Committee monthly meetings to discuss innovative waste reduction and recycling programs. For instance, the group is discussing the upcoming Senate Bill 1383, which is to enforce a more stringent organics program and surplus food recovery. When food waste decomposes in the landfill without air, it creates methane, which is harmful to the environment.</li> <li>• Staff and a councilmember liaison participate in with San Mateo Flood &amp; Sea Level Rise District to discuss climate change impacts of sea level rise and flooding across jurisdictional boundaries. Menlo Park City Council also supported pursuit of the SAFER Bay project for a FEMA BRIC grant application, which proposes to construct approximately 3.7 miles of nature-based flood management and sea level rise barriers along the San Francisco Bay shoreline. This would be a significant advancement toward the ultimate goal of providing full flood protection for the residents and business near the Bay. As of July 2021, FEMA has selected the SAFER Bay project for further evaluation. Staff has incorporated funding to support this work into the fiscal year 2021-22 capital improvement program.</li> <li>• The City partners with local organizations to help monitor and implement climate change goals. For instance, Joint Venture Silicon Valley’s Beyond Gasoline Initiative will assist in reaching the goal to increase new EV vehicle ownership to 100% by 2025 and to reduce gasoline sales by 10% a year from the 2018 baseline.</li> <li>• City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) staff manage the County’s stormwater program and permitting requirements. City staff actively participate in C/CAG’s stormwater committees, and a City Councilmember serves on the C/CAG board.</li> <li>• Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) is an international non-governmental organization that promotes sustainable</li> </ul>	<p>Med.</p>

	<p>development and provides technical consulting to help the City meet its sustainability initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bay Area Water Supply &amp; Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) and Flows to Bay offer various water conservation programs, such as rain barrel rebates and Lawn Be Gone programs.</li> </ul>	
Implementation Capacity		
Clear authority/mandate to consider climate change impacts during public decision-making processes	<p>On December 10, 2019, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6535 declaring a climate emergency. During public decision-making processes, internal and external stakeholders must comply with the City's sustainability-related policies and ordinances. The City would need more capacity or to reduce other projects and priorities to adopt and implement programs, ordinances, or solutions to further advance in climate change adaptation.</p>	Med.
Identified strategies for greenhouse gas mitigation efforts	<p>Menlo Park City Council adopted the 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) in July 2020 and approved amendments to it in April 2021. The CAP outlines six goals to reach zero carbon by 2030. Five of these goals address mitigation, as listed below. The CAP goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore policy/program options to convert 95 percent of existing buildings to all-electric by 2030</li> <li>• Increase electric vehicle ownership and decrease gasoline sales</li> <li>• Increase access to EV charging infrastructure in multi-family and commercial properties</li> <li>• Reduce vehicle miles traveled by 25 percent or an amount recommended by the Complete Streets Commission</li> <li>• Eliminate the use of fossil fuels from municipal operations.</li> </ul> <p>The scope of work for 2021 implementation is the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a cost effectiveness analysis on various policy/program pathways towards achieving 95% electrification by 2030.</li> <li>• Collaborate with Joint Venture Silicon Valley to increase the number of new vehicle purchases to be electric vehicles (EV) and decrease gasoline sales by 10%.</li> <li>• Promote and market incentives to expand access to EV charging stations in multi-family and commercial properties.</li> <li>• Reduce vehicle miles traveled through the SB2 Housing grant, completion of Transportation Management Association feasibility study, and implementation of vehicle miles traveled guidelines for new development.</li> <li>• Update the Safety Element of Menlo Park's General Plan to respond to SB 379.</li> <li>• Utilize current resources and available budget toward eliminating fossil fuels in building the new Menlo Park Community Campus.</li> <li>• Replace fossil fuel appliances/assets at the end of life with non-fossil fuel options unless infeasible</li> <li>• Utilize current resources and available budget toward eliminating fossil fuels in building the new Menlo Park Community Campus.</li> <li>• Replace fossil fuel appliances/assets at the end of life with non-fossil fuel options unless infeasible</li> </ul>	High

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pilot program to transition landscaping equipment for gas from electric</li> </ul> <p>The City is in the process of updating the scope of work for 2025-2030 implementation.</p>	
Identified strategies for adaptation to impacts	<p>The sixth goal from the City’s CAP is to develop a climate adaptation plan. The City has participated in past regional efforts to develop adaptation plans for sea level rise, including the SAFER Bay Feasibility Study, led by the San Francisco Creek Joint Powers Authority; and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s Dumbarton Bridge West Approach + Adjacent Communities Resilience Study. The City has applied for a FEMA BRIC grant to support implementation of the first phase of the SAFER Bay project and would continue to partner with other stakeholders to complete the project.</p>	High
Champions for climate action in local government departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City Manager’s Office has a sustainability division to implement the climate action plan and collaborate across departments to adopt climate-related policies and initiatives. More capacity is needed to adopt and implement new programs, ordinances, and implement the CAP goals.</li> <li>• As of fiscal year 2020-21, the City has 109 fleet vehicles, which include vehicles, motorcycles, and parking enforcement buggies. Out of the total fleet vehicles, twenty-one are hybrids and four are all-electric vehicles. The City is waiting for technology to advance for electric utility vehicles, which may be available within the next three years. Public Works is also transitioning its maintenance equipment to electric.</li> <li>• Green and sustainable building requirements apply to multiple zoning districts throughout Menlo Park.</li> <li>• In 2015, several solar photovoltaic panels were installed on various City facilities. In 2024, the City signed power purchase agreements with Peninsula Clean Energy to install solar on the remaining City facilities.</li> <li>• The City installed electric vehicle charging stations for public use with capacity to charge 8 vehicles at City Hall and 27 vehicles at the Belle Haven Community Campus.</li> <li>• The Police Department is currently transitioning their paper parking permits to paperless permits.</li> <li>• The Community Development and Public Works Departments transitioned from paper permitting applications to electronic submittals.</li> <li>• The City’s transportation demand management coordinator provides support to local employers and City employees to provide information about non-single occupancy vehicle travel options, which can help reduce vehicle miles traveled and emissions from transportation mobile sources.</li> </ul>	Med.
Political support for implementing climate change adaptation strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Council adopted a resolution to declare climate emergency, which demands accelerated actions on the climate crisis and requests regional collaboration to address climate change. The City Council also approved a resolution in 2019 to reaffirm the City’s commitment to tackle climate change at a local level.</li> <li>• In Fiscal Year 2023-2024, 14 of 61 Council priority projects are related to the CAP.</li> </ul>	High

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Menlo Park City Council also supported pursuit of the SAFER Bay project FEMA BRIC grant application.</li> <li>• The Environmental Quality Commission continues to advise City Council on implementing the CAP goals.</li> </ul>	
Financial resources devoted to climate change adaptation	The City filed a FEMA BRIC grant application, which would help develop a climate action adaptation plan to protect the community from sea level rise and flooding. More capacity is likely to be needed in this effort and other climate change adaptation.	Med.
Local authority over sectors likely to be negative impacted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code Enforcement officers may be impacted if new building regulations are adopted that require enforcement resources, but not enough information is known at this time to assign a rating.</li> <li>• Gas and oil manufacturing sectors may be negatively impacted if the City reduces its gasoline consumption (either for vehicles or for building appliances). This impact would be related to the 2030 CAP goals and the reach codes, but not enough information is known at this time to assign a rating.</li> </ul>	Unsure
<b>Public Capacity</b>		
Local residents knowledge of and understanding of climate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), a commission body made up of seven Menlo Park residents, created the 2030 CAP. The Complete Streets Commission, another resident-based commission body of seven members, developed Transportation Master Plan Implementation Recommendations that include VMT reduction as a key strategy.</li> <li>• Strong advocacy occurs when climate policies are considered by City Council. Several residents expressed interest to ban gas leaf blowers by adopting an ordinance.</li> <li>• More outreach needs to be done to understand the community's knowledge and understanding of climate risk. A resolution was approved in April 2021 for the scope of work for implementation of the CAP and to educate residents about climate emergency and to include health, socio-economic, and racial equity in policymaking and climate solutions.</li> </ul>	Med.
Local residents support of adaptation efforts	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure
Local residents' capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure
Local economy current capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure
Local ecosystems capacity to adapt to climate	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure

impacts		
High = Capacity exists and is in use; Medium = Capacity may exist but is not used or could use some improvement; Low = Capacity does not exist or could use substantial improvement; Unsure= Not enough information is known to assign a rating.		

Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes (Note: Table S-3 includes 2024 updates from the 2021 MJLHMP)

Menlo Park will increase resiliency to future climate impacts through adaptation policies in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Climate Action Plan. In addition, there are adaptation policies that focus on the city’s Underserved Communities in the Environmental Justice Element. Climate change exacerbates existing hazards, such as flooding and extreme temperatures, and the hazard mitigation and adaptation policies in this Safety Element are designed to allow the city to adapt to additional climate risks during the planning period.

## **F** Hazardous Materials

The term “hazardous material” is defined in different ways for different regulatory programs. The California Health and Safety Code Section 25501 definition of a hazardous material is “any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment.”

Once a hazardous material is released, it moves from the source to a point of contact with the community or environment through an exposure pathway. To reach that point of contact, the exposure pathway must have: (1) a contamination source or point of release; (2) a transport mechanism from the source to the air, surface water, groundwater, or soil; (3) contact point where people are exposed to contaminated air, surface water, groundwater or soil; and (4) a route of entry into the body. Routes of entry include ingestion (eating or drinking), inhalation (breathing), and absorption (skin contact). If any of these requirements for an exposure pathway are not present, the pathway is incomplete and no exposure or risk is possible. In some cases, although a pathway is complete, the likelihood that exposure will occur is very small.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. Table S-4 lists the sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation. More information and definitions can be found on the EnviroStor website.

**Table S-4. Hazardous Waste and Clean Up Sites**

Project Name	Status	Project Type	Address
Beltramo Property	Certified / Operation & Maintenance	Voluntary Cleanup	1459 San Antonio Street And 1460 El Camino Real
Derry Lane Mixed Use Development	Active	State Response	Derry Lane
Former Norge / Atherton Village Cleaners	Active	State Response	1438 El Camino Real
Former Peninsula Sportsmen's Club	Refer: Rwgcb	Voluntary Cleanup	East Of University Avenue
General Circuits Inc.	Refer: Epa	Corrective Action	3549 J Haven Avenue
Hillview Middle School	Certified	School Cleanup	1100 Elder Avenue
Menlo Park West Campus	Certified / Operation & Maintenance	Voluntary Cleanup	312-314 Constitution Drive
Menlo Tech	Refer: Rwgcb	Evaluation	188 Constitution Drive
O'Connor School	Active	School Cleanup	275 Elliott Drive
Sanford Metal Processing Co.	Refer: Other Agency	Tiered Permit	990 O'Brien Drive
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center	Refer: Other Agency	Tiered Permit	2575 Sand Hill Road
Tyco Electronics Corporation	Certified / Operation & Maintenance	Corrective Action	300 Constitution Dr

Source: Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor website, accessed April 5, 2024.

The State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) tracks sites that have potential to impact water quality, which include Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Sites, Department of Defense Sites, and Cleanup Program Sites. The Water Board's Geotracker program identifies the locations of these sites, listed below. LUST sites are scattered throughout the city, concentrated along El Camino Real and in downtown Menlo Park. LUST sites are a common source of soil and groundwater contamination. A wide variety of industries have historically used underground storage tanks for gasoline, diesel, waste oils, solvents, and other chemicals. Prior to regulation in the 1980s, these underground tanks typically were not monitored or provided with secondary containment. If a tank leaked, the contents could migrate to the soil and groundwater. Under the Site Cleanup Program, the Board regulates and oversees the investigation and cleanup of non-federally owned sites where recent or historical unauthorized releases of pollutants to the environment, including soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment, have occurred. Several locations that are listed under the Site Cleanup Program have been identified within Menlo Park. These are found mostly in the downtown area and the northeastern portion of the city. Sites that have open cases or are closed but with land use restrictions are shown in Table S-5.

**Table S-5. Underground Storage Tank and Cleanup Program Sites**

Site Name	Site Type	Status	Address
3705 Haven Avenue	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	3705 Haven Avenue
Hotel Moxy Development	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	3723 Haven Avenue



Site Name	Site Type	Status	Address
Edison Technology Park	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Long Term Management	3477-3522 Edison Way
Launderland Dry Cleaners	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	995 El Camino Real
Menlo Flats	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	165 Jefferson Drive
Menlo Portal	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	115 Independence Drive & 104-110 Constitution Drive
Menlo Uptown	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	141 Jefferson Drive (And 172 - 188 Constitution Drive)
New Guild Cleaners (Former)	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	961 El Camino Real
Norge/ Atherton Cleaners, Former	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	1438 El Camino Real
Peninsula Arts Guild	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Long Term Management	949 El Camino Real
Sharon Heights Cleaners	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	325 Sharon Park Drive
Siltec	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	3705-3723 Haven Avenue
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC Groundwater Volatile Organic Compound (Voc) Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC Research Yard-SSRL / Ir-6 Drainage Channel Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC Tritium Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC West SLAC/ Campus Area/ Ir-8 Drainage Channel Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
Wo Sing Cleaners	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	570 Derry Lane

Source: State Water Resources Control Board, GeoTracker website, <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>, accessed April 5, 2024.

## **G** Emergency Preparedness

The MJLHMP directs the update of the City's 2014 Emergency Operation Plan to include new FEMA guidelines in order to receive federal funding and address SB160: Cultural Competence (which requires a county to integrate cultural competence, into its emergency plan). The City developed the EOP to better prepare for responses to emergency situations that could result from natural disasters and technological incidents. To better prepare for these emergencies, the City estimated the potential risks associated with earthquakes, flooding, wildland fire, and other disasters. Based on this evaluation, various preparation strategies were developed.

In 2024, the City hired an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator to focus on the following objectives of the Emergency Services Program (ESP):

**Objective 1: Operational Readiness:** ESP works with all City departments to promote resilience to threats and risks of all types. This is a measure of the ability of the City to handle a major critical incident or disaster. People, infrastructure (facilities), supplies, and training are all elements of this. ESP manages the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located in City Hall, along with other assets.

**Objective 2: Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA):** ESP leads the process to understand what risks the City faces. Often known as a Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) processes, this ongoing activity involves updates of Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) (facility inventories, registries) and awareness of the sorts of risks such as those listed in the Menlo Park annex to the regional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) and the National Planning Scenarios.

**Objective 3: Policy & Plans:** ESP leads or coordinates the development and maintenance of policies and plans related to disasters, critical incidents, and City safety. The City's Emergency Operations Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), and various department plans are all part of this activity.

**Objective 4: Emergency Public Information:** ESP coordinates with the Public Information Officers (PIOs) to develop protocols for communication with the public and with partners.

**Objective 5: Whole Community Engagement:** ESP develops structures to link non-governmental organizations (NGOs), residents, and businesses to the Incident Command System (ICS). Elements of this include MPC Ready, ARES/RACES Amateur (ham) Radio, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers and many more.

**Objective 6:** Training and Exercises: In compliance with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), ESP works with community and partner stakeholders, such as the Menlo Park Fire District, the County of San Mateo and others to develop training and exercises.

**Objective 7:** Grant Management: ESP seeks funding and manages awarded grants pertaining to emergency management and homeland security.

**Objective 8:** Technology: ESP coordinates with other city departments to deploy new technologies for emergency services.

**Objective 9:** Regionalization: ESP participates in the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), in addition to the San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Operational Area and our mutual aid relationships with other agencies.

### Emergency Routes

The Safety Element is required to address evacuation routes according to Government Code Section 65302(g)(1). This often goes hand-in-hand with fire evacuation needs, though it could also consider sea level rise, seismic events including earthquakes and tsunamis, or other hazards. Menlo Park's Safety Element includes policy S1.37 (Emergency Connectors and Evacuation Routes) to "Maintain a system of emergency connectors and evacuation routes as part of the City's disaster planning." The Police Department is the primary agency for establishing emergency evacuation routes. Evacuation routes are generally the City's major arterial streets. However, the appropriate evacuation routes depend upon the type of incident (whether it is a flood, fire, earthquake, etc.) and then which routes have the least hazards, the least traffic stress and the most residential accessibility. Neighborhood disaster programs provide information and help to coordinate resident and business responses during the first 72 hours of an emergency event.

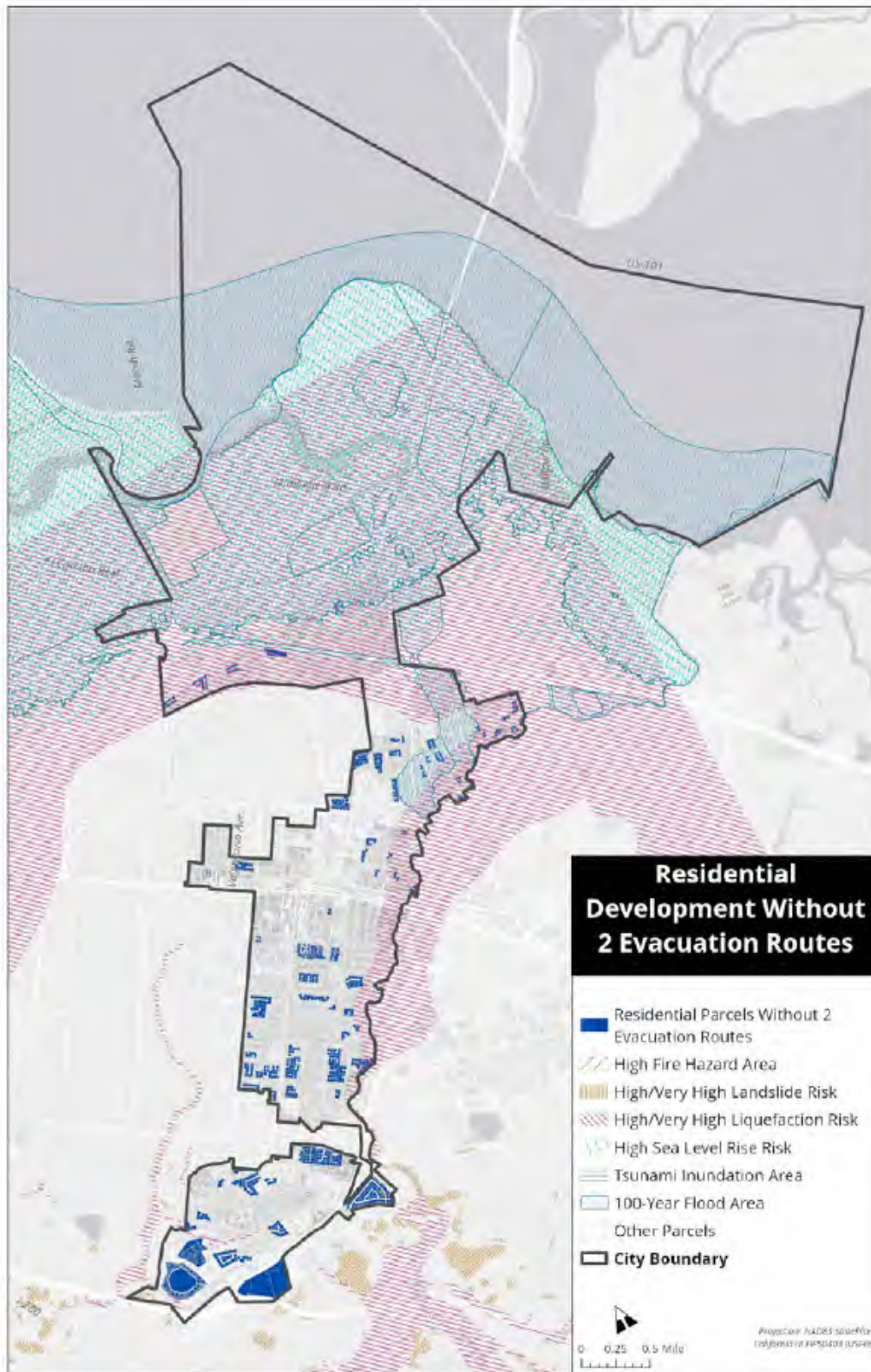
Under Government Code Section 65302(g)(5), upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2020, the Safety Element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to identify residential developments in any hazard area identified in the safety element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes (see Figure 2.16).

Per Government Code Section 65302.15, amended following the adoption of AB 1409 in 2021, upon the next revision of a local hazard mitigation plan on or

after January 1, 2022, the Safety Element shall be updated as necessary to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability and evacuation locations under a range of emergency scenarios. A city that has adopted a local hazard mitigation plan, emergency operations plan, or other document that fulfills commensurate goals and objectives may use that information in the Safety Element to comply by summarizing and incorporating it into the Safety Element. This evacuation route update will be done upon the next revision of a local hazard mitigation plan to be developed once the current MJLHMP requires an update. The current MJLHMP was adopted in 2021.

There are several residential developments within the city that only have one evacuation route, some of which are in hazard zones. Evacuation routes are determined as roadways that allow ingress and egress. Any residential subdivision with only one roadway (such as a parcel on a cul-de-sac) is identified as having only one route. This map, Figure S-16, may be used as reference for residential areas at increased risk during fire evacuation needs. It could also be used for reference in sea level rise, seismic events including earthquakes and tsunamis, or other hazards.

Figure S-16. Residential Development Without Two Evacuation Routes



Environmental Justice (EJ) Element Revisions and Feedback Log							
#	EJ Element Location	April 2024 Draft Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Track Changes Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Clean Copy Page Number	Key Topic(s)	Revision and/or Feedback	Notes
1	Environmental Justice Element Action Guide; Goal EJ7	5 and 31	6 and 53	7 and 54	EJ Element Action Guide; EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	<p>Clarify the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide as a tool to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element</p> <p>Clarify updating process and ongoing outreach with new Program EJ7.K</p>	<p>Project team revision</p> <p>The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. This separate, complementary document is guided by the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the Guiding Principles of the Menlo Park General Plan, however, the Action Guide lies outside of the General Plan itself. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment.</p> <p>The Action Guide includes action items that will be pursued by the City to improve environmental justice. The action items are similar to Environmental Justice Element programs, and are assigned a lead department/division and time frame similar to these programs. Each action item in the Action Guide is organized under an Environmental Justice Element program, with the intention to provide additional direction and community-based feedback to City staff on desirable methods to fulfill the programs laid out in the Environmental Justice Element.</p> <p>Many of the action items in the Action Guide were developed from outreach in Menlo Park’s underserved communities, described in detail in the “Environmental Justice Outreach” section below. The Action Guide is included as Appendix EJ-F. The Action Guide will be maintained on the City’s website and is intended to improve accountability by being more adaptable and responsive to community needs and opportunities.</p> <p>Per Program EJ7.K, the City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing.</p> <p>EJ7.K Text: The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.</p>
2	Regulatory Context	9	11	10	State Law	<p>Included reference to AB 1628 (2019), which enhanced previous state law on environmental justice.</p>	<p>Project team revision</p> <p>Revised Text: AB 1628 (2019) enhanced the previous definition of environmental justice to include meaningful involvement and national origins to the prior language of Gov. Code Section 65040.12(e). The law also elaborates on the prior language to describe additional forms of distributive and procedural justice, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The availability of a healthy environment for all people.</li> <li>-The deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for populations and communities experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution, so that the effects of the pollution are not disproportionately borne by those populations and communities.</li> <li>-Governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to populations and communities most impacted by pollution to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decision-making process.</li> <li>-At a minimum, the meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution in environmental and land use decisions.</li> </ul>

**Environmental Justice (EJ) Element Revisions and Feedback Log**

#	EJ Element Location	April 2024 Draft Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Track Changes Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Clean Copy Page Number	Key Topic(s)	Revision and/or Feedback	Notes
3	Environmental Justice Outreach; Appendix EJ-E: Prioritization Workshop Summary	24, 30	27 and 34	25 and 31	EJ priorities; outreach	List top three community-identified EJ Element goals to be prioritized and summarize May 2024 community workshops  Include May 2024 Prioritization Workshop Summary report as appendix	Project team revision  Top three EJ Element priorities listed and summary report included.  Additional text on page EJ-25: Through the development of Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element, the community identified three Environmental Justice Element goals to be prioritized: - Priority #1: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5) - Priority #2: Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4) - Priority #3: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)  This work included multiple public study sessions. The Planning Commission and City Council met in a joint study session on June 2023, to discuss initial public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements. They later met separately, on June 3 (Planning Commission) and June 18 (City Council), 2024, to discuss revised public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements, prior to public hearings for adoption in fall 2024. Community-identified priorities may change over time.  New section: Community Workshops and Study Sessions (2024) After making revisions to the Environmental Justice Element to reflect the community meetings, focus groups, and survey described above, the document was revised and re-published in April 2024 and discussed at four public meetings:  -May 2: Community Workshop in Belle Haven (in Spanish) -May 9: Community Workshop in Belle Haven (in English) -June 3: Planning Commission Study Session (in English) -June 18: City Council Study Session (in English, with Spanish interpretation)  The full Community Workshops summary report is included as Appendix EJ-E: Prioritization Workshop Summary.  Approximately 80 attendees at the May workshops provided feedback on the relevant elements, regarding recommended policies, programs and their prioritization. This feedback was provided to Planning Commission and City Council at their respective study sessions. At these study sessions, commissioners and councilmembers affirmed the community input and provided additional feedback.  <i>A key finding of these study sessions was the affirmation that the City should move forward with highlighting the top three priorities.</i>
4	Table EJ-6 (Environmental Justice Element Organization)	32	37	34	Environmental Justice Element Action Guide	Revise table to better capture the utility of the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide	Project team revision  Revised Table EJ-6 on page EJ-34 to clarify what is included in the Environmental Justice Element itself and the complementary Environmental Justice Element Action Guide
5	Table EJ-8 (Environmental Justice Goals, Policies, and Programs)	39	40-54	37-54	EJ Element Action Guide; accountability; EJ priorities; outreach	Focus on key themes around accountability (e.g., stronger language), accessibility, and ensuring that Environmental Justice Element Action Guide includes metrics for success and clear timelines, as well as how prioritization and funding occur  Remove policies, programs, and action items that listed a "Staff Recommendation" of removal in the June 2024 Planning Commission and City Council study sessions  Streamline/simplify table presentation	Table and text revised per Council direction and project team revision  Environmental Justice Element Action Guide will be revised and posted online, with community-identified priorities highlighted. Fulfillment of programs and action items will be identified on Action Guide, updated annually, and future priorities will be included as appropriate.  Table EJ-8 goals, policies, and programs is presented in a streamlined/simplified format similar to the Housing Element. Former outdated reference to superseded Program 7.K removed.
6	Policy EJ2.1	40	41	38	Pollution reduction; air quality	Expand on indoor and outdoor air quality	Text revised per Council direction and project team revision  April 2024 Text: Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality, and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities. Maximize the positive impacts on environmental quality for Menlo Park's planning efforts.  Revised Text: Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality (both indoor and outdoor), and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities.
7	Policy EJ2.2 (formerly Policy 2.4)	40	41	38	Pollution reduction; air quality; collaboration	Incorporate multi-jurisdictional collaboration for land management practices	Text revised per Council direction and project team revision—former Policy 2.3 (removed) included text regarding countywide and regional collaboration that was integrated into Policy EJ2.2  April 2024 Text: Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve watershed and human health.  Revised Text: Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale, as well as collaborate on countywide and regional efforts. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve watershed and human health.
8	Policy EJ2.4 (formerly Policy 2.7)	41	41	38	Pollution reduction; air quality; collaboration	Expand consideration of indoor and outdoor air quality	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards in underserved communities.  Revised Text: Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards and maximize air quality (both indoor and outdoor) in underserved communities.

**Environmental Justice (EJ) Element Revisions and Feedback Log**

#	EJ Element Location	April 2024 Draft Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Track Changes Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Clean Copy Page Number	Key Topic(s)	Revision and/or Feedback	Notes
9	Program EJ2.A	42	41	39	Pollution reduction; air quality; collaboration	Add gas stations as an example of a potential stationary pollutant generator	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City's jurisdiction (e.g., automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.  Revised Text: Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City's jurisdiction (e.g., gas stations, automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.
10	Program EJ2.C	42	42	39	Pollution reduction; air quality; outreach	Expand on indoor and outdoor air quality	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Conduct proactive education and outreach about Air Quality and protective actions that can be taken to minimize exposure.  Revised Text: Conduct proactive education and outreach about indoor and outdoor air quality and protective actions that can be taken to both improve air quality inside one's home and to minimize exposure to poor air quality index days.
11	Program EJ2.I	43	43	41	Air quality	Clarify "In Progress" call-out, particularly regarding no smoking regulations downtown.	Text revised per Council direction and project team revision  In Progress: Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance, Municipal Code Chapter 7.30 (Smoking Regulated or Prohibited)
12	Program EJ2.K	44	44	42	Extreme heat; outreach	Consider emphasizing access to information on cooling centers, extreme heat, and other community resources	Project team revision  New Program: Prioritize relief from extreme heat (Safety Element Program S1.T) in underserved communities. Information on these resources shall be provided at community facilities (e.g., BHCC).
13	Program EJ3.C	45	45	43	Collaboration; tech access; outreach	Improve access to wireless internet, potentially working with community benefit organizations to expand access to network	Council direction  April 2024 Text: Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills.  Revised Text: Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills. In addition, expand outreach and community access to the City Library's laptop and wireless hotspot, or similar, borrowing programs.
14	Program EJ3.D	45	45	43	Collaboration; health care access; outreach	Highlight access to health care services and partnerships with community based organizations and businesses	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Seek to form partnerships and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.  Revised Text: Seek to form partnerships, particularly with community based organizations and businesses, and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.  Program EJ3.D and accompanying Action Items EJ3.D.1-4 highlight access to health care.
15	Policy EJ5.1	49	47	46	Housing; EJ priorities	Clarify policy as particularly important for underserved communities	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe and sanitary homes in underserved communities  Revised Text: Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe, sanitary, and stable homes, particularly in underserved communities.
16	Policy EJ5.2	49	48	46	Housing; EJ priorities	Clarify policy as particularly important for underserved communities	Policy retained and text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Maintain and develop safe and sanitary housing across all locations and affordability ranges.  Revised Text: Maintain and develop safe, sanitary, and stable homes across all locations and affordability ranges, particularly in underserved communities.
17	Program EJ5.A	49	48	47	Pollution reduction; collaboration	Clarify soil remediation is the responsibility of the property owner	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in underserved communities.  Revised Text: Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments and work with property owners to resolve issues, particularly in underserved communities.
18	Program EJ5.B	49	48	47	Housing; EJ priorities; outreach	Revise text to align with Goal EJ5	Project team revision  April 2024 Text: Support the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) administered by the California Department of Community Services and Development with outreach to potentially eligible households.  Revised Text: Conduct outreach to potentially eligible households regarding programs that support safe, sanitary, and stable homes.



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#	EJ Element Location	April 2024 Draft Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Track Changes Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Clean Copy Page Number	Key Topic(s)	Revision and/or Feedback	Notes
19	Program EJ5.E	50	49	48	Housing; EJ priorities; outreach	Clarify text	Text revised per Council direction and project team revision  April 2024 Text: Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F, to continue collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART) to offer first-time, moderate income homebuyers down- payment assistance loans for homes purchased in the city. Add information for the HEART homeownership program to the City's website, and coordinate with HEART on additional opportunities to promote the program, including in conjunction with BMR ownership units who conduct this work to facilitate workshops for residents in underserved communities.  Revised Text: Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F (regarding collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART)) and helping to facilitate first-time homeowner workshops for residents in underserved communities.
20	Program EJ5.G	51	49	48	Housing; EJ priorities; outreach	Modify Program 5.G to include more prescriptive language about the City's Anti-Displacement Strategy development	Project team (including Climate Resilient Communities) revision  April 2024 Text: Ensure that City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This could include strategies such as a rental inventory, updated rent control laws, and/or rent increase prohibition.  Revised Text: Ensure that City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This will include consideration, at a minimum, of the following: - Rental inventory of all dwelling units - Updated or expanded rent control laws - Rent increase mitigations, such as longer noticing requirements - Community and tenant opportunity to purchase - Revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper affordability (e.g., subsidies) - Expand relocation assistance for tenants - Just Cause Eviction protections regardless of tenant duration - Strengthened anti-tenant harassment ordinances - An examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs
21	Program EJ5.H	31	50	49	Housing; EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	Revise Action Item EJ7.J.3 text and move into EJ Element as a program under Goal 5 as a new program  Remove Action Item 7.J.3 and renumber Action Items EJ7.J.4-6 as appropriate	Project team (including Climate Resilient Communities) revision  New Program: As part of an anti-displacement program and to ensure stable housing, support increasing access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction by conducting community outreach, education, and engagement to ensure renters are aware of this resource. Include progress reports on usage annually.
22	Program EJ7.B	54	51	51	EJ priorities; outreach	Consider hardcopy materials for outreach to households, particularly door-to-door outreach.	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: All meetings with an agenda item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the Underserved Community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as simulcasting and/or remote participation.  Revised Text: All meetings with an agenda item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the underserved community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as satellite meeting centers, simulcasting, and/or remote participation. Consider hardcopy materials for outreach, particularly door-to-door outreach.
23	Program EJ7.J	56	53	53	EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	Increase opportunities for accountability through strict reporting requirements by clarifying annual reporting timeframe and provision to the City Council and public	Text revised per Planning Commission and project team revision  April 2024 Text: Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. These reports should be annual, at a minimum.  Revised Text: Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Annual reporting, at a minimum, should be provided to the City Council and made available on the City website.
24	Program EJ7.K	N/A	53	54	EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	Include new program to clarify Environmental Justice Element Action Guide updating process and ongoing outreach	Project team revision  New program: The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.  Note: Bayfront Mitigation Fund is listed as a potential financing source to support EJ Element programs.

**Environmental Justice (EJ) Element Revisions and Feedback Log**

#	EJ Element Location	April 2024 Draft Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Track Changes Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Clean Copy Page Number	Key Topic(s)	Revision and/or Feedback	Notes
25	Program EJ7.L	N/A	54	54	EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	Include new program to consider EJ priorities in the City Council's annual priority and goal setting.	Project team revision  New Program: The City Council shall consider the community identified environmental justice priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop.  Note: The 2024 adoption of the EJ Element identified the following top three priorities: - Priority #1: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5) - Priority #2: Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4) - Priority #3: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)  Note: Bayfront Mitigation Fund is listed as a potential financing source to support EJ Element programs.
26	Action Item EJ3.H.3	24	Appendix EJ-F	Appendix EJ-F	Parks; collaboration; accountability	Clarify direction to City departments without constraining flexibility	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Plan for, in coordination with the City's Parks and Recreational Facilities Master Plan, and provide public restroom facilities at all parks in the underserved communities.  Revised Text: In coordination with the City's Parks and Recreational Facilities Master Plan, provide public restroom facilities at parks in underserved communities.
27	Action Item EJ7.E.1	N/A	Appendix EJ-F	Appendix EJ-F	EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	Consider having a concierge or dedicated person or resource on environmental safety issues at BHCC.	New Action Item per Council direction and project team revision  New Action Item: Provide resources at BHCC about environmental safety, including flooding, extreme heat, and other issues identified in the Safety Element. Consider having a concierge or dedicated staff/resources to provide outreach on local mitigation efforts in underserved communities.
28	Environmental Justice Element Action Guide	N/A	N/A	N/A	EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	Continue to evaluate opportunities for funding as they arise and seek opportunities to communicate/publicize resources that assist Menlo Park residents secure/maintain safe, sanitary, and stable homes	Council direction--to be completed with development of Online Environmental Justice Element Action Guide and aligned with Programs EJ7.J and EJ7.K
29	Environmental Justice Element Action Guide	N/A	N/A	N/A	EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	Clarify and enhance connections between funding and spending actions, with a focus toward continually enhancing civic engagement in these matters and establishing links between environmental justice implementation and City funding processes, where feasible	Council direction--to be completed with development of Online Environmental Justice Element Action Guide and aligned with Programs EJ7.J and EJ7.K
30	Global	N/A	N/A	N/A	Housing; EJ priorities	Replace Goal EJ5 text of "safe and sanitary homes" with "safe, sanitary, and stable homes."	Project team (including Climate Resilient Communities) revision
31	Global	N/A	N/A	N/A	Accountability; outreach	Replace "Implementation Guide" with "Action Guide."	Project team revision
32	Appendix EJ-A - Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations	64	64	64	Reference document	Clarify Bay Road exit route for residents from the Suburban Park, Lorelei Manor, and Flood Triangle area and also bus routes.	Project team revision  Transportation section is updated: U.S. Highway 101 closes off the north side of Suburban Park and this results in residents from Suburban Park, Lorelei Manor, and Flood Triangle exiting only from Bay Road, the southern boundary of the neighborhood. SamTrans operates three school-oriented bus routes along Bay Road that may also be used by members of the general public. School-oriented bus routes generally have limited hours of operation timed with school bell schedules and pause operations on weekends and during the summer months.
33	Goal EJ7	53	51	50	Education; outreach	Where feasible, identify if improving education outcomes can be incorporated into goals and policy.	Council direction--no revised text  School districts are primarily responsible for leading efforts to improve education outcomes, however, the City can seek opportunities to partner and collaborate with school districts/higher education to support academic achievement and overall positive community development.
34	Table EJ-8 (Environmental Justice Goals, Policies, and Programs); Environmental Justice Element Action Guide	39	40-54	37-54	EJ Element Action Guide; EJ priorities; accountability	Clarify and refine responsibilities of City departments and divisions	Project team revision  Several programs and action items have been revised to clarify text, City progress, the responsible lead and/or supporting City department/division, and funding sources as applicable. These include:  Programs: EJ1.D, EJ2.D, EJ2.E, EJ2.I, EJ3.A, EJ3.C, EJ4.B, EJ4.C, EJ4.D, EJ5.A, EJ5.B, EJ5.C, EJ5.E, EJ5.F, EJ5.H, EJ7.F, EJ7.J, EJ7.K, EJ7.L  Action Items: EJ1.A.1, EJ2.C.1, EJ2.C.2, EJ2.D.1, EJ2.D.2, EJ2.E.4, EJ2.E.5, EJ2.E.8, EJ2.I.5, EJ2.J.4, EJ3.D.3, EJ3.E.1, EJ3.E.2, EJ3.G.1, EJ3.G.2, EJ3.G.5, EJ3.H.1, EJ3.H.2, EJ3.H.4, EJ4.E.1, EJ4.E.2, EJ4.E.3, EJ6.D.1, EJ6.D.2, EJ6.D.3, EJ6.D.4, EJ6.D.5, EJ7.D.3, EJ7.D.4, EJ7.D.8, EJ7.E.1, EJ7.J.3, EJ7.J.4

#	Safety Element Location	April 2024 Draft Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Track Changes Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Clean Copy Page Number	Key Topic(s)	Revision and/or Feedback	Notes
1	Acknowledgements	2	2	2	General	Update Acknowledgements	Project team revision Confirm acknowledgements; Climate Resilient Communities (CRC) has been added.
2	Table of Contents	3	4	4	General	Update Table of Contents	Project team revision
3	Safety Element Requirements	10	11, 41, 98	11, 38, 80	Sea level rise; climate change	Identify SB 272 (2023) requirement and current efforts to collaboratively develop a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan	Project team revision SB 272 (2023): By January 1, 2034, develop a sea level rise plan as part of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan that is subject to approval by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.
4	Relationship to Other Plans	76	5,78	5, 78	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan	Clarify Menlo Park's LHMP as part of countywide Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP)	Project team revision The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of Menlo Park planning area was completed as part of the San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP), adopted in 2021. It was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA's 2011 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The MJLHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short- and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. The Countywide MJLHMP includes two volumes: Volume 1 includes countywide issues and Volume 2 includes "annexes" for each partner jurisdiction, including Menlo Park.
5	Outreach	80	82	82	General	Record dates for completed June 2024 study sessions	Project team revision A study session was held on June 20, 2023, to obtain feedback from the community, the City Council, and the Planning Commission on both the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements. Two subsequent study sessions were conducted on June 3, 2024 and June 18, 2024, with the Planning Commission and City Council, respectively.
6	Geologic Hazards	83	85	84	Soft story buildings	Include more information on soft story buildings	Revised text per Council direction Older, unreinforced masonry structures, on the other hand, do not perform as well, especially if they have not undergone appropriate seismic retrofitting. Soft story buildings or multi-story buildings with one or more floors that are "soft" because of structural design, could also be more vulnerable to seismic impacts if they have not been designed to withstand ground shaking and other earthquake-induced impacts. A building is considered to be "soft story" if it has a floor that is 70% less stiff than the floor above it. Soft stories are typically associated with open plan retail spaces and parking garages, and they are often on the lower stories of a building. Soft-story collapse is one of the leading causes of earthquake damage to private residences.
	Geologic Hazards	59, 89	61, 91	62, 91	Liquefaction and groundwater mapping	Consider liquefaction and groundwater mapping	Council direction--no revised text Groundwater aquifers are described under "Water Quality" in the Safety Background section of the element, including a description of recharge and a note about well data from the California Department of Water Resources. The San Mateo County MJLHMP discusses groundwater in the context of both drought preparedness and geologic risk. These discussions, which are County-wide and multijurisdictional in scale, are located in Volume 1 of the MJLHMP. Liquefaction is described under "Geologic Hazards" in the Safety Background section of the Element, including a description of soil types significantly impacted by an earthquake. A map is included in this section: Figure S-6. Liquefaction Susceptibility.
7	Sea Level and Groundwater Rise	96	98	98	Sea level rise; climate change	Include more information on sea level rise and climate change, incorporating data from MJLHMP	Revised text per Council direction and project team revision California Executive Order S-13-2008 states that all State agencies planning construction projects in areas vulnerable to sea level rise must consider a range of sea level rise scenarios for the years 2050 and 2100 to assess project vulnerability and to the extent feasible, reduce expected risks from sea level rise. As a result of decades of increasing atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide and methane as a result of fossil fuel consumption, rising temperatures worldwide have warmed the atmosphere and the world's oceans. Sea level rise, in turn reflects both melting glaciers and the expansion of seawater as it warms. Different scenarios and predictive models result in different estimates in the magnitude of sea level rise. The California Fourth Climate Assessment projects a 2.5-foot rise in sea level rise by 2100. Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) program, which is a collaboration between the BCDC and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Coastal Management maps different sea level rise scenarios. Sea level rise can cause flood damage to property and infrastructure. In Menlo Park, the Bayfront and Belle Haven neighborhoods are most vulnerable to sea level rise. These neighborhoods may expect damage from storm activity in combination with higher sea levels. Key factors that will further exacerbate the impacts of sea level rise include high tides, storm surge, El Niño winter storms, storm waves, and high runoff rates from rivers and creeks. Much of the damage, as shown in Figure S-11, will occur north of US-101. The MJLHMP estimates that Menlo Park currently has 998 structures at risk of inundation due to sea level rise, and 4,576 residents living in areas at risk. The MJLHMP additionally estimates that 38 critical facilities are at risk of inundation in the city due to sea level rise including facilities related to communications, energy, food and water, hazardous material, health and medical, safety and security, and transportation. The City has efforts underway to address sea level rise including collaboration with BCDC and adjacent jurisdictions and groups, including, but not limited to, City of East Palo Alto, County of San Mateo, City of Redwood City, San Francisco Creek Joint Powers Authority, and OneShoreline (San Mateo County Flood & Sea Level Rise Resiliency District), to develop a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan. The Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan is a region-wide plan for the Bay shoreline that guides the creation of coordinated, locally-planned sea level rise adaptation actions that work together to meet regional goals.
8	Extreme Temperatures	99	101	101	Heat; climate change	Include information on cooling centers, in Belle Haven and elsewhere, as well as other community resources	Project team revision The City of Menlo Park currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public. The Belle Haven Community Campus and the Menlo Park Library cooling centers are open every day, with all the facilities operating from June to October during each facility's regular operating hours. On dates when the National Weather Service issues an excessive heat warning, the City Manager may designate additional hours or locations to respond to community needs. The Belle Haven Community Campus is an all-electric, zero combustion, net zero energy public building with onsite renewable energy generation, battery microgrid, and electric vehicle charging stations. The facility is built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum environmental standards, and its structural design is resilient to serve as an emergency shelter.
9	Climate Adaptation and Resiliency (Infrastructure)	101	104	104	Climate change, resiliency, storms	Include examples of storm-related issues to pro-actively plan for	Revised text per Commission direction The high variability in expected weather and the extensiveness of drought conditions places greater impact on the ability of infrastructure and systems to accommodate demand. For prolonged droughts, conservation of water and efficient management of water resources would be required to reduce overuse of water resources. For heavy rain events, infrastructure to manage runoff would need to be at capacities that would be able to handle the volume of runoff. Additionally, pro-active planning to prevent/address tree failure, street flooding due to blocked drains, and loss of electricity should be pursued.
10	Climate Adaptation and Resiliency (Buildings)	96	105	105	Climate change; sea level rise	Include more information on sea level rise and climate change, bringing in data from MJLHMP	Revised text per Council direction and project team revision Development and buildings would be most likely to be directly impacted by sea level rise. As shown in Figure S-11, the risk of sea level rise has greatest potential to affect areas north of Highway 101. Indirect impacts from climate change may include the availability of water resources to support development where prolonged droughts affect supply. Without adequate measures to address sea level rise, this could mean a reduction in available land for building new development and could displace residents of the Bayfront and Belle Haven neighborhoods over time.
11	Emergency Preparedness	116	120	120	Emergency preparedness; partnerships	Include business districts in disaster and emergency plan preparations	Revised text per Council direction and project team revision The Emergency Preparedness section has been updated to list nine objectives of the City's Emergency Services Program (ESP). Objective 5, Whole Community Engagement, states: ESP develops structures to link non-governmental organizations (NGOs), residents, and businesses to the Incident Command System (ICS). Elements of this include MPC Ready, ARES/RACES Amateur (ham) Radio, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers and many more.
12	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan	Focus on specific Safety Element updates in response to recent legislation in 2024 update, and consider a potential update to the entire Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements in the future	Council direction--no revised text The Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) was last updated in 2021 and the County of San Mateo is in the process of updating the document for the next cycle (FEMA recommends updates every five years). The City could consider further updates to the Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements in conjunction with updating the LHMP (2026) or with the next Housing Element update (2031, which would also be a MJLHMP update milestone).
13	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Biosafety levels	Pause development of a new program regarding planning for biosafety levels as part of the update to the Safety Element, however, staff can plan for study session on the issue in the future	Council direction--no revised text Consider Biosafety Levels and zoning study session to be scheduled by end of 2025

# City of Menlo Park

## **Environmental Justice Element Action Guide**

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment.

The Action Guide lists Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, programs, and action items. The community-prioritized goals lead the Action Guide, followed by the other goals in sequential order.

Policies and programs are under the goals in sequential order, while action items are under the program they implement. The organizing structure and color scheme, demonstrated below, allows for easy reference:

Item	Structure	Example
Goal	<b>EJ#</b>	<b>EJ1</b>
<i>Policy</i>	<i>EJ#.#</i>	<i>EJ1.1</i>
Program	<b>EJ#.X</b>	<b>EJ1.A</b>
Action Item	<b>EJ#.X.#</b>	<b>EJ1.A.1</b>

The Action Guide includes details on programs and action items, organized under three groups: Descriptive Information, Implementation, and Time Frame. The structure and presentation style of the Action Guide may evolve over time.

## Descriptive Information

### Column A: ID

Identification of the policy, program, or action item corresponding to the goal they support (e.g., EJ4):

- Policies are given a number (e.g., EJ4.1)
- Programs are given a letter (e.g., EJ4.D)
- Action items are given a letter and a number (e.g., EJ4.D.1)

### Column B: Policy / Program / Action Item Text

Text of the policy, program, or action item.

### Column C: Classification

Identification of whether the row is a policy, program, or action item.

### Column D: In Progress?

If City and/or partners are currently conducting a process that would accomplish the objective of the program or action item, this column includes a brief description. As the City fulfills programs and action items, and initiates activity on additional programs and action items, this column may be updated.

## Implementation

Implementation data describes who would likely lead carrying out the program or action item and what funding is potentially available to fulfill it. Also included in this section are supporting City departments and partners outside City government, such as County authorities or non-governmental organizations.

### Column E: Lead Role

The City department or division who would likely lead the implementation of the program or action item.

### Column F: Supporting Role

City departments or divisions, as well as partner organizations, that may support implementation of the program or action item.

### Column G: Funding Source(s)

Potential sources of funding that may support program or action item implementation.

### Time Frame

The estimated time frame for programs and action items is arranged into two components: initiation (when work will begin) and completion (when work will be finished).

### Column H: Initiation

The programs and action items are sorted into four categories: those that can be started in a short-term time frame, a medium-term time frame, a long-term time frame, and those that are in progress. As the City fulfills programs and action items, and initiates action on additional programs and action items, this column may be updated. For the purposes of the Environmental Justice Element, the time frames are defined accordingly:

- **In Progress:** Already in progress. These are highlighted in gold in the Action Guide.
- **Short-Term:** Zero to three years from Element adoption, estimated
- **Medium-Term:** More than three and less than six years from Element adoption, estimated
- **Long-Term:** Six years or more from Element adoption, estimated

### Column I: Completion

The programs and action items are sorted into four categories: those that can be accomplished in a short-term time frame, a medium-term time frame, a long-term time frame, and those that are ongoing from initiation of work. For the purposes of the Environmental Justice Element, the time frames are defined accordingly:

- **Ongoing from Initiation:** Estimated to be worked on indefinitely
- **Short-Term:** Zero to three years from beginning of work on the item, estimated
- **Medium-Term:** More than three and less than six years from beginning of work on the item, estimated
- **Long-Term:** Six years or more from beginning of work on the item, estimated

Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element Action Guide								
DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>Community Priority #1: Goal EJ5. Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes</b>								
<i>EJ5.1</i>	<i>Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe, sanitary, and stable homes, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ5.2</i>	<i>Maintain and develop safe, sanitary, and stable homes across all locations and affordability ranges, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ5.3</i>	<i>Support housing development distribution throughout the city and not concentrated within Menlo Park's underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ5.A</b>	Identify, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments and work with property owners to resolve issues, particularly in underserved communities.	Program	The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. The Safety Element (Table S-4) includes a list of sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation.	Community Development	San Mateo County Environmental Health Services, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	Department of Food and Agriculture (Healthy Soils Demonstration Program)	<b>In Progress</b>	Short Term
<b>EJ5.B</b>	Conduct outreach to potentially eligible households regarding programs that support safe, sanitary, and stable homes.	Program	-	Community Development	California Department of Community Services and Development, City Manager's Office	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ5.C</b>	Create or partner with providers to provide a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters with questions. If such resources already exist, conduct proactive outreach and education to inform the community of available resources. Hold culturally competent, in-language outreach workshops.	Program	-	Community Development	Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation



DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ5.D	Identify opportunities to support a Community Land trust or other fiscal vehicle to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Community Development Department, MidPen Housing Community Land Trust	BMR Housing Fund	Long Term	Long Term
EJ5.E	Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F (regarding collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART)) and helping to facilitate first-time homeowner workshops for residents in underserved communities.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Local Community Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ5.F	Promote funds and subsidies that minimize the passing through of any upfront investment costs of building electrification on to tenants.	Program	-	Sustainability Division	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Medium Term
EJ5.G	Ensure that City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This will include consideration, at a minimum, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rental inventory of all dwelling units</li> <li>- Updated or expanded rent control laws</li> <li>- Rent increase mitigations, such as longer noticing requirements</li> <li>- Community and tenant opportunity to purchase</li> <li>- Revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper affordability (e.g., subsidies)</li> <li>- Expand relocation assistance for tenants</li> <li>- Just Cause Eviction protections regardless of tenant duration</li> <li>- Strengthened anti-tenant harassment ordinances</li> <li>- An examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs</li> </ul>	Program	Sixth Cycle Housing Element includes Program H2.E focusing on developing an Anti-Displacement Strategy	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department	General Fund	Short Term	Long Term
EJ5.H	As part of an anti-displacement program and to ensure stable housing, support increasing access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction by conducting community outreach, education, and engagement to ensure renters are aware of this resource. Include progress reports on usage annually.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Community Priority #2: Goal EJ4. Promote access to high quality and affordable food</b>								

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ4.1</b>	<i>Encourage adequate food access to fresh and healthy foods for all residents, particularly those in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ4.A</b>	Work with grocery stores and online food service delivery and meal providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food (e.g., reduced or waived delivery service fees). Encourage and support the acceptance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), CalFresh, and other governmental food assistance programs that increase food security.	Program	-	Community Development	Local Grocery Stores (e.g., Safeway, Trader Joe's), Local Grocery Delivery Services (e.g., Uber Eats, GrubHub, DoorDash), CalFresh	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.B</b>	Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual fliers, community events, information at shelters and food banks, as well as other appropriate outreach methods.	Program	-	Community Development	Communications and Public Engagement Division, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Homeless Outreach Team, San Mateo County Human Services Agency	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.C</b>	Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at municipal buildings and City-participating events. Encourage sourcing food from local small businesses.	Program	-	All City Departments	Sustainability Division	General Fund	Long Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.D</b>	Encourage and facilitate the establishment and operation of a farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets in underserved communities. Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)	Long Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.D.1</b>	At existing and future farmer's markets, or similar events, offer free or subsidized space for vendors who provide healthy, fresh, and affordable food for underserved communities.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.E</b>	Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens within or adjacent to neighborhoods and housing development sites. Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years of Environmental Justice Element adoption.	Program	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.E.1</b>	Explore identifying unused City-owned property to support community gardens. Encourage community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily and mixed-use development projects.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Short Term	Short Term

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ4.E.2	Identify private properties suitable for community gardens on vacant or undeveloped lots, or other opportunities for community-supported agriculture within the community. Encourage community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily and mixed-use development projects.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Short Term	Short Term
EJ4.E.3	Facilitate the installation of community gardens at senior centers and senior housing facilities.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	Community Development, Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g. Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ4.E.4	Develop programs and encourage developments that make smaller planter boxes or garden beds accessible for apartment dwellers.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>Community Priority #3: Goal EJ2. Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality</b>								
EJ2.1	<i>Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality (both indoor and outdoor), and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.2	<i>Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale, as well as collaborate on countywide and regional efforts. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve watershed and human health.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.3	<i>Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to promote and encourage urban greening on public and private projects (e.g., bioswales, raingardens, habitat restoration) in areas with relatively less tree canopy or other greenery to provide health and safety benefits to underserved communities residents.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.4	<i>Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards and maximize air quality (both indoor and outdoor) in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.5	<i>Work with Caltrans on improvements on State-owned rights of way.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.6	<i>When updating or installing transportation infrastructure, consider factors such as stormwater management, Universal Design Principles and attractive green roadway design.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.A	Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City's jurisdiction (e.g., gas stations, automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.	Program	-	Community Development	Peninsula Clean Energy, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Westbay Sanitary District, San Mateo County Environmental Health, San Mateo County Fire, Sustainability Division	Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.B	Implement and periodically update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Program	The Climate Action Plan is subject to annual progress reports as a standalone document are scheduled for 2028 update .Starting in 2024, the City will implement a zero emission landscaping equipment rule to improve air quality and reduce emissions.	Sustainability Division	City Manager's Office	General Fund, grants (e.g., California Energy Commission, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy, and CALFIRE)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.C	Conduct proactive education and outreach about indoor and outdoor air quality and protective actions that can be taken to both improve air quality inside one's home and to minimize exposure to poor air quality index days.	Program	-	Sustainability Division	Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), City Manager's Office, Peninsula Clean Energy, County Office of Sustainability	Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.C.1	Identify and implement methods and avenues for public education and outreach about air quality issues in the community.	Action Item	-	All City Departments	Public Works, Communications and Public Engagement Division, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), City Manager's Office, Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County Sustainability Department	-	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.C.2	Support the distribution of air purifiers and/or other air cleaning devices within underserved communities, especially for sensitive populations.	Action Item	-	Sustainability Division	Police, Sustainability Division, San Mateo County Sustainability Department	General Fund	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.D	Minimize and mitigate illegal solid waste dumping (as defined in 7.04.030 of the Municipal Code), potentially through minimizing fees for disposal at landfills in collaboration with South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA).	Program	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.D.1	Conduct proactive outreach in underserved communities to inform households of free trash pickup days and solid waste disposal opportunities and programs, including the ACT Menlo Park reporting app. Outreach can include signage about ACT Menlo Park along Pierce Road.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement, Recology, Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.D.2	Explore ways to subsidize or eliminate fees for disposal at landfills and implement for underserved communities	Action Item	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement, Recology, Public Works	Clean California (Local Grants)	Long Term	Ongoing upon commencement
EJ2.E	Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan and update, as necessary, to incorporate environmental justice. Focus on underserved communities and implement programs in this Element, in coordination with related regional efforts.	Program	-	Public Works	Community Development	General Fund	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.1	Support efforts by other agencies to abate hazardous, polluted, or toxic sites. Encourage incorporating sea-level rise and groundwater rise in their remediation decisions.	Action Item	-	If on private property then Community development, if for public projects then Public Works	San Mateo County Health, Department of Water Resources, OneShoreline	Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)	Short Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.2	Prioritize comprehensive undergrounding of utilities in underserved communities on private and public property to promote resilience.	Action Item	The Menlo Park Municipal Code requires the undergrounding of electric and communication service connections on private property under certain circumstances. Some categories of private development in Office (O), Life Sciences (LS) and Residential Mixed Use (R-MU) Zoning Districts require undergrounding of overhead electric distribution lines of less than sixty (60) kilovolts and communication lines along the property frontage. The specified zoning districts are adjacent to and serve underserved communities.	Public Works	Community Development, City Manager's Office, utilities (e.g., PG&E)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), PG&E Rule 20 Program, Community Amenities Fund, Bonds per project specific deferred frontage agreements	In Progress	Medium Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.E.3	Focus green stormwater improvements for areas at risk of flooding with an emphasis on underserved communities.	Action Item	Public Works evaluates all opportunities to plan for and incorporate green stormwater improvements, including areas at risk of flooding and within underserved communities, per the City's 2019 Green Infrastructure Plan.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.E.4	Support West Bay Sanitary District, the respective responsible agency, in their efforts to prevent sewage discharges during large stormwater events. In the event of occurrence, coordinate with the responsible agency in conducting proactive, extensive, and prolonged community outreach and education to inform underserved communities of protective actions and risks. The City can coordinate with agencies to promptly share their information with the City Council and community after storms.	Action Item	-	Public Works	City Manager's Office, West Bay Sanitary District, East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Fair Oaks Sewer Maintenance District	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning and Project Development Grant)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.5	Collaborate with landowners to decrease the risk of flooding by advancing watershed management projects that reduce and/or store runoff during rainfall events, including the installation of green infrastructure and Low Impact Development (LID) practices, and improve the condition in the floodplain, for example through floodplain restoration or improvement.	Action Item	The City coordinates the incorporation of Low Impact Development (LID) and green infrastructure elements into project stormwater management designs.	Public Works	OneShoreline, Department of Water Resources, City Manager's Office, Community Development	Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (Infrastructure State Revolving Fund (ISRF) Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.E.6	Encourage green infrastructure in future developments, including using green infrastructure as preferred alternative.	Action Item	Green infrastructure, including Low Impact Development (LID), is currently utilized for stormwater management and treatment in development projects.	Public Works	Community Development, City Manager's Office, Sustainability Division	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.E.7	Establish requirements for major development and redevelopment projects to construct and maintain urban greening projects in the adjacent public right of way. Community benefits for such projects could include shade trees for pedestrian and biking routes.	Action Item	The existing heritage tree ordinance has requirements for tree planting on private properties and replacement of trees in the public right of way. The City is currently updating administrative guidelines.	Public Works	Caltrans, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, Canopy	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grants	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.E.8	Restore and enhance parks, natural lands and large open spaces and explore expansion of the City's natural areas preservation system through land transfers and acquisitions of undeveloped/unprotected private and public lands.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	City Manager's Office, Community Development, Public Works, Save The Bay, California Department of Conservation	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.F	Increase community outreach and awareness of the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, including the Community Rating System, and the potential benefits to homeowners (e.g., reduced insurance premiums)	Program	-	Communications and Public Engagement Division	Public Works	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.G	Develop incentives to encourage shared commute programs and alternative methods of travel for city events, meetings, and official business.	Program	-	City Manager's Office, Public Works	SamTrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Public Works, Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Long Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.H	Collaborate with SamTrans and Ravenswood City School District, as well as Meta and other large employers to leverage transportation electrification initiatives to prioritize bus electrification in underserved communities.	Program	SamTrans anticipated being fully electric by 2034, in compliance with State law requiring transit fleets be all electric by 2040.	Public Works	Sustainability Division, SamTrans, Ravenswood City School District, Large Local Businesses (over 50 employees, e.g., Meta, SRI International, Grail, others)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.I	Consider revisions to applicable City regulations that will reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life in underserved communities.	Program	Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance, Municipal Code Chapter 7.30 (Smoking Regulated or Prohibited), Building Code amendments.	All City Departments	-	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.I.1	Review truck routes and/or identify and pursue measures for reductions to diesel emissions in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.I.2	Identify, evaluate and implement potential mitigation measures that support Caltrans mitigation efforts to reduce noise and air quality impacts from adjacent freeways and highways, particularly those impacting underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.I.3	Install improved vegetative buffers between freeways and highways and adjacent land uses to reduce noise and air quality impacts, upon identification of the roadway segments for such installations.	Action Item	Landscaping work on the Willow/US-101 interchange is in the design phase as of early 2024.	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning) Community Amenities Fund	In Progress	Long Term



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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.I.4	Review and update the Transportation Toolkit (Appendix I to the Transportation Master Plan) and the City's standard design details to incorporate Universal Design principles to enhance access for all people.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Long Term	Medium Term
EJ2.I.5	Support roadway design that integrates green stormwater infrastructure into traffic calming (where appropriate) and includes trees, landscape buffer areas, public art, public space, and other visual enhancement.	Action Item	The City is currently integrating green stormwater infrastructure in roadway design, but is limited by the available space/right-of-way where landscape buffers can be incorporated.	Public Works	Caltrans, Library and Community Services	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.I.6	Consider rezoning and limiting the intensity and usage of industrially zoned properties and/or other means such as landscaping to ensure a healthier and safer separation between residential and industrial uses.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ2.I.7	Explore reductions to parking requirements with the intent to encourage balanced live, work, and play environments.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ2.I.8	Inform residents and organizations in underserved communities of the permit application process for temporary street closures for temporary events such as farmers' markets, arts and craft fairs, bicycle and pedestrian events, and other public events. Consider easing the permitting process for temporary street closures in the city.	Action Item	An update to the special event permitting process was made in 2022.	Police	City Manager's Office, City Attorney's Office, Community Development, Public Works.	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.J	Develop Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park within four years of the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	The City applied for CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant for Urban Forest Management Plan in May 2024. This grant requires projects to be completed by March 31, 2028. The City has budgeted \$250,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as matching funds.	Public Works	Sustainability Division, Canopy	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 Planning Grant), United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) Grants, CALFIRE grants. City of Menlo Park Heritage Tree in-lieu fee program	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.J.1	Urban canopy expansion prioritizing underserved communities and areas vulnerable to urban heat effects, using tools such as the Tree Equity Score and Bay Area Greenprint.	Action Item	The City is currently updating administrative guidelines, adding more City approved consulting arborists to the list, and working towards securing grant funds for Urban Forest: Developing a Master Plan for Menlo Park.	Public Works	Canopy	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), Community Amenities Fund	In Progress	Short Term
EJ2.J.2	Implement equitable canopy expansion procedures and promote and maintain healthy and vibrant trees that may require dedicating additional resources within the City Arborist Division, Public Works.	Action Item	The City is working towards the development of an urban forest management plan, updating administrative guidelines, and adding more City approved consulting arborists. One additional employee was added to the Trees maintenance section in 2022-23. In May 2024, the City applied for the CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant to develop an Urban Forest Management Plan for Menlo Park.	City Manager's Office, Public Works	Sustainability Division, Public Works	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program),	In Progress	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.J.3	Include trees, landscape buffer areas, public art, public space, and other visual enhancements in roadway projects, emphasizing tree planting and landscaping along all streets.	Action Item	Routine maintenance is conducted every 5 years. Residents may request evaluation of work needs outside of routine maintenance, which is on a 5-year cycle.	Public Works	Community Development, Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), Community Amenities Fund (north of 101 implementation of Action Item 2.N.3)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.J.4	Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to prioritize the retention of mature street trees in public rights of way or City-owned parcels during infrastructure modifications. (e.g., using solutions such as bulb-outs, basin expansion, and sidewalk re-routing.)	Action Item	The City has preservation requirements for heritage and street trees.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.J.5	Coordinate with property owners to help preserve mature trees by replacing any that require removal in any redevelopment process. Explore opportunities to transplant trees and vegetation that require removal during construction to other places within underserved communities. Consider requiring multiple new trees be planted for each mature tree removed.	Action Item	The City is updating administrative guidelines and adding more City approved consulting arborists to the list.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.K	Prioritize relief from extreme heat (Safety Element Program S1.T) in underserved communities. Information on these resources shall be provided at community facilities (e.g., BHCC).	Program	The City currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public.	Library and Community Services	Communications and Public Engagement	General Fund	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Goal EJ1. Address unique and compounded health risks</b>								

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<i>EJ1.1</i>	<i>Prioritize programs that address the unique and compounded health risks present in underserved communities currently and in the future.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.2</i>	<i>Reduce climate vulnerability in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.3</i>	<i>Strengthen collaboration efforts with residents in underserved communities, particularly on public improvement projects.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.4</i>	<i>Prioritize active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) improvements, transit incentives, and neighborhood connectivity in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ1.A</b>	Prioritize public/capital improvements needed in underserved communities with priority allocation of funding, available to the City locally and from regional, statewide, and federal entities, for such projects, and to address climate change.	Program	-	City Manager's Office, Public Works	Community Development, Sustainability Division	General Fund, General Capital Fund, Countywide Transportation Sales Tax Funds (Measure A & W), State and Federal Gas Taxes	Short Term	Long Term
<b>EJ1.A.1</b>	Support (to the extent possible and subject to funding limitations) non-governmental agencies' grant applications and projects that will specifically help implement the Environmental Justice Element and address highlighted issues in underserved communities such as safe housing, increased tree coverage, recreational resources, active transportation, environmental concerns, air quality.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	Bayfront Mitigation Fund (project specific) Community Amenities Fund (projects specific)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.B</b>	Prepare publicly available reports annually to describe how underserved communities are considered and prioritized in capital improvement plans, departmental work plans, and budgets within four years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	-	All City Departments	-	General Fund	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.C</b>	Develop and publicize annual or every-other-year reports that measure progress and outcomes of the implementation of the Environmental Justice Element programs within six years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.D</b>	Review CalEnviroScreen to support evaluation of Environmental Justice Element policies and programs.	Program	-	Community Development	California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, All City Departments	General Fund	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Goal EJ3. Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities</b>								
<i>EJ3.1</i>	<i>Prioritize providing public facilities and programming for underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ3.2</i>	<i>Ensure accessibility of public facilities for all community members, especially those in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ3.3</b>	<i>Support programs that increase access to public and private health resources for underserved communities in locations that are convenient and accessible.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ3.4</b>	<i>Coordinate with local school districts, transit operators, and other public agencies to provide adequate public facilities, improvements, and programs in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ3.A</b>	Identify, renovate, and retrofit candidate public buildings in underserved communities to serve as Climate Resilience Centers as outlined by the California Strategic Growth Council. These buildings should be places where the community already regularly gathers, such as libraries, community centers, or the Belle Haven neighborhood substation.	Program	-	Public Works	Sustainability Division, Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.B</b>	Work with relevant departments to install infrastructure allowing for easy disposal of pet and animal waste at parks and along highly trafficked streets.	Program	-	Public Works	City Manager's Office	General Fund	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.C</b>	Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills. In addition, expand outreach and community access to the City Library's laptop and wireless hotspot, or similar, borrowing programs.	Program	The City currently offers laptop lending and wi-fi hotspots free to residents at the library with their library card.	Library and Community Services	Local Internet Providers (e.g., AT&T, Xfinity, Spectrum), San Mateo County Public Works, California Public Utilities Commission, Administrative Services Department/Information Technology Department	California Advanced Services Fund: Broadband Public Housing Account	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.D</b>	Seek to form partnerships, particularly with community based organizations and businesses, and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ3.D.1</b>	Encourage local transit providers to establish and maintain routes and services that provide underserved communities with convenient access to health service facilities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	SamTrans, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.D.2	Partner with local transit providers to provide a comprehensive system of para-transit service for seniors and people of all abilities and enhance service within the city and to regional public facilities, especially for access to health care and other needs.	Action Item	-	Public Works	SamTrans, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.D.3	Identify means of supporting a citywide paramedicine program providing health care delivery, pop-up clinics, and home visits, especially to those most vulnerable or underserved, such as seniors and residents of underserved communities through partnering with health care services.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, City Manager's Office, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.D.4	Identify a partner who can provide a community health clinic in Belle Haven.	Action Item	A Community health clinic has been proposed as part of Belle Haven Elementary School redesign by Ravenswood City School District.	City Manager's Office	Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.E	Coordinate with schools and other local organizations (e.g., Boys and Girls Club) to support after-school activities and related outreach/communications generally.	Program	-	Library and Community Services	Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.E.1	Coordinate with the Ravenswood City School District to help publicize affordable after school care options/programs and explore opportunities to enhance transportation options for youth to BHCC.	Action Item	Ravenswood City School District has a number of after school care options/programs and the City can help publicize and enhance usage. City vans provide transportation to BHCC for youth enrolled in the City's after school program, however, there is not transportation for youth interested in going to BHCC after school but are not enrolled in the City's program.	Library and Community Services	Communications and Public Engagement, Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.E.2	Encourage joint use of recreational fields.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	Public Works, Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.F	Seek to form partnerships or other agreements with a banking specialist and other identified partners to provide a community bank or banking services in the underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Local banks	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.G	Ensure delivery on the needs of underserved communities through the City's Programming Plans currently in place and continue to adapt programming based on community feedback through regular community surveys and outreach.	Program	City staff, with input from the community, Belle Haven Community Campus subcommittee and working group, Library Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission, have developed robust programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus. City will continue to adapt programming to community needs through regular community surveys and outreach that solicit community feedback.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ3.G.1	During facility renovations, install distributed solar panels and battery storage over facility parking lots for resiliency and heat reduction.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Community Campus is an all-electric, zero combustion, net zero energy public building with onsite renewable energy generation, battery microgrid, and electric vehicle charging stations. The facility is built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum environmental standards, and its structural design is resilient to serve as an emergency shelter. Construction is complete.	Public Works	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department, Menlo Park Public Works Department, Silicon Valley Clean Energy, Menlo Park Building Division	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Complete	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.G.2	Provide equitable access to programs at the Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities.	Action Item	Programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) emphasize equitable access to programs through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities. Menlo Park residents who live or attend K-12 school within the service area of BHCC are eligible for hyperlocal resident enrollment fees at BHCC.	Library and Community Services	Library and Community Services Department, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.3	Providing community programming for all age groups, including older teens and older adults not considered seniors.	Action Item	The City provides and is working to develop additional programming for all age groups, including teens and older adults not considered seniors, and will continue to adapt programming to meet community needs and desires as they change over time, with community input.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.4	Provide childcare, potentially with funding support for residents of underserved communities.	Action Item	The City provides childcare with funding support for underserved communities at the Belle Haven Child Development Center (BHCCDC) and Belle Haven Youth Center (BHYC). Tuition is subsidized based on income level with grant funding from the State and other sources.	Library and Community Services	Local Childcare Organizations	California Department of Education	In Progress	Medium Term



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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.G.5	Communicate with the Ravenswood City School District to enhance an understanding of preferred amenities and activities that can be included at Belle Haven Community Campus.	Action Item	Communication between the City and the Ravenswood City School District is ongoing. The School District partners with Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring, and City Year to provide before-school and after-school care. These collaborations offer both academic support and enrichment activities and the City continually seeks opportunities to amplify support for youth and families.	Library and Community Services	Ravenswood City School District, Communications and Public Engagement	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.6	Provide safe and highly visible pathways that connect residential areas in underserved communities to the new community center. Safety and visibility features should include adequate lighting.	Action Item	The Vision Zero Action Plan identifies high priority systemic safety issues to be addressed in all neighborhoods, with a focus on underserved communities.	Public Works	Library and Community Services, Community Development	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.7	Support the inclusion of artwork (e.g., murals) that reflects the diversity and culture of underserved communities at community centers and beyond. Include community artifacts and testaments to community history in the community center.	Action Item	Belle Haven Community Campus will include exhibits and displays focused on Belle Haven history, people, and neighborhood stories, rotating exhibits by local artists, interpretive artworks and multimedia.	Library and Community Services	Local Art Initiatives (e.g., Elevate Art Menlo Park, Allied Arts Guild)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ3.G.8</b>	Uplift culturally relevant holiday events at Belle Haven Community Campus to foster a feeling of belonging among all residents.	Action Item	The City is committed to work with community members to create more culturally relevant events is ongoing, including through mini-grants.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
<b>EJ3.G.9</b>	Facilitate yoga classes and other opportunities for regular community-gathering physical activities, such as walking groups and/or hiking programs for the underserved communities. Plan programs suitable to multiple age groups and abilities.	Action Item	The City currently offers yoga, Zumba, line-dancing and other movement classes for various age groups. Work with the community to develop new opportunities for community-oriented physical activities such as walking and/or hiking programs is ongoing.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
<b>EJ3.H</b>	Ensure that recreational facilities throughout Menlo Park provide all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles, with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities.	Program	City prioritizes access for all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles.	Library and Community Services	Public Works, Community Development	General Fund	In Progress	Long Term
<b>EJ3.H.1</b>	Provide public facilities that are well designed, energy efficient, maintained, and compatible with adjacent land uses.	Action Item	-	All City Departments	Community Development	General Fund	Medium Term	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.H.2	Offer substantially reduced costs for recreation activities, particularly to residents of underserved communities based on economic need.	Action Item	Programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) emphasize equitable access to programs through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities. Menlo Park residents who live or attend K-12 school within the service area of BHCC are eligible for hyperlocal resident enrollment fees at BHCC.	Library and Community Services	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	General Fund	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.H.3	In coordination with the City's Parks and Recreational Facilities Master Plan, provide public restroom facilities at parks in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department, Menlo Park Public Works Department	General Fund, Recreation In-Lieu Fee Fund	Short Term	Long Term
EJ3.H.4	Expand hours for public recreation facilities to allow working people to take advantage of the facilities. This should include open hours until 9:00 p.m. on weekdays and possibly shortened hours on weekends.	Action Item	-	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	-	General Fund	Short Term	Short Term
<b>Goal EJ6. Encourage physical activity and active transportation</b>								
EJ6.1	<i>Prioritize programs that encourage physical activity in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.2	<i>Support physically active lifestyles through investment in complete streets and active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) and safety in underserved communities</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.3	<i>Prioritize the implementation of traffic and transit improvements in underserved communities to reduce excessive speed, limit cut through traffic, and make streets comfortable and accessible places for all users and abilities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.A	Identify and eliminate, barriers to outdoor physical activity, such as damaged, incomplete, blocked, or littered sidewalks and bike paths, lack of safe street crossings and direct connections, excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping and shade trees along streets in underserved communities.	Program	-	Public Works	Community Development, Sustainability Division	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.B	In concurrence with the City's Vision Zero Action Plan, develop and implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling and taking transit. These efforts should include education for people using all modes.	Program	-	Public Works	Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, SamTrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ6.C	Coordinate with Ravenswood City School District to expand the Safe Routes to School program, including potential for increased crossing guards at key intersections.	Program	-	Public Works	Ravenswood City School District	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ6.D	Prepare to update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan (best practice is to update every 10-15 years) to improve environmental justice.	Program	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities), Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation Grants (Safe Streets and Roads for All, Sustainable Transportation Planning)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ6.D.1	Consider community solutions for addressing concerns related to parking (e.g., idling and noise, parking availability challenges) in underserved communities and explore the creation of Residential Preferential Parking (RPP) programs.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Police	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.D.2	Seek opportunities to improve pedestrian safety, at all Willow Road intersections.	Action Item	The City adopted the Vision Zero Action Plan in January 2024. The City is working on a Willow Road bicycle and pedestrian improvement project.	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
EJ6.D.3	Consider strategies to reduce excessive speed and cut-through traffic in underserved communities.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan is nearly complete and the City is coordinating with Caltrans to complete signal improvements at Willow and Newbridge	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ6.D.4	Install traffic calming measures to reduce speeds, as well as flashing stop signs in underserved communities, particularly around schools during pick-up and drop-off periods.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan is near completion. The Plan has completed speed humps near Belle Haven Elementary School, and bulbouts along Ivy, Chilco, Terminal and Newbridge.	Public Works	Caltrans, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, Ravenswood City School District, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.D.5	Install bikeways on Ivy Drive, ideally Class I or Class IV.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Long Term	Long Term
EJ6.D.6	Expand the network of safe, accessible, and appealing pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including pedestrian connections within and in between neighborhoods. Poles, signs, or other impediments in the center of sidewalks should be modified to improve accessibility and sidewalk safety.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ6.D.7	Install lighting to encourage walking and safe travel at night. This may begin with installation on Ivy Drive, Hamilton Avenue, Chilco Street, Newbridge Street, and at public buildings at parks. It should continue after subsequent community outreach that identifies other streets and locations with inadequate lighting, prioritizing underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Community Development	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Short Term	Long Term
<b>Goal EJ7. Create equitable civic and community engagement</b>								
<i>EJ7.1</i>	<i>Prioritize civic and community engagement programs that enhance the participation and inclusion of underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ7.2</i>	<i>Keep residents informed about governmental meetings and actions by ensuring transparency and accessibility in government and decision making.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ7.3</b>	<i>Treat all members of the community fairly and promote equity and capacity building toward creating a healthy environment and just community.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ7.A</b>	Promote and evaluate capacity-building efforts to educate and involve traditionally underrepresented populations, including underserved communities, in the public decision-making process.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.1</b>	Partner with community-based organizations that have relationships, trust and cultural competency with target communities to outreach on local initiatives and issues and allow them the use of space in the Belle Haven Community Campus at no cost.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.2</b>	Use culturally appropriate approaches to public participation and involvement in a partnership with community based organization.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.3</b>	Deploy educational workshops for City staff to enhance understanding social injustice and housing needs pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.4</b>	Provide training for decision makers, City staff, applicants, and public on social justice issues that affect community members.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.B</b>	All meetings with an agendized item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the underserved community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as satellite meeting centers, simulcasting, and/or remote participation. Consider hardcopy materials for outreach, particularly door-to-door outreach.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Library and Community Services	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.C</b>	Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation (such as food and refreshments, stipends, on-site child care) at community outreach events in underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D</b>	Pursue equitable civic and community engagement.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.1</b>	Initiate outreach efforts as early as possible in the decision-making process before significant resources have been invested.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.2</b>	Conduct open meetings on issues affecting land use and the environment.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Public Works	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.3</b>	At least twice per year, beginning immediately following Environmental Justice Element Adoption, conduct City Council meetings in underserved communities.	Action Item	The Planning Commission and City Council will review and recommend/consider adoption of the Environmental Justice Element at BHCC.	Community Development	-	General Fund	<b>In Progress</b>	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.4</b>	Encourage representation from all districts on City boards and commissions.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.D.5	Evaluate scheduling of public meetings in order to allow for a wide range of participation options around typical and atypical working hours.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.6	Coordinate outreach efforts between City departments to avoid duplication and encourage that all Menlo Park community stakeholders receive notification and information.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.7	Inform the public on decisions – and seek feedback on decisions – using multiple communication methods, including traditional and online forms of communication.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.8	Incorporate multilingual outreach, announcements and noticing into City procedures for public meetings and hearings and offer interpretation services at all meetings and workshops on environmental issues.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.9	Consider offering childcare at key meetings and workshops on environmental issues affecting entire neighborhoods and the city as a whole.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.10	Distribute contact information (such as phone numbers to call) for various departments, programs and other functions in the City organization in underserved communities and in appropriate languages.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.E	Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the BHCC as a community hub for learning and engagement opportunities strengthened with partner organizations. These will connect residents in underserved communities with pre-existing city and state resources as well as encourage resident participation in public meetings, events, and decision making.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.E.1	Provide resources at BHCC about environmental safety, including flooding, extreme heat, and other issues identified in the Safety Element. Consider having a concierge or dedicated staff/resources to provide outreach on local mitigation efforts in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, Public Works, Sustainability Division	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.F	Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating City Councilmembers and appointed commissioners for the time they spend in their positions to make the positions more accessible to residents of underserved communities.	Program	A Planning Commission stipend pilot program was added in the 2023-2024 budget.	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	In Progress	Short Term
EJ7.G	Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions.	Program	SamTrans currently operates a countywide paratransit service.	Library and Community Services	SamTrans, Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term



DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.H	Ensure that disaster preparedness planning as described in the Safety Element includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park’s underserved communities. Upon adoption of the Environmental Justice Element, conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that may include participation and information dissemination at public event and/or fairs in underserved communities with proactive encouragement and opportunity for the residents to sign up for emergency alert systems.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Menlo Park Fire Protection District	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.I	Encourage the sustained engagement and involvement of underserved communities in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. Maintain membership and partnership with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority during their oversight of levee installations and expansions protecting underserved communities.	Program	The SAFER Bay Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in 2022 and provides engagement and involvement opportunities.	Public Works	City Manager's Office, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ7.J	Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Annual reporting, at a minimum, should be provided to the City Council and made available on the City website.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.1	Monitoring programming at community centers for usage, popularity, and equitable access, including an annual report on community center programming to Council. The report shall include community outreach and will recommend any updates to programming and outreach methods to address inequitable access.	Action Item	The City currently collects usage data and statistics, and provides monthly usage reports to Library Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission. Annual report to City Council is currently under development.	Library and Community Services	-	General Fund	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.2	Publish an annual report on the progress of the Transportation Master Plan, beginning a year after adoption of the updated Transportation Master Plan.	Action Item	An online map showing completed projects is published on the City website.  Further status/dashboard information about the Transportation Master Plan and Vision Zero Action Plan is under development.	Public Works	Community Development Department, Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.J.3	Diligently implement all state laws and mandated bias and sensitivity training requirements for law enforcement officers, current and new upon hire, who may interact with historically discriminated groups. The Police Department shall maintain records as required by state law to show vigilant compliance with all state laws and California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requirements. The Police Department includes documentation of records generated in compliance with the department's "Bias-Based Policing" policy as well as California's Racial and Identity Profiling Act in its quarterly reporting to the community through City Council.	Action Item	-	Police	City Manager's Office	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.4	Prepare and publicize an annual report describing the City's progress on promoting and evaluating capacity-building efforts per Program EJ7.D. This report shall also evaluate outreach methods and recommend adjusting outreach strategies to reflect best practices and results.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.K	The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.L	The City Council shall consider the community-identified environmental justice priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation



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# memorandum

date August 21, 2024  
to Project File  
from Luke Evans, Senior Managing Associate/Project Manager  
subject Evaluation of Environmental Impacts of the City of Menlo Park's Safety and Environmental Justice Elements Under the California Environmental Quality Act

This memorandum summarizes the environmental impact analysis undertaken for the City of Menlo Park's updated Safety Element and new Environmental Justice Element under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The two elements were considered in the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the City's Housing Element Update project (described to include an update to the Housing Element, update to the Safety Element, new Environmental Justice Element, and associated changes including zoning amendments) that was certified by the City Council on January 31, 2023. As part of adopting the ConnectMenlo General Plan Update in 2016, the City prepared and certified the ConnectMenlo EIR. The SEIR incorporated and revised the ConnectMenlo EIR to ensure that environmental aspects of the Housing Element Update project were properly evaluated for purposes of CEQA.

Section 6.5 of the SEIR provided an explanation of the SEIR's treatment of the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements. Ultimately, and as noted on page 6-8 of the SEIR, the SEIR did not include an evaluation of the potential environmental effects of the updated Safety Element and new Environmental Justice Element because they primarily address general City policy direction. The City's decision not to include such an evaluation was based on the purpose and characteristics of each element, and was informed and supported by statute, regulation, and applicable case law indicating that such an analysis was not required. Discussion within Section 6.5 of the SEIR provided a rationale for this decision. A summary of that discussion is provided below.

## **Analysis of the Safety Element and Environmental Justice Element in the SEIR**

Implementation of the update to the Housing Element would likely result in physical environmental impacts that could be identified and predicted in the SEIR. Most notably, the update to the Housing Element and its associated zoning changes could result in the development of more housing in the City, which would have direct physical effects on the environment. In the case of the update to the Housing Element's impacts, some degree of specificity was possible in identifying environmental effects in the SEIR since the update to the Housing Element identified specific housing opportunity sites and land use strategy sites and potential development on those sites, so that the environmental effects thereof were generally predictable. The SEIR noted that even though no specific

development applications or proposals had been advanced for these sites, an upper range of development intensity was established and the impacts of that development could therefore be described and analyzed in the SEIR. For this reason, the SEIR evaluated the environmental effects of the HEU in the SEIR's various topical sections.

The Safety Element and the Environmental Justice Element are primarily policy documents. Unlike the update to the Housing Element, these documents do not identify or propose specific, physical actions in particular locations that could impact the physical environment in those locations. The SEIR determined that attempting to identify and evaluate potential impacts associated with those policies would be too general and highly speculative.

For instance, some of the policies in the Environmental Justice Element encourage positive actions towards providing increased access to community services such as effective transit, quality schools, retail opportunities, and healthcare options in Underserved Communities, but there were no actions proposed to implement those policies that would have the direct specificity required to be effectively identified and analyzed for their probable environmental effects.

Identification and analysis of potential environmental effects would have required overly broad speculation as to the type and locations of activities that could arise from those policies, which would run counter to the directives of CEQA and its overall purpose of identifying and analyzing the known environmental effects of a proposal while avoiding undue speculation.

Similarly, the proposed policies in the updated Safety Element were developed to identify general areas of potential safety risk and to encourage effective City decisions around those risks. The updated Safety Element provides broad conceptual direction about the way the City should approach safety challenges and provides general direction to the City to consider aspects of safety in its decisions. No specific physical projects are identified in the Safety Element, nor were specific locations of activities identified. In other words, none of the proposed policies made CEQA analysis possible in anything but a general and highly speculative manner.

The CEQA Guidelines provide clear direction on how lead agencies should approach analysis of environmental effects for general policy measures and speculative activities. CEQA Guidelines Section 15146 notes:

*The degree of specificity required in an EIR will correspond to the degree of specificity involved in the underlying activity which is described in the EIR...an EIR on a construction project will necessarily be more detailed in the specific effects of the project than will be an EIR on the adoption of a local general plan or comprehensive zoning ordinance because the effects of the construction can be predicted with greater accuracy.*

While the environmental effects of the new housing provided for in the update to the Housing Element could be predicted with some accuracy, that was not the case with the updated Safety Element and the new Environmental Justice Element. The environmental discussion of both elements could only be provided in the most general terms, and their potential environmental effects could not be accurately known or assessed without resorting to speculation. CEQA Guidelines Section 15145 is specific in how a lead agency should treat these situations:

*If, after thorough investigation, a lead agency finds that a particular impact is too speculative for evaluation, the agency should note its conclusion and terminate discussion of the impact.*

Based upon this direction, the City determined that evaluation of the potential environmental effects of both the updated Safety Element and the new Environmental Justice Element was neither appropriate nor required in the SEIR. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15187(d), a lead agency “*is not required to, nor should it, engage in speculation or conjecture.*” Recent case law has further affirmed that “CEQA does not require an EIR to discuss future developments which are unspecified or uncertain.”<sup>1</sup> Attempting such evaluation would not have been productive or provide results that would be useful or relevant in considering whether to approve the updated Safety Element or new Environmental Justice Element. In the future, if any physical action associated with implementation of either element is proposed, such action will be required to undergo its own environmental analysis per the requirements of CEQA before its approval and implementation.

Based upon these considerations, the SEIR did not include any evaluation of potential environmental effects of the updated Safety Element and new Environmental Justice Element. The City’s decision not to attempt such evaluation was based on the purpose and characteristics of each element, and was informed and supported by statute, regulation, and applicable case law indicating that it was not required by CEQA under those circumstances.

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<sup>1</sup> *Environmental Council of Sacramento v. County of Sacramento*. (2020) 45 Cal.App.5th 1020.



## INFORME DEL PERSONAL

Consejo de la Ciudad

Fecha de Reunión:

24/09/2024

No. de Informe:

24-165-CC

Audiencia Pública:

**Considerar y adoptar resoluciones que modifiquen el Plan General para incluir un Elemento de Justicia Ambiental y para actualizar el Elemento de Seguridad, y determinar que las acciones se abordan en un informe de impacto Ambiental posterior previamente certificado conforme a la Ley de Calidad Ambiental de California**

### Recomendación

El personal recomienda que el Consejo Municipal adopte resoluciones para enmendar el Plan General con el fin de incluir un Elemento de Justicia Ambiental (EJ, por sus siglas en inglés) y actualizar el Elemento de Seguridad, y determinar que las acciones se aborden en un informe de impacto ambiental posterior previamente certificado conforme a la Ley de Calidad Ambiental de California (CEQA, por sus siglas en inglés), tal y como recomienda la Comisión de Planificación.

El borrador de la resolución del Consejo Municipal por la que se adopta el Elemento EJ se incluye como Anexo A. El Elemento EJ propuesto se incluye como Anexo A, Prueba A.

El proyecto de resolución del Consejo Municipal por el que se adopta la actualización del Elemento de Seguridad se incluye como Anexo B. Las enmiendas propuestas al Elemento de Seguridad se incluyen como Anexo B, Anexo A.

### Aspectos de la Política

La ciudad se compromete a fomentar la equidad y a abordar los posibles riesgos para la salud ambiental en Menlo Park. Estos objetivos se alinean con la Ley 1000 del Senado (2016), que exige la adopción o revisión de un Elemento EJ (o de objetivos, políticas y programas de justicia ambiental integrados en otros elementos) en ciudades y condados que cuenten con una comunidad desfavorecida tras la adopción o revisión de dos o más elementos del Plan General. A lo largo del Elemento EJ, “comunidades desatendidas” es el término preferido por Menlo Park y pretende ser el mismo que el término definido por el estado “comunidades desfavorecidas”, que sólo se utiliza cuando se cita o se hace referencia a la ley estatal. La ciudad está desarrollando su primer Elemento EJ y actualizando al mismo tiempo su Elemento de Seguridad para cumplir con la Ley 379 del Senado (2015), la Ley 272 del Senado (2023) y temas requeridos por el estado como la adaptación al cambio climático y la resiliencia, y una mayor atención a los incendios forestales y las rutas de evacuación.

### Antecedentes

El desarrollo del Elemento de Vivienda 2023-2031, la preparación del Elemento EJ y la actualización del Elemento de Seguridad, conocidos colectivamente como el proyecto de Actualización del Elemento de Vivienda (Anexo C para la página web del proyecto), ha sido un esfuerzo de varios años dirigido por el personal de la Ciudad y un equipo de consultores liderados por el M-Group. El Consejo Municipal adoptó el Elemento de Vivienda 2023-2031 (6º Ciclo) el 31 de enero de 2023 y lo modificó el 23 de enero. El Departamento Estatal de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario (HCD) certificó el Elemento de Vivienda de la Ciudad el 20 de marzo. La adopción del primer Elemento EJ de la Ciudad y del Elemento de Seguridad actualizado son los hitos restantes para completar el proyecto de actualización del Elemento de Vivienda. La ciudad cuenta con los Elementos de Espacios Abiertos/Conservación, Ruido y Seguridad en un documento combinado. La actualización se centra en el Elemento de Seguridad; los Elementos de Espacio Abierto/Conservación y Ruido no se han modificado. Los Elementos de Justicia Ambiental y Seguridad, junto con los Elementos de Uso del Suelo, Circulación, Vivienda, Espacio Abierto/Conservación y Ruido conforman el Plan General de la Ciudad.

Una parte integral de la preparación del Elemento EJ y de la actualización del Elemento de Seguridad consistió en crear un proceso de divulgación y participación de la comunidad que fuera inclusivo e intencionado con el fin de garantizar que las enmiendas del Plan General reflejaran las aportaciones y los valores de la comunidad a la vez que cumplieran los requisitos estatales. La ciudad llevó a cabo actividades de divulgación y participación comunitaria por su cuenta, así como se asoció con Climate Resilient Communities (CRC), una organización de base comunitaria que se centra y especializa en esfuerzos de divulgación y participación en comunidades desatendidas. La divulgación incluyó reuniones comunitarias, pop-ups, grupos de discusión, servicios de traducción/interpretación inglés-español y encuestas. Siempre que fue posible, la divulgación se llevó a cabo con la intención de “conocer a la gente donde está” para aumentar la participación, el compromiso y establecer relaciones con la comunidad. Se celebraron múltiples sesiones públicas de estudio con la Comisión de Planificación y el Consejo Municipal y, además, el equipo ha llevado a cabo más de 15 actos de divulgación y compromiso.

### **Análisis**

La intención de la audiencia pública del Consejo Municipal del 24 de septiembre es adoptar los Elementos EJ y de Seguridad. Este informe del personal es un complemento del informe del personal de la Comisión de Planificación del 26 de agosto y se centra en lo que ocurrió en la audiencia de la Comisión de Planificación y en cualquier otro cambio que se haya producido desde entonces (Adjunto D para el informe del personal de la Comisión de Planificación del 26 de agosto en inglés y Adjunto E para el español; Adjunto F para el vídeo de la reunión en inglés y Adjunto G para el vídeo de la reunión en español).

El Consejo Municipal revisó por última vez los Elementos de Justicia Ambiental y Seguridad en una sesión de estudio celebrada el 28 de junio, tras una sesión de estudio conjunta de la Comisión de Planificación y el Consejo Municipal celebrada el 20 de junio de 2023 y una sesión de estudio de la Comisión de Planificación celebrada el 3 de junio, y proporcionó comentarios y orientación para realizar más ajustes en preparación para su adopción. Para cada elemento, se proporciona un Registro de Revisiones y Comentarios como guía de «recorrido» para registrar los comentarios de las sesiones de estudio previas e identificar cómo se abordaron los comentarios en los elementos revisados y en borrador para su adopción. Cada registro incluye una columna de “Tema(s) Clave(s)” destinada a resaltar el tema de la revisión o de la retroalimentación (Anexo H para el Registro de Revisiones y Retroalimentación del Elemento EJ y Anexo I para el Elemento de Seguridad).

El Elemento EJ va acompañado de una Guía de Acción (antes denominada Guía de Aplicación) incluida como Anexo J. La Guía de Acción es un documento independiente y complementario que se encuentra fuera del propio Plan General. La Guía de Acción es una herramienta que se utilizará para gestionar y coordinar los esfuerzos de la Ciudad para cumplir los objetivos, políticas y programas esbozados en el Elemento EJ. Este enfoque de documento dual permite una actualización más frecuente de la Guía de Acción en respuesta a las necesidades cambiantes de la comunidad, las oportunidades de financiación y la continua divulgación comunitaria (en particular las aportaciones de las comunidades desatendidas de Menlo Park) sin que sea necesaria una Enmienda del Plan General. La Guía de Acciones se ha racionalizado para facilitar su uso y se ha reformateado para destacar las prioridades identificadas por la comunidad y condensar la cantidad de detalles que antes se mostraban en forma de matriz ampliada. Consulte el informe del personal de la Comisión de Planificación del 26 de agosto para obtener más detalles sobre estos puntos y los cambios que se incluyeron en función de los comentarios recibidos en las sesiones de estudio de la Comisión de Planificación y el Consejo Municipal (Anexo D).

### 26 de agosto, reunión de la Comisión de Planificación

El 26 de agosto, la Comisión de Planificación celebró una audiencia pública para revisar y considerar las recomendaciones de los Elementos de Justicia Ambiental y Seguridad para su adopción por parte del Consejo Municipal. Los comentarios del público en la reunión incluyeron el agradecimiento hacia el personal de la ciudad y el CRC por el avance de los Elementos EJ y de Seguridad a través de un sólido proceso de divulgación y participación de la comunidad y por las múltiples rondas de revisiones de los documentos para adaptar el plan a largo plazo a las prioridades de la comunidad. Los comentarios del público también expresaron la necesidad de proseguir con la divulgación comunitaria continua en múltiples formatos (avanzando en el Objetivo EJ7) y la búsqueda de mejoras para los usuarios del transporte público y los peatones, como paradas de autobús, bancos, estructuras de sombra e iluminación mantenida con regularidad.

Los comentarios de los Comisionados de Planificación en la reunión destacaron de forma similar el agradecimiento hacia el personal de la Ciudad y el CRC por el desarrollo de los Elementos EJ y de Seguridad a través de un extenso proceso centrado en la comunidad que refleja las aportaciones de ésta. Los comentarios de los comisionados también hicieron hincapié en la importancia de la acción de la Ciudad, la responsabilidad, la comunicación, la transparencia y la construcción de la confianza y las relaciones de la comunidad a través de la implementación del Elemento EJ.

La Comisión de Planificación adoptó la Resolución No. 2024-035 por la que se recomienda la adopción de la actualización del Elemento de Seguridad tal como se ha presentado y la Resolución No. 2024-034 por la que se recomienda la adopción del Elemento EJ con las dos modificaciones que se enumeran a continuación, que se reflejan en el proyecto de resolución del Consejo Municipal para la adopción del Elemento EJ. El personal apoya estas modificaciones del Elemento EJ. Si el Consejo Municipal lo aprueba, la Guía de Acción se actualizará para reflejar estos cambios. Las modificaciones recomendadas al Elemento EJ son:

1. Revisar el Elemento de Acción EJ6.D.6 como sigue (el texto adicional se muestra subrayado):

Ampliar la red de instalaciones seguras, accesibles y atractivas para peatones y ciclistas, incluidas las conexiones peatonales dentro de los barrios y entre ellos. Los postes, señales u otros impedimentos en el centro de las aceras deben modificarse para mejorar la accesibilidad y la seguridad de las aceras. Buscar mejoras para los usuarios del transporte público y los peatones cuando sea factible, incluyendo, pero sin limitarse a, paradas de autobús, bancos, estructuras de sombra e iluminación para apoyar el transporte alternativo.

2. Revisar el punto de acción EJ6.D.7 como sigue (el texto adicional se muestra subrayado):

Instalar y mantener regularmente una iluminación adecuada para fomentar los desplazamientos a pie y seguros por la noche. Esto puede comenzar con la instalación en Ivy Drive, Hamilton Avenue, Chilco Street, Newbridge Street y en los edificios públicos de los parques. Se debería continuar tras una posterior divulgación comunitaria que identifique otras calles y lugares con iluminación inadecuada, dando prioridad a las comunidades desatendidas.

### Siguientes pasos

Tanto la actualización del Elemento EJ como la del Elemento de Seguridad entrarían en vigor tras la adopción por parte del Consejo Municipal de las dos resoluciones (Anexo A para el Elemento EJ y Anexo B para el Elemento de Seguridad). El personal está estudiando distintas opciones para presentar la Guía de Acción del Elemento EJ en línea, de forma dinámica y de cara al público, y avisará a la comunidad cuando la Guía de Acción en línea esté disponible. En 2025, se actualizarán los esfuerzos, algunos de los cuales ya se están llevando a cabo (por ejemplo, el desarrollo de una estrategia contra el desplazamiento, el apoyo a la rehabilitación de viviendas, el desarrollo de un plan de gestión de los bosques urbanos), presentados en los informes anuales para el Elemento EJ (Programas EJ7.J y EJ7.K). Además, el Consejo Municipal considerará las prioridades de justicia ambiental identificadas por la comunidad durante su taller anual de establecimiento de prioridades y objetivos (Programa EJ7.L).

### **Impacto en los Recursos de la Ciudad**

Como parte del presupuesto para el año fiscal 2020-21, el Consejo Municipal consignó casi \$1.5 millones del fondo general para servicios de consultoría en apoyo del proyecto de actualización del Elemento Vivienda (incluidos los Elementos Justicia Ambiental y Seguridad, y la elaboración del posterior informe de impacto ambiental (SEIR)). El contrato se modificó posteriormente para dar cabida a revisiones, reuniones y actividades de divulgación adicionales. El 24 de octubre de 2023, el Consejo Municipal aprobó un aumento presupuestario adicional por un total del contrato de \$1,700,212 para garantizar la participación continuada de los consultores del proyecto en la realización de la participación pública y la finalización de los documentos y tareas necesarios para completar el proyecto.

La financiación de los programas del Elemento EJ se evaluaría a través de un proceso separado y podría producirse a través de una combinación del fondo general, fondos especiales y/o dinero de subvenciones para apoyar la gama de actividades. El 25 de junio, el Consejo Municipal aprobó una transferencia de 1 millón de dólares



del Fondo de Mitigación del Frente de la Bahía para establecer un nuevo Fondo de Implementación del Elemento EJ.

### **Evaluación Ambiental**

Como parte de la adopción de la Actualización del Plan General ConnectMenlo en 2016, la ciudad preparó y certificó el informe de impacto ambiental (EIR) ConnectMenlo. Como parte del proyecto de Actualización del Elemento Vivienda, se preparó un SEIR (State Clearinghouse (SCH) No. 1990030530). El SEIR incorporó y revisó el EIR de ConnectMenlo para garantizar la evaluación de los aspectos ambientales de la Actualización del Elemento Vivienda. El Consejo Municipal adoptó la Resolución No. 6808 el 31 de enero de 2023 certificando el SEIR y tomando las medidas CEQA asociadas.

El nuevo Elemento EJ y la actualización del Elemento de Seguridad se consideraron en la Sección 6.5 del SEIR certificado. El SEIR determinó que no se requería una evaluación de los posibles efectos ambientales de la actualización del Elemento de Seguridad y del nuevo Elemento EJ en virtud de la CEQA porque abordan principalmente la dirección política general de la Ciudad. La decisión de la Ciudad de no incluir dicha evaluación se basó en la finalidad y las características de cada elemento, y se fundamentó y apoyó en la legislación, la normativa y la jurisprudencia aplicable que indicaban que no era necesario dicho análisis. A diferencia de la actualización del Elemento Vivienda, los documentos de actualización del Elemento EJ y del Elemento Seguridad no identifican ni proponen acciones específicas y físicas en lugares concretos que puedan repercutir en el entorno físico de dichos lugares. El SEIR determinó que intentar identificar y evaluar los impactos potenciales asociados a la nueva actualización del Elemento EJ y del Elemento de Seguridad sería demasiado general y altamente especulativo, y la CEQA desaconseja exigir tales esfuerzos. Si el Consejo Municipal decide aprobar el Elemento EJ o la actualización del Elemento de Seguridad, la ciudad presentaría una Notificación de Determinación anunciando la aprobación basándose en el SEIR previamente certificado. No se requeriría ninguna otra acción CEQA en ese momento.

En el futuro, si se propone cualquier acción física asociada a la aplicación de cualquiera de los dos elementos, dicha acción deberá someterse a su propio análisis ambiental conforme a los requisitos de la CEQA antes de su aprobación y aplicación. En el Anexo K se incluye un memorándum con explicaciones adicionales sobre el tratamiento dado en el SEIR a los elementos de justicia ambiental y seguridad.

### **Aviso Público**

La notificación pública se realizó mediante la publicación del orden del día, con los puntos del orden del día enumerados, al menos 72 horas antes de la reunión. La notificación pública también consistió en un anuncio en el periódico local. También se dio publicidad a la reunión mediante anuncios en monitores de video en el Centro de Servicios Vecinales de Belle Haven, el Campus Comunitario de Belle Haven (BHCC), la Biblioteca de Menlo Park y el Centro Recreativo y Gimnasio Familiar Arrillaga. Además, la divulgación incluyó folletos impresos, distribución por correo electrónico a la lista de correo electrónico del proyecto de Actualización del Elemento Vivienda, el Weekly Digest, y a través de las redes sociales de la ciudad y la página web del proyecto de Actualización del Elemento Vivienda.

### **Adjuntos**

A. Proyecto de resolución del Consejo Municipal por la que se adopta el Elemento EJ

Anexo al Anexo A

A. Elemento EJ

B. Proyecto de resolución del Consejo Municipal adoptando la actualización del Elemento de Seguridad

Anexo al Adjunto B

A. Elementos de espacio abierto/conservación, ruido y seguridad

C. Hipervínculo - Página web del proyecto de actualización del Elemento Vivienda: [menlopark.gov/housingelement](https://menlopark.gov/housingelement)

D. Hipervínculo - Informe del personal de la reunión de la Comisión de Planificación del 26 de agosto - Inglés:

[menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/2/agendas-and-minutes/planning-commission/2024-meetings/agenda/20240826-planning-commission-agenda-packet.pdf#page=5](https://menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/2/agendas-and-minutes/planning-commission/2024-meetings/agenda/20240826-planning-commission-agenda-packet.pdf#page=5)

E. Hipervínculo - Informe del personal de la reunión de la Comisión de Planificación del 26 de agosto - Español:

[menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/2/agendas-and-minutes/planning-commission/2024-meetings/agenda/20240826-planning-commission-agenda-packet.pdf#page=650](https://menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/2/agendas-and-minutes/planning-commission/2024-meetings/agenda/20240826-planning-commission-agenda-packet.pdf#page=650)

F. Hipervínculo - Vídeo de la reunión de la Comisión de Planificación del 26 de agosto - Inglés:  
[youtube.com/watch?v=5qHcVXe\\_lvE](https://youtube.com/watch?v=5qHcVXe_lvE)

G. Hipervínculo - Vídeo de la reunión de la Comisión de Planificación del 26 de agosto - Español:  
[youtube.com/watch?v=PKSvrSI\\_Z\\_0](https://youtube.com/watch?v=PKSvrSI_Z_0)

H. Revisiones del Elemento EJ y registro de retroalimentación

I. Revisiones del Elemento de Seguridad y registro de retroalimentación

J. Guía de acción del elemento EJ

K. Memorándum de evaluación de impactos ambientales

Informe elaborado por:

Calvin Chan, Planificador principal

Informe revisado por:

Deanna Chow, Directora de Desarrollo Comunitario

**RESOLUTION NO. XXXX****RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK  
ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL PLAN TO INCLUDE AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT**

WHEREAS, California Government Code §65040.12(e)(1) defines environmental justice as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies;” and

WHEREAS, California Government Code §65040.12(e)(2) provides that environmental justice includes, but is not limited to, all of the following: the availability of a healthy environment for all people; the deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for populations and communities experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution, so that the effects of the pollution are not disproportionately borne by those populations and communities; governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to populations and communities most impacted by pollution to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decision-making process; and at a minimum, the meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions; and

WHEREAS, the State of California passed Senate Bill 1000 (2016), and thereby amended Government Code §65302, which requires that an environmental justice element (or environmental justice goals, policies, and programs integrated in other elements) be prepared when two or more General Plan elements are updated in cities and counties that have a disadvantaged community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park (“City”) adopted the 2023-2031 (6<sup>th</sup> Cycle) Housing Element on January 31, 2023, and amended it on January 23, 2024, and the State Housing and Community Development Department certified the City’s Housing Element on March 20, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City is concurrently updating the Safety Element, adopted on May 21, 2013 as part of the combined Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements, to bring the Safety Element into compliance with State law requirements; and

WHEREAS, the City committed to develop Menlo Park’s first Environmental Justice Element (“Project”) to advance equity and protect human health; and

WHEREAS, the City conducted an evaluation for potential disadvantaged communities in Menlo Park and identified, in accordance with the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research Environmental Justice Element guidelines, the Belle Haven and Bayfront communities as qualifying disadvantaged communities; and

WHEREAS, throughout the Environmental Justice Element, “underserved communities” is the Menlo Park-preferred term intended to be the same as the state-defined term “disadvantaged communities;” and

WHEREAS, the City conducted an extensive community outreach and engagement process that was inclusive and intentional to ensure the Environmental Justice Element reflects the

community's input and values while meeting state requirements and included activities such as community meetings, pop-ups, focus groups, English-Spanish translation/interpretation services, and surveys; and

WHEREAS, community meetings were held on August 26, 2021; April 5, 2022; February 9, 2023; February 10, 2023; May 2, 2024; and May 9, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed and provided feedback on the draft Environmental Justice Element on June 20, 2023 and June 3, 2024 and received and considered all public comment; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed and provided feedback on the draft Environmental Justice Element on June 20, 2023 and June 18, 2024 and received and considered all public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Project requires discretionary action by the City and therefore the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA," Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.) and CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15000 et seq.) require analysis and a determination regarding the Project's environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the City is the lead agency, as defined by CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, and is therefore responsible for the preparation, consideration, certification, and approval of environmental documents for the Project; and

WHEREAS, as part of adopting the ConnectMenlo General Plan Update in 2016, the City prepared and certified the ConnectMenlo environmental impact report (EIR), and for the Housing Element Update project (i.e., update to the Housing Element, update to the Safety Element, new Environmental Justice Element, and associated changes including zoning amendments), a subsequent environmental impact report (SEIR) was prepared (State Clearinghouse No. 1990030530) which incorporated and revised the ConnectMenlo EIR to ensure that environmental aspects of the Housing Element Update were evaluated, and the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6808 on January 31, 2023 certifying the SEIR and taking associated CEQA actions; and

WHEREAS, CEQA recognizes that the specificity of environmental analysis for approval of a project is related to the nature and level of detail of the project being studied, does not require an agency to engage in speculation or conjecture as to potential impacts, and allows an agency to forego environmental analysis of project impacts upon determining it would be too speculative; and

WHEREAS, the amendment to the General Plan to include an Environmental Justice Element was considered in the certified SEIR and ultimately, the SEIR determined that an evaluation of potential environmental effects of the new Environmental Justice Element was neither appropriate nor required under CEQA, as the Environmental Justice Element is primarily a policy document addressing general City direction so that it would be too speculative and uncertain to consider future development that might arise from the Environmental Justice Element, and the SEIR noted that any future proposed physical action associated with the Environmental Justice Element would undergo its own environmental analysis; and

WHEREAS, the certified SEIR concluded that the City's decision not to include such an evaluation was based on the purpose and characteristics of the Environmental Justice Element

and as informed and supported by statute, regulation, and applicable case law indicating that such an analysis was not required by CEQA under such circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing as prescribed by law to consider the amendment to the General Plan to include an Environmental Justice Element on August 26, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission adopted Planning Commission Resolution No. 2024-034, on file with the Office of the City Clerk and incorporated by this reference, recommending that the City Council adopt an amendment to the General Plan to include an Environmental Justice Element; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing as prescribed by law to consider the Planning Commission's recommendation and the amendment to the General Plan to include an Environmental Justice Element on September 24, 2024, and received and considered public comment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City, acting by and through its City Council, having considered and been fully advised in the matter and good cause appearing therefore, as follows:

**Section 1. Recitals.**

The following recitations are true and correct and are hereby incorporated into this resolution.

**Section 2. General Plan Consistency.**

The Environmental Justice Element has linkages with the Guiding Principles established within the General Plan. This is particularly true for the Guiding Principles of Citywide Equity and a Healthy Community, as well as for the principles of Youth Support and Education Excellence, Great Transportation Options, Complete Neighborhoods and Commercial Corridors, Accessible Open Space and Recreation, and Sustainable Environmental Planning. The Environmental Justice Element is consistent with the purposes of the General Plan in that the amendment to include an Environmental Justice Element supports a variety of environmental justice-related policies in other elements as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – General Plan Consistency		
General Plan Element	Environmental Justice-Related Topic Area	General Plan Policy
Land Use	Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes	LU-2.8
	Promote Physical Activity	LU-4.6 and LU-6.9
	Promote Public Facilities	LU-6.1, LU-6.3, and LU-6.8
Circulation	Promote Physical Activity	CIRC-1.1, CIRC-1.7, CIRC-1.8, CIRC-2.1, CIRC-2.7, CIRC-4.3, CIRC-4.4, and CIRC-5.6
	Reduce Pollution	CIRC-2.2, CIRC-4.2

	Exposure	
	Promote Public Facilities	CIRC-2.10 and CIRC-5.2
	Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities	CIRC-2.4
<b>Open Space and Conservation†</b>	Promote Public Facilities	OSC-1.12, OSC-2.1, and OSC-4.1
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	OSC-2.2, OSC-2.3, and OSC-5.1
	Promote Physical Activity	OSC-2.6
<b>Noise†</b>	Reduce Pollution Exposure	N-1.1, N-1.2, N-1.3, N-1.4, N-1.5, N-1.6, N-1.7, N-1.8, N-1.9, and N-1.10
<b>Safety†*</b>	Reduce Pollution Exposure	S-1.7, S-1.32, S-1.33, S-1.34, S-1.35, S-1.36, S-1.37, S-1.38, S-1.39
	Promote Public Facilities	S-1.9, S-1.11, S-1.40, and S-1.41
	Safe, Stable, and Sanitary Homes	S-1.17 and S-1.19
<b>Housing (6<sup>th</sup> Cycle: 2023-2031)*</b>	Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes	H2.1, H2.4, H2.7, H3.8, H3.9,
	Promote Civic Engagement	H5.2, H5.3, H5.5
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	H6.4, H6.6

†Menlo Park has a combined Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements document.

\*The Safety Element and Housing Element were updated at the same time as the Environmental Justice Element was developed. Several policies and programs were updated, modified, or newly-developed alongside the outreach and development of the Environmental Justice Element.

**Section 3. Environmental Review.**

The amendment to the General Plan to include an Environmental Justice Element was addressed in the previously certified SEIR and no further environmental consideration is required under CEQA, and staff is directed to process a Notice of Determination to that effect.

**Section 4. Environmental Justice Element Adoption.**

The amendment to the General Plan to include an Environmental Justice Element is hereby adopted (Exhibit A).

**Section 5. Environmental Justice Element Action Guide Adoption.**

The Environmental Justice Element Action Guide is adopted as a separate, complementary document that lies outside of the General Plan itself and serves as a tool to be used to manage and coordinate efforts to accomplish goals, policies, and programs outlined in the

Environmental Justice Element. The Environmental Justice Element Action Guide can be updated in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Revisions to action items and/or community-identified priorities will include a public process with City Council consideration. The Environmental Justice Element Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.

**Section 6. Effective Date.**

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the City Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council adopts the Environmental Justice Element with the following modifications:

1. Revise Action Item EJ6.D.6 as follows (additional text shown in underline):

Expand the network of safe, accessible, and appealing pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including pedestrian connections within and in between neighborhoods. Poles, signs, or other impediments in the center of sidewalks should be modified to improve accessibility and sidewalk safety. Pursue improvements for public transit users and pedestrians where feasible, including, but not limited to, bus shelters, benches, shade structures, and lighting to support alternative transportation.

2. Revise Action item EJ6.D.7 as follows (additional text shown in underline):

Install and regularly maintain adequate lighting to encourage walking and safe travel at night. This may begin with installation on Ivy Drive, Hamilton Avenue, Chilco Street, Newbridge Street, and at public buildings at parks. It should continue after subsequent community outreach that identifies other streets and locations with inadequate lighting, prioritizing underserved communities.

I, Judi A. Herren, City Clerk of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing City Council Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said City Council on the twenty-fourth day of September, 2024, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of said City on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

Exhibits:

- A. Environmental Justice Element



# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## Environmental Justice (2024)

### City Council

Drew Combs, Vice Mayor  
Maria Doerr, Councilmember  
Ray Mueller, Councilmember (former)  
Betsy Nash, Councilmember  
Cecilia Taylor, Mayor  
Jen Wolosin, Councilmember

### Planning Commission

Andrew Barnes (former)	Camille Kennedy (former)
Katie Behroози	Henry Riggs (former)
Chris DeCardy (former)	Jennifer Schindler, Chair
Linh Dan Do	Misha Silin
Michael Doran (former)	Ross Silverstein
Andrew Ehrich, Vice Chair	Michele Tate (former)
Katie Ferrick	David Thomas (former)
Cynthia Harris (former)	

### City Staff

Deanna Chow, Community Development Director  
Tom Smith, Principal Planner  
Calvin Chan, Senior Planner  
Chris Turner, Senior Planner  
Matthew Pruter, Associate Planner  
Justin Murphy, City Manager  
Nira Doherty, City Attorney  
Mary Wagner, Assistant City Attorney  
Ed Shaffer, Assistant City Attorney

### Consultant Assistance

Metropolitan Planning Group (M-Group)  
Environmental Science Associates (ESA)  
Climate Resilient Communities (CRC)  
ChangeLab Solutions

Prepared by:  
M-Group





Photo Credit - Bruce Damonte

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

ADOPTION DRAFT | RESOLUTION # \_\_\_\_\_

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Appendix EJ-B – Additional Methodology
Appendix EJ-C – Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements
Appendix EJ-D – Menlo Park Survey Final Report
Appendix EJ-E – Prioritization Workshop Summary
Appendix EJ-F – Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element Action Guide





Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

## INTRODUCTION

In 2016, the State of California passed Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), which requires the adoption or review of an Environmental Justice (EJ) Element (or environmental justice goals, policies, and programs in other elements) in cities and counties that have a disadvantaged community upon the adoption or revision of two or more General Plan elements. The development of Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element took place alongside updates to the Housing Element and Safety Element. This SB 1000 recognizes the hard work of California activists and advocates, as well as communities that have organized around their environments—not only in the past century, but long before California's statehood. Environmental justice provides a specific lens through which to advance equity and protect

human health. While the environmental justice movement traditionally focused on environmental contamination and degradation, the scope has broadened over time to include additional policy topics such as food access and physical activity.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this Environmental Justice Element is to identify and address public health risks and environmental justice concerns, as well as foster the well-being of the City's residents living in underserved communities. The City of Menlo Park is committed to environmental justice and acknowledges that the historical events and practices that have contributed to Menlo Park's development (such as the Spanish Empire's missions,<sup>2</sup> railroad construction,<sup>3</sup> and suburban residential development that relied heavily on

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- <sup>1</sup> For more information, see the Governor's Office of Planning and Research document titled "Environmental Justice in California: A Brief History" in 2020 Updated Environmental Justice Element General Plan Guidelines, page 2.
  - <sup>2</sup> See generally, Prof. Edward D. Castillo, "California Indian History" (State of California Native American Heritage Commission), available at <https://nahc.ca.gov/resources/california-indian-history/>.
  - <sup>3</sup> See generally, Maru Karuka "Chinese Workers and the Transcontinental Railroad" (Boom California: April 6, 2020), available at <https://boomcalifornia.org/2020/04/06/chinese-workers-and-the-transcontinental-railroad/>.

redlining and gentrification<sup>4</sup>) are inseparable from the resulting injustices that have led to inequalities and inequities seen and felt in Menlo Park as well as throughout California.

This commitment on behalf of the City has led to the development of Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element. The introduction to this element begins with a discussion of its organization and relationship to Menlo Park's General Plan, an overview of the element's regulatory context, and a description of Drivers of Environmental Injustice and Determinants of Health that underlie environmental justice as a whole.

Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element is organized into the following sections:

- **Existing Setting:** This section identifies neighborhoods in Menlo Park that have concentrations of poverty and pollution that led to disproportionately high rates of poor health outcomes. These neighborhoods are designated as "underserved communities" in this document.
- **Environmental Justice Outreach:** This section provides an overview of key findings from community engagement performed throughout the development of the element, as well as a discussion of engagement methodology.
- **Goals, Policies, and Programs:** This section includes actions the City will take to prioritize underserved communities and address the environmental injustices identified through the existing conditions analysis and community engagement.
- **Appendices:** The appendices include supporting documents that provide more details on methodology or additional reports produced as part of the development of this element.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

*The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.*

Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

Meaningful involvement means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
- The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

*Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

*"Help and give our youth the opportunity to stay in the community!"*

*— Belle Haven resident*

<sup>4</sup> See generally, Angela Swartz, "Reflections on racial inequities that persist in Menlo Park" (Almanac News: March 12, 2021), available at <https://www.almanacnews.com/news/2021/03/12/reflections-on-racial-inequities-that-persist-in-menlo-park>.

## Element Organization and Relationship to General Plan

SB 1000 (2016), which amended Government Code Section 65302, allows a jurisdiction to voluntarily adopt an Environmental Justice Element at any time and requires the adoption or review of an Environmental Justice Element (or environmental justice goals, policies, and programs in other elements) upon the adoption or revision of two or more General Plan elements concurrently. The City of Menlo Park adopted the 2023-2031 Housing Element in January 2023 and is developing the Environmental Justice Element while concurrently updating the Safety Element. Prior to beginning the analysis to determine whether or not there are underserved communities in Menlo Park, the City decided to pursue the preparation of an Environmental Justice Element because environmental justice in Menlo Park is so intricately linked to community concerns and priorities for housing and safety, and because of the requirements laid out in SB 1000.

These linkages can be seen in the Guiding Principles established in the Menlo Park General Plan, which “describe the kind of place that community members want Menlo Park to be.”<sup>5</sup> These Guiding Principles are supported by a commitment to environmental justice broadly as well as more specifically by the goals, policies, and programs contained in this element. This is particularly true for the principles of Citywide Equity and a Healthy Community, as well as for the principles of Youth Support and Education Excellence, Great Transportation Options, Complete Neighborhoods and Commercial Corridors, Accessible Open Space and Recreation, and Sustainable Environmental Planning.

### Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. This separate, complementary document is guided by the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the Guiding

Principles of the Menlo Park General Plan, however, the Action Guide lies outside of the General Plan itself. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment.

The Action Guide includes action items that will be pursued by the City to improve environmental justice. The action items are similar to Environmental Justice Element programs, and are assigned a lead department/division and time frame similar to these programs. Each action item in the Action Guide is organized under an Environmental Justice Element program, with the intention to provide additional direction and community-based feedback to City staff on desirable methods to fulfill the programs laid out in the Environmental Justice Element.

Many of the action items in the Action Guide were developed from outreach in Menlo Park’s underserved communities, described in detail in the “Environmental Justice Outreach” section below. The Action Guide is included as Appendix EJ-F. The Action Guide will be maintained on the City’s website and is intended to improve accountability by being more adaptable and responsive to community needs and opportunities.

Per Program EJ7.K, the City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing.

<sup>5</sup> *General Plan (City of Menlo Park, 2016), page I-9.*



### Policies Addressing Environmental Justice in Other General Plan Elements

Policies in the existing General Plan that address or are related to environmental justice are listed in Table EJ-1. These policies were developed prior to (or for the Safety and Housing Elements, in conjunction with) the Environmental Justice

Element and point to the City's broad commitment to improve environmental justice. This table also demonstrates that the Environmental Justice Element fits into a supportive General Plan framework. The policies are listed in numeric order and grouped by the main topic areas required to be addressed by SB 1000, described further below.

Table EJ-1: Environmental Justice Policies in Other Elements

Element	Topic Area	Policy Number
Land Use	Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes	LU-2.8
	Promote Physical Activity	LU-4.6 and LU-6.9
	Promote Public Facilities	LU-6.1, LU-6.3, and LU-6.8
Circulation	Promote Physical Activity	CIRC-1.1, CIRC-1.7, CIRC-1.8, CIRC-2.1, CIRC-2.7, CIRC-4.3, CIRC-4.4, and CIRC-5.6
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	CIRC-2.2, CIRC-4.2
	Promote Public Facilities	CIRC-2.10 and CIRC-5.2
	Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities	CIRC-2.4
Open Space and Conservation <sup>†</sup>	Promote Public Facilities	OSC-1.12, OSC-2.1, and OSC-4.1
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	OSC-2.2, OSC-2.3, and OSC-5.1
	Promote Physical Activity	OSC-2.6
Noise <sup>†</sup>	Reduce Pollution Exposure	N-1.1, N-1.2, N-1.3, N-1.4, N-1.5, N-1.6, N-1.7, N-1.8, N-1.9, and N-1.10
Safety <sup>†*</sup>	Reduce Pollution Exposure	S-1.7, S-1.32, S-1.33, S-1.34, S-1.35, S-1.36, S-1.37, S-1.38, S-1.39
	Promote Public Facilities	S-1.9, S-1.11, S-1.40, and S-1.41
	Safe, Stable, and Sanitary Homes	S-1.17 and S-1.19
Housing (6 <sup>th</sup> Cycle: 2023-2031)*	Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes	H2.1, H2.4, H2.7, H3.8, H3.9,
	Promote Civic Engagement	H5.2, H5.3, H5.5
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	H6.4, H6.6

<sup>†</sup>Menlo Park has a combined Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements document.

\*The Safety Element and Housing Element were updated at the same time as the Environmental Justice Element was developed. Several policies and programs were updated, modified, or newly-developed alongside the outreach and development of the Environmental Justice Element.

## Regulatory Context

There are several state laws that guide Environmental Justice Element development, listed and summarized below :

- Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000) – 2016
- Government Code 65302(h)(1)
- Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) – 2016
- Assembly Bill 1553 (AB 1553) – 2001
- Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) – 2017
- Health and Safety Code Section 39711
- Assembly Bill 1628 (AB 1628) – 2019

### SB 1000

SB 1000 was signed into law in 2016 and requires local governments to identify disadvantaged communities in their jurisdictions as well as address environmental justice in their general plans. SB 1000 amended Government Code 65302 to add section (h)(1), discussed below.

SB 1000 defines the term “disadvantaged communities” as areas identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 39711 (described below) or low income areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.<sup>6</sup>

Through the outreach conducted as part of the Environmental Justice Element preparation, Menlo Park community members made it clear that the term they broadly identified with and preferred was “underserved communities.” Throughout this Element, “underserved communities” will be used and is understood to be analogous to the State-defined term “disadvantaged communities,” which is only used when quoting or referring to state law.

This statutory requirement can be divided into seven topic areas. The Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, and programs are categorized by the following topic areas:

### Government Code 65302(h)(1)

Under Government Code 65302 (h)(1), the necessary components of an Environmental Justice Element are:

- A) Identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.*
- B) Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process.*
- C) Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.*

Throughout this element, “goals” will be used to remain consistent with the structure of other elements of the Menlo Park’s General Plan, but the term is meant to be analogous to “objectives” as used in Government Code Section 65302(h)(1).

1. Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities
2. Reduce Pollution Exposure
3. Improve Access to Public Facilities
4. Promote Food Access
5. Promote Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing
6. Promote Physical Activity
7. Promote Civic Engagement

<sup>6</sup> Gov. Code § 65302(h)(4)(A)



## GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

The Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, and programs are categorized by the following topic areas:

-  1. Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities
-  2. Reduce Pollution Exposure
-  3. Improve Access to Public Facilities
-  4. Promote Food Access
-  5. Promote Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing
-  6. Promote Physical Activity
-  7. Promote Civic Engagement

### SB 1383

SB 1383 (2016) intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including methane from organic waste in landfills. It requires implementation of food recovery programs to improve food recovery and access. The City of Menlo Park contracts with Recology San Mateo County for garbage, recycling, and compost services. Recology San Mateo County, for their part, provides curbside organics service and has a webpage dedicated to describing SB 1383.<sup>7</sup>

Food recovery and access includes potentially distributing food to areas of the city where communities experience food insecurity. As Menlo Park and Recology San Mateo County implement SB 1383, they may consider how implementation can support the goals, policies, and programs in the Environmental Justice Element.

<sup>7</sup> "Fight Climate Change by Composting" (Recology) available at <https://www.recology.com/sb1383/>

<sup>8</sup> Gov. Code § 65040.12(e)(1).

### AB 1553

AB 1553 (2001) requires the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to be the coordinating agency for environmental justice efforts and 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."<sup>8</sup> This Environmental Justice Element follows OPR guidance and the AB 1553 definition.

### AB 617

AB 617 (2017) led to the development of the California Air Resources Board's Community Air Protection Program. This program is focused on reducing exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution. Each Air Quality Management District submitted a methodology and list of candidate communities to be eligible for funding of AB 617 community emissions reduction programs. Menlo Park does not contain any candidate communities for the program.

### AB 1628

AB 1628 (2019) enhanced the previous definition of environmental justice to include meaningful involvement and national origins to the prior language of Gov. Code Section 65040.12(e). The law also elaborates on the prior language to describe additional forms of distributive and procedural justice, including, but not limited to:

- The availability of a healthy environment for all people.
- The deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for populations and communities experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution, so that the effects of the pollution are not disproportionately borne by those populations and communities.
- Governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to

populations and communities most impacted by pollution to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decisionmaking process.

- At a minimum, the meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions.

### Health and Safety Code Section 39711

Section 39711 of the California Health and Safety Code defines disadvantaged communities and gives the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the responsibility for identifying such communities for investment opportunities. This Environmental Justice Element uses the definition in Health and Safety Code Section 39711 (referenced in Government Code 65302(h)(4)):

*These communities shall be identified based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria, and may include, but are not limited to, either of the following:*

- *Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.*
- *Areas with concentrations of people that are of low income, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, or low levels of educational attainment.*

### Relationship to the Capital Improvement Plan

The City of Menlo Park adopted the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2023-2028 to outline the City's short and long term vision for development, maintenance, improvement, and building of new infrastructure assets to benefit residents, businesses, property owners, and visitors. Although the CIP is updated annually, it allows the reader to review projects planned over the five-

year timeframe and provides an overview of works in progress. The Environmental Justice Element is required under Government Code 65302 (h)(1) to "identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities." The goals, policies, and programs developed for the Environmental Justice Element are closely tied to the projects and vision of the Five-Year CIP due to its impact for reducing pollution exposure, improving access to public facilities, promoting physical activity, and encouraging civic engagement.

The Five-Year CIP includes projects that reduce exposure to negative environmental conditions and improve environmental justice, such as:

- **Urban Forest:** Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park: The development and implementation of an urban forest management plan would focus on community outreach and preserving and expanding tree cover within the city to reduce pollution exposure and promote physical activity. Urban tree canopies additionally mitigate impacts of climate change including rising temperatures and increased flooding. This plan would serve as a long-term roadmap for the City to proactively and effectively maintain long-term benefits from the community's tree canopy.
- **Willow Road Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements:** The development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements along Willow Road through the Belle Haven neighborhood would promote physical activity and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.
- **Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan:** The development and implementation of a plan to reduce vehicle speeds on roadways within the Belle Haven neighborhood would reduce pollution exposure, promote physical activity, and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.
- **Belle Haven Community Campus:** The establishment and growth of the new community center in the Belle Haven



neighborhood improves access to public facilities and supports the development of community programs promoting physical activity, civic engagement, and prioritizing the needs of underserved communities.

- **SAFER Bay:** The series of infrastructure improvements would protect critical infrastructure, provide community resilience to current tidal flooding and projected sea level rise, and improve recreational access, using both engineered structures and nature-based flood protection.
- **Chilco Streetscape and Sidewalk Installation:** The development of pedestrian and bicycle supporting infrastructure on Chilco Street through the Belle Haven and Bayfront neighborhoods would reduce pollution exposure, promote physical activity, and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.

The Environmental Justice Element informs the CIP by elevating the needs of underserved communities and prioritizing projects that mitigate unique and compounding health risks present within the community.

### Drivers of Environmental Injustice and Determinants of Health

Every aspect of people’s lives has implications for their health. Beyond access to and quality of health care, the characteristics of the neighborhoods where people live, work, play, learn, and pray influence their behaviors, experiences, and physical health in different ways. Health is heavily influenced by factors in a community that are not typically addressed by the health care system. These community and location-based factors make up the “Social Determinants of Health” (see Figure EJ-1)<sup>9</sup>



<sup>9</sup> Wilkinson R, Marmot M. *Social Determinants of Health: The Solid Facts*. 2nd ed. Copenhagen, Denmark: World Health Organization; 2003. Solar O, Irwin A. *A Conceptual Framework for Action on the Social Determinants of Health. Social Determinants of Health Discussion Paper 2*. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2010.

Figure EJ-1: Social Determinants of Health<sup>10</sup>

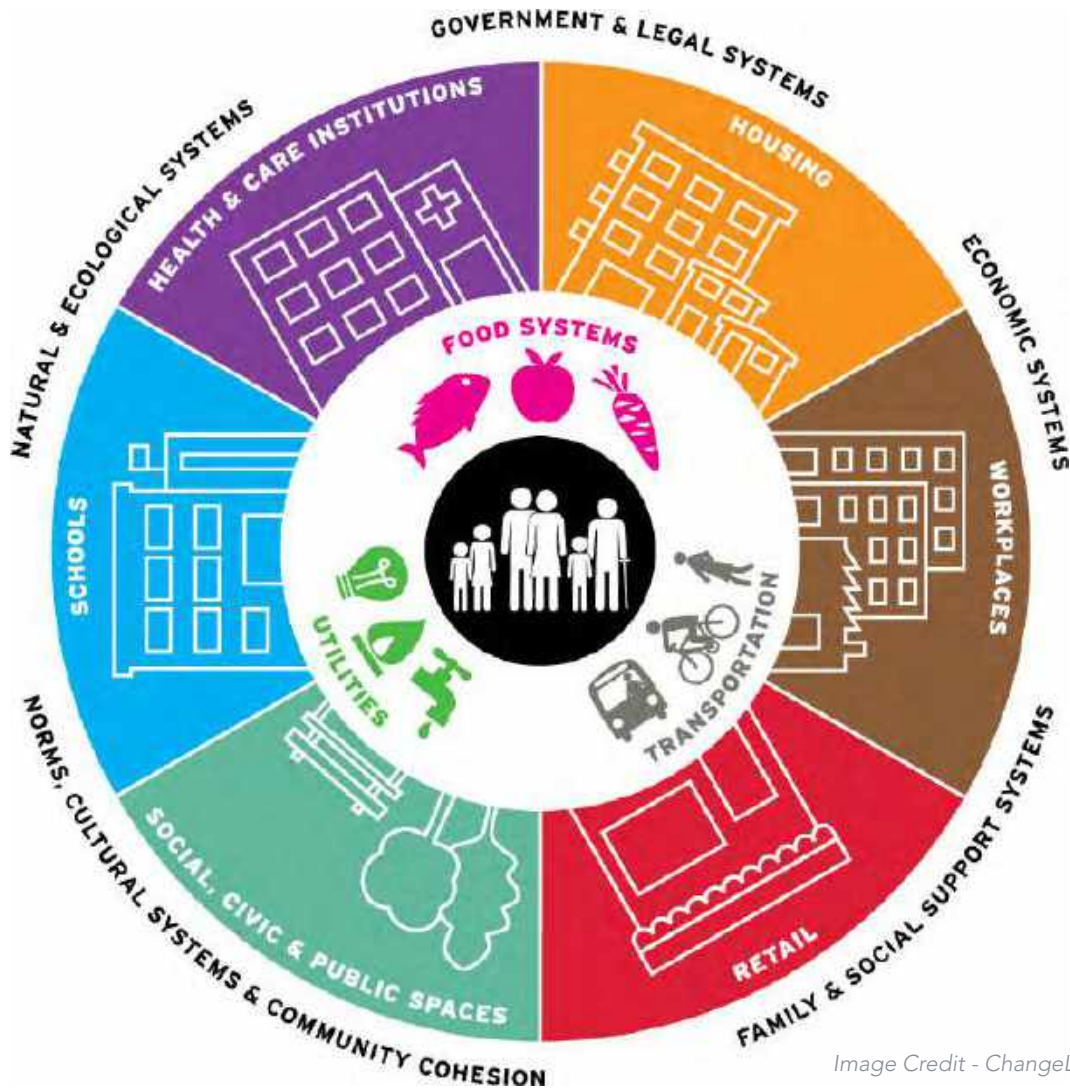


Image Credit - ChangeLab Solutions

Some people live in relatively healthy neighborhoods that have characteristics which mostly support healthy living, for example: landscapes that promote active lifestyles, access to medical care, plentiful safe housing, and availability of nutritious food. On the other hand, relatively less healthy neighborhoods have a combination of physical, social, and economic conditions that can create significant barriers to health such as unstable housing, poor access to healthy food, inadequate

or poorly maintained public spaces, unsafe streets, under-resourced schools, and concentrated poverty.

People may live in relatively less healthy neighborhoods, not because it is a desirable choice, but because of social or economic position or other circumstances beyond their control or ability to change. Less than one-third of the U.S. population is Black or Hispanic, however, these groups represent four out of every five people living in metropolitan concentrated poverty across the

<sup>10</sup> Long-Range Planning for Health, Equity & Prosperity: A Primer for Local Governments (ChangeLab Solutions: December 2019). Available at <https://www.changelabsolutions.org/product/long-range-planning-primer>

country.<sup>11</sup> When these neighborhoods also have physical, social, and economic barriers to health, then low-income residents and residents of color will disproportionately and unfairly be exposed to those unhealthy environments, increasing their risk of poor health, poor education, low income, and poverty.

In addition, political, social, economic, institutional, cultural, environmental, and other systems can create, intensify, and prolong barriers to health.

This complex web of social determinants of health points to a common outcome: poorer and racialized<sup>12</sup> people generally live shorter lives in worse health and under worse conditions than more affluent people who are not racialized. The City is committed to reducing health inequities and promoting environmental justice in Menlo Park. This Environmental Justice Element is a document that seeks to reduce or remove local disparities and inequities that exist by addressing and improving the social determinants of health in the neighborhoods and for the populations that face the greatest barriers to good health in Menlo Park.

### Unique and Compounding Health Risks

Underserved communities are more likely to “experience greater underlying health inequities from the myriad of health, economic, social, and place-based factors that have been present for

many generations, such as inequities in wealth, neighborhood disinvestment, disparities in neighborhood conditions, and lack of access to opportunities and needed services and resources.”<sup>13</sup> This combination of exposure to negative externalities and limited opportunities for mediation result in “unique and compounding health risks” that greatly impact the health and wellbeing of the members of the community.

Unique and compounding health risks are the result of the cumulative impacts of governmental neglect, systemic discrimination, and limited access to resources that lead to a situation where low income communities and communities of color face elevated rates of exposure to environmental hazards and have increased sensitivity to such hazards as a result of compounding inequities in the prevalence of chronic diseases, cumulative environmental exposures, and limited access to mitigative and protective resources to adequately cope with hazards experienced in the community.<sup>14</sup>

Cities and counties are required by State Government Code 65302(h) to “identify objectives and policies to reduce unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities” within their jurisdiction. Identification of unique and compounding health risks requires recognition of issues that are specific to their community and are collected through analysis of community needs, local climate vulnerability, cost of living, local industries, and other additional factors that impact the health and wellbeing of the community.

11 Erica E. Meade, “Overview of Community Characteristics in Areas with Concentrated Poverty” (HHS Office for the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation: April 30, 2014), available at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/overview-community-characteristics-areas-concentrated-poverty>.

12 “to cause or believe race to be an important feature of a group of people, of society, or of a problem” (Cambridge Dictionary). Available at <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/racialize>.

13 Gregory Miao, Kate Hannon Michel, and Tina Yuen “A Health Justice Agenda for Local Governments to Address Environmental Health Inequities” (*Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, March 2023), available at [https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-law-medicine-and-ethics/article/health-justice-agenda-for-local-governments-to-address-environmental-health-inequities/9DF64519B9A1806228B2914E79D4A480?utm\\_campaign=shareaholic&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_source=bookmark](https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-law-medicine-and-ethics/article/health-justice-agenda-for-local-governments-to-address-environmental-health-inequities/9DF64519B9A1806228B2914E79D4A480?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=bookmark).

14 See, Anjum Hajat, Charlene Hsia, and Marie S. O’Neill: “Socioeconomic Disparities and Air Pollution Exposure: a Global Review” (*Current Environmental Health Report*, September 2015), available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40572-015-0069-5>.



## EXISTING SETTING

Menlo Park is one of the wealthiest cities in the San Francisco Bay Area.<sup>15</sup> The city has numerous high-quality jobs, high-performing schools, and well-maintained parks. Menlo Park has established connectivity both within the city itself and along highways and train routes linking it to San Francisco and San Jose (as well as across the Dumbarton Bridge to the East Bay). Plentiful street trees provide cover from urban heat and the bayfront marshlands serve as a buffer between rising sea levels and the built-up portions of the city.

However, the opportunities Menlo Park provides – and the burdens of environmental risk – are not equally experienced by all Menlo Park residents. Minority and low-income populations are more likely to live in inadequate housing,<sup>16</sup> to face greater health risks,<sup>17</sup> and to have more difficulties in making their voices heard.<sup>18</sup> This contributes to a pattern where minority and low-income community members are more susceptible to displacement<sup>19</sup> and at the greatest risk to move into other

<sup>15</sup> See MTC's *Vital Signs* website describing income, available at <https://vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov/indicators/income>

<sup>16</sup> For example, a much higher percentage of lower-income housing units are overcrowded and severely overcrowded than moderate-income or above moderate income units: 3.5% of households making 0%-30% of Area Median Income (AMI) are overcrowded, 6.5% of households making 31%-50% of AMI, 4.0% of households making 51%-80% of AMI, 2.7% of households making 81%-100% of AMI, but only 1.7% of households making more than 100% of AMI. See Figure 33 in ABAG/MTC's "Housing Needs Data Report: Menlo Park (April 2021)". Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), *Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) ACS tabulation, 2013-2017 release*.

<sup>17</sup> Only 52% of workers with an annual household income of less than \$30,000 have paid sick leave in California, compared to 81% of workers with an annual household income over \$120,000. "Taking Count: A Study on Poverty in the Bay Area" (Tipping Point: July 2020), available at <https://tippingpoint.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Taking-Count-2020-A-Study-on-Poverty-in-the-Bay-Area.pdf>.

<sup>18</sup> See, Michelle L. Kaiser, Michelle D. Hand, and Erica K. Pence: "Individual and Community Engagement in Response to Environmental Challenges Experienced in Four Low-Income Urban Neighborhoods" (Int'l. Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, March 2020), available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7142717/>.

<sup>19</sup> See, Urban Displacement Project "SF Bay Area – Gentrification and Displacement" (2021), available at <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/maps/sf-bay-area-gentrification-and-displacement/>

jurisdictions with fewer high-quality jobs and lower-performing schools.<sup>20</sup>

In order to address this inequality, Menlo Park committed to developing an Environmental Justice Element. This commitment requires identifying underserved communities, undertaking extensive outreach to determine the needs of the residents of these communities, and developing a policy framework to address these environmental justice needs.

### Identifying Underserved Communities

Underserved communities are areas throughout California that suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty; pollution; and social and health indicators of risk and stress.

Menlo Park has identified Belle Haven and the Bayfront as underserved communities. These neighborhoods make up the portion of the city north of US Highway 101 (US-101) and a small portion south of US-101 but north of the Dumbarton Corridor (see Figure EJ-2). Historically, this was the area of Menlo Park that was segregated through racial covenants that banned Black households south of US-101.<sup>21</sup> Even today, Belle Haven and the Bayfront are within school districts separate from the districts that serve the majority of the city. Belle Haven and the Bayfront are also racialized communities: with disproportionately more Hispanic and Black than the rest of the city, these underserved communities are made up of households that have been historically underrepresented in the planning process (and civic processes generally) in Menlo Park.



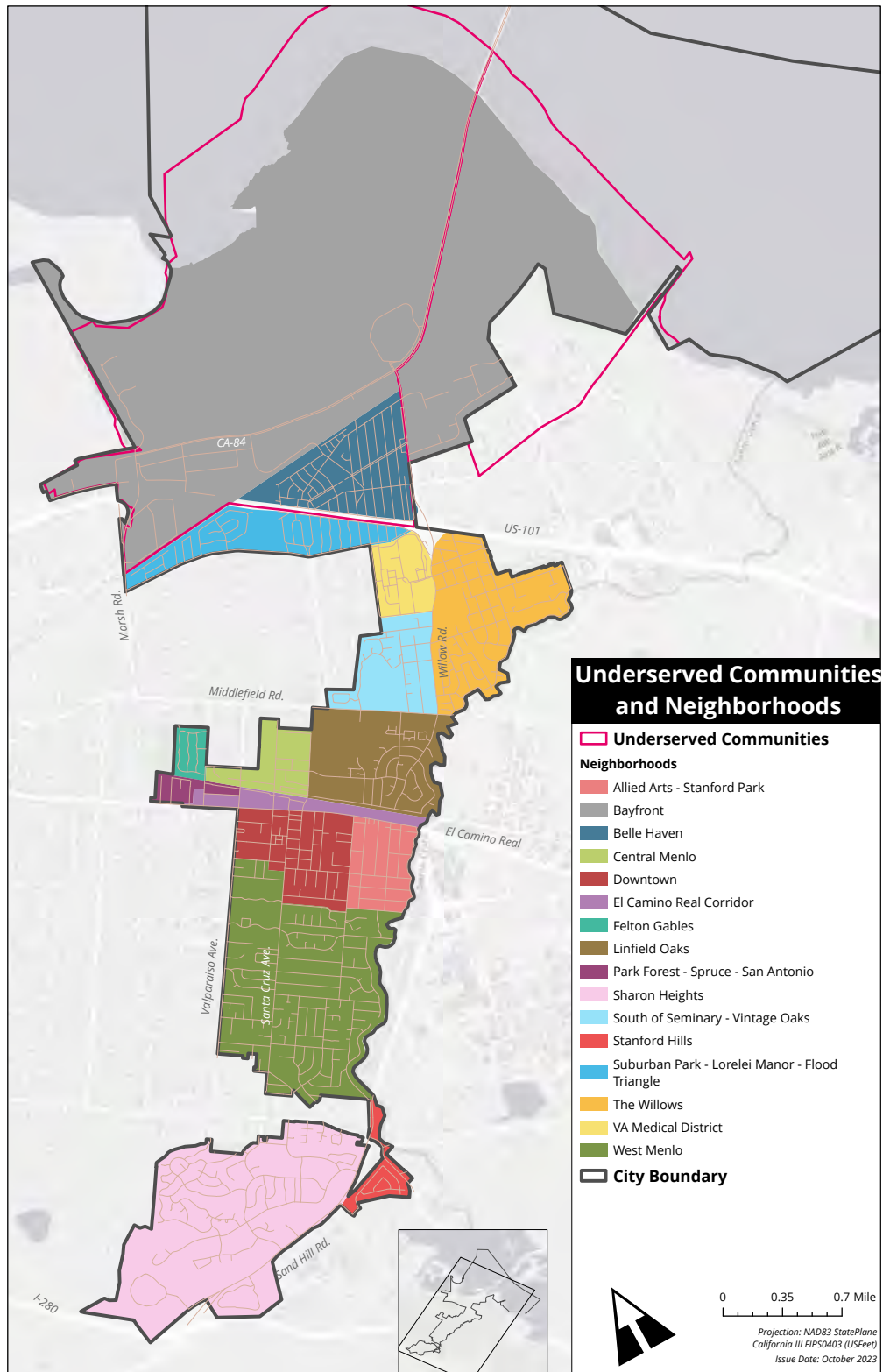
*"The most effective form of outreach was through existing relationships."*

— CRC Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

<sup>20</sup> "Inequality and Economic Security in Silicon Valley" (California Budget & Policy Center: May 2016), available at <https://www.siliconvalleycf.org/sites/default/files/publications/inequality-and-economic-security-in-silicon-valley.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> See <https://www.menlotgether.org/2019/11/27/the-color-of-law-menlo-park-edition-overcoming-systemic-segregation/>

Figure EJ-2: Map of Underserved Community Census Tracts<sup>22</sup>



<sup>22</sup> Census tracts do not align precisely with City limits as depicted in Figure EJ-2. More information is available in Appendix EJ-C: Neighborhood Profiles



## State Criteria

Belle Haven and the Bayfront are identified as underserved communities because they are in census tracts<sup>23</sup> designated as low income (80% or less of area median income) by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits (median incomes of less than \$146,350 for a four-person San Mateo County household in 2021 and \$186,600 in 2024);<sup>24</sup> they are historically underserved areas separated from the rest of the city by US-101 and included within school districts separate from those that serve the majority of the city; and as described by the community during outreach efforts for the element preparation.

A third neighborhood, The Willows, technically falls into a census tract designated as low income. A portion of the census tract is located outside the boundaries of Menlo Park in the City of East Palo Alto and is considered very low income (50% or less of area median income – less than \$91,350 for a four-person San Mateo County household in 2021 and \$97,900 in 2024), which thereby lowers the overall tract-wide median income. The Menlo Park portion of the tract containing The Willows is well above the designated low-income limit and is part of the Menlo Park City School District. Appendix EJ-B, Additional Methodology, describes this observation in detail.

OPR has developed Environmental Justice Element guidelines<sup>25</sup> that recommend a “thorough screening analysis” with three primary criteria to determine if any area of the city is an underserved community:

- **Criteria 1** – Affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. This is done by using CalEnviroScreen 4.0 to examine whether the planning area for the General Plan contains census tracts that have a

CalEnviroScreen 4.0 combined Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics score of 75% or higher (CalEnviroScreen is a data analysis tool discussed in Appendix EJ-A, Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations. A table of all neighborhood scores is provided at the end of Appendix EJ-A).

- **Criteria 2** – An area with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income.
- **Criteria 3** – An area at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits (\$146,350 for a four-person household in 2021).

It is also recommended that jurisdictions “incorporate and analyze community-specific data and examine for additional pollution burden and health risk factors.” This is Criteria 4, encouraging the incorporation of community outreach which the City has undertaken and will continue to engage in.

The OPR criteria are based on census tracts, which do not line up precisely with Menlo Park’s city boundaries and neighborhood boundaries (see Figure EJ-3).

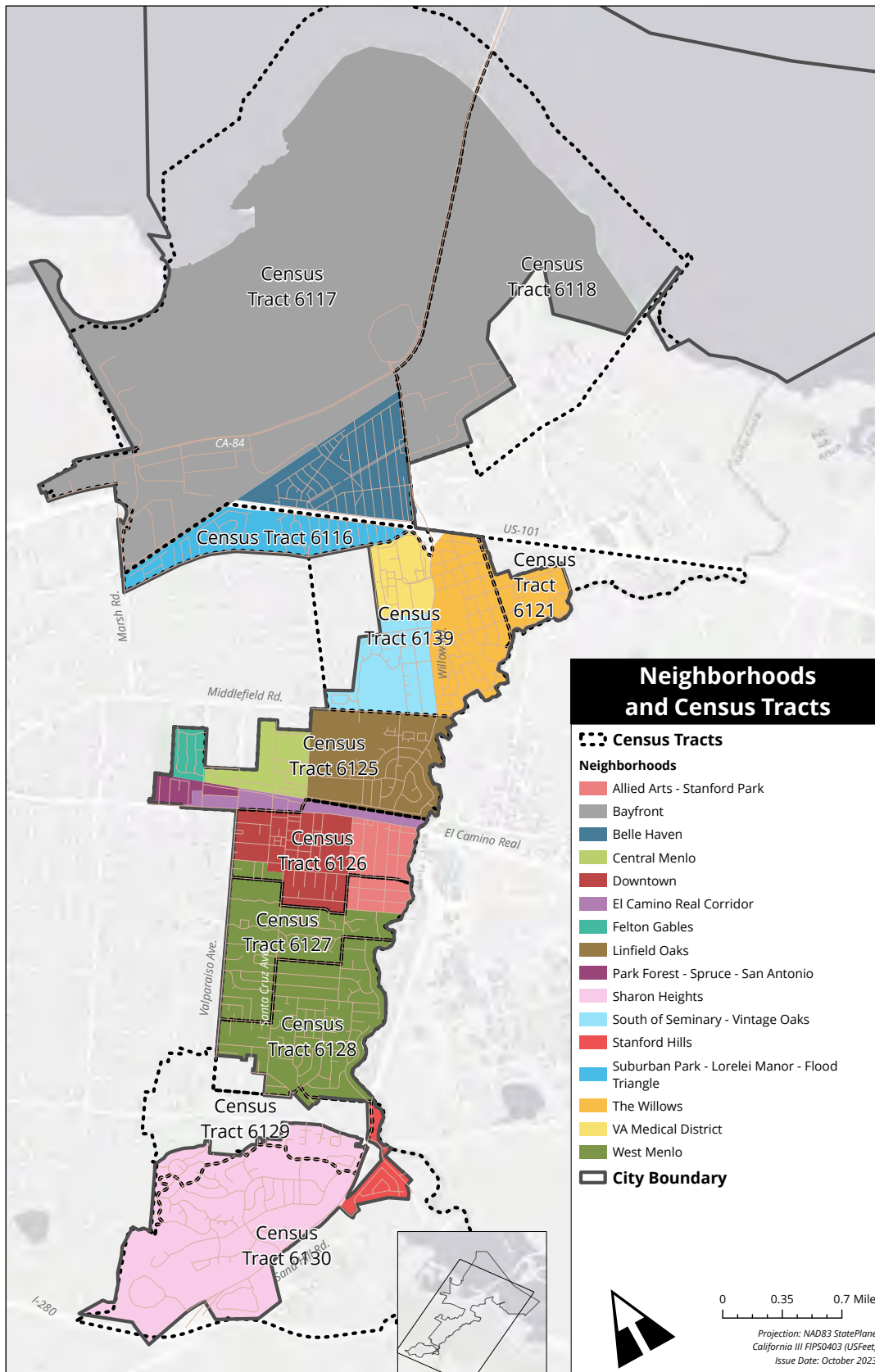
<sup>23</sup> Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county.

<sup>24</sup> Current and historic (dating back to 2016) state income limits can be found on HCD’s website, see *State and Federal Income, Rent, and Loan/Value Limits*. The data in the adopted Environmental Justice Element dates to 2021, when the Neighborhood Profiles were developed (see Appendix EJ-A). Updated income limits are located at the HCD website.

<sup>25</sup> See 2020 Updated Environmental Justice Element General Plan Guidelines



Figure EJ-3: Neighborhoods, Tracts, City Boundaries



In Menlo Park, there are three census tracts which meet at least one of the three primary criteria noted by OPR and could be considered as containing underserved communities:

- Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront)
- Tract 6118 (Bayfront)
- Tract 6121 (The Willows)

All three census tracts listed are eligible due to Criteria 3: their household incomes are at or below the threshold designated as low income

by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits. However, Tract 6121 (The Willows) only meets Criteria 3 due to portions of the census tract located outside of Menlo Park in the City of East Palo Alto. Therefore, Tract 6121 (The Willows) is not considered an underserved community within Menlo Park’s Environmental Justice Element. Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront) is also eligible due to Criteria 2: its household incomes are at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income (see Table EJ-2; underserved communities shown bolded).

Table EJ-2: Household Median Income of Census Tracts in Menlo Park

Menlo Park Census Tract	Neighborhoods	Household Median Income (2020)
Citywide Household Median Income*		\$167,567
6116	Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle	\$222,708
<b>6117</b>	<b>Belle Haven; Bayfront</b>	<b>\$74,032</b>
<b>6118</b>	<b>Bayfront</b>	<b>\$85,500**</b>
6121	The Willows	\$64,690***
6125	Central Menlo; El Camino Real Corridor; Felton Gables; Linfield Oaks; Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio	\$154,861
6126	Downtown; Allied Arts/ Stanford Park	\$140,795
6127	Allied Arts/Stanford Park; West Menlo	\$238,333
6128	West Menlo	\$250,000 ±
6129	Sharon Heights	\$192,250
6130	Sharon Heights; Stanford Hills	\$156,000
6139	South of Seminary – Vintage Oaks; The Willows; VA Medical District	\$214,222

The data in Table EJ-2 dates to the publication of the Environmental Justice Element’s Neighborhood Profiles (see Appendix EJ-A).

\*= Citywide Household Median Income is calculated by the US Census separately from tract-by-tract Household Median Income. This number is not the median tract household income.

\*\*= There are no residential units within Menlo Park in Tract 6118. This Median Income figure includes only East Palo Alto.

\*\*\*= Tract 6121’s Household Median Income is disproportionately affected by portions of the Census tract outside of Menlo Park.

*"Low-income communities and communities of color are on the frontlines of sea-level rise, extreme heat events, and are suffering more severe consequences from wildfire smoke exposure. These facts make the urgency and necessity of robust engagement with frontline communities a necessity for equitable and just climate adaptation."*

— CRC Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements



Although neither Tract 6117 nor Tract 6118 have combined Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores of 75 percent or higher – meaning that they have a “worse” situation than 75

percent of Census tracts in California – these tracts are the only ones in Menlo Park with a Pollution Burden score over 75 (see Table EJ-3; underserved communities shown bolded).

Table EJ-3: Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics Scores

Menlo Park Census Tract	Pollution Burden Score	Population Characteristics Score
Citywide Average	26.2	18.6
6116	71	2
<b>6117</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>6118</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>49</b>
6121	73*	58*
6125	45	2
6126	52	4
6127	35	5
6128	26	1
6129	29	17
6130	47	11
6139	44	5

\*= Tract 6121's scores are disproportionately affected by portions of the Census tract outside of Menlo Park.

A detailed description of Menlo Park’s neighborhoods and their relationship to environmental justice, including analyses of Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores, is included within the Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations (see Appendix EJ-A).

Additional details on how demographic data in Census tracts 6118 and 6121 break across city boundaries between Menlo Park and East Palo Alto is provided in Appendix EJ-B, Additional Methodology.

Community-Specific Data

OPR recommends community-specific data to be incorporated as well as the tract-level CalEnviroScreen 4.0 data. In Menlo Park’s case, the City’s school district stratification as well as its historic and current land use patterns are relevant factors in identifying Belle Haven and the Bayfront as underserved communities.

*School Districts*

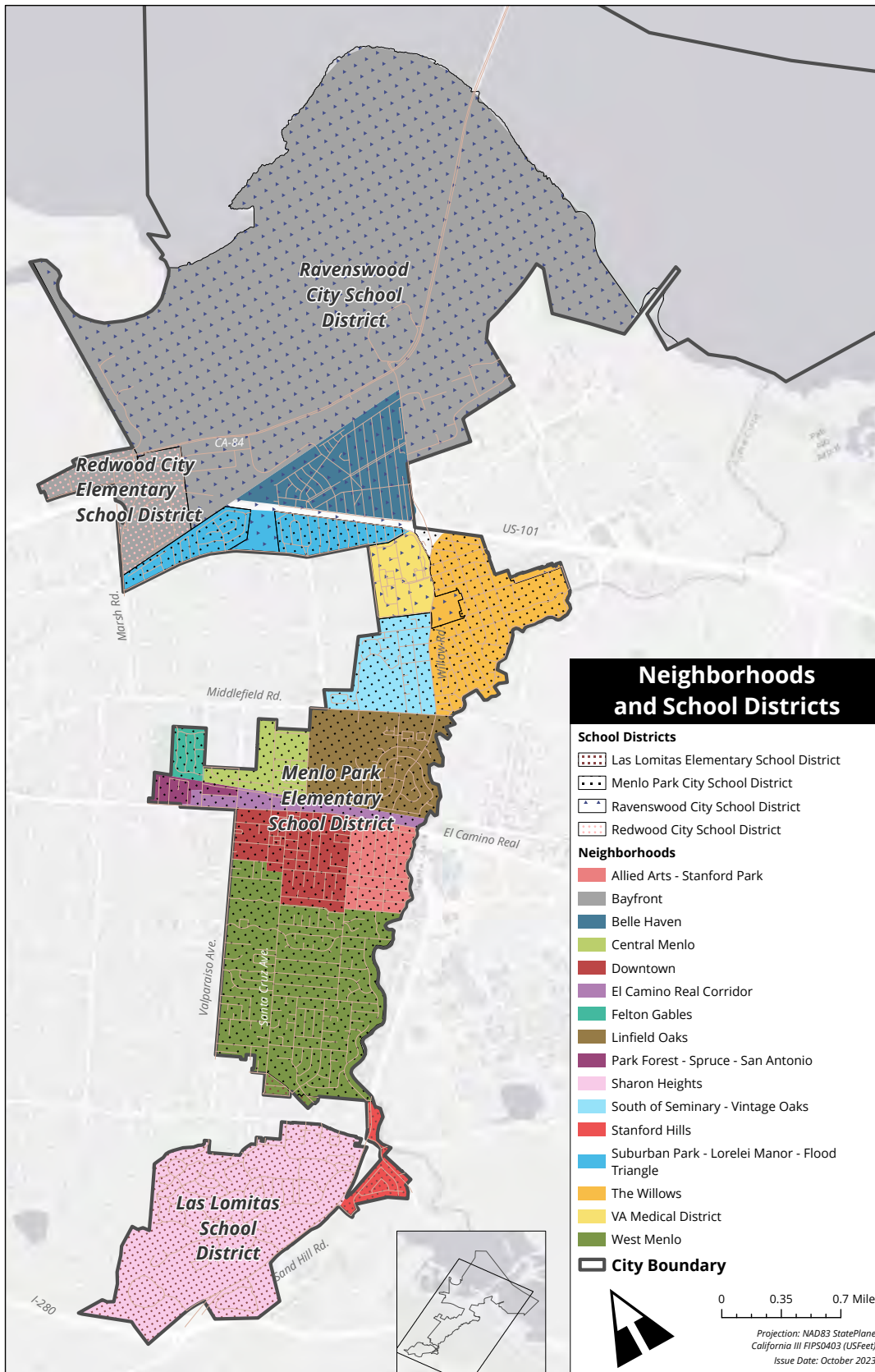
Menlo Park is served by four school districts with elementary and middle schools: Las Lomas Elementary School District, Menlo Park City School District, Ravenswood City School District, and Redwood City School District (see Figure EJ-4).

*"Maintain a local community center. Kelly Park & Pool activities should be affordable, with more basketball, soccer and other activities."*

*— Belle Haven resident*



Figure EJ-4: Elementary and Middle School Districts and Neighborhoods



Ravenswood City School District serves Belle Haven, the Bayfront, and the neighboring City of East Palo Alto (a minority-majority city). Historically, there was also Ravenswood High School, founded in 1958 and subject to a 1970 desegregation order. It was eventually shut down due to declining enrollment in 1975.<sup>26</sup> In the present day, Menlo-Atherton High

School (served by the Sequoia Union High School District) serves all students in Menlo Park who opt for a public high school. In addition, Ravenswood City School District is the sole school district serving Menlo Park with student math and English test scores below state averages (see Table EJ-4):

Table EJ-4: Test Scores in Menlo Park School Districts<sup>27</sup>

School District	% of Students Hispanic or Latino	% Passing State Test	
		Math	English
State Average	56%	40%	51%
Las Lomitas	5%	82%	86%
Menlo Park City	7%	83%	84%
<b>Ravenswood City</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>18%</b>
Redwood City	42%	43%	54%

**Land Use**

The City’s Zoning Ordinance currently allows industrial uses in the Bayfront in the Life Sciences (LS), General Industrial (M-2), and Office (O) zoning districts (see Figure EJ-5, below). Historically, in and around this portion of the city, there have been a number of light industrial, manufacturing, and warehouse facilities. These land use types

are historically correlated to worse health outcomes in neighboring communities.<sup>28</sup> This is because industrial uses can be the sites of legacy pollution, or industrial chemicals that remain in the environment long after they were first introduced – or even long after the original user has left. In the Bay Area, and Menlo Park specifically, many of these legacy pollutants are also located in areas vulnerable to sea level rise.<sup>29</sup>



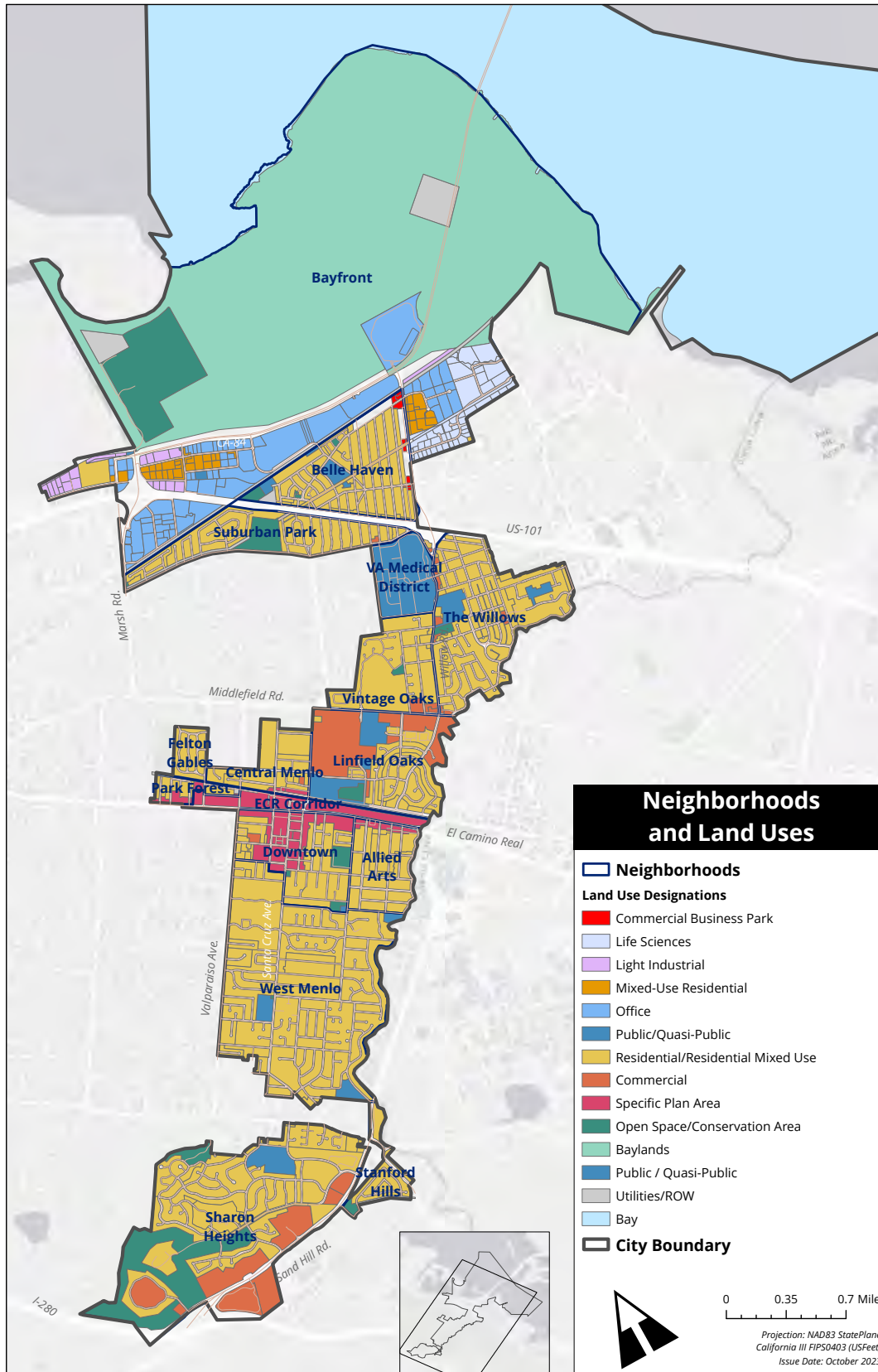
26 Kim-Mai Cutler “East of Palo Alto’s Eden: Race and the Formation of Silicon Valley” (TechCrunch: January 10, 2015) available at <https://techcrunch.com/2015/01/10/east-of-palo-altos-eden/>. Cutler notes that two community “Nairobi Schools” in East Palo Alto were firebombed in 1975.

27 Data via California Department of Education, 2019

28 See generally, Juliana Maantay “Zoning, Equity, and Public Health” (American Journal of Public Health: July 2001) available at <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.91.7.1033>

29 See “Toxic Tides” Available at <https://sites.google.com/berkeley.edu/toxictides/home>.

Figure EJ-5: Menlo Park Neighborhoods and Generalized Land Uses





## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OUTREACH

The City of Menlo Park is committed to an inclusive and equitable planning process. An inclusive and equitable planning process allows community members, especially residents of underserved communities, to provide input and contribute to the development of the Environmental Justice Element. The City of Menlo Park conducted community outreach and engagement on its own as well as partnering with a community-based organization that was intentionally focused and specialized in outreach and engagement efforts for underserved communities. The outreach included community meetings, pop-ups, English-Spanish translation/interpretation services, and surveys. Whenever possible, outreach was conducted with the intent to “meet people where they are” to increase participation, engagement, and build relationships with the community.

This work included multiple public study sessions. The Planning Commission and City Council met in a joint study session on June 20, 2023, to discuss initial public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements. They later met separately, on June 3 (Planning Commission) and

### COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Through the development of Menlo Park’s first Environmental Justice Element, the community-identified three Environmental Justice Element goals to be prioritized:

- Priority #1:** Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2:** Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3:** Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)

June 18 (City Council), 2024, to discuss revised public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements, prior to public hearings for adoption in fall 2024. Community-identified



priorities may change over time. Highlighted outreach efforts are listed below:

**2021**

- August 1** – Pop-Up Meeting at the Downtown Farmers Market
- August 7** – Pop-Up Meeting at Mi Tierra Linda
- August 26** – Community Meeting
- August 29** – Pop-Up Meetings at the Downtown Farmers Market and in Belle Haven

**2022**

- April 5** – Community Meeting
- May 9** – Focus Group in East Palo Alto with El Comité de Vecinos del Lado Oeste
- May 13** – Focus Group with the Belle Haven Community Development Fund
- May 20** – Focus Group with residents of Belle Haven
- May 20 to June 12** – Survey conducted in-person and online

**2023**

- February 9** – Community Meeting
- February 10** – Community Meeting
- June 20** – Planning Commission and City Council Joint Study Session

**2024**

- January 18** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting<sup>30</sup>
- March 21** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting
- April 18** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting
- May 2** – Community Meeting

**May 9** – Community Meeting

**June 3** – Planning Commission Study Session

**June 17** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting

**June 18** – City Council Study Session

### Climate Resilient Communities

The City funded work with a community-based organization in order to expand and bolster outreach with underserved communities which are traditionally harder to reach populations. The City partnered with Climate Resilient Communities (CRC), a community-based organization dedicated to serving underserved communities through empowering community voices to implement climate solutions centered around the direct needs of the community that bring about unity and resilience. CRC was selected as a partner because they are a recognized community-based organization in Menlo Park with a history of experience in community outreach efforts, specifically within Belle Haven and the Bayfront, Menlo Park's underserved communities. Through a diverse and multifaceted outreach strategy, the City was able to better understand the impacts of environmental justice issues that underserved communities in Menlo Park face and together with the community, plan for positive change.

Together with the City, the outreach conducted by CRC directly resulted in the content and language of the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the action items of the complementary Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. The overall direction of the Environmental Justice Element is based off the important takeaways, findings, and requests from the community expressed during the outreach and community meetings conducted by CRC within underserved communities.

<sup>30</sup> The Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team (CCCT) is composed of residents, youth, faith, and business leaders with the aim to identify local vulnerabilities and learn how the community can be better prepared to face the impacts of climate change. The CCCT serves as a vehicle for forming and expressing community preferences for addressing a multitude of climate related issues that vary by local condition. The Belle Haven CCCT comprehensively discussed the Environmental Justice Element and update to the Safety Element in 2024.

## Outreach Methodology and Findings

Text and tables describing key findings, recommendations collected and summarized by CRC, and how those key findings and recommendations were brought into the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element are provided under each outreach and engagement method.

CRC focused most of its outreach efforts in Belle Haven, one of the communities identified as an underserved community. CRC also worked with communities who live and work in the Bayfront. The focus groups and community survey confirmed quantified metrics available from CalEnviroScreen through resident narratives and experiences. CRC was able to increase participation, build capacity, and describe the environmental justice issues affecting residents in underserved communities.

### Community Meetings (2021-2023)

In August 2021, April 2022, and February 2023, the City and CRC held community meetings to share information and gather feedback for preparation of Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element.

- Key Findings from Community Meetings Address air quality and safety concerns in Belle Haven
  - Policy EJ2.1, Policy EJ2.4, Program EJ2.A, Program EJ2.B, Program EJ2.C
- Preserve open space and parks
  - Program EJ3.E, Program EJ 4.E
- Use publicly owned land to build affordable housing
  - Considered as part of Menlo Park's 6th Cycle Housing Element
- Distribute new housing throughout the city and in high resource areas
  - Policy EJ5.2
- Reduce Pollution
  - Program EJ1.D, Policy EJ2.1
- Housing insecurity is related to health impacts
  - Considered as part of Menlo Park's 6th Cycle Housing Element, Policy EJ5.2
- Provide more bike/pedestrian infrastructure
  - Program EJ6.A, Policy EJ6.2, Policy EJ6.3
- Give more visibility to Environmental Justice issues
  - Policy EJ7.1, Policy EJ7.2, Program EJ7.A



### Focus Groups (2022)

A total of 124 Belle Haven residents attended at least one of the three (3) focus groups in May 2022. The focus groups met in person at the Belle Haven Branch Library and were intended to engage specific populations of the community. The first focus group was centered on sharing information and receiving feedback from families, parents, and children. The second focus group was catered to Spanish-speaking residents. The third focus group was for all residents. All focus groups were open to the public. A full summary report for the focus groups is available in Appendix EJ-C, Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements.

In the focus groups, key findings were identified through “jamboard” exercises where individuals noted which statements they agreed with from those identified during facilitated community discussion. CRC made a series of primary and secondary findings and recommendations based on these findings, which were then translated into policies and programs for the Environmental Justice Element. Table EJ-5 provides the key findings identified in the focus groups as well as the recommendations, and highlighted policies and programs are shown (see more in the Goals, Policies, and Programs section).

Table EJ-5: Key Findings from Focus Groups

Key Finding	Recommendations	Policies / Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Primary:</b> Reduce traffic pollution</li> <li>• <b>Secondary:</b> Mitigate emissions from stationary sources and issues from wildfire smoke</li> </ul>	Incentivize electric vehicle use (including electric bicycles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program EJ2.G</li> </ul>
	Strengthen permitting requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Quality Permitting is enforced by the local Air Quality District.</li> </ul>
	Fund home weatherization and distribute air purifiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ5.1</li> </ul>
	Conduct tap water testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City currently conducts water testing as described in the annual Menlo Park Municipal Water report. The city does not currently rely on groundwater supply.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Primary:</b> Upgrade community centers</li> <li>• <b>Secondary:</b> More health care facilities and improved road infrastructure with complete streets</li> </ul>	Help families with water expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program EJ5.B</li> <li>• Existing PG&amp;E CARE program is used by City currently, which provides support for water, garbage, and recycling bills.</li> </ul>
	Reexamine administrative polices to encourage affordable and accessible programming in community centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ3.1</li> <li>• Policy EJ3.2</li> <li>• Program EJ3.G</li> </ul>
	Create a community health clinic in Belle Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ3.3</li> <li>• Program EJ3.D</li> </ul>
	Consider transportation infrastructure overhauls that ease walking, bicycling, and public transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ6.2</li> <li>• Policy EJ6.3</li> <li>• Program EJ6.A</li> </ul>

Key Finding	Recommendations	Policies / Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase access to healthy and affordable foods</li> </ul>	Ensure that any new grocery store offers high-quality, affordable food; includes a pharmacy; and accepts SNAP and food vouchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ4.1</li> <li>Program EJ4.A</li> </ul>
	Look for opportunities for a new or expanded farmers' market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program EJ4.D</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Augment affordable housing programs and anti-displacement measures</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Mitigate pest, mold, and asbestos issues in homes and increase access to groceries and green spaces</li> </ul>	Offer homeowners and renters vital home safety repairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ5.1</li> <li>Program EJ5.A</li> <li>City is working on grant program through Habitat for Humanity for home repairs.</li> </ul>
	Enact/expand rent control ordinances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2023-2031 Housing Element does not propose additional rent control regulations, however, the development of an anti-displacement strategy is included.</li> </ul>
	Promote affordable housing throughout the city, and outside of Belle Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ5.2</li> <li>Program EJ5.D</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase information accessibility and enhance prior knowledge of City processes</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Schedule meetings to avoid time conflicts</li> </ul>	Ensure substantial and sustained multilingual outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ7.1</li> <li>Policy EJ7.2</li> </ul>
	Expand education and capacity-building opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program EJ7.A</li> </ul>
	Revamp public meeting scheduling protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ7.2</li> <li>Program EJ7.B</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase street lighting</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Upgrade sidewalks and other infrastructure improvements</li> </ul>	Fill gaps in streetlight coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program EJ6.A</li> </ul>
	Assess ADA compliance in sidewalks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ6.2</li> <li>Program EJ6.A</li> </ul>
	Systematically assess neighborhood connectivity infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ1.4</li> <li>Program EJ1.B</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase tree canopy</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Reduce noise pollution and retrofit buildings for resilience and energy efficiency</li> </ul>	Commit to urban forestry efforts by setting urban canopy expansion goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ2.3</li> </ul>
	Create publicly accessible ticketing system for maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently done through ACT Menlo Park program.</li> </ul>
	Consider community solutions for addressing concerns related to parking (e.g., idling and noise, parking availability)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action Item EJ2.I.7</li> <li>Action Item EJ6.D.1</li> </ul>



## Survey (2022)

CRC canvassed the city from May 20 through July 12, 2022 for a survey, focusing their outreach on the underserved communities of Belle Haven and Bayfront. The survey was available for completion both online and in-person, gathering 420 total responses. Of the responses, 328 (78%) of respondents were Belle Haven residents. The full survey report is available as Appendix EJ-D, Menlo Park Survey Final Report.

CRC made a series of key findings and recommendations, which were then translated into policies and programs for the Environmental Justice Element. The text below provides the key findings identified in the survey as well as the recommendations; highlighted policies and programs are shown (see more in the Goals, Policies, and Programs section).

### Key Findings from 2022 Environmental Justice Survey

#### *Air Quality, Traffic Congestion, Dust Pollution & Noise*

Key Finding: A majority of respondents experienced poor air quality, traffic congestion, and dust and noise from construction as adverse environmental impacts within their households in the last 10 years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than other Menlo Park households. Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than their White counterparts.

Recommendations: Implement air and noise pollution mitigation measures specifically in Belle Haven. Install sensors to measure outcomes before and after pilot interventions. Work with Belle Haven community organizations to scope pilot projects and ensure cultural competency when interventions are conducted at the household level.

Programs: EJ2.A (Air quality monitors currently exist in Belle Haven.)

Policies: EJ2.1, EJ2.4

## Health Issues

Key Finding: More than a third of respondents experienced stress/anxiety, high blood pressure or cholesterol, COVID-19 and/or asthma within their households in the last 10 years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than other Menlo Park households.

Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than their White counterparts.

Recommendations: Conduct culturally competent outreach to inform Belle Haven residents of the prevalence of health issues in the neighborhood, environmental risk factors, and opportunities for preventative or supportive action.

Programs: EJ3.3

## Environmental Damages and Risks

Key Finding: About a third of respondents have spent more than \$100 in the past year on home repairs related to environmental damages or risks. More than a third of respondents have delayed home repairs due to cost. A quarter of respondents, if faced with a \$400 emergency expense, would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash, and would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money. Both of these findings also demonstrate significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities.

Recommendations: Develop a rapid response program that can assist Belle Haven homeowners with emergency home repairs through a no-interest loan, including volunteer labor and donated materials.

Policies: EJ5.1

## Prioritization of Household Spending

Key Finding: More than a third of respondents would prioritize spending extra money on air conditioning, air purifiers, home repairs and earthquake-related upgrades, compared to solar, rainwater capture, home insurance or electrification.

Recommendations: Expand reduced cost home weatherization and retrofit programs, as well as DIY (“Do-It-Yourself”) air filter initiatives.

Policies: EJ5.1 (City offers water conservation rebates, incentives, and free fixtures.<sup>31</sup>)

### *Prioritization of Public Spending*

Key Finding: More than a third of respondents would prioritize public spending on pedestrian safety, road repairs, safer biking routes, street trees, and improved parks or community gardening, compared to public air quality monitoring, stormwater management, code enforcement and flood barriers.

Recommendations: While continuing to mitigate risk from less frequent climate hazards, deepen prioritization of public transportation and recreation infrastructure in Belle Haven.

Policies: EJ1.3, EJ1.4

Programs: EJ1.A, EJ2.H

### *Community Workshops and Study Sessions (2024)*

After making revisions to the Environmental Justice Element to reflect the community meetings, focus groups, and survey described above, the document was revised and re-published in April 2024 and discussed at four public meetings:

**May 2** – Community Workshop in Belle Haven (in Spanish)

**May 9** – Community Workshop in Belle Haven (in English)

**June 3** – Planning Commission Study Session (in English)

**June 18** – City Council Study Session (in English, with Spanish interpretation)

The full Community Workshops summary report is included as Appendix EJ-E: Prioritization Workshop Summary.

Approximately 80 attendees at the May workshops provided feedback on the relevant elements, regarding recommended policies, programs and their prioritization. This feedback was provided to Planning Commission and City Council at their respective study sessions. At these study sessions, commissioners and councilmembers affirmed the community input and provided additional feedback.

A key finding of these study sessions was the affirmation that the City should move forward with highlighting the top three priorities identified through the community outreach process:

- Priority #1:** Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2:** Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3:** Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)



Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

<sup>31</sup> See “Conservation rebates and incentives” Available at <https://menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works/Utilities/Menlo-Park-Municipal-Water/Water-conservation/Conservation-rebates-and-incentives>



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUMMARY

Participants in the community meetings, focus groups, and survey indicated an interest in topics such as air quality/safety, open space and parks, pollution, noise, and construction. Through their participation, it was evident that environmental and sustainability issues are important to Menlo Park residents. Environmental factors impact the whole ecosystem – not only the environment, but also the health and wellbeing of people.

One of the most popular community feedback themes was urban greening. Urban greening is the incorporation of vegetation, landscaping, trees, open space, and gardens in the infrastructure of an urban environment. Examples of this include urban street canopies, drought tolerant and native species landscaping, green roofing, community gardens, and pervious surfaces incorporated into public spaces. At the local level, these interventions can help reduce health and safety risks by mitigating air, water, noise pollution and stress.

The findings and issues identified by the community have been recognized by the City and translated into prioritization of goals in the Housing, Safety, and Environmental Justice Elements.

The prioritized goals will be emphasized in City planning efforts in the years following Environmental Justice Element adoption. In particular, the City Council will incorporate community priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop (see Program EJ7.L). Any revisions to community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities (see Program EJ7.K). The intent of the process is to remain responsive and not require a General Plan amendment.

*"The community wants to be better informed."  
— Belle Haven resident*



Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

## GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

Menlo Park's objective of furthering environmental justice is an action-oriented process. The City will continually work toward environmental justice, with collective efforts and collaboration from Belle Haven and Bayfront residents, community leaders, and the greater Menlo Park, San Mateo County, and Bay Area communities.

The goals, policies, and programs in the Environmental Justice Element are developed from the issues and priorities identified in the data analysis and the community outreach and engagement findings and recommendations completed for Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element. Below is a description of the goals, policies, and programs that make up the Environmental Justice Element.

- **Goals** – Broad actions Menlo Park will pursue to work towards environmental justice.
- **Policies** – Focused principles that Menlo Park is adopting in order to achieve goals.
- **Programs** – Precise steps that Menlo Park will take in furtherance of policies and goals.

Many of the policies and programs call for direct investment in less resourced underserved communities. Prioritizing investments such as time, political energy, and capital in underserved communities will have net benefits and a high return on investment for Menlo Park as a whole.

### Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. This separate, complementary document is guided by the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the Guiding Principles of the Menlo Park General Plan, however, the Action Guide lies outside of the General Plan itself. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community



needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment. Table EJ-6 shows

where one can view goals, policies, and programs, as well as action items which support program implementation.

Table EJ-6: Environmental Justice Element Organization

Environmental Justice Element	Document	Action Guide
<p><b>GOALS:</b> Broad actions Menlo Park will pursue to work toward environmental justice. <i>(These goals are synonymous with “objectives” as used in Gov. Code Section 65302(h))</i></p>	✓	✓
<p><b>POLICIES:</b> Focused principles to guide decision-making that Menlo Park is adopting in order to achieve goals.</p>	✓	✓
<p><b>PROGRAMS:</b> Precise steps that Menlo Park will take in furtherance of policies and goals.</p>	✓	✓
<p><b>ACTION ITEMS:</b> Tasks that Menlo Park will pursue to improve environmental justice in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach.</p>		✓










## Goals

In Menlo Park, as in many other places throughout California and beyond, areas with a higher concentration of low-income households are more likely to be exposed to pollution and environmental hazards. Consequently, individuals in these areas

experience higher rates of poor health outcomes. To reduce the disproportionate health risks that exist in these Menlo Park neighborhoods, this Environmental Justice Element has policies and programs organized into seven goals consistent with the requirements of SB 1000 and Gov. Code Section 65302(h) (see Table EJ-7):

Table EJ-7: Goals of the Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element

Required Topic Area	Environmental Justice Element Goal
 <b>Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities</b>	<b>Goal EJ1: Address unique and compounded health risks</b>
 <b>Reduce Pollution Exposure</b>	<b>Goal EJ2: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality</b>
 <b>Improve Access to Public Facilities</b>	<b>Goal EJ3: Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities</b>
 <b>Promote Food Access</b>	<b>Goal EJ4: Promote access to high quality and affordable food</b>
 <b>Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes</b>	<b>Goal EJ5: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes</b>
 <b>Promote Physical Activity</b>	<b>Goal EJ6: Encourage physical activity and active transportation</b>
 <b>Promote Civic Engagement</b>	<b>Goal EJ7: Create equitable civic and community engagement</b>

There is natural overlap between the goals of the Environmental Justice Element. A strong Environmental Justice Element provides framework for a cohesive and complementary set of goals, policies, and programs.

The Environmental Justice Element was developed simultaneously with the 2023-2031 Housing Element. The policies and programs in the 2023-2031 Housing Element support the Environmental Justice Element's goal to provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes for all residents. Rather than duplicate this language in both elements, the Environmental Justice Element instead references the language in the Housing Element that is reviewed by the California Department of Housing and Community

Development and subject to annual reporting requirements.

The Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, and programs are below in Table EJ-8. Complementary action items are separately contained within the Action Guide. Policies, programs, and action items are organized by the seven overarching Environmental Justice Element goals and include descriptive information about current progress (if applicable), responsible parties, potential funding sources, and delivery timeframe.



Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

Table EJ-8: Environmental Justice Goals, Policies, and Programs



**GOAL EJ1**

**ADDRESS UNIQUE AND COMPOUNDED HEALTH RISKS**

**POLICY EJ1.1** Prioritize programs that address the unique and compounded health risks present in underserved communities currently and in the future.

**POLICY EJ1.2** Reduce climate vulnerability in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ1.3** Strengthen collaboration efforts with residents in underserved communities, particularly on public improvement projects.

**POLICY EJ1.4** Prioritize active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) improvements, transit incentives, and neighborhood connectivity in underserved communities.

**PROGRAM EJ1.A** Prioritize public/capital improvements needed in underserved communities with priority allocation of funding, available to the City locally and from regional, statewide, and federal entities, for such projects, and to address climate change.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office, Public Works. Supporting: Community Development, Sustainability Division

*Funding Sources:* General Fund, General Capital Fund, Countywide Transportation Sales Tax Funds (Measure A & W), State and Federal Gas Taxes

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ1.B** Prepare publicly available reports annually to describe how underserved communities are considered and prioritized in capital improvement plans, departmental work plans, and budgets within four years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



**PROGRAM EJ1.C** Develop and publicize annual or every-other-year reports that measure progress and outcomes of the implementation of the Environmental Justice Element programs within six years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: All City Departments  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ1.D** Review CalEnviroScreen to support evaluation of Environmental Justice Element policies and programs.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, All City Departments  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



## **GOAL EJ2** REDUCE POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

**POLICY EJ2.1** Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality (both indoor and outdoor), and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ2.2** Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale, as well as collaborate on countywide and regional efforts. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve watershed and human health.

**POLICY EJ2.3** Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to promote and encourage urban greening on public and private projects (e.g., bioswales, raingardens, habitat restoration) in areas with relatively less tree canopy or other greenery to provide health and safety benefits to underserved communities residents.

**POLICY EJ2.4** Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards and maximize air quality (both indoor and outdoor) in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ2.5** Work with Caltrans on improvements on State-owned rights of way.

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**POLICY EJ2.6** When updating or installing transportation infrastructure, consider factors such as stormwater management, Universal Design Principles and attractive green roadway design.

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**PROGRAM EJ2.A** Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City's jurisdiction (e.g., gas stations, automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Peninsula Clean Energy, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Westbay Sanitary District, San Mateo County Environmental Health, San Mateo County Fire, Sustainability Division

*Funding Source:* Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ2.B** Implement and periodically update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

*In Progress:* The Climate Action Plan is subject to annual progress reports as a standalone document are scheduled for 2028 update. Starting in 2024, the City will implement a zero emission landscaping equipment rule to improve air quality and reduce emissions.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Sustainability Division

*Funding Sources:* General Fund, grants (e.g., California Energy Commission, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy, and CALFIRE)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ2.C** Conduct proactive education and outreach about indoor and outdoor air quality and protective actions that can be taken to both improve air quality inside one's home and to minimize exposure to poor air quality index days.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Sustainability Division, Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County Sustainability Department

*Funding Source:* Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



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**PROGRAM EJ2.D** Minimize and mitigate illegal solid waste dumping (as defined in 7.04.030 of the Municipal Code), potentially through minimizing fees for disposal at landfills in collaboration with South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA).

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Communications and Public Engagement  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ2.E** Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan and update, as necessary, to incorporate environmental justice. Focus on underserved communities and implement programs in this Element, in coordination with related regional efforts.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Community Development  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ2.F** Increase community outreach and awareness of the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, including the Community Rating System, and the potential benefits to homeowners (e.g., reduced insurance premiums)

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Communications and Public Engagement Division. Supporting: Public Works  
*Funding Source:* Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ2.G** Develop incentives to encourage shared commute programs and alternative methods of travel for city events, meetings, and official business.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office, Public Works. Supporting: SamTrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g. Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Public Works, Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ2.H Collaborate with SamTrans and Ravenswood City School District, as well as Meta and other large employers to leverage transportation electrification initiatives to prioritize bus electrification in underserved communities.**

*In Progress:* SamTrans anticipated being fully electric by 2034, in compliance with State law requiring transit fleets be all electric by 2040.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Sustainability Division; SamTrans, Ravenswood City School District, Large Local Businesses (over 50 employees, e.g. Meta, SRI International, Grail, others)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ2.I Consider revisions to applicable City regulations that will reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life in underserved communities.**

*In Progress:* Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance, Municipal Code Chapter 7.30 (Smoking Regulated or Prohibited)

*Responsibility:* Lead: All City Departments. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ2.J Develop Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park within four years of the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.**

*In Progress:* The City applied for the 2024 cycle of the CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grant for Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park. Awards to be announced in Fall 2024. This grant requires projects to be completed by March 31, 2028. The City has budgeted \$250,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as matching funds.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Sustainability Division, Canopy

*Funding Sources:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 PLANNING Grant), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grants, CAL FIRE grants. City of Menlo Park Heritage Tree in-lieu fee program

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term





**PROGRAM EJ2.K** Prioritize relief from extreme heat (Safety Element Program S1.T) in underserved communities. Information on these resources shall be provided at community facilities (e.g., BHCC).

*In Progress:* The City currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Communications and Public Engagement

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Ongoing from Initiation



## **GOAL EJ3** EQUITABLY PROVIDE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC FACILITIES TO INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

**POLICY EJ3.1** Prioritize providing public facilities and programming for underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ3.2** Ensure accessibility of public facilities for all community members, especially those in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ3.3** Support programs that increase access to public and private health resources for underserved communities in locations that are convenient and accessible.

**POLICY EJ3.4** Coordinate with local school districts, transit operators, and other public agencies to provide adequate public facilities, improvements, and programs in underserved communities.

**PROGRAM EJ3.A** Identify, renovate, and retrofit candidate public buildings in underserved communities to serve as Climate Resilience Centers as outlined by the California Strategic Growth Council. These buildings should be places where the community already regularly gathers, such as libraries, community centers, or the Belle Haven neighborhood substation.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services Department

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Medium Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.B** Work with relevant departments to install infrastructure allowing for easy disposal of pet and animal waste at parks and along highly trafficked streets.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: City Manager’s Office  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Medium Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.C** Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills. In addition, expand outreach and community access to the City Library’s laptop and wireless hotspot, or similar, borrowing programs.

*In Progress:* The City currently offers laptop lending and wi-fi hotspots free to residents at the library with their library card.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Local Internet Providers (e.g. AT&T, Xfinity, Spectrum), San Mateo County Public Works, California Public Utilities Commission, Administrative Services Department/Information Technology Department  
*Funding Source:* California Advanced Services Fund: Broadband Public Housing Account  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Medium Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.D** Seek to form partnerships, particularly with community based organizations and businesses, and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)  
*Funding Sources:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers PLANNING Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.E** Coordinate with schools and other local organizations (e.g., Boys and Girls Club) to support after-school activities and related outreach/communications generally.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Ravenswood City School District  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.F** **Seek to form partnerships or other agreements with a banking specialist and other identified partners to provide a community bank or banking services in the underserved communities.**

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Local banks  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

---

**PROGRAM EJ3.G** **Ensure delivery on the needs of underserved communities through the City's programming plans currently in place and continue to adapt programming based on community feedback through regular community surveys and outreach.**

*In Progress:* City staff, with input from the community, Belle Haven Community Campus subcommittee and working group, Library Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission, have developed robust programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus. City will continue to adapt programming to community needs through regular community surveys and outreach that solicit community feedback.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services  
*Funding Sources:* Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.H** **Ensure that recreational facilities throughout Menlo Park provide all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles, with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities.**

*In Progress:* City prioritizes access for all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Public Works; Community Development  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term



## GOAL EJ4

## PROMOTE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE FOOD

### POLICY EJ4.1

Encourage adequate food access to fresh and healthy foods for all residents, particularly those in underserved communities.

### PROGRAM EJ4.A

Work with grocery stores and online food service delivery and meal providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food (e.g., reduced or waived delivery service fees). Encourage and support the acceptance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), CalFresh, and other governmental food assistance programs that increase food security.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Local Grocery Stores (e.g., Safeway, Trader Joe's), Local Grocery Delivery Services (e.g., Uber Eats, GrubHub, DoorDash), CalFresh

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

### PROGRAM EJ4.B

Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual fliers, community events, information at shelters and food banks, as well as other appropriate outreach methods.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Communications and Public Engagement Division; Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Homeless Outreach Team, San Mateo County Human Services Agency

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

### PROGRAM EJ4.C

Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at municipal buildings and City-participating events Encourage sourcing food from local small businesses.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term



**PROGRAM EJ4.D** Encourage and facilitate the establishment and operation of a farmer’s market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets in underserved communities. Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ4.E** Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens within or adjacent to neighborhoods and housing development sites. Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years of Environmental Justice Element adoption.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Library and Community Services; Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g. Rotary Club of Menlo Park)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term



## **GOAL EJ5**

### **PROVIDE SAFE, SANITARY, AND STABLE HOMES**

**POLICY EJ5.1** Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe, sanitary and stable housing, particularly in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ5.2** Maintain and develop safe, and sanitary and stable homes across all locations and affordability ranges, particularly in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ5.3** Support housing development distribution throughout the city and not concentrated within Menlo Park’s underserved communities.

**PROGRAM EJ5.A** The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. The Safety Element (Table S-4) includes a list of sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation.

*In Progress:* The 2015 San Mateo County Vulnerability Assessment inventoried sites with contamination and no sites were identified in residential developments. County continues to update Vulnerability Assessments.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: San Mateo County Environmental Health Services, Planning, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

*Funding Source:* Department of Food and Agriculture (Healthy Soils Demonstration Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Short Term

**PROGRAM EJ5.B** Conduct outreach to potentially eligible households regarding programs that support safe, sanitary, and stable homes.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: California Department of Community Services and Development; City Manager's Office

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ5.C** Create or partner with providers to provide a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters with questions. If such resources already exist, conduct proactive outreach and education to inform the community of available resources. Hold culturally competent, in-language outreach workshops.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g. Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ5.D** Identify opportunities to support a Community Land trust or other fiscal vehicle to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Community Development Department, MidPen Housing Community Land Trust

*Funding Source:* BMR Housing Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term



**PROGRAM EJ5.E** Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F, (regarding collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART)) and helping to facilitate first-time homeowner workshops for residents in underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Local Community Based Outreach Organizations (e.g. Menlo Together)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ5.F** Promote funds and subsidies that minimize the passing through of any upfront investment costs of building electrification on to tenants.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Public Works Department, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ5.G** Ensure that City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This will include consideration, at a minimum, the following:

- Rental inventory of all dwelling units
- Updated or expanded rent control laws
- Rent increase mitigations, such as longer noticing requirements
- Community and tenant opportunity to purchase
- Revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper affordability (e.g., subsidies)
- Expand relocation assistance for tenants
- Just Cause Eviction protections regardless of tenant duration
- Strengthened tenant anti-harassment ordinances
- An examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs

*In Progress:* Sixth Cycle Housing Element includes Program H2.E focusing on developing an Anti-Displacement Strategy

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Public Works Department

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ5.H** As part of an anti-displacement program and to ensure stable housing, support increasing access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction by conducting community outreach, education, and engagement to ensure renters are aware of this resource. Include progress reports on usage annually.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager’s Office, Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Ongoing from Initiation.



## **GOAL EJ6** ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

**POLICY EJ6.1** Prioritize programs that encourage physical activity in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ6.2** Support physically active lifestyles through investment in complete streets and active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) and safety in underserved communities

**POLICY EJ6.3** Prioritize the implementation of traffic and transit improvements in underserved communities to reduce excessive speed, limit cut through traffic, and make streets comfortable and accessible places for all users and abilities.

**PROGRAM EJ6.A** Identify and eliminate, barriers to outdoor physical activity, such as damaged, incomplete, blocked, or littered sidewalks and bike paths, lack of safe street crossings and direct connections, excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping and shade trees along streets in underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Community Development, Sustainability Division

*Funding Source:* Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term





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**PROGRAM EJ6.B** In concurrence with the City’s Vision Zero Action Plan, develop and implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling and taking transit. These efforts should include education for people using all modes.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, SamTrans

*Funding Source:* Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ6.C** Coordinate with Ravenswood City School District to expand the Safe Routes to School program, including potential for increased crossing guards at key intersections.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Ravenswood City School District

*Funding Source:* Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ6.D** Prepare to update and adopt the City’s Transportation Master Plan (best practice is to update every 10-15 years) to improve environmental justice.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Caltrans, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g. Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities), Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g. Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)

*Funding Sources:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant), Department of Transportation Grants (Safe Streets and Roads for All, Sustainable Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term

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## GOAL EJ7

## CREATE EQUITABLE CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**POLICY EJ7.1** Prioritize civic and community engagement programs that enhance the participation and inclusion of underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ7.2** Keep residents informed about governmental meetings and actions by ensuring transparency and accessibility in government and decision making.

**POLICY EJ7.3** Treat all members of the community fairly and promote equity and capacity building toward creating a healthy environment and just community.

**PROGRAM EJ7.A** Promote and evaluate capacity-building efforts to educate and involve traditionally underrepresented populations, including underserved communities, in the public decision-making process.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: Belle Haven Action

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ7.B** All meetings with an agenda item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the underserved community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as satellite meeting centers, simulcasting, and/or remote participation. Consider hardcopy materials for outreach, particularly door-to-door outreach.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: Library and Community Services

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ7.C** Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation (such as food and refreshments, stipends, on-site child care) at community outreach events in underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



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**PROGRAM EJ7.D Pursue equitable civic and community engagement.**

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ7.E Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the BHCC as a community hub for learning and engagement opportunities strengthened with partner organizations. These will connect residents in underserved communities with pre-existing city and state resources as well as encourage resident participation in public meetings, events, and decision making.**

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: All City Departments  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ7.F Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating City Councilmembers and appointed commissioners for the time they spend in their positions to make the positions more accessible to residents of underserved communities.**

*In Progress:* A Planning Commission stipend pilot program was added in the 2023-2024 budget.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office.  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Short Term

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**PROGRAM EJ7.G Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions.**

*In Progress:* SamTrans currently operates a countywide paratransit service.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: SamTrans, Public Works  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ7.H** Ensure that disaster preparedness planning as described in the Safety Element includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park’s underserved communities. Upon adoption of the Environmental Justice Element, conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that may include participation and information dissemination at public event and/or fairs in underserved communities with proactive encouragement and opportunity for the residents to sign up for emergency alert systems.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Menlo Park Fire Protection District

*Funding Source:* Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ7.I** Encourage the sustained engagement and involvement of underserved communities in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. Maintain membership and partnership with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority during their oversight of levee installations and expansions protecting underserved communities.

*In Progress:* The SAFER Bay Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in 2022 and provides engagement and involvement opportunities.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: City Manager’s Office; San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

*Funding Source:* Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ7.J** Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Annual reporting, at a minimum, should be presented to the City Council and made available on the City website.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



**PROGRAM EJ7.K** The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Environmental Justice Element Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Sources:* Bayfront Mitigation Fund; General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ7.L** The City Council shall consider the community-identified environmental justice priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop.

Note: The 2024 adoption of the EJ Element identified the following top three priorities:

- Priority #1: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2: Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Sources:* Bayfront Mitigation Fund; General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

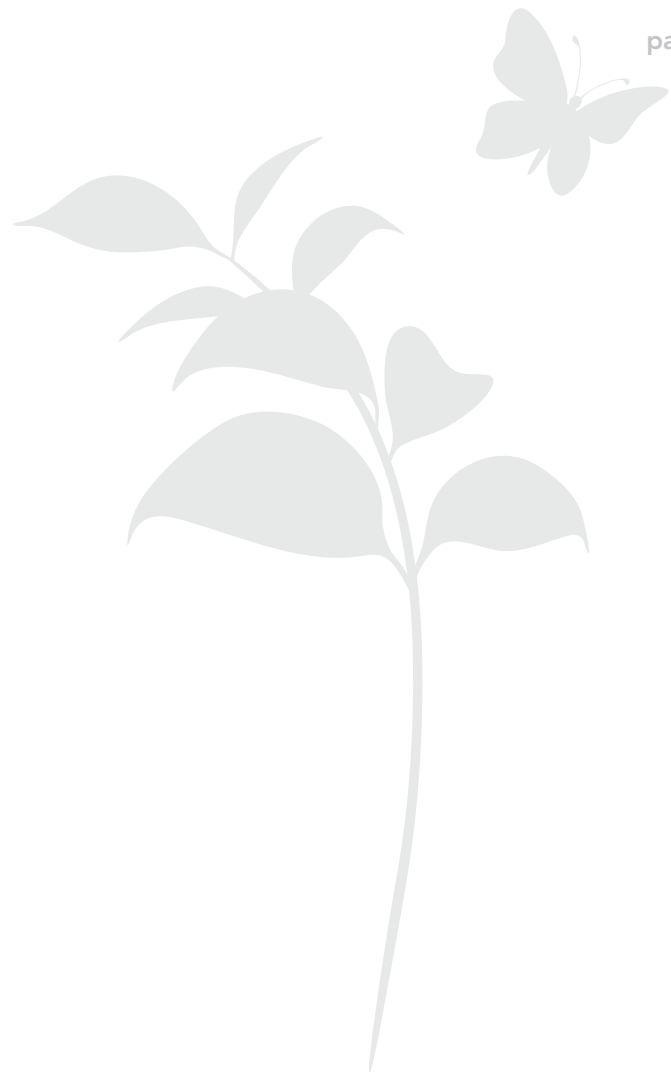


Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

## APPENDICES

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- Appendix EJ-B — Additional Methodology
- Appendix EJ-C — Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements
- Appendix EJ-D — Menlo Park Survey Final Report
- Appendix EJ-E — Prioritization Workshop Summary
- Appendix EJ-F — Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

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701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025



# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT APPENDICES

# City of Menlo Park

## Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations



Published October 2022  
Updated August 2024

# City of Menlo Park

## Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations

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## Introduction

The City of Menlo Park is updating its required General Plan Housing Element and Safety Element, and preparing its first ever Environmental Justice Element. Environmental justice (commonly referred to as “EJ”) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.<sup>1</sup>

Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

Meaningful involvement means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health.
- The public’s contribution can influence the regulatory agency’s decision.
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process.
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

As part of the Environmental Justice Element preparation, the City is learning about and helping to prioritize policies and actions that have the most impact in improving the physical environment so that it supports good health and quality of life for current and future Menlo Park residents.

### ***What is a Neighborhood Profile?***

A neighborhood profile provides a summary analysis on a specific neighborhood’s social, economic, and environmental conditions, such as demographics, unemployment rate, and pollution exposure. These factors, or “indicators,” help set the stage for community conversations regarding priorities and plans for positive change. In this document, we look at Menlo Park through the lens of 16 neighborhoods and draw comparisons of indicator impacts among neighborhoods and the city as a whole. The neighborhood profiles serve as a precursor for the preparation of Menlo Park’s first ever Environmental Justice Element.

### ***Background Information***

The State of California allows all jurisdictions to adopt an Environmental Justice Element (EJ Element) pursuant to Senate Bill 1000 (2016). The adoption of an EJ Element can occur at any time, but is required under the following conditions:

- The jurisdiction is adopting or revising two or more General Plan Elements concurrently.

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<sup>1</sup> Government Code section 65040.12, subdivision (e)(2).

- The jurisdiction contains “Disadvantaged Communities” as defined by State law.

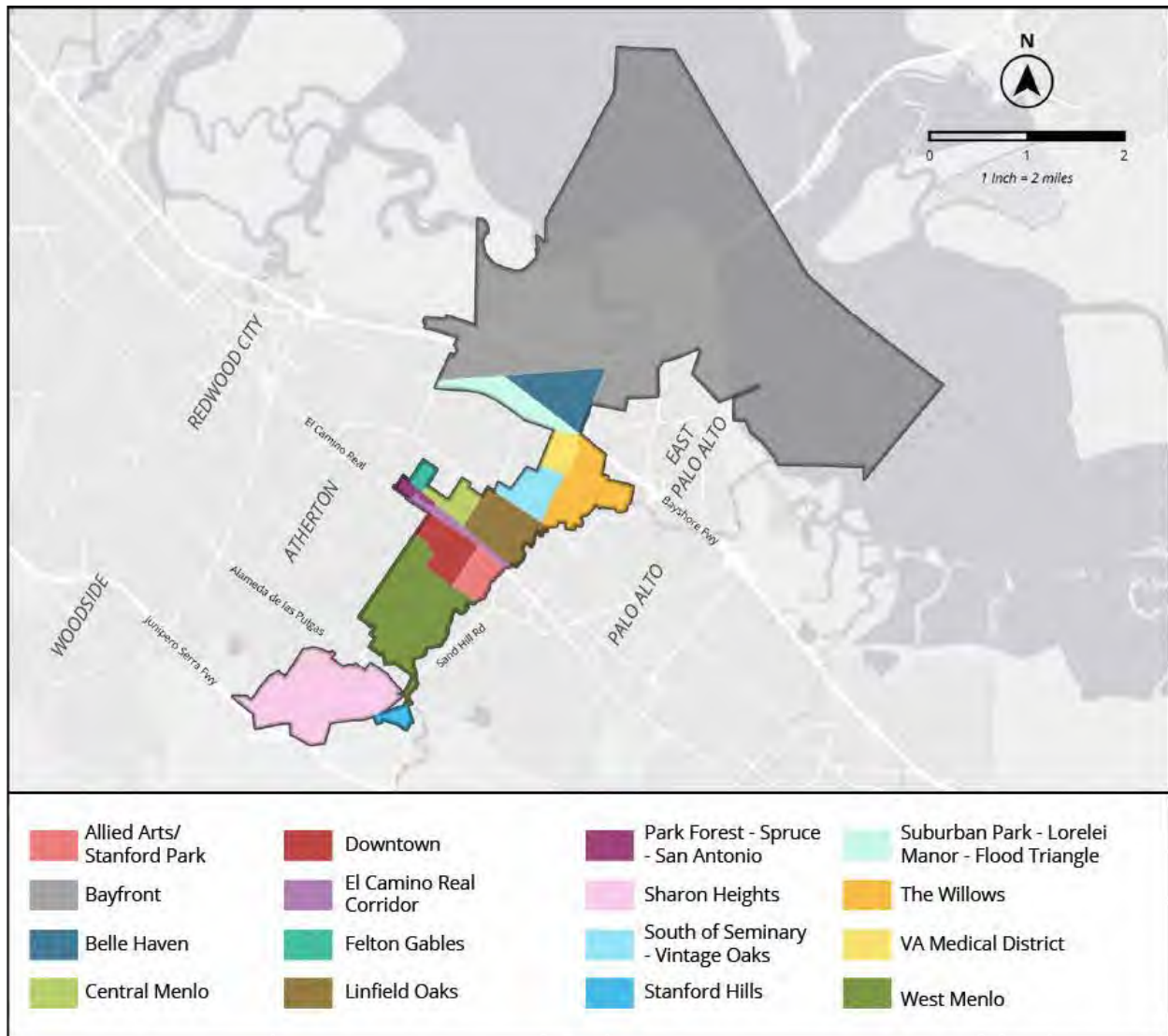
According to State law, a "Disadvantaged Community" is an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code, or, an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. Menlo Park is required to adopt an EJ Element as it is currently updating its required General Plan Housing Element and Safety Element (revising the combined Open Space/Conservation, Noise, and Safety Elements).

There are areas within Menlo Park that meet the State-defined criteria for “Disadvantaged Communities.”<sup>2</sup> Throughout this appendix, “Underserved Communities” will be used and is understood to be analogous to the state-defined term “Disadvantaged Communities,” which is only used when quoting or referring to state law.

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<sup>2</sup> Information regarding “Disadvantaged Communities” is available at: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535>.

## Neighborhoods in Menlo Park

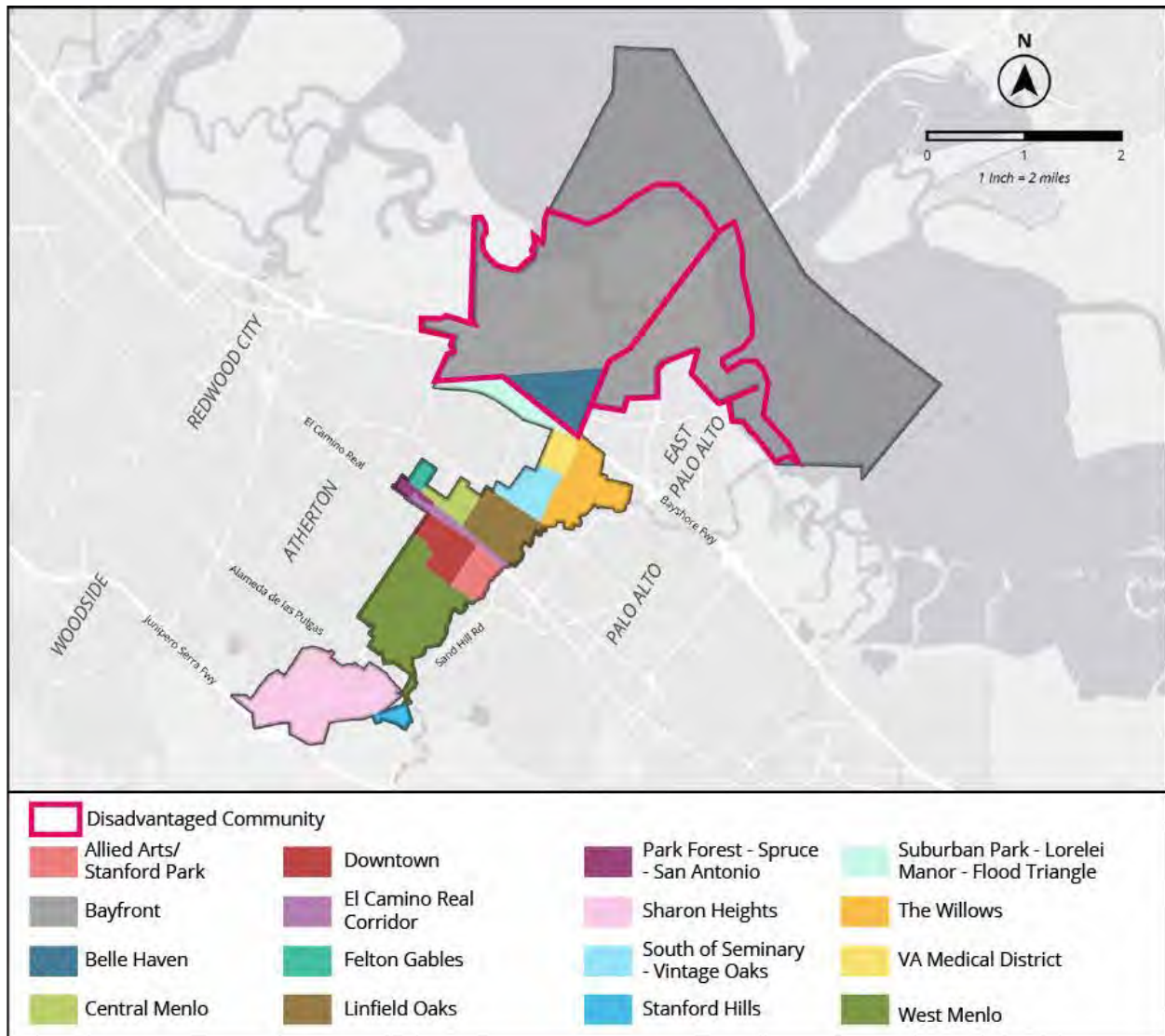


In this document, we look at Menlo Park through the lens of 16 neighborhoods as shown in the above map. The neighborhood boundaries displayed are for reference and informational purposes only, with the intent of contributing to more area-specific analysis of the city as there are differences among the neighborhoods that are helpful to highlight for the EJ Element preparation.

### Underserved Communities

There are two Underserved Communities identified in Menlo Park: Belle Haven and Bayfront. These communities were identified because they are in census tracts designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's list of state income limits and because they are historically underserved areas separated from the rest of the city by US-101 and served by a different school district.

**Map of Underserved Community Census Tracts**



**Underserved Communities Overview**

Underserved Communities are areas throughout California which suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty, pollution, and social and health indicators of risk and stress.

These communities are specifically targeted for investment of proceeds from the State's Cap-and-Trade Program that are aimed at improving public health, quality of life, and economic opportunity. They are defined at the census tract level, which in Menlo Park's case, means that the tracts intersect with city and neighborhood boundaries.<sup>3</sup> The full methodology for determining Underserved Communities in Menlo Park is in Appendix EJ-B: Additional Methodology.

<sup>3</sup> Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county.



The two Underserved Communities, Belle Haven and Bayfront, are adjacent to each other but have different histories and lived experiences. Belle Haven is a historically residential neighborhood, whereas Bayfront has been an industrial neighborhood until the recent residential development permitted by 2015's Connect Menlo plan.

The adjacency of these two neighborhoods is not an accident. Black and African American households, historically excluded from the south side of US-101 by racial covenants, found homes in Belle Haven near polluting industrial uses. As those polluting uses have phased out and technology companies have moved into Bayfront, the Belle Haven community faced displacement fears as high-income workers moved into the city north of US-101.

Understanding these two Underserved Communities as distinct, albeit linked by geography, is crucial to the environmental justice analysis of Menlo Park.

### **Belle Haven**

Belle Haven is on the north side of US-101 and is a historically segregated neighborhood in Menlo Park. When racial covenants excluded Black and African American families from purchasing houses on the south side of US-101, many turned to Belle Haven instead.

The Household Median Income in Belle Haven's census tract, 6117, is \$74,032. This is lower than the threshold designated as low income (\$146,350) by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

### **Bayfront**

Menlo Park's eastern Bayfront is in Census Tract 6118. This tract is also designated as an Environmental Justice Underserved Community because its median household incomes are below the threshold designated as low income (\$146,350) by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Tract's median household income is \$85,500.

## **Neighborhood Profiles Methodology**

Each neighborhood profile includes a map of the neighborhood area and three sections highlighting data points typically used to inform environmental justice conversations:

- ***Physical Description***
  - Pattern of Development
  - Transportation
  - Open Space
  - Natural Hazard Risk
  
- ***Environmental Conditions***
  - Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden
  - Major Pollution Burden Disparities
  
- ***Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics***

- Primary Factors
- Major Disparities

### **Neighborhood Area Maps**

The neighborhood area maps include data for land use zoning districts, flood hazard areas (areas with a one percent chance of flooding annually, as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA]), SamTrans bus stops, and grocery stores. This serves as useful reference for areas of different land uses and risk profiles, as well as points of interest and community nodes.

Menlo Park's neighborhoods do not line up evenly with census tracts, which are used to quantify environmental data. It should be noted that the neighborhoods of The Willows; Allied Arts/Stanford Park; West Menlo; and Bayfront have been further divided for mapping and analysis purposes to better correspond to census tract-level data available. Further, six census tracts encompass more than one neighborhood and as a result, those neighborhoods share CalEnviroScreen scores (Tracts 6117, 6125, 6126, 6127, 6130, and 6139).

<b>Neighborhoods and Census Tracts Cross-Reference</b>	
<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Census Tract(s)</b>
Allied Arts/Stanford Park	6126 (North) 6127 (South)
Bayfront	6117 (West)* 6118 (East)*
Belle Haven	6117*
Central Menlo	6125
Downtown	6126
El Camino Real Corridor	6125
Felton Gables	6125
Linfield Oaks	6125
Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio	6125
Sharon Heights	6130
South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	6139
Stanford Hills	6130
Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	6116
The Willows	6139 (West) 6121 (East)
VA Medical District	6139
West Menlo	6127 (North) 6128 (South)

*\*Census tract designated as Underserved Community*

## **CalEnviroScreen Indicators**

The summarized indicators and corresponding scores for pollution burden and population characteristics are provided by the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool called "CalEnviroScreen 4.0."

CalEnviroScreen provides an interactive mapping tool to identify communities in California that are disproportionately burdened, and allows users to see how these burdens compare to other areas throughout California. An indicator is a measure of either environmental conditions, in the case of **Pollution Burden Indicators**, or health and vulnerability factors for **Population Characteristics Indicators**. CalEnviroScreen indicators fall into four broad groups—exposures, environmental effects, sensitive populations, and socioeconomic factors.

- **Exposure** indicators are based on measurements of different types of pollution that people may come into contact with.
- **Environmental** effects indicators are based on the locations of toxic chemicals in or near communities.
- **Sensitive population** indicators measure the number of people in a community who may be more severely affected by pollution because of their age or health.
- **Socioeconomic factor** indicators are conditions that may increase people's stress or make healthy living difficult and cause them to be more sensitive to pollution's effects.

Each indicator is scored separately and CalEnviroScreen assigns each census tract a percentile value based on where it falls among values statewide.<sup>4</sup> A higher number always indicates a "worse" situation. For example, if a census tract is in the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile for "Unemployment," that means its burden indicator value is higher than 60 percent of all other census tracts in California. In addition to this metric comparing the census tract to the state, the Neighborhood Profiles also show the citywide average and the tract's difference (positive or negative, meaning higher or lower) from the citywide average. These numbers show specific neighborhood differences from Menlo Park as a whole.

The indicators are divided into two categories: Pollution Burden Indicators and Population Characteristics Indicators. These two categories average the percentiles of their underlying indicators.

The table below provides descriptions for the summarized **Pollution Burden Indicators** provided by CalEnviroScreen.

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<sup>4</sup> CalEnviroScreen information is available at <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen>.

Pollution Burden Indicators	
Indicator	Description
Air Quality: Ozone	Ozone is the main ingredient of smog. At ground level, ozone is formed when pollutants chemically react in the presence of sunlight. Ground-level ozone is formed from the reaction of oxygen-containing compounds with other air pollutants in the presence of sunlight. The main sources of ozone are trucks, cars, planes, trains, factories, farms, construction, and dry cleaners.
Air Quality: Air Quality: PM2.5	Particulate matter, or PM2.5, is very small particles in air that are 2.5 micrometers (about 1 ten-thousandth of an inch) or less in diameter. This is less than the thickness of a human hair. Particulate matter, one of six U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criteria air pollutants, is a mixture that can include organic chemicals, dust, soot and metals. These particles can come from cars and trucks, factories, wood burning, and other activities.
Diesel Particulate Matter	Exhaust from trucks, buses, trains, ships, and other equipment with diesel engines contains a mixture of gases and solid particles. These solid particles are known as diesel particulate matter (diesel PM). Diesel PM contains hundreds of different chemicals. Many of these are harmful to health. The highest levels of diesel PM are near ports, rail yards and freeways. People are exposed to diesel PM from breathing air containing diesel exhaust.
Pesticide Use	Pesticides are chemicals used to control insects, weeds, and plant or animal diseases. Over 1,000 pesticides are approved for use in California. They are applied to fields by air, by farm machinery, or by workers on the ground.
Toxic Releases from Facilities	Facilities that make or use toxic chemicals can release these chemicals into the air. Information is available on the amount of chemicals released for over 500 chemicals for large facilities in the United States. <sup>5</sup> People of color and low income Californians are more likely to live in areas with higher toxic chemical releases.
Traffic Impacts	California has the biggest network of freeways in the country. Its cities are known for heavy traffic. Traffic impacts are a measure of the number of vehicles on the roads in an area. Non-whites, Latinos, low income people, and people who speak a language other than English often live in or near areas with high traffic.
Drinking Water Contaminants	Most drinking water in California meets requirements for health and safety. However, the water we drink sometimes becomes contaminated with chemicals or bacteria. Both natural and human sources can contaminate drinking water. Natural sources can be found in rocks and soil or come from fires. Human sources include factories, sewage, and runoff from farms. Poor communities and people in rural areas are exposed to contaminants in their drinking water more often than people in other parts of the state.
Children’s Lead Risk from Housing	Lead is a toxic heavy metal that occurs naturally in the environment. However, the highest levels of lead present in the environment are a result of human activities. Historically, lead has been used in house paint, plumbing, and as a gasoline additive. While lead levels have declined over the past five

<sup>5</sup> Toxics Release Inventory resource, available at: <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>

Pollution Burden Indicators	
Indicator	Description
	decades in the United States, it still persists in older housing.
Cleanup Sites	Cleanup sites are places that are contaminated with harmful chemicals and need to be cleaned up by the property owners or government. People living near these sites are more likely to be exposed to chemicals from the sites than people living further away. Some studies have shown that neighborhoods with cleanup sites are generally poorer and have more people of color than other neighborhoods.
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. The land and groundwater may take many years to clean up. Man-made ponds containing water produced from oil and gas activities may also contain pollutants.
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	Waste created by different commercial or industrial activity contains chemicals that may be dangerous or harmful to health. Only certain regulated facilities are allowed to treat, store or dispose of this type of waste. These facilities are not the same as cleanup sites. Hazardous waste includes a range of different types of waste. It can include used automotive oil as well as highly toxic waste materials produced by factories and businesses. Studies have found that hazardous waste facilities are often located near poorer neighborhoods and communities of color.
Impaired Water Bodies	Streams, rivers and lakes are used for recreation and fishing and may provide water for drinking or agriculture. When water is contaminated by pollutants, the water bodies are considered impaired. These impairments are related to the amount of pollution that has occurred in or near the water body. Groups such as tribal or low income communities may depend on fish, aquatic plants and wildlife in nearby water bodies more than the general population.
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	Solid waste facilities are places where household garbage and other types of waste are collected, processed, or stored. These include landfills, transfer stations, and composting facilities. The waste can come from homes, industry or commercial sources. Most of these operations require permits. The communities near solid waste facilities are usually home to poor and minority residents.

The table below provides descriptions for the summarized **Population Characteristics Indicators**.

Population Characteristics Indicators	
Indicator	Description
Asthma	Asthma is a disease that affects the lungs and makes it hard to breathe. Symptoms include breathlessness, wheezing, coughing, and chest tightness. The causes of asthma are unknown but genetic and environmental factors can be involved. Five million Californians have been diagnosed with asthma at

Population Characteristics Indicators	
Indicator	Description
	some point in their lives. Asthma is the most common long-term disease in children. African Americans and people with low incomes visit hospitals for asthma more often than other groups.
Low Birth Weight Infants	Babies who weigh less than about five and a half pounds (2500 grams) at birth are considered low birth weight by the California Department of Public Health. Many factors, including poor nutrition, lack of prenatal care, stress and smoking by the mother, can increase the risk of having a low birth-weight baby.
Cardiovascular Disease	Cardiovascular disease refers to conditions that involve blocked or narrowed blood vessels that can lead to a heart attack or other heart problems. Heart attack is the most common cardiovascular event. Although many people survive and return to normal life after a heart attack, quality of life and long-term survival may be reduced, and these people are more prone to future cardiovascular events. There are many risk factors for developing cardiovascular disease including diet, lack of exercise, smoking and exposure to air pollution.
Educational Attainment	Educational attainment is the highest level of education a person has completed. People with more education usually earn more than people with less education. In California, 19 percent of adults over 25 do not have a high school degree, compared to 14 percent for the United States according to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA).
Linguistic Isolation	Linguistic isolation is a term used by the US Census Bureau for limited English speaking households. More than 40 percent of Californians speak a language other than English at home. About half of those do not speak English well or at all.
Poverty	The US Census Bureau determines the Federal Poverty Level each year. The poverty level is based on the size of the household and the ages 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.
Unemployment	The US Census Bureau counts people who are over 16 years old, out of work and able to work as unemployed. It does not include students, active duty military, retired people or people who have stopped looking for work.
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	Housing burdened low income households are households that are both low income and highly burdened by housings costs. California has very high housing costs relative to much of the country, which can make it hard for many to afford housing. Households with lower incomes may spend a larger proportion of their income on housing and may suffer from housing-induced poverty. Housing-Burden Low-Income Households make less than 80 percent of the Area Median Family Income and pay greater than 50 percent of their income to housing costs, whether they are renting or owning their homes.

## Key Points for Consideration

This detailed analysis of Menlo Park demonstrates the fine-grained differences between the 16 neighborhoods that make up the residential areas of the city. As a whole, the neighborhood profiles describe Menlo Park as a city with a pleasant natural environment, rich employment opportunities, and potential educational advancement that are not necessarily spread equitably throughout the community.

- The neighborhoods of Belle Haven and Bayfront are considered as Underserved Communities per an initial OPR-guided screening, meaning they are areas where residents experience more financial, environmental, and/or social stress relative to the State as a whole. Although Belle Haven and Bayfront are both identified as potential Underserved Communities, they have different histories and geographic contexts.
- An Environmental Justice Element, such as the one being developed by the City of Menlo Park, must include objectives and policies that:
  - Reduce the unique or compounded health risks in Underserved Communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.
  - Promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process. Underserved Prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of Underserved Communities.
- The issues in Underserved Communities at the highest risk percentiles are lead risk and traffic impacts.

These neighborhood profiles serve as a starting point for considering environmental justice in Menlo Park. They require outreach and a more contextual understanding of the data points in order to serve potential Underserved Communities and the city as a whole. The profiles are designed to set the stage for community conversations and set the foundation for plans for positive change in Menlo Park.

### Summary Table

The table below shows the overall Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores in CalEnviroScreen and their relative “rank” to Menlo Park as a whole.

A **higher score** indicates a “**worse**” situation. A **lower score** indicates a “**better**” situation.

A **higher rank** indicates a “**better**” situation. A **lower rank** indicates a “**worse**” situation.

The higher the score, the lower the rank (e.g., Belle Haven's Pollution Burden Score of 82 is lower-ranked at 9<sup>th</sup> than Central Menlo's Pollution Burden of 45 ranked higher at 4<sup>th</sup>).

Neighborhood Score Summary Table				
Neighborhood	Pollution Burden Score	Pollution Burden Rank	Population Characteristics Score	Population Characteristics Rank
<b>Citywide Average</b>	<b>56</b>	-	<b>19</b>	-
Allied Arts/Stanford Park (North)	52	6th (tied)	4	3rd (tied)
Allied Arts/Stanford Park (South)	35	2nd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
Bayfront (East)	83	10th	49	6th (tied)
Bayfront (West)	82	9th (tied)	49	6th (tied)
Belle Haven	82	9th (tied)	49	6th (tied)
Central Menlo	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Downtown	52	6th (tied)	4	3rd (tied)
El Camino Real Corridor	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Felton Gables	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Linfield Oaks	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Sharon Heights	47	5th (tied)	11	5th (tied)
South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	44	3rd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
Stanford Hills	47	5th (tied)	11	
Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	71	7th	2	2nd (tied)
The Willows (East)	73	8th	58	7th
The Willows (West)	44	3rd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
VA Medical District	44	3rd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
West Menlo (North)	35	2nd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
West Menlo (South)	26	1st	1	1st

*Note: Since census tract boundaries intersect with neighborhood boundaries, there are some neighborhoods that are divided East/West or North/South. Other neighborhoods share underlying data, in which case they are "tied" in the table. Due to these numerous "ties", the rankings are not 1 through 16: there are 10 total ranks for Pollution Burden and 9 for Social Characteristics.*



# Allied Arts/Stanford Park



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Allied Arts/Stanford Park neighborhood is made up primarily of detached single-family homes and 2-story apartments. Non-residential uses include commercial and retail along El Camino Real. Most of the neighborhood is not within a half-mile of a grocery store, although there are three grocery stores outside the western edge of the neighborhood. Two local parks, Nealon Park and Jack W. Lyle Park, are just outside the west side of Allied Arts/Stanford Park.

### **Transportation**

El Camino Real provides residents of Allied Arts/Stanford Park connectivity to the rest of the city and the Peninsula. Residents of the neighborhood also have access to Middle Avenue, a north-south arterial road that runs through the city, and University Drive running east-west.

### **Open Space**

There are no open space areas in the neighborhood, although San Francisquito Creek makes up its eastern boundary. Jack W. Lyle Park is located to the west, outside of the neighborhood. The open play field is available for public use upon reservation. Nealon Park is located northwest of the neighborhood and includes facilities for softball, tennis, and a dog park. Little House Activity Center, a senior citizen center, is also located at Nealon Park.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Allied Arts/Stanford Park is not located in a flood hazard area, but is adjacent to San Francisquito Creek and flood hazard areas in Palo Alto.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Allied Arts/Stanford Park has overall Pollution Burden scores of 52 (North of University Drive) and 35 (South of University Drive), ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (4 points less than the citywide average) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (21 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	North of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	South of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>-20.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	14	-1.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	<b>69</b>	+7.5	48	<b>-13.5</b>	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	25	-2.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	36	-24.3	20	<b>-40.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	59	-7.4	39	<b>-27.4</b>	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	54	-13.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	<b>72</b>	+8.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	<b>+27.3</b>	<b>73</b>	+10.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	50	<b>-25.6</b>	<b>78</b>	+2.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	8	-9.8	20	+2.2	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

Allied Arts/Stanford Park has overall Population Characteristics scores of 4 (North of University Drive) and 5 (South of University Drive), ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (15 points less than the citywide average) and 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	North of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	South of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-14.6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	<b>22</b>	-2.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	11	<b>-16.8</b>	<b>51</b>	+23.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	9	+0.3	8.7
Education	6	<b>-23.0</b>	0	<b>-29.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>22</b>	-9.5	0	<b>-31.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	19	-9.4	9	-19.4	28.4
Unemployment	6	<b>-19.7</b>	6	-19.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>32</b>	-9.2	12	<b>-29.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Bayfront



## Physical Description

### **Pattern of Development**

Of the developed areas within Bayfront, the neighborhood is comprised of high-density apartments, professional office, and industrial and research facilities. Other uses include a local park and some neighborhood-serving retail. Much of the area is either open space or the open water of San Francisco Bay.

### **Transportation**

US-101 and Bayfront Expressway (CA-84) provide connectivity between Bayfront and the rest of the city and the Peninsula and East Bay. Although there are several bus stops within the neighborhood, there is less public transit service than other areas in the city.

### **Open Space**

The Bedwell Bayfront Park includes bike trails, an open play field, and several walking paths within its 160 acres.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Bayfront is located entirely within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Bayfront has overall Pollution Burden scores of 82 (West of Willow/CA-84) and 83 (East of Willow/CA-84), ranking 9<sup>th</sup> (26 points more than the citywide average) and 10<sup>th</sup> (26 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>+26.2</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>+27.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	10	+0.8	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	16	+0.8	17	+1.8	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	88	+26.5	49	-12.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	32	+4.4	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>94</b>	<b>+33.7</b>	60	-0.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	69	+2.6	<b>87</b>	+20.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>96</b>	+28.6	<b>99</b>	<b>+31.6</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>89</b>	+25.3	82	+18.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	61	-1.7	<b>98</b>	<b>+35.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	83	+7.4	85	+9.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	0	<b>-37.8</b>	84	<b>+46.2</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	63	<b>+45.2</b>	21	+3.2	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

Bayfront has overall Population Characteristics scores of 49 both West and East of Willow/CA-84, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (30 points more than the citywide average).

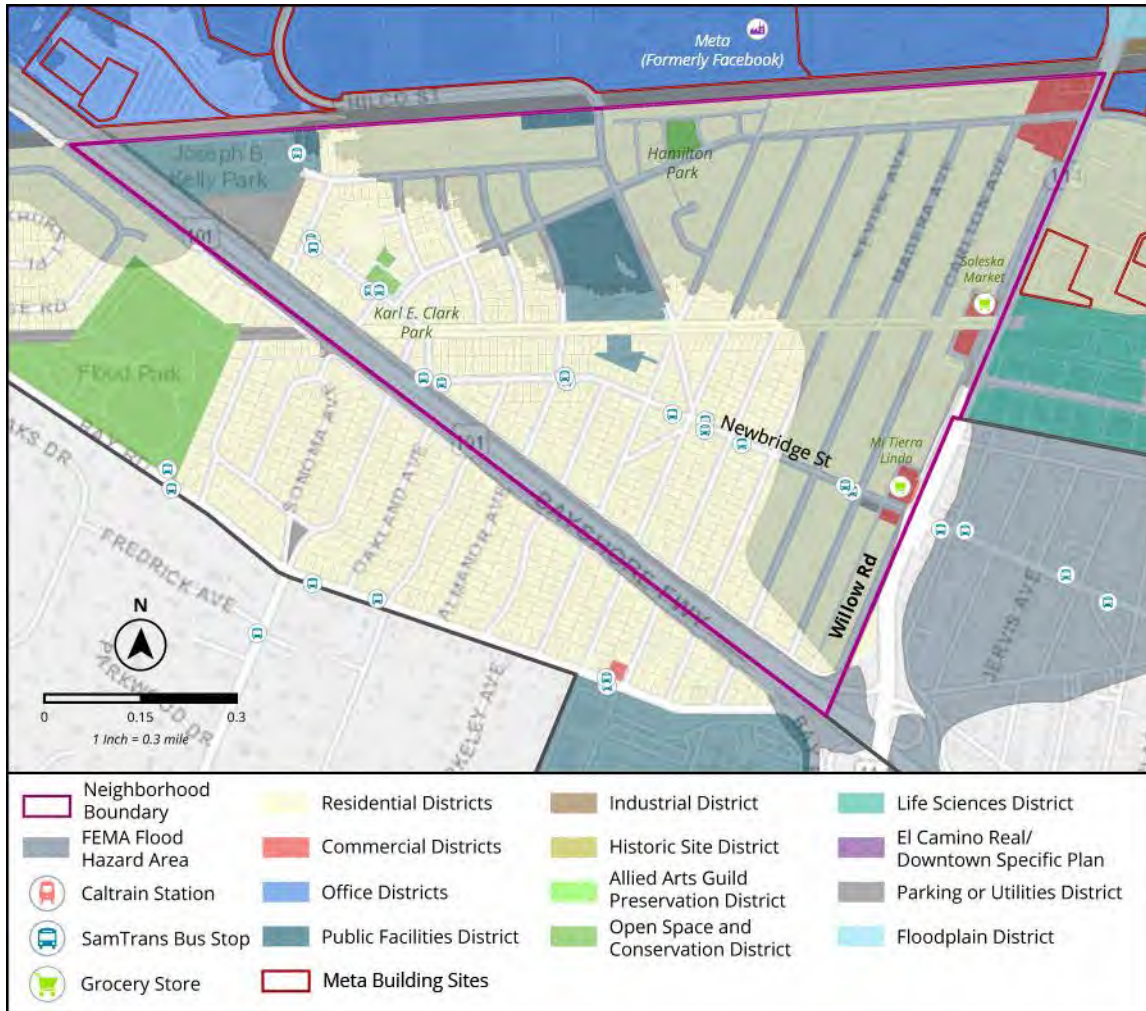
The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>+30.4</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>+30.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	24	-0.9	47	+22.1	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	45	+17.2	22	-5.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	10	+1.3	13	+4.3	8.7
Education	<b>82</b>	<b>+53.0</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>+57</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>86</b>	<b>+54.5</b>	38	+6.5	31.5
Poverty	59	+30.6	65	<b>+36.6</b>	28.4
Unemployment	46	+20.3	<b>74</b>	<b>+48.3</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>83</b>	<b>+41.8</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>+48.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data



# Belle Haven



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Belle Haven is comprised of mostly detached single-family homes and few areas of low-rise apartments. Non-residential uses in the neighborhood include a public library, a public school (elementary), a private school (kindergarten through middle), a fire station, and three local parks. Approximately 50 percent of the neighborhood is within a half-mile of one of two small grocery stores on the eastern side of the neighborhood.

### **Transportation**

US-101 and Bayfront surround Belle Haven, requiring residents to use only Willow Road and the pedestrian/bicycle Bay Trail to connect with the rest of the city. Newbridge Street is well-serviced by SamTrans, as well as few other minor roads. Most homes in the area are within a quarter-mile from a bus stop.

### **Open Space**

Kelly Park, Karl E. Clark Park, and Hamilton Park are available for public use. Tennis courts and the soccer field at Kelly Park are available for public use and may be reserved.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

More than 60 percent of Belle Haven is in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Belle Haven has an overall Pollution Burden score of 82, ranking 9<sup>th</sup> (26 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>+26.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	16	+0.8	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	88	+26.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	32	+4.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>94</b>	<b>+33.7</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	69	+2.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>96</b>	+28.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>89</b>	+25.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	61	-1.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	83	+7.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	0	<b>-37.8</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	63	<b>+45.2</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

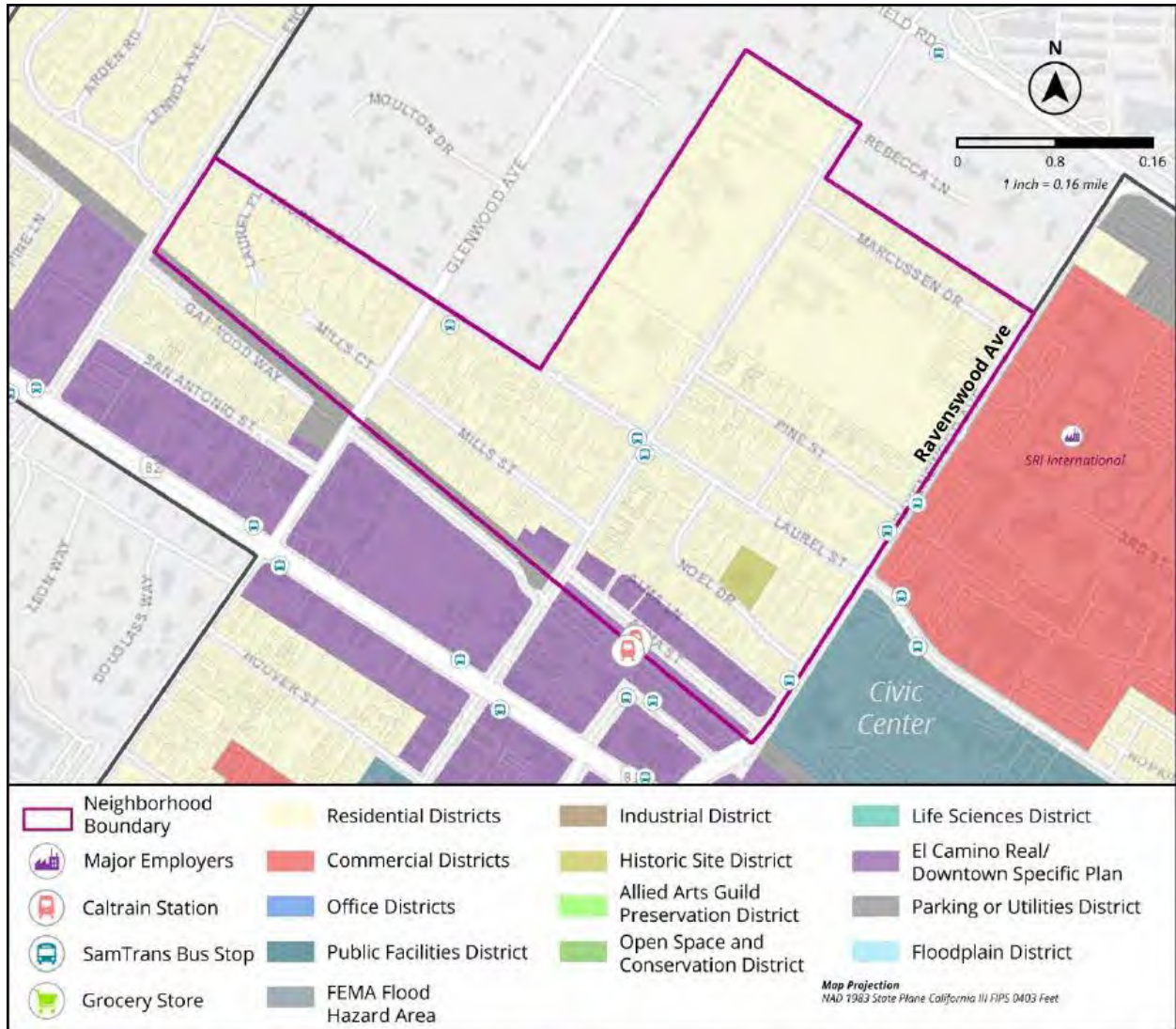
Belle Haven has an overall Population Characteristics score of 49, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (30 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>+30.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	24	-0.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	45	+17.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	10	+1.3	8.7
Education	<b>82</b>	<b>+53.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>86</b>	<b>+54.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	59	+30.6	28.4
Unemployment	46	+20.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>83</b>	<b>+41.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Central Menlo



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Central Menlo is primarily made of apartments, ranging from 2-3 stories. Non-residential uses include neighborhood-serving retail and offices along the southern edge of Central Menlo neighborhood. The building in the Historic Site District on Noel Drive is commonly referred to as the Bright Eagle and is currently used for offices.

### **Transportation**

Central Menlo is easily accessible to the El Camino Real, which provides connectivity to the rest of the city and throughout the Peninsula. Laurel Street is also well-served by public transit. Ravenswood Avenue, which borders Central Menlo's east side, provides residents with access to three bus stops. The Menlo Park Caltrain station, which provides transportation from San Francisco to the South Bay in Gilroy, is on the southeast corner of the neighborhood.

### **Open Space**

There are no local parks in Central Menlo, but Burgess Park is just outside the neighborhood's eastern boundary, connected to the Civic Center.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Central Menlo is not in a flood hazard zone.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Central Menlo has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

Central Menlo has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

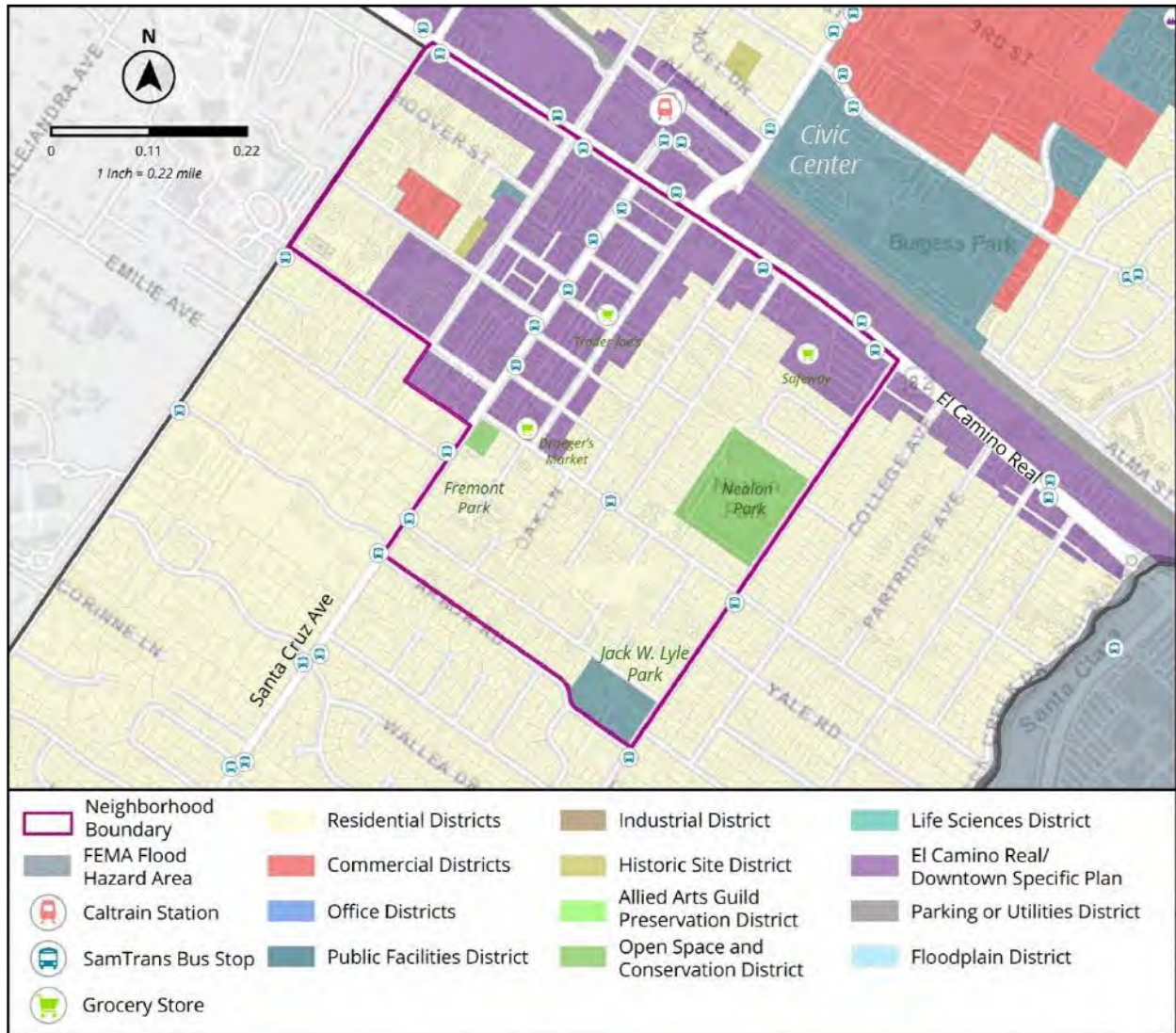
The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	<b>-15.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	-20.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data



# Downtown



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Downtown is made of mostly apartments and commercial/retail uses, as well as personal service as part of the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan Area. Other notable uses include three local parks, three grocery stores, and a fire station.

### **Transportation**

Santa Cruz Avenue and El Camino Real provide most residents with access to a bus stops within a quarter-mile. El Camino Real provides Downtown residents with connectivity to the north and south of the Peninsula as well. The city's Caltrain station borders the Downtown.

### **Open Space**

Nealon Park, Fremont Park and Jack W. Lyle Park are local parks available for public use. Softball fields, tennis courts, and picnic areas at Nealon Park are available for public use and may be reserved.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Downtown is not located in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Downtown has an overall Pollution Burden score of 52, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (4 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	<b>69</b>	+7.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	36	-24.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	59	-7.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	<b>+27.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	50	<b>-25.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	8	-9.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

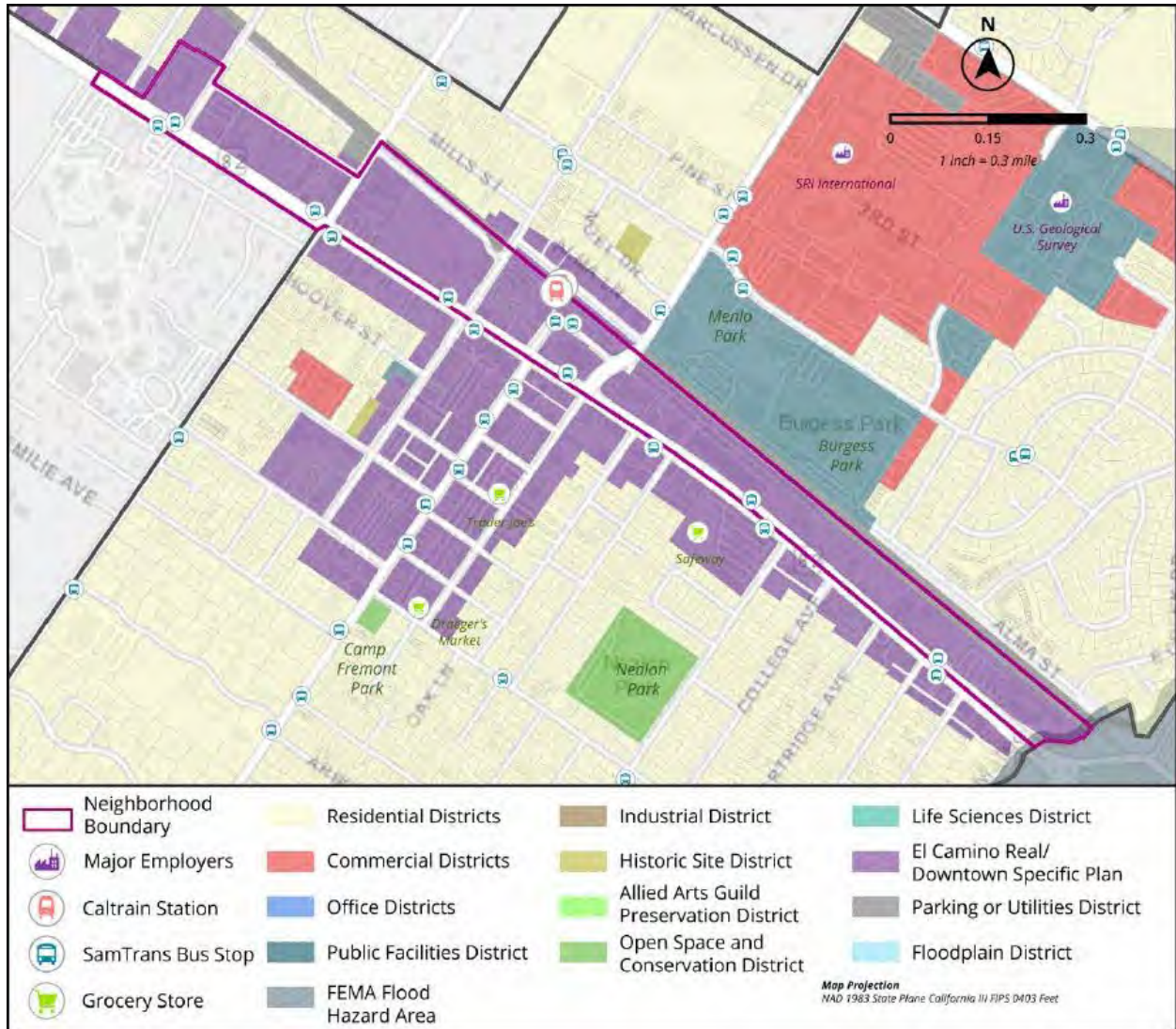
Downtown has an overall Population Characteristics score of 4, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (15 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-14.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	11	<b>-16.8</b>	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	8.7
Education	6	<b>-23.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>22</b>	-9.5	31.5
Poverty	<b>19</b>	-9.4	28.4
Unemployment	6	<b>-19.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	32	-9.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# El Camino Real Corridor



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The El Camino Real Corridor is made of larger retailers, neighborhood commercial, and professional office services under the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan.

### **Transportation**

El Camino Real Corridor has convenient access to other neighborhoods via El Camino Real, Ravenswood Avenue, and Santa Cruz Avenue, all with regular bus service. Additionally, Menlo Park's Caltrain station is located within this neighborhood.

### **Open Space**

There are no open space areas within the El Camino Real Corridor. However, Burgess Park, Camp Fremont Park, and Nealon Park are within a half-mile of most areas of the neighborhood.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

El Camino Real Corridor is not located within a flood hazard zone.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

El Camino Real Corridor has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

El Camino Real Corridor has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

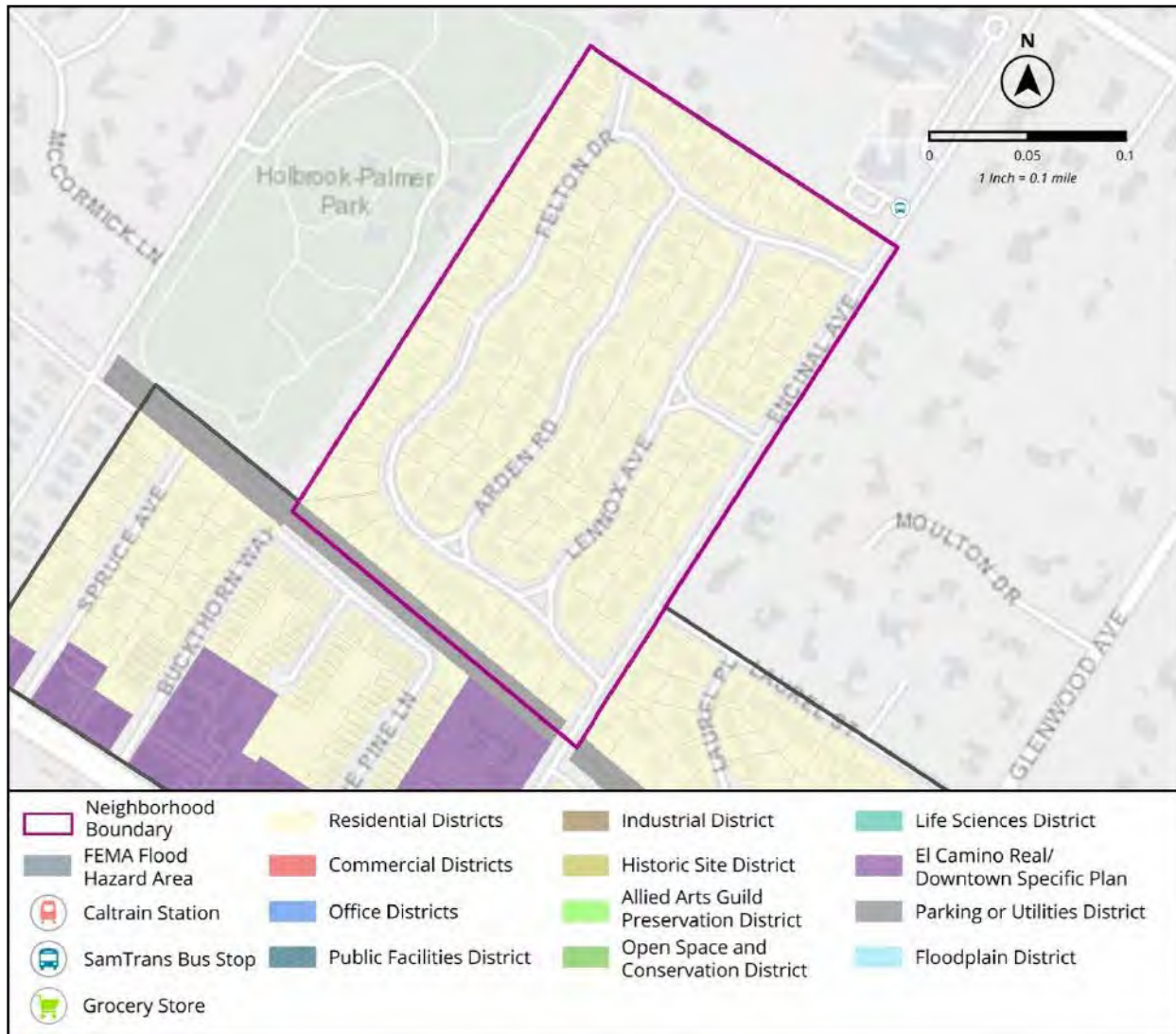
The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data



# Felton Gables



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Felton Gables neighborhood is made up entirely of detached single-family homes. There are no other uses within the neighborhood.

### **Transportation**

Connectivity is limited to the north-south Encinal Avenue on the east side of the neighborhood. There are no public transit bus stops within the neighborhood. There are no continuous sidewalks, nor are there bicycle lanes in this neighborhood. Caltrain tracks are located at the southern border of Felton Gables, cutting off connectivity to El Camino Real.

### **Open Space**

There are no open spaces or parks within the neighborhood. Holbrook-Palmer Park, in the neighboring town of Atherton, is adjacent to Felton Gables. For groups of 12 people or less, the park and its amenities are available for free. There are also three facilities available to rent.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Felton Gables is not located within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Felton Gables has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

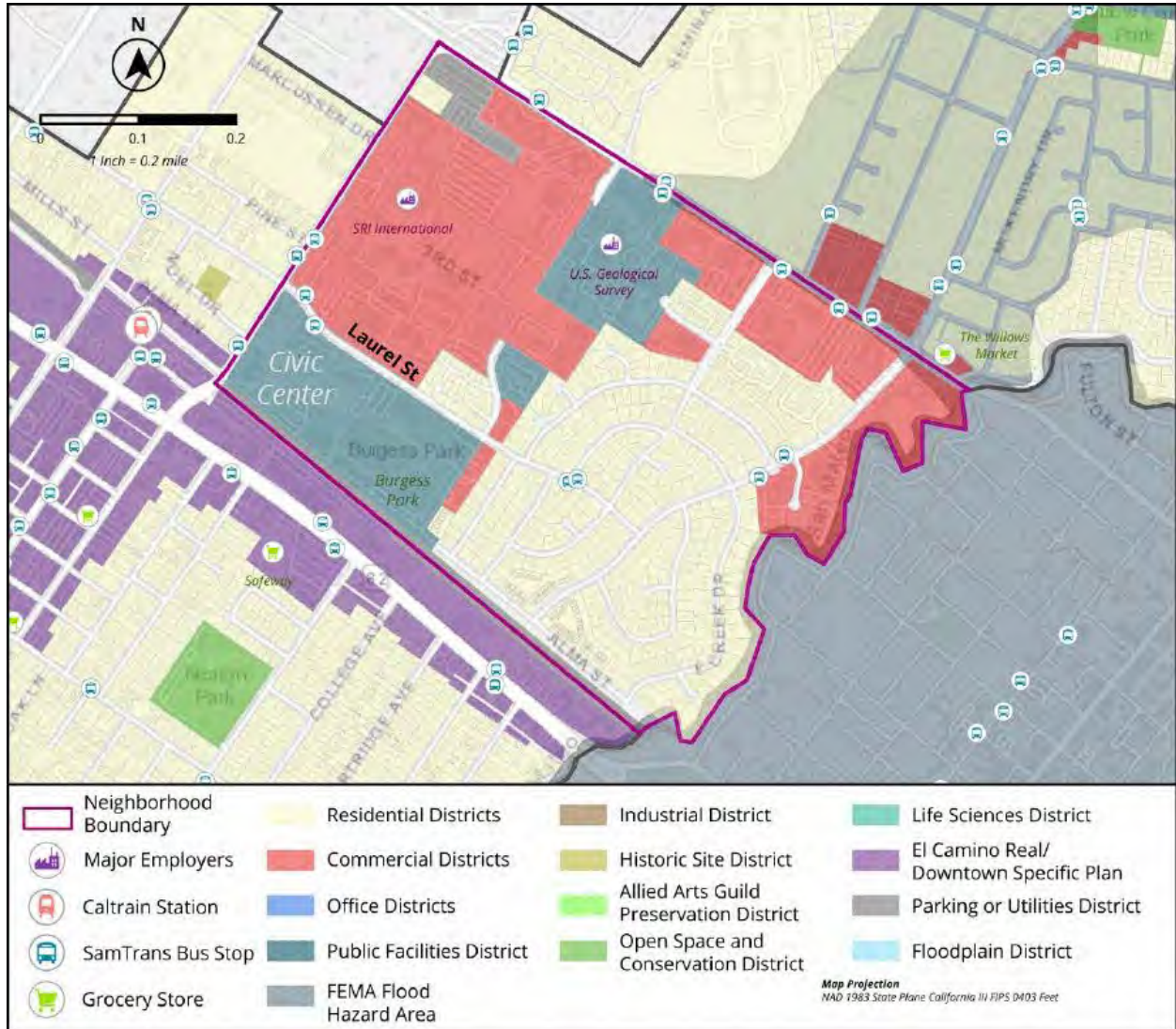
Felton Gables has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Linfield Oaks



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Linfield Oaks is comprised of a mix of residential, retail, and public facilities districts. Non-residential uses include the Stanford Research Institute (SRI International), City of Menlo Park government offices, and a local park. The neighborhood is within a half-mile of three grocery stores.

### **Transportation**

Alma Street limits the connectivity to and from Linfield Oaks, though residents can reach Bayfront Expressway (CA-84) after exiting the neighborhood from the west or southeast. Willow Road provides connectivity to the north end of the city. There is limited public transit service, entering Linfield Oaks from Laurel Street, and exiting through Willow Road.

### **Open Space**

Burgess Park is the only public open space in Linfield Oaks. The park has tennis courts, picnic areas, baseball fields and soccer fields available to reserve. Burgess Park is also adjacent to the Burgess Pool, Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center, Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Skate Park, and Arrillaga Family Gymnasium.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Linfield Oaks is not located in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Linfield Oaks has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

Linfield Oaks has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

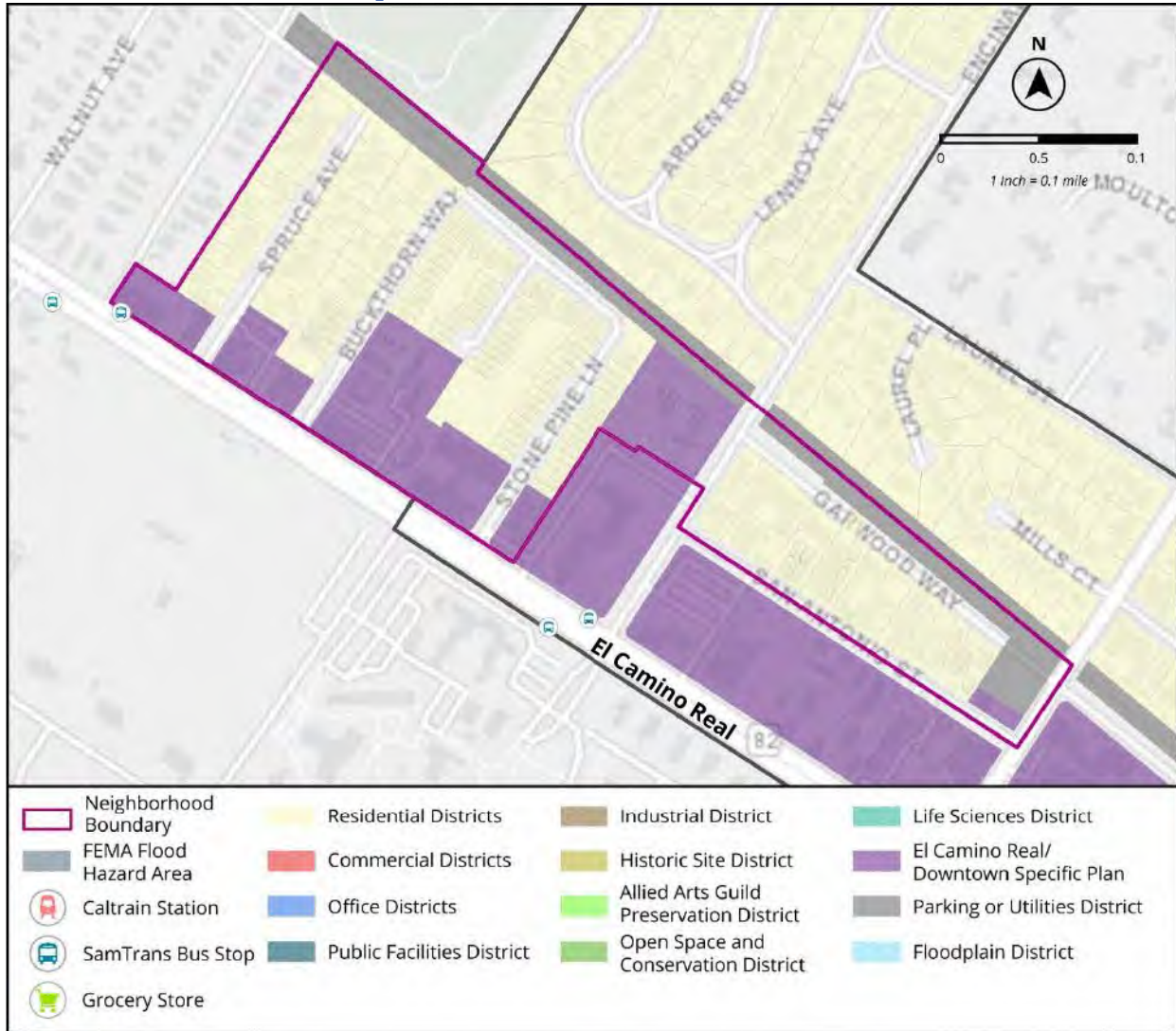
The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data



# Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio neighborhood is made up mostly of low-rise apartments and detached single-family homes. About 50 percent of the neighborhood is under the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan. There are no grocery stores within or near the census tract.

### **Transportation**

The neighborhood has access to El Camino Real, providing residents with connectivity to and from the neighborhood as well as bus service. Caltrain tracks limit connectivity at the northern border of the neighborhood.

### **Open Space**

There are no open spaces or parks within the neighborhood.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio is not located within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

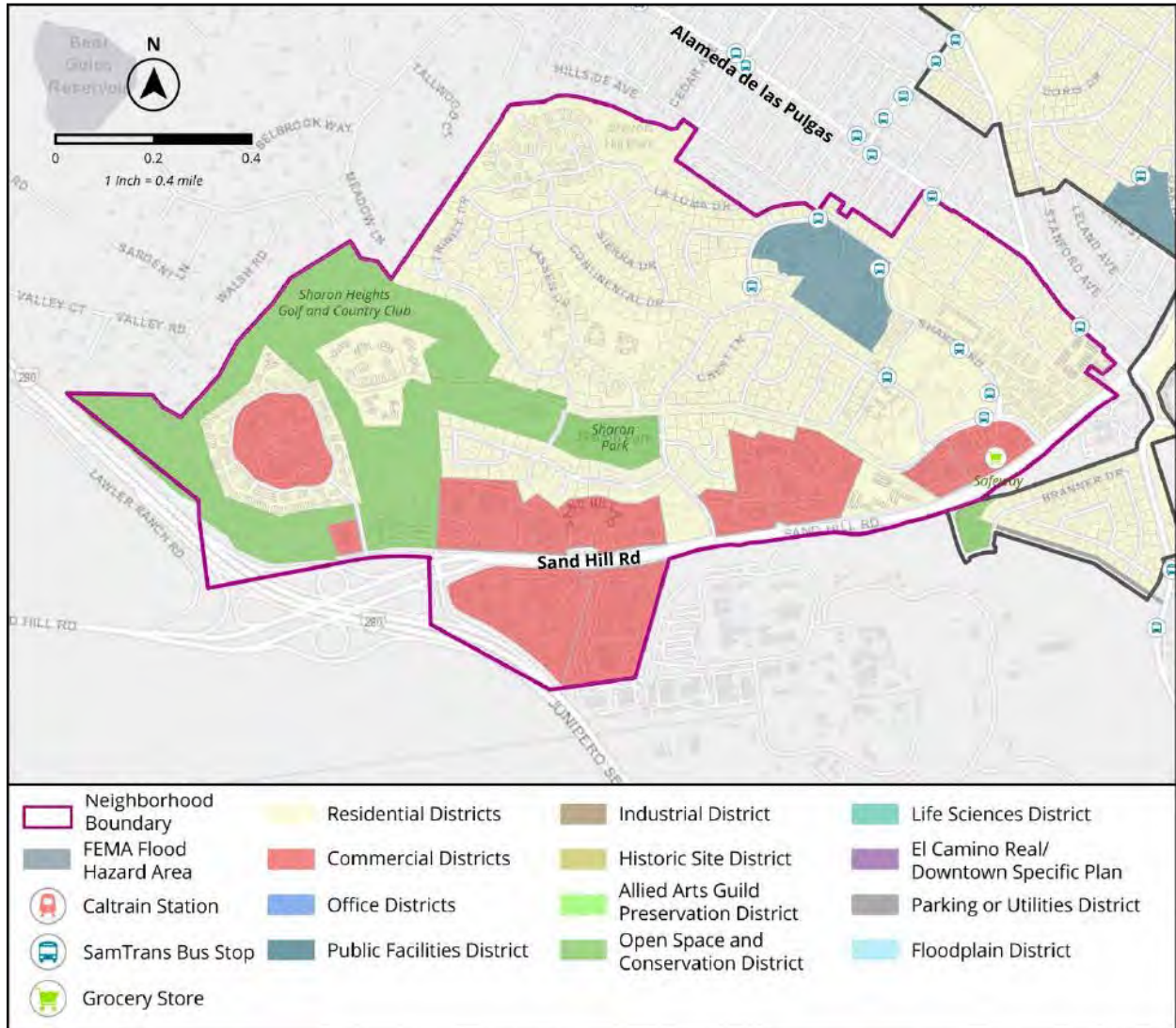
Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Sharon Heights



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Sharon Heights is made up of a mix of detached single-family homes, with medium-density apartments on the east and west sides of the neighborhood. Non-residential uses include offices, a country club, a local park, neighborhood commercial, a public middle school, a private elementary school (pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade), and a public school district office. Most households live further than a half-mile from the one grocery store within the neighborhood (Safeway at the Sharon Heights Shopping Center).

### **Transportation**

Sand Hill Road leads residents to and from the rest of the city. Alameda de las Pulgas provides connectivity to residents at the northwest of Sharon Heights. Public transportation in Sharon Heights is limited, with the only bus stops located to the west of Sharon Heights. Most streets do not have accessible sidewalks and there are no bicycle lanes.

### **Open Space**

There is one public open space, Sharon Park, and one private open space, the Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club. Picnic areas, playground, and the grass area are available for public usage. The Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club is a private country club, with golf, fine dining, and special events available for members and their guests.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Sharon Heights is not located within a flood hazard zone.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Sharon Heights has an overall Pollution Burden score of 47, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (9 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>-8.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	14	-1.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	41	-20.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	36	+32.4	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>78</b>	+17.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	74	+7.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	27	<b>-40.4</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	2	<b>-61.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>96</b>	<b>+33.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>78</b>	+2.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

Sharon Heights has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (8 points less than the citywide average).

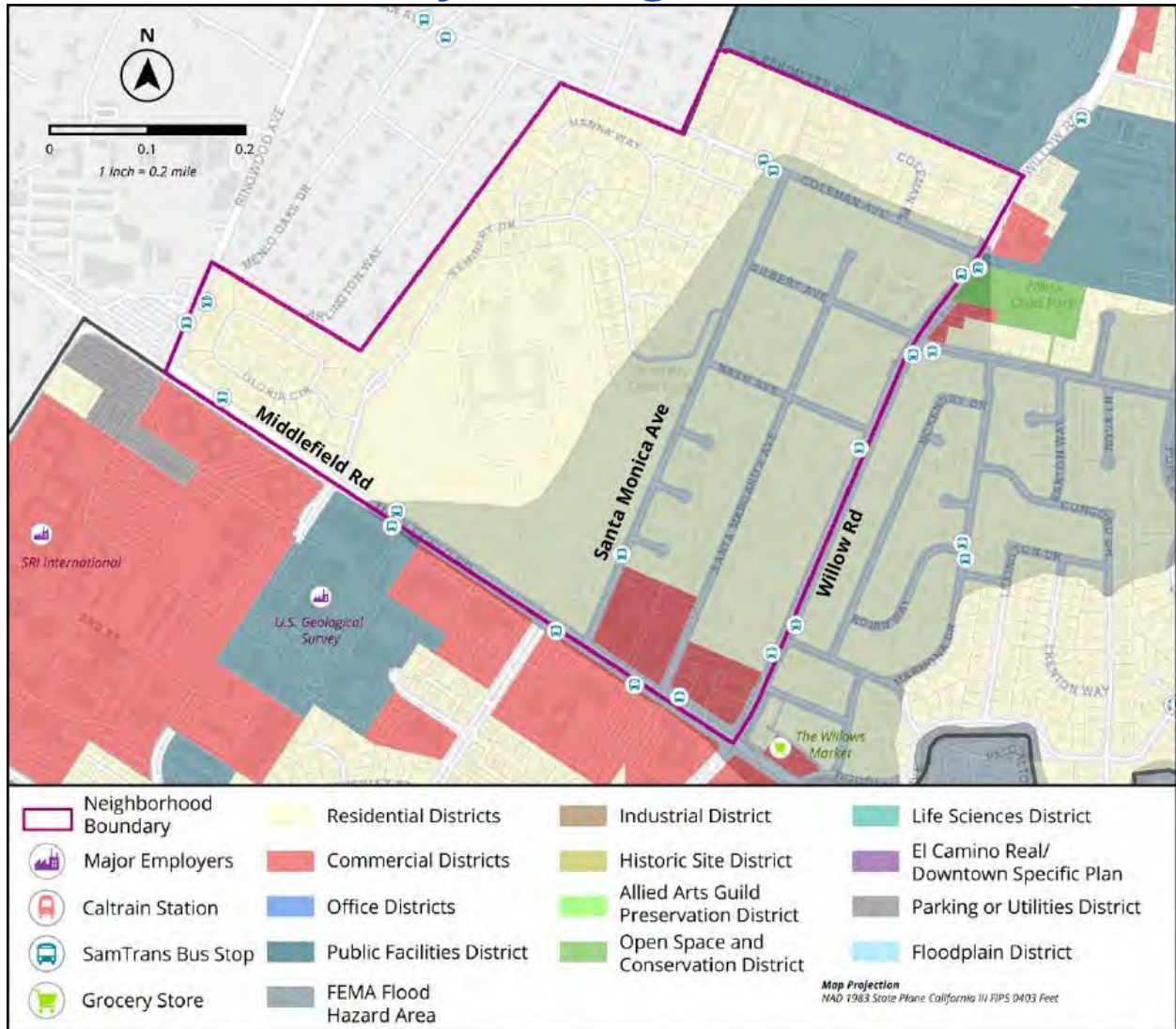
The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	11	-13.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	16	-11.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	3	-5.7	8.7
Education	4	<b>-25.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>58</b>	<b>+26.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	23	-5.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>69</b>	<b>+27.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data



# South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks is made of primarily detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include commercial offices at the south end of the census tract. There is one local park just outside of the census tract. There is one grocery store just outside the southeastern corner of the neighborhood that serves some residents.

### **Transportation**

Willow Road and Middlefield Road provide the neighborhood with connectivity to and from the rest of the city. Both roads are well serviced by public transit. Coleman Avenue and Santa Monica Avenue are serviced by low-frequency bus routes (typical wait times more than 15 minutes).

### **Open Space**

Willow Oaks Park is located just outside the northeastern corner of South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks. Willow Oaks Park has an off-leash dog park, public art exhibit, and tennis courts that are open to the public.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Approximately 40 percent of South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks is located in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks has an overall Pollution Burden score of 44, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (12 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-11.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	53	-8.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>77</b>	+16.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	68	+1.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>79</b>	+11.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	46	<b>-17.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	0	<b>-62.7</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>90</b>	+14.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	<b>-17.8</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks has an overall Population Characteristics score of 5, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average).

The four highest indicators (two tied indicators) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	8.7
Education	<b>22</b>	-7.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	<b>-22.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	20	<b>-8.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	<b>-39.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Stanford Hills



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Stanford Hills neighborhood is made up almost entirely of detached single-family homes. There is one open space area, the Stanford Hills Park. All homes in the Stanford Hills neighborhood are within a half-mile from the one grocery store just north of the neighborhood (Safeway at Sharon Heights Shopping Center).

### **Transportation**

Connectivity is limited to Branner Drive on the west side of the neighborhood which leads to Sand Hill Road. There are no public transit bus stops within the census tract. All streets have accessible sidewalks but there are no bicycle lanes.

### **Open Space**

The Stanford Hills Park is available for public use. Amenities at the park include a grass area, walking paths, and benches.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Stanford Hills is not located within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Stanford Hills has an overall Pollution Burden score of 47, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (9 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>-8.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	14	-1.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	41	-20.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	36	+32.4	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>78</b>	+17.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	74	+7.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	27	<b>-40.4</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	2	<b>-61.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>96</b>	<b>+33.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>78</b>	+2.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

Stanford Hills has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (8 points less than the citywide average).

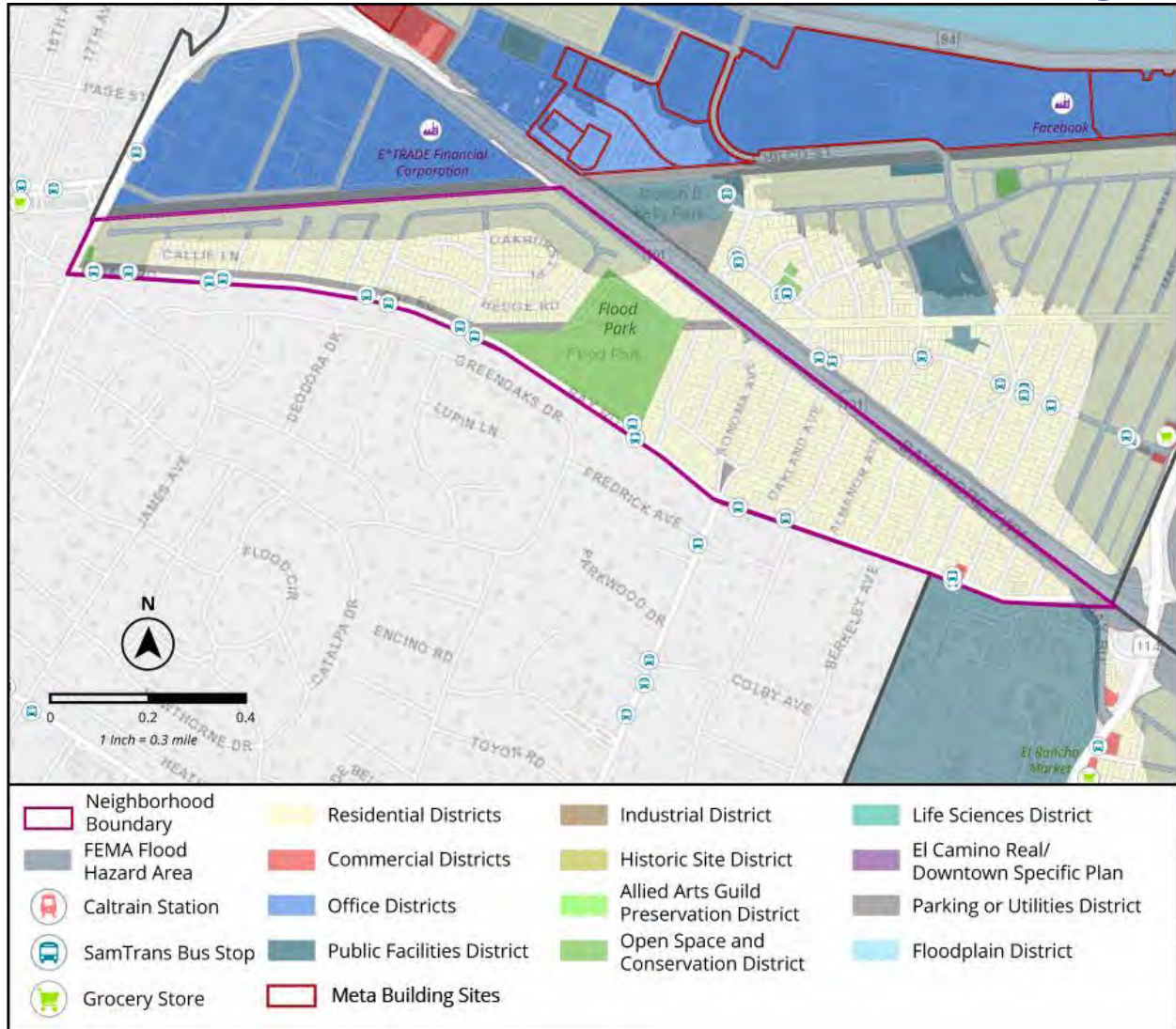
The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	11	-13.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	16	-11.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	3	-5.7	8.7
Education	4	<b>-25.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>58</b>	<b>+26.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	23	-5.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>69</b>	<b>+27.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data



# Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

**Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle** is made up almost entirely of detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include a local park and a single neighborhood commercial parcel adjacent to the Bright Angel Montessori Academy. Most homes in the neighborhood do not have any proximity to a grocery store within Menlo Park, though there are grocery stores nearby in other jurisdictions.

### **Transportation**

U.S. Highway 101 closes off the north side of Suburban Park and this results in residents from Suburban Park, Lorelei Manor, and Flood Triangle exiting only from Bay Road, the southern boundary of the neighborhood. SamTrans operates three school-oriented bus routes along Bay Road that may also be used by members of the general public. School-oriented bus routes generally have limited hours of operation timed with school bell schedules and pause operations on weekends and during the summer months.

### **Open Space**

Flood Park is a part of the San Mateo County Parks Foundation. Flood Park facilities such as the softball field, tennis courts and volleyball courts are available for public use. Group picnic areas and the baseball field may be reserved.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Approximately 15 percent of Suburban Park is in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle has an overall Pollution Burden score of 71, ranking 7<sup>th</sup> (15 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>+15.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	13	-2.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	<b>76</b>	+14.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	31	+3.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>95</b>	<b>+34.7</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	60	-6.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	70	+2.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	65	+1.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	56	-6.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>91</b>	+15.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	0	<b>-37.8</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	66	<b>+48.2</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

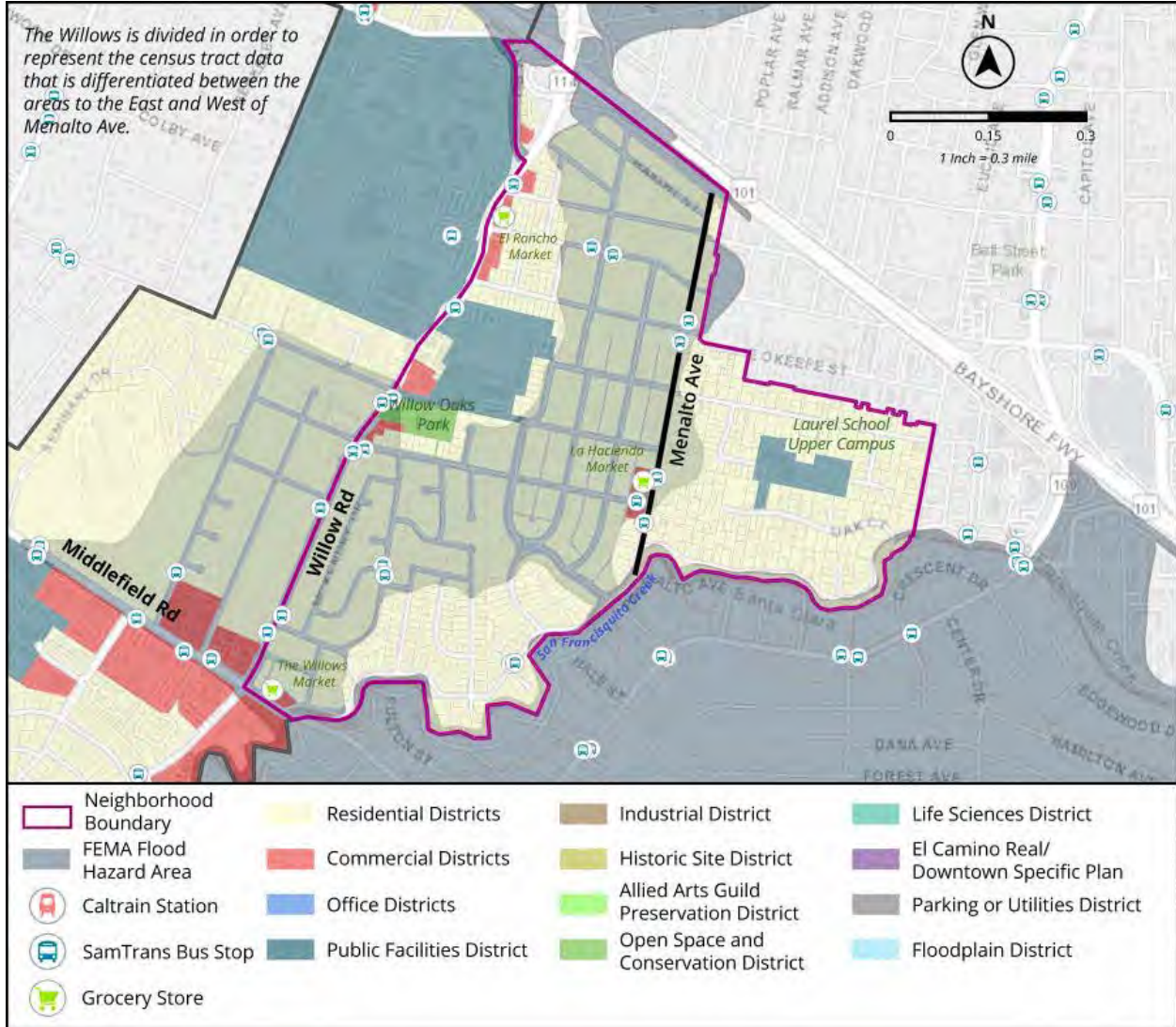
Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>22</b>	-2.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>19</b>	-8.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	6	<b>-25.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	4	-24.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>16</b>	-9.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	13	<b>-28.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# The Willows



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Willows neighborhood is made up primarily of detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include a public school (elementary), a private school (pre-kindergarten through high school), and a few gas stations and strip commercial buildings spaced out along Willow Road, Middlefield Road, and Menalto Avenue. Most of the neighborhood is within a half-mile of one of three grocery stores.

### **Transportation**

US-101 and San Francisquito Creek are barriers to connectivity in/out of the neighborhood. Two low frequency bus routes (typical wait times more than 15 minutes) run along Willow Road and Menalto Road. Most homes in the neighborhood are further than a quarter-mile from a bus stop. Most streets have Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant sidewalks and are bicycle friendly, with a Class II (dedicated traffic lane) bikeway along Willow Road.

### **Open Space**

Willow Oaks Park is the only public open space in the neighborhood. Laurel School Upper Campus' sports fields can be reserved for public use.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

About 75 percent of the neighborhood west of Menalto Avenue and 15 percent of the neighborhood east of Menalto Avenue is in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

The Willows has overall Pollution Burden scores of 44 (West of Menalto Avenue) and 73 (East of Menalto Avenue), ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (12 points less than the citywide average) and 8<sup>th</sup> (17 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators (four for East of Menalto Avenue, due to a tie) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-11.8</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>+17.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	10	+0.8	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	18	+2.8	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	53	-8.5	<b>85</b>	+23.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27	-0.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>77</b>	<b>+16.7</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>+24.7</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	68	+1.6	<b>86</b>	+19.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>79</b>	+11.6	84	+16.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	46	<b>-17.7</b>	66	+2.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	0	<b>-62.7</b>	10	<b>-52.7</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>90</b>	+14.4	73	-2.6	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	<b>90</b>	<b>+52.2</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

The Willows has overall Population Characteristics scores of 5 (West of Menalto Avenue) and 58 (East of Menalto Avenue), ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average) and 7<sup>th</sup> (39 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

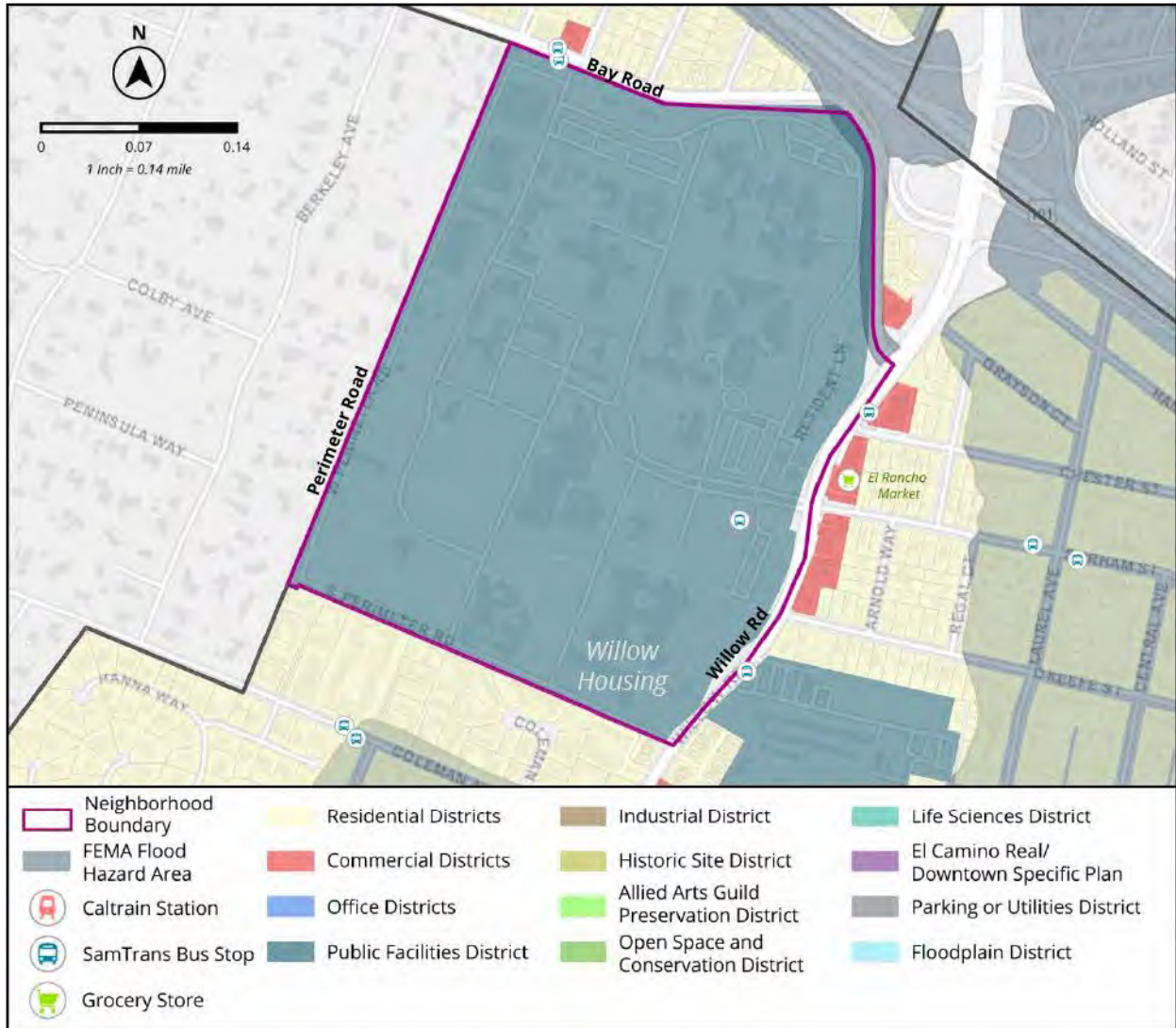
The three highest indicators (four for West of Menalto Avenue, due to a tie) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>+39.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	48	+23.1	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	69	+41.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	14	+5.3	8.7
Education	<b>22</b>	-7.0	<b>85</b>	<b>+56.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	<b>-22.5</b>	75	<b>+43.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	20	<b>-8.4</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>+50.6</b>	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	11	-14.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	<b>-39.2</b>	<b>80</b>	+38.8	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data



# VA Medical District



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical District consists strictly of the Menlo Park VA Medical Center, made up of medical buildings, open spaces, and housing, ranging from 1-2 stories tall. Willow Housing, located at the southern edge of the VA Medical District, is a 60-unit affordable housing community designed for veterans who are homeless or at risk of imminent homelessness.

### **Transportation**

Willow Road, Bay Road, Perimeter Road provide the VA Medical District with access to and from the neighborhood. There are three bus stops within the neighborhood, all located on Willow Road at the eastern side.

### **Open Space**

There are no public open space areas within the neighborhood, however there is open space within the VA Medical Center.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

The northeastern border of VA Medical District is located within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

VA Medical District has an overall Pollution Burden score of 44, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (12 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-11.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	53	-8.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>77</b>	+16.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	68	+1.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>79</b>	+11.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	46	<b>-17.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	0	<b>-62.7</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>90</b>	+14.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	<b>-17.8</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

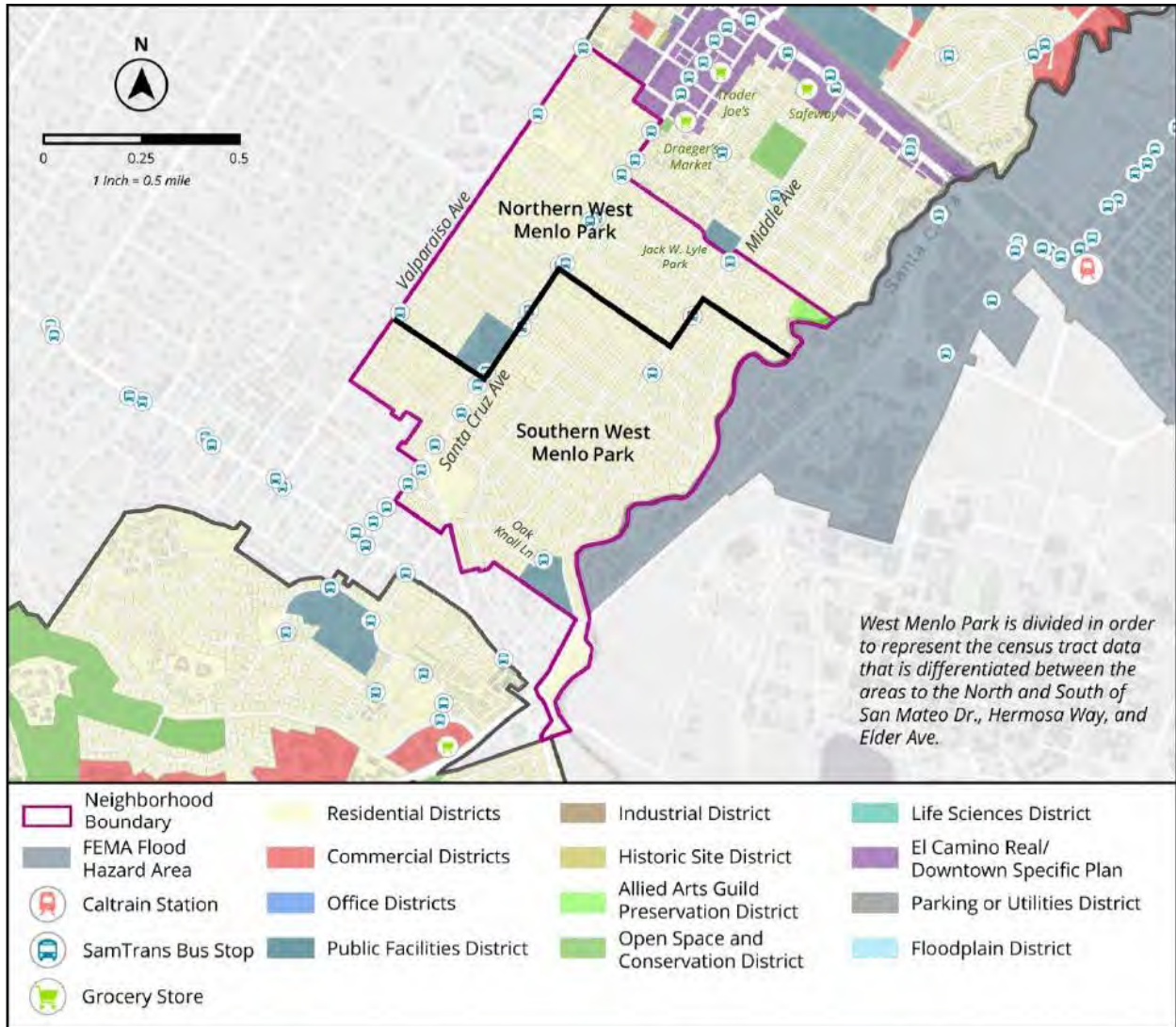
VA Medical District has an overall Population Characteristics score of 5, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average).

The four highest indicators (two tied indicators) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	8.7
Education	<b>22</b>	<b>-7.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	<b>-22.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	20	-8.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	<b>-39.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# West Menlo



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

West Menlo is made up primarily of detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include one public elementary school, one public middle school, one private elementary (pre-K-8), a church, a cemetery and an art gallery. About 20 percent of the neighborhood is within a half-mile of one of the four grocery stores located outside of the neighborhood, three north of it and one to the south.

### **Transportation**

Valparaiso Avenue and Santa Cruz Avenue are two arterial roads that provide connectivity to and from West Menlo. Santa Cruz Avenue is well-serviced by public transit, with bus stops located at each block. Valparaiso Avenue and Middle Avenue have limited service, with three bus stops each. Oak Knoll Lane has one bus stop.

### **Open Space**

There are no public open spaces in West Menlo. Jack W. Lyle Park is located outside of the northwest end of the neighborhood.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

The western border of West Menlo borders flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

West Menlo has overall Pollution Burden scores of 35 (North) and 26 (South), ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (21 points less than the citywide average) and 1<sup>st</sup> (30 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	Northern West Menlo	Difference from Citywide Average	Southern West Menlo Park	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>-20.8</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>-29.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	14	-1.2	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	48	<b>-13.5</b>	<b>47</b>	-14.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	25	-2.6	25	-2.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	20	<b>-40.3</b>	26	<b>-34.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	39	<b>-27.4</b>	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	54	-13.4	47	<b>-20.4</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>72</b>	+8.3	23	<b>-40.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>73</b>	+10.3	53	-9.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>78</b>	+2.4	<b>87</b>	+11.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	20	+2.2	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

West Menlo has overall Population Characteristics scores of 5 (North) and 1 (South), ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average) and 1<sup>st</sup> (18 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	Northern West Menlo	Difference from Citywide Average	Southern West Menlo	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-17.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>22</b>	-2.9	<b>20</b>	-4.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>51</b>	+23.2	3	-24.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	<b>8</b>	-0.7	8.7
Education	0	<b>-29.0</b>	1	<b>-28.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	0	<b>-31.5</b>	5	<b>-26.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	9	-19.4	2	-26.4	28.4
Unemployment	6	-19.7	<b>39</b>	+13.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>12</b>	<b>-29.2</b>	2	<b>-39.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data



## Appendix: CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Scores

The following page contains the CalEnviroScreen scores organized in a table. Each column of the table details the percentile at which any listed indicator affects a neighborhood within Menlo Park. An indicator is a measure of a condition, such as Air Quality or proximity to Groundwater Threats. Other indicators provide information about demographics, such as the proportion of households in a census tract who do not speak English well or at all. These indicators can tell us which communities are considered more vulnerable to environmental hazards.

CalEnviroScreen is a web-based mapping tool created by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. CalEnviroScreen uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce a score for every census tract in the state. Each census tract is evaluated by 21 indicators and are given 21 scores based on the data. By averaging the indicator scores, CalEnviroScreen produces overall CalEnviroScreen scores (overall pollution burden; overall population characteristics) for comparisons between census tracts.

The "Overall Percentile EnviroScreen" for each census tract in Menlo Park is below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, even if Pollution Burden, Population Characteristics, or individual indicators are above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile. Because this "Overall Percentile" score is below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, it does not trigger a Underserved Community designation for any census tract in the city. However, the Underserved Communities – Tracts 6117 (West Bayfront, Belle Haven) and 6118 (East Bayfront) – have Overall Pollution Burden scores over 75 as well as low-income designations from HCD.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILES ANALYSIS

CENSUS TRACT AND NEIGHBORHOODS												
INDICATOR	6118 East Bayfront	6117 West Bayfront & Belle Haven	6121 The Willows East of Menalto Ave	6139 The Willows West of Menalto Ave; VA Medical District; & South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	6130 Sharon Heights & Stanford Hills	6126 Downtown & Allied Arts/Stanford Park North of University Ave	6116 Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	6127 Allied Arts/Stanford Park South of University Ave & Northern West Menlo	6125 Felton Gables; Central Menlo; Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio; Linfield Oaks; & El Camino Real Corridor	6128 Southern West Menlo	CITYWIDE AVERAGES	
	<b>Overall Percentile CalEnviroScreen</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>2</b>
POLLUTION BURDEN	<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b> <i>(Combined Score from all Pollution Indicators)</i>	<b>83</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>26</b>	55.8
	Air Quality: Ozone	10	9	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9.2
	Air Quality: PM2.5	17	16	18	15	14	15	13	14	15	15	15.2
	Diesel Particulate Matter	49	88	85	53	41	69	76	48	59	47	61.5
	Pesticide Use	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	3.6
	Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	32	27	28	28	26	31	25	26	25	27.6
	Traffic Impacts	60	94	85	77	78	36	95	20	32	26	60.3
	Drinking Water Contaminants	87	69	86	68	74	59	60	39	61	61	66.4
	Children's Lead Risk from Housing	99	96	84	79	27	59	70	54	59	47	67.4
	Cleanup Sites	82	89	66	46	2	96	65	72	96	23	63.7
	Groundwater Threats	98	61	10	0	96	90	56	73	90	53	62.7
	Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	85	83	73	90	78	50	91	78	41	87	75.6
	Impaired Water Bodies	84	0	90	34	34	34	0	34	34	34	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	21	63	0	0	0	8	66	20	0	0	17.8	
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b> <i>(Combined Score from all Population Characteristics Indicators)</i>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	18.6
	Asthma	47	24	48	21	11	21	22	22	13	20	24.9
	Low Birth Weight Infants	22	45	69	21	16	11	19	51	21	3	27.8
	Cardiovascular Disease	13	10	14	8	3	9	9	9	4	8	8.7
	Educational Attainment	86	82	85	22	4	6	2	0	2	1	29
	Linguistic Isolation	38	86	75	9	58	22	6	0	16	5	31.5
	Poverty	65	59	79	20	23	19	4	9	4	2	28.4
	Unemployment	74	46	11	27	27	6	16	6	5	39	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	90	83	80	2	69	32	13	12	29	2	41.2	

## Additional Methodology

The State Office of Planning and Research (OPR) recommends a "screening analysis" that incorporates community-specific data and issues unique to their communities, which might or might not be reflected in the statewide data sets. This screening analysis gives the City of Menlo Park (City) the ability to treat the three census tracts identified as potential Underserved Communities differently, as appropriate to the issues present in these communities. In Menlo Park, there are three census tracts which meet at least one of the three primary criteria noted by OPR and could be considered as containing Underserved Communities:

- Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront)
- Tract 6118 (Bayfront)
- Tract 6121 (The Willows)

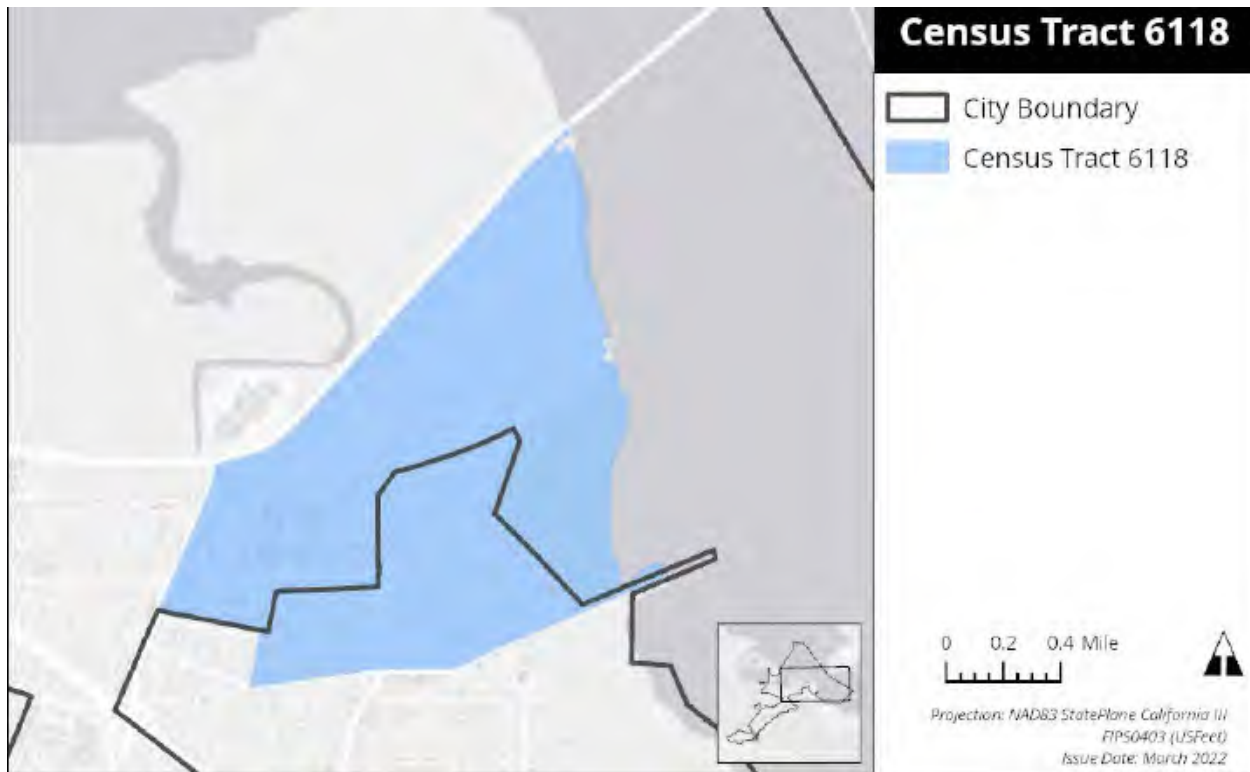
Census Tract 6117 has a clear history of different treatment and has a clear geographic distinction from the rest of Menlo Park. Census Tract 6118 shares this distinction, but Census Tract 6121 does not. Therefore, Census Tract 6118, containing Bayfront as well as portions of neighboring East Palo Alto, is identified as a Underserved Community in Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element. Census Tract 6121, which contains The Willows as well as East Palo Alto, is not identified as such.

The flexibility of OPR's recommended approach allows two neighboring jurisdictions to use different approaches for the same census tract. Treating Census Tract 6118 as a Underserved Community, but not Census Tract 6121, does not conflict with or limit any future decisions by East Palo Alto to identify their portion of Census Tracts 6118 and/or 6121 as Underserved Communities if they deem it appropriate.

### *Census Tract 6118 – Bayfront*

Bayfront is partially composed of Census Tract 6118, which spans Menlo Park and East Palo Alto (see Figure EJ-B-1). There are currently no residential units in the Menlo Park portion of the tract. The 950 residential units currently in this census tract are all located in the East Palo Alto portion of the tract.

**Figure EJ-B-1: Census Tract 6118 Map**



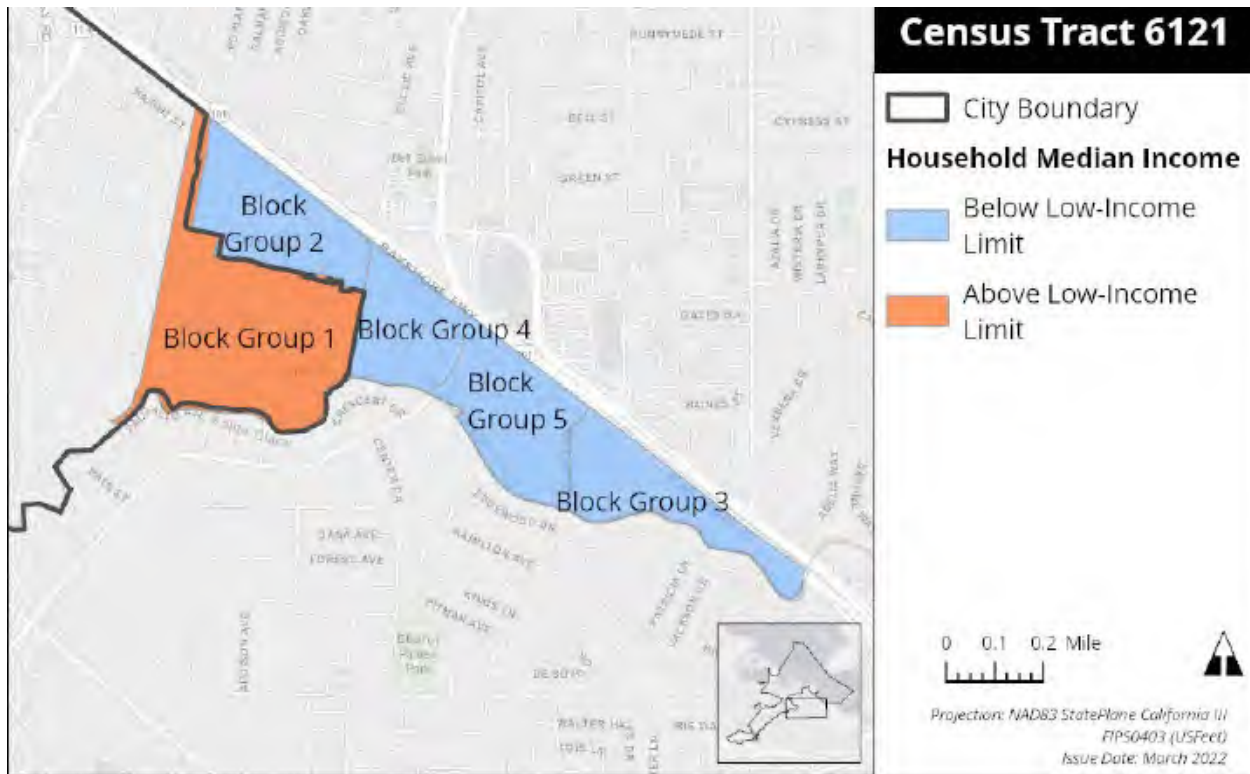
Even though there are currently no residential units in the Menlo Park portion of Census Tract 6118, the neighborhood qualifies as a Underserved Community because the tract-wide median income is below state income limits (see Figure EJ-B-2). The Environmental Justice Element will treat the area as a Underserved Community because it shares development history, current zoning, transportation, and school districts with the western portion of Bayfront.

#### *Census Tract 6121 – The Willows*

The Willows, one of Menlo Park's 16 neighborhoods, includes Census Tract 6121. This tract could be designated as an Environmental Justice Underserved Community because its median household incomes are below the threshold designated as low income (\$146,350 for a four-person household in 2021) by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Census Tract's median household income is \$57,627.

This Census Tract consists of five block groups. Only Block Group 1 is within Menlo Park. Block Groups 2-5 are located in East Palo Alto. The median household income of Block Group 1 in Menlo Park is well over the low-income threshold at \$174,844 and does not meet the Underserved Communities designation. Block Groups 2-5 in East Palo Alto are far under the low-income threshold and could qualify as Underserved Communities (see Figure EJ-A-3 and Table EJ-A-1).

**Figure EJ-B-2: Block Groups in Census Tract 6121**



**Table EJ-B-1: Median Household Income by Block Group in Census Tract 6121**

Block Group	Median Household Income
<i>In Menlo Park</i>	
Block Group 1	\$174,7844
<i>In East Palo Alto</i>	
Block Group 2	\$44,319
Block Group 3	\$67,097
Block Group 4	\$43,818
Block Group 5	\$47,396
<b>Census Tract 6121</b>	<b>\$57,627</b>
<b>HCD Low-Income Designation for San Mateo County<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$146,350</b>

All data from US Census American Communities Survey, 2015-2019 5-year estimates.

Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element does not identify Census Tract 6121 as a potential Underserved Community. While there may be environmental issues in the tract's portion of neighboring East Palo Alto, those issues do not apply to the high-income neighborhood of The Willows.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.smcgov.org/media/30286/download?inline=>

# Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

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**MAY 27, 2022**

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**PREPARED BY**  
**Climate Resilient Communities**



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***“¡Tienes una voz!” (You have a voice!) – Victoria Robledo, Belle Haven Community Leader and Focus Group Facilitator***

# Introduction

This report summarizes the processes and findings of three focus groups conducted by Climate Resilient Communities' (CRC) its partnering organizations: El Comite de Vecinos, Belle Haven Community Development Fund, and a group of three highly motivated and connected community leaders. These meetings were convened to solicit public input and raise awareness about the updates to the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements of the City of Menlo Park's General Plan. Belle Haven is a neighborhood in Menlo Park, lying east of Highway 101 and closest to the San Francisco Bay. Belle Haven is a historically redlined community, meaning residents who attempted to buy homes elsewhere were forbidden and forced to buy in Belle Haven, a practice that systematically prevented residents from building intergenerational wealth on the basis of their race.



In Belle Haven, as throughout the world, it will be the people who lack the monetary resources to respond and adapt who will be most affected by the impacts of climate change. Low-income communities and communities of color are on the frontlines of sea-level rise, extreme heat events, and are suffering more severe consequences from wildfire smoke exposure. These facts make the urgency and necessity of robust engagement with frontline communities a necessity for equitable and just climate adaptation. To that end, CRC has partnered with the City of Menlo Park to help elevate community voices and ensure equitable representation in the General Plan update process. The sustained participation and leadership of residents is the only pathway to fixing the issues currently contributing to the stark inequality between East and West Menlo Park. The three focus groups are just one of several projects to receive feedback and input from the Belle Haven community. These meetings took place on May 9th, May 13th, and May 20th of 2022. The sections that follow contain a summary of the methods and results of the three focus groups. The appendix includes original copies of reports from our three partnering groups.



# Executive Summary

This report summarizes the findings of three (3) focus groups conducted by the Belle Haven Community Development Fund (BHCDF), El Comite de Vecinos, and a group of three community leaders: Victoria Robledo, Karen Williams, and Telesia Alusa. Climate Resilient Communities trained each organization, provided logistical and financial support, and participated in outreach and facilitation wherever and whenever required. In total, **124 Belle Haven Residents** attended one of the focus groups to have their voices heard and contribute to a process they hope will bring about substantial change and investment in their community. The focus groups targeted specific sections of the community: the first was for parents and children, the second for Spanish speakers, and the third for a general audience. Each focus group was held at the Belle Haven Branch Library at 413 Ivy Dr.

After a brief presentation on what the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements are, what the update process means for the community, and a brief history of redlining and disinvestment in the area, residents had an opportunity to ask questions and walked table to table to identify their top environmental and safety priorities.

A summary of the top community-identified priorities and key issues is listed below with the number of residents who listed a various concern in parenthesis.

**Safety:** The three top safety concerns for residents attending each focus group were Air Quality with 53 residents listing it as a concern, tied with Hazardous Materials (53), and followed by Earthquakes (40). Data collected by the City of Menlo Park and CalEnviroScreen 4.0 validates their lived experience: Menlo Park's data shows the Belle Haven neighborhood has air quality and emissions that are 42% worse than the city at large and CalEnviroScreen data places Belle Haven above the 88<sup>th</sup> percentile statewide for Hazardous Waste exposure.

**Recommendations:** Based on these concerns, the city should consider appropriating funds for transportation infrastructure improvements that reduce traffic to improve air quality, work closely with other oversight agencies to identify and ameliorate legacy pollution, and initiate neighborhood specific disaster preparedness planning.

**Promoting Civic Engagement:** The top three community identified ways this project and others could promote the civic engagement of the Belle Haven Community are through making the information accessible (37), enhancing prior knowledge (35), and scheduling to avoid time conflicts (27). Accessible information includes content provided in different languages, content that is easily read and interpreted by a lay-person, and content provided in different formats (auditory, visual, etc.). The number of residents who identified prior knowledge as a constraint to participation speaks to a real need to conduct more education and capacity building in the community so residents feel comfortable participating in a public forum.

**Recommendations:** Residents would urge the city to make policies that ensure substantial and sustained multilingual outreach, expand its education and capacity building opportunities, and revamp existing protocols around the scheduling of public meetings.

**Reducing Pollution:** Residents were very concerned about the quality of air and the proliferation of asthma in their community. They saw immediate opportunities for air quality improvements by regulating residential and cut through traffic in the neighborhood (63), regulating emissions from stationary sources like industrial facilities (38), and protecting families from the impacts of wildfire smoke (37). When it comes to water pollution, data collected by the City of Menlo Park shows that

drinking water is 38% better in Belle Haven than that of the rest of the city.<sup>1</sup> This comes in contrast to CalEnviroScreen statistics that place the Belle Haven neighborhood in the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile statewide for groundwater threats. Residents would like assurances and clarity on the quality of the water (61) and programs to address recent water price hikes and ensure affordability (48).

**Recommendations:** The community would like to see the city make policies to 1) further incentivize the use of electric vehicles and pursue micro-mobility alternatives like subsidized electric bicycles 2) strengthen permitting requirements for polluting facilities and enforce existing regulations, 3) allocate funding for home weatherization and the distribution of air purifiers for residents with health conditions, 4) conduct regular tap water testing and hold workshops to explain the results, and 5) explore options to help families with water expenses.

**Public Facilities:** When it comes to public facilities, community members prioritized expanding and upgrading their community centers (50), creating affordable and accessible programs. Additionally, residents hoped to see more healthcare facilities in their community (47) because they currently have to travel substantial distances to receive even basic care. Residents also expressed strong support for updating the road structure so as to foster safe forms of transportation other than driving (45). This includes resident support for bike lanes, sidewalk improvements, and other public transportation upgrades.

**Recommendations:** To address community concerns around public facilities, residents suggest the City reexamine administrative policies governing community centers to encourage affordable and accessible programming and expand community centers. The city should seriously consider the creation of a community health clinic in Belle Haven and transportation infrastructure overhauls.

**Food Access:** All said, 63 residents said their Belle Haven neighborhood needed increased access to healthy and affordable foods. Belle Haven does not have a full-service grocery store; not a single resident of the 124 who participated in the process said food access was sufficient. Residents are interested primarily in a store that could offer high quality and healthy foods at low prices. They also saw opportunities to improve the Facebook Mobile Market by moving away from cell-phone based ordering or opening regular Farmer's Markets in Belle Haven to replicate what happens at Bloomhouse in East Palo Alto.

**Recommendations:** Existing development plans include space for a grocery store, but community members would like the City to ensure that the eventual occupant offer high quality, affordable food and be required to take food assistance vouchers and contain a pharmacy. Additionally, the city should look for opportunities and spaces to host a farmer's market.

**Ensuring Safe and Sanitary Homes:** Residents overwhelmingly supported the creation and expansion of programs that help people renovate their homes when faced with pest infestations (37), mold (35), or toxics like lead and asbestos (35). Housing quality is intimately tied to resident health and programs that outfit homes for resilience and health are vital to dissolving inequities within Menlo Park. A necessary part of ensuring safe and sanitary homes is keeping residents in stable housing. 52 residents expressed support for programs that would make housing affordable and 45 expressed support for policies that would protect renters from displacement. In written comments left by residents, they expressed support for rent control measures and preventing large companies from buying housing in the neighborhood. When it comes to residents' new home siting priorities, they would prefer new homes be located near grocery stores (45), community gardens (30), and parks (28). Many also insisted that new housing be built throughout the city, and not solely in Belle Haven.

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<sup>1</sup> Per the Neighborhood Profiles developed for the City for the Environmental Justice Element. ([Linked here](#))

**Recommendations:** Community members urge the City to begin investing in programs that offer homeowners and renters vital home safety repairs, enact and expand rent control ordinances, and promote the development of affordable housing throughout the city, not relying on Belle Haven alone to bear the brunt of nearly all new development.

**Physical Activity:** Encouraging additional physical activity can help improve the overall health of the community and, if done through modes of active transportation, can reduce local emissions leading to even more health benefits. To foster additional activity, existing barriers have to be addressed. 56 residents said there were barriers to being active and getting enough exercise, only 8 residents said there were no barriers. When it comes to promoting physical activity, residents prioritized increasing the prevalence of street lights and road lighting (35), upgrading, expanding and maintaining sidewalks (33), and other physical infrastructure changes (ie, bike share, covered rest areas, bike storage, etc.) (31). Residents pointed out existing sidewalks were not compliant with requirements under the Americans with Disability Act and that they feel unsafe walking and exercising due to the lack of lighting and severe traffic.

**Recommendations:** The community would like to see the city install streetlights along major residential corridors, assess the prevalence, accessibility, and ADA compliance of sidewalks in the neighborhood and look to add additional sidewalks where feasible. Additionally, a systematic assessment of neighborhood infrastructure should be undertaken and a major re-envisioning of streets and infrastructure is necessary to alleviate traffic, air quality issues, and promote active transport.

**Addressing Unique or Compounded Issues:** Residents saw several opportunities to address their unique challenges, which will only be exacerbated by climate change, sea level rise, and extreme heat. Residents suggested more trees (29) to reduce the prevalence and severity of extreme heat events while improving local air quality. They also saw opportunities to address noise pollution (25) by implementing traffic calming techniques and limiting the hours construction is taking place. They also thought attention should be paid to retrofitting buildings for resilience and energy efficiency (23) to protect their health on a multitude of fronts.

**Recommendations:** The community would like to see programs established that give residents trees, free of charge, and to see the City recommit to urban forestry efforts on public property by setting yearly urban canopy expansion goals. To address other resident concerns, residents encourage the creation of a publicly accessible ticketing system for requesting maintenance and repairs to public property, and a community driven process to find a solution to problems surrounding residential parking.

# Methodology

## Participant Demographics

Those who participated in the focus group meetings were representative of the neighborhood at large. The focus groups had substantial Latino representation and one of the focus groups was conducted entirely in Spanish to give everyone the opportunity to speak confidently in their first language — 44 residents attended that meeting. Black residents were well represented at both the general audience and parent and child meetings. There was also a strong showing from the Pacific Islander community at the general audience meeting.

Great attention was paid to make the meetings as accessible as possible. The meetings were held at the local public library, a place within walking distance so access to transportation was not a prerequisite. Dinner and drinks were provided and children were welcome to attend. A \$50 gift card was provided to each participant to compensate them for their expertise and recognize that they were taking time out of their busy schedules to help inform public decision making. Belle Haven is a working-class community where many residents work multiple jobs to support their families. Without these accessibility measures, attendance would have certainly been hurt. Implementing these accessibility measures was very successful in this instance, and if increased civic participation is how the inequalities between East and West Menlo Park are dissolved, expanding and mainstreaming them should be a priority.



## Outreach Methods

CRC coordinated with three other groups to conduct outreach to inform the community of these focus groups. The partners were the BHCDF, El Comité de Vecinos, and a group of three passionate community leaders. The outreach methodology consisted of each organization distributing the information through established relationship channels and leveraging their existing networks. Additionally, CRC created multilingual flyers to advertise each meeting and distributed them physically and electronically throughout the community. BHCDF circulated the flyer at local schools, El Comité conducted door-to-door canvassing, and the community leaders spoke to their neighbors door-to-door with CRC. CRC and each partner also circulated flyers through social media and to established Climate Change Community Teams in the area. The most effective form of outreach was through existing relationships and canvassing—when speaking with residents they were informed about the purpose of the meeting, told about the importance of their participation and told they'd receive dinner and a gift card for participating. Canvassers found that speaking about the health impacts of climate change, additional development, and traffic generated substantial interest in the meeting.

## Facilitation Methods

CRC and our partners co-created the content and procedure for each focus group, tailoring the material and format to best fit each audience. Each meeting consisted of a brief presentation of the

meeting objectives, information about the general plan update process, and a description of the environmental justice and safety elements. The partnering organizations saw the focus groups as an opportunity to further educate the community about its history and preserve its culture and character. To that end, each presentation also included a brief history of the neighborhood and an explanation of redlining and the discriminatory lending practices that continue to shape the community. This history served to ground the meeting in a shared experience and build trust and understanding among residents.



After the presentation, each meeting broke briefly for dinner. When people had finished eating, they were told to circulate to each table to complete the “jamboard” exercise. This consisted of drawing an ‘X’ alongside statements they agreed with. They could vote for as many or as few options as they saw fit. There were also provided Sticky Notes to comment on the items, add additional responses, or elaborate on their answer. There were 14 questions across the tables that residents had the opportunity to respond to. A facilitator was positioned at each table to answer questions, interpret materials, or

clarify the contents. After participants had time to circulate to each table, a survey was handed out and participants were asked to complete it and, for the first two groups, were asked to write any feedback they have in the margins. The final group simply completed the survey. The surveys were offered in Spanish and English and feedback was incorporated into the document before it was offered to the final focus group. Each participant returned their survey and then were handed their gift card after confirming they had signed in for the meeting.

# Results

Listed below are the combined results from all three focus groups. The comments listed came from the Sticky Notes used to extrapolate on responses. They have been lightly edited for clarity, but are otherwise true to form. Each area of discussion is bolded and underlined with the prompt for the exercise written in bold and the comments listed in bullet form. The (+X) denotes others who indicated agreement with the comment.

## Safety

<b>Top Safety Concerns</b>	
Air Quality	53
Drought Conditions	38
Earthquakes	40
Flooding	20
Hazardous Material	53
Heatwaves	33
Wildfire and Smoke	36
Sea level rise	19

### **Comments:**

- (+1) Home owners are required to have Flood Insurance and it is not affordable.
- Traffic & Public transportation (Down Hamilton people run stop signs).
- Crosswalks. You cannot assume you have the right of way.
- Sanitize sitting areas & benches, maintaining sidewalks clean.
- Willow rd & Bay front intersection is dangerous.
- Create safe walking route.
- Resources to unhoused people, they can be a hazard for community members and should be cared for.
- Programs and grants to help community centers, schools, and homes with air conditioning systems.
- More training and seminars on what to do in case of earthquakes and floods.
- Weatherization - AC & heaters for homes.
- Toxic waste - create a process to address this.
- Concern for air quality—families have members with Asthma.

## Promoting Civic Engagement

Yes	40
No	0

**Would you be willing to work with the city by working through community-based organizations and community leaders?**

Accessible information (language, etc)	35
Level of prior knowledge regarding the planning process	31
Time conflicts	27
Meeting format	26
Access to transportation	25
Power dynamics	17
Childcare	17

### **Improvements that could help you consider participating in these public decision-making processes**

#### **Comments:**

- I have tried calling the city multiple times, but no response. We need better communication.
  - Street lights are not maintained, the City should do regular, monthly maintenance in Belle Haven.
  - Respond to concerns emailed to the city and have a process for maintenance and community feedback.
  - Flyers & Outreach: Make sure they are in spanish as well.
  - Holding meetings in-person and in Belle haven or over Zoom with a lot of advertising. People have a lot of input, but may not have the time or have other conflicts.
- Provide community shuttles that are free for all to use.

- Have more meetings in the Belle Haven Library.
- The community wants to be better informed of when meetings of the city are happening.

### Pollution Reduction

Pollution Sources of Concern	
Traffic	63
Industrial Facilities	38
Wildfire Smoke	37
Gas Appliances	31
Smoking	21

**Comments:**

- EPA: Pulgas and Bay rd - Smell of a chemical since new development
- Rodents, pose health risks and can worsen breathing
- Traffic: Facebook Busses
- Less traffic commuting through the streets of the Belle Haven Community
- Dumbarton Smell is now closer to the Bayfront area, especially during the warm summers. The city used to spray to keep the smell away and should consider starting that again
- People drive too fast on Chilco. Speed bumps, firetrucks use the road but can do so elsewhere
- Sidewalks have lots of holes, a trip hazard and accessibility issue
- Solar in older homes is needed, but often require roof repairs
- Residents are concerned with the amount of cars in Belle Haven, some people block the side of the sidewalk with a trash bin just to save a spot for parking which makes it hard for other residents to pass by with their vehicle.
- We would like there to be bags for dog feces since some people don't pick up after their dog at public parks where children play and that is very bad since those feces have germs/bacteria.

Water Concerns	
Quality	61
Affordability	48
Accessibility	44

**Comments:**

- Water affordability: since water pipes have been renewed, cost has increased.
- Have more annual pickups from recolas and not make price for garbage pickup be so expensive to help reduce the garbage pollution.
- More disposable area for hazardous materials.

### General Public Facilities Considerations

Priorities of Public Facilities	
Community centers	50
Health care	47
Road structure encouraging and providing a safe route to walk, bike and use public transportation	45
Reliable internet access	42
Safe drinking water and wastewater services	38
Parks	36
Flood control	28

**Comments:**

- (+6) All the above
- (+1) Buses to transport children going to canada and high school
- Concerns with maintaining a local community center & Kelly park & Pool activities are affordable; Basketball, soccer & other activities.
- Prioritize Belle Haven Community members. Residents from the westside began to use the community center and they began a process to reserve the facilities, which made it hard for local BH residents to continue their use
- Local Belle Haven Community center should be for residents

- Community center: affordable programs & activities (Question: Are there going to be affordable programs & activities?)
- Reliable internet access: not have a strong internet affects youth (affecting their education) & elderly
- Assessment of sidewalks - street signs, the narrow sidewalks do not allow for strollers, wheelchairs, and other uses to use side walk when there are street signs placed almost in the middle. Hazardous for families
- Community Center: prioritize BH residents for rentals and making it affordable
- Local Health Care so that residents do not have to travel far
- Light improvement on Willow Road and Ivy Drive. Resident had a close call with police car that did not see the resident walking on crosswalk
- Safe Bike route - not safe for kids at the moment
- Hamilton, not safe
- More community spaces accessible for the use of the residents
- Closer pharmacy
- Affordable community programs
- Safety for bicycles/police safety tip program
- Grocery store needed
- Community center classes for youth and seniors, swim classes, expansion of the library
- Community center, classes for young youth
- Adding to park trees to bring oxygen for environment cleaner air

### Promoting Food Access

Yes	63
No	0

**Is it important to have more access to affordable and higher quality food? (In Belle Haven, near Belle Haven, neighboring cities)**

**Comments:**

- (+7) More grocery stores, food at markets is too expensive
- A Trader Joes is needed
- A super walmart, or something with affordable goods and services
- Winco or a Grocery Outlet would be preferred, so people can get healthy, affordable food
- (+2) Foodmax
- Sprouts
- (+4) A local pharmacy is greatly needed
- (+9) Safe stores
- (+8) Second Harvest - creating a location in Belle Haven
- (+7) Facebook has a mobile market on Sundays. Assess who is making use of the market and see if we can replicate Bloomhouse in Belle Haven
- (+6) More outreach on community gardens, location and hours to be made public
- (+6) A regular or affordable grocery store (at the moment we have little markets that are not affordable)
- (+5) Facebook Mobile Market: Increase access, so that you do not need to use mobile phone to make an order
- (+1) Promote Community Gardens
- (+1) Rent Planters & community gardens for families to cultivate organic veggies/fruit
- Affordable food - markets are expensive
- Move back the food giveaway to the Belle Haven Community
- Food for less (lower prices on food ESPECIALLY with the pandemic)
- A Walmart



- A grocery store with organic food that way residents have access to healthier food
- The grocery stores in Belle Haven sell food at a high price for bad quality food (health concern, food poisoning)
- Safe stores (cameras, police nearby)

### Promoting Safe and Sanitary Homes

Renovate homes that have...	
Pest infestation	37
Toxins like lead	35
Mold	35
Second/third hand smoke	33
Poor insulation	25
Plumbing and exposure	16
Water leaks	15

**Comments:**

- (+4) Mold: need to make sure there is enough air circulation
- (+4) Assistance Programs to help with indoor renovations and appliances
- (+1) Grants not loans
- No smoking at Belle Haven Park should be allowed.
- (+4) Rats
- Make living affordable
- (+4) Conduct home assessments to see if these concerns may be addressed. People may be scared to be cited.

- No cost programs.
- New pipes raised the cost of water.
- Construction caused more mice in people’s homes.
- Provide free resource to assist financially elderly/family with renovations, we lack knowledge about safe/sanitary conditions
- To make programs where residents can help out and clean the streets in Belle Haven (The city provides materials).
- To make a solution about construction since many rats from the areas that are being built go to where residents are living.

Affordability Priorities	
Make housing affordable	52
Protecting renters from displacement	45
Preserving existing affordable housing	37

**Comments:**

- Make housing affordable for people with low income and/or bad credit.
- (+1) Find a safe location to gather in case of emergencies.
- (+15) Prevent big companies from buying

- homes/land in this area
- (+1) Displacement: When families moved out, their children also left, left their good jobs to be close to family and are no longer able to comeback.
  - (+1) More renters than homeowners that can be due to barriers and hardships
  - (+1) Hard to preserve affordable housing and will no longer be affordable for low and very low income families, only if someone is able to buy it and provide it as affordable
  - (+1) Help and give our youth the opportunity to stay in the community
  - No empty homes or apartments; make affordable after 90 days vacant
  - Prevent LLC & companies from buying
  - Monitor and regulate Airbnb
  - Rent control for renters, landlords have raised the rent up by \$500
  - Rent Control

- Available parking to Belle Haven Residents because homeowners who rent don't offer parking on their property to the renter, and they don't have enough money to pay for a permit from the city.

Site houses in neighborhoods with...	
Grocery stores	45
Community gardens	30
Parks	28
Work/education opportunities	26
Schoolyards	24
Access to road structure that encourages and provides a safe route to walk, bike, and use public transportation	17

**Comments:**

- New housing prices should not be raised for renters. Rent should be regulated.
- (+7) Increase awareness in promoting Jobtrain, Streetcode, other resources of job training and careers.
- (+5) Provide more opportunities for Youth to go to College and earn industry certificates that may take a few months. Many youth need to work to help sustain their family.
- (+2) Communication about Farmers Markets and adding more options

- A safeway that's affordable and organic

**Promoting Physical Activity**

Are there barriers to being active?	
Yes	56
No	8

**Comments:**

- The light on the Willow Rd. entry to the freeway confuses people.
- The traffic on Carlton Ave. makes it difficult to feel safe exercising.
- (+4) Child care

What improvements could help the community improve physical activity?	
Streetlights or lighting	35
Sidewalks	33
Improve public transportation infrastructure: covered rest areas, share, age friendly seating, bike storage	31
Provide safe routes to school to encourage active transportation	30
Bike lanes	25
Reliable, accessible, and convenient public transportation connecting homes to schools, work, and public facilities	24
Partnerships/agreements with schools, churches or other private properties to access more green spaces	10
No smoking policies	6

- (+3) Lack of time from working and commuting
- (+8) Access to community center and Kelly Park
- (+6) Regular group community exercise such as walking around the community
- Outdoor gym
- Community center gym
- Class for musical activities for adults, seniors and kids
- Sports for children, soccer and basketball
- (+2) Low cost programming
- More lights at night makes it hard to see/ people can't walk at night since they are afraid to walk outside in the dark.
- MORE POLICE at night to be on the lookout of drivers speeding or doing race shows
- Better communication with the community of Belle Haven and the City of Menlo Park also it's police department.

## Reducing Additional Unique or Compounded Health Risks:

What else should be addressed?	
More Trees	29
Noise Pollution	25
Retrofitting buildings & houses to improve energy efficiency	23
Cooling centers	19
Earthquake retrofit assistance	18
Temperature extremes	18
Smoke free multiunit housing	15
Efficient circulation	14
Conservation and recapture of water	14
Sea level rise	12

**Comments:**

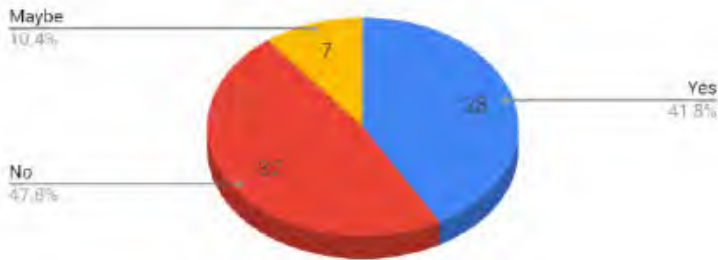
- The extreme chemical sewage smell that flows from Marsh Road and the Belle Haven community in the evening & 2:30 am from Facebook area
- Bad sewage smell and taste of drinking water
- Need speed bumps on streets to stop vehicle racing (1)
- Drainage outside have lots of rodents and insects that come to house
- More trees!
- Also to cut down branches when needed since it can be a danger to residents.
- Air sensors in apartments for the future so residents can see how the air they are breathing is.

# Capacity Building Needs

An exit poll was administered to two of the focus groups to inform facilitators about best practices and decide if alterations needed to be made to focus group facilitation. The results of the exit poll are presented in graphical form below. They demonstrate the success of the informative aspects of the focus groups presentations and underline the need for significant investments in community capacity building and education around existing environmental justice hazards. Very few residents were aware of the ongoing Environmental Justice and Safety elements update process but were very interested in the issues being discussed. This indicates that prior outreach methods were not particularly effective at reaching the Belle Haven community.

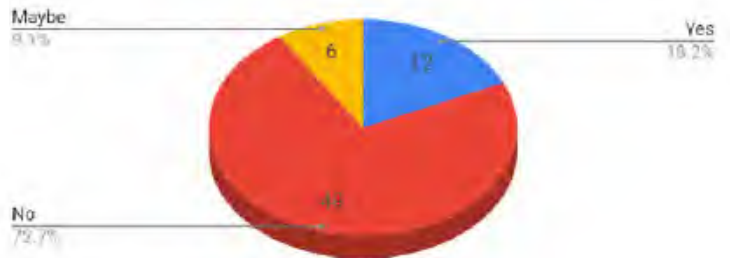
**Before you came to this discussion, did you know much about Belle Haven's history?**

(count = 67)



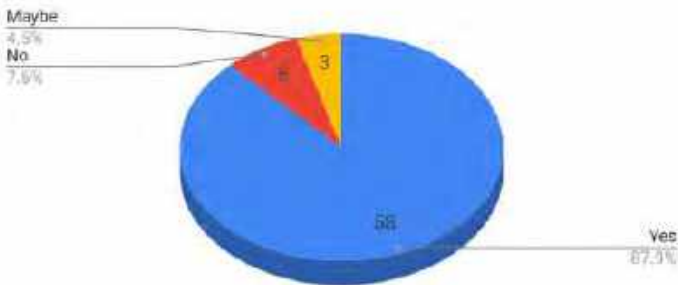
**Before you came, did you know much about the Environmental Justice Element?**

(count = 66)



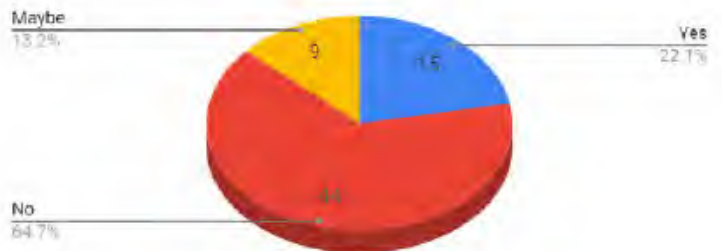
**Are the topics discussed important to you?**

(count = 66)



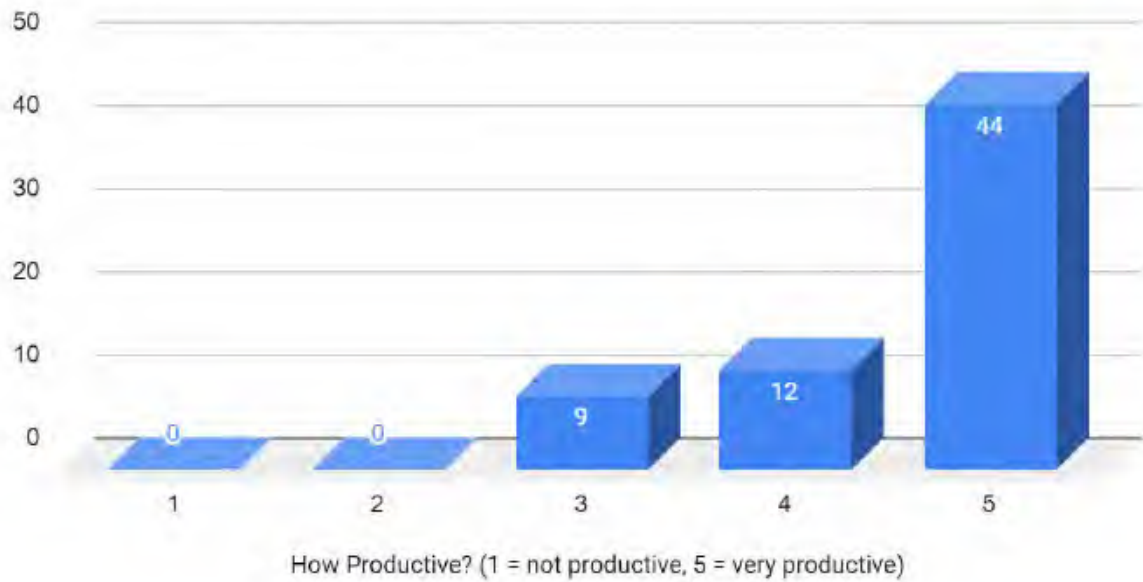
**Before you came, did you know much about the Safety Element?**

(count = 68)



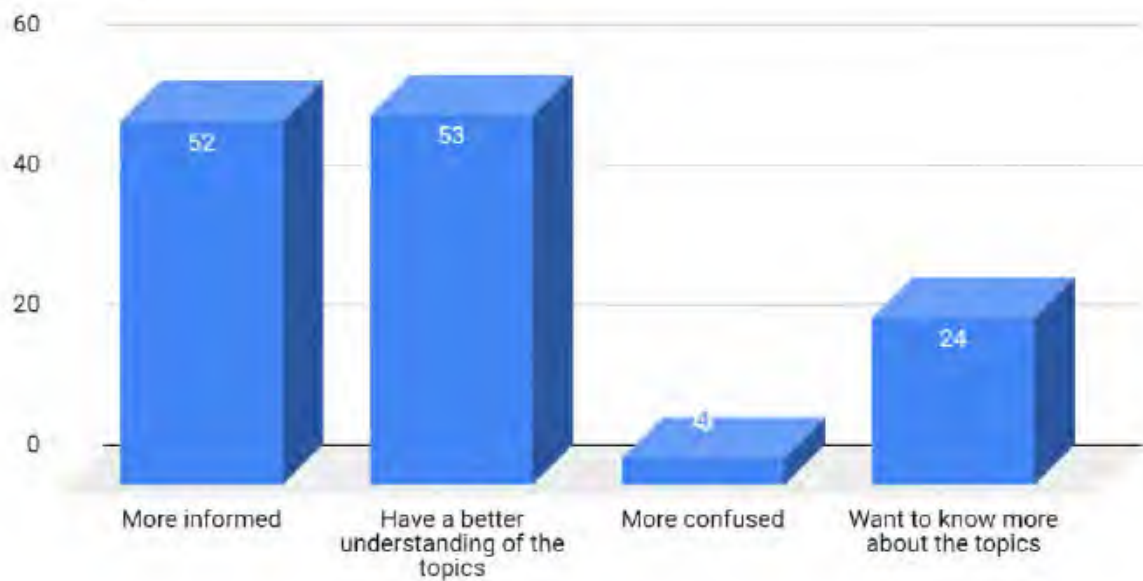
### Did you find the breakout activities productive?

(count = 65)



### What are your takeaways from this discussion?

(count = 67)





# Recommendations

Based on the cumulative results of three focus groups in which Belle Haven residents offered direct feedback on their environmental justice and safety priorities, the following areas of policy proposals should be evaluated and implemented with urgency.

**Safety:** Community members identified Air Quality, Hazardous Materials, and Earthquakes as their top safety concerns. To improve air quality, the city of Menlo Park should consider **appropriating funds for transportation infrastructure improvements** that reduce both residential and cut-through traffic. This can be achieved through traffic calming infrastructure like chicanes and speed bumps. To address concerns of residents about hazardous materials, Menlo Park should **work closely with other oversight agencies to identify and ameliorate legacy pollution**. This matter is urgent: as sea levels rise, the water table will be elevated in some places which can cause hazardous materials to circulate more widely and enter people’s homes through water and waste water infrastructure. To alleviate concerns around earthquakes, Menlo Park should **initiate neighborhood specific disaster preparedness planning** and work closely with Community Based Organizations and pre-existing CERT programming.

**Promoting Civic Engagement:** Residents identified information accessibility, prior knowledge, and time conflicts as key barriers to their civic participation. To address these concerns, residents would like the City of Menlo Park to **make policies to ensure substantial, sustained multilingual outreach** for important city meetings or any policy that will disproportionately affect the Belle Haven neighborhood. The City should **expand its education and capacity building opportunities** for residents so they have the confidence and background knowledge to participate in public forums. To carry this out, the City should partner with CBOs who have high community trust to further lower barriers to participation. Any and all outreach and capacity building workshops should compensate Belle Haven residents for their expertise and participation—barriers to public meetings and the levers of power is partially why current disparities exist. Finally, the City should **revamp existing protocols around the scheduling of public meetings** to ensure they take place outside of work hours and allow residents a wide range of options for participating.



**Reducing Pollution:** When it comes to opportunities to reduce air pollution in their community, participants identified residential and cut through traffic in the neighborhood, emissions from industrial facilities, and wildfire smoke as top concerns. In addition to changing physical infrastructure to reduce traffic and vehicle presence in the community, the City of Menlo Park should also **further incentivize the use of electric vehicles and pursue micro-mobility alternatives like discounted or subsidized bicycles, electric bicycles, and electric scooters**. To address emissions from industrial

sources, the City should work closely with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and other regulatory partners to find opportunities to **strengthen permitting requirements for polluting facilities and enforce existing laws surrounding the use of Best Available Control Technology (BACT)**. The City should take a proactive stance to wildfire smoke and treat it as the extreme public health crisis it is. The City should create programs to retrofit homes for smoke resilience by providing **funding for weatherization and the distribution of air purifiers for income qualified residents and those with health conditions**. When it comes to water pollution, Belle Haven residents are concerned about the quality and affordability of their water. The City should **conduct regular tap water testing and hold workshops to explain the results** and raise awareness of other potential groundwater threats. The city should **explore options to help families with water expenses**.

**Public Facilities:** When it comes to public facility provision, residents wanted greater access to community centers, healthcare facilities, and transportation upgrades that foster alternative modes of transit. To that end, the community recommends the City **reexamine administrative policies governing community centers to encourage affordable and accessible programming and look to expand existing facilities**. The City should consider policies incentivizing the **creation of a community health clinic in Belle Haven**. Currently, residents either have to cross Highway 101 to receive care, or travel several miles to the Ravenswood Clinic in East Palo Alto. Finally, as mentioned previously, major infrastructure investment is required to facilitate active and alternative modes of transportation.

**Food Access:** Residents are concerned about the community's access to healthy and affordable food. While a grocery store space is currently planned for the Willow Village development site, the City of Menlo Park **should ensure that the eventual occupant offer high quality, affordable food and be required to take food assistance vouchers and contain a pharmacy**. The city should look to CBO partnerships and find spaces to **sponsor a farmer's market** and expand access to Facebook's Mobile Market by requiring them to alter ordering processes to make them accessible to those without smart phones.

**Ensuring Safe and Sanitary Homes:** Residents want to see programs that help homeowners address issues with pests, mold, and toxics like lead and asbestos. They also want to see housing affordability and reduced displacement and gentrification. To that end, the community recommends the City **begin investing in programs that offer homeowners and renters vital home safety repairs**. These types of programs already exist through other funding sources and CBOs like El Concilio of San Mateo County, but additional resources could greatly expand access and awareness of these repair programs. Additionally, the City should urgently **enact Rent Control ordinances** and other measures to prevent displacement. The City should further coordinate with state housing authorities and other sources of funds to **expand the development of affordable housing throughout the city, and not force Belle Haven to bear the brunt of nearly all new development**.

**Physical Activity:** There are significant barriers to physical activity in the Belle Haven neighborhood. Among them are a lack of streetlights, unsafe or inaccessible sidewalks, and other infrastructure challenges. To address these concerns, residents would like to see the City **install streetlights along major residential corridors and conduct an assessment to ensure all are functional**. Further, the City should **assess the prevalence, accessibility, and ADA compliance of sidewalks in the neighborhood and look to add additional sidewalks where feasible**. Finally, it is clear that the



prevalence of traffic, speed of vehicles, and lack of infrastructure for alternative modes of transportation are a profound problem for many aspects of life in Belle Haven. **A systematic assessment of neighborhood infrastructure should be undertaken and a major re-envisioning of the infrastructure is necessary** to address resident concerns, achieve climate goals, and create a more equitable Menlo Park.

**Addressing Unique or Compounded Difficulties:** Several unique or compounded issues were identified by residents. Among them are a lack of trees, high noise pollution, and low building resilience. The community saw opportunities to address these issues by creating **programs to give residents free trees and redouble urban forestry efforts on public property by setting yearly urban canopy expansion goals**. Many studies suggest at least 40% Canopy coverage is necessary to alleviate the Urban Heat Island Effect—the City should set goals to achieve that level by 2045. Prior recommendations address building resilience and traffic reduction, these traffic calming measures will do a lot to reduce noise pollution. Many participants voiced in comments that they felt their reports to the City and requests for maintenance were never responded to, making them feel they weren't valued by the City. This could be addressed by **creating a publicly accessible ticketing system for requesting maintenance and repairs to public property**. The City should communicate to residents where in the queue a resident's request is and regularly report progress on addressing community member complaints. Many residents also expressed their concern with parking regulations and enforcement. To this end, residents recommend conducting **a community driven process to find a solution to residential parking** as it impacts air quality, quality of life, and a lack of parking could lead people to expanding their driveways, worsening extreme heat events.

# Conclusion

The outreach process for this project has been extremely successful and validates CRC's accessibility methodology. A lack of access to public discussions and decision-making processes for low income communities and communities of color is a major reason for the existing disparities between Belle Haven and other neighborhoods of Menlo Park. That is why equitable participation in decision-making practices is a cornerstone of the environmental justice movement. Through a just outreach process and strong meeting facilitation mechanics we were able to clearly hear the voices of residents in the Belle Haven Community. CRC is incredibly thankful for our community partners for their leadership throughout this process. Decades of systemic racism and disinvestment have hurt the community's faith in governmental processes, but once people have the opportunity to participate meaningfully in a public process, advocate to see their suggestions implemented, and see the resulting improvement in their lives, their faith in the governmental structures can begin to be restored. The residents of Belle Haven are eager to participate and will do so when the barriers to doing so are removed. If the City is serious about its commitments to environmental justice and reducing inequalities within their city, they will listen to the voices of Belle Haven residents and move quickly to address the history of neglect in this community. Belle Haven residents have created an extraordinary community and are thriving in the face of the adversity they've had to overcome. It is beyond time to act on the demands of justice and create better living conditions that provide support for a neighborhood that enriches the City and region.

# Appendix

To read the full report from each of our partner organizations, click the links below:

[Focus Group 1: Belle Haven Community Development Fund](#)

[Focus Group 2: El Comite de Vecinos](#)

[Focus Group 3: Community Leaders](#)

Menlo Park EJ+Safety Survey Final Report  
July 12, 2022  
Climate Resilient Communities

## Executive Summary

A coalition of community-based organizations conducted a survey for the City of Menlo Park's Environmental Justice and Safety Element. From May 20 through July 12, 2022, online and in-person surveys were deployed throughout the city, with a focus on Belle Haven. 420 total responses were collected. This report summarizes the survey design and results. Along with overall distributions of participant responses, given sufficient sample sizes of the subgroups Belle Haven residents (328) vs. non-Belle Haven residents (92) and Latinx households (171) and Black households (72) compared to White households (88), we were able to make claims of statistical significance disaggregating by neighborhood and race and ethnicity<sup>1</sup>. Of particular note are the following key findings:

- 1. A majority of respondents experienced poor air quality, traffic congestion, and dust and noise from construction as adverse environmental impacts within their households in the last ten years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than other Menlo Park households. Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than their White counterparts.**
  - a. The next most common environmental impacts (experienced by at least a quarter of respondents) were extreme heat both indoors and outdoors, lack of working air conditioning, poor tap water quality, and presence of mold in the home.
  - b. Particularly notable disparities between Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households: extreme heat indoors (51% vs. 34%) and outdoors (34% vs. 20%), poor tap water quality (31% vs. 12%), presence of mold (29% vs. 13%), poor soil quality (27% vs. 12%), flood-related travel disruptions (23% vs. 5%), and home insurance claims related to environmental issues (13% vs. 1%).
  - c. Particularly notable disparities between Latinx and White households: presence of mold (35% vs. 15%) and poor tap water quality (31% vs. 14%). Notably bucking the trend, Latinx households reported less experience of traffic congestion than White households (49% vs. 74%). It's possible that this finding

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<sup>1</sup> Pacific Islander households appeared to have statistically significant differences compared to White households across all topics, but the sample size was too small to have confidence in particular quantities. Sample sizes were too small for Native American and Other Race households to report any findings.

reflects prior literature on how minority populations may under-report “nuisance” issues while prioritizing more serious life and safety concerns<sup>2</sup>.

- d. Particularly notable disparities between Black and White households: poor tap water quality (33% vs. 14%).
  - e. Asian households, on the other hand, did not experience statistically significant differences compared to White households.
  - f. Recommendations: Implement air and noise pollution mitigation measures specifically in Belle Haven. Install sensors to measure outcomes before and after pilot interventions. Work with Belle Haven community organizations to scope pilot projects and ensure cultural competency when interventions are conducted at the household level.
- 2. More than a third of respondents experienced stress and anxiety, high blood pressure or cholesterol, COVID-19, and asthma within their households in the last ten years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than other Menlo Park households. Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than their White counterparts.**
- a. The next most common health issues (experienced by at least a quarter of respondents) were diabetes and obesity.
  - b. Particularly notable disparities between Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households: high blood pressure or cholesterol (54% vs. 32%), COVID-19 (50% vs. 21%), asthma (45% vs. 13%), diabetes (35% vs. 5%), and disability (21% vs. 8%).
  - c. Particularly notable disparities between Latinx and White households: high blood pressure or cholesterol (51% vs. 33%), COVID-19 (48% vs. 20%), asthma (41% vs. 19%), diabetes (33% vs. 5%), and heat stroke (20% vs. 4%). Notably bucking the trend, Latinx households reported less experience of stress and anxiety than White households (37% vs. 55%) - once again, a potential reflection of “nuisance”-related response bias.
  - d. Particularly notable disparities between Black and White households: Asthma (47% vs. 19%), disability (37% vs. 10%), and diabetes (35% vs. 5%).
  - e. Asian households, on the other hand, did not experience statistically significant differences compared to White households.
  - f. Recommendations: Conduct culturally competent outreach to inform Belle Haven residents of the prevalence of health issues in the neighborhood, environmental risk factors, and opportunities for preventative or supportive action.
- 3. About a third of respondents have spent more than \$100 in the past year on home repairs related to environmental damages or risks. More than a third of respondents have delayed home repairs due to cost, with significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities. A quarter of respondents, if faced with a \$400**

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<sup>2</sup> Kontokosta & Hong. *Bias in smart city governance: How socio-spatial disparities in 311 complaint behavior impact the fairness of data-driven decisions*. Sustainable Cities and Society, Volume 64, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2020.102503>.

**emergency expense, would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash, and would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money, with significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities.**

- a. Belle Haven households were more likely (43%) to have delayed repairs than non-Belle Haven households (22%), were more likely (31%) to need to rely on credit or borrowing than non-Belle Haven households (2%), and were less likely to consider the costs of housing (29%) and other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare (32%) *easy to cover*, compared to non-Belle Haven households (71% and 73%).
  - b. Latinx households were more likely (44%) to have delayed repairs than White households (25%), were more likely (33%) to need to rely on credit or borrowing than White households (10%), and were less likely to consider the costs of housing (17%) and other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare (23%) *easy to cover*, compared to White households (70% and 68%).
  - c. Black households were more likely (61%) to have delayed repairs than White households (25%), were more likely (40%) to need to rely on credit or borrowing than White households (10%), and were less likely to consider the costs of housing (20%) and other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare (23%) *easy to cover*, compared to White households (70% and 68%).
  - d. The findings on emergency expenses align with national averages, based on Federal Reserve research<sup>3</sup>.
  - e. Recommendations: Develop a rapid response program that can assist Belle Haven homeowners with emergency home repairs through a no-interest loan, including volunteer labor and donated materials.
- 4. More than a third of respondents would prioritize spending extra money on air conditioning, air purifiers, home repairs, and earthquake-related upgrades, compared to solar, rainwater capture, home insurance, or electrification.**
- a. There do not appear to be significant differences in priorities based on the presence of elderly household members, with the exception of an increased preference for rainwater capture or water recycling (33% vs. 23%).
  - b. Households that perceive themselves as financially burdened are less likely to prioritize electrification (13% vs. 27%) and more likely to prioritize home insurance (28% vs. 19%) and air conditioning (46% vs. 37%).
  - c. Recommendations: Expand reduced cost home weatherization and retrofit programs, as well as DIY air filter initiatives.
- 5. More than a third of respondents would prioritize public spending on pedestrian safety, road repairs, safer biking routes, street trees, and improved parks or community gardening, compared to public air quality monitoring, stormwater management, code enforcement, and flood barriers.**

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<https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/2022-economic-well-being-of-us-households-in-2021-dealing-with-unexpected-expenses.htm>

- a. Recommendations: While continuing to mitigate risk from less frequent climate hazards, deepen prioritization of public transportation and recreation infrastructure in Belle Haven.
- 6. From a safety perspective, Belle Haven households are more exposed to natural hazards like floods, but appear to have and value insurance as a resilience strategy. They also strongly prioritize transportation safety.**
- a. Belle Haven households are more likely to have experienced floods affecting neighborhood travel (23%) than non-Belle Haven households (5%).
  - b. Belle Haven households are more likely to have experienced a home insurance claim related to environmental issues (13%) than non-Belle Haven households (1%).
  - c. Belle Haven households appear to be more likely to carry earthquake insurance (60%) than non-Belle Haven households (45%), and more likely to carry flood insurance (69%) than non-Belle Haven households (35%).
  - d. Belle Haven households appear to place higher priority on home insurance than non-Belle Haven households as an individual household improvement.
  - e. Belle Haven households appear to place higher priority on pedestrian safety and road surface improvement than non-Belle Haven households as a neighborhood-level improvement.
  - f. Recommendations: Further study the prevalence of public and private insurance in Belle Haven to ensure equitable coverage. Ensure that major public investments in flood and earthquake risk mitigation are focused on supporting the most exposed and vulnerable Belle Haven residents.

The survey clarifies the extent of environmental, health, and financial disparities at the intersection of geography and race and ethnicity, with Belle Haven bearing the brunt of exposure to pollution and natural hazards and concentrating social and economic vulnerability. The implications for the City of Menlo Park's Environmental Justice and Safety Elements, as part of the General Plan update, include a clear need to prioritize public investments and policy preferences that support Belle Haven residents above and beyond non-Belle Haven residents in order to close longstanding disparities, shape culturally competent opportunities for Belle Haven residents of color to provide specific, substantive input into policies and programs, and ensure that communities who have felt civically disengaged or ignored receive clear signals of real-world improvements and appreciation for their patience.

## Acknowledgements

This survey would not have been possible without the leadership of the Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team, Belle Haven Action, El Comite, and Belle Haven Community Development Fund. The City of Menlo Park and M Group provided useful comments in the survey design process. City Systems prepared survey tools, conducted data analysis, and drafted this report.

# Survey Design

## Community Input

The survey design was primarily based on feedback from a Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team (BHCCCT) meeting on April 27, 2022. Participants were shown some prior examples of surveys conducted in and around Menlo Park and asked to share their recommendations for what questions should be in the Belle Haven survey. They also emphasized the importance of keeping the survey short, ideally under 10 questions. The resultant draft achieved a minimum question count by leveraging “check all that apply” style questions, which has the effect of combining many individual yes/no questions into one larger thematic bucket. Therefore, the survey was essentially about 50 yes/no questions, and enabled tallying percentages of respondents who responded affirmatively to each statement. Each question had an “Other” option which was cleaned and incorporated into final analysis. The overall thematic buckets were:

1. Adverse experiences of environmental impacts in the last 10 years
2. Adverse experiences of health problems in the last 10 years
3. Adverse experiences of financial stress in the last 10 years
4. Prioritization of personal risk mitigation expenditures
5. Prioritization of public risk mitigation expenditures

The survey also captured a limited set of demographic characteristics of the household:

1. # of household members, by age buckets
2. Races and ethnicities represented in the household

Other household characteristics can be identified using the home address, when provided. Using property data, we are able to identify tenure (renter vs. owner), size of home and number of bedrooms (from which we can identify the degree of overcrowding), age of structure, and estimated housing costs. We can also relate the home location to certain environmental exposures, like proximity to major roadways, amount of tree canopy, etc.

Generally, we expect to find many affirmative statements to be correlated within and across thematic buckets, and document these associations below. We pay particular attention to any significant differences in outcomes across demographic groups. We highlight particular vulnerable segments of the community who appear to have high amounts of pre-existing health risks and financial stress, and have already or have yet to experience environmental impacts, and estimate the total number of people/households who may be in need of assistance. The last two questions enable us to identify and quantify the most desirable resources at the household and community level. This information should directly inform nonprofit programs, grant applications, and longer term urban planning.



# Full Questionnaire

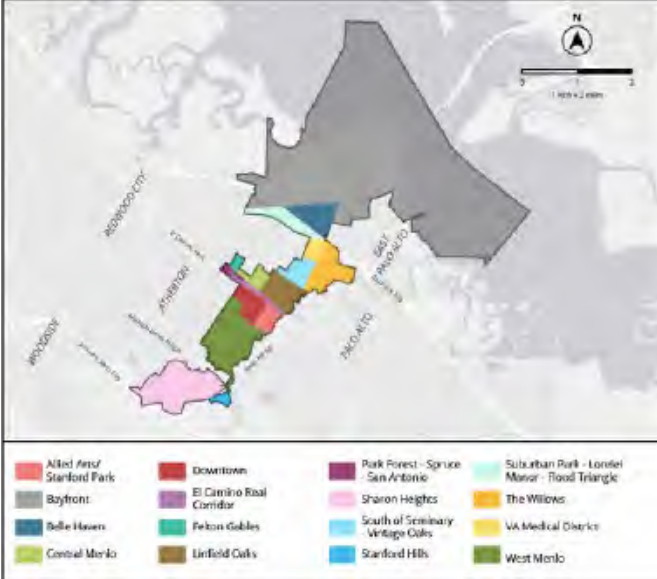
## Environmental Justice and Safety Survey

The goal of this survey is to inform action on environmental justice (addressing the disproportionate exposure of marginalized communities to environmental harms) and safety (protecting everyone from natural hazards) in our neighborhood. You will be asked about your direct experience of environmental harms, health challenges, and financial stress, as well as your priorities for household and neighborhood improvements. Thousands of homes are slated to be built within and near Belle Haven in the next decade, which could make some of these issues worse, unless our community speaks up about our concerns and needs. Thank you!

<p><b>1. Have you or your family been affected by any of the following in the last 10 years?</b> Check all that apply.</p> <p><i>We want to make sure the survey captures the full range of environmental issues you've experienced.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Poor air quality</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Poor soil quality</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Dust and noise from construction</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Presence of mold in my home</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Extreme heat in my home</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of working air conditioning</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Extreme heat affecting neighborhood travel</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Rain or weather-related flood damage to my home</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Floods affecting neighborhood travel</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Home insurance claim due to environmental issues</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other environmental issues: _____</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Traffic congestion</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Poor tap water quality</li></ul>
<p><b>2. Have any of the following health issues affected your household in the last 10 years?</b> Check all that apply.</p> <p><i>Environmental issues can cause health problems or make them worse. Local public health authorities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Asthma</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Cancer</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Obesity</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Migraines</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Heat stroke</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> High blood pressure or cholesterol</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive/birth challenges</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Stress and anxiety</li></ul>

<p><i>may not know how often health problems happen in your neighborhood. Sometimes not all health problems are addressed by healthcare.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Disability      <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health problems</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other health issues: _____</p>
<p><b>3. Which of the following applies to your household?</b> Check all that apply.</p> <p><i>Environmental issues can also cause financial stress, such as flood-related damage that needs repair. We want to make sure the survey identifies the level of financial insecurity in the community.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> My household can easily cover the cost of housing.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My household has spent more than \$100 in the past year on repairing damages caused by the environment or reducing potential impacts.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We have delayed repairs we want to do to our home (like roof, windows, mold) because of cost.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We do not have or need flood insurance.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We do not have earthquake insurance.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If my household faced a \$400 emergency expense, we would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In order to pay a \$400 emergency expense, my household would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other financial challenges: _____</p>
<p><b>4. Which of the following would you prioritize if you had extra money to spend on your household's environmental health and safety?</b> Write "1" in the box next to your first choice, "2" for your second choice, "3" for your third choice, as many choices as you'd like.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Replace gas appliances</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Solar panels or battery storage</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit</p>

	<input type="checkbox"/> Rainwater capture or water recycling <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy food (including gardening) <input type="checkbox"/> Home insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Other personal expenses: _____
<p><b>5. Which of the following would you prioritize for neighborhood improvements?</b> Write “1” in the box next to your first choice, “2” for your second choice, “3” for your third choice, as many choices as you’d like.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian safety (sidewalks, crosswalks, speed bumps) <input type="checkbox"/> Safer biking routes <input type="checkbox"/> Improved transit infrastructure (bus stops, signs, benches) <input type="checkbox"/> Improved roads (potholes) <input type="checkbox"/> Improved parks or community gardening <input type="checkbox"/> More street trees <input type="checkbox"/> Cool and clean air shelters (community center) <input type="checkbox"/> Flood barriers along rivers or bayfront <input type="checkbox"/> Improved storm drainage <input type="checkbox"/> Improved water supply (safe drinking, firefighting) <input type="checkbox"/> Air quality monitoring sensors in public spaces <input type="checkbox"/> Improved code enforcement (illegal parking) <input type="checkbox"/> Security cameras for safety and dumping <input type="checkbox"/> Other public investments: _____
<p><b>6. How many people live in your home?</b> Provide a number for each age range.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> # of Children 0-17 <input type="checkbox"/> # of Adults 18-29 <input type="checkbox"/> # of Adults 30-59 <input type="checkbox"/> # of Adults 60+

<p><b>7. What is your household race or ethnicity?</b> Check all that apply.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Latinx      <input type="checkbox"/> White</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Black                      <input type="checkbox"/> Asian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander      <input type="checkbox"/> Native American</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>
<p><b>8. Email</b> (to be entered into raffle for \$100 gift card)</p>	
<p><b>9. Neighborhood</b></p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Allied Arts - Stanford Park</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bayfront</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Belle Haven</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Centro Menlo</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Downtown</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> El Camino Real Corridor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Felton Gables</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Linfield Oaks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio</p>

	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Heights <input type="checkbox"/> South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks <input type="checkbox"/> Stanford Hills <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle <input type="checkbox"/> The Willows <input type="checkbox"/> VA Medical District <input type="checkbox"/> West Menlo
<b>10. Address</b> (optional)	

## Canvassing Strategy

The existing race and ethnicity distribution of Menlo Park and Belle Haven, according to the 2020 Decennial Census, are shown below.

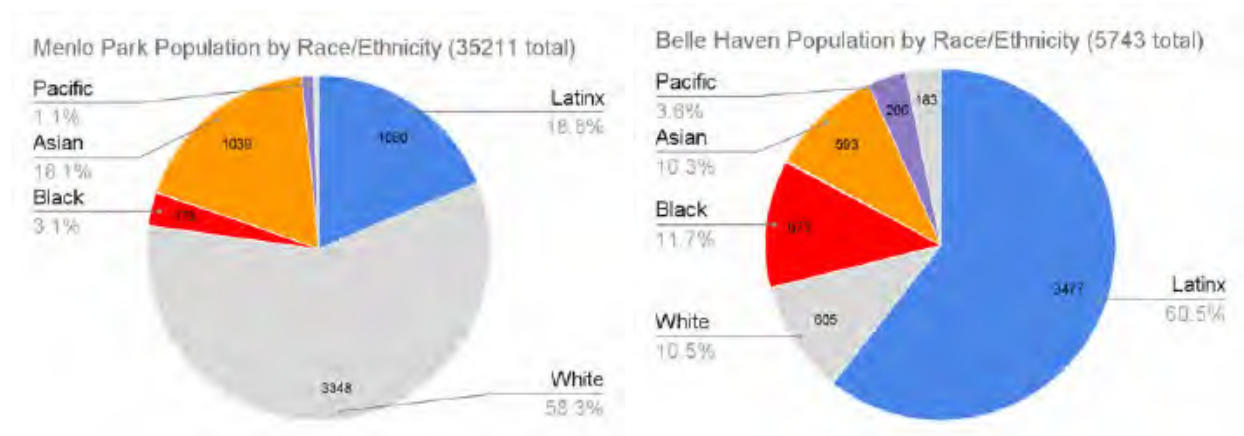


Figure 1. Menlo Park and Belle Haven population by race and ethnicity, 2020 Decennial Census.

Our chosen sampling strategy was to strive to survey equal proportions of Latinx, White, Black, and Asian respondents (i.e., 50 each). Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander, American Indian & Alaska Native, and Other Race were expected to reach insufficient sample size. With these sample sizes, if we see differences on any one yes/no question of about 27 percentage points, those would be statistically significant findings. This same reasoning can be used to compare groups of respondents categorized by the presence of youth or elderly, or by renter vs. owner.

We trained canvassing teams from local community-based organizations to walk specified blocks in pairs, with a focus on Belle Haven given their local knowledge. Because the distribution of race and ethnicity is quite heterogeneous in Belle Haven (see maps below), we assigned specific blocks through random simulation that were expected to yield the most equal proportions of Latinx, White, Black, and Asian respondents. Canvassing teams received a list of addresses going around the block in one direction, and were asked to record whether they attempted to knock, talked to someone, and/or got a survey. We evaluated progress towards demographic targets midway through the survey period and used this progress to reassign blocks for the canvassing teams.



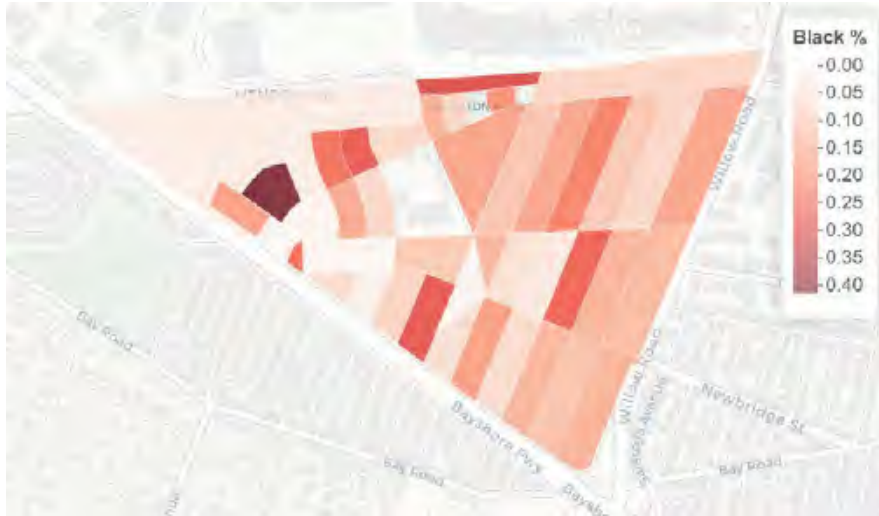


Figure 2. Belle Haven total population, % Latinx, and % Black by block, 2020 Decennial Census.

## Results

As of July 12, we had access to 420 total survey responses. 303 were paper responses collected from focus groups or door-to-door surveying. 117 were online form responses.

### Menlo Park Neighborhoods

Participants were asked to select one of the Housing Element designated neighborhoods on the online survey. Almost all paper surveys were completed by Belle Haven residents.

Table 1. Distribution of survey participants by neighborhood.

Neighborhood	# Survey Participants	% Survey Participants
Belle Haven	328	78.1
West Menlo	17	4
The Willows	15	3.6
Centro Menlo	13	3.1
Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	13	3.1
Sharon Heights	9	2.1
Downtown	7	1.7
Linfield Oaks	6	1.4
Allied Arts - Stanford Park	4	1

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	3	0.7
El Camino Real Corridor	2	0.5
Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio	2	0.5
Bayfront	1	0.2

## Race and Ethnicity

Participants were asked to check all races/ethnicities that applied to their household. 18 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 402, treating multiple options as fractions of a whole household, we observe the following distribution.

*Table 2. Distribution of survey participant households by race and ethnicity.*

Race/Ethnicity	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Menlo Park HHs, 2020 Census
Latino/Latinx	171	42.5	18.8
White	88	22	58.3
Black	72	17.8	3.1
Pacific Islander	35	8.7	1.1
Asian	27	6.8	18.1
Other	8	2	0.5
Native American	1	0.3	0.1

*Table 3. Belle Haven distribution of survey participant households by race and ethnicity.*

Race/Ethnicity	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Belle Haven HHs, 2020 Census
Latino/Latinx	167	53.9	60.5
Black	70	22.7	11.7
Pacific Islander	35	11.3	3.6
White	23	7.3	10.5
Asian	11	3.5	10.3
Other	3	1	3.2
Native American	1	0.3	0.1

Overall, the current distribution of participants somewhat resembles the real Belle Haven population, with overrepresentation of Black and Pacific Islander populations.



## Age

The # of household members of different ages represented within the participant pool are below. Some respondents mistakenly checked boxes instead of filling in numbers; these were conservatively converted to 1. 4+ responses were converted to 4.

*Table 4. Distribution of survey participant household members by age.*

Age	# Household Members	% Participant Household Members	% Menlo Park Population, 2016-2020 ACS
Children 0-17	397	25.8	24.6
Adults 18-29	283	18.4	14.6
Adults 30-59	528	34.3	39.5
Adults 60+	331	21.5	21.2

*Table 5. Belle Haven distribution of survey participant household members by age.*

Age	# Household Members	% Participant Household Members	% Belle Haven Population, 2016-2020 ACS
Children 0-17	345	27	26.2
Adults 18-29	246	19.2	17.4
Adults 30-59	433	33.9	44.6
Adults 60+	254	19.9	11.8

Overall, the current distribution of participants by age somewhat represents the real Belle Haven and Menlo Park age distribution, with overrepresentation of elderly residents.

## Tenure

Using public Secured Property Tax data from San Mateo County<sup>4</sup>, we were able to match 243 responses to specific parcels by address. On balance, the subset that provided addresses appears comparable to the full cohort, with some underrepresentation of White respondents.

<sup>4</sup> <https://datahub.smcgov.org/Government/Secured-Property-Taxes/pmvw-bs84>

Table 6. Distribution of survey participants that provided a matchable address by race and ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	# Households	% Survey Participants, with Address	% Survey Participants, Full
Latino/Latinx	102	43.8	42.5
Black	46	19.6	17.8
White	37	15.9	22
Pacific Islander	31	13.3	8.7
Asian	16	6.8	6.8
Other	1	0.4	2
Native American	0	0.2	0.3

Based on this subset, it appears that the survey overrepresented renter households significantly, as seen in the table below.

Table 7. Distribution of survey participants by tenure.

Tenure	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Belle Haven HHs, 2016-2020 ACS	% Menlo Park HHs, 2016-2020 ACS
Owner	93	38.3	0.52	0.6
Renter	150	61.7	0.48	0.4

## Overcrowding

Using Assessor data from San Mateo County<sup>5</sup>, we were able to match 223 responses to residential parcels with recorded information about the number of rooms. Using the U.S. Census Bureau’s definition of overcrowding, we found that the respondents experienced degrees of overcrowding that were comparable to Belle Haven per the American Community Survey, though this result should be considered an underestimate because of the way we rounded the household size responses. In fact, all of the surveyed households experiencing overcrowding were from Belle Haven.

Table 8. Distribution of survey participants by degree of overcrowding.

Condition	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Belle Haven HHs, 2016-2020 ACS	% Menlo Park HHs, 2016-2020 ACS
Overcrowding (> 1 persons/room)	45	0.20	0.18	0.04

<sup>5</sup> Provided with permission for nonprofit use by the San Mateo County Housing Department and Office of Sustainability.

Severe Overcrowding (> 1.5persons/room)	11	0.05	0.05	0.03
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## Environmental Impact

Respondents were asked: “Have you or your family been affected by any of the following in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.” 5 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 415, we observe the following distribution. The asterisks denote a statistically significant difference between households in Belle Haven and not in Belle Haven: a single asterisk reflects 90% confidence, two asterisks reflect 95% confidence, and three asterisks reflect 99% confidence. Statistical significance is a function of the difference between the proportions of the two groups, as well as the number of respondents in each group. The larger the difference and the larger both samples, the greater our confidence in a true population-level difference.

*Table 9. % of survey participant households by environmental impacts experienced. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Environmental Impact	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Poor air quality	73.3	72.8	73.5
Traffic congestion	65.5	72.8	63.4
Dust and noise from construction	52.9	45.7	54.9
Extreme heat in my home	46.9	33.7	50.6 ***
Extreme heat affecting neighborhood travel	30.7	19.6	33.8 **
Lack of working air conditioning	30	26.1	31.1
Poor tap water quality	26.9	12	31.1 ***
Presence of mold in my home	25.2	13	28.7 ***
Poor soil quality	23.3	12	26.5 ***
Floods affecting neighborhood travel	18.8	5.4	22.6 ***
Rain or weather-related flood damage to my home	15	8.7	16.8 *
Home insurance claim related to environmental issues	10	1.1	12.5 ***

The following table disaggregates the key results by race and ethnicity. The racial categories Native American and Other were excluded due to insufficient sample size. The asterisks denote a statistically significant difference between the given group and the White population.

*Table 10. % of survey participant households that experienced environmental impacts, by race and ethnicity. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Environmental Impact	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific
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					Islander
Traffic congestion	74.4	49.1 ***	68.8	79.9	94.3 **
Poor air quality	69.1	71.3	66.2	78.7	97.1 ***
Dust and noise from construction	51.3	41.7	62.7	38.4	82.9 ***
Extreme heat in my home	38	54.8 **	45	38.4	28.6
Lack of working air conditioning	24.2	41 **	25.4	22	17.1
Extreme heat affecting neighborhood travel	18.1	27.7	28	16.5	74.3 ***
Poor soil quality	14.7	21.8	28.4 *	20.1	20
Presence of mold in my home	14.7	35.3 ***	30.5 **	12.8	5.7
Poor tap water quality	14.1	31.4 ***	33.3 ***	14.6	25.7
Rain or weather-related flood damage to my home	7.8	17.7 *	16.6	5.5	20
Floods affecting neighborhood travel	7.4	16.1 *	7	7.3	82.9 ***
Home insurance claim related to environmental issues	3.4	12.3 **	12.6 *	3.7	2.9

The findings for Pacific Islander households include notably high proportions across many result areas. These may be inflated due to a considerably lower sample size (35) than we had for Latinx households (174), White households (87), and Black households (72). However, our Asian sample was also considerably lower (27), but without statistically significant differences compared to White households. Therefore, we interpret the Pacific Islander findings to reflect a true difference compared to White households, though perhaps not to the degree observed.

Other responses included:

- Noise from cars, trains, and planes (7)
- Litter or smell (4)
- Tree cover loss (3)
- Parking or traffic congestion (3)
- Noise from neighbor air conditioning, lawn work (3)
- Fire risk (2)
- Animal pests (2)
- Road safety
- High energy costs
- Sea level rise
- Lack of food access outside of business hours
- Lack of public water fountains
- Roof damage

## Health Issues

Respondents were asked: “Have any of the following health issues affected your household in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.” 44 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 376, we observe the following distribution.

*Table 11. Distribution of survey participant households by health issues experienced. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Health Issue	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Stress and anxiety	49.8	58.7	47.3 *
High blood pressure or cholesterol	49	31.5	54 ***
COVID-19	43.3	20.7	49.7 ***
Asthma	37.6	13	44.5 ***
Diabetes	28.8	5.4	35.4 ***
Obesity	26.2	16.3	29 **
Mental health problems	23.8	27.2	22.9
Migraines	22.1	20.7	22.6
Disability	18.3	7.6	21.3 ***
Cancer	17.9	12	19.5
Heat stroke	14	7.6	15.9 *
Reproductive/birth challenges	3.6	4.3	3.4

*Table 12. % of survey participant households that experienced health issues, by race and ethnicity. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Health Issue	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
Stress and anxiety	56.1	37.1 ***	49.2	67.1	71.4
High blood pressure or cholesterol	33	50.9 ***	50.3 **	36.6	74.3 ***
Mental health problems	26.7	26.8	22.8	14.6	2.9 ***
Migraines	23.5	24	19.3	26.8	5.7 **
COVID-19	19.8	47.9 ***	39.6 **	32.9	91.4 ***
Asthma	18.5	41.3 ***	47.1 ***	15.9	71.4 ***
Cancer	15.8	19.2	15.4	3.7	17.1
Obesity	14.5	29.6 **	22.8	14	51.4 ***
Disability	9.5	16.5	36.8 ***	3.7	8.6

Diabetes	5.2	32.5 ***	35 ***	12.8	65.7 ***
Heat stroke	3.8	20.1 ***	10.5	12.8	14.3 *
Reproductive/birth challenges	3.8	4.6	0.7	7.3	NA

Other responses included:

- Allergies (10)
- Lung/sinus infection (2)
- Aging, dementia
- Food poisoning
- Learning disability

## Financial Stress

Respondents were asked: “Which of the following applies to your household? Check all that apply.” 36 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 384, we observe the following distribution.

*Table 13. Distribution of survey participant households by financial stresses experienced. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Financial Stress	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
We do not have earthquake insurance.	43.1	55.4	39.6 ***
My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare.	41.2	72.8	32.3 ***
We do not have or need flood insurance.	38.3	65.2	30.8 ***
We have delayed repairs we want to do to our home (like roof windows mold) because of cost.	38.3	21.7	43 ***
My household can easily cover the cost of housing.	38.1	70.7	29 ***
My household has spent more than \$100 in the past year on repairing damages caused by the environment or reducing potential impacts.	31.2	31.5	31.1
In order to pay a \$400 emergency expense my household would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money.	25	2.2	31.4 ***
If my household faced a \$400 emergency expense we would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash.	24.8	6.5	29.9 ***

Table 14. % of survey participant households that experienced financial stresses, by race and ethnicity. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.

Financial Stress	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
My household can easily cover the cost of housing.	70.2	16.7 ***	19.8 ***	50.6 *	91.4 **
My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare.	67.9	23.1 ***	22.6 ***	50.6	94.3 ***
We do not have or need flood insurance.	66	31.5 ***	31.9 ***	47.6	8.6 ***
We do not have earthquake insurance.	55.7	42.5 *	42	51.2	8.6 ***
My household has spent more than \$100 in the past year on repairing damages caused by the environment or reducing potential impacts.	29.6	30	35.4	31.1	40
We have delayed repairs we want to do to our home (like roof windows mold) because of cost.	24.5	44.2 ***	61.1 ***	36.6	2.9 **
In order to pay a \$400 emergency expense my household would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money.	9.6	33.1 ***	39.9 ***	12.8	2.9
If my household faced a \$400 emergency expense we would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash.	9.4	30.1 ***	43.4 ***	4.9	5.7

Other responses included:

- Unemployment (2)
- High property taxes (2)

## Household Improvement

Respondents were asked: “Which of the following would you prioritize if you had extra money to spend on your household’s environmental health and safety? Select only one bubble for each column.” 25 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 395, we observe the following distribution of top #1 and #2 choices. Note that Belle Haven respondents were more likely to fill out the survey with more than one #1 choice, which is likely to have led to an overestimate of the degree of statistical significance in comparisons across groups.

Table 15. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \* $P < 0.10$ , \*\* $P < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.01$ .

Household Improvement	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	41.2	27.2	45.1 ***
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	39.3	18.5	45.1 ***
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	38.3	27.2	41.5 **
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	34.8	13	40.9 ***
Healthy food (including gardening)	31.7	13	36.9 ***
Solar panels or battery storage	29.5	37	27.4
Rainwater capture or water recycling	27.9	23.9	29
Home insurance	23.1	4.3	28.4 ***
Replace gas appliances	19.3	19.6	19.2
Other	3.6	3.3	3.7

Table 16. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \* $P < 0.10$ , \*\* $P < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.01$ .

Household Improvement	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
Solar panels or battery storage	36.2	34.6	21 *	31.1	14.3 **
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	28.9	54.1 ***	43.6 *	28.7	11.4 *
Rainwater capture or water recycling	28.3	30.7	25.6	20.1	14.3
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	25.1	44.8 ***	49.9 ***	34.8	34.3
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	23.8	42.4 ***	27	25.6	57.1 ***
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	20.8	51.1 ***	40.3 **	37.8	17.1
Replace gas appliances	18.7	19.9	16.1	16.5	22.9
Healthy food (including gardening)	15.3	38 ***	32.6 **	20.1	45.7 ***
Home insurance	9.6	35.1 ***	26.3 ***	3.7	5.7
Other	2.3	5.6	4.9	NA	NA

We also investigated whether there was any difference in household improvement priorities across households with (195) or without (225) elderly members. There do not appear to be



statistically significant differences, with the exception of preferences for rainwater capture or water recycling.

*Table 17. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of households with or without elderly members. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Household Improvement	All Households	Households without Elderly	Households with Elderly
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	41.2	38.7	44.1
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	39.3	37.3	41.5
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	38.3	41.3	34.9
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	34.8	35.1	34.4
Healthy food (including gardening)	31.7	31.1	32.3
Solar panels or battery storage	29.5	30.7	28.2
Rainwater capture or water recycling	27.9	23.1	33.3 **
Home insurance	23.1	24	22.1
Replace gas appliances	19.3	17.8	21
Other	3.6	2.7	4.6

We also investigated whether there was any difference in household improvement priorities across households with (220) or without (200) financial burden, based on affirming either of the statements from the survey question on financial stress: “My household can easily cover the cost of housing”; “My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare”. Households that perceive themselves as financially burdened are less likely to prioritize electrification and more likely to prioritize home insurance and air conditioning.

*Table 18. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of households financially burdened or not. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Household Improvement	All Households	Households not Financially Burdened	Households Financially Burdened
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	41.2	36.5	45.5 *
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	39.3	35	43.2
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	38.3	34	42.3
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	34.8	36	33.6

Healthy food (including gardening)	31.7	33	30.5
Solar panels or battery storage	29.5	31	28.2
Rainwater capture or water recycling	27.9	27.5	28.2
Home insurance	23.1	18.5	27.3 **
Replace gas appliances	19.3	26.5	12.7 ***
Other	3.6	3	4.1

Other responses included:

- Products to reduce extreme cold (2)
- Drought-tolerant landscaping (2)
- Lead paint abatement
- Electric vehicles
- Gas for gas vehicles
- Construction of accessory dwelling unit
- Private schooling
- Renter’s insurance
- Outdoor shading

## Neighborhood Improvement

Respondents were asked: “Which of the following would you prioritize for neighborhood improvements? Select only one bubble for each column.” 9 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 411, we observe the following distribution of top #1 and #2 choices. Note that Belle Haven respondents were more likely to fill out the survey with more than one #1 choice, which is likely to have led to an overestimate of the degree of statistical significance in comparisons across groups.

*Table 19. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred neighborhood improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Neighborhood Improvement	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Pedestrian safety (sidewalks, crosswalks, speed bumps)	45	28.3	49.7 ***
Improved roads (potholes)	42.1	18.5	48.8 ***
Safer biking routes	38.1	30.4	40.2
More street trees	35.2	15.2	40.9 ***
Improved parks or community gardening	33.8	14.1	39.3 ***
Improved water supply (safe drinking, firefighting)	32.1	13	37.5 ***
Security cameras for safety and dumping	31.9	13	37.2 ***

Cool and clean air shelters (community center)	29.5	4.3	36.6 ***
Improved transit infrastructure (bus stops, signs, benches)	29.3	16.3	32.9 ***
Air quality monitoring sensors in public spaces	25.7	13	29.3 ***
Improved storm drainage	23.3	6.5	28 ***
Improved code enforcement (illegal parking)	21.2	5.4	25.6 ***
Flood barriers along rivers or bayfront	20.7	5.4	25 ***
Other	6	6.5	5.8

Table 20. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred neighborhood improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.

Neighborhood Improvement	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
Safer biking routes	35.3	49.6 **	35.2	27.4	5.7 ***
Pedestrian safety (sidewalks, crosswalks, speed bumps)	30.4	57.2 ***	41.5	36.6	22.9
More street trees	25.3	48.5 ***	30.8	7.3 *	25.7
Improved roads (potholes)	24.3	44.8 ***	44.8 **	12.8	71.4 ***
Improved transit infrastructure (bus stops, signs, benches)	22.1	35.4 **	30.8	23.8	14.3
Improved parks or community gardening	20.9	48.9 ***	28	16.5	8.6
Improved water supply (safe drinking, firefighting)	16.2	40.2 ***	32.6 **	16.5	37.1 **
Security cameras for safety and dumping	15.8	37.8 ***	36.4 ***	36.6 **	20
Air quality monitoring sensors in public spaces	14.5	32.7 ***	28.7 **	21.3	11.4
Improved storm drainage	11.9	32.8 ***	19.6	1.8	17.1
Flood barriers along rivers or bayfront	11.3	27.8 ***	21.7	3.7	14.3
Improved code enforcement (illegal parking)	10.2	27 ***	28.7 ***	7.3	5.7
Cool and clean air shelters (community center)	7.7	45 ***	32.9 ***	6.7	8.6
Other	5.1	7.3	6.3	3.7	NA

Other responses included:

- Reduce crime (3)
- Reduce noise pollution from trains (3)
- Electrification of trains
- Landscape freeway interchange at Willow Rd
- Transit service on Dumbarton Rail corridor

- Supermarket access near Dumbarton Rail corridor
- Undergrounding of power lines
- Dog park
- Tennis courts
- Reduce parking fees
- Cutting down of very large trees
- School crossing guards

**City of Menlo Park**

# Climate Resilient Communities Prioritization Workshop Summary



**May 2024**

Empowering community voices to  
implement equitable climate solutions  
for unity, resilience, & justice

**Prepared For:**  
City of Menlo Park



## Climate Resilient Communities

May 2nd & 9th, 2024

567 Hamilton Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025

*Description: This report summarizes the outcomes of two workshops on the Environmental Justice (“EJ”) and Safety Element Update for the City of Menlo Park’s General Plan. It was organized by Climate Resilient Communities (“CRC”) for Spanish-speaking residents and members of the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, on May 2nd and May 9th, 2024. The primary facilitators were CRC Staff representatives and members of the identified Underserved Communities which includes Belle Haven and Bayfront residents of Menlo Park.*

### Participant Demographics

- The May 2 Spanish workshop was attended by 33 individuals.
- The May 9 English workshop was attended by 48 individuals.
- Nearly all participants were members of the Belle Haven Community.
- Cumulative participants engaged throughout the EJ Element process totals approximately 1,800 residents, which represents more than 25% of Belle Haven residents.

### Key Take-Aways

- 1** The top priorities of Belle Haven residents are Safe, Sanitary, and Stable homes and Access to Healthy and Affordable food. This demonstrated the financial precarity of the community through their clear emphasis on access to basic needs and services. The EJ Element should offer clear paths to addressing these concerns.
- 2** There are massive disparities between the Belle Haven neighborhood and the South side of Menlo Park, separated by the 101 Freeway. Several participants in the workshop indicated they lacked the literacy to participate in the worksheet activity without facilitator help, something entirely absent from many perceptions of Menlo Park.
- 3** Accountability remains a top concern for residents. They have little trust that their participation will result in meaningful change and are reluctant to believe that the programs and policies will be implemented. Many residents are feeling acute stress and want to see improvements made in their community while seeing the displacement pressure alleviated. Many environmental concerns take a back seat to the more immediate concerns about displacement, gentrification, and access to healthy food and living environments.



# Key Quotes from Worksheet Comments:



"Living here is expensive and many times we have to pay rent no matter what and our health is affected because we can't afford quality food."

"Housing is a human rights issue, addressing the displacement and ensuring residents that make up this community can stay in the community is the top priority."



"Rent control is #1 because it can allow people time to save to purchase a house in the future."

"Rent is so expensive! We need better rent control laws for low income families!"

"There are a lot of residents who've had to move away because of rent hikes and discriminatory home buying practices. There are renter-to-owner issues that need to be addressed by laws."



"My number 1 is increasing the number of trees in the community which will help with significant air pollutants and overall health."

"Environmental justice is essential for the growth of the community."

"We need to have banks and grocery stores in this area because there are lots of seniors who don't have vehicles and have to wait at the bus stops for long periods and some are afraid of being onboard."



"As I age, after I retired I am unable to afford to live."

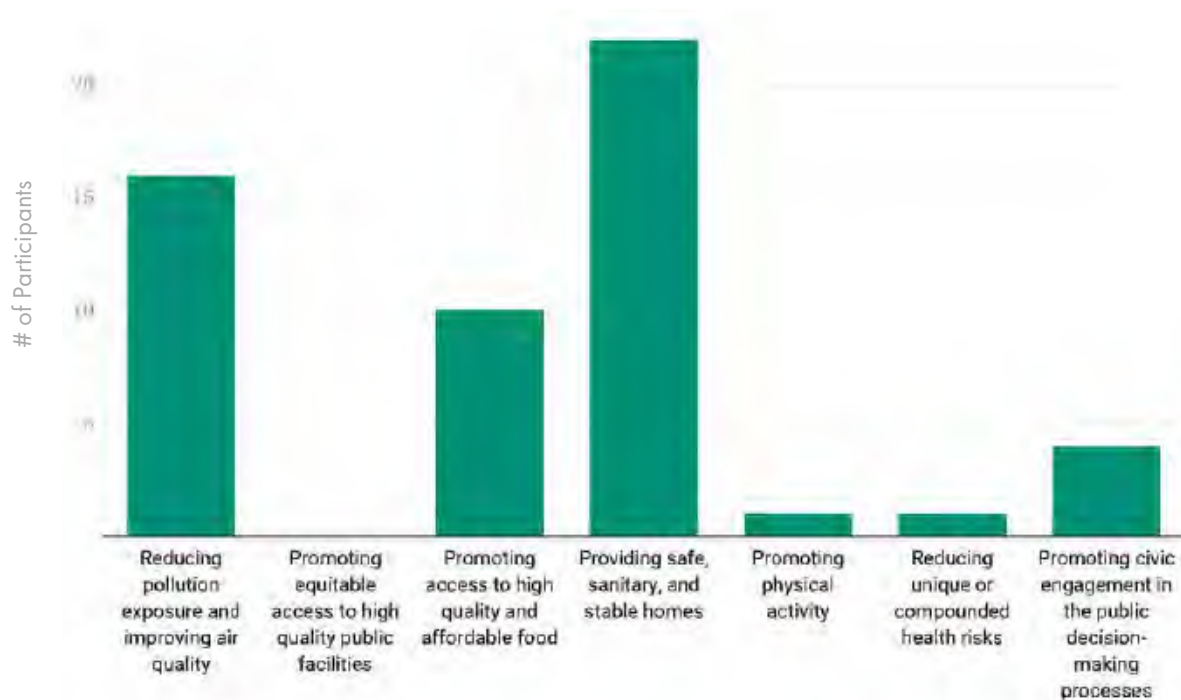
Summary of Worksheet Exercise

Prioritization Workshop Summary



### Key Statistics

- Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes was the top priority, receiving a plurality of first place rankings. 41% of residents stated it was their top concern.
- The #2 priority was Healthy and Affordable Food. 30% of residents stated it was their top concern. The #3 priority was Reducing Pollution Exposure, as 18% of residents placed this at the top.
- Among the seven programs in the Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes, 48% of residents placed anti-displacement as their top priority, while 21% of others stated down-payment assistance as their top priority.





# Recommendations

01

## EJ Element Reporting Requirements & Accountability

Increase opportunities for accountability through strict reporting requirements on EJ Element Programs and Policies. Identify a primary and secondary department and/or staff person responsible for implementation and, as appropriate, at least two potential funding sources in the implementation guide.

02

## Goal 5 Language Towards "Safety, Sanitary, and Stable"

Ensure "Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing" is used in Goal 5 language and throughout the document, replacing "Safe and Sanitary Homes."

03

## Strengthening in Policy Language

Strengthen program and policy language throughout the EJ Element, for example by changing encourage to ensure or could to should/shall.

04

## Anti-Displacement Actions

Elevate Anti-Displacement Actions into the EJ Element, accelerate timelines for creation and implement interim steps as soon as possible:

- Specifically, move 7.J.3 from the Implementation Guide to the Environmental Justice Element itself, retaining it as a program under Goal 5
- Modify 5.G to say "Ensure that the City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E supports households and neighborhoods in Underserved Communities. This will include studying at a minimum the following:
  - the creation of a rental inventory of all homes
  - updated or expanded rent control laws
  - rent increase mitigations such as longer noticing requirements
  - community and tenant opportunity to purchase policies
  - revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper subsidies
  - relocation assistance for tenants
  - just cause eviction protections regardless of tenant duration
  - strengthened tenant harassment ordinances
  - examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs.



# Objectives & Methodology

## Objectives

- Identify community priorities within Environmental Justice topic areas
- Prioritize programs within goal areas to identify most pressing stressors and opportunities
- Engage residents in civic processes and receive feedback to structure general plan
- Provide update on Safety Element revisions document based on community feedback

## Methodology



### Outreach

- Reached out to resident contacts via email, text and phone calls to our network
- Contacted other Belle Haven nonprofits (Belle Haven Action, Belle Haven Empowered, Belle Haven Community Development Fund), distributing online registration form
- Collaborated with Belle Haven Climate Change Community Teams (CCCTs) to promote event and reach further networks
- Distributed flyers door to door and at 3 tabling events



### Facilitation

Our attached agenda (see appendix) explains the general outline of the meeting, which was the same for both discussions. It began with a presentation before attendees participated in a guided worksheet and small group exercise. This consisted of filling out worksheets asking residents to rank their priorities on a list and then discuss why they ranked things the way they did. Participants ranked all options relative to one another and had an area to provide written comments. Every 10 minutes the topic changed, with two minutes to work on the ranking and 8 minutes to discuss the results with facilitators taking notes and asking questions. After completing their worksheets and offering comments, people returned their completed worksheets and received their participant compensation.

# Agenda & Summary of Discussions

Time	Agenda
5:30pm	Participants Arrive and Begin Dinner
6:10pm	People Directed to the Sanctuary for the Presentation
6:15pm	Presentation Began from M-Group Explaining Work Done-to-Date
6:30pm	Breakout Activity: Guided Worksheet Exercise
7:45pm	Reconvene/Close: Collect Worksheets & Distribute Compensation

## Summary of Discussions (Spanish):

**(Facilitator 1 - Chase)** The residents of Menlo Park spoke on the various concerns that they have about their community. One of the larger concerns is the air quality around the neighborhoods in Belle Haven due to the highway being close in proximity and the construction going on at the elementary school. Residents with breathing issues or asthma are greatly affected by the dust and other pollutants in the air. Residents also mentioned that Resilience Hubs are also of importance and it would be within the best interest of the community to outfit public buildings with things to relieve community members during times of climate events such as heat waves, atmospheric rivers, etc.

A lack of affordable housing and resources for lower income families were also a huge concern. Residents talked about how many lower income residents did not have many options when it comes to homes and them having sufficient space for the pricing.

In addition to this, there is not enough low income housing within the community. Transportation was a concern as well, bus routes and general public or group transportation either did not live up to the community standards or did not meet them at all. SamTrans was either not entirely reliable or didn't fulfill the needs of the community and although it uses an electric vehicle, it was deemed to do more harm than good.

**(Facilitator 2 - Najiha)** For comments about the workshop itself, participants needed to be assured that their feedback would be heard and distributed to the city. There is a great mistrust between city officials and the residents. Major concerns were for air quality, housing stability, and results. They don't want reporting in and of itself, but to see the tangible results throughout the community. Some participants weren't able to read at all so facilitators stepped in to help interpret the worksheet activity, allowing them to select their top

priority. This wasn't very effective and resulted in some skewed results because some residents resorted to just answering in sequential order. It was difficult for them to remember all the options as they were read aloud - some options were wordy. Primary feedback centered around distrust, not really thinking their concerns were going to yield any results, or that any actions would be taken as a direct result of voicing their concerns.

**(Facilitator 3 - Alba)** Air quality, health and affordable housing were very important overall. The community members connected with other topics like, SamTrans and the special project to provide transport, but the system to get it was not serving the community members as planned. Others pointed out that one of the Programs in the EJ Element were focused on reducing water bills, but residents asked about electricity as a greater expense.

Community members mentioned as top priority owning land as a community to then being able to regulate it and share it to have affordable housing. Another community member did not prioritize the internet to avoid it leading to youth becoming more sedentary as they surf the net or play games or stream. All mentioned food and housing as top priorities.

## Summary of Discussions (English):

The discussions held in English were very similar. The top three priorities were Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing, Healthy and Affordable Food, and Reducing Pollution Exposure. Many justified the focus on housing and displacement prevention as being the foundation of a community—what is the use in cleaning the environment if they're ultimately forced to live elsewhere? Residents pointed to the role housing plays in overall health and the high degree of their neighbors that live in unsafe or unstable conditions. They saw healthy and affordable foods as vital and pointed out the lack of a grocery store in the community as something that degrades health and contributes to other problems like traffic and air quality as people are forced to drive elsewhere to access basic services like food, banking, and medical care.

Many residents placed civic engagement as their lowest priority. They felt that decisions have always been made without them and didn't see how participating in any of the processes would change their lives. Many residents voiced that they had tried to participate in the past, many for decades and have not seen their action result in anything meaningful. This demonstrates the importance of tangible improvements made in the community as a result of this process—failure to do so risks further disenfranchisement and disengagement.

“Housing is a human rights issue, addressing the displacement and ensuring residents that make up this community can stay in the community is the top priority.”

-- Belle Haven Resident



# Appendix & Attachments

## Attachments (all included as separate documents):



**Appendix 1** - English Menlo Park EJE Feedback: Contains a transcription of notes written by facilitators and all written comments on worksheets collected from participants, both organized by subject area.



**Appendix 2** - Spanish Menlo Park EJE Feedback: Contains a transcription of notes written by facilitators and all written comments on worksheets collected from participants, both organized by subject area.



**Appendix 3** - An excel workbook with raw data from the prioritization worksheet. This is the data used to generate the graphs above.



**Climate Resilient Communities is immensely grateful for the collaboration and support of both M-Group and the Belle Haven Community for being able to make this research and prioritization efforts possible.**


At its inception in 2016, Climate Resilient Communities was a volunteer-driven commitment to helping residents reduce their energy costs, improve home health, and gain access to local resources like subsidized solar panels and home energy audits, and weatherization upgrades.

Through the support of our funders, our growth has allowed CRC to expand community-based solutions that center local voices in order to increase capacity to adapt to climate change threats like extreme heat, flooding, and water, food, and energy security, alongside environmental justice education.

**We thank you for your review on the prioritization progress & our research towards and for the communities we serve.**

## Contact

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English Menlo Park EJE Feedback

**Large Post It Comments:**

Overall:

Top:

- Homes - stable homes are foundation, apartments aren't habitable and that creates significant health problems
- Affordable food - people need to be fed
- Physical Activity - more holistic solutions come from a healthy start with our kids. If they are not active in their youth, that will negative shape the rest of their lives
- Our biggest priority is to provide safe, sanitary and stable homes
- We also want to make sure that we are a part of promoting access to high quality and affordable food

Bottom:

- Engagement - we know that the City will make decisions without us anyways, like they always do

Goal 1:

- Public infrastructure, wants to see progress reported on, need to see results
- Seeing same problems - 40/50 years down the line
- Public infrastructure demonstrates that it is getting done and it is clearly a start to what needs to happen next
- Annual reports help create evidence and a track record
  - Written progress makes me feel like it is getting done and they are actively assessing what has been done and what is working
  - Does "annual" mean at the beginning, middle or end of the year? We would prefer to have all three
- Prioritize Belle Haven, shows up progress - annually!
- Infrastructure - everything is old and the new Community Center is the only new building
  - We need to start now because we know that it is going to take a while
- Most important is air pollution
- We do not think it is important to prioritize public infrastructure because work with people first and then get to this
- We want to see that "reporting" is accessible
- The other side of Menlo Park has state of the art infrastructure, but there isn't one nearby. The infrastructure we are thinking of are hubs for children to develop themselves and build community.
- We need to prioritize public infrastructure so that people in Belle Haven feel safe and supported in enhancing their community
- We want to access how well the EJ policies and programs address health risks

Goal 2:

- Buses aren't being used
- Education and outreach are essential
- Significant polluters should be held accountable. They would rather pay a fine than do something about it
- More knowledge about how to legally dump and it should be free to use the dump
- Got to be made aware of issues and how to act pinned between pollution points
- Choices are being made to install EV charging by SamTrans without community input
- We want more education and awareness on what "green infrastructure" is
- We know the problems with air quality but we want to see action and data-driven results that demonstrate advancement and justice
- Solar panels are BEYOND CRITICAL but I hesitate because I don't trust PG&E's grid capacity in Belle Haven. I have only heard horrible things from folks who have spent a lot of money and time installing solar panels just to have PG&E not be there to support the installation by turning over the energy
- It is important to hold major polluters accountable for SURE
- Do you only need flood insurance if you have a loan on your home as a homeowner?  
More research is needed
  - Despite this question, people who live in the flood zones/low lying areas need to have real and tangible protections too
- I believe most of us would take care of our public spaces if it was more convenient and affordable to legally dump
- We really like and have had positive experiences with the garbage company doing bulky pick ups!
- The garbage company needs to remove the charge/cost on the size of my curbside bin
- WE NEED MORE TREES!!! The difference in air quality, more pollinators/diversity, more shade BUT I don't want to have those trees damage my plumbing or mess with my allergies
- Work with polluters to mitigate and stop, they can go electric much more easily than we can
- It is important to stop illegal dumping because of the health hazards, fire risk and rodents
- We recommend that you revise the City rules so that the City can act to protect health
- Urban greening and carpooling can wait
- It isn't just us here in Belle Haven or just me as one person, we know the City can do more than us alone
- Most important is to revise regulations in the City to reduce pollution because we need to address this program in our community
- It is not important to to develop urban forest because we don't know if there is a need for the trees in our community
- We want a better understanding for how to work with "significant polluters"
- There should be a fee reduction at waste sites
- Pollution impacts the already problematic and systemic health disparities based on racial demographics. It disproportionately impacts people of color (Zoning/redlining.
- Educating the youth about climate resilience will address: accessibility, info spread, better advocacy for our roads/streets



- Important to think about how to diversify ethnic food options
- Why haven't all stores implemented EBT? Do they lose profit when EBT is used at their store?
- Grocery stores are limited in Belle Haven and results in food scarcity
- Want similar resources to Berkeley High School that has nutritional meals for students
- Electrical modifications are needed because the homes are old
- Double panel windows will help to condense sound too and cuts down on PG&E bills
- Bus system is getting better, they pick up/drop off more often than what I remember from before
- Small drug stores like CVS and Trader Joe's would be so great to have in our neighborhood too
- We need to develop an UFMP
- It is also important to minimize/mitigate illegal dumping

Goal 3:

- Amenities closed at the times communities need them
- Improving financial access to healthcare without insurance barrier, with the expectation that there will be quality healthcare provided despite no cost and no insurance
- Fire dept open all the time, why not the amenities?
- My home must be safe and reliable for power during a natural disaster. I feel like it is more important to me to upgrade my home so I know I am safe and can invite people over when things get tough.
- Very important to identify PRIVATE locations for Resilience Hubs too
  - Resilience Hubs need to be accessible to folks in motorized wheelchairs
  - The new community center will be dangerous to drive to in an extreme storm. I don't feel comfortable using that space as a Resilient Hub in the future
- Have programs for kids and facilities to understand the steps in green infrastructure
- We want to see our public facilities kept clean and the waste is properly disposed
- Housing for low income seniors is important
- We want more communication and transparency between Belle Haven residents and the City to talk about existing programs
- Want to see more bank connections so that there are loans for the community. We want to feel the sufficiency of keeping money here in our community specifically
- PG&E is going crazy with all the rate discrepancies, hikes and extra charges. We feel absolutely brutalized when it comes to making sure the lights are on in our homes. What is going on with this and how is PCE or the City looking to intervene?
- It is not important to identify and improve buildings because we do not understand what a Resilience Hub is and do not find that term relevant or engaging as a community
- It is very important to make sure there is Internet for all so that kids can have access along with every single other community member
- Support affordable Internet access to learn more about community programs. That connection is essential for understanding the digital resources and educational campaigns that are happening by the City
- Public buildings should be identified as our resilience hubs

- We want to ensure that our recreational facilities provide residents with access to parks, community centers and other safe places to gather and connect

Goal 4:

- Resources like SNAP available - provide access and more information is needed
- We want high quality resources and in collaboration with local stores
- SNAP access to essential care materials
- What does and does not count towards EBT
- Increase knowledge and signage (ads) for food access - we need more information and access points
- Encouraging health and clean eating with fresh food locally like at a Farmer's Market is important
- Misinformation and lots of questions about if farmer's markets were still happening in Belle Haven and where they are at currently
- Gardening in general is really important, especially teaching people and a community garden how to take it home
- I want to lump the farmers market initiatives with community gardens and use those spaces as a hub for teaching, eating and spending time in my community
- Is groundwater a part of this? I want to see more trends, see more research because what I have observed now is very concerning in my own backyard
- Everyone needs to know about food assistance programs, not just some folks
- Grocery stores need to be closer to the community because seniors do not have cars and have to take the bus to get anywhere. The transportation system is not reliable enough for that to be the way they get their food.
- Most important to address the price of food because it is so expensive. We recommend prioritizing SNAP grocery stores, promoting farmer markings and identifying how to promote deeper accessibility in Belle Haven
- The City must tell people about existing programs
- Everyone will accept benefits, increased access and an increase in affordability
- Community gardens can help share resources
- We voted for encouragement of the community at the bottom because the current programs people already know about are not working. We clearly need new programs that make more sense for this community.
- Proximity matters in providing healthy food - it must be walkable! Other ways to make it more accessible include smaller businesses, accessibility, universal SNAP and food delivery to seniors
- Inform low-income households and make sure the information makes sense to them
- ENcourage healthy food options

Goal 5:

- Education prevention for youth to not become houseless - prepare in advance through financial education pathways
- Noticing a ballooning interest on loans
- Down payment and first-time homeowners assistance
- Properties are being sold with toxic releases present

- Toxic building materials in houses
- Nonchalance of government to address these issues is so, so frustrating
- Rent control is necessary, we recommend \$6000 for 2 bed, 2 bath
- Anti-displacement sounds intriguing, we all in this group want to see that because we continue to see more and more folks living in their cars but wanting to stay in the community despite not being able to afford to live here
- We have NO rent control laws, that is easily the most important because it doesn't exist at all and hasn't been piloted at all in the area
- So much traffic because people can't afford to live here, they have to pass through to get to more affordable housing on the other side of the Bay
- It has taken a while for Belle Haven residents to see and feel the impacts of gentrification but it is very clear at this point in time
- Multilingual resources need to also be plainly worded so that you do not need to be highly education to understand and feel like you are included in that resource
- Most important to Identify and resolve rent control issues and housing issues for renters
- We do not feel it is a priority now to ensure that the City has an anti-displacement policy or initiative
- Down payments help a lot and we want more classes for homebuyers
- Displacement is a major issue!! The rent to own model is not working in our community
- There is a major problem with soil quality in Belle Haven. It is critical to have a clean foundation and if it is contaminated, people will have to move
- Housing needs to be fair and affordable
- Multilingual tenant information is really important
  - Students are transferring from different countries and are having issues assimilating because of the language berries
- Speeding by Mt. Eden Seboral is unsafe for crossing children
- Ensure the City's Anti-Displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven specifically and in particular
- Electrification of homes and the water quality in the home are very important to us

Goal 6:

- Zoning parking issues, we continue to move our cars to avoid tickets
- ID barriers to physical education, safe routes to school
- Kids spend a lot of time navigating through traffic
- Lighting is terrible in the neighborhood and diminishes safety of those using active transportation after the sun goes down
- We know and deeply care about physical activity - we have known and felt that priority our whole lives and that makes this section easier to rank and visualize in the community
- Lots of people like to walk in the neighborhood. Are there more natural trails that we can use that connect to the Bay? What types of trails already exist and are they used regularly now?
- Crossing guards are very important with how much traffic there is in Belle Haven
- There are too many crossing guards, clearly there are plenty of those folks doing the work
- Seeing the assessment and development of safer routes to school is really important

- Speeding is a huge problem on Hamilton Ave - speed bumps or other slowing impediments are necessary
- Sideshows, or reckless driving and tricks, are getting out of hand. We know the police are trying but it is still a major issue that needs to be addressed.
- Our priority is to update the master plan because I want to improve the environment
- It is less important to implement education campaigns because it was the last option on the list but I got to the bottom of my ballot and only have that left
- More comprehensive and ongoing educational campaigns would help a lot in our community!
- Identify and eliminate barrier to our door physical activities are essential
- We want to see increased safety as a result of educational campaigns

Goal 7:

- Stipends for council and stipends for commissioners too - we like what is going on and look forward to more
- Want to group all the civic engagement initiatives into one priority project/campaign
- Educational opportunities are really important to keeping everyone involved and continuing to be thoughtfully involved longer term
- We really need more often and relevant disaster preparedness resources that are TANGIBLE and make sense with how to use
- Need more clarity on what "maintaining EJ Element" means in context. How is the City asking the community to be involved with this?
- It is really important to promote/evaluate educational workshops because people want to know how to get involved and want to stay involved longer term
- We do not think it is important to maintaining the EJE because the community is already not consider at all so what is the point?
- We need more disaster preparedness resources in Belle Haven
- We need to encourage more resources are leveraged for in person outreach because that is how this community connects and shares information

Other:

- Example
- Example

**Worksheet Comments:**

Overall:

- Safe and stable homes, food and reducing health risks top priority because they are the most important to living day to day. Reducing pollution and improving air quality is also very important as well as promoting civic engagement in public decision making to make the neighborhood population feel like they have a voice and that they become more involved.
- Housing is not only a major issue in the state but especially in the disadvantaged communities, that is the most important. The less important on this is physical activity because that is much more of an individual's discipline.
- With all of the traffic air quality is a must, food is next on my list followed by housing.

- Everything can be improved but physical activity and high quality facilities are mostly taken care of.
- It is very important to have good housing and food.
- Stable homes are the foundation of a good community. Lowest priority is civic engagement, it looks good here today.
- Clean air is most important for your health.
- We need to be able to nourish ourselves with quality food. Air quality is important and preventing displacement is as well. If we take care of those we'll address unique and compounded health problems, facilities is lowest on my list.
- Air quality is very important, East Menlo Park has worse air than the rest of Menlo.
- All are important but promoting physical activity is most important for the environment so there is less pollution.
- I ranked safe sanitary and stable homes as the top priority because there isn't enough nice living spaces on this side of Menlo Park.
- Living in unsafe spaces, unstable or uninhabitable conditions creates many health health issues, you need security to thrive. Decisions are often made without citizen input all the time.
- We ranked safe, sanitary, and stable homes number one because it is better to live in a clean safe home than outdoors in poor air quality.
- We ranked providing safe sanitary and stable homes because our priorities should lie in homes so they can be safe for our families and future generations.
- We rate providing safe sanctuary and stable homes number 1.
- My priority is homes, health care and physical/health risks.
- *Living here is expensive and many times we have to pay rent no matter what and our health is affected because we can't afford quality food.*
- More support for elderly folks, improve air quality.
- Top priority is housing and food.
- Air quality is a top priority due to all the construction work that is going on.
- Affordable and safe housing is crucial, civic engagement gives people a voice and opinions. Air quality can cause health risks and reducing health risks is key to living a long life.
- Promoting physical activity for our youth early in life will help decrease health risks. Improving air quality will also help reduce health issues.
- People in underserved areas are obese, this needs to be addresses. Air pollution creates asthma and lung issues. Safe and sanitary homes is anti-displacement.
- Physical activity is lower bodily health can be improved through individual actions. Outreach and education is important, knowing is half the battle.
- The cost of living is so high and is insane. People can make the best decisions about physical activity.
- If we want to tackle the air pollution, stop building in Belle Haven. That is the reason we have air pollution and stop tearing down 40 foot trees.
- If we can't keep the community we have here, what is it all for? We have to make things better for the people who have been here and fighting for a long time, so homes is a top

priority. We have to improve health, there is more than enough food to go around, it is about getting it to the people who need it.

- *Housing is a human rights issue, addressing the displacement and ensuring residents that make up this community can stay in the community is the top priority.*
- Impacts from the state highway are extreme, we should learn lessons about food insecurity from the pandemic food insecurity nutrition and health. People need to be able to easily voice their issues and concerns to governments.
- Housing is the top concern, we need to keep our current community housed and create opportunities. The community is surrounded by highways so air quality is also a top priority.
- Everything ties together.
- We need to make sure everyone is healthy.
- Having a safe and stable home is the most important because it all comes down to needing a roof over your head that way you aren't as exposed to air pollution.

Goal 1:

- The other side of Menlo Park has very good infrastructure. Look!
- traffic
- *Environmental justice is essential for the growth of the community.*
- We need infrastructure investment, we are last in our needs.
- If you prioritize you can assess what is needed and then can check annually on the progress.
- *As I age, after I retired I am unable to afford to live.*
- I live in Belle Haven so to me personally infrastructure improvements are very important to be done and health risks be addressed.
- Public infrastructure is most important because the community can see the impacts, less important is annual reporting because we'll see the progress.
- We need to know about the outcomes of the EJE and see how well it is working. Follow up in the community on progress.
- Working on the improvements in the community is needed to make real progress.
- Top priority is roads, potholes, making buildings disaster ready. Then give an account of what has been done.
- Infrastructure improvements will take the longest so they should be prioritized first. Reporting on progress can wait till things are actually being accomplished.
- We need to be informed on the plans for development.
- We need to prioritize infrastructure so that it is better for the children.
- Address health risks is most important because we face those risks every day.
- *The priority should be fixing the community because there's been a lot of neglect—buildings, schools and street are not updated. There is more congestion in the community as well so public works needs to address that.*
- Providing better infrastructure is our #1 because better spaces for children allow them to grow in their school. If you put time and effort into your childrens school they'll feel more willing to learn because youre putting time into them. As a student it makes you feel cared about that makes you want to learn.

- Children's lives matter so we need to make sure they have safe spaces.
- Actionable improvements will help everyone even when not all people are in the loop with reports and assessments.
- Prioritizing investment in Belle Haven is vital, reporting yearly is also vital.
- It is important for infrastructure to be improved quickly and reported annually to make sure there is progress.

Goal 2:

- I have to study more on this.
- Reduce pollution produces health.
- Reducing pollution exposure is essential for good health.
- Car pooling is great and we need to know if we really need flood insurance or not.
- Top priorities to me is that we need to reduce pollution by educating people on better and more ethical ways to dump things.
- Most important is educational outreach and least important is improving the number of trees.
- Education is the key for tomorrow and the least important is the electrification, there's issues that haven't been resolved.
- Working with the best technology is important to minimize air pollution.
- Bus electrification would cut down pollution, informing the public is important.
- Reducing fees at landfills will reduce illegal dumping, the legal options have to be easiest.
- Increase outreach and awareness of flood insurance it is important to prepare for the unexpected.
- The city needs to follow through on the laws put in place to protect residents.
- If people are dumping frequently more affordable fees might make them less likely to do so.
- Illegal dumping affects us and makes its way into the ocean.
- My number 1 is increasing the number of trees in the community which will help with significant air pollutants and overall health.
- Improve quality of life by opening a drugstore. Carpooling to events is already happening.

Goal 3:

- We need support for low income people, programs have to be affordable!
- Belle Haven needs more support from the city.
- Community local businesses should be preferred.
- We need a restroom at the park on Ivy Drive.
- Most important is health least is community bank.
- Provide all residents with access regardless of their economic situation. Internet is important.
- Banks are essential to a thriving community in California otherwise where will people bank and get loans? Internet can wait because many people already have it on their phones.

- *We need to have banks and grocery stores in this area because there are lots of seniors who don't have vehicles and have to wait at the bus stops for long periods and some are afraid of being onboard.*
- The internet is important because we communicate with each other and the world/generations.
- New center needs to be accessible to everyone.
- In order to thrive and be self-sufficient we need our own financial institutions. If we have strong banking relationships we can fund many of the things we need in the community.
- Internet is our top priority because the internet is how we communicate and learn on topics like Belle Haven's infrastructure.
- Waste disposal will keep the environment clean and reduce air pollution.
- More accountability to the city, we need a dental clinic over the counter prescriptions.
- 

Goal 4:

- We need more grocery stores for the elderly and the community to walk to for safety.
- Homeless people need housing and food.
- Affordable and healthy food is a great idea but in California it is hard.
- We have plenty of programs for food but none for vegan or vegetarian options.
- Home and community gardens will help support residents who live in apartments, organic gardens for year round crops. We can grow enough to support families and a farmers market.
- Now that I am retired it is more difficult to access food from home. Local small markets do not carry healthy foods period.
- Walkable stores is a huge factor.
- Least important is SNAP because it is already available most important is to inform low income people about the resources that are already available.
- SNAP is a lifesaver in this area.
- Encouraging community gardens will encourage residents to share their wealth with each other.
- We need access to high quality and affordable food. Vegan and vegetarian don't really matter unless those people are allergic to some stuff.
- Create new community gardens to provide more access to plants, fruit, soil, and gardening supplies.
- We need more stores that have clean food options. It takes transportation and more money to access more nutritious and clean food.
- A lot of stores don't offer an EBT option which shouldn't be normalized. We should have an option available to people who need SNAP or EBT. A lot of nutritious stores like trader joes or whole foods or high end stores don't have SNAP or EBT eligibility.
- Everyone should have the opportunity to shop for affordable foods.
- We need more affordable healthy and high quality foods.

Goal 5:



- I rank the highest due to the lack of rent control in our community. First time home buyers need to know what the qualifications and requirements are.
- Reduce water bills! We need help, bad! The bill is too high!
- Downpayment assistance is good, but the monthly payment will still be a problem!
- Housing affordability is very important.
- PG&E bills are higher than water bills, that should be addressed first.
- We have enough apartments here we don't need a land trust to make more of them.
- *Rent control is #1 because it can allow people time to save to purchase a house in the future.*
- Education about existing programs is important for all in regards to homes.
- Toxic soil has to be alleviated, you need to start from a clean and healthy foundation then build.
- It is better for people who come in to learn other languages to communicate with others.
- Ensuring anti-displacement is focused in Belle Haven is important and community land trust for affordable new housing.
- *There are a lot of residents who've had to move away because of rent hikes and discriminatory home buying practices. There are renter-to-owner issues that need to be addressed by laws.*
- Educational workshops would give everyone a chance to make our community more inclusive and opportunities to be heard by people who can relate.
- *Rent is so expensive! We need better rent control laws for low income families!*
- Pass rent control! And offer down payment assistance for first time buyers.
- Rent control is #1 and soil contamination is last.

Goal 6:

- We need crossing guards at key intersections because of extreme traffic in the evening.
- Flashing lights near the playgrounds are needed.
- Excessive speeding and insufficient lighting.
- We have a safe routes, it needs to be followed.
- My top priority is the safe routes to school because I have young children who are not safe.
- Most important is eliminating barriers for physical activity least important is updated the plans because that is not tangible work.
- We should have these plans drawn out in advance so safety can be reviewed and prioritized.
- Children need to be able to go to school safely.
- Sidewalks need to be accessible, how can we be active without them.
- Safe street crossing would reduce jay walking and unnecessary risks.
- Physical activity is big, encouraging more bike riding and walking will decrease the pollution.
- Implement education campaigns to help people feel safe and confident walking biking and taking transit.

Goal 7:

- We need workshops at least once a month in Belle Haven for the residents to know what is available.
- We need insurance we can afford.
- Anything to do with Belle Haven should always have Belle Haven involved!
- Language justice applies to everything.
- Belle Haven voices need to be heard.
- Regular meetings are very important.
- Outreach will help people decide what they want to do with their communities.
- We want everyone to be educated about their decisions and want everyone to be educated about them.
- Alert systems would help keep everyone safe and connected.
- Promote and evaluate educational workshops and feasibly compensate. Encourage resources for in-person outreach at the community hub.

Spanish Menlo Park EJE Feedback

**Large Post It Comments:**

Overall:

- Reduce the exposure to contamination and to better air quality
- Promote access to high quality food and high quality public facilities

Goal 1:

- Prioritize bettering the public infrastructure necessary in Belle Haven
- Inform yearly how to consider and prioritize Belle Haven in the planes to better the infrastructure

Goal 2:

- Work with the prime contaminators to minimize their contamination through the use of the best technology available
- Implement and update the Climate Action Plan of the City to better the quality of air and reduce the emissions of greenhouse gasses

Goal 3:

- Identify and better the public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Resilience Hubs
- Install infrastructure that permits easy elimination of waste in parks and streets

Goal 4:

- Support the availability of agricultural markets, agricultural positions, ethnic markets, and healthy food mobile markets. Carry out an ample divulgation and participation to publicize these markets
- Foment and simplify the development process of community gardens. Facilitate the creation or betterment of a community garden in a timeframe of 3 years

Goal 5:

- Guarantee that the Anti-Displacement Strategy of the city supports homes in Belle Haven
- Identify and resolve, in the manner that is possible, whatever possible toxic contamination of the soil in developed residential communities, particularly in Belle Haven

Goal 6:

- Identify and eliminate barriers to physical activity including sidewalks, bike lanes, and lack of safe crosswalks. Reduce the speed limit, provide sufficient street lighting, and lack of gardens or trees that provide shade in Belle Haven
- Implement educative campaigns to increase the security and commodity of people that walk, ride bikes, and use public transit

Goal 7:

- Promote and evaluate educational workshops that encourage the residents of Belle Haven in the processes of making public decisions
- Foment Resources for divulgation in person, better the community campus of Belle Haven like community centers for learning and opportunities to connect the residents with resources and foment the participation in public meetings, events and making decisions

**Worksheet Comments:**

Overall:

- Wanting to better air quality due to having issues with asthma
- Want to promote physical activity
- Reduce contamination
- All are very important to improve the city
- All are top priorities and for the children as well.
- For me, contamination and bettering the air quality because contaminated air can bring many health problems.
- We need more clean air for the health of people, pets, and elders.
- Air is important for health.
- Air is important for health. Free transportation is convenient for people.
- Air is important for health
- It's good to have a good environment. I picked 7 because all the options are important.
- Air is important for health. Free transportation is convenient for those who use it.
- Unite for the community.
- I think it's important to improve the air to be healthy.
- We need clean air for the elderly, pets, kids, and adults.

Goal 1:

- Yearly updates over the progress and the monthly results of the EJ Element
- The streets need to be improved to increase safety on the roads
- To have more information about the food (what's healthy vs. what's unhealthy)
- Very important to prioritize climate change.
- Keep the community informed.
- Flooding causes trees to fall, more communication
- Trees fall when it floods. We need more communication.
- Flooding causes trees to fall.
- It's necessary that they inform us about the progress and results.
- Flooding causes trees to fall. Inform people about environmental justice.
- Air is important for health and the community.
- To be informed about the progress happening in the city.

Goal 2:

- To clean the air, but it's difficult to assign one number to order the prioritize the issues because they are all important
- We have to educate people about the importance of air quality
- Contamination is very important
- All are priorities for a better city.
- What's important for me is clean air that's uncontaminated.
- Talk with the companies, reduce contamination
- Talk with companies to reduce contamination x 3
- Work with the people to reduce contamination.
- It's good for our lives to improve the environment even though all options are important.
- Reduce exposure to homes.
- It's important to improve the environmental air for the community.

Goal 3:

- Belle Haven needs resilience hubs
- Very good idea to work with the schools
- Working with schools is a very good option to implement with the kids.
- We need more community spaces for the community
- Kids programs and success in schools
- There isn't a community space where there are programs.
- There aren't any community spaces where there are programs
- Fix the potholes in the street.
- There isn't a community space. X 2
- Support access to internet affordability. Work with the schools to support.
- 

Goal 4:

- Promote access to healthy food because Belle Haven is a food desert
- All are priorities with this topic of food.
- All are priority
- \*Mobile farmers markets \* Spanish- English programs.
- Improve the quality of foods.
- More mobile farmers markets, more EBT money for more
- More money for EBT each month.
- It'd be great to have a community garden.
- More mobile farmers markets. More money for EBT for more.
- There are no community spaces, more programs, and there are homeless people.
- Example

Goal 5:

- To help the renters have rent control
- There is a need to reduce the cost of water
- Help renters to keep rent control.
- Workshops for kids to support them

- Clean the streets after fireworks.
- The buildings are empty for many years. X2
- Lots of support, programming and places to live.

Goal 6:

- Implement educational campaigns
- Belle Haven needs more streets lights, sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike lanes for safety
- Take care of pedestrians. Bike ways.
- Implement secure walkways for kids to cross over to schools.
- You can't see the lines for bicycles on the street.
- Workshops for kids to learn about bike safety.
- You can't see the bike lanes. X2
- Safety is important for people walking and biking.
- Lots and more transportation. Workshops for kids.

Goal 7:

- The community needs prepared for disasters
- The residents of the community need to know what is happening in the community to be better prepared
- English classes
- Provide Emergency kits before composting.
- Emergency kits, implement shelters for safe places during disasters.
- Protect the kids.
- Good communication between the city and community.
- More all-spanish workshops.
- Good communication with the community and the city. X2
- Lots of participation and support thank you.

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	7	2	5	5	5	2	2	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	3	6	2	2	3	3	5
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	7	3	4	4	1	2
Promoting physical activity	4	4	5	4	6	3	5	7	7
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	5	6	2	4	7	6	6	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	7	3	7	6	7	4	6

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	6	2	2	7	2	2	1	2	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	5	7	4	6	7	7	2	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	3	1	4	3	3	7	4	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	3	5	1	1	4	1	4
Promoting physical activity	7	6	6	3	6	6	3	7	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	3	5	5	2	5	5	5	3	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	4	4	7	1	4	4	6	5	5

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	7	6	3	5	1	6	6	4	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	5	6	3	2	3	7	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	1	5	4	4	1	1	2	1
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	2	3	4	2	1	4
Promoting physical activity	6	2	1	7	5	7	3	5	2
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	4	2	6	6	5	4	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	1	7	7	1	7	2	5	7	6

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	5	5	5	4	4	1	5	3	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	4	4	2	6	7	6	4	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	1	1	1	3	2	4	2	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	2	2	2	1	1	6	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	3	3	3	5	7	5	4	5	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	7	7	7	6	3	2	3	6	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	6	7	5	3	7	7	7

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	3	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	4
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	6	4	3	4	7	7	5	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	2	3
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	5	1	6	3	5	1	2
Promoting physical activity	5	5	3	6	7	5	3	6	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	6	4	6	7	3	6	2	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	7	7	7	5	5	4	6	7	1

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	4	4	4	1	6	2	5	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	6	6	6	5	5	7	6	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	2	2	6	2	3	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	1	1	5	3	1	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	4	7	7	3	7	4	4	3	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	3	3	1	4	3	5	4	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	5	5	7	2	7	6	7	7

Overall	Total	Average	Top Ranked
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	168	3.1111	16
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	273	5.0556	0
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	138	2.5556	10
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	137	2.537	22
Promoting physical activity	263	4.8704	1
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	243	4.5	1
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	290	5.3704	4

Overall	Total	Average	Top Ranks
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	168	3.05	16
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	273	4.96	0
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	138	2.51	10
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	137	2.49	22
Promoting physical activity	263	4.78	1
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	243	4.42	1
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	290	5.27	4

Overall	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	7	2	5	5	5	2	2	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	3	6	2	2	3	3	5
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	7	3	4	4	1	2
Promoting physical activity	4	4	5	4	6	3	5	7	7
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	5	6	2	4	7	6	6	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	7	3	7	6	7	4	6

Overall	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	6	2	2	7	2	2	1	2	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	5	7	4	6	7	7	2	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	3	1	4	3	3	7	4	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	3	5	1	1	4	1	4
Promoting physical activity	7	6	6	3	6	6	3	7	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	3	5	5	2	5	5	5	3	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	4	4	7	1	4	4	6	5	5

Overall	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	7	6	3	5	1	6	6	4	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	5	6	3	2	3	7	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	1	5	4	4	1	1	2	1
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	2	3	4	2	1	4
Promoting physical activity	6	2	1	7	5	7	3	5	2
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	4	2	6	6	5	4	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	1	7	7	1	7	2	5	7	6

Overall	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	5	5	5	4	4	1	5	3	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	4	4	2	6	7	6	4	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	1	1	1	3	2	4	2	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	2	2	2	1	1	6	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	3	3	3	5	7	5	4	5	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	7	7	7	6	3	2	3	6	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	6	7	5	3	7	7	7

Overall	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	3	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	4
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	6	4	3	4	7	7	5	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	2	3
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	5	1	6	3	5	1	2
Promoting physical activity	5	5	3	6	7	5	3	6	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	6	4	6	7	3	6	2	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	7	7	7	5	5	4	6	7	1

Overall	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	4	4	4	1	6	2	5	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	6	6	6	5	5	7	6	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	2	2	6	2	3	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	1	1	5	3	1	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	4	7	7	3	7	4	4	3	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	3	3	1	4	3	5	4	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	5	5	7	2	7	6	7	7

Overall	Total	Average	Top Ranks
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	355.1	3.11	16
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	551	5.06	0
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	288.5	2.56	10
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	298.5	2.54	22
Promoting physical activity	531.8	4.87	1
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	491.4	4.50	1
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	589.3	5.37	4



Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	1	1	3	2	2	2	3	2	1	1
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	3	2	1	1	3	4	2	1	4	3
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	2	3	2	3	1	1	1	3	2	2
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	3	3	2	1	3	1	1	4	1	1
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	1	2	4	3	1	2	4	3	3	3
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	2	4	3	2	2	3	2	1	4	2
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	4	1	1	4	4	4	3	2	2	4

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	3	1	2	2	4	4	4	2	2	2
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	2	4	3	4	2	2	1	4	3	3

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	1	1	4	1	1	1	59
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	2	3	2	3	4	2	92
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	4	2	3	2	2	3	95
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	3	4	1	4	3	4	114

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	3	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	4
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1	2	4	2	9	4	4	2	3
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	2	3	5	3	6	5	5	3	2
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	5	4	1	5	8	1	1	5	1
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	4	6	6	4	2	6	6	4	5
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	6	5	3	6	3	3	3	6	7
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	7	7	9	8	4	7	10	8	6
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in	8	8	10	9	5	9	9	9	9
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	9	10	7	7	7	10	7	7	8
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	10	9	8	10	10	8	8	10	10

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	4	1	4	5	3	1	7	2	2
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	2	7	5	6	5	3	8	3	3
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	1	5	3	1	4	4	6	1	1
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	3	3	8	2	7	2	4	4	4
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	7	8	7	10	10	6	9	9	9
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	6	2	2	4	8	5	10	5	5
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	10	9	9	9	6	9	1	7	8
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in	9	10	6	8	9	7	3	8	10
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	5	1	1	3	2	8	5	6	6
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	8	4	10	7	4	10	2	10	7

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	1	7	4	1	4	5	2	2	6
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	4	6	10	4	5	3	4	10	1
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	2	2	5	2	2	4	7	3	2
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	6	5	1	7	1	8	3	1	5
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	5	4	6	8	10	9	10	9	3
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	8	3	7	3	9	7	5	7	9
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	7	8	8	10	3	1	9	6	7
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in	10	1	2	5	8	2	8	8	10
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	3	9	9	6	6	10	1	5	4
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	9	10	3	9	7	6	6	4	8

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	4	5	2	3	4	1	7	6	110
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	5	10	3	5	7	3	6	7	166
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	2	2	7	4	3	4	2	5	118
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	1	1	4	7	5	2	3	4	132
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	10	10	5	10	2	7	10	9	245
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	9	10	10	8	9	9	4	3	209
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	3	3	6	6	6	6	5	2	230
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in Belle Haven	8	10	9	9	8	8	8	6	266
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	6	10	1	2	1	5	1	1	189
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	7	10	8	1	10	10	9	8	270

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	1	8	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	6
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	2	2	7	2	4	7	7	2	3	5
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	3	3	2	4	1	2	2	4	4	7
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	4	4	3	5	5	3	3	5	2	4
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	8	5	8	3	6	8	8	3	5	3
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	5	6	6	7	8	6	6	7	7	8
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	6	7	4	6	3	4	4	6	6	1
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	7	8	5	8	7	5	5	8	8	2

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	1	8	4	7	5	6	4	4	5	5
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	5	7	3	1	7	7	3	5	2	1
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	3	5	5	3	1	2	2	8	4	4
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	4	1	1	5	2	1	6	7	1	2
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	6	4	8	4	6	5	5	6	6	3
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	8	6	7	8	3	4	8	3	8	6
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	2	2	2	6	4	3	7	2	7	7
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	7	3	6	2	8	8	1	1	3	8

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	7	7	6	3	6	7	4	8	8	7
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	5	8	4	2	7	8	8	7	6	1
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	8	6	1	4	8	1	1	1	4	3
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	4	5	2	7	2	5	2	2	1	5
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	3	4	3	6	5	2	7	3	5	4
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	1	1	5	5	1	6	6	6	2	8
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	2	2	7	1	3	3	5	5	3	6
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	6	3	8	8	4	4	3	4	7	2

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	8	3	2	7	155
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	7	6	1	8	160
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	1	4	8	3	122
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	2	2	4	2	113
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	3	1	6	5	167
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	4	8	3	4	187
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	5	5	7	1	144
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	6	3	5	6	179

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	1	1	3	1	3	3	3	1	2	2
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	2	2	4	2	2	4	4	2	5	1
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	3	3	1	3	5	1	1	3	1	4
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	4	4	5	4	4	5	5	5	3	5
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	5	5	2	5	1	2	2	4	4	3

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	4	3	2	2	1	5	3	5	1	4
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	3	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	3
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	2	4	5	5	4	1	4	2	3	1
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	1	2	3	3	3	2	2	4	5	2
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	1	5	4	4	5	4	5	3	4	5

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	4	2	1	1	5	1	4	4	1	1
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	3	3	2	2	1	5	5	3	2	2
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	2	5	4	5	3	4	3	5	4	4
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	1	4	3	3	2	2	1	2	3	3
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	5	1	5	4	4	3	2	1	5	5

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	1	2	3	1	1	2	84
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	2	1	4	2	5	1	89
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	3	5	2	4	4	3	116
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	4	3	1	3	2	4	112
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	5	4	5	5	3	5	135

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	1	1	7	2	2	7	7	2	6	4
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	2	2	6	4	5	6	6	4	4	3
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	3	3	2	1	7	2	2	1	2	7
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	4	4	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	6
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process <i>Offer down payment assistance for homebuyers</i>	5	5	4	6	3	4	4	6	5	1
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	6	6	5	7	4	5	5	7	7	2
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	7	7	1	5	6	1	1	5	1	5

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	5	7	6	7	2	7	4	2	1	7
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	6	3	5	5	6	4	6	5	4	3
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	3	5	3	6	3	3	7	7	6	6
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	2	4	7	4	7	6	2	6	7	2
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process <i>Offer down payment assistance for homebuyers</i>	4	6	4	3	1	1	3	1	5	4
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	7	2	2	2	4	5	5	3	3	5
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	1	1	1	1	5	2	1	4	2	1

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	1	6	7	1	4	7	4	5	3	7
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	4	2	2	6	3	6	7	4	6	6
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	5	5	1	5	7	2	6	6	5	4
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	6	7	4	2	6	3	3	1	4	3
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process <i>Offer down payment assistance for homebuyers</i>	2	1	3	7	2	4	2	2	2	2
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	7	3	5	3	5	5	5	7	7	5
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	3	1	6	4	1	1	1	3	1	1

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	7	7	3	4	3	1	7	6	7	5
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	6	2	6	3	4	4	5	2	2	4
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	3	4	7	1	1	5	6	5	5	6
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	2	3	4	2	2	6	4	4	3	3
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process <i>Offer down payment assistance for homebuyers</i>	1	1	2	5	5	7	3	1	1	2
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	4	6	5	6	6	3	2	3	4	7
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	5	5	1	7	7	2	1	7	6	1

Goal 5	Ranking	Total	Top Ranks
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	7	189	6
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	6	179	0
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	5	173	5
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	2	154	2
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process <i>Offer down payment assistance for homebuyers</i>	3	133	9
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	4	194	0
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	1	123	20

Goal 6	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	2
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	1
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections	3	4	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	3
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice	4	2	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4

Goal 6	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	3	1
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit	2	4	2	3	2	2	2	4	2	2
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections	4	2	3	2	3	1	3	1	1	3
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	2	4	4

Goal 6	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven	3	1	3	1	1	1	4	2	1	1
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit	4	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections	1	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	3
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice	2	4	2	3	4	4	2	4	3	4

Goal 6	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven	3	1	1	2	55
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit	4	3	2	1	75
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections	2	2	4	3	95
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice	1	4	3	4	116

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	1	1	2	5	4	2	2	7	3	1
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	2	2	4	7	3	4	4	10	9	2
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	3	3	3	10		3	3	5	7	5
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	4	4	10	9	6	10	10	9	8	3
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	4
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	6	6	5	8	2	5	5	8	5	6
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	7	7	6	6	10	6	6	6	4	7
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.	8	8	7	2	9	7	7	2	1	9
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	9	9	8	3	8	8	8	3	10	10
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	10	10	9	4	7	9	9	4	2	8

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	5	4	4	2	3	4	1	8	6	1
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	4	8	10	3	2	1	2	1	5	2
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	6	5	3	4	9	9	4	5	4	5
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	3	3	9	9	5	7	3	9	3	3
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	2	2	2	7	1	2	9	2	1	4
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	1	7	8	6	7	10	6	6	2	6
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	10	6	6	5	8	3	8	3	10	7
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.	7	1	1	1	4	5	7	7	7	8
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	8	9	5	8	10	6	10	10	8	9
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	9	10	7	9	6	8	5	4	9	10

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	10	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	5	1
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	1	10	6	5	6	2	2	1	1	3
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	9	2	5	8	10	9	4	3	4	4
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	2	3	2	10	8	8	3	4	10	9
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	6	6	3	1	7	7	6	5	3	2
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	3	7	4	3	5	3	5	6	6	6
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	8	9	10	9	4	10	7	7	7	5
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.	4	4	9	7	2	4	9	8	2	1
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	5	8	7	2	3	5	8	9	9	8
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	1	5	8	6	9	6	10	10	8	9

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	6	1	2	1	103
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	9	8	3	2	144
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	5	2	1	3	165
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	4	3	8	4	205
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	7	4	6	5	126
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	2	9	5	8	187
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	8	6	10	6	237
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.	3	5	4	10	180
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	10	7	7	7	254
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	1	10	9	9	250

# City of Menlo Park

## Environmental Justice Element Action Guide



The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment.

The Action Guide lists Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, programs, and action items. The community-prioritized goals lead the Action Guide, followed by the other goals in sequential order.

Policies and programs are under the goals in sequential order, while action items are under the program they implement. The organizing structure and color scheme, demonstrated below, allows for easy reference:

Item	Structure	Example
Goal	<b>EJ#</b>	<b>EJ1</b>
<i>Policy</i>	<i>EJ#.#</i>	<i>EJ1.1</i>
Program	<b>EJ#.X</b>	<b>EJ1.A</b>
Action Item	<b>EJ#.X.#</b>	<b>EJ1.A.1</b>

The Action Guide includes details on programs and action items, organized under three groups: Descriptive Information, Implementation, and Time Frame. The structure and presentation style of the Action Guide may evolve over time.

## Descriptive Information

### Column A: ID

Identification of the policy, program, or action item corresponding to the goal they support (e.g., EJ4):

- Policies are given a number (e.g., EJ4.1)
- Programs are given a letter (e.g., EJ4.D)
- Action items are given a letter and a number (e.g., EJ4.D.1)

### Column B: Policy / Program / Action Item Text

Text of the policy, program, or action item.

### Column C: Classification

Identification of whether the row is a policy, program, or action item.

### Column D: In Progress?

If City and/or partners are currently conducting a process that would accomplish the objective of the program or action item, this column includes a brief description. As the City fulfills programs and action items, and initiates activity on additional programs and action items, this column may be updated.

## Implementation

Implementation data describes who would likely lead carrying out the program or action item and what funding is potentially available to fulfill it. Also included in this section are supporting City departments and partners outside City government, such as County authorities or non-governmental organizations.

### Column E: Lead Role

The City department or division who would likely lead the implementation of the program or action item.

### Column F: Supporting Role

City departments or divisions, as well as partner organizations, that may support implementation of the program or action item.

### Column G: Funding Source(s)

Potential sources of funding that may support program or action item implementation.

### Time Frame

The estimated time frame for programs and action items is arranged into two components: initiation (when work will begin) and completion (when work will be finished).

### Column H: Initiation

The programs and action items are sorted into four categories: those that can be started in a short-term time frame, a medium-term time frame, a long-term time frame, and those that are in progress. As the City fulfills programs and action items, and initiates action on additional programs and action items, this column may be updated. For the purposes of the Environmental Justice Element, the time frames are defined accordingly:

- **In Progress:** Already in progress. These are highlighted in gold in the Action Guide.
- **Short-Term:** Zero to three years from Element adoption, estimated
- **Medium-Term:** More than three and less than six years from Element adoption, estimated
- **Long-Term:** Six years or more from Element adoption, estimated

### Column I: Completion

The programs and action items are sorted into four categories: those that can be accomplished in a short-term time frame, a medium-term time frame, a long-term time frame, and those that are ongoing from initiation of work. For the purposes of the Environmental Justice Element, the time frames are defined accordingly:

- **Ongoing from Initiation:** Estimated to be worked on indefinitely
- **Short-Term:** Zero to three years from beginning of work on the item, estimated
- **Medium-Term:** More than three and less than six years from beginning of work on the item, estimated
- **Long-Term:** Six years or more from beginning of work on the item, estimated

Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element Action Guide								
DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>Community Priority #1: Goal EJ5. Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes</b>								
<i>EJ5.1</i>	<i>Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe, sanitary, and stable homes, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ5.2</i>	<i>Maintain and develop safe, sanitary, and stable homes across all locations and affordability ranges, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ5.3</i>	<i>Support housing development distribution throughout the city and not concentrated within Menlo Park's underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ5.A</b>	Identify, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments and work with property owners to resolve issues, particularly in underserved communities.	Program	The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. The Safety Element (Table S-4) includes a list of sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation.	Community Development	San Mateo County Environmental Health Services, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	Department of Food and Agriculture (Healthy Soils Demonstration Program)	<b>In Progress</b>	Short Term
<b>EJ5.B</b>	Conduct outreach to potentially eligible households regarding programs that support safe, sanitary, and stable homes.	Program	-	Community Development	California Department of Community Services and Development, City Manager's Office	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ5.C</b>	Create or partner with providers to provide a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters with questions. If such resources already exist, conduct proactive outreach and education to inform the community of available resources. Hold culturally competent, in-language outreach workshops.	Program	-	Community Development	Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ5.D	Identify opportunities to support a Community Land trust or other fiscal vehicle to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Community Development Department, MidPen Housing Community Land Trust	BMR Housing Fund	Long Term	Long Term
EJ5.E	Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F (regarding collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART)) and helping to facilitate first-time homeowner workshops for residents in underserved communities.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Local Community Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ5.F	Promote funds and subsidies that minimize the passing through of any upfront investment costs of building electrification on to tenants.	Program	-	Sustainability Division	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Medium Term
EJ5.G	Ensure that City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This will include consideration, at a minimum, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rental inventory of all dwelling units</li> <li>- Updated or expanded rent control laws</li> <li>- Rent increase mitigations, such as longer noticing requirements</li> <li>- Community and tenant opportunity to purchase</li> <li>- Revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper affordability (e.g., subsidies)</li> <li>- Expand relocation assistance for tenants</li> <li>- Just Cause Eviction protections regardless of tenant duration</li> <li>- Strengthened anti-tenant harassment ordinances</li> <li>- An examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs</li> </ul>	Program	Sixth Cycle Housing Element includes Program H2.E focusing on developing an Anti-Displacement Strategy	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department	General Fund	Short Term	Long Term
EJ5.H	As part of an anti-displacement program and to ensure stable housing, support increasing access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction by conducting community outreach, education, and engagement to ensure renters are aware of this resource. Include progress reports on usage annually.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Community Priority #2: Goal EJ4. Promote access to high quality and affordable food</b>								

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ4.1</b>	<i>Encourage adequate food access to fresh and healthy foods for all residents, particularly those in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ4.A</b>	Work with grocery stores and online food service delivery and meal providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food (e.g., reduced or waived delivery service fees). Encourage and support the acceptance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), CalFresh, and other governmental food assistance programs that increase food security.	Program	-	Community Development	Local Grocery Stores (e.g., Safeway, Trader Joe's), Local Grocery Delivery Services (e.g., Uber Eats, GrubHub, DoorDash), CalFresh	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.B</b>	Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual fliers, community events, information at shelters and food banks, as well as other appropriate outreach methods.	Program	-	Community Development	Communications and Public Engagement Division, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Homeless Outreach Team, San Mateo County Human Services Agency	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.C</b>	Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at municipal buildings and City-participating events. Encourage sourcing food from local small businesses.	Program	-	All City Departments	Sustainability Division	General Fund	Long Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.D</b>	Encourage and facilitate the establishment and operation of a farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets in underserved communities. Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)	Long Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.D.1</b>	At existing and future farmer's markets, or similar events, offer free or subsidized space for vendors who provide healthy, fresh, and affordable food for underserved communities.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.E</b>	Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens within or adjacent to neighborhoods and housing development sites. Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years of Environmental Justice Element adoption.	Program	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.E.1</b>	Explore identifying unused City-owned property to support community gardens. Encourage community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily and mixed-use development projects.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Short Term	Short Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ4.E.2	Identify private properties suitable for community gardens on vacant or undeveloped lots, or other opportunities for community-supported agriculture within the community. Encourage community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily and mixed-use development projects.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Short Term	Short Term
EJ4.E.3	Facilitate the installation of community gardens at senior centers and senior housing facilities.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	Community Development, Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g. Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ4.E.4	Develop programs and encourage developments that make smaller planter boxes or garden beds accessible for apartment dwellers.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>Community Priority #3: Goal EJ2. Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality</b>								
EJ2.1	<i>Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality (both indoor and outdoor), and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.2	<i>Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale, as well as collaborate on countywide and regional efforts. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve watershed and human health.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.3	<i>Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to promote and encourage urban greening on public and private projects (e.g., bioswales, raingardens, habitat restoration) in areas with relatively less tree canopy or other greenery to provide health and safety benefits to underserved communities residents.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.4	<i>Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards and maximize air quality (both indoor and outdoor) in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.5	<i>Work with Caltrans on improvements on State-owned rights of way.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.6	<i>When updating or installing transportation infrastructure, consider factors such as stormwater management, Universal Design Principles and attractive green roadway design.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.A	Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City's jurisdiction (e.g., gas stations, automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.	Program	-	Community Development	Peninsula Clean Energy, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Westbay Sanitary District, San Mateo County Environmental Health, San Mateo County Fire, Sustainability Division	Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.B	Implement and periodically update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Program	The Climate Action Plan is subject to annual progress reports as a standalone document are scheduled for 2028 update .Starting in 2024, the City will implement a zero emission landscaping equipment rule to improve air quality and reduce emissions.	Sustainability Division	City Manager's Office	General Fund, grants (e.g., California Energy Commission, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy, and CALFIRE)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.C	Conduct proactive education and outreach about indoor and outdoor air quality and protective actions that can be taken to both improve air quality inside one's home and to minimize exposure to poor air quality index days.	Program	-	Sustainability Division	Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), City Manager's Office, Peninsula Clean Energy, County Office of Sustainability	Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.C.1	Identify and implement methods and avenues for public education and outreach about air quality issues in the community.	Action Item	-	All City Departments	Public Works, Communications and Public Engagement Division, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), City Manager's Office, Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County Sustainability Department	-	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.C.2	Support the distribution of air purifiers and/or other air cleaning devices within underserved communities, especially for sensitive populations.	Action Item	-	Sustainability Division	Police, Sustainability Division, San Mateo County Sustainability Department	General Fund	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation



DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.D	Minimize and mitigate illegal solid waste dumping (as defined in 7.04.030 of the Municipal Code), potentially through minimizing fees for disposal at landfills in collaboration with South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA).	Program	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.D.1	Conduct proactive outreach in underserved communities to inform households of free trash pickup days and solid waste disposal opportunities and programs, including the ACT Menlo Park reporting app. Outreach can include signage about ACT Menlo Park along Pierce Road.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement, Recology, Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.D.2	Explore ways to subsidize or eliminate fees for disposal at landfills and implement for underserved communities	Action Item	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement, Recology, Public Works	Clean California (Local Grants)	Long Term	Ongoing upon commencement
EJ2.E	Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan and update, as necessary, to incorporate environmental justice. Focus on underserved communities and implement programs in this Element, in coordination with related regional efforts.	Program	-	Public Works	Community Development	General Fund	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.1	Support efforts by other agencies to abate hazardous, polluted, or toxic sites. Encourage incorporating sea-level rise and groundwater rise in their remediation decisions.	Action Item	-	If on private property then Community development, if for public projects then Public Works	San Mateo County Health, Department of Water Resources, OneShoreline	Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)	Short Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.2	Prioritize comprehensive undergrounding of utilities in underserved communities on private and public property to promote resilience.	Action Item	The Menlo Park Municipal Code requires the undergrounding of electric and communication service connections on private property under certain circumstances. Some categories of private development in Office (O), Life Sciences (LS) and Residential Mixed Use (R-MU) Zoning Districts require undergrounding of overhead electric distribution lines of less than sixty (60) kilovolts and communication lines along the property frontage. The specified zoning districts are adjacent to and serve underserved communities.	Public Works	Community Development, City Manager's Office, utilities (e.g., PG&E)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), PG&E Rule 20 Program, Community Amenities Fund, Bonds per project specific deferred frontage agreements	In Progress	Medium Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.E.3	Focus green stormwater improvements for areas at risk of flooding with an emphasis on underserved communities.	Action Item	Public Works evaluates all opportunities to plan for and incorporate green stormwater improvements, including areas at risk of flooding and within underserved communities, per the City's 2019 Green Infrastructure Plan.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.E.4	Support West Bay Sanitary District, the respective responsible agency, in their efforts to prevent sewage discharges during large stormwater events. In the event of occurrence, coordinate with the responsible agency in conducting proactive, extensive, and prolonged community outreach and education to inform underserved communities of protective actions and risks. The City can coordinate with agencies to promptly share their information with the City Council and community after storms.	Action Item	-	Public Works	City Manager's Office, West Bay Sanitary District, East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Fair Oaks Sewer Maintenance District	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning and Project Development Grant)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.5	Collaborate with landowners to decrease the risk of flooding by advancing watershed management projects that reduce and/or store runoff during rainfall events, including the installation of green infrastructure and Low Impact Development (LID) practices, and improve the condition in the floodplain, for example through floodplain restoration or improvement.	Action Item	The City coordinates the incorporation of Low Impact Development (LID) and green infrastructure elements into project stormwater management designs.	Public Works	OneShoreline, Department of Water Resources, City Manager's Office, Community Development	Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (Infrastructure State Revolving Fund (ISRF) Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.E.6	Encourage green infrastructure in future developments, including using green infrastructure as preferred alternative.	Action Item	Green infrastructure, including Low Impact Development (LID), is currently utilized for stormwater management and treatment in development projects.	Public Works	Community Development, City Manager's Office, Sustainability Division	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.E.7	Establish requirements for major development and redevelopment projects to construct and maintain urban greening projects in the adjacent public right of way. Community benefits for such projects could include shade trees for pedestrian and biking routes.	Action Item	The existing heritage tree ordinance has requirements for tree planting on private properties and replacement of trees in the public right of way. The City is currently updating administrative guidelines.	Public Works	Caltrans, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, Canopy	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grants	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.E.8	Restore and enhance parks, natural lands and large open spaces and explore expansion of the City's natural areas preservation system through land transfers and acquisitions of undeveloped/unprotected private and public lands.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	City Manager's Office, Community Development, Public Works, Save The Bay, California Department of Conservation	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.F	Increase community outreach and awareness of the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, including the Community Rating System, and the potential benefits to homeowners (e.g., reduced insurance premiums)	Program	-	Communications and Public Engagement Division	Public Works	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.G	Develop incentives to encourage shared commute programs and alternative methods of travel for city events, meetings, and official business.	Program	-	City Manager's Office, Public Works	SamTrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Public Works, Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Long Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.H	Collaborate with SamTrans and Ravenswood City School District, as well as Meta and other large employers to leverage transportation electrification initiatives to prioritize bus electrification in underserved communities.	Program	SamTrans anticipated being fully electric by 2034, in compliance with State law requiring transit fleets be all electric by 2040.	Public Works	Sustainability Division, SamTrans, Ravenswood City School District, Large Local Businesses (over 50 employees, e.g., Meta, SRI International, Grail, others)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.I	Consider revisions to applicable City regulations that will reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life in underserved communities.	Program	Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance, Municipal Code Chapter 7.30 (Smoking Regulated or Prohibited), Building Code amendments.	All City Departments	-	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.I.1	Review truck routes and/or identify and pursue measures for reductions to diesel emissions in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.I.2	Identify, evaluate and implement potential mitigation measures that support Caltrans mitigation efforts to reduce noise and air quality impacts from adjacent freeways and highways, particularly those impacting underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.I.3	Install improved vegetative buffers between freeways and highways and adjacent land uses to reduce noise and air quality impacts, upon identification of the roadway segments for such installations.	Action Item	Landscaping work on the Willow/US-101 interchange is in the design phase as of early 2024.	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning) Community Amenities Fund	In Progress	Long Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.I.4	Review and update the Transportation Toolkit (Appendix I to the Transportation Master Plan) and the City's standard design details to incorporate Universal Design principles to enhance access for all people.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Long Term	Medium Term
EJ2.I.5	Support roadway design that integrates green stormwater infrastructure into traffic calming (where appropriate) and includes trees, landscape buffer areas, public art, public space, and other visual enhancement.	Action Item	The City is currently integrating green stormwater infrastructure in roadway design, but is limited by the available space/right-of-way where landscape buffers can be incorporated.	Public Works	Caltrans, Library and Community Services	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.I.6	Consider rezoning and limiting the intensity and usage of industrially zoned properties and/or other means such as landscaping to ensure a healthier and safer separation between residential and industrial uses.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ2.I.7	Explore reductions to parking requirements with the intent to encourage balanced live, work, and play environments.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ2.I.8	Inform residents and organizations in underserved communities of the permit application process for temporary street closures for temporary events such as farmers' markets, arts and craft fairs, bicycle and pedestrian events, and other public events. Consider easing the permitting process for temporary street closures in the city.	Action Item	An update to the special event permitting process was made in 2022.	Police	City Manager's Office, City Attorney's Office, Community Development, Public Works.	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Short Term

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EJ2.J	Develop Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park within four years of the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	The City applied for CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant for Urban Forest Management Plan in May 2024. This grant requires projects to be completed by March 31, 2028. The City has budgeted \$250,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as matching funds.	Public Works	Sustainability Division, Canopy	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 Planning Grant), United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) Grants, CALFIRE grants. City of Menlo Park Heritage Tree in-lieu fee program	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.J.1	Urban canopy expansion prioritizing underserved communities and areas vulnerable to urban heat effects, using tools such as the Tree Equity Score and Bay Area Greenprint.	Action Item	The City is currently updating administrative guidelines, adding more City approved consulting arborists to the list, and working towards securing grant funds for Urban Forest: Developing a Master Plan for Menlo Park.	Public Works	Canopy	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), Community Amenities Fund	In Progress	Short Term
EJ2.J.2	Implement equitable canopy expansion procedures and promote and maintain healthy and vibrant trees that may require dedicating additional resources within the City Arborist Division, Public Works.	Action Item	The City is working towards the development of an urban forest management plan, updating administrative guidelines, and adding more City approved consulting arborists. One additional employee was added to the Trees maintenance section in 2022-23. In May 2024, the City applied for the CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant to develop an Urban Forest Management Plan for Menlo Park.	City Manager's Office, Public Works	Sustainability Division, Public Works	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program),	In Progress	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.J.3	Include trees, landscape buffer areas, public art, public space, and other visual enhancements in roadway projects, emphasizing tree planting and landscaping along all streets.	Action Item	Routine maintenance is conducted every 5 years. Residents may request evaluation of work needs outside of routine maintenance, which is on a 5-year cycle.	Public Works	Community Development, Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), Community Amenities Fund (north of 101 implementation of Action Item 2.N.3)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.J.4	Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to prioritize the retention of mature street trees in public rights of way or City-owned parcels during infrastructure modifications. (e.g., using solutions such as bulb-outs, basin expansion, and sidewalk re-routing.)	Action Item	The City has preservation requirements for heritage and street trees.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.J.5	Coordinate with property owners to help preserve mature trees by replacing any that require removal in any redevelopment process. Explore opportunities to transplant trees and vegetation that require removal during construction to other places within underserved communities. Consider requiring multiple new trees be planted for each mature tree removed.	Action Item	The City is updating administrative guidelines and adding more City approved consulting arborists to the list.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.K	Prioritize relief from extreme heat (Safety Element Program S1.T) in underserved communities. Information on these resources shall be provided at community facilities (e.g., BHCC).	Program	The City currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public.	Library and Community Services	Communications and Public Engagement	General Fund	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Goal EJ1. Address unique and compounded health risks</b>								

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<i>EJ1.1</i>	<i>Prioritize programs that address the unique and compounded health risks present in underserved communities currently and in the future.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.2</i>	<i>Reduce climate vulnerability in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.3</i>	<i>Strengthen collaboration efforts with residents in underserved communities, particularly on public improvement projects.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.4</i>	<i>Prioritize active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) improvements, transit incentives, and neighborhood connectivity in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ1.A</b>	Prioritize public/capital improvements needed in underserved communities with priority allocation of funding, available to the City locally and from regional, statewide, and federal entities, for such projects, and to address climate change.	Program	-	City Manager's Office, Public Works	Community Development, Sustainability Division	General Fund, General Capital Fund, Countywide Transportation Sales Tax Funds (Measure A & W), State and Federal Gas Taxes	Short Term	Long Term
<b>EJ1.A.1</b>	Support (to the extent possible and subject to funding limitations) non-governmental agencies' grant applications and projects that will specifically help implement the Environmental Justice Element and address highlighted issues in underserved communities such as safe housing, increased tree coverage, recreational resources, active transportation, environmental concerns, air quality.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	Bayfront Mitigation Fund (project specific) Community Amenities Fund (projects specific)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.B</b>	Prepare publicly available reports annually to describe how underserved communities are considered and prioritized in capital improvement plans, departmental work plans, and budgets within four years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	-	All City Departments	-	General Fund	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.C</b>	Develop and publicize annual or every-other-year reports that measure progress and outcomes of the implementation of the Environmental Justice Element programs within six years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.D</b>	Review CalEnviroScreen to support evaluation of Environmental Justice Element policies and programs.	Program	-	Community Development	California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, All City Departments	General Fund	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Goal EJ3. Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities</b>								
<i>EJ3.1</i>	<i>Prioritize providing public facilities and programming for underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ3.2</i>	<i>Ensure accessibility of public facilities for all community members, especially those in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-



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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ3.3</b>	<i>Support programs that increase access to public and private health resources for underserved communities in locations that are convenient and accessible.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ3.4</b>	<i>Coordinate with local school districts, transit operators, and other public agencies to provide adequate public facilities, improvements, and programs in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ3.A</b>	Identify, renovate, and retrofit candidate public buildings in underserved communities to serve as Climate Resilience Centers as outlined by the California Strategic Growth Council. These buildings should be places where the community already regularly gathers, such as libraries, community centers, or the Belle Haven neighborhood substation.	Program	-	Public Works	Sustainability Division, Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.B</b>	Work with relevant departments to install infrastructure allowing for easy disposal of pet and animal waste at parks and along highly trafficked streets.	Program	-	Public Works	City Manager's Office	General Fund	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.C</b>	Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills. In addition, expand outreach and community access to the City Library's laptop and wireless hotspot, or similar, borrowing programs.	Program	The City currently offers laptop lending and wi-fi hotspots free to residents at the library with their library card.	Library and Community Services	Local Internet Providers (e.g., AT&T, Xfinity, Spectrum), San Mateo County Public Works, California Public Utilities Commission, Administrative Services Department/Information Technology Department	California Advanced Services Fund: Broadband Public Housing Account	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.D</b>	Seek to form partnerships, particularly with community based organizations and businesses, and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ3.D.1</b>	Encourage local transit providers to establish and maintain routes and services that provide underserved communities with convenient access to health service facilities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	SamTrans, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.D.2	Partner with local transit providers to provide a comprehensive system of para-transit service for seniors and people of all abilities and enhance service within the city and to regional public facilities, especially for access to health care and other needs.	Action Item	-	Public Works	SamTrans, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.D.3	Identify means of supporting a citywide paramedicine program providing health care delivery, pop-up clinics, and home visits, especially to those most vulnerable or underserved, such as seniors and residents of underserved communities through partnering with health care services.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, City Manager's Office, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.D.4	Identify a partner who can provide a community health clinic in Belle Haven.	Action Item	A Community health clinic has been proposed as part of Belle Haven Elementary School redesign by Ravenswood City School District.	City Manager's Office	Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.E	Coordinate with schools and other local organizations (e.g., Boys and Girls Club) to support after-school activities and related outreach/communications generally.	Program	-	Library and Community Services	Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.E.1	Coordinate with the Ravenswood City School District to help publicize affordable after school care options/programs and explore opportunities to enhance transportation options for youth to BHCC.	Action Item	Ravenswood City School District has a number of after school care options/programs and the City can help publicize and enhance usage. City vans provide transportation to BHCC for youth enrolled in the City's after school program, however, there is not transportation for youth interested in going to BHCC after school but are not enrolled in the City's program.	Library and Community Services	Communications and Public Engagement, Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.E.2	Encourage joint use of recreational fields.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	Public Works, Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

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EJ3.F	Seek to form partnerships or other agreements with a banking specialist and other identified partners to provide a community bank or banking services in the underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Local banks	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.G	Ensure delivery on the needs of underserved communities through the City's Programming Plans currently in place and continue to adapt programming based on community feedback through regular community surveys and outreach.	Program	City staff, with input from the community, Belle Haven Community Campus subcommittee and working group, Library Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission, have developed robust programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus. City will continue to adapt programming to community needs through regular community surveys and outreach that solicit community feedback.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ3.G.1	During facility renovations, install distributed solar panels and battery storage over facility parking lots for resiliency and heat reduction.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Community Campus is an all-electric, zero combustion, net zero energy public building with onsite renewable energy generation, battery microgrid, and electric vehicle charging stations. The facility is built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum environmental standards, and its structural design is resilient to serve as an emergency shelter. Construction is complete.	Public Works	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department, Menlo Park Public Works Department, Silicon Valley Clean Energy, Menlo Park Building Division	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Complete	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.G.2	Provide equitable access to programs at the Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities.	Action Item	Programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) emphasize equitable access to programs through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities. Menlo Park residents who live or attend K-12 school within the service area of BHCC are eligible for hyperlocal resident enrollment fees at BHCC.	Library and Community Services	Library and Community Services Department, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.3	Providing community programming for all age groups, including older teens and older adults not considered seniors.	Action Item	The City provides and is working to develop additional programming for all age groups, including teens and older adults not considered seniors, and will continue to adapt programming to meet community needs and desires as they change over time, with community input.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.4	Provide childcare, potentially with funding support for residents of underserved communities.	Action Item	The City provides childcare with funding support for underserved communities at the Belle Haven Child Development Center (BHCCDC) and Belle Haven Youth Center (BHYC). Tuition is subsidized based on income level with grant funding from the State and other sources.	Library and Community Services	Local Childcare Organizations	California Department of Education	In Progress	Medium Term

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EJ3.G.5	Communicate with the Ravenswood City School District to enhance an understanding of preferred amenities and activities that can be included at Belle Haven Community Campus.	Action Item	Communication between the City and the Ravenswood City School District is ongoing. The School District partners with Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring, and City Year to provide before-school and after-school care. These collaborations offer both academic support and enrichment activities and the City continually seeks opportunities to amplify support for youth and families.	Library and Community Services	Ravenswood City School District, Communications and Public Engagement	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.6	Provide safe and highly visible pathways that connect residential areas in underserved communities to the new community center. Safety and visibility features should include adequate lighting.	Action Item	The Vision Zero Action Plan identifies high priority systemic safety issues to be addressed in all neighborhoods, with a focus on underserved communities.	Public Works	Library and Community Services, Community Development	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.7	Support the inclusion of artwork (e.g., murals) that reflects the diversity and culture of underserved communities at community centers and beyond. Include community artifacts and testaments to community history in the community center.	Action Item	Belle Haven Community Campus will include exhibits and displays focused on Belle Haven history, people, and neighborhood stories, rotating exhibits by local artists, interpretive artworks and multimedia.	Library and Community Services	Local Art Initiatives (e.g., Elevate Art Menlo Park, Allied Arts Guild)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term

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<b>EJ3.G.8</b>	Uplift culturally relevant holiday events at Belle Haven Community Campus to foster a feeling of belonging among all residents.	Action Item	The City is committed to work with community members to create more culturally relevant events is ongoing, including through mini-grants.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
<b>EJ3.G.9</b>	Facilitate yoga classes and other opportunities for regular community-gathering physical activities, such as walking groups and/or hiking programs for the underserved communities. Plan programs suitable to multiple age groups and abilities.	Action Item	The City currently offers yoga, Zumba, line-dancing and other movement classes for various age groups. Work with the community to develop new opportunities for community-oriented physical activities such as walking and/or hiking programs is ongoing.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
<b>EJ3.H</b>	Ensure that recreational facilities throughout Menlo Park provide all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles, with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities.	Program	City prioritizes access for all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles.	Library and Community Services	Public Works, Community Development	General Fund	In Progress	Long Term
<b>EJ3.H.1</b>	Provide public facilities that are well designed, energy efficient, maintained, and compatible with adjacent land uses.	Action Item	-	All City Departments	Community Development	General Fund	Medium Term	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.H.2	Offer substantially reduced costs for recreation activities, particularly to residents of underserved communities based on economic need.	Action Item	Programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) emphasize equitable access to programs through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities. Menlo Park residents who live or attend K-12 school within the service area of BHCC are eligible for hyperlocal resident enrollment fees at BHCC.	Library and Community Services	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	General Fund	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.H.3	In coordination with the City's Parks and Recreational Facilities Master Plan, provide public restroom facilities at parks in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department, Menlo Park Public Works Department	General Fund, Recreation In-Lieu Fee Fund	Short Term	Long Term
EJ3.H.4	Expand hours for public recreation facilities to allow working people to take advantage of the facilities. This should include open hours until 9:00 p.m. on weekdays and possibly shortened hours on weekends.	Action Item	-	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	-	General Fund	Short Term	Short Term
<b>Goal EJ6. Encourage physical activity and active transportation</b>								
EJ6.1	<i>Prioritize programs that encourage physical activity in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.2	<i>Support physically active lifestyles through investment in complete streets and active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) and safety in underserved communities</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.3	<i>Prioritize the implementation of traffic and transit improvements in underserved communities to reduce excessive speed, limit cut through traffic, and make streets comfortable and accessible places for all users and abilities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.A	Identify and eliminate, barriers to outdoor physical activity, such as damaged, incomplete, blocked, or littered sidewalks and bike paths, lack of safe street crossings and direct connections, excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping and shade trees along streets in underserved communities.	Program	-	Public Works	Community Development, Sustainability Division	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.B	In concurrence with the City's Vision Zero Action Plan, develop and implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling and taking transit. These efforts should include education for people using all modes.	Program	-	Public Works	Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, SamTrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ6.C	Coordinate with Ravenswood City School District to expand the Safe Routes to School program, including potential for increased crossing guards at key intersections.	Program	-	Public Works	Ravenswood City School District	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ6.D	Prepare to update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan (best practice is to update every 10-15 years) to improve environmental justice.	Program	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities), Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation Grants (Safe Streets and Roads for All, Sustainable Transportation Planning)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ6.D.1	Consider community solutions for addressing concerns related to parking (e.g., idling and noise, parking availability challenges) in underserved communities and explore the creation of Residential Preferential Parking (RPP) programs.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Police	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term



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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.D.2	Seek opportunities to improve pedestrian safety, at all Willow Road intersections.	Action Item	The City adopted the Vision Zero Action Plan in January 2024. The City is working on a Willow Road bicycle and pedestrian improvement project.	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
EJ6.D.3	Consider strategies to reduce excessive speed and cut-through traffic in underserved communities.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan is nearly complete and the City is coordinating with Caltrans to complete signal improvements at Willow and Newbridge	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ6.D.4	Install traffic calming measures to reduce speeds, as well as flashing stop signs in underserved communities, particularly around schools during pick-up and drop-off periods.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan is near completion. The Plan has completed speed humps near Belle Haven Elementary School, and bulbouts along Ivy, Chilco, Terminal and Newbridge.	Public Works	Caltrans, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, Ravenswood City School District, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.D.5	Install bikeways on Ivy Drive, ideally Class I or Class IV.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Long Term	Long Term
EJ6.D.6	Expand the network of safe, accessible, and appealing pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including pedestrian connections within and in between neighborhoods. Poles, signs, or other impediments in the center of sidewalks should be modified to improve accessibility and sidewalk safety.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ6.D.7	Install lighting to encourage walking and safe travel at night. This may begin with installation on Ivy Drive, Hamilton Avenue, Chilco Street, Newbridge Street, and at public buildings at parks. It should continue after subsequent community outreach that identifies other streets and locations with inadequate lighting, prioritizing underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Community Development	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Short Term	Long Term
<b>Goal EJ7. Create equitable civic and community engagement</b>								
<i>EJ7.1</i>	<i>Prioritize civic and community engagement programs that enhance the participation and inclusion of underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ7.2</i>	<i>Keep residents informed about governmental meetings and actions by ensuring transparency and accessibility in government and decision making.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ7.3</b>	<i>Treat all members of the community fairly and promote equity and capacity building toward creating a healthy environment and just community.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ7.A</b>	Promote and evaluate capacity-building efforts to educate and involve traditionally underrepresented populations, including underserved communities, in the public decision-making process.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.1</b>	Partner with community-based organizations that have relationships, trust and cultural competency with target communities to outreach on local initiatives and issues and allow them the use of space in the Belle Haven Community Campus at no cost.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.2</b>	Use culturally appropriate approaches to public participation and involvement in a partnership with community based organization.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.3</b>	Deploy educational workshops for City staff to enhance understanding social injustice and housing needs pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.4</b>	Provide training for decision makers, City staff, applicants, and public on social justice issues that affect community members.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.B</b>	All meetings with an agendized item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the underserved community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as satellite meeting centers, simulcasting, and/or remote participation. Consider hardcopy materials for outreach, particularly door-to-door outreach.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Library and Community Services	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.C</b>	Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation (such as food and refreshments, stipends, on-site child care) at community outreach events in underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D</b>	Pursue equitable civic and community engagement.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.1</b>	Initiate outreach efforts as early as possible in the decision-making process before significant resources have been invested.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.2</b>	Conduct open meetings on issues affecting land use and the environment.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Public Works	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.3</b>	At least twice per year, beginning immediately following Environmental Justice Element Adoption, conduct City Council meetings in underserved communities.	Action Item	The Planning Commission and City Council will review and recommend/consider adoption of the Environmental Justice Element at BHCC.	Community Development	-	General Fund	<b>In Progress</b>	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.4</b>	Encourage representation from all districts on City boards and commissions.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.D.5	Evaluate scheduling of public meetings in order to allow for a wide range of participation options around typical and atypical working hours.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.6	Coordinate outreach efforts between City departments to avoid duplication and encourage that all Menlo Park community stakeholders receive notification and information.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.7	Inform the public on decisions – and seek feedback on decisions – using multiple communication methods, including traditional and online forms of communication.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.8	Incorporate multilingual outreach, announcements and noticing into City procedures for public meetings and hearings and offer interpretation services at all meetings and workshops on environmental issues.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.9	Consider offering childcare at key meetings and workshops on environmental issues affecting entire neighborhoods and the city as a whole.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.10	Distribute contact information (such as phone numbers to call) for various departments, programs and other functions in the City organization in underserved communities and in appropriate languages.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.E	Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the BHCC as a community hub for learning and engagement opportunities strengthened with partner organizations. These will connect residents in underserved communities with pre-existing city and state resources as well as encourage resident participation in public meetings, events, and decision making.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.E.1	Provide resources at BHCC about environmental safety, including flooding, extreme heat, and other issues identified in the Safety Element. Consider having a concierge or dedicated staff/resources to provide outreach on local mitigation efforts in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, Public Works, Sustainability Division	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.F	Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating City Councilmembers and appointed commissioners for the time they spend in their positions to make the positions more accessible to residents of underserved communities.	Program	A Planning Commission stipend pilot program was added in the 2023-2024 budget.	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	In Progress	Short Term
EJ7.G	Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions.	Program	SamTrans currently operates a countywide paratransit service.	Library and Community Services	SamTrans, Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.H	Ensure that disaster preparedness planning as described in the Safety Element includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park's underserved communities. Upon adoption of the Environmental Justice Element, conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that may include participation and information dissemination at public event and/or fairs in underserved communities with proactive encouragement and opportunity for the residents to sign up for emergency alert systems.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Menlo Park Fire Protection District	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.I	Encourage the sustained engagement and involvement of underserved communities in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. Maintain membership and partnership with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority during their oversight of levee installations and expansions protecting underserved communities.	Program	The SAFER Bay Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in 2022 and provides engagement and involvement opportunities.	Public Works	City Manager's Office, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ7.J	Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Annual reporting, at a minimum, should be provided to the City Council and made available on the City website.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.1	Monitoring programming at community centers for usage, popularity, and equitable access, including an annual report on community center programming to Council. The report shall include community outreach and will recommend any updates to programming and outreach methods to address inequitable access.	Action Item	The City currently collects usage data and statistics, and provides monthly usage reports to Library Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission. Annual report to City Council is currently under development.	Library and Community Services	-	General Fund	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.2	Publish an annual report on the progress of the Transportation Master Plan, beginning a year after adoption of the updated Transportation Master Plan.	Action Item	An online map showing completed projects is published on the City website.  Further status/dashboard information about the Transportation Master Plan and Vision Zero Action Plan is under development.	Public Works	Community Development Department, Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.J.3	Diligently implement all state laws and mandated bias and sensitivity training requirements for law enforcement officers, current and new upon hire, who may interact with historically discriminated groups. The Police Department shall maintain records as required by state law to show vigilant compliance with all state laws and California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requirements. The Police Department includes documentation of records generated in compliance with the department's "Bias-Based Policing" policy as well as California's Racial and Identity Profiling Act in its quarterly reporting to the community through City Council.	Action Item	-	Police	City Manager's Office	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.4	Prepare and publicize an annual report describing the City's progress on promoting and evaluating capacity-building efforts per Program EJ7.D. This report shall also evaluate outreach methods and recommend adjusting outreach strategies to reflect best practices and results.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.K	The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.L	The City Council shall consider the community-identified environmental justice priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation



# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

ADOPTION DRAFT | RESOLUTION # \_\_\_\_\_

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Appendix EJ-E – Prioritization Workshop Summary
Appendix EJ-F – Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element Action Guide





Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

## INTRODUCTION

In 2016, the State of California passed Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), which requires the adoption or review of an Environmental Justice (EJ) Element (or environmental justice goals, policies, and programs in other elements) in cities and counties that have a disadvantaged community upon the adoption or revision of two or more General Plan elements. The development of Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element took place alongside updates to the Housing Element and Safety Element. This SB 1000 recognizes the hard work of California activists and advocates, as well as communities that have organized around their environments—not only in the past century, but long before California's statehood. Environmental justice provides a specific lens through which to advance equity and protect

human health. While the environmental justice movement traditionally focused on environmental contamination and degradation, the scope has broadened over time to include additional policy topics such as food access and physical activity.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this Environmental Justice Element is to identify and address public health risks and environmental justice concerns, as well as foster the well-being of the City's residents living in underserved communities. The City of Menlo Park is committed to environmental justice and acknowledges that the historical events and practices that have contributed to Menlo Park's development (such as the Spanish Empire's missions,<sup>2</sup> railroad construction,<sup>3</sup> and suburban residential development that relied heavily on

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, see the Governor's Office of Planning and Research document titled "Environmental Justice in California: A Brief History" in 2020 Updated Environmental Justice Element General Plan Guidelines, page 2.  
<sup>2</sup> See generally, Prof. Edward D. Castillo, "California Indian History" (State of California Native American Heritage Commission), available at <https://nahc.ca.gov/resources/california-indian-history/>.  
<sup>3</sup> See generally, Maru Karuka "Chinese Workers and the Transcontinental Railroad" (Boom California: April 6, 2020), available at <https://boomcalifornia.org/2020/04/06/chinese-workers-and-the-transcontinental-railroad/>.

redlining and gentrification<sup>4</sup>) are inseparable from the resulting injustices that have led to inequalities and inequities seen and felt in Menlo Park as well as throughout California.

This commitment on behalf of the City has led to the development of Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element. The introduction to this element begins with a discussion of its organization and relationship to Menlo Park's General Plan, an overview of the element's regulatory context, and a description of Drivers of Environmental Injustice and Determinants of Health that underlie environmental justice as a whole.

Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element is organized into the following sections:

- **Existing Setting:** This section identifies neighborhoods in Menlo Park that have concentrations of poverty and pollution that led to disproportionately high rates of poor health outcomes. These neighborhoods are designated as "underserved communities" in this document.
- **Environmental Justice Outreach:** This section provides an overview of key findings from community engagement performed throughout the development of the element, as well as a discussion of engagement methodology.
- **Goals, Policies, and Programs:** This section includes actions the City will take to prioritize underserved communities and address the environmental injustices identified through the existing conditions analysis and community engagement.
- **Appendices:** The appendices include supporting documents that provide more details on methodology or additional reports produced as part of the development of this element.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

*The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.*

Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

Meaningful involvement means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
- The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

*Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*

*"Help and give our youth the opportunity to stay in the community!"*

*— Belle Haven resident*

<sup>4</sup> See generally, Angela Swartz, "Reflections on racial inequities that persist in Menlo Park" (Almanac News: March 12, 2021), available at <https://www.almanacnews.com/news/2021/03/12/reflections-on-racial-inequities-that-persist-in-menlo-park>.

## Element Organization and Relationship to General Plan

SB 1000 (2016), which amended Government Code Section 65302, allows a jurisdiction to voluntarily adopt an Environmental Justice Element at any time and requires the adoption or review of an Environmental Justice Element (or environmental justice goals, policies, and programs in other elements) upon the adoption or revision of two or more General Plan elements concurrently. The City of Menlo Park adopted the 2023-2031 Housing Element in January 2023 and is developing the Environmental Justice Element while concurrently updating the Safety Element. Prior to beginning the analysis to determine whether or not there are underserved communities in Menlo Park, the City decided to pursue the preparation of an Environmental Justice Element because environmental justice in Menlo Park is so intricately linked to community concerns and priorities for housing and safety, and because of the requirements laid out in SB 1000.

These linkages can be seen in the Guiding Principles established in the Menlo Park General Plan, which “describe the kind of place that community members want Menlo Park to be.”<sup>5</sup> These Guiding Principles are supported by a commitment to environmental justice broadly as well as more specifically by the goals, policies, and programs contained in this element. This is particularly true for the principles of Citywide Equity and a Healthy Community, as well as for the principles of Youth Support and Education Excellence, Great Transportation Options, Complete Neighborhoods and Commercial Corridors, Accessible Open Space and Recreation, and Sustainable Environmental Planning.

### Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. This separate, complementary document is guided by the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the Guiding

Principles of the Menlo Park General Plan, however, the Action Guide lies outside of the General Plan itself. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment.

The Action Guide includes action items that will be pursued by the City to improve environmental justice. The action items are similar to Environmental Justice Element programs, and are assigned a lead department/division and time frame similar to these programs. Each action item in the Action Guide is organized under an Environmental Justice Element program, with the intention to provide additional direction and community-based feedback to City staff on desirable methods to fulfill the programs laid out in the Environmental Justice Element.

Many of the action items in the Action Guide were developed from outreach in Menlo Park’s underserved communities, described in detail in the “Environmental Justice Outreach” section below. The Action Guide is included as Appendix EJ-F. The Action Guide will be maintained on the City’s website and is intended to improve accountability by being more adaptable and responsive to community needs and opportunities.

Per Program EJ7.K, the City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing.

<sup>5</sup> General Plan (City of Menlo Park, 2016), page I-9.



### Policies Addressing Environmental Justice in Other General Plan Elements

Policies in the existing General Plan that address or are related to environmental justice are listed in Table EJ-1. These policies were developed prior to (or for the Safety and Housing Elements, in conjunction with) the Environmental Justice

Element and point to the City's broad commitment to improve environmental justice. This table also demonstrates that the Environmental Justice Element fits into a supportive General Plan framework. The policies are listed in numeric order and grouped by the main topic areas required to be addressed by SB 1000, described further below.

Table EJ-1: Environmental Justice Policies in Other Elements

Element	Topic Area	Policy Number
Land Use	Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes	LU-2.8
	Promote Physical Activity	LU-4.6 and LU-6.9
	Promote Public Facilities	LU-6.1, LU-6.3, and LU-6.8
Circulation	Promote Physical Activity	CIRC-1.1, CIRC-1.7, CIRC-1.8, CIRC-2.1, CIRC-2.7, CIRC-4.3, CIRC-4.4, and CIRC-5.6
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	CIRC-2.2, CIRC-4.2
	Promote Public Facilities	CIRC-2.10 and CIRC-5.2
	Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities	CIRC-2.4
Open Space and Conservation <sup>†</sup>	Promote Public Facilities	OSC-1.12, OSC-2.1, and OSC-4.1
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	OSC-2.2, OSC-2.3, and OSC-5.1
	Promote Physical Activity	OSC-2.6
Noise <sup>†</sup>	Reduce Pollution Exposure	N-1.1, N-1.2, N-1.3, N-1.4, N-1.5, N-1.6, N-1.7, N-1.8, N-1.9, and N-1.10
Safety <sup>†*</sup>	Reduce Pollution Exposure	S-1.7, S-1.32, S-1.33, S-1.34, S-1.35, S-1.36, S-1.37, S-1.38, S-1.39
	Promote Public Facilities	S-1.9, S-1.11, S-1.40, and S-1.41
	Safe, Stable, and Sanitary Homes	S-1.17 and S-1.19
Housing (6 <sup>th</sup> Cycle: 2023-2031)*	Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes	H2.1, H2.4, H2.7, H3.8, H3.9,
	Promote Civic Engagement	H5.2, H5.3, H5.5
	Reduce Pollution Exposure	H6.4, H6.6

<sup>†</sup>Menlo Park has a combined Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements document.

\*The Safety Element and Housing Element were updated at the same time as the Environmental Justice Element was developed. Several policies and programs were updated, modified, or newly-developed alongside the outreach and development of the Environmental Justice Element.

## Regulatory Context

There are several state laws that guide Environmental Justice Element development, listed and summarized below :

- Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000) – 2016
- Government Code 65302(h)(1)
- Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) – 2016
- Assembly Bill 1553 (AB 1553) – 2001
- Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617) – 2017
- Health and Safety Code Section 39711
- Assembly Bill 1628 (AB 1628) – 2019

### SB 1000

SB 1000 was signed into law in 2016 and requires local governments to identify disadvantaged communities in their jurisdictions as well as address environmental justice in their general plans. SB 1000 amended Government Code 65302 to add section (h)(1), discussed below.

SB 1000 defines the term “disadvantaged communities” as areas identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 39711 (described below) or low income areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.<sup>6</sup>

Through the outreach conducted as part of the Environmental Justice Element preparation, Menlo Park community members made it clear that the term they broadly identified with and preferred was “underserved communities.” Throughout this Element, “underserved communities” will be used and is understood to be analogous to the State-defined term “disadvantaged communities,” which is only used when quoting or referring to state law.

This statutory requirement can be divided into seven topic areas. The Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, and programs are categorized by the following topic areas:

### Government Code 65302(h)(1)

Under Government Code 65302 (h)(1), the necessary components of an Environmental Justice Element are:

- A) *Identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.*
- B) *Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process.*
- C) *Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.*

Throughout this element, “goals” will be used to remain consistent with the structure of other elements of the Menlo Park’s General Plan, but the term is meant to be analogous to “objectives” as used in Government Code Section 65302(h)(1).

1. Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities
2. Reduce Pollution Exposure
3. Improve Access to Public Facilities
4. Promote Food Access
5. Promote Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing
6. Promote Physical Activity
7. Promote Civic Engagement

<sup>6</sup> Gov. Code § 65302(h)(4)(A)

## GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

The Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, and programs are categorized by the following topic areas:

-  1. Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities
-  2. Reduce Pollution Exposure
-  3. Improve Access to Public Facilities
-  4. Promote Food Access
-  5. Promote Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing
-  6. Promote Physical Activity
-  7. Promote Civic Engagement

### SB 1383

SB 1383 (2016) intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including methane from organic waste in landfills. It requires implementation of food recovery programs to improve food recovery and access. The City of Menlo Park contracts with Recology San Mateo County for garbage, recycling, and compost services. Recology San Mateo County, for their part, provides curbside organics service and has a webpage dedicated to describing SB 1383.<sup>7</sup>

Food recovery and access includes potentially distributing food to areas of the city where communities experience food insecurity. As Menlo Park and Recology San Mateo County implement SB 1383, they may consider how implementation can support the goals, policies, and programs in the Environmental Justice Element.

<sup>7</sup> "Fight Climate Change by Composting" (Recology) available at <https://www.recology.com/sb1383/>

<sup>8</sup> Gov. Code § 65040.12(e)(1).

### AB 1553

AB 1553 (2001) requires the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to be the coordinating agency for environmental justice efforts and 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."<sup>8</sup> This Environmental Justice Element follows OPR guidance and the AB 1553 definition.

### AB 617

AB 617 (2017) led to the development of the California Air Resources Board's Community Air Protection Program. This program is focused on reducing exposure in communities most impacted by air pollution. Each Air Quality Management District submitted a methodology and list of candidate communities to be eligible for funding of AB 617 community emissions reduction programs. Menlo Park does not contain any candidate communities for the program.

### AB 1628

AB 1628 (2019) enhanced the previous definition of environmental justice to include meaningful involvement and national origins to the prior language of Gov. Code Section 65040.12(e). The law also elaborates on the prior language to describe additional forms of distributive and procedural justice, including, but not limited to:

- The availability of a healthy environment for all people.
- The deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for populations and communities experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution, so that the effects of the pollution are not disproportionately borne by those populations and communities.
- Governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to



populations and communities most impacted by pollution to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decisionmaking process.

- At a minimum, the meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions.

### Health and Safety Code Section 39711

Section 39711 of the California Health and Safety Code defines disadvantaged communities and gives the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the responsibility for identifying such communities for investment opportunities. This Environmental Justice Element uses the definition in Health and Safety Code Section 39711 (referenced in Government Code 65302(h)(4)):

*These communities shall be identified based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria, and may include, but are not limited to, either of the following:*

- *Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.*
- *Areas with concentrations of people that are of low income, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, or low levels of educational attainment.*

### Relationship to the Capital Improvement Plan

The City of Menlo Park adopted the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2023-2028 to outline the City's short and long term vision for development, maintenance, improvement, and building of new infrastructure assets to benefit residents, businesses, property owners, and visitors. Although the CIP is updated annually, it allows the reader to review projects planned over the five-

year timeframe and provides an overview of works in progress. The Environmental Justice Element is required under Government Code 65302 (h)(1) to "identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities." The goals, policies, and programs developed for the Environmental Justice Element are closely tied to the projects and vision of the Five-Year CIP due to its impact for reducing pollution exposure, improving access to public facilities, promoting physical activity, and encouraging civic engagement.

The Five-Year CIP includes projects that reduce exposure to negative environmental conditions and improve environmental justice, such as:

- **Urban Forest:** Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park: The development and implementation of an urban forest management plan would focus on community outreach and preserving and expanding tree cover within the city to reduce pollution exposure and promote physical activity. Urban tree canopies additionally mitigate impacts of climate change including rising temperatures and increased flooding. This plan would serve as a long-term roadmap for the City to proactively and effectively maintain long-term benefits from the community's tree canopy.
- **Willow Road Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements:** The development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements along Willow Road through the Belle Haven neighborhood would promote physical activity and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.
- **Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan:** The development and implementation of a plan to reduce vehicle speeds on roadways within the Belle Haven neighborhood would reduce pollution exposure, promote physical activity, and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.
- **Belle Haven Community Campus:** The establishment and growth of the new community center in the Belle Haven

neighborhood improves access to public facilities and supports the development of community programs promoting physical activity, civic engagement, and prioritizing the needs of underserved communities.

- **SAFER Bay:** The series of infrastructure improvements would protect critical infrastructure, provide community resilience to current tidal flooding and projected sea level rise, and improve recreational access, using both engineered structures and nature-based flood protection.
- **Chilco Streetscape and Sidewalk Installation:** The development of pedestrian and bicycle supporting infrastructure on Chilco Street through the Belle Haven and Bayfront neighborhoods would reduce pollution exposure, promote physical activity, and prioritize the needs of underserved communities.

The Environmental Justice Element informs the CIP by elevating the needs of underserved communities and prioritizing projects that mitigate unique and compounding health risks present within the community.

### Drivers of Environmental Injustice and Determinants of Health

Every aspect of people’s lives has implications for their health. Beyond access to and quality of health care, the characteristics of the neighborhoods where people live, work, play, learn, and pray influence their behaviors, experiences, and physical health in different ways. Health is heavily influenced by factors in a community that are not typically addressed by the health care system. These community and location-based factors make up the “Social Determinants of Health” (see Figure EJ-1)<sup>9</sup>



<sup>9</sup> Wilkinson R, Marmot M. *Social Determinants of Health: The Solid Facts*. 2nd ed. Copenhagen, Denmark: World Health Organization; 2003. Solar O, Irwin A. *A Conceptual Framework for Action on the Social Determinants of Health*. *Social Determinants of Health Discussion Paper 2*. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2010.

Figure EJ-1: Social Determinants of Health<sup>10</sup>

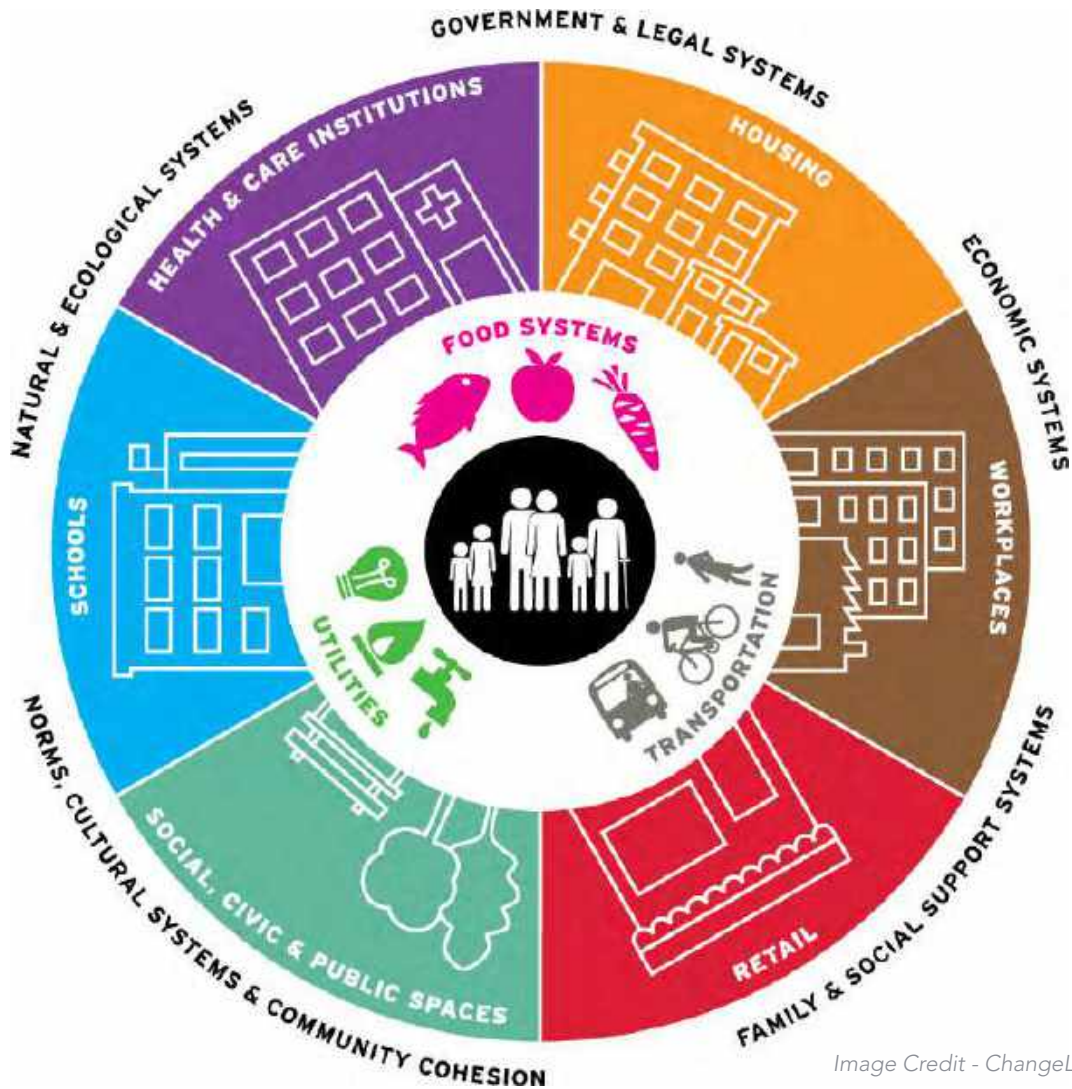


Image Credit - ChangeLab Solutions

Some people live in relatively healthy neighborhoods that have characteristics which mostly support healthy living, for example: landscapes that promote active lifestyles, access to medical care, plentiful safe housing, and availability of nutritious food. On the other hand, relatively less healthy neighborhoods have a combination of physical, social, and economic conditions that can create significant barriers to health such as unstable housing, poor access to healthy food, inadequate

or poorly maintained public spaces, unsafe streets, under-resourced schools, and concentrated poverty.

People may live in relatively less healthy neighborhoods, not because it is a desirable choice, but because of social or economic position or other circumstances beyond their control or ability to change. Less than one-third of the U.S. population is Black or Hispanic, however, these groups represent four out of every five people living in metropolitan concentrated poverty across the

<sup>10</sup> Long-Range Planning for Health, Equity & Prosperity: A Primer for Local Governments (ChangeLab Solutions: December 2019). Available at <https://www.changelabsolutions.org/product/long-range-planning-primer>

country.<sup>11</sup> When these neighborhoods also have physical, social, and economic barriers to health, then low-income residents and residents of color will disproportionately and unfairly be exposed to those unhealthy environments, increasing their risk of poor health, poor education, low income, and poverty.

In addition, political, social, economic, institutional, cultural, environmental, and other systems can create, intensify, and prolong barriers to health.

This complex web of social determinants of health points to a common outcome: poorer and racialized<sup>12</sup> people generally live shorter lives in worse health and under worse conditions than more affluent people who are not racialized. The City is committed to reducing health inequities and promoting environmental justice in Menlo Park. This Environmental Justice Element is a document that seeks to reduce or remove local disparities and inequities that exist by addressing and improving the social determinants of health in the neighborhoods and for the populations that face the greatest barriers to good health in Menlo Park.

### Unique and Compounding Health Risks

Underserved communities are more likely to “experience greater underlying health inequities from the myriad of health, economic, social, and place-based factors that have been present for

many generations, such as inequities in wealth, neighborhood disinvestment, disparities in neighborhood conditions, and lack of access to opportunities and needed services and resources.”<sup>13</sup> This combination of exposure to negative externalities and limited opportunities for mediation result in “unique and compounding health risks” that greatly impact the health and wellbeing of the members of the community.

Unique and compounding health risks are the result of the cumulative impacts of governmental neglect, systemic discrimination, and limited access to resources that lead to a situation where low income communities and communities of color face elevated rates of exposure to environmental hazards and have increased sensitivity to such hazards as a result of compounding inequities in the prevalence of chronic diseases, cumulative environmental exposures, and limited access to mitigative and protective resources to adequately cope with hazards experienced in the community.<sup>14</sup>

Cities and counties are required by State Government Code 65302(h) to “identify objectives and policies to reduce unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities” within their jurisdiction. Identification of unique and compounding health risks requires recognition of issues that are specific to their community and are collected through analysis of community needs, local climate vulnerability, cost of living, local industries, and other additional factors that impact the health and wellbeing of the community.

11 Erica E. Meade, “Overview of Community Characteristics in Areas with Concentrated Poverty” (HHS Office for the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation: April 30, 2014), available at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/overview-community-characteristics-areas-concentrated-poverty>.

12 “to cause or believe race to be an important feature of a group of people, of society, or of a problem” (Cambridge Dictionary). Available at <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/racialize>.

13 Gregory Miao, Kate Hannon Michel, and Tina Yuen “A Health Justice Agenda for Local Governments to Address Environmental Health Inequities” (*Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, March 2023), available at [https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-law-medicine-and-ethics/article/health-justice-agenda-for-local-governments-to-address-environmental-health-inequities/9DF64519B9A1806228B2914E79D4A480?utm\\_campaign=shareaholic&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_source=bookmark](https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-law-medicine-and-ethics/article/health-justice-agenda-for-local-governments-to-address-environmental-health-inequities/9DF64519B9A1806228B2914E79D4A480?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=bookmark).

14 See, Anjum Hajat, Charlene Hsia, and Marie S. O’Neill: “Socioeconomic Disparities and Air Pollution Exposure: a Global Review” (*Current Environmental Health Report*, September 2015), available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40572-015-0069-5>.



## EXISTING SETTING

Menlo Park is one of the wealthiest cities in the San Francisco Bay Area.<sup>15</sup> The city has numerous high-quality jobs, high-performing schools, and well-maintained parks. Menlo Park has established connectivity both within the city itself and along highways and train routes linking it to San Francisco and San Jose (as well as across the Dumbarton Bridge to the East Bay). Plentiful street trees provide cover from urban heat and the bayfront marshlands serve as a buffer between rising sea levels and the built-up portions of the city.

However, the opportunities Menlo Park provides – and the burdens of environmental risk – are not equally experienced by all Menlo Park residents. Minority and low-income populations are more likely to live in inadequate housing,<sup>16</sup> to face greater health risks,<sup>17</sup> and to have more difficulties in making their voices heard.<sup>18</sup> This contributes to a pattern where minority and low-income community members are more susceptible to displacement<sup>19</sup> and at the greatest risk to move into other

<sup>15</sup> See MTC's *Vital Signs* website describing income, available at <https://vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov/indicators/income>

<sup>16</sup> For example, a much higher percentage of lower-income housing units are overcrowded and severely overcrowded than moderate-income or above moderate income units: 3.5% of households making 0%-30% of Area Median Income (AMI) are overcrowded, 6.5% of households making 31%-50% of AMI, 4.0% of households making 51%-80% of AMI, 2.7% of households making 81%-100% of AMI, but only 1.7% of households making more than 100% of AMI. See Figure 33 in ABAG/MTC's "Housing Needs Data Report: Menlo Park (April 2021)". Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), *Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) ACS tabulation, 2013-2017 release*.

<sup>17</sup> Only 52% of workers with an annual household income of less than \$30,000 have paid sick leave in California, compared to 81% of workers with an annual household income over \$120,000. "Taking Count: A Study on Poverty in the Bay Area" (Tipping Point: July 2020), available at <https://tippingpoint.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Taking-Count-2020-A-Study-on-Poverty-in-the-Bay-Area.pdf>.

<sup>18</sup> See, Michelle L. Kaiser, Michelle D. Hand, and Erica K. Pence: "Individual and Community Engagement in Response to Environmental Challenges Experienced in Four Low-Income Urban Neighborhoods" (Int'l. Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, March 2020), available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7142717/>.

<sup>19</sup> See, Urban Displacement Project "SF Bay Area – Gentrification and Displacement" (2021), available at <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/maps/sf-bay-area-gentrification-and-displacement/>

jurisdictions with fewer high-quality jobs and lower-performing schools.<sup>20</sup>

In order to address this inequality, Menlo Park committed to developing an Environmental Justice Element. This commitment requires identifying underserved communities, undertaking extensive outreach to determine the needs of the residents of these communities, and developing a policy framework to address these environmental justice needs.

### Identifying Underserved Communities

Underserved communities are areas throughout California that suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty; pollution; and social and health indicators of risk and stress.

Menlo Park has identified Belle Haven and the Bayfront as underserved communities. These neighborhoods make up the portion of the city north of US Highway 101 (US-101) and a small portion south of US-101 but north of the Dumbarton Corridor (see Figure EJ-2). Historically, this was the area of Menlo Park that was segregated through racial covenants that banned Black households south of US-101.<sup>21</sup> Even today, Belle Haven and the Bayfront are within school districts separate from the districts that serve the majority of the city. Belle Haven and the Bayfront are also racialized communities: with disproportionately more Hispanic and Black than the rest of the city, these underserved communities are made up of households that have been historically underrepresented in the planning process (and civic processes generally) in Menlo Park.



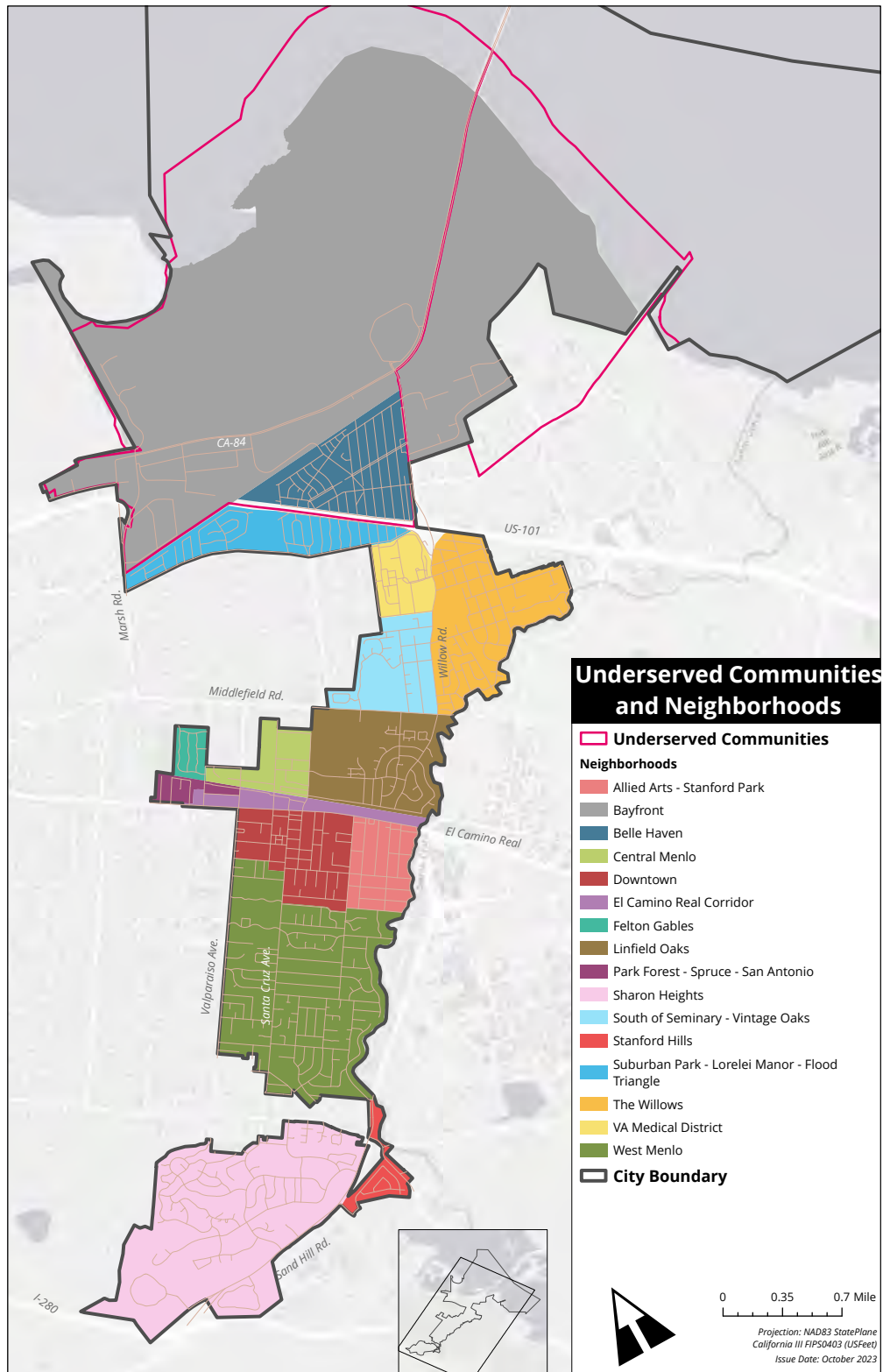
*"The most effective form of outreach was through existing relationships."*

*— CRC Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements*

<sup>20</sup> "Inequality and Economic Security in Silicon Valley" (California Budget & Policy Center: May 2016), available at <https://www.siliconvalleycf.org/sites/default/files/publications/inequality-and-economic-security-in-silicon-valley.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> See <https://www.menlotgether.org/2019/11/27/the-color-of-law-menlo-park-edition-overcoming-systemic-segregation/>

Figure EJ-2: Map of Underserved Community Census Tracts<sup>22</sup>



<sup>22</sup> Census tracts do not align precisely with City limits as depicted in Figure EJ-2. More information is available in Appendix EJ-C: Neighborhood Profiles

## State Criteria

Belle Haven and the Bayfront are identified as underserved communities because they are in census tracts<sup>23</sup> designated as low income (80% or less of area median income) by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits (median incomes of less than \$146,350 for a four-person San Mateo County household in 2021 and \$186,600 in 2024);<sup>24</sup> they are historically underserved areas separated from the rest of the city by US-101 and included within school districts separate from those that serve the majority of the city; and as described by the community during outreach efforts for the element preparation.

A third neighborhood, The Willows, technically falls into a census tract designated as low income. A portion of the census tract is located outside the boundaries of Menlo Park in the City of East Palo Alto and is considered very low income (50% or less of area median income – less than \$91,350 for a four-person San Mateo County household in 2021 and \$97,900 in 2024), which thereby lowers the overall tract-wide median income. The Menlo Park portion of the tract containing The Willows is well above the designated low-income limit and is part of the Menlo Park City School District. Appendix EJ-B, Additional Methodology, describes this observation in detail.

OPR has developed Environmental Justice Element guidelines<sup>25</sup> that recommend a “thorough screening analysis” with three primary criteria to determine if any area of the city is an underserved community:

- **Criteria 1** – Affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. This is done by using CalEnviroScreen 4.0 to examine whether the planning area for the General Plan contains census tracts that have a

CalEnviroScreen 4.0 combined Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics score of 75% or higher (CalEnviroScreen is a data analysis tool discussed in Appendix EJ-A, Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations. A table of all neighborhood scores is provided at the end of Appendix EJ-A).

- **Criteria 2** – An area with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income.
- **Criteria 3** – An area at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits (\$146,350 for a four-person household in 2021).

It is also recommended that jurisdictions “incorporate and analyze community-specific data and examine for additional pollution burden and health risk factors.” This is Criteria 4, encouraging the incorporation of community outreach which the City has undertaken and will continue to engage in.

The OPR criteria are based on census tracts, which do not line up precisely with Menlo Park’s city boundaries and neighborhood boundaries (see Figure EJ-3).

<sup>23</sup> Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county.

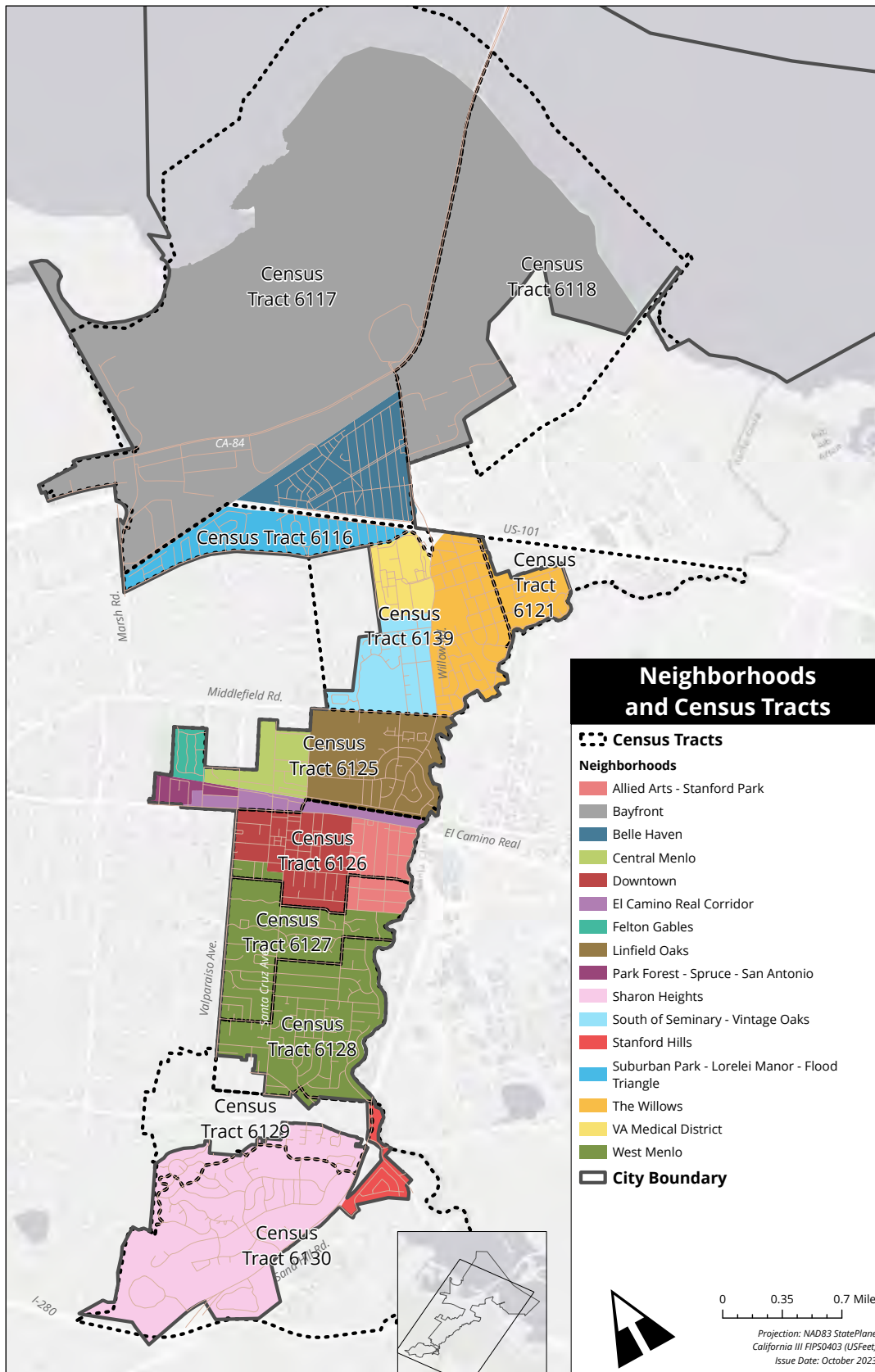
<sup>24</sup> Current and historic (dating back to 2016) state income limits can be found on HCD’s website, see *State and Federal Income, Rent, and Loan/Value Limits*. The data in the adopted Environmental Justice Element dates to 2021, when the Neighborhood Profiles were developed (see Appendix EJ-A). Updated income limits are located at the HCD website.

<sup>25</sup> See 2020 Updated Environmental Justice Element General Plan Guidelines





Figure EJ-3: Neighborhoods, Tracts, City Boundaries



In Menlo Park, there are three census tracts which meet at least one of the three primary criteria noted by OPR and could be considered as containing underserved communities:

- Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront)
- Tract 6118 (Bayfront)
- Tract 6121 (The Willows)

All three census tracts listed are eligible due to Criteria 3: their household incomes are at or below the threshold designated as low income

by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits. However, Tract 6121 (The Willows) only meets Criteria 3 due to portions of the census tract located outside of Menlo Park in the City of East Palo Alto. Therefore, Tract 6121 (The Willows) is not considered an underserved community within Menlo Park’s Environmental Justice Element. Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront) is also eligible due to Criteria 2: its household incomes are at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income (see Table EJ-2; underserved communities shown bolded).

Table EJ-2: Household Median Income of Census Tracts in Menlo Park

Menlo Park Census Tract	Neighborhoods	Household Median Income (2020)
Citywide Household Median Income*		\$167,567
6116	Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle	\$222,708
<b>6117</b>	<b>Belle Haven; Bayfront</b>	<b>\$74,032</b>
<b>6118</b>	<b>Bayfront</b>	<b>\$85,500**</b>
6121	The Willows	\$64,690***
6125	Central Menlo; El Camino Real Corridor; Felton Gables; Linfield Oaks; Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio	\$154,861
6126	Downtown; Allied Arts/ Stanford Park	\$140,795
6127	Allied Arts/Stanford Park; West Menlo	\$238,333
6128	West Menlo	\$250,000 ±
6129	Sharon Heights	\$192,250
6130	Sharon Heights; Stanford Hills	\$156,000
6139	South of Seminary – Vintage Oaks; The Willows; VA Medical District	\$214,222

The data in Table EJ-2 dates to the publication of the Environmental Justice Element’s Neighborhood Profiles (see Appendix EJ-A).

\*= Citywide Household Median Income is calculated by the US Census separately from tract-by-tract Household Median Income. This number is not the median tract household income.

\*\*= There are no residential units within Menlo Park in Tract 6118. This Median Income figure includes only East Palo Alto.

\*\*\*= Tract 6121’s Household Median Income is disproportionately affected by portions of the Census tract outside of Menlo Park.

*"Low-income communities and communities of color are on the frontlines of sea-level rise, extreme heat events, and are suffering more severe consequences from wildfire smoke exposure. These facts make the urgency and necessity of robust engagement with frontline communities a necessity for equitable and just climate adaptation."*

— CRC Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements



Although neither Tract 6117 nor Tract 6118 have combined Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores of 75 percent or higher – meaning that they have a “worse” situation than 75

percent of Census tracts in California – these tracts are the only ones in Menlo Park with a Pollution Burden score over 75 (see Table EJ-3; underserved communities shown bolded).

Table EJ-3: Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics Scores

Menlo Park Census Tract	Pollution Burden Score	Population Characteristics Score
Citywide Average	26.2	18.6
6116	71	2
<b>6117</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>6118</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>49</b>
6121	73*	58*
6125	45	2
6126	52	4
6127	35	5
6128	26	1
6129	29	17
6130	47	11
6139	44	5

\*= Tract 6121's scores are disproportionately affected by portions of the Census tract outside of Menlo Park.

A detailed description of Menlo Park’s neighborhoods and their relationship to environmental justice, including analyses of Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores, is included within the Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations (see Appendix EJ-A).

Additional details on how demographic data in Census tracts 6118 and 6121 break across city boundaries between Menlo Park and East Palo Alto is provided in Appendix EJ-B, Additional Methodology.

### Community-Specific Data

OPR recommends community-specific data to be incorporated as well as the tract-level CalEnviroScreen 4.0 data. In Menlo Park’s case, the City’s school district stratification as well as its historic and current land use patterns are relevant factors in identifying Belle Haven and the Bayfront as underserved communities.

### School Districts

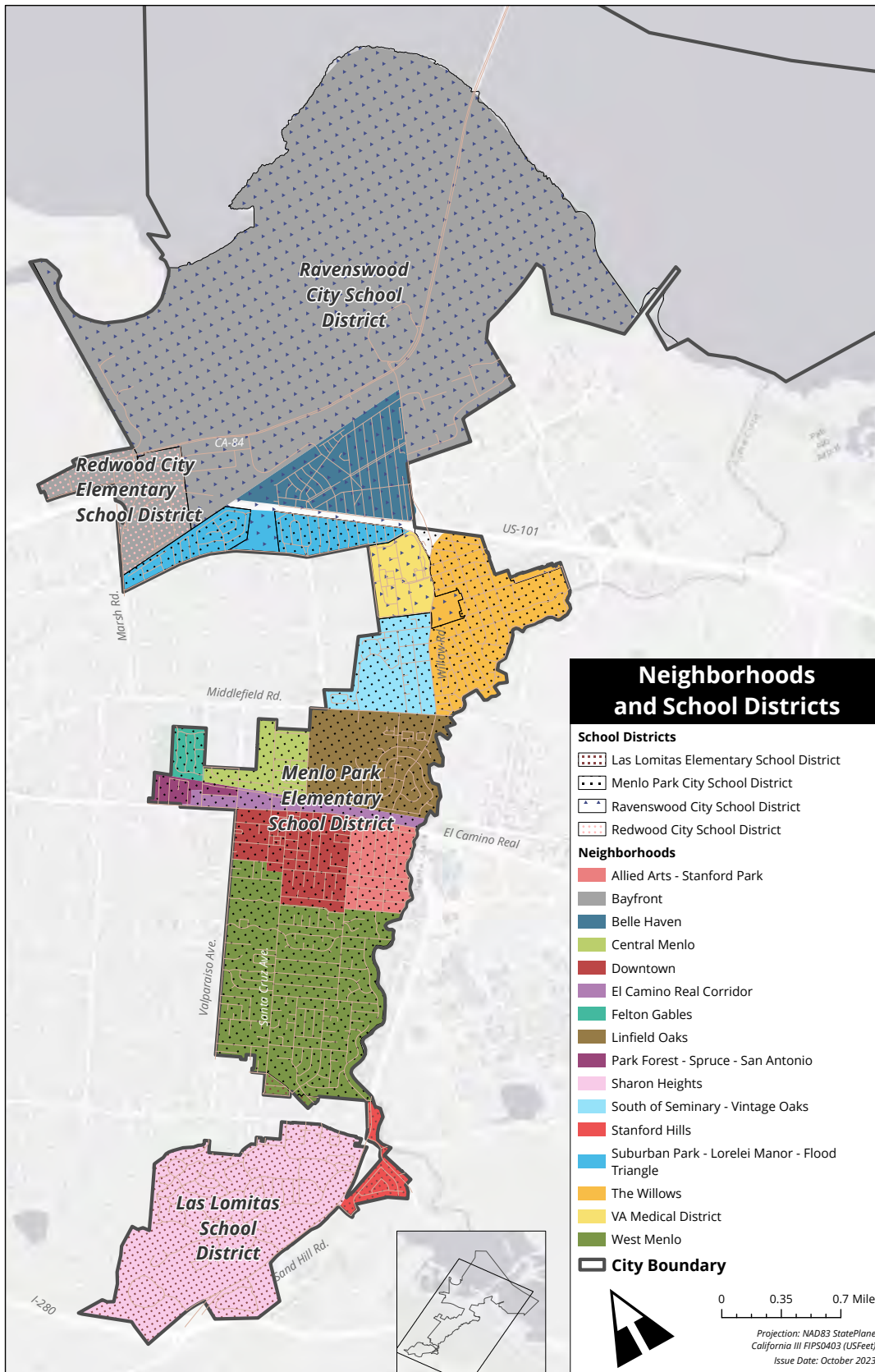
Menlo Park is served by four school districts with elementary and middle schools: Las Lomas Elementary School District, Menlo Park City School District, Ravenswood City School District, and Redwood City School District (see Figure EJ-4).

*"Maintain a local community center. Kelly Park & Pool activities should be affordable, with more basketball, soccer and other activities."*

— Belle Haven resident



Figure EJ-4: Elementary and Middle School Districts and Neighborhoods



Ravenswood City School District serves Belle Haven, the Bayfront, and the neighboring City of East Palo Alto (a minority-majority city). Historically, there was also Ravenswood High School, founded in 1958 and subject to a 1970 desegregation order. It was eventually shut down due to declining enrollment in 1975.<sup>26</sup> In the present day, Menlo-Atherton High

School (served by the Sequoia Union High School District) serves all students in Menlo Park who opt for a public high school. In addition, Ravenswood City School District is the sole school district serving Menlo Park with student math and English test scores below state averages (see Table EJ-4):

Table EJ-4: Test Scores in Menlo Park School Districts<sup>27</sup>

School District	% of Students Hispanic or Latino	% Passing State Test	
		Math	English
State Average	56%	40%	51%
Las Lomitas	5%	82%	86%
Menlo Park City	7%	83%	84%
<b>Ravenswood City</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>18%</b>
Redwood City	42%	43%	54%

**Land Use**

The City’s Zoning Ordinance currently allows industrial uses in the Bayfront in the Life Sciences (LS), General Industrial (M-2), and Office (O) zoning districts (see Figure EJ-5, below). Historically, in and around this portion of the city, there have been a number of light industrial, manufacturing, and warehouse facilities. These land use types

are historically correlated to worse health outcomes in neighboring communities.<sup>28</sup> This is because industrial uses can be the sites of legacy pollution, or industrial chemicals that remain in the environment long after they were first introduced – or even long after the original user has left. In the Bay Area, and Menlo Park specifically, many of these legacy pollutants are also located in areas vulnerable to sea level rise.<sup>29</sup>



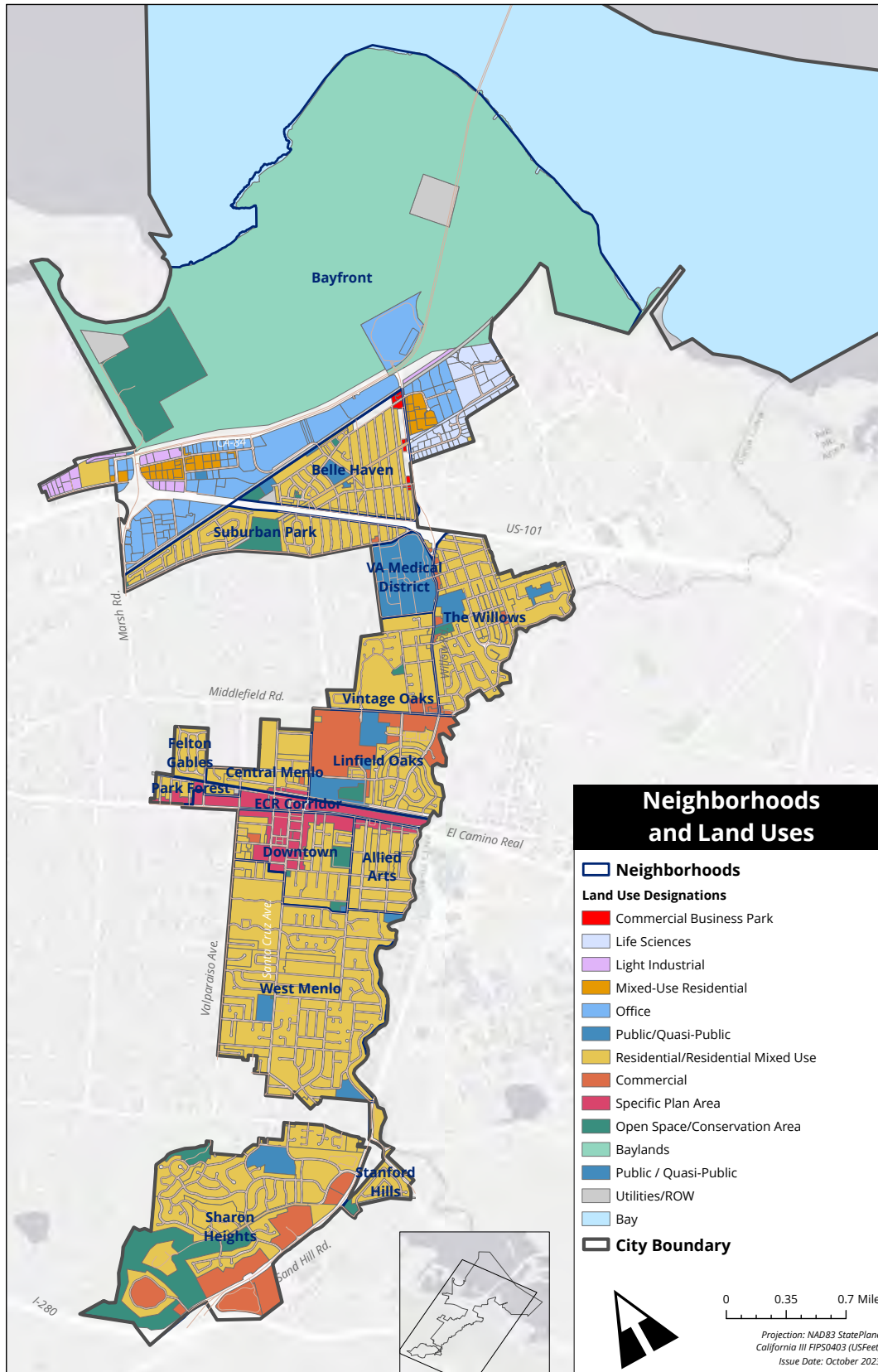
26 Kim-Mai Cutler “East of Palo Alto’s Eden: Race and the Formation of Silicon Valley” (TechCrunch: January 10, 2015) available at <https://techcrunch.com/2015/01/10/east-of-palo-altos-eden/>. Cutler notes that two community “Nairobi Schools” in East Palo Alto were firebombed in 1975.

27 Data via California Department of Education, 2019

28 See generally, Juliana Maantay “Zoning, Equity, and Public Health” (American Journal of Public Health: July 2001) available at <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.91.7.1033>

29 See “Toxic Tides” Available at <https://sites.google.com/berkeley.edu/toxictides/home>.

Figure EJ-5: Menlo Park Neighborhoods and Generalized Land Uses





## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OUTREACH

The City of Menlo Park is committed to an inclusive and equitable planning process. An inclusive and equitable planning process allows community members, especially residents of underserved communities, to provide input and contribute to the development of the Environmental Justice Element. The City of Menlo Park conducted community outreach and engagement on its own as well as partnering with a community-based organization that was intentionally focused and specialized in outreach and engagement efforts for underserved communities. The outreach included community meetings, pop-ups, English-Spanish translation/interpretation services, and surveys. Whenever possible, outreach was conducted with the intent to “meet people where they are” to increase participation, engagement, and build relationships with the community.

This work included multiple public study sessions. The Planning Commission and City Council met in a joint study session on June 20, 2023, to discuss initial public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements. They later met separately, on June 3 (Planning Commission) and

### COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

Through the development of Menlo Park’s first Environmental Justice Element, the community-identified three Environmental Justice Element goals to be prioritized:

- Priority #1:** Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2:** Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3:** Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)

June 18 (City Council), 2024, to discuss revised public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements, prior to public hearings for adoption in fall 2024. Community-identified

priorities may change over time. Highlighted outreach efforts are listed below:

**2021**

- August 1** – Pop-Up Meeting at the Downtown Farmers Market
- August 7** – Pop-Up Meeting at Mi Tierra Linda
- August 26** – Community Meeting
- August 29** – Pop-Up Meetings at the Downtown Farmers Market and in Belle Haven

**2022**

- April 5** – Community Meeting
- May 9** – Focus Group in East Palo Alto with El Comité de Vecinos del Lado Oeste
- May 13** – Focus Group with the Belle Haven Community Development Fund
- May 20** – Focus Group with residents of Belle Haven
- May 20 to June 12** – Survey conducted in-person and online

**2023**

- February 9** – Community Meeting
- February 10** – Community Meeting
- June 20** – Planning Commission and City Council Joint Study Session

**2024**

- January 18** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting<sup>30</sup>
- March 21** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting
- April 18** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting
- May 2** – Community Meeting

**May 9** – Community Meeting

**June 3** – Planning Commission Study Session

**June 17** – Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team Meeting

**June 18** – City Council Study Session

## Climate Resilient Communities

The City funded work with a community-based organization in order to expand and bolster outreach with underserved communities which are traditionally harder to reach populations. The City partnered with Climate Resilient Communities (CRC), a community-based organization dedicated to serving underserved communities through empowering community voices to implement climate solutions centered around the direct needs of the community that bring about unity and resilience. CRC was selected as a partner because they are a recognized community-based organization in Menlo Park with a history of experience in community outreach efforts, specifically within Belle Haven and the Bayfront, Menlo Park's underserved communities. Through a diverse and multifaceted outreach strategy, the City was able to better understand the impacts of environmental justice issues that underserved communities in Menlo Park face and together with the community, plan for positive change.

Together with the City, the outreach conducted by CRC directly resulted in the content and language of the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the action items of the complementary Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. The overall direction of the Environmental Justice Element is based off the important takeaways, findings, and requests from the community expressed during the outreach and community meetings conducted by CRC within underserved communities.

<sup>30</sup> The Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team (CCCT) is composed of residents, youth, faith, and business leaders with the aim to identify local vulnerabilities and learn how the community can be better prepared to face the impacts of climate change. The CCCT serves as a vehicle for forming and expressing community preferences for addressing a multitude of climate related issues that vary by local condition. The Belle Haven CCCT comprehensively discussed the Environmental Justice Element and update to the Safety Element in 2024.



## Outreach Methodology and Findings

Text and tables describing key findings, recommendations collected and summarized by CRC, and how those key findings and recommendations were brought into the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element are provided under each outreach and engagement method.

CRC focused most of its outreach efforts in Belle Haven, one of the communities identified as an underserved community. CRC also worked with communities who live and work in the Bayfront. The focus groups and community survey confirmed quantified metrics available from CalEnviroScreen through resident narratives and experiences. CRC was able to increase participation, build capacity, and describe the environmental justice issues affecting residents in underserved communities.

### Community Meetings (2021-2023)

In August 2021, April 2022, and February 2023, the City and CRC held community meetings to share information and gather feedback for preparation of Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element.

- Key Findings from Community Meetings Address air quality and safety concerns in Belle Haven
  - Policy EJ2.1, Policy EJ2.4, Program EJ2.A, Program EJ2.B, Program EJ2.C
- Preserve open space and parks
  - Program EJ3.E, Program EJ 4.E
- Use publicly owned land to build affordable housing
  - Considered as part of Menlo Park's 6th Cycle Housing Element
- Distribute new housing throughout the city and in high resource areas
  - Policy EJ5.2
- Reduce Pollution
  - Program EJ1.D, Policy EJ2.1
- Housing insecurity is related to health impacts
  - Considered as part of Menlo Park's 6th Cycle Housing Element, Policy EJ5.2
- Provide more bike/pedestrian infrastructure
  - Program EJ6.A, Policy EJ6.2, Policy EJ6.3
- Give more visibility to Environmental Justice issues
  - Policy EJ7.1, Policy EJ7.2, Program EJ7.A



### Focus Groups (2022)

A total of 124 Belle Haven residents attended at least one of the three (3) focus groups in May 2022. The focus groups met in person at the Belle Haven Branch Library and were intended to engage specific populations of the community. The first focus group was centered on sharing information and receiving feedback from families, parents, and children. The second focus group was catered to Spanish-speaking residents. The third focus group was for all residents. All focus groups were open to the public. A full summary report for the focus groups is available in Appendix EJ-C, Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements.

In the focus groups, key findings were identified through “jamboard” exercises where individuals noted which statements they agreed with from those identified during facilitated community discussion. CRC made a series of primary and secondary findings and recommendations based on these findings, which were then translated into policies and programs for the Environmental Justice Element. Table EJ-5 provides the key findings identified in the focus groups as well as the recommendations, and highlighted policies and programs are shown (see more in the Goals, Policies, and Programs section).

Table EJ-5: Key Findings from Focus Groups

Key Finding	Recommendations	Policies / Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Primary:</b> Reduce traffic pollution</li> <li>• <b>Secondary:</b> Mitigate emissions from stationary sources and issues from wildfire smoke</li> </ul>	Incentivize electric vehicle use (including electric bicycles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program EJ2.G</li> </ul>
	Strengthen permitting requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air Quality Permitting is enforced by the local Air Quality District.</li> </ul>
	Fund home weatherization and distribute air purifiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ5.1</li> </ul>
	Conduct tap water testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City currently conducts water testing as described in the annual Menlo Park Municipal Water report. The city does not currently rely on groundwater supply.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Primary:</b> Upgrade community centers</li> <li>• <b>Secondary:</b> More health care facilities and improved road infrastructure with complete streets</li> </ul>	Help families with water expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program EJ5.B</li> <li>• Existing PG&amp;E CARE program is used by City currently, which provides support for water, garbage, and recycling bills.</li> </ul>
	Reexamine administrative polices to encourage affordable and accessible programming in community centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ3.1</li> <li>• Policy EJ3.2</li> <li>• Program EJ3.G</li> </ul>
	Create a community health clinic in Belle Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ3.3</li> <li>• Program EJ3.D</li> </ul>
	Consider transportation infrastructure overhauls that ease walking, bicycling, and public transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy EJ6.2</li> <li>• Policy EJ6.3</li> <li>• Program EJ6.A</li> </ul>

Key Finding	Recommendations	Policies / Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase access to healthy and affordable foods</li> </ul>	Ensure that any new grocery store offers high-quality, affordable food; includes a pharmacy; and accepts SNAP and food vouchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ4.1</li> <li>Program EJ4.A</li> </ul>
	Look for opportunities for a new or expanded farmers' market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program EJ4.D</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Augment affordable housing programs and anti-displacement measures</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Mitigate pest, mold, and asbestos issues in homes and increase access to groceries and green spaces</li> </ul>	Offer homeowners and renters vital home safety repairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ5.1</li> <li>Program EJ5.A</li> <li>City is working on grant program through Habitat for Humanity for home repairs.</li> </ul>
	Enact/expand rent control ordinances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2023-2031 Housing Element does not propose additional rent control regulations, however, the development of an anti-displacement strategy is included.</li> </ul>
	Promote affordable housing throughout the city, and outside of Belle Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ5.2</li> <li>Program EJ5.D</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase information accessibility and enhance prior knowledge of City processes</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Schedule meetings to avoid time conflicts</li> </ul>	Ensure substantial and sustained multilingual outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ7.1</li> <li>Policy EJ7.2</li> </ul>
	Expand education and capacity-building opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program EJ7.A</li> </ul>
	Revamp public meeting scheduling protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ7.2</li> <li>Program EJ7.B</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase street lighting</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Upgrade sidewalks and other infrastructure improvements</li> </ul>	Fill gaps in streetlight coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program EJ6.A</li> </ul>
	Assess ADA compliance in sidewalks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ6.2</li> <li>Program EJ6.A</li> </ul>
	Systematically assess neighborhood connectivity infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ1.4</li> <li>Program EJ1.B</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Primary:</b> Increase tree canopy</li> <li><b>Secondary:</b> Reduce noise pollution and retrofit buildings for resilience and energy efficiency</li> </ul>	Commit to urban forestry efforts by setting urban canopy expansion goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy EJ2.3</li> </ul>
	Create publicly accessible ticketing system for maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently done through ACT Menlo Park program.</li> </ul>
	Consider community solutions for addressing concerns related to parking (e.g., idling and noise, parking availability)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action Item EJ2.I.7</li> <li>Action Item EJ6.D.1</li> </ul>



## Survey (2022)

CRC canvassed the city from May 20 through July 12, 2022 for a survey, focusing their outreach on the underserved communities of Belle Haven and Bayfront. The survey was available for completion both online and in-person, gathering 420 total responses. Of the responses, 328 (78%) of respondents were Belle Haven residents. The full survey report is available as Appendix EJ-D, Menlo Park Survey Final Report.

CRC made a series of key findings and recommendations, which were then translated into policies and programs for the Environmental Justice Element. The text below provides the key findings identified in the survey as well as the recommendations; highlighted policies and programs are shown (see more in the Goals, Policies, and Programs section).

### Key Findings from 2022 Environmental Justice Survey

#### *Air Quality, Traffic Congestion, Dust Pollution & Noise*

Key Finding: A majority of respondents experienced poor air quality, traffic congestion, and dust and noise from construction as adverse environmental impacts within their households in the last 10 years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than other Menlo Park households. Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than their White counterparts.

Recommendations: Implement air and noise pollution mitigation measures specifically in Belle Haven. Install sensors to measure outcomes before and after pilot interventions. Work with Belle Haven community organizations to scope pilot projects and ensure cultural competency when interventions are conducted at the household level.

Programs: EJ2.A (Air quality monitors currently exist in Belle Haven.)

Policies: EJ2.1, EJ2.4

## Health Issues

Key Finding: More than a third of respondents experienced stress/anxiety, high blood pressure or cholesterol, COVID-19 and/or asthma within their households in the last 10 years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than other Menlo Park households.

Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than their White counterparts.

Recommendations: Conduct culturally competent outreach to inform Belle Haven residents of the prevalence of health issues in the neighborhood, environmental risk factors, and opportunities for preventative or supportive action.

Programs: EJ3.3

## Environmental Damages and Risks

Key Finding: About a third of respondents have spent more than \$100 in the past year on home repairs related to environmental damages or risks. More than a third of respondents have delayed home repairs due to cost. A quarter of respondents, if faced with a \$400 emergency expense, would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash, and would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money. Both of these findings also demonstrate significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities.

Recommendations: Develop a rapid response program that can assist Belle Haven homeowners with emergency home repairs through a no-interest loan, including volunteer labor and donated materials.

Policies: EJ5.1

## Prioritization of Household Spending

Key Finding: More than a third of respondents would prioritize spending extra money on air conditioning, air purifiers, home repairs and earthquake-related upgrades, compared to solar, rainwater capture, home insurance or electrification.

Recommendations: Expand reduced cost home weatherization and retrofit programs, as well as DIY (“Do-It-Yourself”) air filter initiatives.

Policies: EJ5.1 (City offers water conservation rebates, incentives, and free fixtures.<sup>31</sup>)

### *Prioritization of Public Spending*

Key Finding: More than a third of respondents would prioritize public spending on pedestrian safety, road repairs, safer biking routes, street trees, and improved parks or community gardening, compared to public air quality monitoring, stormwater management, code enforcement and flood barriers.

Recommendations: While continuing to mitigate risk from less frequent climate hazards, deepen prioritization of public transportation and recreation infrastructure in Belle Haven.

Policies: EJ1.3, EJ1.4

Programs: EJ1.A, EJ2.H

### *Community Workshops and Study Sessions (2024)*

After making revisions to the Environmental Justice Element to reflect the community meetings, focus groups, and survey described above, the document was revised and re-published in April 2024 and discussed at four public meetings:

**May 2** – Community Workshop in Belle Haven (in Spanish)

**May 9** – Community Workshop in Belle Haven (in English)

**June 3** – Planning Commission Study Session (in English)

**June 18** – City Council Study Session (in English, with Spanish interpretation)

The full Community Workshops summary report is included as Appendix EJ-E: Prioritization Workshop Summary.

Approximately 80 attendees at the May workshops provided feedback on the relevant elements, regarding recommended policies, programs and their prioritization. This feedback was provided to Planning Commission and City Council at their respective study sessions. At these study sessions, commissioners and councilmembers affirmed the community input and provided additional feedback.

A key finding of these study sessions was the affirmation that the City should move forward with highlighting the top three priorities identified through the community outreach process:

- Priority #1:** Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2:** Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3:** Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)



Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

<sup>31</sup> See “Conservation rebates and incentives” Available at <https://menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works/Utilities/Menlo-Park-Municipal-Water/Water-conservation/Conservation-rebates-and-incentives>

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUMMARY

Participants in the community meetings, focus groups, and survey indicated an interest in topics such as air quality/safety, open space and parks, pollution, noise, and construction. Through their participation, it was evident that environmental and sustainability issues are important to Menlo Park residents. Environmental factors impact the whole ecosystem – not only the environment, but also the health and wellbeing of people.

One of the most popular community feedback themes was urban greening. Urban greening is the incorporation of vegetation, landscaping, trees, open space, and gardens in the infrastructure of an urban environment. Examples of this include urban street canopies, drought tolerant and native species landscaping, green roofing, community gardens, and pervious surfaces incorporated into public spaces. At the local level, these interventions can help reduce health and safety risks by mitigating air, water, noise pollution and stress.

The findings and issues identified by the community have been recognized by the City and translated into prioritization of goals in the Housing, Safety, and Environmental Justice Elements.

The prioritized goals will be emphasized in City planning efforts in the years following Environmental Justice Element adoption. In particular, the City Council will incorporate community priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop (see Program EJ7.L). Any revisions to community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities (see Program EJ7.K). The intent of the process is to remain responsive and not require a General Plan amendment.

*"The community wants to be better informed."  
— Belle Haven resident*



Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

## GOALS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

Menlo Park's objective of furthering environmental justice is an action-oriented process. The City will continually work toward environmental justice, with collective efforts and collaboration from Belle Haven and Bayfront residents, community leaders, and the greater Menlo Park, San Mateo County, and Bay Area communities.

The goals, policies, and programs in the Environmental Justice Element are developed from the issues and priorities identified in the data analysis and the community outreach and engagement findings and recommendations completed for Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element. Below is a description of the goals, policies, and programs that make up the Environmental Justice Element.

- **Goals** – Broad actions Menlo Park will pursue to work towards environmental justice.
- **Policies** – Focused principles that Menlo Park is adopting in order to achieve goals.
- **Programs** – Precise steps that Menlo Park will take in furtherance of policies and goals.

Many of the policies and programs call for direct investment in less resourced underserved communities. Prioritizing investments such as time, political energy, and capital in underserved communities will have net benefits and a high return on investment for Menlo Park as a whole.

### Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. This separate, complementary document is guided by the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the Guiding Principles of the Menlo Park General Plan, however, the Action Guide lies outside of the General Plan itself. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community

needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment. Table EJ-6 shows

where one can view goals, policies, and programs, as well as action items which support program implementation.

Table EJ-6: Environmental Justice Element Organization

Environmental Justice Element	Document	Action Guide
<p><b>GOALS:</b> Broad actions Menlo Park will pursue to work toward environmental justice. <i>(These goals are synonymous with “objectives” as used in Gov. Code Section 65302(h))</i></p>	✓	✓
<p><b>POLICIES:</b> Focused principles to guide decision-making that Menlo Park is adopting in order to achieve goals.</p>	✓	✓
<p><b>PROGRAMS:</b> Precise steps that Menlo Park will take in furtherance of policies and goals.</p>	✓	✓
<p><b>ACTION ITEMS:</b> Tasks that Menlo Park will pursue to improve environmental justice in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach.</p>		✓












## Goals

In Menlo Park, as in many other places throughout California and beyond, areas with a higher concentration of low-income households are more likely to be exposed to pollution and environmental hazards. Consequently, individuals in these areas

experience higher rates of poor health outcomes. To reduce the disproportionate health risks that exist in these Menlo Park neighborhoods, this Environmental Justice Element has policies and programs organized into seven goals consistent with the requirements of SB 1000 and Gov. Code Section 65302(h) (see Table EJ-7):

Table EJ-7: Goals of the Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element

Required Topic Area	Environmental Justice Element Goal
 <b>Prioritize the Needs of Underserved Communities</b>	<b>Goal EJ1: Address unique and compounded health risks</b>
 <b>Reduce Pollution Exposure</b>	<b>Goal EJ2: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality</b>
 <b>Improve Access to Public Facilities</b>	<b>Goal EJ3: Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities</b>
 <b>Promote Food Access</b>	<b>Goal EJ4: Promote access to high quality and affordable food</b>
 <b>Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes</b>	<b>Goal EJ5: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes</b>
 <b>Promote Physical Activity</b>	<b>Goal EJ6: Encourage physical activity and active transportation</b>
 <b>Promote Civic Engagement</b>	<b>Goal EJ7: Create equitable civic and community engagement</b>

There is natural overlap between the goals of the Environmental Justice Element. A strong Environmental Justice Element provides framework for a cohesive and complementary set of goals, policies, and programs.

The Environmental Justice Element was developed simultaneously with the 2023-2031 Housing Element. The policies and programs in the 2023-2031 Housing Element support the Environmental Justice Element's goal to provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes for all residents. Rather than duplicate this language in both elements, the Environmental Justice Element instead references the language in the Housing Element that is reviewed by the California Department of Housing and Community

Development and subject to annual reporting requirements.

The Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, and programs are below in Table EJ-8. Complementary action items are separately contained within the Action Guide. Policies, programs, and action items are organized by the seven overarching Environmental Justice Element goals and include descriptive information about current progress (if applicable), responsible parties, potential funding sources, and delivery timeframe.



Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

Table EJ-8: Environmental Justice Goals, Policies, and Programs



**GOAL EJ1**

**ADDRESS UNIQUE AND COMPOUNDED HEALTH RISKS**

**POLICY EJ1.1** Prioritize programs that address the unique and compounded health risks present in underserved communities currently and in the future.

**POLICY EJ1.2** Reduce climate vulnerability in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ1.3** Strengthen collaboration efforts with residents in underserved communities, particularly on public improvement projects.

**POLICY EJ1.4** Prioritize active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) improvements, transit incentives, and neighborhood connectivity in underserved communities.

**PROGRAM EJ1.A** Prioritize public/capital improvements needed in underserved communities with priority allocation of funding, available to the City locally and from regional, statewide, and federal entities, for such projects, and to address climate change.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office, Public Works. Supporting: Community Development, Sustainability Division

*Funding Sources:* General Fund, General Capital Fund, Countywide Transportation Sales Tax Funds (Measure A & W), State and Federal Gas Taxes

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ1.B** Prepare publicly available reports annually to describe how underserved communities are considered and prioritized in capital improvement plans, departmental work plans, and budgets within four years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



**PROGRAM EJ1.C** Develop and publicize annual or every-other-year reports that measure progress and outcomes of the implementation of the Environmental Justice Element programs within six years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: All City Departments  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ1.D** Review CalEnviroScreen to support evaluation of Environmental Justice Element policies and programs.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, All City Departments  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



**GOAL EJ2** REDUCE POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

**POLICY EJ2.1** Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality (both indoor and outdoor), and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ2.2** Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale, as well as collaborate on countywide and regional efforts. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve watershed and human health.

**POLICY EJ2.3** Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to promote and encourage urban greening on public and private projects (e.g., bioswales, raingardens, habitat restoration) in areas with relatively less tree canopy or other greenery to provide health and safety benefits to underserved communities residents.

**POLICY EJ2.4** Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards and maximize air quality (both indoor and outdoor) in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ2.5** Work with Caltrans on improvements on State-owned rights of way.

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**POLICY EJ2.6** When updating or installing transportation infrastructure, consider factors such as stormwater management, Universal Design Principles and attractive green roadway design.

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**PROGRAM EJ2.A** Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City's jurisdiction (e.g., gas stations, automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Peninsula Clean Energy, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Westbay Sanitary District, San Mateo County Environmental Health, San Mateo County Fire, Sustainability Division

*Funding Source:* Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ2.B** Implement and periodically update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

*In Progress:* The Climate Action Plan is subject to annual progress reports as a standalone document are scheduled for 2028 update. Starting in 2024, the City will implement a zero emission landscaping equipment rule to improve air quality and reduce emissions.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Sustainability Division

*Funding Sources:* General Fund, grants (e.g., California Energy Commission, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy, and CALFIRE)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ2.C** Conduct proactive education and outreach about indoor and outdoor air quality and protective actions that can be taken to both improve air quality inside one's home and to minimize exposure to poor air quality index days.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Sustainability Division, Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County Sustainability Department

*Funding Source:* Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



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**PROGRAM EJ2.D** Minimize and mitigate illegal solid waste dumping (as defined in 7.04.030 of the Municipal Code), potentially through minimizing fees for disposal at landfills in collaboration with South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA).

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Communications and Public Engagement  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ2.E** Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan and update, as necessary, to incorporate environmental justice. Focus on underserved communities and implement programs in this Element, in coordination with related regional efforts.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Community Development  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ2.F** Increase community outreach and awareness of the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, including the Community Rating System, and the potential benefits to homeowners (e.g., reduced insurance premiums)

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Communications and Public Engagement Division. Supporting: Public Works  
*Funding Source:* Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ2.G** Develop incentives to encourage shared commute programs and alternative methods of travel for city events, meetings, and official business.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office, Public Works. Supporting: SamTrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g. Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Public Works, Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ2.H Collaborate with SamTrans and Ravenswood City School District, as well as Meta and other large employers to leverage transportation electrification initiatives to prioritize bus electrification in underserved communities.**

*In Progress:* SamTrans anticipated being fully electric by 2034, in compliance with State law requiring transit fleets be all electric by 2040.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Sustainability Division; SamTrans, Ravenswood City School District, Large Local Businesses (over 50 employees, e.g. Meta, SRI International, Grail, others)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ2.I Consider revisions to applicable City regulations that will reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life in underserved communities.**

*In Progress:* Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance, Municipal Code Chapter 7.30 (Smoking Regulated or Prohibited)

*Responsibility:* Lead: All City Departments. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ2.J Develop Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park within four years of the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.**

*In Progress:* The City applied for the 2024 cycle of the CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grant for Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park. Awards to be announced in Fall 2024. This grant requires projects to be completed by March 31, 2028. The City has budgeted \$250,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as matching funds.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Sustainability Division, Canopy

*Funding Sources:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 PLANNING Grant), United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) Grants, CAL FIRE grants. City of Menlo Park Heritage Tree in-lieu fee program

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term



**PROGRAM EJ2.K** Prioritize relief from extreme heat (Safety Element Program S1.T) in underserved communities. Information on these resources shall be provided at community facilities (e.g., BHCC).

*In Progress:* The City currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Communications and Public Engagement

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Ongoing from Initiation



**GOAL EJ3** EQUITABLY PROVIDE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC FACILITIES TO INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

**POLICY EJ3.1** Prioritize providing public facilities and programming for underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ3.2** Ensure accessibility of public facilities for all community members, especially those in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ3.3** Support programs that increase access to public and private health resources for underserved communities in locations that are convenient and accessible.

**POLICY EJ3.4** Coordinate with local school districts, transit operators, and other public agencies to provide adequate public facilities, improvements, and programs in underserved communities.

**PROGRAM EJ3.A** Identify, renovate, and retrofit candidate public buildings in underserved communities to serve as Climate Resilience Centers as outlined by the California Strategic Growth Council. These buildings should be places where the community already regularly gathers, such as libraries, community centers, or the Belle Haven neighborhood substation.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services Department

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Medium Term



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**PROGRAM EJ3.B** Work with relevant departments to install infrastructure allowing for easy disposal of pet and animal waste at parks and along highly trafficked streets.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: City Manager’s Office  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Medium Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.C** Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills. In addition, expand outreach and community access to the City Library’s laptop and wireless hotspot, or similar, borrowing programs.

*In Progress:* The City currently offers laptop lending and wi-fi hotspots free to residents at the library with their library card.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Local Internet Providers (e.g. AT&T, Xfinity, Spectrum), San Mateo County Public Works, California Public Utilities Commission, Administrative Services Department/Information Technology Department  
*Funding Source:* California Advanced Services Fund: Broadband Public Housing Account  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Medium Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.D** Seek to form partnerships, particularly with community based organizations and businesses, and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)  
*Funding Sources:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers PLANNING Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

---

**PROGRAM EJ3.E** Coordinate with schools and other local organizations (e.g., Boys and Girls Club) to support after-school activities and related outreach/communications generally.

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Ravenswood City School District  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term



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**PROGRAM EJ3.F**    **Seek to form partnerships or other agreements with a banking specialist and other identified partners to provide a community bank or banking services in the underserved communities.**

*In Progress:*    N/A  
*Responsibility:*    Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Local banks  
*Funding Source:*    Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:*    Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

---

**PROGRAM EJ3.G**    **Ensure delivery on the needs of underserved communities through the City’s programming plans currently in place and continue to adapt programming based on community feedback through regular community surveys and outreach.**

*In Progress:*    City staff, with input from the community, Belle Haven Community Campus subcommittee and working group, Library Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission, have developed robust programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus. City will continue to adapt programming to community needs through regular community surveys and outreach that solicit community feedback.  
*Responsibility:*    Lead: Library and Community Services  
*Funding Sources:*    Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)  
*Timeframe:*    Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

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**PROGRAM EJ3.H**    **Ensure that recreational facilities throughout Menlo Park provide all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles, with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities.**

*In Progress:*    City prioritizes access for all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles.  
*Responsibility:*    Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: Public Works; Community Development  
*Funding Source:*    General Fund  
*Timeframe:*    Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term



## GOAL EJ4

## PROMOTE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE FOOD

### POLICY EJ4.1

Encourage adequate food access to fresh and healthy foods for all residents, particularly those in underserved communities.

### PROGRAM EJ4.A

Work with grocery stores and online food service delivery and meal providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food (e.g., reduced or waived delivery service fees). Encourage and support the acceptance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), CalFresh, and other governmental food assistance programs that increase food security.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Local Grocery Stores (e.g., Safeway, Trader Joe's), Local Grocery Delivery Services (e.g., Uber Eats, GrubHub, DoorDash), CalFresh

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

### PROGRAM EJ4.B

Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual fliers, community events, information at shelters and food banks, as well as other appropriate outreach methods.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Communications and Public Engagement Division; Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Homeless Outreach Team, San Mateo County Human Services Agency

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

### PROGRAM EJ4.C

Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at municipal buildings and City-participating events Encourage sourcing food from local small businesses.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term



**PROGRAM EJ4.D** Encourage and facilitate the establishment and operation of a farmer’s market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets in underserved communities. Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ4.E** Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens within or adjacent to neighborhoods and housing development sites. Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years of Environmental Justice Element adoption.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Library and Community Services; Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g. Rotary Club of Menlo Park)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 PLANNING Grant)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term



**GOAL EJ5** *PROVIDE SAFE, SANITARY, AND STABLE HOMES*

**POLICY EJ5.1** Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe, sanitary and stable housing, particularly in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ5.2** Maintain and develop safe, and sanitary and stable homes across all locations and affordability ranges, particularly in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ5.3** Support housing development distribution throughout the city and not concentrated within Menlo Park’s underserved communities.

**PROGRAM EJ5.A** The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. The Safety Element (Table S-4) includes a list of sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation.

*In Progress:* The 2015 San Mateo County Vulnerability Assessment inventoried sites with contamination and no sites were identified in residential developments. County continues to update Vulnerability Assessments.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: San Mateo County Environmental Health Services, Planning, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

*Funding Source:* Department of Food and Agriculture (Healthy Soils Demonstration Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Short Term

**PROGRAM EJ5.B** Conduct outreach to potentially eligible households regarding programs that support safe, sanitary, and stable homes.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: California Department of Community Services and Development; City Manager's Office

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ5.C** Create or partner with providers to provide a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters with questions. If such resources already exist, conduct proactive outreach and education to inform the community of available resources. Hold culturally competent, in-language outreach workshops.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g. Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ5.D** Identify opportunities to support a Community Land trust or other fiscal vehicle to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Community Development Department, MidPen Housing Community Land Trust

*Funding Source:* BMR Housing Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term



**PROGRAM EJ5.E** Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F, (regarding collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART)) and helping to facilitate first-time homeowner workshops for residents in underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Local Community Based Outreach Organizations (e.g. Menlo Together)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ5.F** Promote funds and subsidies that minimize the passing through of any upfront investment costs of building electrification on to tenants.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Public Works Department, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ5.G** Ensure that City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This will include consideration, at a minimum, the following:

- Rental inventory of all dwelling units
- Updated or expanded rent control laws
- Rent increase mitigations, such as longer noticing requirements
- Community and tenant opportunity to purchase
- Revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper affordability (e.g., subsidies)
- Expand relocation assistance for tenants
- Just Cause Eviction protections regardless of tenant duration
- Strengthened tenant anti-harassment ordinances
- An examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs

*In Progress:* Sixth Cycle Housing Element includes Program H2.E focusing on developing an Anti-Displacement Strategy

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager's Office, Public Works Department

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ5.H** As part of an anti-displacement program and to ensure stable housing, support increasing access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction by conducting community outreach, education, and engagement to ensure renters are aware of this resource. Include progress reports on usage annually.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: City Manager’s Office, Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)

*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Ongoing from Initiation.



## **GOAL EJ6** ENCOURAGE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

**POLICY EJ6.1** Prioritize programs that encourage physical activity in underserved communities.

**POLICY EJ6.2** Support physically active lifestyles through investment in complete streets and active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) and safety in underserved communities

**POLICY EJ6.3** Prioritize the implementation of traffic and transit improvements in underserved communities to reduce excessive speed, limit cut through traffic, and make streets comfortable and accessible places for all users and abilities.

**PROGRAM EJ6.A** Identify and eliminate, barriers to outdoor physical activity, such as damaged, incomplete, blocked, or littered sidewalks and bike paths, lack of safe street crossings and direct connections, excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping and shade trees along streets in underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Community Development, Sustainability Division

*Funding Source:* Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term



---

**PROGRAM EJ6.B** In concurrence with the City’s Vision Zero Action Plan, develop and implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling and taking transit. These efforts should include education for people using all modes.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, SamTrans

*Funding Source:* Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

---

**PROGRAM EJ6.C** Coordinate with Ravenswood City School District to expand the Safe Routes to School program, including potential for increased crossing guards at key intersections.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Ravenswood City School District

*Funding Source:* Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Medium Term. Completion: Long Term

---

**PROGRAM EJ6.D** Prepare to update and adopt the City’s Transportation Master Plan (best practice is to update every 10-15 years) to improve environmental justice.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: Caltrans, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g. Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities), Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g. Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)

*Funding Sources:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant), Department of Transportation Grants (Safe Streets and Roads for All, Sustainable Transportation Planning)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Long Term. Completion: Long Term

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## GOAL EJ7

## CREATE EQUITABLE CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### POLICY EJ7.1

Prioritize civic and community engagement programs that enhance the participation and inclusion of underserved communities.

### POLICY EJ7.2

Keep residents informed about governmental meetings and actions by ensuring transparency and accessibility in government and decision making.

### POLICY EJ7.3

Treat all members of the community fairly and promote equity and capacity building toward creating a healthy environment and just community.

### PROGRAM EJ7.A

Promote and evaluate capacity-building efforts to educate and involve traditionally underrepresented populations, including underserved communities, in the public decision-making process.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: Belle Haven Action

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

### PROGRAM EJ7.B

All meetings with an agenda item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the underserved community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as satellite meeting centers, simulcasting, and/or remote participation. Consider hardcopy materials for outreach, particularly door-to-door outreach.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: Library and Community Services

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

### PROGRAM EJ7.C

Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation (such as food and refreshments, stipends, on-site child care) at community outreach events in underserved communities.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



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**PROGRAM EJ7.D Pursue equitable civic and community engagement.**

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

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**PROGRAM EJ7.E Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the BHCC as a community hub for learning and engagement opportunities strengthened with partner organizations. These will connect residents in underserved communities with pre-existing city and state resources as well as encourage resident participation in public meetings, events, and decision making.**

*In Progress:* N/A  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: All City Departments  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

---

**PROGRAM EJ7.F Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating City Councilmembers and appointed commissioners for the time they spend in their positions to make the positions more accessible to residents of underserved communities.**

*In Progress:* A Planning Commission stipend pilot program was added in the 2023-2024 budget.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office.  
*Funding Source:* General Fund  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Short Term

---

**PROGRAM EJ7.G Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions.**

*In Progress:* SamTrans currently operates a countywide paratransit service.  
*Responsibility:* Lead: Library and Community Services. Supporting: SamTrans, Public Works  
*Funding Source:* Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 PLANNING Grant)  
*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Medium Term

**PROGRAM EJ7.H** Ensure that disaster preparedness planning as described in the Safety Element includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park’s underserved communities. Upon adoption of the Environmental Justice Element, conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that may include participation and information dissemination at public event and/or fairs in underserved communities with proactive encouragement and opportunity for the residents to sign up for emergency alert systems.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager’s Office. Supporting: Menlo Park Fire Protection District

*Funding Source:* Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ7.I** Encourage the sustained engagement and involvement of underserved communities in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. Maintain membership and partnership with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority during their oversight of levee installations and expansions protecting underserved communities.

*In Progress:* The SAFER Bay Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in 2022 and provides engagement and involvement opportunities.

*Responsibility:* Lead: Public Works. Supporting: City Manager’s Office; San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

*Funding Source:* Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program’s Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)

*Timeframe:* Initiation: In Progress. Completion: Long Term

**PROGRAM EJ7.J** Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Annual reporting, at a minimum, should be presented to the City Council and made available on the City website.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Source:* General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation



**PROGRAM EJ7.K** The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Environmental Justice Element Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: Community Development. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Sources:* Bayfront Mitigation Fund; General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

**PROGRAM EJ7.L** The City Council shall consider the community-identified environmental justice priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop.

Note: The 2024 adoption of the EJ Element identified the following top three priorities:

- Priority #1: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5)
- Priority #2: Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4)
- Priority #3: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)

*In Progress:* N/A

*Responsibility:* Lead: City Manager's Office. Supporting: All City Departments

*Funding Sources:* Bayfront Mitigation Fund; General Fund

*Timeframe:* Initiation: Short Term. Completion: Ongoing From Initiation

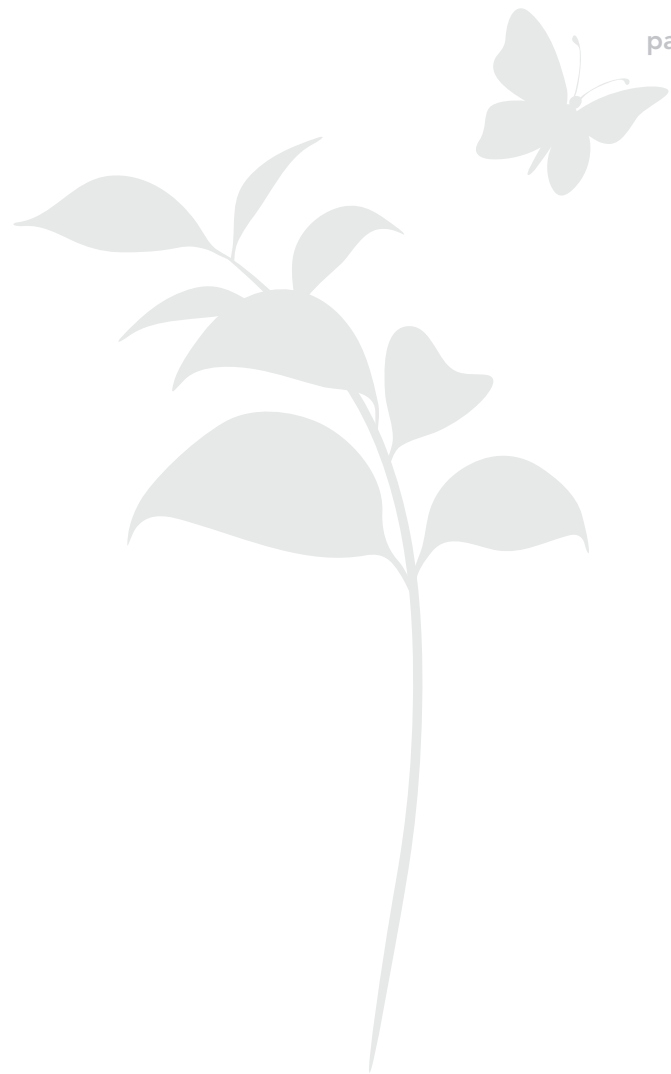


Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

## APPENDICES

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- Appendix EJ-B — Additional Methodology
- Appendix EJ-C — Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements
- Appendix EJ-D — Menlo Park Survey Final Report
- Appendix EJ-E — Prioritization Workshop Summary
- Appendix EJ-F — Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

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701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025





# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT APPENDICES

# City of Menlo Park

## Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations



Published October 2022  
Updated August 2024

# City of Menlo Park

## Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations

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## Introduction

The City of Menlo Park is updating its required General Plan Housing Element and Safety Element, and preparing its first ever Environmental Justice Element. Environmental justice (commonly referred to as “EJ”) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.<sup>1</sup>

Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

Meaningful involvement means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health.
- The public’s contribution can influence the regulatory agency’s decision.
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process.
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

As part of the Environmental Justice Element preparation, the City is learning about and helping to prioritize policies and actions that have the most impact in improving the physical environment so that it supports good health and quality of life for current and future Menlo Park residents.

### ***What is a Neighborhood Profile?***

A neighborhood profile provides a summary analysis on a specific neighborhood's social, economic, and environmental conditions, such as demographics, unemployment rate, and pollution exposure. These factors, or “indicators,” help set the stage for community conversations regarding priorities and plans for positive change. In this document, we look at Menlo Park through the lens of 16 neighborhoods and draw comparisons of indicator impacts among neighborhoods and the city as a whole. The neighborhood profiles serve as a precursor for the preparation of Menlo Park's first ever Environmental Justice Element.

### ***Background Information***

The State of California allows all jurisdictions to adopt an Environmental Justice Element (EJ Element) pursuant to Senate Bill 1000 (2016). The adoption of an EJ Element can occur at any time, but is required under the following conditions:

- The jurisdiction is adopting or revising two or more General Plan Elements concurrently.

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<sup>1</sup> Government Code section 65040.12, subdivision (e)(2).

- The jurisdiction contains “Disadvantaged Communities” as defined by State law.

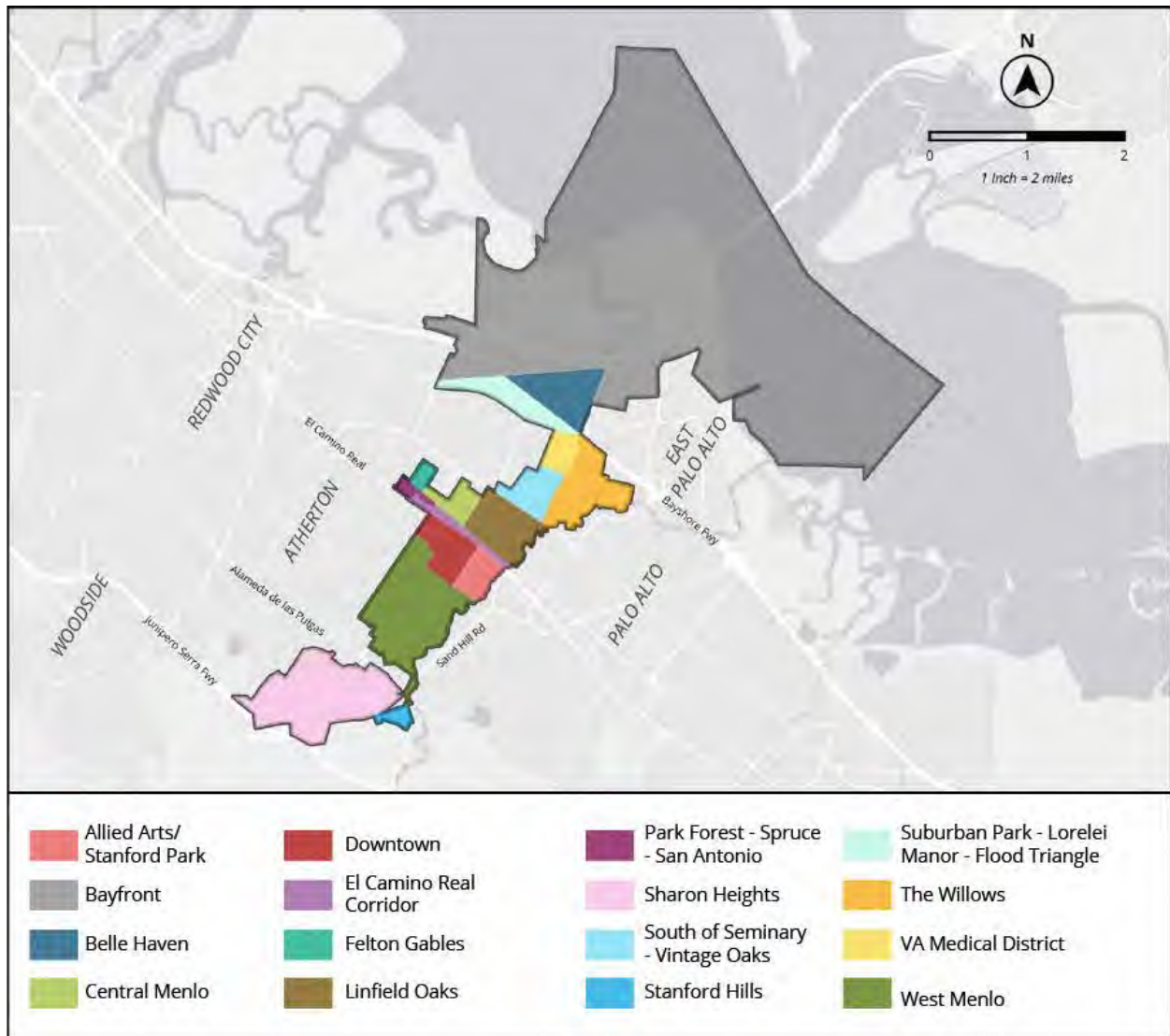
According to State law, a "Disadvantaged Community" is an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code, or, an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. Menlo Park is required to adopt an EJ Element as it is currently updating its required General Plan Housing Element and Safety Element (revising the combined Open Space/Conservation, Noise, and Safety Elements).

There are areas within Menlo Park that meet the State-defined criteria for “Disadvantaged Communities.”<sup>2</sup> Throughout this appendix, “Underserved Communities” will be used and is understood to be analogous to the state-defined term “Disadvantaged Communities,” which is only used when quoting or referring to state law.

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<sup>2</sup> Information regarding “Disadvantaged Communities” is available at: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535>.

## Neighborhoods in Menlo Park

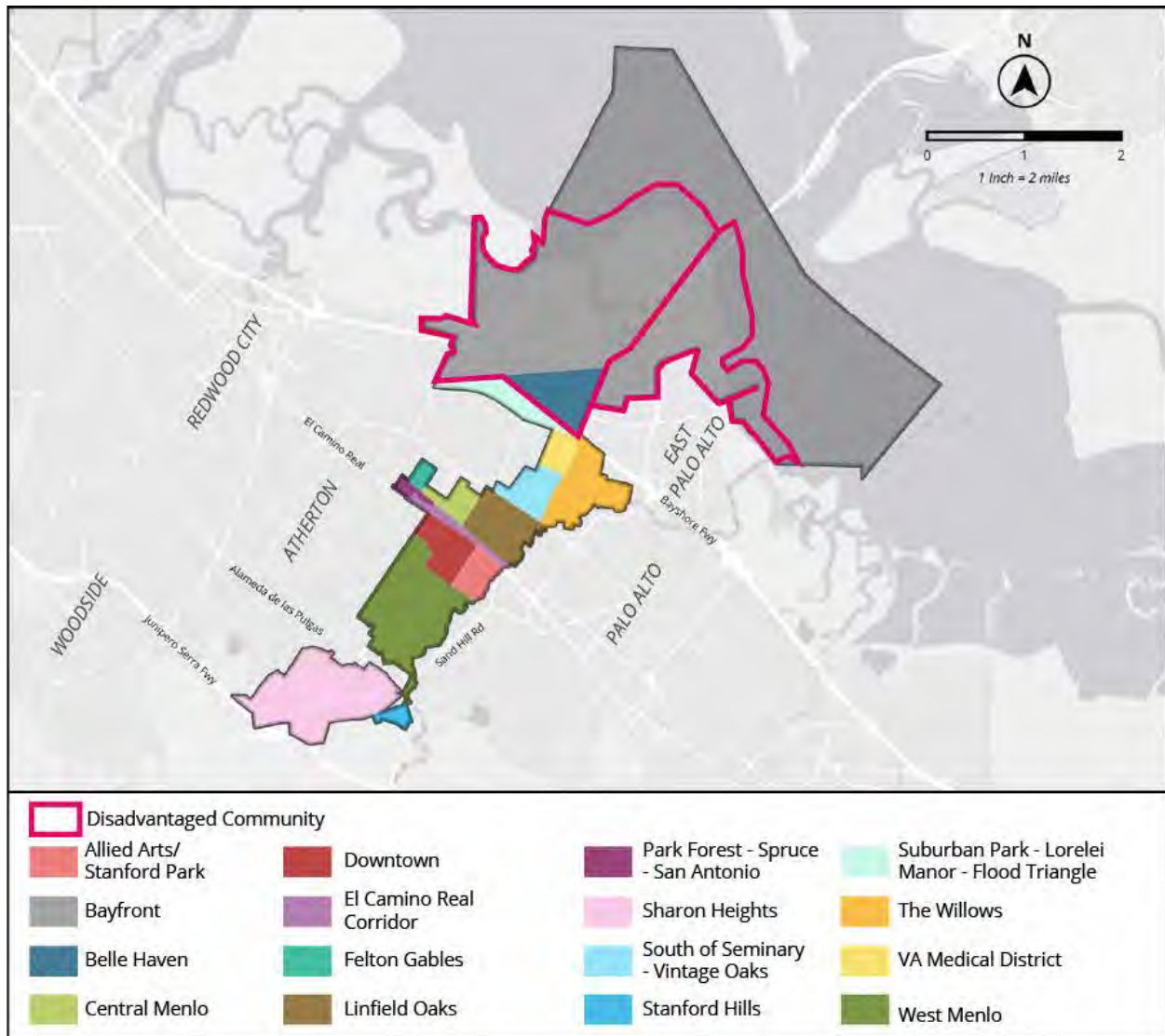


In this document, we look at Menlo Park through the lens of 16 neighborhoods as shown in the above map. The neighborhood boundaries displayed are for reference and informational purposes only, with the intent of contributing to more area-specific analysis of the city as there are differences among the neighborhoods that are helpful to highlight for the EJ Element preparation.

### Underserved Communities

There are two Underserved Communities identified in Menlo Park: Belle Haven and Bayfront. These communities were identified because they are in census tracts designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's list of state income limits and because they are historically underserved areas separated from the rest of the city by US-101 and served by a different school district.

**Map of Underserved Community Census Tracts**



**Underserved Communities Overview**

Underserved Communities are areas throughout California which suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty, pollution, and social and health indicators of risk and stress.

These communities are specifically targeted for investment of proceeds from the State's Cap-and-Trade Program that are aimed at improving public health, quality of life, and economic opportunity. They are defined at the census tract level, which in Menlo Park's case, means that the tracts intersect with city and neighborhood boundaries.<sup>3</sup> The full methodology for determining Underserved Communities in Menlo Park is in Appendix EJ-B: Additional Methodology.

<sup>3</sup> Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county.

The two Underserved Communities, Belle Haven and Bayfront, are adjacent to each other but have different histories and lived experiences. Belle Haven is a historically residential neighborhood, whereas Bayfront has been an industrial neighborhood until the recent residential development permitted by 2015's Connect Menlo plan.

The adjacency of these two neighborhoods is not an accident. Black and African American households, historically excluded from the south side of US-101 by racial covenants, found homes in Belle Haven near polluting industrial uses. As those polluting uses have phased out and technology companies have moved into Bayfront, the Belle Haven community faced displacement fears as high-income workers moved into the city north of US-101.

Understanding these two Underserved Communities as distinct, albeit linked by geography, is crucial to the environmental justice analysis of Menlo Park.

### **Belle Haven**

Belle Haven is on the north side of US-101 and is a historically segregated neighborhood in Menlo Park. When racial covenants excluded Black and African American families from purchasing houses on the south side of US-101, many turned to Belle Haven instead.

The Household Median Income in Belle Haven's census tract, 6117, is \$74,032. This is lower than the threshold designated as low income (\$146,350) by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

### **Bayfront**

Menlo Park's eastern Bayfront is in Census Tract 6118. This tract is also designated as an Environmental Justice Underserved Community because its median household incomes are below the threshold designated as low income (\$146,350) by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Tract's median household income is \$85,500.

## **Neighborhood Profiles Methodology**

Each neighborhood profile includes a map of the neighborhood area and three sections highlighting data points typically used to inform environmental justice conversations:

- ***Physical Description***
  - Pattern of Development
  - Transportation
  - Open Space
  - Natural Hazard Risk
  
- ***Environmental Conditions***
  - Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden
  - Major Pollution Burden Disparities
  
- ***Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics***



- Primary Factors
- Major Disparities

### **Neighborhood Area Maps**

The neighborhood area maps include data for land use zoning districts, flood hazard areas (areas with a one percent chance of flooding annually, as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA]), SamTrans bus stops, and grocery stores. This serves as useful reference for areas of different land uses and risk profiles, as well as points of interest and community nodes.

Menlo Park's neighborhoods do not line up evenly with census tracts, which are used to quantify environmental data. It should be noted that the neighborhoods of The Willows; Allied Arts/Stanford Park; West Menlo; and Bayfront have been further divided for mapping and analysis purposes to better correspond to census tract-level data available. Further, six census tracts encompass more than one neighborhood and as a result, those neighborhoods share CalEnviroScreen scores (Tracts 6117, 6125, 6126, 6127, 6130, and 6139).

<b>Neighborhoods and Census Tracts Cross-Reference</b>	
<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Census Tract(s)</b>
Allied Arts/Stanford Park	6126 (North) 6127 (South)
Bayfront	6117 (West)* 6118 (East)*
Belle Haven	6117*
Central Menlo	6125
Downtown	6126
El Camino Real Corridor	6125
Felton Gables	6125
Linfield Oaks	6125
Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio	6125
Sharon Heights	6130
South of Seminary – Vintage Oaks	6139
Stanford Hills	6130
Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle	6116
The Willows	6139 (West) 6121 (East)
VA Medical District	6139
West Menlo	6127 (North) 6128 (South)

*\*Census tract designated as Underserved Community*

## **CalEnviroScreen Indicators**

The summarized indicators and corresponding scores for pollution burden and population characteristics are provided by the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool called "CalEnviroScreen 4.0."

CalEnviroScreen provides an interactive mapping tool to identify communities in California that are disproportionately burdened, and allows users to see how these burdens compare to other areas throughout California. An indicator is a measure of either environmental conditions, in the case of **Pollution Burden Indicators**, or health and vulnerability factors for **Population Characteristics Indicators**. CalEnviroScreen indicators fall into four broad groups—exposures, environmental effects, sensitive populations, and socioeconomic factors.

- **Exposure** indicators are based on measurements of different types of pollution that people may come into contact with.
- **Environmental** effects indicators are based on the locations of toxic chemicals in or near communities.
- **Sensitive population** indicators measure the number of people in a community who may be more severely affected by pollution because of their age or health.
- **Socioeconomic factor** indicators are conditions that may increase people's stress or make healthy living difficult and cause them to be more sensitive to pollution's effects.

Each indicator is scored separately and CalEnviroScreen assigns each census tract a percentile value based on where it falls among values statewide.<sup>4</sup> A higher number always indicates a "worse" situation. For example, if a census tract is in the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile for "Unemployment," that means its burden indicator value is higher than 60 percent of all other census tracts in California. In addition to this metric comparing the census tract to the state, the Neighborhood Profiles also show the citywide average and the tract's difference (positive or negative, meaning higher or lower) from the citywide average. These numbers show specific neighborhood differences from Menlo Park as a whole.

The indicators are divided into two categories: Pollution Burden Indicators and Population Characteristics Indicators. These two categories average the percentiles of their underlying indicators.

The table below provides descriptions for the summarized **Pollution Burden Indicators** provided by CalEnviroScreen.

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<sup>4</sup> CalEnviroScreen information is available at <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen>.

Pollution Burden Indicators	
Indicator	Description
Air Quality: Ozone	Ozone is the main ingredient of smog. At ground level, ozone is formed when pollutants chemically react in the presence of sunlight. Ground-level ozone is formed from the reaction of oxygen-containing compounds with other air pollutants in the presence of sunlight. The main sources of ozone are trucks, cars, planes, trains, factories, farms, construction, and dry cleaners.
Air Quality: Air Quality: PM2.5	Particulate matter, or PM2.5, is very small particles in air that are 2.5 micrometers (about 1 ten-thousandth of an inch) or less in diameter. This is less than the thickness of a human hair. Particulate matter, one of six U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criteria air pollutants, is a mixture that can include organic chemicals, dust, soot and metals. These particles can come from cars and trucks, factories, wood burning, and other activities.
Diesel Particulate Matter	Exhaust from trucks, buses, trains, ships, and other equipment with diesel engines contains a mixture of gases and solid particles. These solid particles are known as diesel particulate matter (diesel PM). Diesel PM contains hundreds of different chemicals. Many of these are harmful to health. The highest levels of diesel PM are near ports, rail yards and freeways. People are exposed to diesel PM from breathing air containing diesel exhaust.
Pesticide Use	Pesticides are chemicals used to control insects, weeds, and plant or animal diseases. Over 1,000 pesticides are approved for use in California. They are applied to fields by air, by farm machinery, or by workers on the ground.
Toxic Releases from Facilities	Facilities that make or use toxic chemicals can release these chemicals into the air. Information is available on the amount of chemicals released for over 500 chemicals for large facilities in the United States. <sup>5</sup> People of color and low income Californians are more likely to live in areas with higher toxic chemical releases.
Traffic Impacts	California has the biggest network of freeways in the country. Its cities are known for heavy traffic. Traffic impacts are a measure of the number of vehicles on the roads in an area. Non-whites, Latinos, low income people, and people who speak a language other than English often live in or near areas with high traffic.
Drinking Water Contaminants	Most drinking water in California meets requirements for health and safety. However, the water we drink sometimes becomes contaminated with chemicals or bacteria. Both natural and human sources can contaminate drinking water. Natural sources can be found in rocks and soil or come from fires. Human sources include factories, sewage, and runoff from farms. Poor communities and people in rural areas are exposed to contaminants in their drinking water more often than people in other parts of the state.
Children’s Lead Risk from Housing	Lead is a toxic heavy metal that occurs naturally in the environment. However, the highest levels of lead present in the environment are a result of human activities. Historically, lead has been used in house paint, plumbing, and as a gasoline additive. While lead levels have declined over the past five

<sup>5</sup> Toxics Release Inventory resource, available at: <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>

Pollution Burden Indicators	
Indicator	Description
	decades in the United States, it still persists in older housing.
Cleanup Sites	Cleanup sites are places that are contaminated with harmful chemicals and need to be cleaned up by the property owners or government. People living near these sites are more likely to be exposed to chemicals from the sites than people living further away. Some studies have shown that neighborhoods with cleanup sites are generally poorer and have more people of color than other neighborhoods.
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. The land and groundwater may take many years to clean up. Man-made ponds containing water produced from oil and gas activities may also contain pollutants.
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	Waste created by different commercial or industrial activity contains chemicals that may be dangerous or harmful to health. Only certain regulated facilities are allowed to treat, store or dispose of this type of waste. These facilities are not the same as cleanup sites. Hazardous waste includes a range of different types of waste. It can include used automotive oil as well as highly toxic waste materials produced by factories and businesses. Studies have found that hazardous waste facilities are often located near poorer neighborhoods and communities of color.
Impaired Water Bodies	Streams, rivers and lakes are used for recreation and fishing and may provide water for drinking or agriculture. When water is contaminated by pollutants, the water bodies are considered impaired. These impairments are related to the amount of pollution that has occurred in or near the water body. Groups such as tribal or low income communities may depend on fish, aquatic plants and wildlife in nearby water bodies more than the general population.
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	Solid waste facilities are places where household garbage and other types of waste are collected, processed, or stored. These include landfills, transfer stations, and composting facilities. The waste can come from homes, industry or commercial sources. Most of these operations require permits. The communities near solid waste facilities are usually home to poor and minority residents.

The table below provides descriptions for the summarized **Population Characteristics Indicators**.

Population Characteristics Indicators	
Indicator	Description
Asthma	Asthma is a disease that affects the lungs and makes it hard to breathe. Symptoms include breathlessness, wheezing, coughing, and chest tightness. The causes of asthma are unknown but genetic and environmental factors can be involved. Five million Californians have been diagnosed with asthma at

Population Characteristics Indicators	
Indicator	Description
	some point in their lives. Asthma is the most common long-term disease in children. African Americans and people with low incomes visit hospitals for asthma more often than other groups.
Low Birth Weight Infants	Babies who weigh less than about five and a half pounds (2500 grams) at birth are considered low birth weight by the California Department of Public Health. Many factors, including poor nutrition, lack of prenatal care, stress and smoking by the mother, can increase the risk of having a low birth-weight baby.
Cardiovascular Disease	Cardiovascular disease refers to conditions that involve blocked or narrowed blood vessels that can lead to a heart attack or other heart problems. Heart attack is the most common cardiovascular event. Although many people survive and return to normal life after a heart attack, quality of life and long-term survival may be reduced, and these people are more prone to future cardiovascular events. There are many risk factors for developing cardiovascular disease including diet, lack of exercise, smoking and exposure to air pollution.
Educational Attainment	Educational attainment is the highest level of education a person has completed. People with more education usually earn more than people with less education. In California, 19 percent of adults over 25 do not have a high school degree, compared to 14 percent for the United States according to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA).
Linguistic Isolation	Linguistic isolation is a term used by the US Census Bureau for limited English speaking households. More than 40 percent of Californians speak a language other than English at home. About half of those do not speak English well or at all.
Poverty	The US Census Bureau determines the Federal Poverty Level each year. The poverty level is based on the size of the household and the ages 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.
Unemployment	The US Census Bureau counts people who are over 16 years old, out of work and able to work as unemployed. It does not include students, active duty military, retired people or people who have stopped looking for work.
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	Housing burdened low income households are households that are both low income and highly burdened by housings costs. California has very high housing costs relative to much of the country, which can make it hard for many to afford housing. Households with lower incomes may spend a larger proportion of their income on housing and may suffer from housing-induced poverty. Housing-Burden Low-Income Households make less than 80 percent of the Area Median Family Income and pay greater than 50 percent of their income to housing costs, whether they are renting or owning their homes.

## Key Points for Consideration

This detailed analysis of Menlo Park demonstrates the fine-grained differences between the 16 neighborhoods that make up the residential areas of the city. As a whole, the neighborhood profiles describe Menlo Park as a city with a pleasant natural environment, rich employment opportunities, and potential educational advancement that are not necessarily spread equitably throughout the community.

- The neighborhoods of Belle Haven and Bayfront are considered as Underserved Communities per an initial OPR-guided screening, meaning they are areas where residents experience more financial, environmental, and/or social stress relative to the State as a whole. Although Belle Haven and Bayfront are both identified as potential Underserved Communities, they have different histories and geographic contexts.
- An Environmental Justice Element, such as the one being developed by the City of Menlo Park, must include objectives and policies that:
  - Reduce the unique or compounded health risks in Underserved Communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.
  - Promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process. Underserved Prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of Underserved Communities.
- The issues in Underserved Communities at the highest risk percentiles are lead risk and traffic impacts.

These neighborhood profiles serve as a starting point for considering environmental justice in Menlo Park. They require outreach and a more contextual understanding of the data points in order to serve potential Underserved Communities and the city as a whole. The profiles are designed to set the stage for community conversations and set the foundation for plans for positive change in Menlo Park.

### Summary Table

The table below shows the overall Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics scores in CalEnviroScreen and their relative “rank” to Menlo Park as a whole.

A **higher score** indicates a **“worse”** situation. A **lower score** indicates a **“better”** situation.

A **higher rank** indicates a **“better”** situation. A **lower rank** indicates a **“worse”** situation.

The higher the score, the lower the rank (e.g., Belle Haven's Pollution Burden Score of 82 is lower-ranked at 9<sup>th</sup> than Central Menlo's Pollution Burden of 45 ranked higher at 4<sup>th</sup>).

Neighborhood Score Summary Table				
Neighborhood	Pollution Burden Score	Pollution Burden Rank	Population Characteristics Score	Population Characteristics Rank
<b>Citywide Average</b>	<b>56</b>	-	<b>19</b>	-
Allied Arts/Stanford Park (North)	52	6th (tied)	4	3rd (tied)
Allied Arts/Stanford Park (South)	35	2nd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
Bayfront (East)	83	10th	49	6th (tied)
Bayfront (West)	82	9th (tied)	49	6th (tied)
Belle Haven	82	9th (tied)	49	6th (tied)
Central Menlo	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Downtown	52	6th (tied)	4	3rd (tied)
El Camino Real Corridor	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Felton Gables	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Linfield Oaks	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio	45	4th (tied)	2	2nd (tied)
Sharon Heights	47	5th (tied)	11	5th (tied)
South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	44	3rd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
Stanford Hills	47	5th (tied)	11	
Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	71	7th	2	2nd (tied)
The Willows (East)	73	8th	58	7th
The Willows (West)	44	3rd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
VA Medical District	44	3rd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
West Menlo (North)	35	2nd (tied)	5	4th (tied)
West Menlo (South)	26	1st	1	1st

*Note: Since census tract boundaries intersect with neighborhood boundaries, there are some neighborhoods that are divided East/West or North/South. Other neighborhoods share underlying data, in which case they are "tied" in the table. Due to these numerous "ties", the rankings are not 1 through 16: there are 10 total ranks for Pollution Burden and 9 for Social Characteristics.*

# Allied Arts/Stanford Park





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Allied Arts/Stanford Park neighborhood is made up primarily of detached single-family homes and 2-story apartments. Non-residential uses include commercial and retail along El Camino Real. Most of the neighborhood is not within a half-mile of a grocery store, although there are three grocery stores outside the western edge of the neighborhood. Two local parks, Nealon Park and Jack W. Lyle Park, are just outside the west side of Allied Arts/Stanford Park.

### **Transportation**

El Camino Real provides residents of Allied Arts/Stanford Park connectivity to the rest of the city and the Peninsula. Residents of the neighborhood also have access to Middle Avenue, a north-south arterial road that runs through the city, and University Drive running east-west.

### **Open Space**

There are no open space areas in the neighborhood, although San Francisquito Creek makes up its eastern boundary. Jack W. Lyle Park is located to the west, outside of the neighborhood. The open play field is available for public use upon reservation. Nealon Park is located northwest of the neighborhood and includes facilities for softball, tennis, and a dog park. Little House Activity Center, a senior citizen center, is also located at Nealon Park.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Allied Arts/Stanford Park is not located in a flood hazard area, but is adjacent to San Francisquito Creek and flood hazard areas in Palo Alto.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Allied Arts/Stanford Park has overall Pollution Burden scores of 52 (North of University Drive) and 35 (South of University Drive), ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (4 points less than the citywide average) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (21 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	North of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	South of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>-20.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	14	-1.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	<b>69</b>	+7.5	48	<b>-13.5</b>	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	25	-2.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	36	-24.3	20	<b>-40.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	59	-7.4	39	<b>-27.4</b>	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	54	-13.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	<b>72</b>	+8.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	<b>+27.3</b>	<b>73</b>	+10.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	50	<b>-25.6</b>	<b>78</b>	+2.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	8	-9.8	20	+2.2	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

Allied Arts/Stanford Park has overall Population Characteristics scores of 4 (North of University Drive) and 5 (South of University Drive), ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (15 points less than the citywide average) and 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	North of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	South of University Drive	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-14.6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	<b>22</b>	-2.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	11	<b>-16.8</b>	<b>51</b>	+23.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	9	+0.3	8.7
Education	6	<b>-23.0</b>	0	<b>-29.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>22</b>	-9.5	0	<b>-31.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	19	-9.4	9	-19.4	28.4
Unemployment	6	<b>-19.7</b>	6	-19.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>32</b>	-9.2	12	<b>-29.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Bayfront



## Physical Description

### **Pattern of Development**

Of the developed areas within Bayfront, the neighborhood is comprised of high-density apartments, professional office, and industrial and research facilities. Other uses include a local park and some neighborhood-serving retail. Much of the area is either open space or the open water of San Francisco Bay.

### **Transportation**

US-101 and Bayfront Expressway (CA-84) provide connectivity between Bayfront and the rest of the city and the Peninsula and East Bay. Although there are several bus stops within the neighborhood, there is less public transit service than other areas in the city.

### **Open Space**

The Bedwell Bayfront Park includes bike trails, an open play field, and several walking paths within its 160 acres.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Bayfront is located entirely within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Bayfront has overall Pollution Burden scores of 82 (West of Willow/CA-84) and 83 (East of Willow/CA-84), ranking 9<sup>th</sup> (26 points more than the citywide average) and 10<sup>th</sup> (26 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>+26.2</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>+27.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	10	+0.8	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	16	+0.8	17	+1.8	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	88	+26.5	49	-12.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	32	+4.4	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>94</b>	<b>+33.7</b>	60	-0.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	69	+2.6	<b>87</b>	+20.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>96</b>	+28.6	<b>99</b>	<b>+31.6</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>89</b>	+25.3	82	+18.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	61	-1.7	<b>98</b>	<b>+35.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	83	+7.4	85	+9.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	0	<b>-37.8</b>	84	<b>+46.2</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	63	<b>+45.2</b>	21	+3.2	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

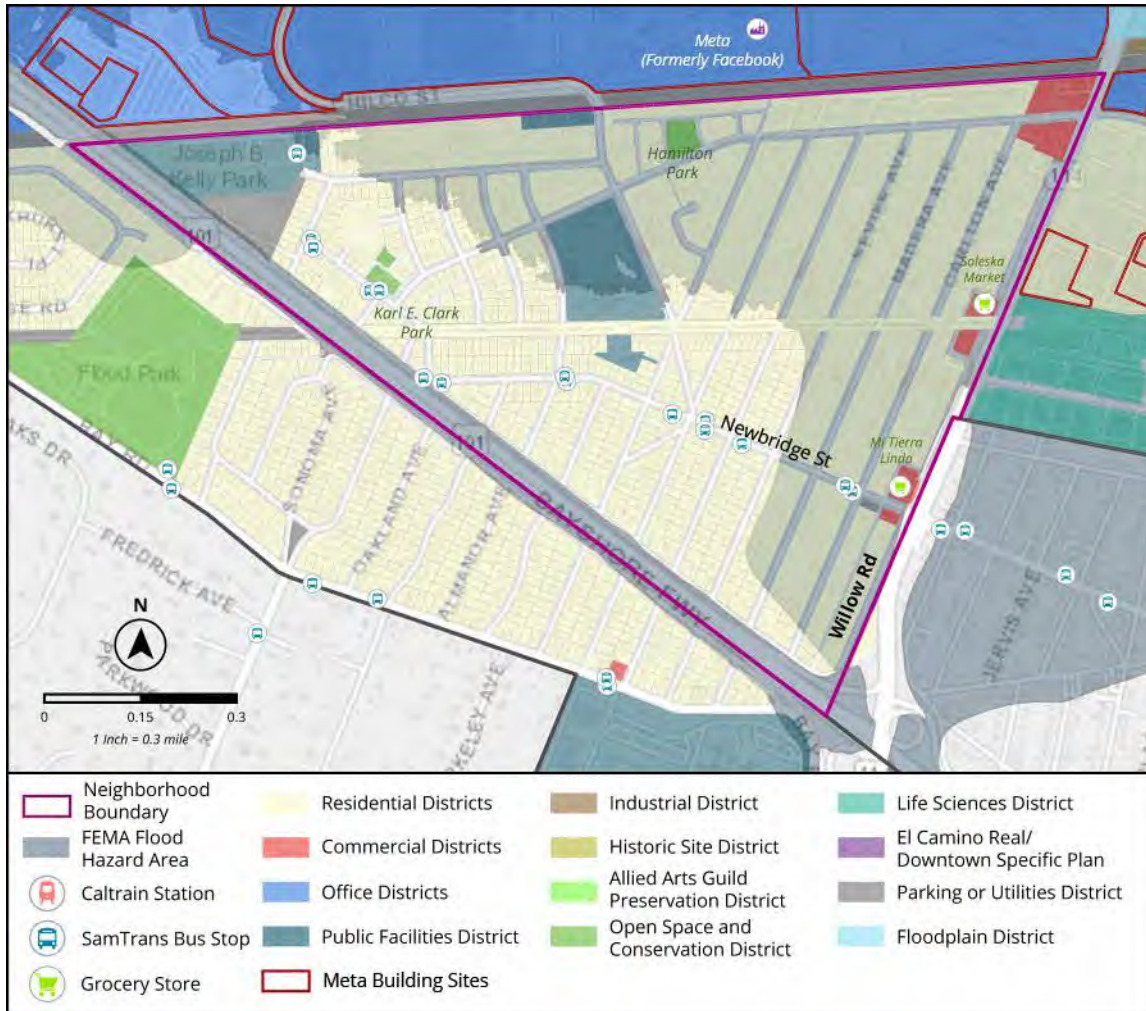
Bayfront has overall Population Characteristics scores of 49 both West and East of Willow/CA-84, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (30 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Willow/CA-84	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>+30.4</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>+30.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	24	-0.9	47	+22.1	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	45	+17.2	22	-5.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	10	+1.3	13	+4.3	8.7
Education	<b>82</b>	<b>+53.0</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>+57</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>86</b>	<b>+54.5</b>	38	+6.5	31.5
Poverty	59	+30.6	65	<b>+36.6</b>	28.4
Unemployment	46	+20.3	<b>74</b>	<b>+48.3</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>83</b>	<b>+41.8</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>+48.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Belle Haven





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Belle Haven is comprised of mostly detached single-family homes and few areas of low-rise apartments. Non-residential uses in the neighborhood include a public library, a public school (elementary), a private school (kindergarten through middle), a fire station, and three local parks. Approximately 50 percent of the neighborhood is within a half-mile of one of two small grocery stores on the eastern side of the neighborhood.

### **Transportation**

US-101 and Bayfront surround Belle Haven, requiring residents to use only Willow Road and the pedestrian/bicycle Bay Trail to connect with the rest of the city. Newbridge Street is well-serviced by SamTrans, as well as few other minor roads. Most homes in the area are within a quarter-mile from a bus stop.

### **Open Space**

Kelly Park, Karl E. Clark Park, and Hamilton Park are available for public use. Tennis courts and the soccer field at Kelly Park are available for public use and may be reserved.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

More than 60 percent of Belle Haven is in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Belle Haven has an overall Pollution Burden score of 82, ranking 9<sup>th</sup> (26 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>+26.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	16	+0.8	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	88	+26.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	32	+4.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>94</b>	<b>+33.7</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	69	+2.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>96</b>	+28.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>89</b>	+25.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	61	-1.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	83	+7.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	0	<b>-37.8</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	63	<b>+45.2</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

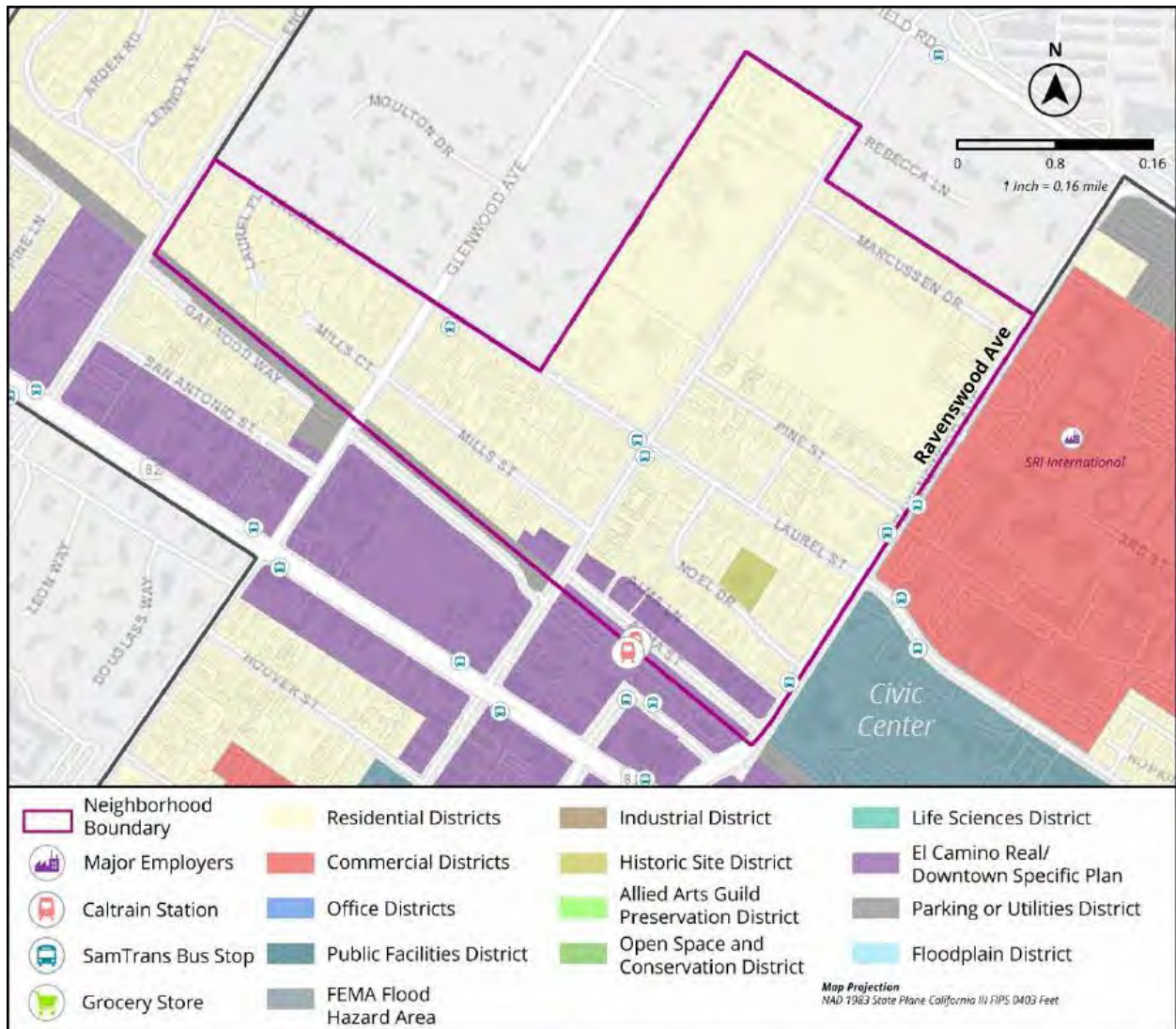
Belle Haven has an overall Population Characteristics score of 49, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (30 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>+30.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	24	-0.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	45	+17.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	10	+1.3	8.7
Education	<b>82</b>	<b>+53.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>86</b>	<b>+54.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	59	+30.6	28.4
Unemployment	46	+20.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>83</b>	<b>+41.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Central Menlo



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Central Menlo is primarily made of apartments, ranging from 2-3 stories. Non-residential uses include neighborhood-serving retail and offices along the southern edge of Central Menlo neighborhood. The building in the Historic Site District on Noel Drive is commonly referred to as the Bright Eagle and is currently used for offices.

### **Transportation**

Central Menlo is easily accessible to the El Camino Real, which provides connectivity to the rest of the city and throughout the Peninsula. Laurel Street is also well-served by public transit. Ravenswood Avenue, which borders Central Menlo's east side, provides residents with access to three bus stops. The Menlo Park Caltrain station, which provides transportation from San Francisco to the South Bay in Gilroy, is on the southeast corner of the neighborhood.

### **Open Space**

There are no local parks in Central Menlo, but Burgess Park is just outside the neighborhood's eastern boundary, connected to the Civic Center.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Central Menlo is not in a flood hazard zone.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Central Menlo has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

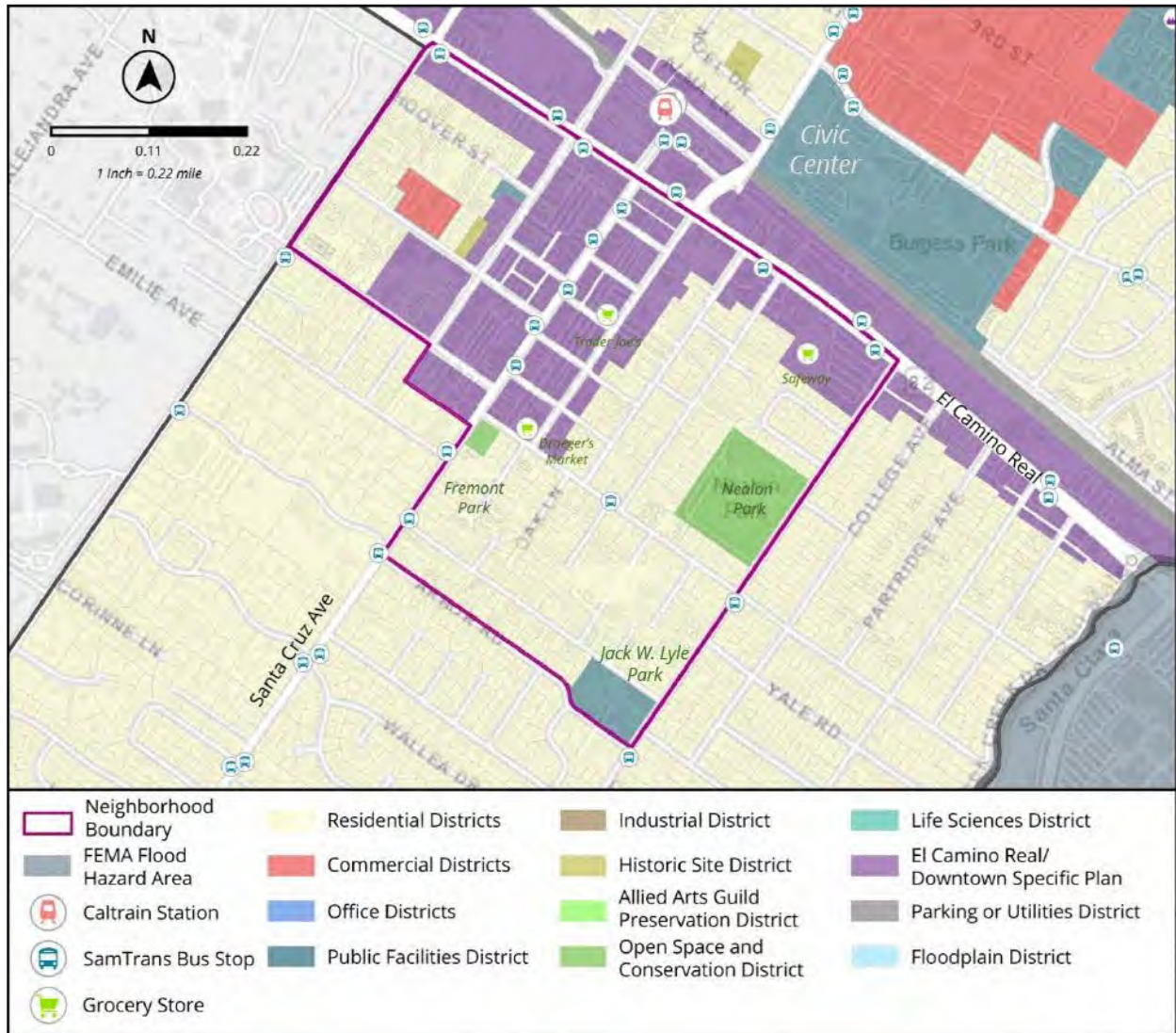
Central Menlo has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	<b>-15.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	-20.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Downtown





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Downtown is made of mostly apartments and commercial/retail uses, as well as personal service as part of the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan Area. Other notable uses include three local parks, three grocery stores, and a fire station.

### **Transportation**

Santa Cruz Avenue and El Camino Real provide most residents with access to a bus stop within a quarter-mile. El Camino Real provides Downtown residents with connectivity to the north and south of the Peninsula as well. The city's Caltrain station borders the Downtown.

### **Open Space**

Nealon Park, Fremont Park and Jack W. Lyle Park are local parks available for public use. Softball fields, tennis courts, and picnic areas at Nealon Park are available for public use and may be reserved.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Downtown is not located in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Downtown has an overall Pollution Burden score of 52, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (4 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	<b>69</b>	+7.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	36	-24.3	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	59	-7.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	<b>+27.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	50	<b>-25.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	8	-9.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

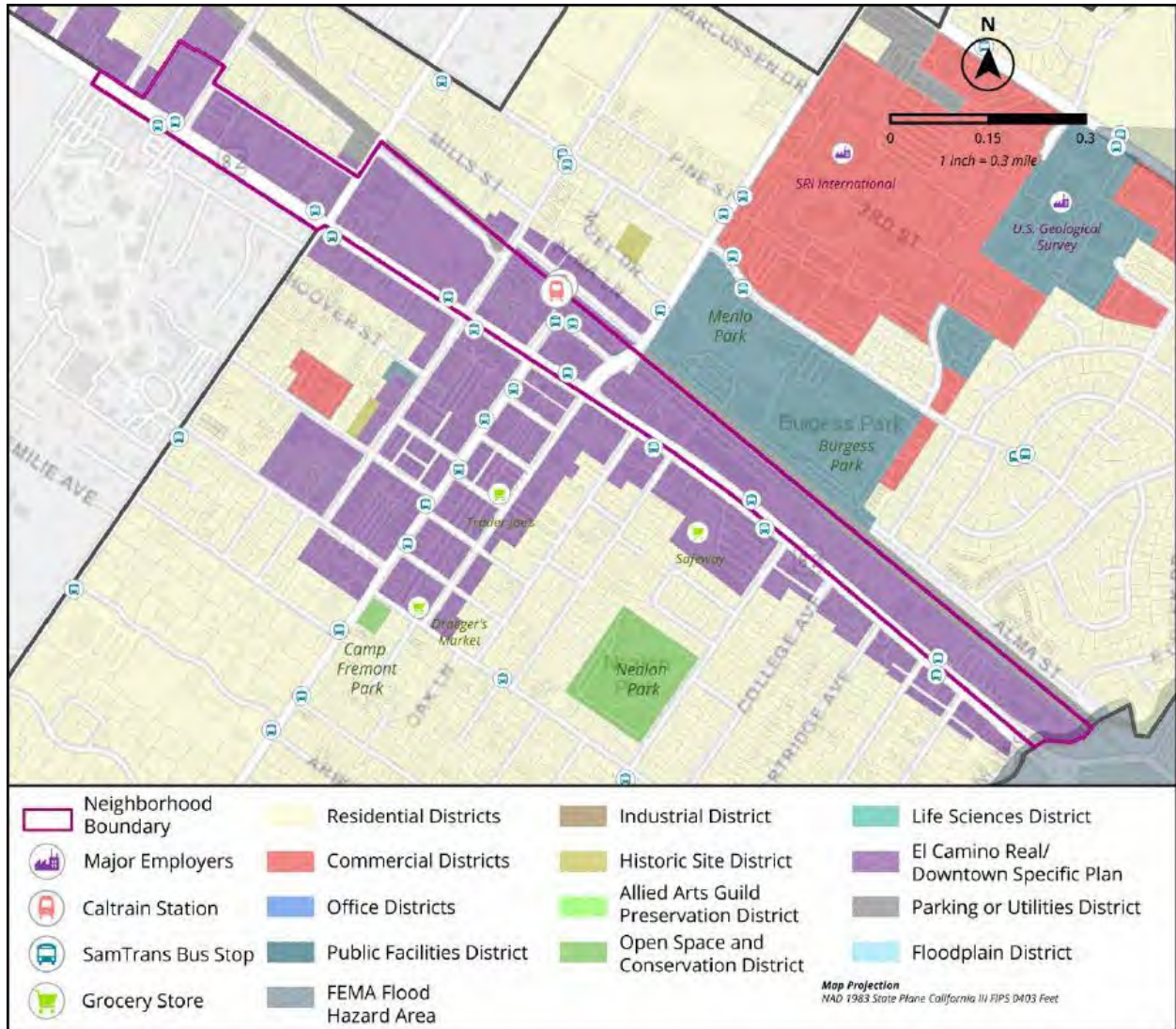
Downtown has an overall Population Characteristics score of 4, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (15 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-14.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	11	<b>-16.8</b>	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	8.7
Education	6	<b>-23.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>22</b>	-9.5	31.5
Poverty	<b>19</b>	-9.4	28.4
Unemployment	6	<b>-19.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	32	-9.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# El Camino Real Corridor



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The El Camino Real Corridor is made of larger retailers, neighborhood commercial, and professional office services under the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan.

### **Transportation**

El Camino Real Corridor has convenient access to other neighborhoods via El Camino Real, Ravenswood Avenue, and Santa Cruz Avenue, all with regular bus service. Additionally, Menlo Park's Caltrain station is located within this neighborhood.

### **Open Space**

There are no open space areas within the El Camino Real Corridor. However, Burgess Park, Camp Fremont Park, and Nealon Park are within a half-mile of most areas of the neighborhood.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

El Camino Real Corridor is not located within a flood hazard zone.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

El Camino Real Corridor has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

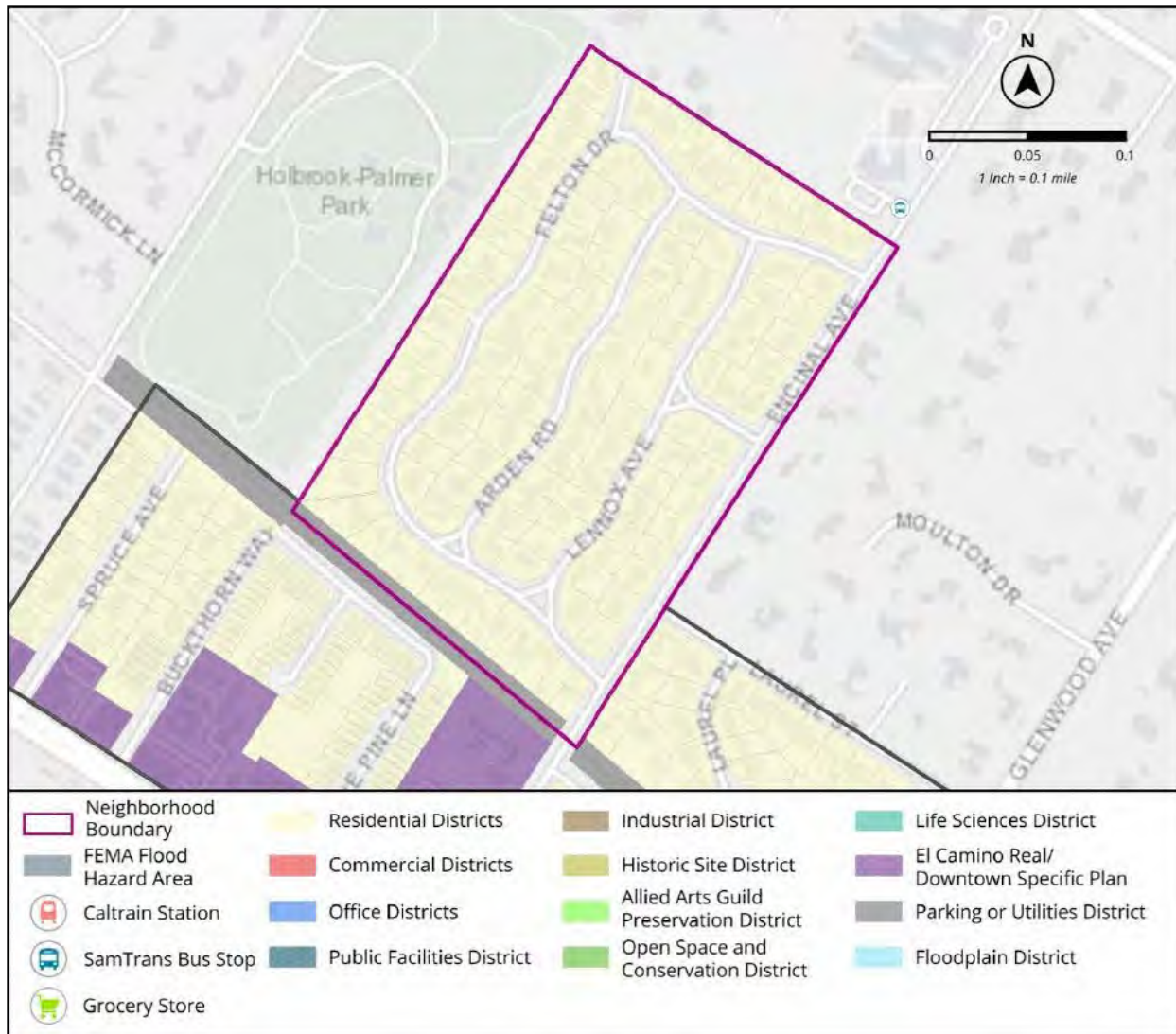
El Camino Real Corridor has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Felton Gables





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Felton Gables neighborhood is made up entirely of detached single-family homes. There are no other uses within the neighborhood.

### **Transportation**

Connectivity is limited to the north-south Encinal Avenue on the east side of the neighborhood. There are no public transit bus stops within the neighborhood. There are no continuous sidewalks, nor are there bicycle lanes in this neighborhood. Caltrain tracks are located at the southern border of Felton Gables, cutting off connectivity to El Camino Real.

### **Open Space**

There are no open spaces or parks within the neighborhood. Holbrook-Palmer Park, in the neighboring town of Atherton, is adjacent to Felton Gables. For groups of 12 people or less, the park and its amenities are available for free. There are also three facilities available to rent.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Felton Gables is not located within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Felton Gables has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

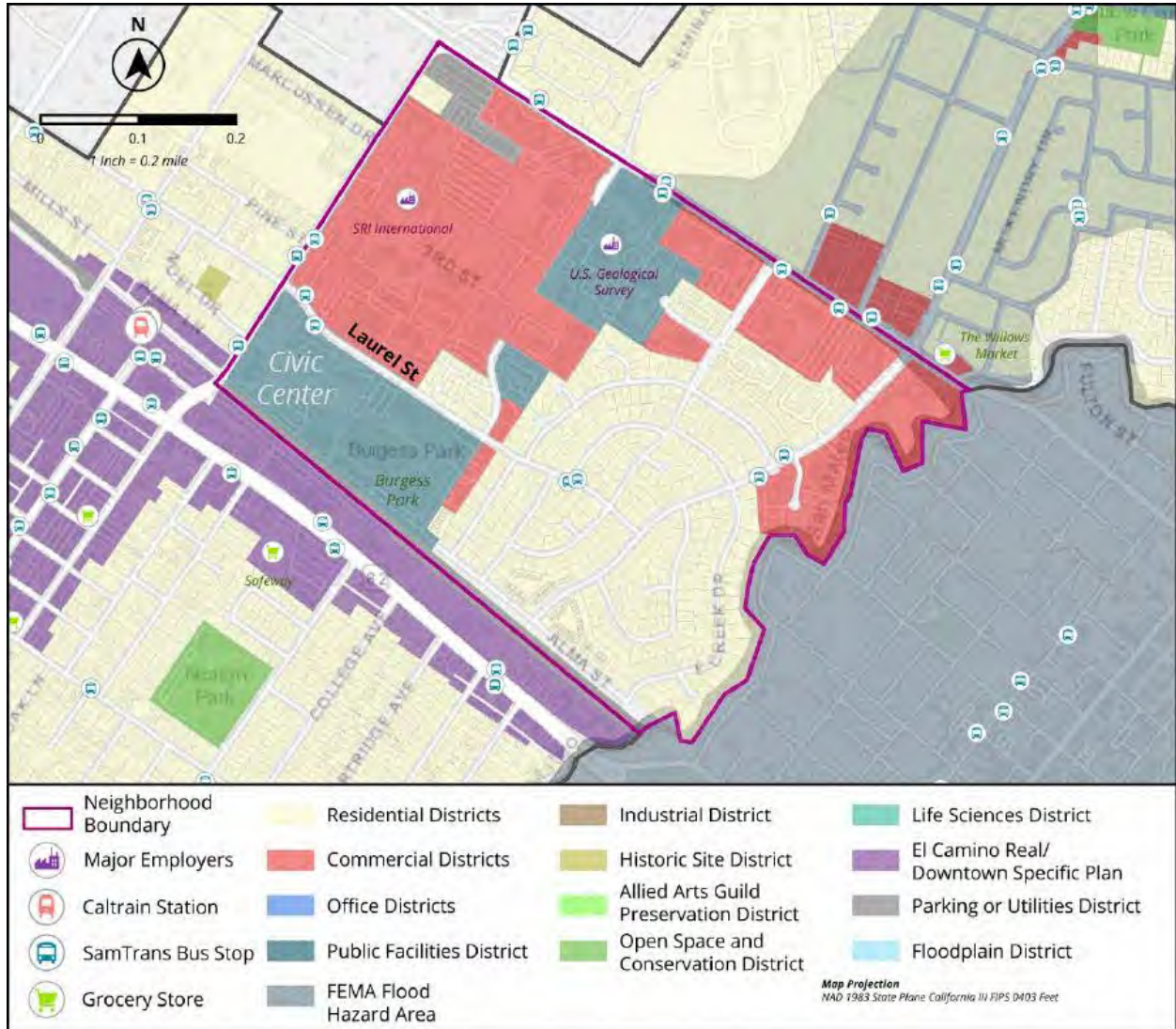
Felton Gables has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Linfield Oaks



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Linfield Oaks is comprised of a mix of residential, retail, and public facilities districts. Non-residential uses include the Stanford Research Institute (SRI International), City of Menlo Park government offices, and a local park. The neighborhood is within a half-mile of three grocery stores.

### **Transportation**

Alma Street limits the connectivity to and from Linfield Oaks, though residents can reach Bayfront Expressway (CA-84) after exiting the neighborhood from the west or southeast. Willow Road provides connectivity to the north end of the city. There is limited public transit service, entering Linfield Oaks from Laurel Street, and exiting through Willow Road.

### **Open Space**

Burgess Park is the only public open space in Linfield Oaks. The park has tennis courts, picnic areas, baseball fields and soccer fields available to reserve. Burgess Park is also adjacent to the Burgess Pool, Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center, Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Skate Park, and Arrillaga Family Gymnasium.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Linfield Oaks is not located in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Linfield Oaks has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

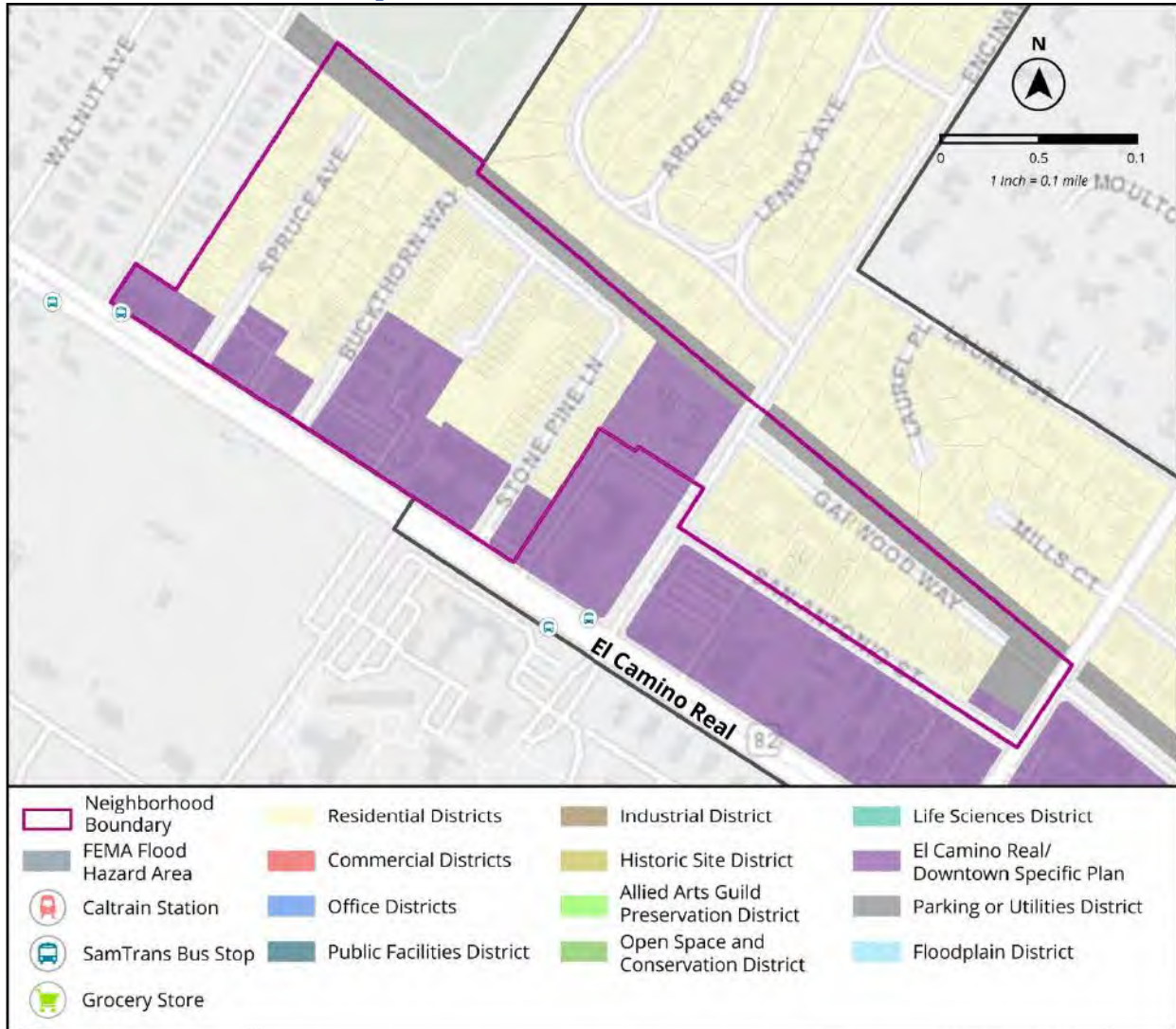
Linfield Oaks has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio neighborhood is made up mostly of low-rise apartments and detached single-family homes. About 50 percent of the neighborhood is under the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan. There are no grocery stores within or near the census tract.

### **Transportation**

The neighborhood has access to El Camino Real, providing residents with connectivity to and from the neighborhood as well as bus service. Caltrain tracks limit connectivity at the northern border of the neighborhood.

### **Open Space**

There are no open spaces or parks within the neighborhood.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio is not located within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio has an overall Pollution Burden score of 45, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (11 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	59	-2.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	26	-1.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	32	<b>-28.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	59	-8.4	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>96</b>	<b>+32.3</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>90</b>	+27.3	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	41	<b>-34.6</b>	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

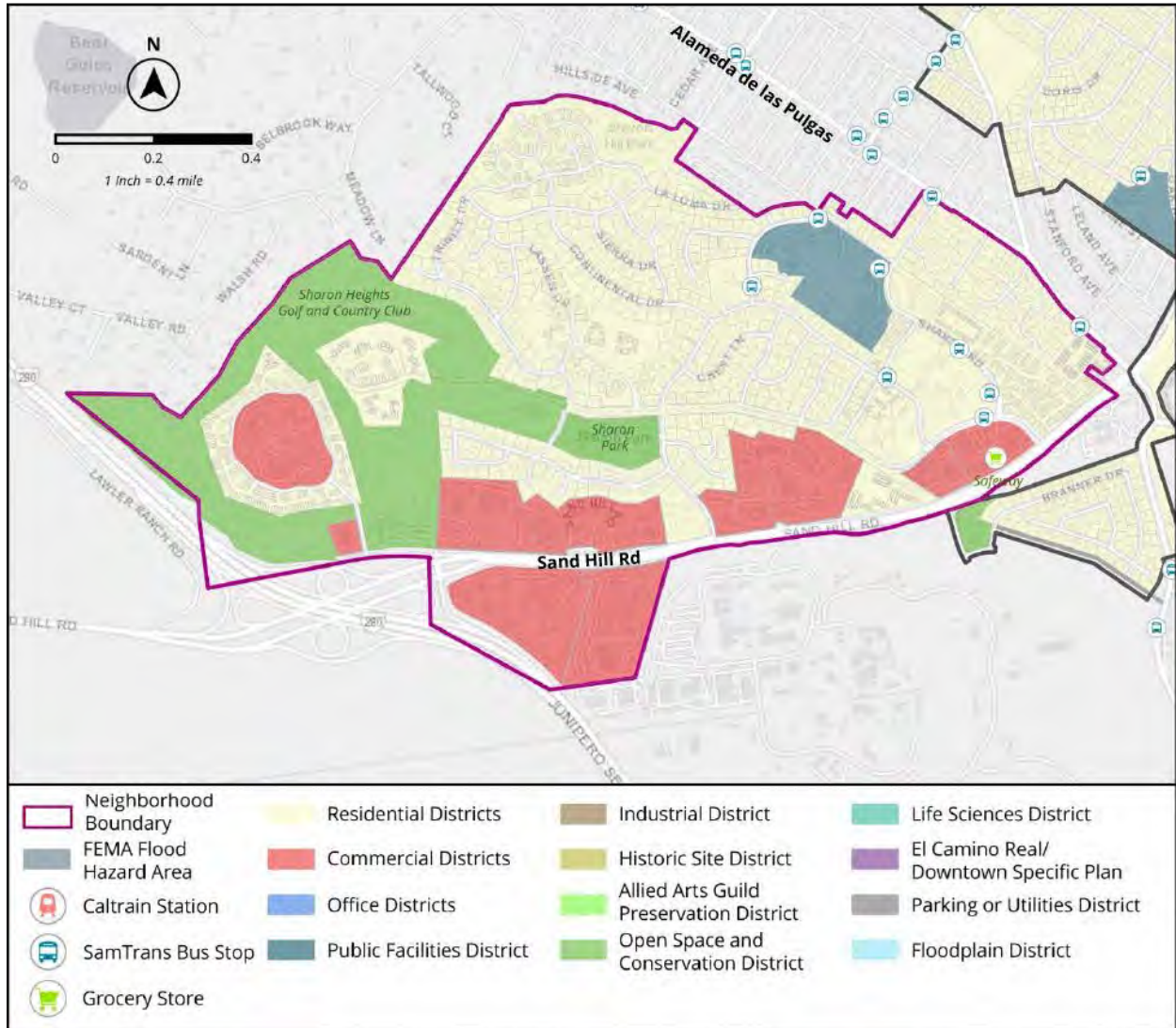
Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	13	-11.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	4	-4.7	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>16</b>	-15.5	31.5
Poverty	4	<b>-24.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	5	<b>-20.7</b>	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>29</b>	-12.2	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Sharon Heights



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Sharon Heights is made up of a mix of detached single-family homes, with medium-density apartments on the east and west sides of the neighborhood. Non-residential uses include offices, a country club, a local park, neighborhood commercial, a public middle school, a private elementary school (pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade), and a public school district office. Most households live further than a half-mile from the one grocery store within the neighborhood (Safeway at the Sharon Heights Shopping Center).

### **Transportation**

Sand Hill Road leads residents to and from the rest of the city. Alameda de las Pulgas provides connectivity to residents at the northwest of Sharon Heights. Public transportation in Sharon Heights is limited, with the only bus stops located to the west of Sharon Heights. Most streets do not have accessible sidewalks and there are no bicycle lanes.

### **Open Space**

There is one public open space, Sharon Park, and one private open space, the Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club. Picnic areas, playground, and the grass area are available for public usage. The Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club is a private country club, with golf, fine dining, and special events available for members and their guests.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Sharon Heights is not located within a flood hazard zone.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Sharon Heights has an overall Pollution Burden score of 47, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (9 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>-8.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	14	-1.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	41	-20.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	36	+32.4	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>78</b>	+17.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	74	+7.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	27	<b>-40.4</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	2	<b>-61.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>96</b>	<b>+33.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>78</b>	+2.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

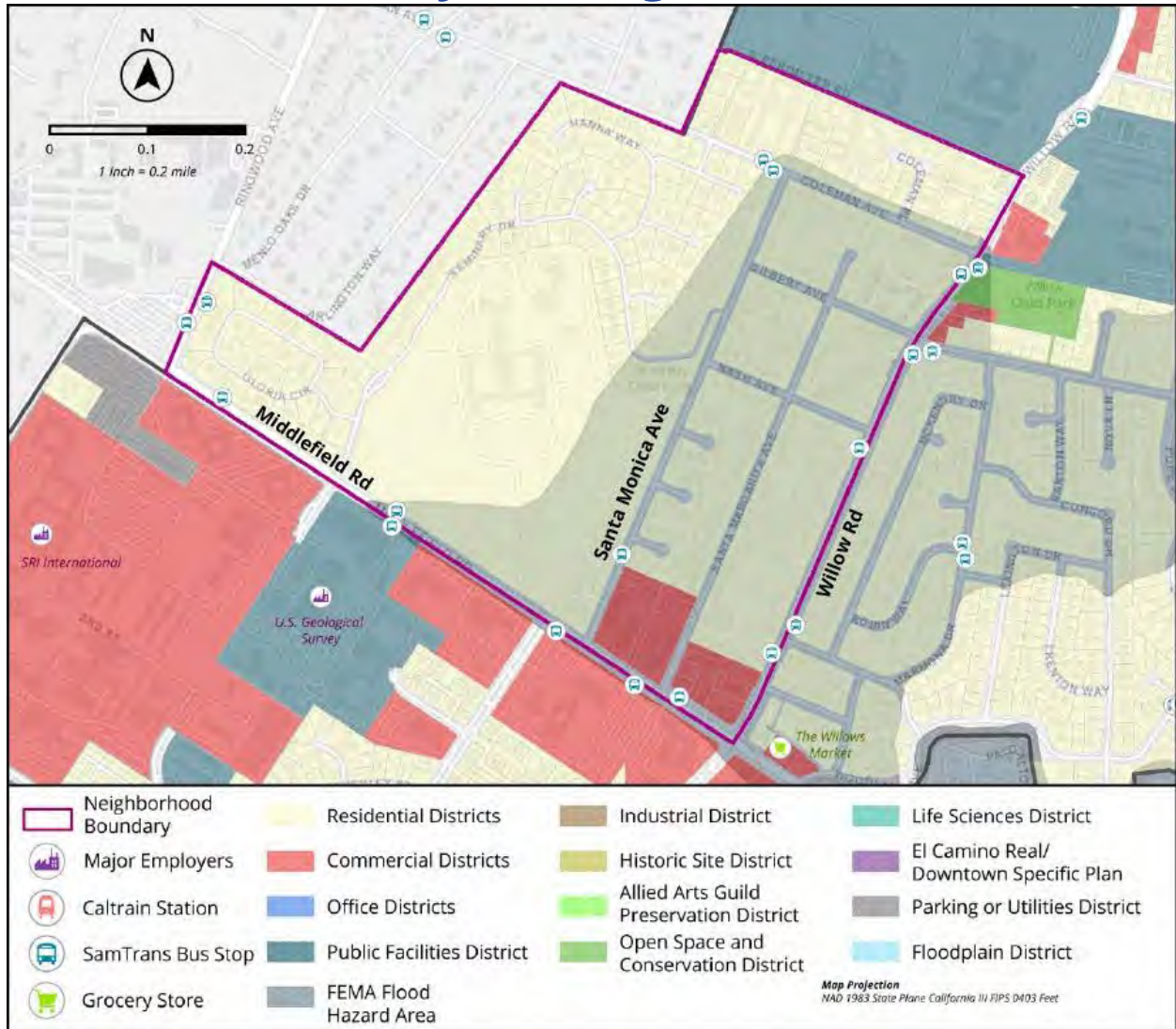
Sharon Heights has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (8 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	11	-13.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	16	-11.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	3	-5.7	8.7
Education	4	<b>-25.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>58</b>	<b>+26.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	23	-5.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>69</b>	<b>+27.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks is made of primarily detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include commercial offices at the south end of the census tract. There is one local park just outside of the census tract. There is one grocery store just outside the southeastern corner of the neighborhood that serves some residents.

### **Transportation**

Willow Road and Middlefield Road provide the neighborhood with connectivity to and from the rest of the city. Both roads are well serviced by public transit. Coleman Avenue and Santa Monica Avenue are serviced by low-frequency bus routes (typical wait times more than 15 minutes).

### **Open Space**

Willow Oaks Park is located just outside the northeastern corner of South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks. Willow Oaks Park has an off-leash dog park, public art exhibit, and tennis courts that are open to the public.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Approximately 40 percent of South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks is located in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks has an overall Pollution Burden score of 44, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (12 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-11.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	53	-8.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>77</b>	+16.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	68	+1.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>79</b>	+11.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	46	<b>-17.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	0	<b>-62.7</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>90</b>	+14.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	<b>-17.8</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks has an overall Population Characteristics score of 5, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average).

The four highest indicators (two tied indicators) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	8.7
Education	<b>22</b>	-7.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	<b>-22.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	20	<b>-8.4</b>	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	<b>-39.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Stanford Hills



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Stanford Hills neighborhood is made up almost entirely of detached single-family homes. There is one open space area, the Stanford Hills Park. All homes in the Stanford Hills neighborhood are within a half-mile from the one grocery store just north of the neighborhood (Safeway at Sharon Heights Shopping Center).

### **Transportation**

Connectivity is limited to Branner Drive on the west side of the neighborhood which leads to Sand Hill Road. There are no public transit bus stops within the census tract. All streets have accessible sidewalks but there are no bicycle lanes.

### **Open Space**

The Stanford Hills Park is available for public use. Amenities at the park include a grass area, walking paths, and benches.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Stanford Hills is not located within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Stanford Hills has an overall Pollution Burden score of 47, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (9 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>-8.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	14	-1.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	41	-20.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	36	+32.4	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>78</b>	+17.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	74	+7.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	27	<b>-40.4</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	2	<b>-61.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>96</b>	<b>+33.3</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>78</b>	+2.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

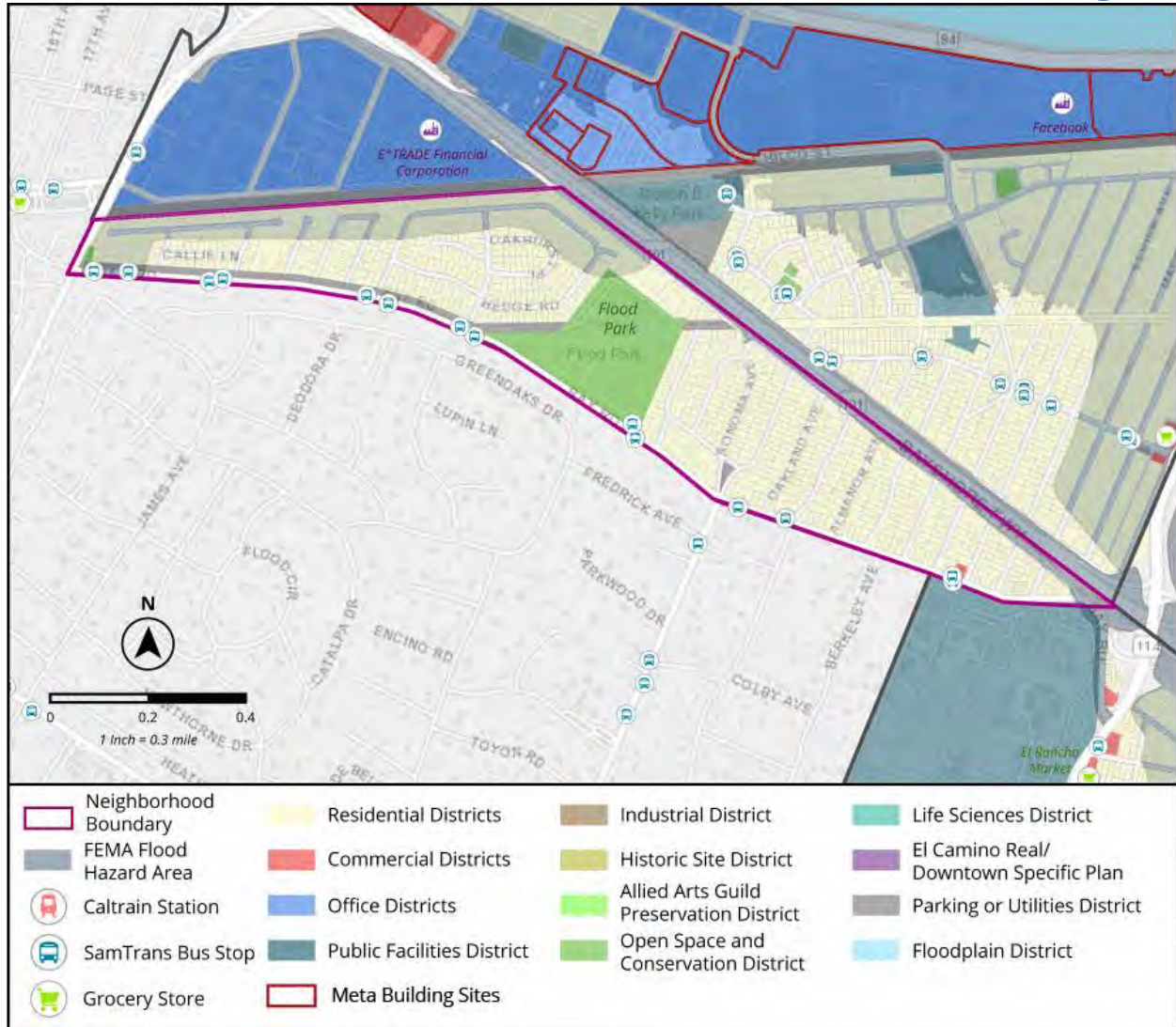
Stanford Hills has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (8 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	11	-13.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	16	-11.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	3	-5.7	8.7
Education	4	<b>-25.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	<b>58</b>	<b>+26.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	23	-5.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>69</b>	<b>+27.8</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

**Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle** is made up almost entirely of detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include a local park and a single neighborhood commercial parcel adjacent to the Bright Angel Montessori Academy. Most homes in the neighborhood do not have any proximity to a grocery store within Menlo Park, though there are grocery stores nearby in other jurisdictions.

### **Transportation**

U.S. Highway 101 closes off the north side of Suburban Park and this results in residents from Suburban Park, Lorelei Manor, and Flood Triangle exiting only from Bay Road, the southern boundary of the neighborhood. SamTrans operates three school-oriented bus routes along Bay Road that may also be used by members of the general public. School-oriented bus routes generally have limited hours of operation timed with school bell schedules and pause operations on weekends and during the summer months.

### **Open Space**

Flood Park is a part of the San Mateo County Parks Foundation. Flood Park facilities such as the softball field, tennis courts and volleyball courts are available for public use. Group picnic areas and the baseball field may be reserved.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

Approximately 15 percent of Suburban Park is in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle has an overall Pollution Burden score of 71, ranking 7<sup>th</sup> (15 points more than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>+15.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	13	-2.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	<b>76</b>	+14.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	31	+3.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>95</b>	<b>+34.7</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	60	-6.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	70	+2.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	65	+1.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	56	-6.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>91</b>	+15.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	0	<b>-37.8</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	66	<b>+48.2</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

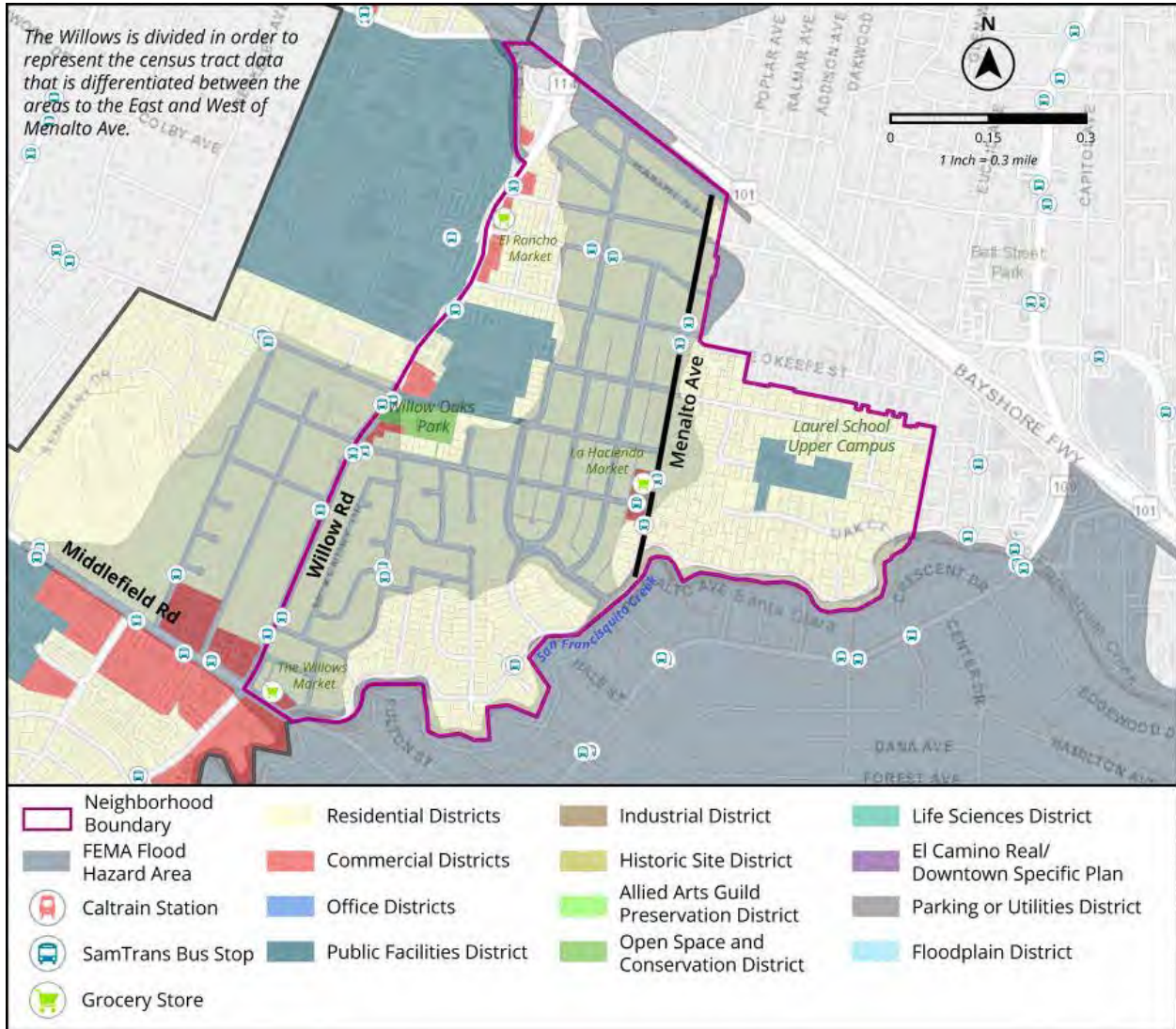
Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>22</b>	-2.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>19</b>	-8.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	8.7
Education	2	<b>-27.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	6	<b>-25.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	4	-24.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>16</b>	-9.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	13	<b>-28.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# The Willows



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

The Willows neighborhood is made up primarily of detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include a public school (elementary), a private school (pre-kindergarten through high school), and a few gas stations and strip commercial buildings spaced out along Willow Road, Middlefield Road, and Menalto Avenue. Most of the neighborhood is within a half-mile of one of three grocery stores.

### **Transportation**

US-101 and San Francisquito Creek are barriers to connectivity in/out of the neighborhood. Two low frequency bus routes (typical wait times more than 15 minutes) run along Willow Road and Menalto Road. Most homes in the neighborhood are further than a quarter-mile from a bus stop. Most streets have Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant sidewalks and are bicycle friendly, with a Class II (dedicated traffic lane) bikeway along Willow Road.

### **Open Space**

Willow Oaks Park is the only public open space in the neighborhood. Laurel School Upper Campus' sports fields can be reserved for public use.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

About 75 percent of the neighborhood west of Menalto Avenue and 15 percent of the neighborhood east of Menalto Avenue is in a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

The Willows has overall Pollution Burden scores of 44 (West of Menalto Avenue) and 73 (East of Menalto Avenue), ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (12 points less than the citywide average) and 8<sup>th</sup> (17 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators (four for East of Menalto Avenue, due to a tie) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-11.8</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>+17.2</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	10	+0.8	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	18	+2.8	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	53	-8.5	<b>85</b>	+23.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27	-0.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>77</b>	<b>+16.7</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>+24.7</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	68	+1.6	<b>86</b>	+19.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>79</b>	+11.6	84	+16.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	46	<b>-17.7</b>	66	+2.3	63.7
Groundwater Threats	0	<b>-62.7</b>	10	<b>-52.7</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>90</b>	+14.4	73	-2.6	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	<b>90</b>	<b>+52.2</b>	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	-17.8	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

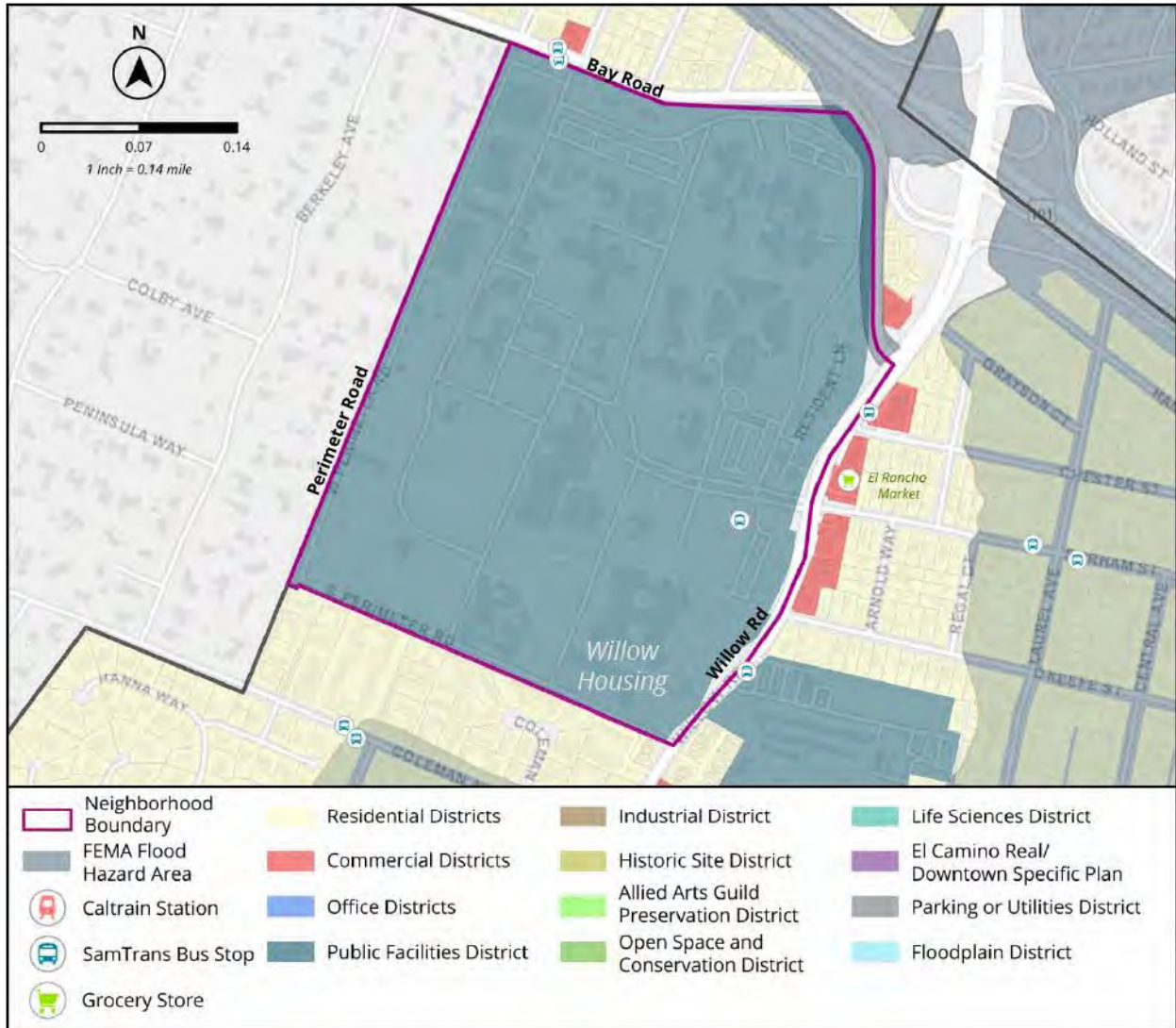
The Willows has overall Population Characteristics scores of 5 (West of Menalto Avenue) and 58 (East of Menalto Avenue), ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average) and 7<sup>th</sup> (39 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators (four for West of Menalto Avenue, due to a tie) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	West of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	East of Menalto Avenue	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>+39.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	48	+23.1	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	69	+41.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	14	+5.3	8.7
Education	<b>22</b>	-7.0	<b>85</b>	<b>+56.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	<b>-22.5</b>	75	<b>+43.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	20	<b>-8.4</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>+50.6</b>	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	11	-14.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	<b>-39.2</b>	<b>80</b>	+38.8	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# VA Medical District





## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical District consists strictly of the Menlo Park VA Medical Center, made up of medical buildings, open spaces, and housing, ranging from 1-2 stories tall. Willow Housing, located at the southern edge of the VA Medical District, is a 60-unit affordable housing community designed for veterans who are homeless or at risk of imminent homelessness.

### **Transportation**

Willow Road, Bay Road, Perimeter Road provide the VA Medical District with access to and from the neighborhood. There are three bus stops within the neighborhood, all located on Willow Road at the eastern side.

### **Open Space**

There are no public open space areas within the neighborhood, however there is open space within the VA Medical Center.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

The northeastern border of VA Medical District is located within a flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

VA Medical District has an overall Pollution Burden score of 44, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (12 points less than the citywide average).

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-11.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	53	-8.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	+0.4	27.6
Traffic Impacts	<b>77</b>	+16.7	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	68	+1.6	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	<b>79</b>	+11.6	67.4
Cleanup Sites	46	<b>-17.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	0	<b>-62.7</b>	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>90</b>	+14.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	0	<b>-17.8</b>	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

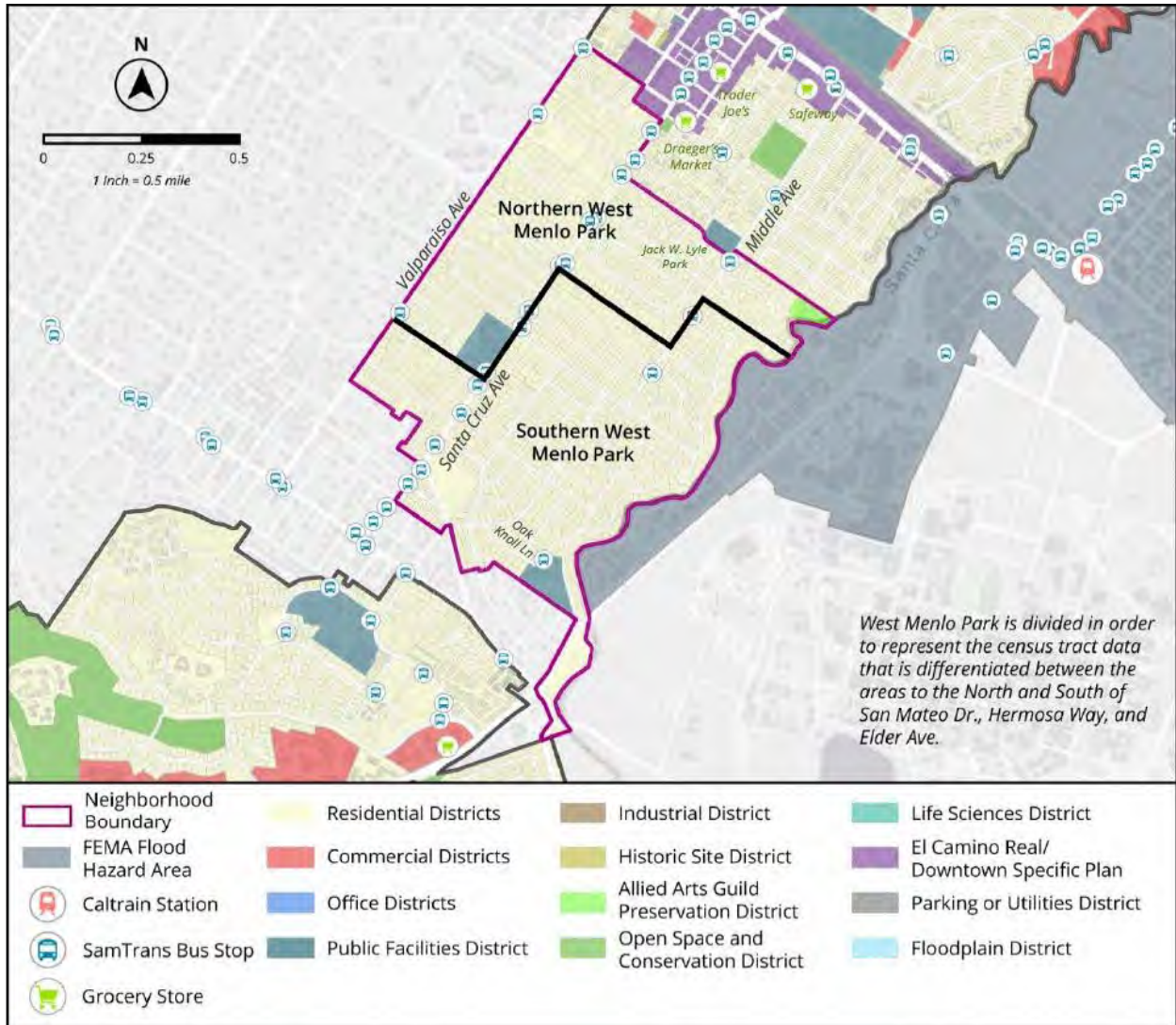
VA Medical District has an overall Population Characteristics score of 5, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average).

The four highest indicators (two tied indicators) and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics			
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>		
	Neighborhood	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>21</b>	-3.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>21</b>	-6.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	8.7
Education	<b>22</b>	<b>-7.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	<b>-22.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	20	-8.4	28.4
Unemployment	<b>27</b>	+1.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	<b>-39.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

# West Menlo



## ***Physical Description***

### **Pattern of Development**

West Menlo is made up primarily of detached single-family homes. Non-residential uses include one public elementary school, one public middle school, one private elementary (pre-K-8), a church, a cemetery and an art gallery. About 20 percent of the neighborhood is within a half-mile of one of the four grocery stores located outside of the neighborhood, three north of it and one to the south.

### **Transportation**

Valparaiso Avenue and Santa Cruz Avenue are two arterial roads that provide connectivity to and from West Menlo. Santa Cruz Avenue is well-serviced by public transit, with bus stops located at each block. Valparaiso Avenue and Middle Avenue have limited service, with three bus stops each. Oak Knoll Lane has one bus stop.

### **Open Space**

There are no public open spaces in West Menlo. Jack W. Lyle Park is located outside of the northwest end of the neighborhood.

### **Natural Hazard Risk**

The western border of West Menlo borders flood hazard area.

## Environmental Conditions

### Primary Contributors to Pollution Burden and Major Disparities

West Menlo has overall Pollution Burden scores of 35 (North) and 26 (South), ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (21 points less than the citywide average) and 1<sup>st</sup> (30 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Pollution Burden					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	Northern West Menlo	Difference from Citywide Average	Southern West Menlo Park	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>-20.8</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>-29.8</b>	<b>55.8</b>
Air Quality: Ozone	9	-0.2	9	-0.2	9.2
Air Quality: PM2.5	14	-1.2	15	-0.2	15.2
Diesel Particulate Matter	48	<b>-13.5</b>	<b>47</b>	-14.5	61.5
Pesticide Use	0	-3.6	0	-3.6	3.6
Toxic Releases from Facilities	25	-2.6	25	-2.6	27.6
Traffic Impacts	20	<b>-40.3</b>	26	<b>-34.3</b>	60.3
Drinking Water Contaminants	39	<b>-27.4</b>	<b>61</b>	-5.4	66.4
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	54	-13.4	47	<b>-20.4</b>	67.4
Cleanup Sites	<b>72</b>	+8.3	23	<b>-40.7</b>	63.7
Groundwater Threats	<b>73</b>	+10.3	53	-9.7	62.7
Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	<b>78</b>	+2.4	<b>87</b>	+11.4	75.6
Impaired Water Bodies	34	-3.8	34	-3.8	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	20	+2.2	0	-17.8	17.8

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Social, Socioeconomic, and Population Characteristics

### Primary Factors and Major Disparities

West Menlo has overall Population Characteristics scores of 5 (North) and 1 (South), ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average) and 1<sup>st</sup> (18 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

The three highest indicators and three with greatest disparity from the citywide average, positive or negative, are indicated on the table below.

Population Characteristics					
Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>				
	Northern West Menlo	Difference from Citywide Average	Southern West Menlo	Difference from Citywide Average	Citywide Average
<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-13.6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-17.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Asthma	<b>22</b>	-2.9	<b>20</b>	-4.9	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	<b>51</b>	+23.2	3	-24.8	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	9	+0.3	<b>8</b>	-0.7	8.7
Education	0	<b>-29.0</b>	1	<b>-28.0</b>	29
Linguistic Isolation	0	<b>-31.5</b>	5	<b>-26.5</b>	31.5
Poverty	9	-19.4	2	-26.4	28.4
Unemployment	6	-19.7	<b>39</b>	+13.3	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	<b>12</b>	<b>-29.2</b>	2	<b>-39.2</b>	41.2

<sup>1</sup> The score is relative to other California census tracts and is measured by percentile for individual indicators in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Data

## Appendix: CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Scores

The following page contains the CalEnviroScreen scores organized in a table. Each column of the table details the percentile at which any listed indicator affects a neighborhood within Menlo Park. An indicator is a measure of a condition, such as Air Quality or proximity to Groundwater Threats. Other indicators provide information about demographics, such as the proportion of households in a census tract who do not speak English well or at all. These indicators can tell us which communities are considered more vulnerable to environmental hazards.

CalEnviroScreen is a web-based mapping tool created by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. CalEnviroScreen uses environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce a score for every census tract in the state. Each census tract is evaluated by 21 indicators and are given 21 scores based on the data. By averaging the indicator scores, CalEnviroScreen produces overall CalEnviroScreen scores (overall pollution burden; overall population characteristics) for comparisons between census tracts.

The "Overall Percentile EnviroScreen" for each census tract in Menlo Park is below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, even if Pollution Burden, Population Characteristics, or individual indicators are above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile. Because this "Overall Percentile" score is below the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, it does not trigger a Underserved Community designation for any census tract in the city. However, the Underserved Communities – Tracts 6117 (West Bayfront, Belle Haven) and 6118 (East Bayfront) – have Overall Pollution Burden scores over 75 as well as low-income designations from HCD.



## NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILES ANALYSIS

CENSUS TRACT AND NEIGHBORHOODS												
INDICATOR	6118 East Bayfront	6117 West Bayfront & Belle Haven	6121 The Willows East of Menalto Ave	6139 The Willows West of Menalto Ave; VA Medical District; & South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	6130 Sharon Heights & Stanford Hills	6126 Downtown & Allied Arts/Stanford Park North of University Ave	6116 Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	6127 Allied Arts/Stanford Park South of University Ave & Northern West Menlo	6125 Felton Gables; Central Menlo; Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio; Linfield Oaks; & El Camino Real Corridor	6128 Southern West Menlo	CITYWIDE AVERAGES	
	<b>Overall Percentile CalEnviroScreen</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>2</b>
POLLUTION BURDEN	<b>Overall Pollution Burden</b> <i>(Combined Score from all Pollution Indicators)</i>	<b>83</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>26</b>	55.8
	Air Quality: Ozone	10	9	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9.2
	Air Quality: PM2.5	17	16	18	15	14	15	13	14	15	15	15.2
	Diesel Particulate Matter	49	88	85	53	41	69	76	48	59	47	61.5
	Pesticide Use	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	3.6
	Toxic Releases from Facilities	28	32	27	28	28	26	31	25	26	25	27.6
	Traffic Impacts	60	94	85	77	78	36	95	20	32	26	60.3
	Drinking Water Contaminants	87	69	86	68	74	59	60	39	61	61	66.4
	Children's Lead Risk from Housing	99	96	84	79	27	59	70	54	59	47	67.4
	Cleanup Sites	82	89	66	46	2	96	65	72	96	23	63.7
	Groundwater Threats	98	61	10	0	96	90	56	73	90	53	62.7
	Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities	85	83	73	90	78	50	91	78	41	87	75.6
	Impaired Water Bodies	84	0	90	34	34	34	0	34	34	34	37.8
Solid Waste Sites and Facilities	21	63	0	0	0	8	66	20	0	0	17.8	
POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	<b>Overall Population Characteristics</b> <i>(Combined Score from all Population Characteristics Indicators)</i>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	18.6
	Asthma	47	24	48	21	11	21	22	22	13	20	24.9
	Low Birth Weight Infants	22	45	69	21	16	11	19	51	21	3	27.8
	Cardiovascular Disease	13	10	14	8	3	9	9	9	4	8	8.7
	Educational Attainment	86	82	85	22	4	6	2	0	2	1	29
	Linguistic Isolation	38	86	75	9	58	22	6	0	16	5	31.5
	Poverty	65	59	79	20	23	19	4	9	4	2	28.4
	Unemployment	74	46	11	27	27	6	16	6	5	39	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	90	83	80	2	69	32	13	12	29	2	41.2	

## Additional Methodology

The State Office of Planning and Research (OPR) recommends a "screening analysis" that incorporates community-specific data and issues unique to their communities, which might or might not be reflected in the statewide data sets. This screening analysis gives the City of Menlo Park (City) the ability to treat the three census tracts identified as potential Underserved Communities differently, as appropriate to the issues present in these communities. In Menlo Park, there are three census tracts which meet at least one of the three primary criteria noted by OPR and could be considered as containing Underserved Communities:

- Tract 6117 (Belle Haven and Bayfront)
- Tract 6118 (Bayfront)
- Tract 6121 (The Willows)

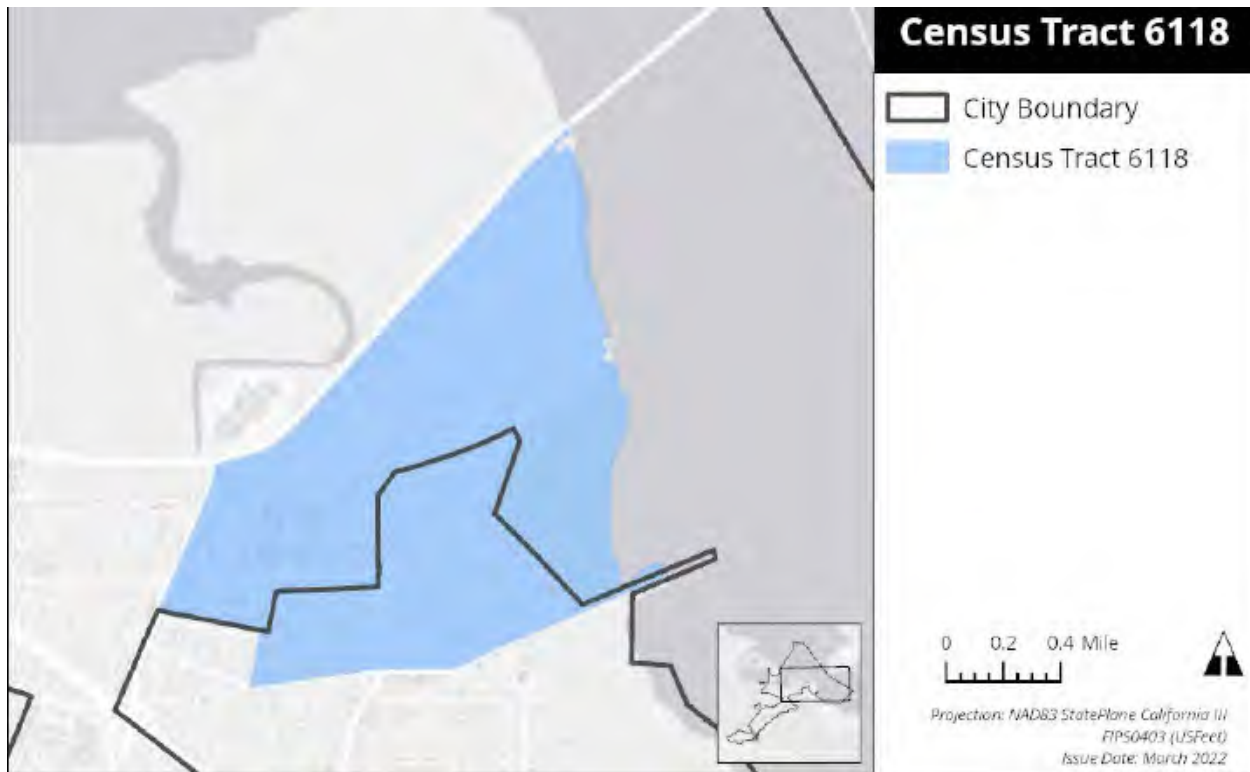
Census Tract 6117 has a clear history of different treatment and has a clear geographic distinction from the rest of Menlo Park. Census Tract 6118 shares this distinction, but Census Tract 6121 does not. Therefore, Census Tract 6118, containing Bayfront as well as portions of neighboring East Palo Alto, is identified as a Underserved Community in Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element. Census Tract 6121, which contains The Willows as well as East Palo Alto, is not identified as such.

The flexibility of OPR's recommended approach allows two neighboring jurisdictions to use different approaches for the same census tract. Treating Census Tract 6118 as a Underserved Community, but not Census Tract 6121, does not conflict with or limit any future decisions by East Palo Alto to identify their portion of Census Tracts 6118 and/or 6121 as Underserved Communities if they deem it appropriate.

### *Census Tract 6118 – Bayfront*

Bayfront is partially composed of Census Tract 6118, which spans Menlo Park and East Palo Alto (see Figure EJ-B-1). There are currently no residential units in the Menlo Park portion of the tract. The 950 residential units currently in this census tract are all located in the East Palo Alto portion of the tract.

**Figure EJ-B-1: Census Tract 6118 Map**



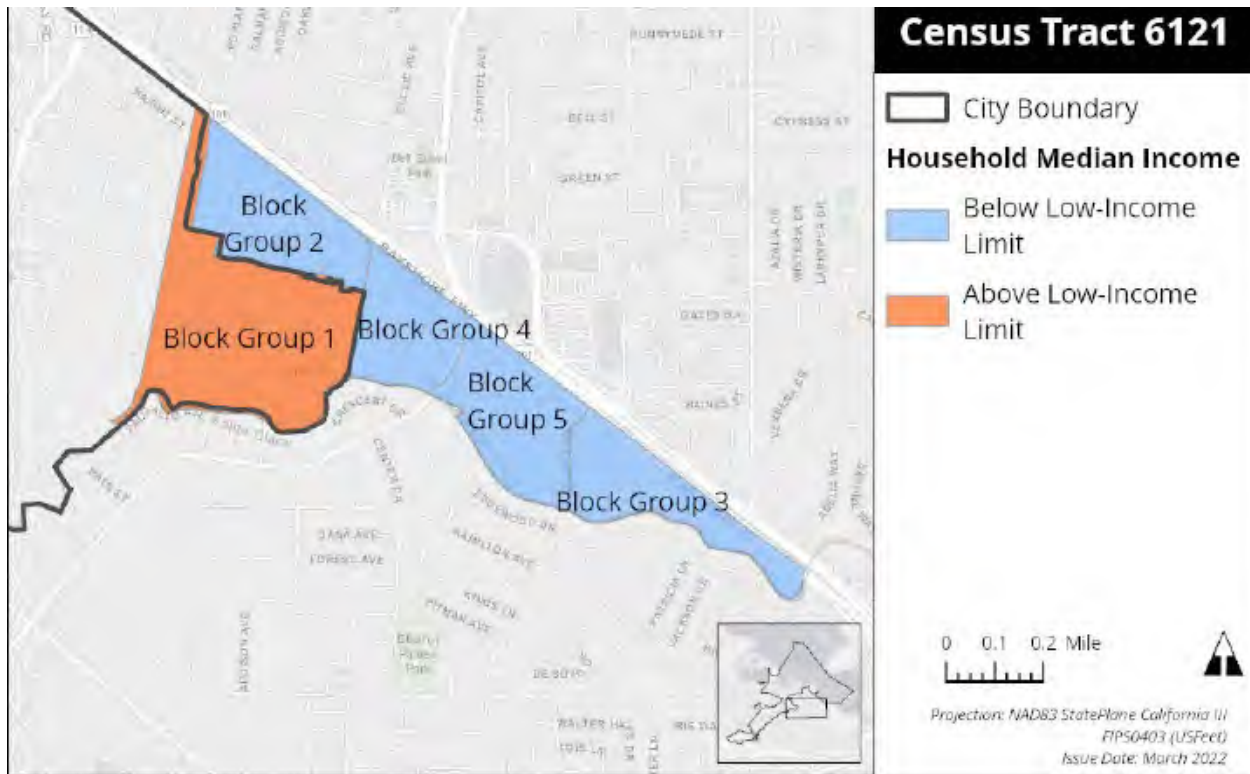
Even though there are currently no residential units in the Menlo Park portion of Census Tract 6118, the neighborhood qualifies as a Underserved Community because the tract-wide median income is below state income limits (see Figure EJ-B-2). The Environmental Justice Element will treat the area as a Underserved Community because it shares development history, current zoning, transportation, and school districts with the western portion of Bayfront.

#### *Census Tract 6121 – The Willows*

The Willows, one of Menlo Park's 16 neighborhoods, includes Census Tract 6121. This tract could be designated as an Environmental Justice Underserved Community because its median household incomes are below the threshold designated as low income (\$146,350 for a four-person household in 2021) by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Census Tract's median household income is \$57,627.

This Census Tract consists of five block groups. Only Block Group 1 is within Menlo Park. Block Groups 2-5 are located in East Palo Alto. The median household income of Block Group 1 in Menlo Park is well over the low-income threshold at \$174,844 and does not meet the Underserved Communities designation. Block Groups 2-5 in East Palo Alto are far under the low-income threshold and could qualify as Underserved Communities (see Figure EJ-A-3 and Table EJ-A-1).

**Figure EJ-B-2: Block Groups in Census Tract 6121**



**Table EJ-B-1: Median Household Income by Block Group in Census Tract 6121**

Block Group	Median Household Income
<i>In Menlo Park</i>	
Block Group 1	\$174,7844
<i>In East Palo Alto</i>	
Block Group 2	\$44,319
Block Group 3	\$67,097
Block Group 4	\$43,818
Block Group 5	\$47,396
<b>Census Tract 6121</b>	<b>\$57,627</b>
<b>HCD Low-Income Designation for San Mateo County<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$146,350</b>

All data from US Census American Communities Survey, 2015-2019 5-year estimates.

Menlo Park's Environmental Justice Element does not identify Census Tract 6121 as a potential Underserved Community. While there may be environmental issues in the tract's portion of neighboring East Palo Alto, those issues do not apply to the high-income neighborhood of The Willows.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.smcgov.org/media/30286/download?inline=>

# Outreach Report: Safety and Environmental Justice Elements

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**MAY 27, 2022**

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**PREPARED BY**  
**Climate Resilient Communities**



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***“¡Tienes una voz!” (You have a voice!) – Victoria Robledo, Belle Haven Community Leader and Focus Group Facilitator***

# Introduction

This report summarizes the processes and findings of three focus groups conducted by Climate Resilient Communities' (CRC) its partnering organizations: El Comite de Vecinos, Belle Haven Community Development Fund, and a group of three highly motivated and connected community leaders. These meetings were convened to solicit public input and raise awareness about the updates to the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements of the City of Menlo Park's General Plan. Belle Haven is a neighborhood in Menlo Park, lying east of Highway 101 and closest to the San Francisco Bay. Belle Haven is a historically redlined community, meaning residents who attempted to buy homes elsewhere were forbidden and forced to buy in Belle Haven, a practice that systematically prevented residents from building intergenerational wealth on the basis of their race.



In Belle Haven, as throughout the world, it will be the people who lack the monetary resources to respond and adapt who will be most affected by the impacts of climate change. Low-income communities and communities of color are on the frontlines of sea-level rise, extreme heat events, and are suffering more severe consequences from wildfire smoke exposure. These facts make the urgency and necessity of robust engagement with frontline communities a necessity for equitable and just climate adaptation. To that end, CRC has partnered with the City of Menlo Park to help elevate community voices and ensure equitable representation in the General Plan update process. The sustained participation and leadership of residents is the only pathway to fixing the issues currently contributing to the stark inequality between East and West Menlo Park. The three focus groups are just one of several projects to receive feedback and input from the Belle Haven community. These meetings took place on May 9th, May 13th, and May 20th of 2022. The sections that follow contain a summary of the methods and results of the three focus groups. The appendix includes original copies of reports from our three partnering groups.

# Executive Summary

This report summarizes the findings of three (3) focus groups conducted by the Belle Haven Community Development Fund (BHCDF), El Comite de Vecinos, and a group of three community leaders: Victoria Robledo, Karen Williams, and Telesia Alusa. Climate Resilient Communities trained each organization, provided logistical and financial support, and participated in outreach and facilitation wherever and whenever required. In total, **124 Belle Haven Residents** attended one of the focus groups to have their voices heard and contribute to a process they hope will bring about substantial change and investment in their community. The focus groups targeted specific sections of the community: the first was for parents and children, the second for Spanish speakers, and the third for a general audience. Each focus group was held at the Belle Haven Branch Library at 413 Ivy Dr.

After a brief presentation on what the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements are, what the update process means for the community, and a brief history of redlining and disinvestment in the area, residents had an opportunity to ask questions and walked table to table to identify their top environmental and safety priorities.

A summary of the top community-identified priorities and key issues is listed below with the number of residents who listed a various concern in parenthesis.

**Safety:** The three top safety concerns for residents attending each focus group were Air Quality with 53 residents listing it as a concern, tied with Hazardous Materials (53), and followed by Earthquakes (40). Data collected by the City of Menlo Park and CalEnviroScreen 4.0 validates their lived experience: Menlo Park's data shows the Belle Haven neighborhood has air quality and emissions that are 42% worse than the city at large and CalEnviroScreen data places Belle Haven above the 88<sup>th</sup> percentile statewide for Hazardous Waste exposure.

**Recommendations:** Based on these concerns, the city should consider appropriating funds for transportation infrastructure improvements that reduce traffic to improve air quality, work closely with other oversight agencies to identify and ameliorate legacy pollution, and initiate neighborhood specific disaster preparedness planning.

**Promoting Civic Engagement:** The top three community identified ways this project and others could promote the civic engagement of the Belle Haven Community are through making the information accessible (37), enhancing prior knowledge (35), and scheduling to avoid time conflicts (27). Accessible information includes content provided in different languages, content that is easily read and interpreted by a lay-person, and content provided in different formats (auditory, visual, etc.). The number of residents who identified prior knowledge as a constraint to participation speaks to a real need to conduct more education and capacity building in the community so residents feel comfortable participating in a public forum.

**Recommendations:** Residents would urge the city to make policies that ensure substantial and sustained multilingual outreach, expand its education and capacity building opportunities, and revamp existing protocols around the scheduling of public meetings.

**Reducing Pollution:** Residents were very concerned about the quality of air and the proliferation of asthma in their community. They saw immediate opportunities for air quality improvements by regulating residential and cut through traffic in the neighborhood (63), regulating emissions from stationary sources like industrial facilities (38), and protecting families from the impacts of wildfire smoke (37). When it comes to water pollution, data collected by the City of Menlo Park shows that



drinking water is 38% better in Belle Haven than that of the rest of the city.<sup>1</sup> This comes in contrast to CalEnviroScreen statistics that place the Belle Haven neighborhood in the 97<sup>th</sup> percentile statewide for groundwater threats. Residents would like assurances and clarity on the quality of the water (61) and programs to address recent water price hikes and ensure affordability (48).

**Recommendations:** The community would like to see the city make policies to 1) further incentivize the use of electric vehicles and pursue micro-mobility alternatives like subsidized electric bicycles 2) strengthen permitting requirements for polluting facilities and enforce existing regulations, 3) allocate funding for home weatherization and the distribution of air purifiers for residents with health conditions, 4) conduct regular tap water testing and hold workshops to explain the results, and 5) explore options to help families with water expenses.

**Public Facilities:** When it comes to public facilities, community members prioritized expanding and upgrading their community centers (50), creating affordable and accessible programs. Additionally, residents hoped to see more healthcare facilities in their community (47) because they currently have to travel substantial distances to receive even basic care. Residents also expressed strong support for updating the road structure so as to foster safe forms of transportation other than driving (45). This includes resident support for bike lanes, sidewalk improvements, and other public transportation upgrades.

**Recommendations:** To address community concerns around public facilities, residents suggest the City reexamine administrative policies governing community centers to encourage affordable and accessible programming and expand community centers. The city should seriously consider the creation of a community health clinic in Belle Haven and transportation infrastructure overhauls.

**Food Access:** All said, 63 residents said their Belle Haven neighborhood needed increased access to healthy and affordable foods. Belle Haven does not have a full-service grocery store; not a single resident of the 124 who participated in the process said food access was sufficient. Residents are interested primarily in a store that could offer high quality and healthy foods at low prices. They also saw opportunities to improve the Facebook Mobile Market by moving away from cell-phone based ordering or opening regular Farmer's Markets in Belle Haven to replicate what happens at Bloomhouse in East Palo Alto.

**Recommendations:** Existing development plans include space for a grocery store, but community members would like the City to ensure that the eventual occupant offer high quality, affordable food and be required to take food assistance vouchers and contain a pharmacy. Additionally, the city should look for opportunities and spaces to host a farmer's market.

**Ensuring Safe and Sanitary Homes:** Residents overwhelmingly supported the creation and expansion of programs that help people renovate their homes when faced with pest infestations (37), mold (35), or toxics like lead and asbestos (35). Housing quality is intimately tied to resident health and programs that outfit homes for resilience and health are vital to dissolving inequities within Menlo Park. A necessary part of ensuring safe and sanitary homes is keeping residents in stable housing. 52 residents expressed support for programs that would make housing affordable and 45 expressed support for policies that would protect renters from displacement. In written comments left by residents, they expressed support for rent control measures and preventing large companies from buying housing in the neighborhood. When it comes to residents' new home siting priorities, they would prefer new homes be located near grocery stores (45), community gardens (30), and parks (28). Many also insisted that new housing be built throughout the city, and not solely in Belle Haven.

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<sup>1</sup> Per the Neighborhood Profiles developed for the City for the Environmental Justice Element. ([Linked here](#))

**Recommendations:** Community members urge the City to begin investing in programs that offer homeowners and renters vital home safety repairs, enact and expand rent control ordinances, and promote the development of affordable housing throughout the city, not relying on Belle Haven alone to bear the brunt of nearly all new development.

**Physical Activity:** Encouraging additional physical activity can help improve the overall health of the community and, if done through modes of active transportation, can reduce local emissions leading to even more health benefits. To foster additional activity, existing barriers have to be addressed. 56 residents said there were barriers to being active and getting enough exercise, only 8 residents said there were no barriers. When it comes to promoting physical activity, residents prioritized increasing the prevalence of street lights and road lighting (35), upgrading, expanding and maintaining sidewalks (33), and other physical infrastructure changes (ie, bike share, covered rest areas, bike storage, etc.) (31). Residents pointed out existing sidewalks were not compliant with requirements under the Americans with Disability Act and that they feel unsafe walking and exercising due to the lack of lighting and severe traffic.

**Recommendations:** The community would like to see the city install streetlights along major residential corridors, assess the prevalence, accessibility, and ADA compliance of sidewalks in the neighborhood and look to add additional sidewalks where feasible. Additionally, a systematic assessment of neighborhood infrastructure should be undertaken and a major re-envisioning of streets and infrastructure is necessary to alleviate traffic, air quality issues, and promote active transport.

**Addressing Unique or Compounded Issues:** Residents saw several opportunities to address their unique challenges, which will only be exacerbated by climate change, sea level rise, and extreme heat. Residents suggested more trees (29) to reduce the prevalence and severity of extreme heat events while improving local air quality. They also saw opportunities to address noise pollution (25) by implementing traffic calming techniques and limiting the hours construction is taking place. They also thought attention should be paid to retrofitting buildings for resilience and energy efficiency (23) to protect their health on a multitude of fronts.

**Recommendations:** The community would like to see programs established that give residents trees, free of charge, and to see the City recommit to urban forestry efforts on public property by setting yearly urban canopy expansion goals. To address other resident concerns, residents encourage the creation of a publicly accessible ticketing system for requesting maintenance and repairs to public property, and a community driven process to find a solution to problems surrounding residential parking.

# Methodology

## Participant Demographics

Those who participated in the focus group meetings were representative of the neighborhood at large. The focus groups had substantial Latino representation and one of the focus groups was conducted entirely in Spanish to give everyone the opportunity to speak confidently in their first language — 44 residents attended that meeting. Black residents were well represented at both the general audience and parent and child meetings. There was also a strong showing from the Pacific Islander community at the general audience meeting.

Great attention was paid to make the meetings as accessible as possible. The meetings were held at the local public library, a place within walking distance so access to transportation was not a prerequisite. Dinner and drinks were provided and children were welcome to attend. A \$50 gift card was provided to each participant to compensate them for their expertise and recognize that they were taking time out of their busy schedules to help inform public decision making. Belle Haven is a working-class community where many residents work multiple jobs to support their families. Without these accessibility measures, attendance would have certainly been hurt. Implementing these accessibility measures was very successful in this instance, and if increased civic participation is how the inequalities between East and West Menlo Park are dissolved, expanding and mainstreaming them should be a priority.



## Outreach Methods

CRC coordinated with three other groups to conduct outreach to inform the community of these focus groups. The partners were the BHCDF, El Comité de Vecinos, and a group of three passionate community leaders. The outreach methodology consisted of each organization distributing the information through established relationship channels and leveraging their existing networks. Additionally, CRC created multilingual flyers to advertise each meeting and distributed them physically and electronically throughout the community. BHCDF circulated the flyer at local schools, El Comité conducted door-to-door canvassing, and the community leaders spoke to their neighbors door-to-door with CRC. CRC and each partner also circulated flyers through social media and to established Climate Change Community Teams in the area. The most effective form of outreach was through existing relationships and canvassing—when speaking with residents they were informed about the purpose of the meeting, told about the importance of their participation and told they'd receive dinner and a gift card for participating. Canvassers found that speaking about the health impacts of climate change, additional development, and traffic generated substantial interest in the meeting.

## Facilitation Methods

CRC and our partners co-created the content and procedure for each focus group, tailoring the material and format to best fit each audience. Each meeting consisted of a brief presentation of the

meeting objectives, information about the general plan update process, and a description of the environmental justice and safety elements. The partnering organizations saw the focus groups as an opportunity to further educate the community about its history and preserve its culture and character. To that end, each presentation also included a brief history of the neighborhood and an explanation of redlining and the discriminatory lending practices that continue to shape the community. This history served to ground the meeting in a shared experience and build trust and understanding among residents.



After the presentation, each meeting broke briefly for dinner. When people had finished eating, they were told to circulate to each table to complete the “jamboard” exercise. This consisted of drawing an ‘X’ alongside statements they agreed with. They could vote for as many or as few options as they saw fit. There were also provided Sticky Notes to comment on the items, add additional responses, or elaborate on their answer. There were 14 questions across the tables that residents had the opportunity to respond to. A facilitator was positioned at each table to answer questions, interpret materials, or

clarify the contents. After participants had time to circulate to each table, a survey was handed out and participants were asked to complete it and, for the first two groups, were asked to write any feedback they have in the margins. The final group simply completed the survey. The surveys were offered in Spanish and English and feedback was incorporated into the document before it was offered to the final focus group. Each participant returned their survey and then were handed their gift card after confirming they had signed in for the meeting.

# Results

Listed below are the combined results from all three focus groups. The comments listed came from the Sticky Notes used to extrapolate on responses. They have been lightly edited for clarity, but are otherwise true to form. Each area of discussion is bolded and underlined with the prompt for the exercise written in bold and the comments listed in bullet form. The (+X) denotes others who indicated agreement with the comment.

## Safety

<b>Top Safety Concerns</b>	
Air Quality	53
Drought Conditions	38
Earthquakes	40
Flooding	20
Hazardous Material	53
Heatwaves	33
Wildfire and Smoke	36
Sea level rise	19

### **Comments:**

- (+1) Home owners are required to have Flood Insurance and it is not affordable.
- Traffic & Public transportation (Down Hamilton people run stop signs).
- Crosswalks. You cannot assume you have the right of way.
- Sanitize sitting areas & benches, maintaining sidewalks clean.
- Willow rd & Bay front intersection is dangerous.
- Create safe walking route.
- Resources to unhoused people, they can be a hazard for community members and should be cared for.
- Programs and grants to help community centers, schools, and homes with air conditioning systems.
- More training and seminars on what to do in case of earthquakes and floods.
- Weatherization - AC & heaters for homes.
- Toxic waste - create a process to address this.
- Concern for air quality—families have members with Asthma.

## Promoting Civic Engagement

Yes	40
No	0

**Would you be willing to work with the city by working through community-based organizations and community leaders?**

Accessible information (language, etc)	35
Level of prior knowledge regarding the planning process	31
Time conflicts	27
Meeting format	26
Access to transportation	25
Power dynamics	17
Childcare	17

### **Improvements that could help you consider participating in these public decision-making processes**

#### **Comments:**

- I have tried calling the city multiple times, but no response. We need better communication.
  - Street lights are not maintained, the City should do regular, monthly maintenance in Belle Haven.
  - Respond to concerns emailed to the city and have a process for maintenance and community feedback.
  - Flyers & Outreach: Make sure they are in spanish as well.
  - Holding meetings in-person and in Belle haven or over Zoom with a lot of advertising. People have a lot of input, but may not have the time or have other conflicts.
- Provide community shuttles that are free for all to use.

- Have more meetings in the Belle Haven Library.
- The community wants to be better informed of when meetings of the city are happening.

### Pollution Reduction

Pollution Sources of Concern	
Traffic	63
Industrial Facilities	38
Wildfire Smoke	37
Gas Appliances	31
Smoking	21

**Comments:**

- EPA: Pulgas and Bay rd - Smell of a chemical since new development
- Rodents, pose health risks and can worsen breathing
- Traffic: Facebook Busses
- Less traffic commuting through the streets of the Belle Haven Community
- Dumbarton Smell is now closer to the Bayfront area, especially during the warm summers. The city used to spray to keep the smell away and should consider starting that again
- People drive too fast on Chilco. Speed bumps, firetrucks use the road but can do so elsewhere
- Sidewalks have lots of holes, a trip hazard and accessibility issue
- Solar in older homes is needed, but often require roof repairs
- Residents are concerned with the amount of cars in Belle Haven, some people block the side of the sidewalk with a trash bin just to save a spot for parking which makes it hard for other residents to pass by with their vehicle.
- We would like there to be bags for dog feces since some people don't pick up after their dog at public parks where children play and that is very bad since those feces have germs/bacteria.

Water Concerns	
Quality	61
Affordability	48
Accessibility	44

**Comments:**

- Water affordability: since water pipes have been renewed, cost has increased.
- Have more annual pickups from recolas and not make price for garbage pickup be so expensive to help reduce the garbage pollution.
- More disposable area for hazardous materials.

### General Public Facilities Considerations

Priorities of Public Facilities	
Community centers	50
Health care	47
Road structure encouraging and providing a safe route to walk, bike and use public transportation	45
Reliable internet access	42
Safe drinking water and wastewater services	38
Parks	36
Flood control	28

**Comments:**

- (+6) All the above
- (+1) Buses to transport children going to canada and high school
- Concerns with maintaining a local community center & Kelly park & Pool activities are affordable; Basketball, soccer & other activities.
- Prioritize Belle Haven Community members. Residents from the westside began to use the community center and they began a process to reserve the facilities, which made it hard for local BH residents to continue their use
- Local Belle Haven Community center should be for residents

- Community center: affordable programs & activities (Question: Are there going to be affordable programs & activities?)
- Reliable internet access: not have a strong internet affects youth (affecting their education) & elderly
- Assessment of sidewalks - street signs, the narrow sidewalks do not allow for strollers, wheelchairs, and other uses to use side walk when there are street signs placed almost in the middle. Hazardous for families
- Community Center: prioritize BH residents for rentals and making it affordable
- Local Health Care so that residents do not have to travel far
- Light improvement on Willow Road and Ivy Drive. Resident had a close call with police car that did not see the resident walking on crosswalk
- Safe Bike route - not safe for kids at the moment
- Hamilton, not safe
- More community spaces accessible for the use of the residents
- Closer pharmacy
- Affordable community programs
- Safety for bicycles/police safety tip program
- Grocery store needed
- Community center classes for youth and seniors, swim classes, expansion of the library
- Community center, classes for young youth
- Adding to park trees to bring oxygen for environment cleaner air

### Promoting Food Access

Yes	63
No	0

**Is it important to have more access to affordable and higher quality food? (In Belle Haven, near Belle Haven, neighboring cities)**

**Comments:**

- (+7) More grocery stores, food at markets is too expensive
- A Trader Joes is needed
- A super walmart, or something with affordable goods and services
- Winco or a Grocery Outlet would be preferred, so people can get healthy, affordable food
- (+2) Foodmax
- Sprouts
- (+4) A local pharmacy is greatly needed
- (+9) Safe stores
- (+8) Second Harvest - creating a location in Belle Haven
- (+7) Facebook has a mobile market on Sundays. Assess who is making use of the market and see if we can replicate Bloomhouse in Belle Haven
- (+6) More outreach on community gardens, location and hours to be made public
- (+6) A regular or affordable grocery store (at the moment we have little markets that are not affordable)
- (+5) Facebook Mobile Market: Increase access, so that you do not need to use mobile phone to make an order
- (+1) Promote Community Gardens
- (+1) Rent Planters & community gardens for families to cultivate organic veggies/fruit
- Affordable food - markets are expensive
- Move back the food giveaway to the Belle Haven Community
- Food for less (lower prices on food ESPECIALLY with the pandemic)
- A Walmart

- A grocery store with organic food that way residents have access to healthier food
- The grocery stores in Belle Haven sell food at a high price for bad quality food (health concern, food poisoning)
- Safe stores (cameras, police nearby)

### Promoting Safe and Sanitary Homes

Renovate homes that have...	
Pest infestation	37
Toxins like lead	35
Mold	35
Second/third hand smoke	33
Poor insulation	25
Plumbing and exposure	16
Water leaks	15

**Comments:**

- (+4) Mold: need to make sure there is enough air circulation
- (+4) Assistance Programs to help with indoor renovations and appliances
- (+1) Grants not loans
- No smoking at Belle Haven Park should be allowed.
- (+4) Rats
- Make living affordable
- (+4) Conduct home assessments to see if these concerns may be addressed. People may be scared to be cited.

- No cost programs.
- New pipes raised the cost of water.
- Construction caused more mice in people’s homes.
- Provide free resource to assist financially elderly/family with renovations, we lack knowledge about safe/sanitary conditions
- To make programs where residents can help out and clean the streets in Belle Haven (The city provides materials).
- To make a solution about construction since many rats from the areas that are being built go to where residents are living.

Affordability Priorities	
Make housing affordable	52
Protecting renters from displacement	45
Preserving existing affordable housing	37

**Comments:**

- Make housing affordable for people with low income and/or bad credit.
- (+1) Find a safe location to gather in case of emergencies.
- (+15) Prevent big companies from buying

homes/land in this area

- (+1) Displacement: When families moved out, their children also left, left their good jobs to be close to family and are no longer able to comeback.
- (+1) More renters than homeowners that can be due to barriers and hardships
- (+1) Hard to preserve affordable housing and will no longer be affordable for low and very low income families, only if someone is able to buy it and provide it as affordable
- (+1) Help and give our youth the opportunity to stay in the community
- No empty homes or apartments; make affordable after 90 days vacant
- Prevent LLC & companies from buying
- Monitor and regulate Airbnb
- Rent control for renters, landlords have raised the rent up by \$500
- Rent Control



- Available parking to Belle Haven Residents because homeowners who rent don't offer parking on their property to the renter, and they don't have enough money to pay for a permit from the city.

Site houses in neighborhoods with...	
Grocery stores	45
Community gardens	30
Parks	28
Work/education opportunities	26
Schoolyards	24
Access to road structure that encourages and provides a safe route to walk, bike, and use public transportation	17

**Comments:**

- New housing prices should not be raised for renters. Rent should be regulated.
- (+7) Increase awareness in promoting Jobtrain, Streetcode, other resources of job training and careers.
- (+5) Provide more opportunities for Youth to go to College and earn industry certificates that may take a few months. Many youth need to work to help sustain their family.
- (+2) Communication about Farmers Markets and adding more options

- A safeway that's affordable and organic

**Promoting Physical Activity**

Are there barriers to being active?	
Yes	56
No	8

**Comments:**

- The light on the Willow Rd. entry to the freeway confuses people.
- The traffic on Carlton Ave. makes it difficult to feel safe exercising.
- (+4) Child care

What improvements could help the community improve physical activity?	
Streetlights or lighting	35
Sidewalks	33
Improve public transportation infrastructure: covered rest areas, share, age friendly seating, bike storage	31
Provide safe routes to school to encourage active transportation	30
Bike lanes	25
Reliable, accessible, and convenient public transportation connecting homes to schools, work, and public facilities	24
Partnerships/agreements with schools, churches or other private properties to access more green spaces	10
No smoking policies	6

- (+3) Lack of time from working and commuting
- (+8) Access to community center and Kelly Park
- (+6) Regular group community exercise such as walking around the community
- Outdoor gym
- Community center gym
- Class for musical activities for adults, seniors and kids
- Sports for children, soccer and basketball
- (+2) Low cost programming
- More lights at night makes it hard to see/ people can't walk at night since they are afraid to walk outside in the dark.
- MORE POLICE at night to be on the lookout of drivers speeding or doing race shows
- Better communication with the community of Belle Haven and the City of Menlo Park also it's police department.

## Reducing Additional Unique or Compounded Health Risks:

What else should be addressed?	
More Trees	29
Noise Pollution	25
Retrofitting buildings & houses to improve energy efficiency	23
Cooling centers	19
Earthquake retrofit assistance	18
Temperature extremes	18
Smoke free multiunit housing	15
Efficient circulation	14
Conservation and recapture of water	14
Sea level rise	12

**Comments:**

- The extreme chemical sewage smell that flows from Marsh Road and the Belle Haven community in the evening & 2:30 am from Facebook area
- Bad sewage smell and taste of drinking water
- Need speed bumps on streets to stop vehicle racing (1)
- Drainage outside have lots of rodents and insects that come to house
- More trees!
- Also to cut down branches when needed since it can be a danger to residents.
- Air sensors in apartments for the future so residents can see how the air they are breathing is.

# Capacity Building Needs

An exit poll was administered to two of the focus groups to inform facilitators about best practices and decide if alterations needed to be made to focus group facilitation. The results of the exit poll are presented in graphical form below. They demonstrate the success of the informative aspects of the focus groups presentations and underline the need for significant investments in community capacity building and education around existing environmental justice hazards. Very few residents were aware of the ongoing Environmental Justice and Safety elements update process but were very interested in the issues being discussed. This indicates that prior outreach methods were not particularly effective at reaching the Belle Haven community.

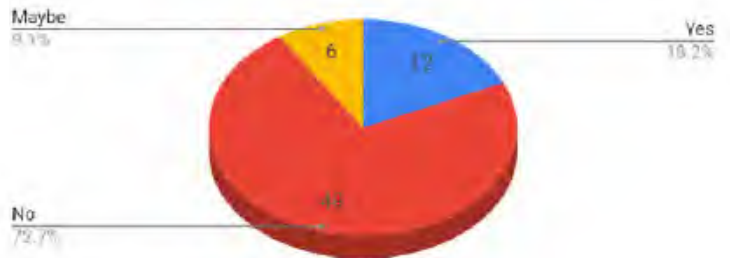
**Before you came to this discussion, did you know much about Belle Haven's history?**

(count = 67)



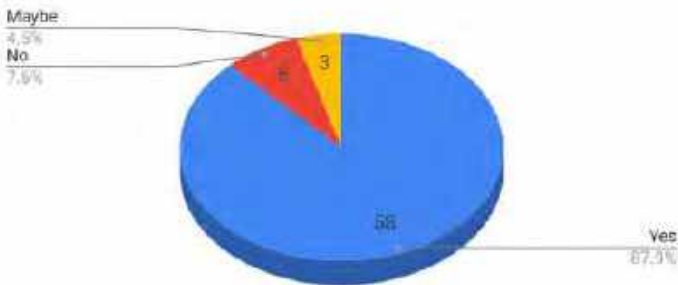
**Before you came, did you know much about the Environmental Justice Element?**

(count = 66)



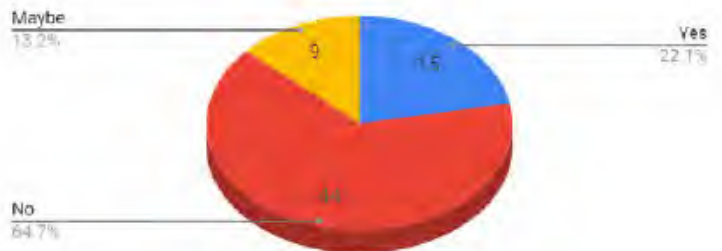
**Are the topics discussed important to you?**

(count = 66)



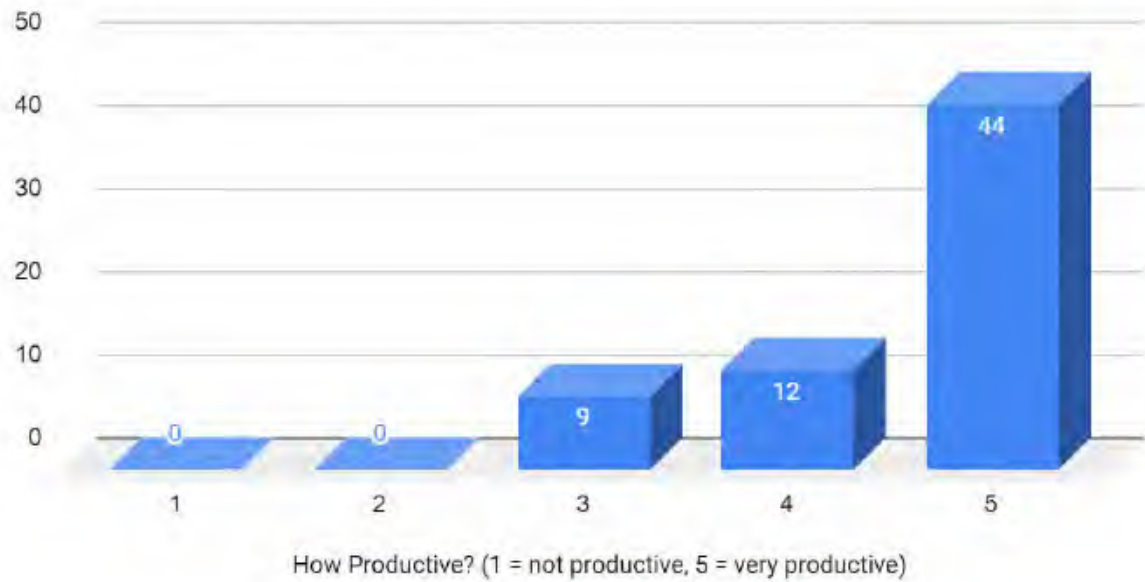
**Before you came, did you know much about the Safety Element?**

(count = 68)



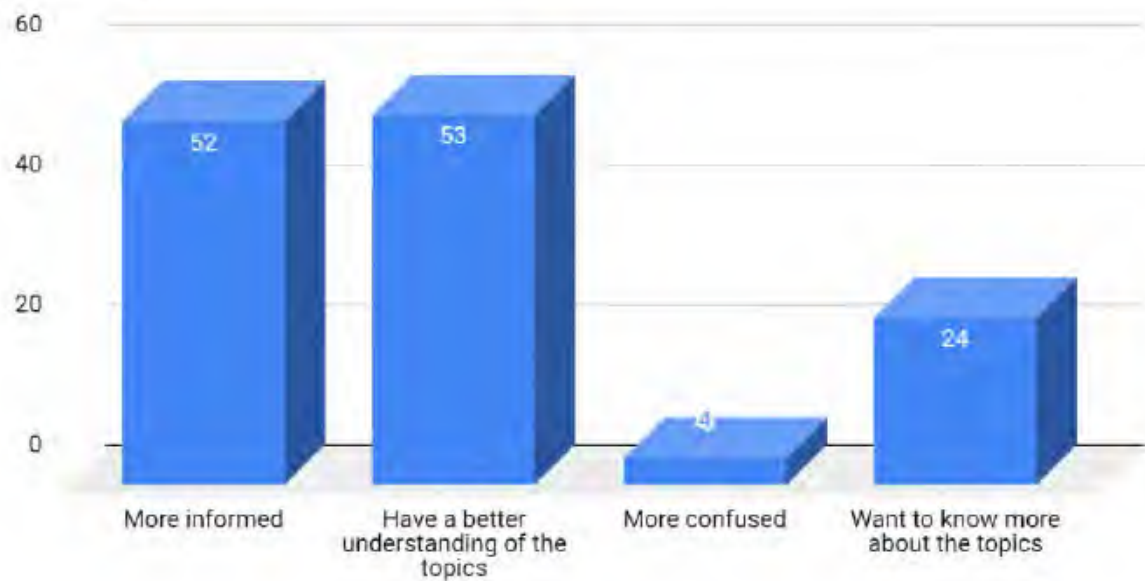
### Did you find the breakout activities productive?

(count = 65)



### What are your takeaways from this discussion?

(count = 67)





# Recommendations

Based on the cumulative results of three focus groups in which Belle Haven residents offered direct feedback on their environmental justice and safety priorities, the following areas of policy proposals should be evaluated and implemented with urgency.

**Safety:** Community members identified Air Quality, Hazardous Materials, and Earthquakes as their top safety concerns. To improve air quality, the city of Menlo Park should consider **appropriating funds for transportation infrastructure improvements** that reduce both residential and cut-through traffic. This can be achieved through traffic calming infrastructure like chicanes and speed bumps. To address concerns of residents about hazardous materials, Menlo Park should **work closely with other oversight agencies to identify and ameliorate legacy pollution**. This matter is urgent: as sea levels rise, the water table will be elevated in some places which can cause hazardous materials to circulate more widely and enter people’s homes through water and waste water infrastructure. To alleviate concerns around earthquakes, Menlo Park should **initiate neighborhood specific disaster preparedness planning** and work closely with Community Based Organizations and pre-existing CERT programming.

**Promoting Civic Engagement:** Residents identified information accessibility, prior knowledge, and time conflicts as key barriers to their civic participation. To address these concerns, residents would like the City of Menlo Park to **make policies to ensure substantial, sustained multilingual outreach** for important city meetings or any policy that will disproportionately affect the Belle Haven neighborhood. The City should **expand its education and capacity building opportunities** for residents so they have the confidence and background knowledge to participate in public forums. To carry this out, the City should partner with CBOs who have high community trust to further lower barriers to participation. Any and all outreach and capacity building workshops should compensate Belle Haven residents for their expertise and participation—barriers to public meetings and the levers of power is partially why current disparities exist. Finally, the City should **revamp existing protocols around the scheduling of public meetings** to ensure they take place outside of work hours and allow residents a wide range of options for participating.



**Reducing Pollution:** When it comes to opportunities to reduce air pollution in their community, participants identified residential and cut through traffic in the neighborhood, emissions from industrial facilities, and wildfire smoke as top concerns. In addition to changing physical infrastructure to reduce traffic and vehicle presence in the community, the City of Menlo Park should also **further incentivize the use of electric vehicles and pursue micro-mobility alternatives like discounted or subsidized bicycles, electric bicycles, and electric scooters**. To address emissions from industrial

sources, the City should work closely with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and other regulatory partners to find opportunities to **strengthen permitting requirements for polluting facilities and enforce existing laws surrounding the use of Best Available Control Technology (BACT)**. The City should take a proactive stance to wildfire smoke and treat it as the extreme public health crisis it is. The City should create programs to retrofit homes for smoke resilience by providing **funding for weatherization and the distribution of air purifiers for income qualified residents and those with health conditions**. When it comes to water pollution, Belle Haven residents are concerned about the quality and affordability of their water. The City should **conduct regular tap water testing and hold workshops to explain the results** and raise awareness of other potential groundwater threats. The city should **explore options to help families with water expenses**.

**Public Facilities:** When it comes to public facility provision, residents wanted greater access to community centers, healthcare facilities, and transportation upgrades that foster alternative modes of transit. To that end, the community recommends the City **reexamine administrative policies governing community centers to encourage affordable and accessible programming and look to expand existing facilities**. The City should consider policies incentivizing the **creation of a community health clinic in Belle Haven**. Currently, residents either have to cross Highway 101 to receive care, or travel several miles to the Ravenswood Clinic in East Palo Alto. Finally, as mentioned previously, major infrastructure investment is required to facilitate active and alternative modes of transportation.

**Food Access:** Residents are concerned about the community's access to healthy and affordable food. While a grocery store space is currently planned for the Willow Village development site, the City of Menlo Park **should ensure that the eventual occupant offer high quality, affordable food and be required to take food assistance vouchers and contain a pharmacy**. The city should look to CBO partnerships and find spaces to **sponsor a farmer's market** and expand access to Facebook's Mobile Market by requiring them to alter ordering processes to make them accessible to those without smart phones.

**Ensuring Safe and Sanitary Homes:** Residents want to see programs that help homeowners address issues with pests, mold, and toxics like lead and asbestos. They also want to see housing affordability and reduced displacement and gentrification. To that end, the community recommends the City **begin investing in programs that offer homeowners and renters vital home safety repairs**. These types of programs already exist through other funding sources and CBOs like El Concilio of San Mateo County, but additional resources could greatly expand access and awareness of these repair programs. Additionally, the City should urgently **enact Rent Control ordinances** and other measures to prevent displacement. The City should further coordinate with state housing authorities and other sources of funds to **expand the development of affordable housing throughout the city, and not force Belle Haven to bear the brunt of nearly all new development**.

**Physical Activity:** There are significant barriers to physical activity in the Belle Haven neighborhood. Among them are a lack of streetlights, unsafe or inaccessible sidewalks, and other infrastructure challenges. To address these concerns, residents would like to see the City **install streetlights along major residential corridors and conduct an assessment to ensure all are functional**. Further, the City should **assess the prevalence, accessibility, and ADA compliance of sidewalks in the neighborhood and look to add additional sidewalks where feasible**. Finally, it is clear that the

prevalence of traffic, speed of vehicles, and lack of infrastructure for alternative modes of transportation are a profound problem for many aspects of life in Belle Haven. **A systematic assessment of neighborhood infrastructure should be undertaken and a major re-envisioning of the infrastructure is necessary** to address resident concerns, achieve climate goals, and create a more equitable Menlo Park.

**Addressing Unique or Compounded Difficulties:** Several unique or compounded issues were identified by residents. Among them are a lack of trees, high noise pollution, and low building resilience. The community saw opportunities to address these issues by creating **programs to give residents free trees and redouble urban forestry efforts on public property by setting yearly urban canopy expansion goals**. Many studies suggest at least 40% Canopy coverage is necessary to alleviate the Urban Heat Island Effect—the City should set goals to achieve that level by 2045. Prior recommendations address building resilience and traffic reduction, these traffic calming measures will do a lot to reduce noise pollution. Many participants voiced in comments that they felt their reports to the City and requests for maintenance were never responded to, making them feel they weren't valued by the City. This could be addressed by **creating a publicly accessible ticketing system for requesting maintenance and repairs to public property**. The City should communicate to residents where in the queue a resident's request is and regularly report progress on addressing community member complaints. Many residents also expressed their concern with parking regulations and enforcement. To this end, residents recommend conducting **a community driven process to find a solution to residential parking** as it impacts air quality, quality of life, and a lack of parking could lead people to expanding their driveways, worsening extreme heat events.



# Conclusion

The outreach process for this project has been extremely successful and validates CRC's accessibility methodology. A lack of access to public discussions and decision-making processes for low income communities and communities of color is a major reason for the existing disparities between Belle Haven and other neighborhoods of Menlo Park. That is why equitable participation in decision-making practices is a cornerstone of the environmental justice movement. Through a just outreach process and strong meeting facilitation mechanics we were able to clearly hear the voices of residents in the Belle Haven Community. CRC is incredibly thankful for our community partners for their leadership throughout this process. Decades of systemic racism and disinvestment have hurt the community's faith in governmental processes, but once people have the opportunity to participate meaningfully in a public process, advocate to see their suggestions implemented, and see the resulting improvement in their lives, their faith in the governmental structures can begin to be restored. The residents of Belle Haven are eager to participate and will do so when the barriers to doing so are removed. If the City is serious about its commitments to environmental justice and reducing inequalities within their city, they will listen to the voices of Belle Haven residents and move quickly to address the history of neglect in this community. Belle Haven residents have created an extraordinary community and are thriving in the face of the adversity they've had to overcome. It is beyond time to act on the demands of justice and create better living conditions that provide support for a neighborhood that enriches the City and region.

# Appendix

To read the full report from each of our partner organizations, click the links below:

[Focus Group 1: Belle Haven Community Development Fund](#)

[Focus Group 2: El Comite de Vecinos](#)

[Focus Group 3: Community Leaders](#)

Menlo Park EJ+Safety Survey Final Report  
July 12, 2022  
Climate Resilient Communities

## Executive Summary

A coalition of community-based organizations conducted a survey for the City of Menlo Park's Environmental Justice and Safety Element. From May 20 through July 12, 2022, online and in-person surveys were deployed throughout the city, with a focus on Belle Haven. 420 total responses were collected. This report summarizes the survey design and results. Along with overall distributions of participant responses, given sufficient sample sizes of the subgroups Belle Haven residents (328) vs. non-Belle Haven residents (92) and Latinx households (171) and Black households (72) compared to White households (88), we were able to make claims of statistical significance disaggregating by neighborhood and race and ethnicity<sup>1</sup>. Of particular note are the following key findings:

1. **A majority of respondents experienced poor air quality, traffic congestion, and dust and noise from construction as adverse environmental impacts within their households in the last ten years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than other Menlo Park households. Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of adverse environmental impacts than their White counterparts.**
  - a. The next most common environmental impacts (experienced by at least a quarter of respondents) were extreme heat both indoors and outdoors, lack of working air conditioning, poor tap water quality, and presence of mold in the home.
  - b. Particularly notable disparities between Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households: extreme heat indoors (51% vs. 34%) and outdoors (34% vs. 20%), poor tap water quality (31% vs. 12%), presence of mold (29% vs. 13%), poor soil quality (27% vs. 12%), flood-related travel disruptions (23% vs. 5%), and home insurance claims related to environmental issues (13% vs. 1%).
  - c. Particularly notable disparities between Latinx and White households: presence of mold (35% vs. 15%) and poor tap water quality (31% vs. 14%). Notably bucking the trend, Latinx households reported less experience of traffic congestion than White households (49% vs. 74%). It's possible that this finding

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<sup>1</sup> Pacific Islander households appeared to have statistically significant differences compared to White households across all topics, but the sample size was too small to have confidence in particular quantities. Sample sizes were too small for Native American and Other Race households to report any findings.

reflects prior literature on how minority populations may under-report “nuisance” issues while prioritizing more serious life and safety concerns<sup>2</sup>.

- d. Particularly notable disparities between Black and White households: poor tap water quality (33% vs. 14%).
  - e. Asian households, on the other hand, did not experience statistically significant differences compared to White households.
  - f. Recommendations: Implement air and noise pollution mitigation measures specifically in Belle Haven. Install sensors to measure outcomes before and after pilot interventions. Work with Belle Haven community organizations to scope pilot projects and ensure cultural competency when interventions are conducted at the household level.
- 2. More than a third of respondents experienced stress and anxiety, high blood pressure or cholesterol, COVID-19, and asthma within their households in the last ten years. Belle Haven households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than other Menlo Park households. Non-White households are significantly more likely to have experienced a range of health issues than their White counterparts.**
- a. The next most common health issues (experienced by at least a quarter of respondents) were diabetes and obesity.
  - b. Particularly notable disparities between Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households: high blood pressure or cholesterol (54% vs. 32%), COVID-19 (50% vs. 21%), asthma (45% vs. 13%), diabetes (35% vs. 5%), and disability (21% vs. 8%).
  - c. Particularly notable disparities between Latinx and White households: high blood pressure or cholesterol (51% vs. 33%), COVID-19 (48% vs. 20%), asthma (41% vs. 19%), diabetes (33% vs. 5%), and heat stroke (20% vs. 4%). Notably bucking the trend, Latinx households reported less experience of stress and anxiety than White households (37% vs. 55%) - once again, a potential reflection of “nuisance”-related response bias.
  - d. Particularly notable disparities between Black and White households: Asthma (47% vs. 19%), disability (37% vs. 10%), and diabetes (35% vs. 5%).
  - e. Asian households, on the other hand, did not experience statistically significant differences compared to White households.
  - f. Recommendations: Conduct culturally competent outreach to inform Belle Haven residents of the prevalence of health issues in the neighborhood, environmental risk factors, and opportunities for preventative or supportive action.
- 3. About a third of respondents have spent more than \$100 in the past year on home repairs related to environmental damages or risks. More than a third of respondents have delayed home repairs due to cost, with significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities. A quarter of respondents, if faced with a \$400**

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<sup>2</sup> Kontokosta & Hong. *Bias in smart city governance: How socio-spatial disparities in 311 complaint behavior impact the fairness of data-driven decisions*. Sustainable Cities and Society, Volume 64, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2020.102503>.

**emergency expense, would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash, and would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money, with significant geographic and racial and ethnic disparities.**

- a. Belle Haven households were more likely (43%) to have delayed repairs than non-Belle Haven households (22%), were more likely (31%) to need to rely on credit or borrowing than non-Belle Haven households (2%), and were less likely to consider the costs of housing (29%) and other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare (32%) *easy to cover*, compared to non-Belle Haven households (71% and 73%).
  - b. Latinx households were more likely (44%) to have delayed repairs than White households (25%), were more likely (33%) to need to rely on credit or borrowing than White households (10%), and were less likely to consider the costs of housing (17%) and other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare (23%) *easy to cover*, compared to White households (70% and 68%).
  - c. Black households were more likely (61%) to have delayed repairs than White households (25%), were more likely (40%) to need to rely on credit or borrowing than White households (10%), and were less likely to consider the costs of housing (20%) and other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare (23%) *easy to cover*, compared to White households (70% and 68%).
  - d. The findings on emergency expenses align with national averages, based on Federal Reserve research<sup>3</sup>.
  - e. Recommendations: Develop a rapid response program that can assist Belle Haven homeowners with emergency home repairs through a no-interest loan, including volunteer labor and donated materials.
- 4. More than a third of respondents would prioritize spending extra money on air conditioning, air purifiers, home repairs, and earthquake-related upgrades, compared to solar, rainwater capture, home insurance, or electrification.**
- a. There do not appear to be significant differences in priorities based on the presence of elderly household members, with the exception of an increased preference for rainwater capture or water recycling (33% vs. 23%).
  - b. Households that perceive themselves as financially burdened are less likely to prioritize electrification (13% vs. 27%) and more likely to prioritize home insurance (28% vs. 19%) and air conditioning (46% vs. 37%).
  - c. Recommendations: Expand reduced cost home weatherization and retrofit programs, as well as DIY air filter initiatives.
- 5. More than a third of respondents would prioritize public spending on pedestrian safety, road repairs, safer biking routes, street trees, and improved parks or community gardening, compared to public air quality monitoring, stormwater management, code enforcement, and flood barriers.**

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<https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/2022-economic-well-being-of-us-households-in-2021-dealing-with-unexpected-expenses.htm>

- a. Recommendations: While continuing to mitigate risk from less frequent climate hazards, deepen prioritization of public transportation and recreation infrastructure in Belle Haven.
- 6. From a safety perspective, Belle Haven households are more exposed to natural hazards like floods, but appear to have and value insurance as a resilience strategy. They also strongly prioritize transportation safety.**
- a. Belle Haven households are more likely to have experienced floods affecting neighborhood travel (23%) than non-Belle Haven households (5%).
  - b. Belle Haven households are more likely to have experienced a home insurance claim related to environmental issues (13%) than non-Belle Haven households (1%).
  - c. Belle Haven households appear to be more likely to carry earthquake insurance (60%) than non-Belle Haven households (45%), and more likely to carry flood insurance (69%) than non-Belle Haven households (35%).
  - d. Belle Haven households appear to place higher priority on home insurance than non-Belle Haven households as an individual household improvement.
  - e. Belle Haven households appear to place higher priority on pedestrian safety and road surface improvement than non-Belle Haven households as a neighborhood-level improvement.
  - f. Recommendations: Further study the prevalence of public and private insurance in Belle Haven to ensure equitable coverage. Ensure that major public investments in flood and earthquake risk mitigation are focused on supporting the most exposed and vulnerable Belle Haven residents.

The survey clarifies the extent of environmental, health, and financial disparities at the intersection of geography and race and ethnicity, with Belle Haven bearing the brunt of exposure to pollution and natural hazards and concentrating social and economic vulnerability. The implications for the City of Menlo Park's Environmental Justice and Safety Elements, as part of the General Plan update, include a clear need to prioritize public investments and policy preferences that support Belle Haven residents above and beyond non-Belle Haven residents in order to close longstanding disparities, shape culturally competent opportunities for Belle Haven residents of color to provide specific, substantive input into policies and programs, and ensure that communities who have felt civically disengaged or ignored receive clear signals of real-world improvements and appreciation for their patience.

## Acknowledgements

This survey would not have been possible without the leadership of the Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team, Belle Haven Action, El Comite, and Belle Haven Community Development Fund. The City of Menlo Park and M Group provided useful comments in the survey design process. City Systems prepared survey tools, conducted data analysis, and drafted this report.

# Survey Design

## Community Input

The survey design was primarily based on feedback from a Belle Haven Climate Change Community Team (BHCCCT) meeting on April 27, 2022. Participants were shown some prior examples of surveys conducted in and around Menlo Park and asked to share their recommendations for what questions should be in the Belle Haven survey. They also emphasized the importance of keeping the survey short, ideally under 10 questions. The resultant draft achieved a minimum question count by leveraging “check all that apply” style questions, which has the effect of combining many individual yes/no questions into one larger thematic bucket. Therefore, the survey was essentially about 50 yes/no questions, and enabled tallying percentages of respondents who responded affirmatively to each statement. Each question had an “Other” option which was cleaned and incorporated into final analysis. The overall thematic buckets were:

1. Adverse experiences of environmental impacts in the last 10 years
2. Adverse experiences of health problems in the last 10 years
3. Adverse experiences of financial stress in the last 10 years
4. Prioritization of personal risk mitigation expenditures
5. Prioritization of public risk mitigation expenditures

The survey also captured a limited set of demographic characteristics of the household:

1. # of household members, by age buckets
2. Races and ethnicities represented in the household

Other household characteristics can be identified using the home address, when provided. Using property data, we are able to identify tenure (renter vs. owner), size of home and number of bedrooms (from which we can identify the degree of overcrowding), age of structure, and estimated housing costs. We can also relate the home location to certain environmental exposures, like proximity to major roadways, amount of tree canopy, etc.

Generally, we expect to find many affirmative statements to be correlated within and across thematic buckets, and document these associations below. We pay particular attention to any significant differences in outcomes across demographic groups. We highlight particular vulnerable segments of the community who appear to have high amounts of pre-existing health risks and financial stress, and have already or have yet to experience environmental impacts, and estimate the total number of people/households who may be in need of assistance. The last two questions enable us to identify and quantify the most desirable resources at the household and community level. This information should directly inform nonprofit programs, grant applications, and longer term urban planning.

# Full Questionnaire

## Environmental Justice and Safety Survey

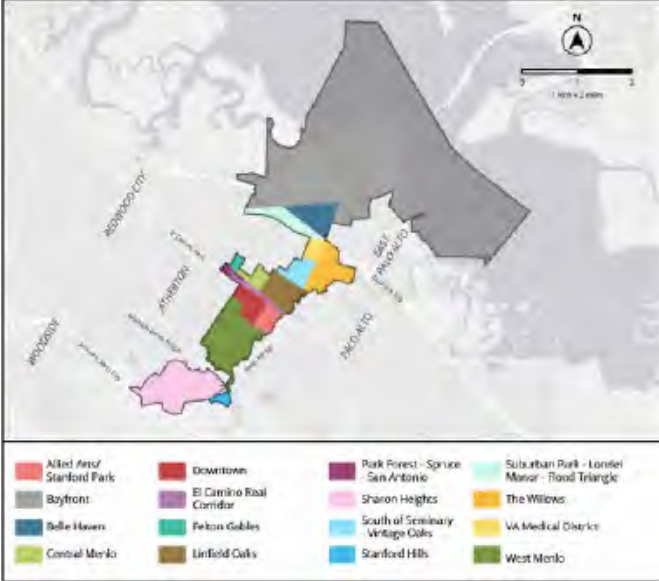
The goal of this survey is to inform action on environmental justice (addressing the disproportionate exposure of marginalized communities to environmental harms) and safety (protecting everyone from natural hazards) in our neighborhood. You will be asked about your direct experience of environmental harms, health challenges, and financial stress, as well as your priorities for household and neighborhood improvements. Thousands of homes are slated to be built within and near Belle Haven in the next decade, which could make some of these issues worse, unless our community speaks up about our concerns and needs. Thank you!

<p><b>1. Have you or your family been affected by any of the following in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.</b></p> <p><i>We want to make sure the survey captures the full range of environmental issues you've experienced.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Poor air quality</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Poor soil quality</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Dust and noise from construction</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Presence of mold in my home</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Extreme heat in my home</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of working air conditioning</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Extreme heat affecting neighborhood travel</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Rain or weather-related flood damage to my home</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Floods affecting neighborhood travel</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Home insurance claim due to environmental issues</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other environmental issues: _____</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Traffic congestion</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Poor tap water quality</li></ul>
<p><b>2. Have any of the following health issues affected your household in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.</b></p> <p><i>Environmental issues can cause health problems or make them worse. Local public health authorities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Asthma</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Cancer</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Obesity</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Migraines</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Heat stroke</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> High blood pressure or cholesterol</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive/birth challenges</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Stress and anxiety</li></ul>



<p><i>may not know how often health problems happen in your neighborhood. Sometimes not all health problems are addressed by healthcare.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Disability      <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health problems</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other health issues: _____</p>
<p><b>3. Which of the following applies to your household?</b> Check all that apply.</p> <p><i>Environmental issues can also cause financial stress, such as flood-related damage that needs repair. We want to make sure the survey identifies the level of financial insecurity in the community.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> My household can easily cover the cost of housing.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My household has spent more than \$100 in the past year on repairing damages caused by the environment or reducing potential impacts.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We have delayed repairs we want to do to our home (like roof, windows, mold) because of cost.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We do not have or need flood insurance.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> We do not have earthquake insurance.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If my household faced a \$400 emergency expense, we would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In order to pay a \$400 emergency expense, my household would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other financial challenges: _____</p>
<p><b>4. Which of the following would you prioritize if you had extra money to spend on your household's environmental health and safety?</b> Write "1" in the box next to your first choice, "2" for your second choice, "3" for your third choice, as many choices as you'd like.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Replace gas appliances</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Solar panels or battery storage</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit</p>

	<input type="checkbox"/> Rainwater capture or water recycling <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy food (including gardening) <input type="checkbox"/> Home insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Other personal expenses: _____
<p><b>5. Which of the following would you prioritize for neighborhood improvements?</b> Write “1” in the box next to your first choice, “2” for your second choice, “3” for your third choice, as many choices as you’d like.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian safety (sidewalks, crosswalks, speed bumps) <input type="checkbox"/> Safer biking routes <input type="checkbox"/> Improved transit infrastructure (bus stops, signs, benches) <input type="checkbox"/> Improved roads (potholes) <input type="checkbox"/> Improved parks or community gardening <input type="checkbox"/> More street trees <input type="checkbox"/> Cool and clean air shelters (community center) <input type="checkbox"/> Flood barriers along rivers or bayfront <input type="checkbox"/> Improved storm drainage <input type="checkbox"/> Improved water supply (safe drinking, firefighting) <input type="checkbox"/> Air quality monitoring sensors in public spaces <input type="checkbox"/> Improved code enforcement (illegal parking) <input type="checkbox"/> Security cameras for safety and dumping <input type="checkbox"/> Other public investments: _____
<p><b>6. How many people live in your home?</b> Provide a number for each age range.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> # of Children 0-17 <input type="checkbox"/> # of Adults 18-29 <input type="checkbox"/> # of Adults 30-59 <input type="checkbox"/> # of Adults 60+

<p><b>7. What is your household race or ethnicity?</b> Check all that apply.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Latinx</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> White</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Black</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Asian</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Native American</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Latinx	<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Black	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Native American	<input type="checkbox"/> Other																		
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<p><b>8. Email</b> (to be entered into raffle for \$100 gift card)</p>																										
<p><b>9. Neighborhood</b></p>	 <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Allied Arts - Stanford Park</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Downtown</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Suburban Park - Lonsiel Manor - Flood Triangle</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Bayfront</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> El Camino Real Corridor</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Heights</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> The Willows</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Belle Haven</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Felton Gables</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> South of Serrano - Vintage Oaks</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> VA Medical District</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Central Menlo</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Linfield Oaks</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Stanford Hills</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> West Menlo</td> </tr> </table> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Allied Arts - Stanford Park</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Bayfront</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Belle Haven</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Centro Menlo</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Downtown</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> El Camino Real Corridor</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Felton Gables</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Linfield Oaks</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Allied Arts - Stanford Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Downtown	<input type="checkbox"/> Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio	<input type="checkbox"/> Suburban Park - Lonsiel Manor - Flood Triangle	<input type="checkbox"/> Bayfront	<input type="checkbox"/> El Camino Real Corridor	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Heights	<input type="checkbox"/> The Willows	<input type="checkbox"/> Belle Haven	<input type="checkbox"/> Felton Gables	<input type="checkbox"/> South of Serrano - Vintage Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> VA Medical District	<input type="checkbox"/> Central Menlo	<input type="checkbox"/> Linfield Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Stanford Hills	<input type="checkbox"/> West Menlo	<input type="checkbox"/> Allied Arts - Stanford Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Bayfront	<input type="checkbox"/> Belle Haven	<input type="checkbox"/> Centro Menlo	<input type="checkbox"/> Downtown	<input type="checkbox"/> El Camino Real Corridor	<input type="checkbox"/> Felton Gables	<input type="checkbox"/> Linfield Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Heights <input type="checkbox"/> South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks <input type="checkbox"/> Stanford Hills <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle <input type="checkbox"/> The Willows <input type="checkbox"/> VA Medical District <input type="checkbox"/> West Menlo
<b>10. Address</b> (optional)	

## Canvassing Strategy

The existing race and ethnicity distribution of Menlo Park and Belle Haven, according to the 2020 Decennial Census, are shown below.

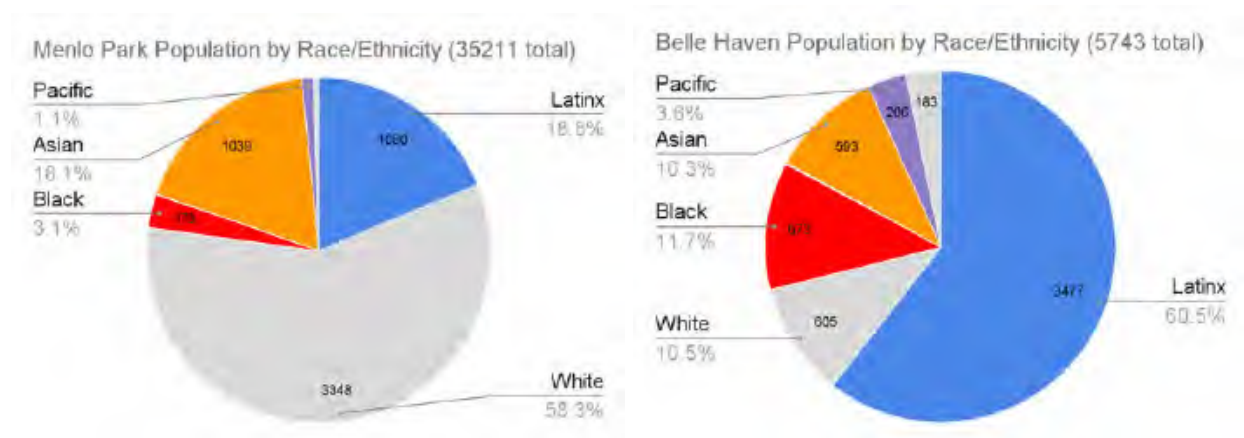


Figure 1. Menlo Park and Belle Haven population by race and ethnicity, 2020 Decennial Census.

Our chosen sampling strategy was to strive to survey equal proportions of Latinx, White, Black, and Asian respondents (i.e., 50 each). Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander, American Indian & Alaska Native, and Other Race were expected to reach insufficient sample size. With these sample sizes, if we see differences on any one yes/no question of about 27 percentage points, those would be statistically significant findings. This same reasoning can be used to compare groups of respondents categorized by the presence of youth or elderly, or by renter vs. owner.

We trained canvassing teams from local community-based organizations to walk specified blocks in pairs, with a focus on Belle Haven given their local knowledge. Because the distribution of race and ethnicity is quite heterogeneous in Belle Haven (see maps below), we assigned specific blocks through random simulation that were expected to yield the most equal proportions of Latinx, White, Black, and Asian respondents. Canvassing teams received a list of addresses going around the block in one direction, and were asked to record whether they attempted to knock, talked to someone, and/or got a survey. We evaluated progress towards demographic targets midway through the survey period and used this progress to reassign blocks for the canvassing teams.



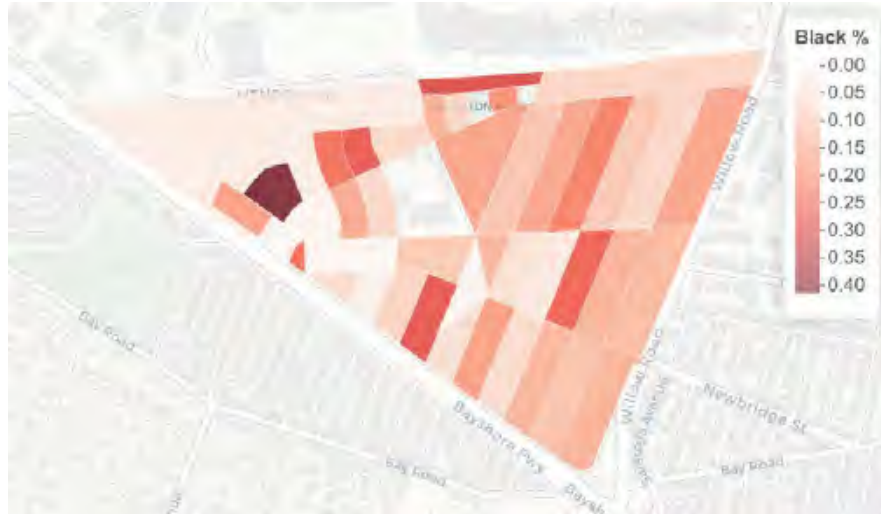


Figure 2. Belle Haven total population, % Latinx, and % Black by block, 2020 Decennial Census.

## Results

As of July 12, we had access to 420 total survey responses. 303 were paper responses collected from focus groups or door-to-door surveying. 117 were online form responses.

## Menlo Park Neighborhoods

Participants were asked to select one of the Housing Element designated neighborhoods on the online survey. Almost all paper surveys were completed by Belle Haven residents.

Table 1. Distribution of survey participants by neighborhood.

Neighborhood	# Survey Participants	% Survey Participants
Belle Haven	328	78.1
West Menlo	17	4
The Willows	15	3.6
Centro Menlo	13	3.1
Suburban Park - Lorelei Manor - Flood Triangle	13	3.1
Sharon Heights	9	2.1
Downtown	7	1.7
Linfield Oaks	6	1.4
Allied Arts - Stanford Park	4	1

South of Seminary - Vintage Oaks	3	0.7
El Camino Real Corridor	2	0.5
Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio	2	0.5
Bayfront	1	0.2

## Race and Ethnicity

Participants were asked to check all races/ethnicities that applied to their household. 18 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 402, treating multiple options as fractions of a whole household, we observe the following distribution.

*Table 2. Distribution of survey participant households by race and ethnicity.*

Race/Ethnicity	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Menlo Park HHs, 2020 Census
Latino/Latinx	171	42.5	18.8
White	88	22	58.3
Black	72	17.8	3.1
Pacific Islander	35	8.7	1.1
Asian	27	6.8	18.1
Other	8	2	0.5
Native American	1	0.3	0.1

*Table 3. Belle Haven distribution of survey participant households by race and ethnicity.*

Race/Ethnicity	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Belle Haven HHs, 2020 Census
Latino/Latinx	167	53.9	60.5
Black	70	22.7	11.7
Pacific Islander	35	11.3	3.6
White	23	7.3	10.5
Asian	11	3.5	10.3
Other	3	1	3.2
Native American	1	0.3	0.1

Overall, the current distribution of participants somewhat resembles the real Belle Haven population, with overrepresentation of Black and Pacific Islander populations.

## Age

The # of household members of different ages represented within the participant pool are below. Some respondents mistakenly checked boxes instead of filling in numbers; these were conservatively converted to 1. 4+ responses were converted to 4.

*Table 4. Distribution of survey participant household members by age.*

Age	# Household Members	% Participant Household Members	% Menlo Park Population, 2016-2020 ACS
Children 0-17	397	25.8	24.6
Adults 18-29	283	18.4	14.6
Adults 30-59	528	34.3	39.5
Adults 60+	331	21.5	21.2

*Table 5. Belle Haven distribution of survey participant household members by age.*

Age	# Household Members	% Participant Household Members	% Belle Haven Population, 2016-2020 ACS
Children 0-17	345	27	26.2
Adults 18-29	246	19.2	17.4
Adults 30-59	433	33.9	44.6
Adults 60+	254	19.9	11.8

Overall, the current distribution of participants by age somewhat represents the real Belle Haven and Menlo Park age distribution, with overrepresentation of elderly residents.

## Tenure

Using public Secured Property Tax data from San Mateo County<sup>4</sup>, we were able to match 243 responses to specific parcels by address. On balance, the subset that provided addresses appears comparable to the full cohort, with some underrepresentation of White respondents.

<sup>4</sup> <https://datahub.smcgov.org/Government/Secured-Property-Taxes/pmvw-bs84>



Table 6. Distribution of survey participants that provided a matchable address by race and ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	# Households	% Survey Participants, with Address	% Survey Participants, Full
Latino/Latinx	102	43.8	42.5
Black	46	19.6	17.8
White	37	15.9	22
Pacific Islander	31	13.3	8.7
Asian	16	6.8	6.8
Other	1	0.4	2
Native American	0	0.2	0.3

Based on this subset, it appears that the survey overrepresented renter households significantly, as seen in the table below.

Table 7. Distribution of survey participants by tenure.

Tenure	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Belle Haven HHs, 2016-2020 ACS	% Menlo Park HHs, 2016-2020 ACS
Owner	93	38.3	0.52	0.6
Renter	150	61.7	0.48	0.4

## Overcrowding

Using Assessor data from San Mateo County<sup>5</sup>, we were able to match 223 responses to residential parcels with recorded information about the number of rooms. Using the U.S. Census Bureau’s definition of overcrowding, we found that the respondents experienced degrees of overcrowding that were comparable to Belle Haven per the American Community Survey, though this result should be considered an underestimate because of the way we rounded the household size responses. In fact, all of the surveyed households experiencing overcrowding were from Belle Haven.

Table 8. Distribution of survey participants by degree of overcrowding.

Condition	# Households	% Survey Participants	% Belle Haven HHs, 2016-2020 ACS	% Menlo Park HHs, 2016-2020 ACS
Overcrowding (> 1 persons/room)	45	0.20	0.18	0.04

<sup>5</sup> Provided with permission for nonprofit use by the San Mateo County Housing Department and Office of Sustainability.

Severe Overcrowding (> 1.5persons/room)	11	0.05	0.05	0.03
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## Environmental Impact

Respondents were asked: “Have you or your family been affected by any of the following in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.” 5 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 415, we observe the following distribution. The asterisks denote a statistically significant difference between households in Belle Haven and not in Belle Haven: a single asterisk reflects 90% confidence, two asterisks reflect 95% confidence, and three asterisks reflect 99% confidence. Statistical significance is a function of the difference between the proportions of the two groups, as well as the number of respondents in each group. The larger the difference and the larger both samples, the greater our confidence in a true population-level difference.

*Table 9. % of survey participant households by environmental impacts experienced. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Environmental Impact	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Poor air quality	73.3	72.8	73.5
Traffic congestion	65.5	72.8	63.4
Dust and noise from construction	52.9	45.7	54.9
Extreme heat in my home	46.9	33.7	50.6 ***
Extreme heat affecting neighborhood travel	30.7	19.6	33.8 **
Lack of working air conditioning	30	26.1	31.1
Poor tap water quality	26.9	12	31.1 ***
Presence of mold in my home	25.2	13	28.7 ***
Poor soil quality	23.3	12	26.5 ***
Floods affecting neighborhood travel	18.8	5.4	22.6 ***
Rain or weather-related flood damage to my home	15	8.7	16.8 *
Home insurance claim related to environmental issues	10	1.1	12.5 ***

The following table disaggregates the key results by race and ethnicity. The racial categories Native American and Other were excluded due to insufficient sample size. The asterisks denote a statistically significant difference between the given group and the White population.

*Table 10. % of survey participant households that experienced environmental impacts, by race and ethnicity. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Environmental Impact	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific
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					Islander
Traffic congestion	74.4	49.1 ***	68.8	79.9	94.3 **
Poor air quality	69.1	71.3	66.2	78.7	97.1 ***
Dust and noise from construction	51.3	41.7	62.7	38.4	82.9 ***
Extreme heat in my home	38	54.8 **	45	38.4	28.6
Lack of working air conditioning	24.2	41 **	25.4	22	17.1
Extreme heat affecting neighborhood travel	18.1	27.7	28	16.5	74.3 ***
Poor soil quality	14.7	21.8	28.4 *	20.1	20
Presence of mold in my home	14.7	35.3 ***	30.5 **	12.8	5.7
Poor tap water quality	14.1	31.4 ***	33.3 ***	14.6	25.7
Rain or weather-related flood damage to my home	7.8	17.7 *	16.6	5.5	20
Floods affecting neighborhood travel	7.4	16.1 *	7	7.3	82.9 ***
Home insurance claim related to environmental issues	3.4	12.3 **	12.6 *	3.7	2.9

The findings for Pacific Islander households include notably high proportions across many result areas. These may be inflated due to a considerably lower sample size (35) than we had for Latinx households (174), White households (87), and Black households (72). However, our Asian sample was also considerably lower (27), but without statistically significant differences compared to White households. Therefore, we interpret the Pacific Islander findings to reflect a true difference compared to White households, though perhaps not to the degree observed.

Other responses included:

- Noise from cars, trains, and planes (7)
- Litter or smell (4)
- Tree cover loss (3)
- Parking or traffic congestion (3)
- Noise from neighbor air conditioning, lawn work (3)
- Fire risk (2)
- Animal pests (2)
- Road safety
- High energy costs
- Sea level rise
- Lack of food access outside of business hours
- Lack of public water fountains
- Roof damage

## Health Issues

Respondents were asked: “Have any of the following health issues affected your household in the last 10 years? Check all that apply.” 44 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 376, we observe the following distribution.

*Table 11. Distribution of survey participant households by health issues experienced. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Health Issue	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Stress and anxiety	49.8	58.7	47.3 *
High blood pressure or cholesterol	49	31.5	54 ***
COVID-19	43.3	20.7	49.7 ***
Asthma	37.6	13	44.5 ***
Diabetes	28.8	5.4	35.4 ***
Obesity	26.2	16.3	29 **
Mental health problems	23.8	27.2	22.9
Migraines	22.1	20.7	22.6
Disability	18.3	7.6	21.3 ***
Cancer	17.9	12	19.5
Heat stroke	14	7.6	15.9 *
Reproductive/birth challenges	3.6	4.3	3.4

*Table 12. % of survey participant households that experienced health issues, by race and ethnicity. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Health Issue	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
Stress and anxiety	56.1	37.1 ***	49.2	67.1	71.4
High blood pressure or cholesterol	33	50.9 ***	50.3 **	36.6	74.3 ***
Mental health problems	26.7	26.8	22.8	14.6	2.9 ***
Migraines	23.5	24	19.3	26.8	5.7 **
COVID-19	19.8	47.9 ***	39.6 **	32.9	91.4 ***
Asthma	18.5	41.3 ***	47.1 ***	15.9	71.4 ***
Cancer	15.8	19.2	15.4	3.7	17.1
Obesity	14.5	29.6 **	22.8	14	51.4 ***
Disability	9.5	16.5	36.8 ***	3.7	8.6

Diabetes	5.2	32.5 ***	35 ***	12.8	65.7 ***
Heat stroke	3.8	20.1 ***	10.5	12.8	14.3 *
Reproductive/birth challenges	3.8	4.6	0.7	7.3	NA

Other responses included:

- Allergies (10)
- Lung/sinus infection (2)
- Aging, dementia
- Food poisoning
- Learning disability

## Financial Stress

Respondents were asked: “Which of the following applies to your household? Check all that apply.” 36 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 384, we observe the following distribution.

*Table 13. Distribution of survey participant households by financial stresses experienced. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Financial Stress	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
We do not have earthquake insurance.	43.1	55.4	39.6 ***
My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare.	41.2	72.8	32.3 ***
We do not have or need flood insurance.	38.3	65.2	30.8 ***
We have delayed repairs we want to do to our home (like roof windows mold) because of cost.	38.3	21.7	43 ***
My household can easily cover the cost of housing.	38.1	70.7	29 ***
My household has spent more than \$100 in the past year on repairing damages caused by the environment or reducing potential impacts.	31.2	31.5	31.1
In order to pay a \$400 emergency expense my household would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money.	25	2.2	31.4 ***
If my household faced a \$400 emergency expense we would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash.	24.8	6.5	29.9 ***

Table 14. % of survey participant households that experienced financial stresses, by race and ethnicity. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.

Financial Stress	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
My household can easily cover the cost of housing.	70.2	16.7 ***	19.8 ***	50.6 *	91.4 **
My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare.	67.9	23.1 ***	22.6 ***	50.6	94.3 ***
We do not have or need flood insurance.	66	31.5 ***	31.9 ***	47.6	8.6 ***
We do not have earthquake insurance.	55.7	42.5 *	42	51.2	8.6 ***
My household has spent more than \$100 in the past year on repairing damages caused by the environment or reducing potential impacts.	29.6	30	35.4	31.1	40
We have delayed repairs we want to do to our home (like roof windows mold) because of cost.	24.5	44.2 ***	61.1 ***	36.6	2.9 **
In order to pay a \$400 emergency expense my household would have to pay with a credit card or borrow the money.	9.6	33.1 ***	39.9 ***	12.8	2.9
If my household faced a \$400 emergency expense we would not be able to immediately pay for it in cash.	9.4	30.1 ***	43.4 ***	4.9	5.7

Other responses included:

- Unemployment (2)
- High property taxes (2)

## Household Improvement

Respondents were asked: “Which of the following would you prioritize if you had extra money to spend on your household’s environmental health and safety? Select only one bubble for each column.” 25 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 395, we observe the following distribution of top #1 and #2 choices. Note that Belle Haven respondents were more likely to fill out the survey with more than one #1 choice, which is likely to have led to an overestimate of the degree of statistical significance in comparisons across groups.

Table 15. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \* $P < 0.10$ , \*\* $P < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.01$ .

Household Improvement	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	41.2	27.2	45.1 ***
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	39.3	18.5	45.1 ***
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	38.3	27.2	41.5 **
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	34.8	13	40.9 ***
Healthy food (including gardening)	31.7	13	36.9 ***
Solar panels or battery storage	29.5	37	27.4
Rainwater capture or water recycling	27.9	23.9	29
Home insurance	23.1	4.3	28.4 ***
Replace gas appliances	19.3	19.6	19.2
Other	3.6	3.3	3.7

Table 16. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \* $P < 0.10$ , \*\* $P < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.01$ .

Household Improvement	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
Solar panels or battery storage	36.2	34.6	21 *	31.1	14.3 **
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	28.9	54.1 ***	43.6 *	28.7	11.4 *
Rainwater capture or water recycling	28.3	30.7	25.6	20.1	14.3
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	25.1	44.8 ***	49.9 ***	34.8	34.3
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	23.8	42.4 ***	27	25.6	57.1 ***
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	20.8	51.1 ***	40.3 **	37.8	17.1
Replace gas appliances	18.7	19.9	16.1	16.5	22.9
Healthy food (including gardening)	15.3	38 ***	32.6 **	20.1	45.7 ***
Home insurance	9.6	35.1 ***	26.3 ***	3.7	5.7
Other	2.3	5.6	4.9	NA	NA

We also investigated whether there was any difference in household improvement priorities across households with (195) or without (225) elderly members. There do not appear to be

statistically significant differences, with the exception of preferences for rainwater capture or water recycling.

*Table 17. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of households with or without elderly members. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Household Improvement	All Households	Households without Elderly	Households with Elderly
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	41.2	38.7	44.1
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	39.3	37.3	41.5
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	38.3	41.3	34.9
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	34.8	35.1	34.4
Healthy food (including gardening)	31.7	31.1	32.3
Solar panels or battery storage	29.5	30.7	28.2
Rainwater capture or water recycling	27.9	23.1	33.3 **
Home insurance	23.1	24	22.1
Replace gas appliances	19.3	17.8	21
Other	3.6	2.7	4.6

We also investigated whether there was any difference in household improvement priorities across households with (220) or without (200) financial burden, based on affirming either of the statements from the survey question on financial stress: “My household can easily cover the cost of housing”; “My household can easily cover other regular expenses like transportation, food, and healthcare”. Households that perceive themselves as financially burdened are less likely to prioritize electrification and more likely to prioritize home insurance and air conditioning.

*Table 18. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred household improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of households financially burdened or not. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Household Improvement	All Households	Households not Financially Burdened	Households Financially Burdened
Products to reduce extreme heat (air conditioning)	41.2	36.5	45.5 *
Products to improve indoor air quality (air purifiers)	39.3	35	43.2
Home repairs (roof, windows, mold)	38.3	34	42.3
Earthquake-related upgrades or emergency kit	34.8	36	33.6



Healthy food (including gardening)	31.7	33	30.5
Solar panels or battery storage	29.5	31	28.2
Rainwater capture or water recycling	27.9	27.5	28.2
Home insurance	23.1	18.5	27.3 **
Replace gas appliances	19.3	26.5	12.7 ***
Other	3.6	3	4.1

Other responses included:

- Products to reduce extreme cold (2)
- Drought-tolerant landscaping (2)
- Lead paint abatement
- Electric vehicles
- Gas for gas vehicles
- Construction of accessory dwelling unit
- Private schooling
- Renter’s insurance
- Outdoor shading

## Neighborhood Improvement

Respondents were asked: “Which of the following would you prioritize for neighborhood improvements? Select only one bubble for each column.” 9 respondents did not answer. Of the remaining 411, we observe the following distribution of top #1 and #2 choices. Note that Belle Haven respondents were more likely to fill out the survey with more than one #1 choice, which is likely to have led to an overestimate of the degree of statistical significance in comparisons across groups.

*Table 19. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred neighborhood improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of Belle Haven and non-Belle Haven households. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.*

Neighborhood Improvement	All Households	Households not in Belle Haven	Households in Belle Haven
Pedestrian safety (sidewalks, crosswalks, speed bumps)	45	28.3	49.7 ***
Improved roads (potholes)	42.1	18.5	48.8 ***
Safer biking routes	38.1	30.4	40.2
More street trees	35.2	15.2	40.9 ***
Improved parks or community gardening	33.8	14.1	39.3 ***
Improved water supply (safe drinking, firefighting)	32.1	13	37.5 ***
Security cameras for safety and dumping	31.9	13	37.2 ***

Cool and clean air shelters (community center)	29.5	4.3	36.6 ***
Improved transit infrastructure (bus stops, signs, benches)	29.3	16.3	32.9 ***
Air quality monitoring sensors in public spaces	25.7	13	29.3 ***
Improved storm drainage	23.3	6.5	28 ***
Improved code enforcement (illegal parking)	21.2	5.4	25.6 ***
Flood barriers along rivers or bayfront	20.7	5.4	25 ***
Other	6	6.5	5.8

Table 20. Distribution of survey participant households by preferred neighborhood improvements. Fisher Exact probability test comparing proportions of White and other groups. \*P < 0.10, \*\*P < 0.05, \*\*\*P < 0.01.

Neighborhood Improvement	White	Latino/Latinx	Black	Asian	Pacific Islander
Safer biking routes	35.3	49.6 **	35.2	27.4	5.7 ***
Pedestrian safety (sidewalks, crosswalks, speed bumps)	30.4	57.2 ***	41.5	36.6	22.9
More street trees	25.3	48.5 ***	30.8	7.3 *	25.7
Improved roads (potholes)	24.3	44.8 ***	44.8 **	12.8	71.4 ***
Improved transit infrastructure (bus stops, signs, benches)	22.1	35.4 **	30.8	23.8	14.3
Improved parks or community gardening	20.9	48.9 ***	28	16.5	8.6
Improved water supply (safe drinking, firefighting)	16.2	40.2 ***	32.6 **	16.5	37.1 **
Security cameras for safety and dumping	15.8	37.8 ***	36.4 ***	36.6 **	20
Air quality monitoring sensors in public spaces	14.5	32.7 ***	28.7 **	21.3	11.4
Improved storm drainage	11.9	32.8 ***	19.6	1.8	17.1
Flood barriers along rivers or bayfront	11.3	27.8 ***	21.7	3.7	14.3
Improved code enforcement (illegal parking)	10.2	27 ***	28.7 ***	7.3	5.7
Cool and clean air shelters (community center)	7.7	45 ***	32.9 ***	6.7	8.6
Other	5.1	7.3	6.3	3.7	NA

Other responses included:

- Reduce crime (3)
- Reduce noise pollution from trains (3)
- Electrification of trains
- Landscape freeway interchange at Willow Rd
- Transit service on Dumbarton Rail corridor

- Supermarket access near Dumbarton Rail corridor
- Undergrounding of power lines
- Dog park
- Tennis courts
- Reduce parking fees
- Cutting down of very large trees
- School crossing guards

City of Menlo Park

# Climate Resilient Communities Prioritization Workshop Summary



**May 2024**

Empowering community voices to  
implement equitable climate solutions  
for unity, resilience, & justice

**Prepared For:**  
City of Menlo Park



## Climate Resilient Communities

May 2nd & 9th, 2024

567 Hamilton Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025

*Description: This report summarizes the outcomes of two workshops on the Environmental Justice (“EJ”) and Safety Element Update for the City of Menlo Park’s General Plan. It was organized by Climate Resilient Communities (“CRC”) for Spanish-speaking residents and members of the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, on May 2nd and May 9th, 2024. The primary facilitators were CRC Staff representatives and members of the identified Underserved Communities which includes Belle Haven and Bayfront residents of Menlo Park.*

### Participant Demographics

- The May 2 Spanish workshop was attended by 33 individuals.
- The May 9 English workshop was attended by 48 individuals.
- Nearly all participants were members of the Belle Haven Community.
- Cumulative participants engaged throughout the EJ Element process totals approximately 1,800 residents, which represents more than 25% of Belle Haven residents.

### Key Take-Aways

- 1** The top priorities of Belle Haven residents are Safe, Sanitary, and Stable homes and Access to Healthy and Affordable food. This demonstrated the financial precarity of the community through their clear emphasis on access to basic needs and services. The EJ Element should offer clear paths to addressing these concerns.
- 2** There are massive disparities between the Belle Haven neighborhood and the South side of Menlo Park, separated by the 101 Freeway. Several participants in the workshop indicated they lacked the literacy to participate in the worksheet activity without facilitator help, something entirely absent from many perceptions of Menlo Park.
- 3** Accountability remains a top concern for residents. They have little trust that their participation will result in meaningful change and are reluctant to believe that the programs and policies will be implemented. Many residents are feeling acute stress and want to see improvements made in their community while seeing the displacement pressure alleviated. Many environmental concerns take a back seat to the more immediate concerns about displacement, gentrification, and access to healthy food and living environments.



# Key Quotes from Worksheet Comments:



"Living here is expensive and many times we have to pay rent no matter what and our health is affected because we can't afford quality food."

"Housing is a human rights issue, addressing the displacement and ensuring residents that make up this community can stay in the community is the top priority."



"Rent control is #1 because it can allow people time to save to purchase a house in the future."

"Rent is so expensive! We need better rent control laws for low income families!"

"There are a lot of residents who've had to move away because of rent hikes and discriminatory home buying practices. There are renter-to-owner issues that need to be addressed by laws."



"My number 1 is increasing the number of trees in the community which will help with significant air pollutants and overall health."

"Environmental justice is essential for the growth of the community."

"We need to have banks and grocery stores in this area because there are lots of seniors who don't have vehicles and have to wait at the bus stops for long periods and some are afraid of being onboard."



"As I age, after I retired I am unable to afford to live."

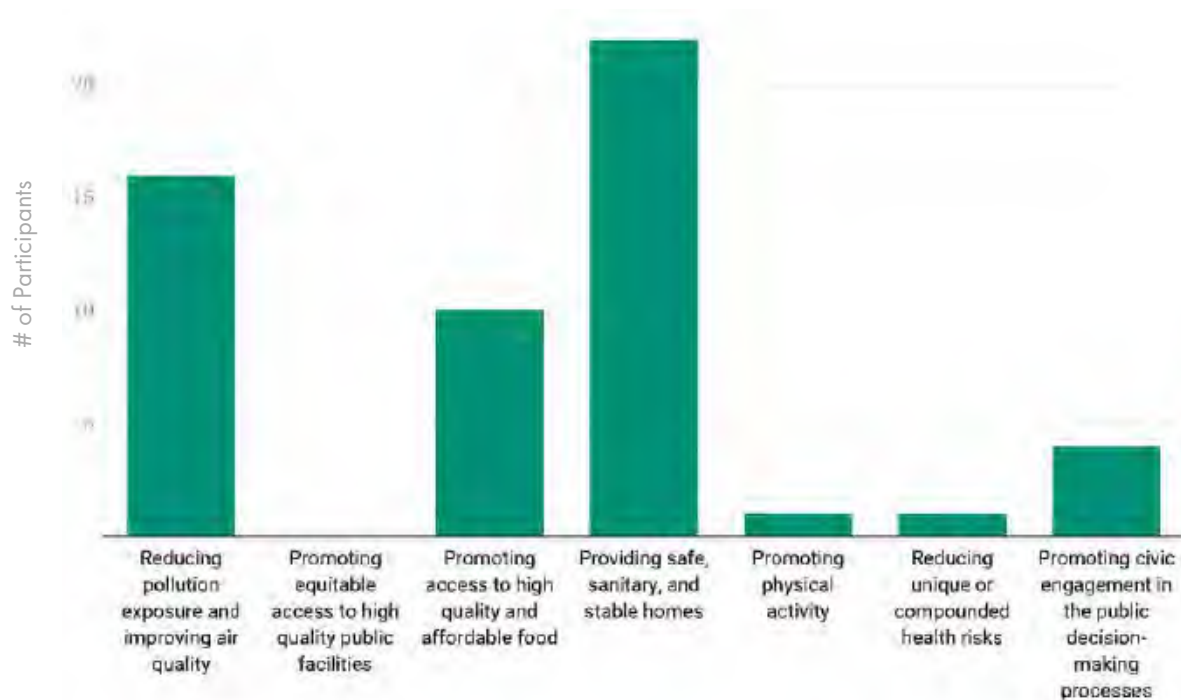
Summary of Worksheet Exercise

Prioritization Workshop Summary



### Key Statistics

- Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes was the top priority, receiving a plurality of first place rankings. 41% of residents stated it was their top concern.
- The #2 priority was Healthy and Affordable Food. 30% of residents stated it was their top concern. The #3 priority was Reducing Pollution Exposure, as 18% of residents placed this at the top.
- Among the seven programs in the Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Homes, 48% of residents placed anti-displacement as their top priority, while 21% of others stated down-payment assistance as their top priority.



# Recommendations

01

## EJ Element Reporting Requirements & Accountability

Increase opportunities for accountability through strict reporting requirements on EJ Element Programs and Policies. Identify a primary and secondary department and/or staff person responsible for implementation and, as appropriate, at least two potential funding sources in the implementation guide.

02

## Goal 5 Language Towards “Safety, Sanitary, and Stable”

Ensure "Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing" is used in Goal 5 language and throughout the document, replacing "Safe and Sanitary Homes."

03

## Strengthening in Policy Language

Strengthen program and policy language throughout the EJ Element, for example by changing encourage to ensure or could to should/shall.

04

## Anti-Displacement Actions

Elevate Anti-Displacement Actions into the EJ Element, accelerate timelines for creation and implement interim steps as soon as possible:

- Specifically, move 7.J.3 from the Implementation Guide to the Environmental Justice Element itself, retaining it as a program under Goal 5
- Modify 5.G to say “Ensure that the City’s Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E supports households and neighborhoods in Underserved Communities. This will include studying at a minimum the following:
  - the creation of a rental inventory of all homes
  - updated or expanded rent control laws
  - rent increase mitigations such as longer noticing requirements
  - community and tenant opportunity to purchase policies
  - revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper subsidies
  - relocation assistance for tenants
  - just cause eviction protections regardless of tenant duration
  - strengthened tenant harassment ordinances
  - examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs.





# Objectives & Methodology

## Objectives

- Identify community priorities within Environmental Justice topic areas
- Prioritize programs within goal areas to identify most pressing stressors and opportunities
- Engage residents in civic processes and receive feedback to structure general plan
- Provide update on Safety Element revisions document based on community feedback

## Methodology



### Outreach

- Reached out to resident contacts via email, text and phone calls to our network
- Contacted other Belle Haven nonprofits (Belle Haven Action, Belle Haven Empowered, Belle Haven Community Development Fund), distributing online registration form
- Collaborated with Belle Haven Climate Change Community Teams (CCCTs) to promote event and reach further networks
- Distributed flyers door to door and at 3 tabling events



### Facilitation

Our attached agenda (see appendix) explains the general outline of the meeting, which was the same for both discussions. It began with a presentation before attendees participated in a guided worksheet and small group exercise. This consisted of filling out worksheets asking residents to rank their priorities on a list and then discuss why they ranked things the way they did. Participants ranked all options relative to one another and had an area to provide written comments. Every 10 minutes the topic changed, with two minutes to work on the ranking and 8 minutes to discuss the results with facilitators taking notes and asking questions. After completing their worksheets and offering comments, people returned their completed worksheets and received their participant compensation.

# Agenda & Summary of Discussions

Time	Agenda
5:30pm	Participants Arrive and Begin Dinner
6:10pm	People Directed to the Sanctuary for the Presentation
6:15pm	Presentation Began from M-Group Explaining Work Done-to-Date
6:30pm	Breakout Activity: Guided Worksheet Exercise
7:45pm	Reconvene/Close: Collect Worksheets & Distribute Compensation

## Summary of Discussions (Spanish):

**(Facilitator 1 - Chase)** The residents of Menlo Park spoke on the various concerns that they have about their community. One of the larger concerns is the air quality around the neighborhoods in Belle Haven due to the highway being close in proximity and the construction going on at the elementary school. Residents with breathing issues or asthma are greatly affected by the dust and other pollutants in the air. Residents also mentioned that Resilience Hubs are also of importance and it would be within the best interest of the community to outfit public buildings with things to relieve community members during times of climate events such as heat waves, atmospheric rivers, etc.

A lack of affordable housing and resources for lower income families were also a huge concern. Residents talked about how many lower income residents did not have many options when it comes to homes and them having sufficient space for the pricing.

In addition to this, there is not enough low income housing within the community. Transportation was a concern as well, bus routes and general public or group transportation either did not live up to the community standards or did not meet them at all. SamTrans was either not entirely reliable or didn't fulfill the needs of the community and although it uses an electric vehicle, it was deemed to do more harm than good.

**(Facilitator 2 - Najiha)** For comments about the workshop itself, participants needed to be assured that their feedback would be heard and distributed to the city. There is a great mistrust between city officials and the residents. Major concerns were for air quality, housing stability, and results. They don't want reporting in and of itself, but to see the tangible results throughout the community. Some participants weren't able to read at all so facilitators stepped in to help interpret the worksheet activity, allowing them to select their top

priority. This wasn't very effective and resulted in some skewed results because some residents resorted to just answering in sequential order. It was difficult for them to remember all the options as they were read aloud - some options were wordy. Primary feedback centered around distrust, not really thinking their concerns were going to yield any results, or that any actions would be taken as a direct result of voicing their concerns.

**(Facilitator 3 - Alba)** Air quality, health and affordable housing were very important overall. The community members connected with other topics like, SamTrans and the special project to provide transport, but the system to get it was not serving the community members as planned. Others pointed out that one of the Programs in the EJ Element were focused on reducing water bills, but residents asked about electricity as a greater expense.

Community members mentioned as top priority owning land as a community to then being able to regulate it and share it to have affordable housing. Another community member did not prioritize the internet to avoid it leading to youth becoming more sedentary as they surf the net or play games or stream. All mentioned food and housing as top priorities.

## Summary of Discussions (English):

The discussions held in English were very similar. The top three priorities were Safe, Sanitary, and Stable Housing, Healthy and Affordable Food, and Reducing Pollution Exposure. Many justified the focus on housing and displacement prevention as being the foundation of a community—what is the use in cleaning the environment if they're ultimately forced to live elsewhere? Residents pointed to the role housing plays in overall health and the high degree of their neighbors that live in unsafe or unstable conditions. They saw healthy and affordable foods as vital and pointed out the lack of a grocery store in the community as something that degrades health and contributes to other problems like traffic and air quality as people are forced to drive elsewhere to access basic services like food, banking, and medical care.

Many residents placed civic engagement as their lowest priority. They felt that decisions have always been made without them and didn't see how participating in any of the processes would change their lives. Many residents voiced that they had tried to participate in the past, many for decades and have not seen their action result in anything meaningful. This demonstrates the importance of tangible improvements made in the community as a result of this process—failure to do so risks further disenfranchisement and disengagement.

“Housing is a human rights issue, addressing the displacement and ensuring residents that make up this community can stay in the community is the top priority.”

-- Belle Haven Resident



# Appendix & Attachments

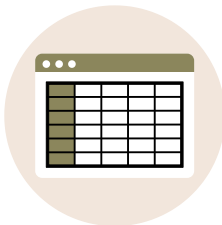
## Attachments (all included as separate documents):



**Appendix 1** - English Menlo Park EJE Feedback: Contains a transcription of notes written by facilitators and all written comments on worksheets collected from participants, both organized by subject area.



**Appendix 2** - Spanish Menlo Park EJE Feedback: Contains a transcription of notes written by facilitators and all written comments on worksheets collected from participants, both organized by subject area.



**Appendix 3** - An excel workbook with raw data from the prioritization worksheet. This is the data used to generate the graphs above.



**Climate Resilient Communities is immensely grateful for the collaboration and support of both M-Group and the Belle Haven Community for being able to make this research and prioritization efforts possible.**

At its inception in 2016, Climate Resilient Communities was a volunteer-driven commitment to helping residents reduce their energy costs, improve home health, and gain access to local resources like subsidized solar panels and home energy audits, and weatherization upgrades.

Through the support of our funders, our growth has allowed CRC to expand community-based solutions that center local voices in order to increase capacity to adapt to climate change threats like extreme heat, flooding, and water, food, and energy security, alongside environmental justice education.

**We thank you for your review on the prioritization progress & our research towards and for the communities we serve.**

## Contact

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@crc-climate 

English Menlo Park EJE Feedback

**Large Post It Comments:**

Overall:

Top:

- Homes - stable homes are foundation, apartments aren't habitable and that creates significant health problems
- Affordable food - people need to be fed
- Physical Activity - more holistic solutions come from a healthy start with our kids. If they are not active in their youth, that will negative shape the rest of their lives
- Our biggest priority is to provide safe, sanitary and stable homes
- We also want to make sure that we are a part of promoting access to high quality and affordable food

Bottom:

- Engagement - we know that the City will make decisions without us anyways, like they always do

Goal 1:

- Public infrastructure, wants to see progress reported on, need to see results
- Seeing same problems - 40/50 years down the line
- Public infrastructure demonstrates that it is getting done and it is clearly a start to what needs to happen next
- Annual reports help create evidence and a track record
  - Written progress makes me feel like it is getting done and they are actively assessing what has been done and what is working
  - Does "annual" mean at the beginning, middle or end of the year? We would prefer to have all three
- Prioritize Belle Haven, shows up progress - annually!
- Infrastructure - everything is old and the new Community Center is the only new building
  - We need to start now because we know that it is going to take a while
- Most important is air pollution
- We do not think it is important to prioritize public infrastructure because work with people first and then get to this
- We want to see that "reporting" is accessible
- The other side of Menlo Park has state of the art infrastructure, but there isn't one nearby. The infrastructure we are thinking of are hubs for children to develop themselves and build community.
- We need to prioritize public infrastructure so that people in Belle Haven feel safe and supported in enhancing their community
- We want to access how well the EJ policies and programs address health risks

Goal 2:

- Buses aren't being used
- Education and outreach are essential
- Significant polluters should be held accountable. They would rather pay a fine than do something about it
- More knowledge about how to legally dump and it should be free to use the dump
- Got to be made aware of issues and how to act pinned between pollution points
- Choices are being made to install EV charging by SamTrans without community input
- We want more education and awareness on what "green infrastructure" is
- We know the problems with air quality but we want to see action and data-driven results that demonstrate advancement and justice
- Solar panels are BEYOND CRITICAL but I hesitate because I don't trust PG&E's grid capacity in Belle Haven. I have only heard horrible things from folks who have spent a lot of money and time installing solar panels just to have PG&E not be there to support the installation by turning over the energy
- It is important to hold major polluters accountable for SURE
- Do you only need flood insurance if you have a loan on your home as a homeowner?  
More research is needed
  - Despite this question, people who live in the flood zones/low lying areas need to have real and tangible protections too
- I believe most of us would take care of our public spaces if it was more convenient and affordable to legally dump
- We really like and have had positive experiences with the garbage company doing bulky pick ups!
- The garbage company needs to remove the charge/cost on the size of my curbside bin
- WE NEED MORE TREES!!! The difference in air quality, more pollinators/diversity, more shade BUT I don't want to have those trees damage my plumbing or mess with my allergies
- Work with polluters to mitigate and stop, they can go electric much more easily than we can
- It is important to stop illegal dumping because of the health hazards, fire risk and rodents
- We recommend that you revise the City rules so that the City can act to protect health
- Urban greening and carpooling can wait
- It isn't just us here in Belle Haven or just me as one person, we know the City can do more than us alone
- Most important is to revise regulations in the City to reduce pollution because we need to address this program in our community
- It is not important to to develop urban forest because we don't know if there is a need for the trees in our community
- We want a better understanding for how to work with "significant polluters"
- There should be a fee reduction at waste sites
- Pollution impacts the already problematic and systemic health disparities based on racial demographics. It disproportionately impacts people of color (Zoning/redlining.
- Educating the youth about climate resilience will address: accessibility, info spread, better advocacy for our roads/streets

- Important to think about how to diversify ethnic food options
- Why haven't all stores implemented EBT? Do they lose profit when EBT is used at their store?
- Grocery stores are limited in Belle Haven and results in food scarcity
- Want similar resources to Berkeley High School that has nutritional meals for students
- Electrical modifications are needed because the homes are old
- Double panel windows will help to condense sound too and cuts down on PG&E bills
- Bus system is getting better, they pick up/drop off more often than what I remember from before
- Small drug stores like CVS and Trader Joe's would be so great to have in our neighborhood too
- We need to develop an UFMP
- It is also important to minimize/mitigate illegal dumping

Goal 3:

- Amenities closed at the times communities need them
- Improving financial access to healthcare without insurance barrier, with the expectation that there will be quality healthcare provided despite no cost and no insurance
- Fire dept open all the time, why not the amenities?
- My home must be safe and reliable for power during a natural disaster. I feel like it is more important to me to upgrade my home so I know I am safe and can invite people over when things get tough.
- Very important to identify PRIVATE locations for Resilience Hubs too
  - Resilience Hubs need to be accessible to folks in motorized wheelchairs
  - The new community center will be dangerous to drive to in an extreme storm. I don't feel comfortable using that space as a Resilient Hub in the future
- Have programs for kids and facilities to understand the steps in green infrastructure
- We want to see our public facilities kept clean and the waste is properly disposed
- Housing for low income seniors is important
- We want more communication and transparency between Belle Haven residents and the City to talk about existing programs
- Want to see more bank connections so that there are loans for the community. We want to feel the sufficiency of keeping money here in our community specifically
- PG&E is going crazy with all the rate discrepancies, hikes and extra charges. We feel absolutely brutalized when it comes to making sure the lights are on in our homes. What is going on with this and how is PCE or the City looking to intervene?
- It is not important to identify and improve buildings because we do not understand what a Resilience Hub is and do not find that term relevant or engaging as a community
- It is very important to make sure there is Internet for all so that kids can have access along with every single other community member
- Support affordable Internet access to learn more about community programs. That connection is essential for understanding the digital resources and educational campaigns that are happening by the City
- Public buildings should be identified as our resilience hubs



- We want to ensure that our recreational facilities provide residents with access to parks, community centers and other safe places to gather and connect

Goal 4:

- Resources like SNAP available - provide access and more information is needed
- We want high quality resources and in collaboration with local stores
- SNAP access to essential care materials
- What does and does not count towards EBT
- Increase knowledge and signage (ads) for food access - we need more information and access points
- Encouraging health and clean eating with fresh food locally like at a Farmer's Market is important
- Misinformation and lots of questions about if farmer's markets were still happening in Belle Haven and where they are at currently
- Gardening in general is really important, especially teaching people and a community garden how to take it home
- I want to lump the farmers market initiatives with community gardens and use those spaces as a hub for teaching, eating and spending time in my community
- Is groundwater a part of this? I want to see more trends, see more research because what I have observed now is very concerning in my own backyard
- Everyone needs to know about food assistance programs, not just some folks
- Grocery stores need to be closer to the community because seniors do not have cars and have to take the bus to get anywhere. The transportation system is not reliable enough for that to be the way they get their food.
- Most important to address the price of food because it is so expensive. We recommend prioritizing SNAP grocery stores, promoting farmer markings and identifying how to promote deeper accessibility in Belle Haven
- The City must tell people about existing programs
- Everyone will accept benefits, increased access and an increase in affordability
- Community gardens can help share resources
- We voted for encouragement of the community at the bottom because the current programs people already know about are not working. We clearly need new programs that make more sense for this community.
- Proximity matters in providing healthy food - it must be walkable! Other ways to make it more accessible include smaller businesses, accessibility, universal SNAP and food delivery to seniors
- Inform low-income households and make sure the information makes sense to them
- ENcourage healthy food options

Goal 5:

- Education prevention for youth to not become houseless - prepare in advance through financial education pathways
- Noticing a ballooning interest on loans
- Down payment and first-time homeowners assistance
- Properties are being sold with toxic releases present

- Toxic building materials in houses
- Nonchalance of government to address these issues is so, so frustrating
- Rent control is necessary, we recommend \$6000 for 2 bed, 2 bath
- Anti-displacement sounds intriguing, we all in this group want to see that because we continue to see more and more folks living in their cars but wanting to stay in the community despite not being able to afford to live here
- We have NO rent control laws, that is easily the most important because it doesn't exist at all and hasn't been piloted at all in the area
- So much traffic because people can't afford to live here, they have to pass through to get to more affordable housing on the other side of the Bay
- It has taken a while for Belle Haven residents to see and feel the impacts of gentrification but it is very clear at this point in time
- Multilingual resources need to also be plainly worded so that you do not need to be highly education to understand and feel like you are included in that resource
- Most important to Identify and resolve rent control issues and housing issues for renters
- We do not feel it is a priority now to ensure that the City has an anti-displacement policy or initiative
- Down payments help a lot and we want more classes for homebuyers
- Displacement is a major issue!! The rent to own model is not working in our community
- There is a major problem with soil quality in Belle Haven. It is critical to have a clean foundation and if it is contaminated, people will have to move
- Housing needs to be fair and affordable
- Multilingual tenant information is really important
  - Students are transferring from different countries and are having issues assimilating because of the language berries
- Speeding by Mt. Eden Seboral is unsafe for crossing children
- Ensure the City's Anti-Displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven specifically and in particular
- Electrification of homes and the water quality in the home are very important to us

Goal 6:

- Zoning parking issues, we continue to move our cars to avoid tickets
- ID barriers to physical education, safe routes to school
- Kids spend a lot of time navigating through traffic
- Lighting is terrible in the neighborhood and diminishes safety of those using active transportation after the sun goes down
- We know and deeply care about physical activity - we have known and felt that priority our whole lives and that makes this section easier to rank and visualize in the community
- Lots of people like to walk in the neighborhood. Are there more natural trails that we can use that connect to the Bay? What types of trails already exist and are they used regularly now?
- Crossing guards are very important with how much traffic there is in Belle Haven
- There are too many crossing guards, clearly there are plenty of those folks doing the work
- Seeing the assessment and development of safer routes to school is really important

- Speeding is a huge problem on Hamilton Ave - speed bumps or other slowing impediments are necessary
- Sideshows, or reckless driving and tricks, are getting out of hand. We know the police are trying but it is still a major issue that needs to be addressed.
- Our priority is to update the master plan because I want to improve the environment
- It is less important to implement education campaigns because it was the last option on the list but I got to the bottom of my ballot and only have that left
- More comprehensive and ongoing educational campaigns would help a lot in our community!
- Identify and eliminate barrier to our door physical activities are essential
- We want to see increased safety as a result of educational campaigns

Goal 7:

- Stipends for council and stipends for commissioners too - we like what is going on and look forward to more
- Want to group all the civic engagement initiatives into one priority project/campaign
- Educational opportunities are really important to keeping everyone involved and continuing to be thoughtfully involved longer term
- We really need more often and relevant disaster preparedness resources that are TANGIBLE and make sense with how to use
- Need more clarity on what "maintaining EJ Element" means in context. How is the City asking the community to be involved with this?
- It is really important to promote/evaluate educational workshops because people want to know how to get involved and want to stay involved longer term
- We do not think it is important to maintaining the EJE because the community is already not consider at all so what is the point?
- We need more disaster preparedness resources in Belle Haven
- We need to encourage more resources are leveraged for in person outreach because that is how this community connects and shares information

Other:

- Example
- Example

**Worksheet Comments:**

Overall:

- Safe and stable homes, food and reducing health risks top priority because they are the most important to living day to day. Reducing pollution and improving air quality is also very important as well as promoting civic engagement in public decision making to make the neighborhood population feel like they have a voice and that they become more involved.
- Housing is not only a major issue in the state but especially in the disadvantaged communities, that is the most important. The less important on this is physical activity because that is much more of an individual's discipline.
- With all of the traffic air quality is a must, food is next on my list followed by housing.

- Everything can be improved but physical activity and high quality facilities are mostly taken care of.
- It is very important to have good housing and food.
- Stable homes are the foundation of a good community. Lowest priority is civic engagement, it looks good here today.
- Clean air is most important for your health.
- We need to be able to nourish ourselves with quality food. Air quality is important and preventing displacement is as well. If we take care of those we'll address unique and compounded health problems, facilities is lowest on my list.
- Air quality is very important, East Menlo Park has worse air than the rest of Menlo.
- All are important but promoting physical activity is most important for the environment so there is less pollution.
- I ranked safe sanitary and stable homes as the top priority because there isn't enough nice living spaces on this side of Menlo Park.
- Living in unsafe spaces, unstable or uninhabitable conditions creates many health health issues, you need security to thrive. Decisions are often made without citizen input all the time.
- We ranked safe, sanitary, and stable homes number one because it is better to live in a clean safe home than outdoors in poor air quality.
- We ranked providing safe sanitary and stable homes because our priorities should lie in homes so they can be safe for our families and future generations.
- We rate providing safe sanctuary and stable homes number 1.
- My priority is homes, health care and physical/health risks.
- *Living here is expensive and many times we have to pay rent no matter what and our health is affected because we can't afford quality food.*
- More support for elderly folks, improve air quality.
- Top priority is housing and food.
- Air quality is a top priority due to all the construction work that is going on.
- Affordable and safe housing is crucial, civic engagement gives people a voice and opinions. Air quality can cause health risks and reducing health risks is key to living a long life.
- Promoting physical activity for our youth early in life will help decrease health risks. Improving air quality will also help reduce health issues.
- People in underserved areas are obese, this needs to be addresses. Air pollution creates asthma and lung issues. Safe and sanitary homes is anti-displacement.
- Physical activity is lower bodily health can be improved through individual actions. Outreach and education is important, knowing is half the battle.
- The cost of living is so high and is insane. People can make the best decisions about physical activity.
- If we want to tackle the air pollution, stop building in Belle Haven. That is the reason we have air pollution and stop tearing down 40 foot trees.
- If we can't keep the community we have here, what is it all for? We have to make things better for the people who have been here and fighting for a long time, so homes is a top

priority. We have to improve health, there is more than enough food to go around, it is about getting it to the people who need it.

- *Housing is a human rights issue, addressing the displacement and ensuring residents that make up this community can stay in the community is the top priority.*
- Impacts from the state highway are extreme, we should learn lessons about food insecurity from the pandemic food insecurity nutrition and health. People need to be able to easily voice their issues and concerns to governments.
- Housing is the top concern, we need to keep our current community housed and create opportunities. The community is surrounded by highways so air quality is also a top priority.
- Everything ties together.
- We need to make sure everyone is healthy.
- Having a safe and stable home is the most important because it all comes down to needing a roof over your head that way you aren't as exposed to air pollution.

Goal 1:

- The other side of Menlo Park has very good infrastructure. Look!
- traffic
- *Environmental justice is essential for the growth of the community.*
- We need infrastructure investment, we are last in our needs.
- If you prioritize you can assess what is needed and then can check annually on the progress.
- *As I age, after I retired I am unable to afford to live.*
- I live in Belle Haven so to me personally infrastructure improvements are very important to be done and health risks be addressed.
- Public infrastructure is most important because the community can see the impacts, less important is annual reporting because we'll see the progress.
- We need to know about the outcomes of the EJE and see how well it is working. Follow up in the community on progress.
- Working on the improvements in the community is needed to make real progress.
- Top priority is roads, potholes, making buildings disaster ready. Then give an account of what has been done.
- Infrastructure improvements will take the longest so they should be prioritized first. Reporting on progress can wait till things are actually being accomplished.
- We need to be informed on the plans for development.
- We need to prioritize infrastructure so that it is better for the children.
- Address health risks is most important because we face those risks every day.
- *The priority should be fixing the community because there's been a lot of neglect—buildings, schools and street are not updated. There is more congestion in the community as well so public works needs to address that.*
- Providing better infrastructure is our #1 because better spaces for children allow them to grow in their school. If you put time and effort into your childrens school they'll feel more willing to learn because youre putting time into them. As a student it makes you feel cared about that makes you want to learn.

- Children's lives matter so we need to make sure they have safe spaces.
- Actionable improvements will help everyone even when not all people are in the loop with reports and assessments.
- Prioritizing investment in Belle Haven is vital, reporting yearly is also vital.
- It is important for infrastructure to be improved quickly and reported annually to make sure there is progress.

Goal 2:

- I have to study more on this.
- Reduce pollution produces health.
- Reducing pollution exposure is essential for good health.
- Car pooling is great and we need to know if we really need flood insurance or not.
- Top priorities to me is that we need to reduce pollution by educating people on better and more ethical ways to dump things.
- Most important is educational outreach and least important is improving the number of trees.
- Education is the key for tomorrow and the least important is the electrification, there's issues that haven't been resolved.
- Working with the best technology is important to minimize air pollution.
- Bus electrification would cut down pollution, informing the public is important.
- Reducing fees at landfills will reduce illegal dumping, the legal options have to be easiest.
- Increase outreach and awareness of flood insurance it is important to prepare for the unexpected.
- The city needs to follow through on the laws put in place to protect residents.
- If people are dumping frequently more affordable fees might make them less likely to do so.
- Illegal dumping affects us and makes its way into the ocean.
- My number 1 is increasing the number of trees in the community which will help with significant air pollutants and overall health.
- Improve quality of life by opening a drugstore. Carpooling to events is already happening.

Goal 3:

- We need support for low income people, programs have to be affordable!
- Belle Haven needs more support from the city.
- Community local businesses should be preferred.
- We need a restroom at the park on Ivy Drive.
- Most important is health least is community bank.
- Provide all residents with access regardless of their economic situation. Internet is important.
- Banks are essential to a thriving community in California otherwise where will people bank and get loans? Internet can wait because many people already have it on their phones.

- *We need to have banks and grocery stores in this area because there are lots of seniors who don't have vehicles and have to wait at the bus stops for long periods and some are afraid of being onboard.*
- The internet is important because we communicate with each other and the world/generations.
- New center needs to be accessible to everyone.
- In order to thrive and be self-sufficient we need our own financial institutions. If we have strong banking relationships we can fund many of the things we need in the community.
- Internet is our top priority because the internet is how we communicate and learn on topics like Belle Haven's infrastructure.
- Waste disposal will keep the environment clean and reduce air pollution.
- More accountability to the city, we need a dental clinic over the counter prescriptions.
- 

Goal 4:

- We need more grocery stores for the elderly and the community to walk to for safety.
- Homeless people need housing and food.
- Affordable and healthy food is a great idea but in California it is hard.
- We have plenty of programs for food but none for vegan or vegetarian options.
- Home and community gardens will help support residents who live in apartments, organic gardens for year round crops. We can grow enough to support families and a farmers market.
- Now that I am retired it is more difficult to access food from home. Local small markets do not carry healthy foods period.
- Walkable stores is a huge factor.
- Least important is SNAP because it is already available most important is to inform low income people about the resources that are already available.
- SNAP is a lifesaver in this area.
- Encouraging community gardens will encourage residents to share their wealth with each other.
- We need access to high quality and affordable food. Vegan and vegetarian don't really matter unless those people are allergic to some stuff.
- Create new community gardens to provide more access to plants, fruit, soil, and gardening supplies.
- We need more stores that have clean food options. It takes transportation and more money to access more nutritious and clean food.
- A lot of stores don't offer an EBT option which shouldn't be normalized. We should have an option available to people who need SNAP or EBT. A lot of nutritious stores like trader joes or whole foods or high end stores don't have SNAP or EBT eligibility.
- Everyone should have the opportunity to shop for affordable foods.
- We need more affordable healthy and high quality foods.

Goal 5:

- I rank the highest due to the lack of rent control in our community. First time home buyers need to know what the qualifications and requirements are.
- Reduce water bills! We need help, bad! The bill is too high!
- Downpayment assistance is good, but the monthly payment will still be a problem!
- Housing affordability is very important.
- PG&E bills are higher than water bills, that should be addressed first.
- We have enough apartments here we don't need a land trust to make more of them.
- *Rent control is #1 because it can allow people time to save to purchase a house in the future.*
- Education about existing programs is important for all in regards to homes.
- Toxic soil has to be alleviated, you need to start from a clean and healthy foundation then build.
- It is better for people who come in to learn other languages to communicate with others.
- Ensuring anti-displacement is focused in Belle Haven is important and community land trust for affordable new housing.
- *There are a lot of residents who've had to move away because of rent hikes and discriminatory home buying practices. There are renter-to-owner issues that need to be addressed by laws.*
- Educational workshops would give everyone a chance to make our community more inclusive and opportunities to be heard by people who can relate.
- *Rent is so expensive! We need better rent control laws for low income families!*
- Pass rent control! And offer down payment assistance for first time buyers.
- Rent control is #1 and soil contamination is last.

Goal 6:

- We need crossing guards at key intersections because of extreme traffic in the evening.
- Flashing lights near the playgrounds are needed.
- Excessive speeding and insufficient lighting.
- We have a safe routes, it needs to be followed.
- My top priority is the safe routes to school because I have young children who are not safe.
- Most important is eliminating barriers for physical activity least important is updated the plans because that is not tangible work.
- We should have these plans drawn out in advance so safety can be reviewed and prioritized.
- Children need to be able to go to school safely.
- Sidewalks need to be accessible, how can we be active without them.
- Safe street crossing would reduce jay walking and unnecessary risks.
- Physical activity is big, encouraging more bike riding and walking will decrease the pollution.
- Implement education campaigns to help people feel safe and confident walking biking and taking transit.

Goal 7:



- We need workshops at least once a month in Belle Haven for the residents to know what is available.
- We need insurance we can afford.
- Anything to do with Belle Haven should always have Belle Haven involved!
- Language justice applies to everything.
- Belle Haven voices need to be heard.
- Regular meetings are very important.
- Outreach will help people decide what they want to do with their communities.
- We want everyone to be educated about their decisions and want everyone to be educated about them.
- Alert systems would help keep everyone safe and connected.
- Promote and evaluate educational workshops and feasibly compensate. Encourage resources for in-person outreach at the community hub.

## Spanish Menlo Park EJE Feedback

### **Large Post It Comments:**

#### Overall:

- Reduce the exposure to contamination and to better air quality
- Promote access to high quality food and high quality public facilities

#### Goal 1:

- Prioritize bettering the public infrastructure necessary in Belle Haven
- Inform yearly how to consider and prioritize Belle Haven in the planes to better the infrastructure

#### Goal 2:

- Work with the prime contaminators to minimize their contamination through the use of the best technology available
- Implement and update the Climate Action Plan of the City to better the quality of air and reduce the emissions of greenhouse gasses

#### Goal 3:

- Identify and better the public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Resilience Hubs
- Install infrastructure that permits easy elimination of waste in parks and streets

#### Goal 4:

- Support the availability of agricultural markets, agricultural positions, ethnic markets, and healthy food mobile markets. Carry out an ample divulgation and participation to publicize these markets
- Foment and simplify the development process of community gardens. Facilitate the creation or betterment of a community garden in a timeframe of 3 years

#### Goal 5:

- Guarantee that the Anti-Displacement Strategy of the city supports homes in Belle Haven
- Identify and resolve, in the manner that is possible, whatever possible toxic contamination of the soil in developed residential communities, particularly in Belle Haven

#### Goal 6:

- Identify and eliminate barriers to physical activity including sidewalks, bike lanes, and lack of safe crosswalks. Reduce the speed limit, provide sufficient street lighting, and lack of gardens or trees that provide shade in Belle Haven
- Implement educative campaigns to increase the security and commodity of people that walk, ride bikes, and use public transit

Goal 7:

- Promote and evaluate educational workshops that encourage the residents of Belle Haven in the processes of making public decisions
- Foment Resources for divulgation in person, better the community campus of Belle Haven like community centers for learning and opportunities to connect the residents with resources and foment the participation in public meetings, events and making decisions

**Worksheet Comments:**

Overall:

- Wanting to better air quality due to having issues with asthma
- Want to promote physical activity
- Reduce contamination
- All are very important to improve the city
- All are top priorities and for the children as well.
- For me, contamination and bettering the air quality because contaminated air can bring many health problems.
- We need more clean air for the health of people, pets, and elders.
- Air is important for health.
- Air is important for health. Free transportation is convenient for people.
- Air is important for health
- It's good to have a good environment. I picked 7 because all the options are important.
- Air is important for health. Free transportation is convenient for those who use it.
- Unite for the community.
- I think it's important to improve the air to be healthy.
- We need clean air for the elderly, pets, kids, and adults.

Goal 1:

- Yearly updates over the progress and the monthly results of the EJ Element
- The streets need to be improved to increase safety on the roads
- To have more information about the food (what's healthy vs. what's unhealthy)
- Very important to prioritize climate change.
- Keep the community informed.
- Flooding causes trees to fall, more communication
- Trees fall when it floods. We need more communication.
- Flooding causes trees to fall.
- It's necessary that they inform us about the progress and results.
- Flooding causes trees to fall. Inform people about environmental justice.
- Air is important for health and the community.
- To be informed about the progress happening in the city.

Goal 2:

- To clean the air, but it's difficult to assign one number to order the prioritize the issues because they are all important
- We have to educate people about the importance of air quality
- Contamination is very important
- All are priorities for a better city.
- What's important for me is clean air that's uncontaminated.
- Talk with the companies, reduce contamination
- Talk with companies to reduce contamination x 3
- Work with the people to reduce contamination.
- It's good for our lives to improve the environment even though all options are important.
- Reduce exposure to homes.
- It's important to improve the environmental air for the community.

Goal 3:

- Belle Haven needs resilience hubs
- Very good idea to work with the schools
- Working with schools is a very good option to implement with the kids.
- We need more community spaces for the community
- Kids programs and success in schools
- There isn't a community space where there are programs.
- There aren't any community spaces where there are programs
- Fix the potholes in the street.
- There isn't a community space. X 2
- Support access to internet affordability. Work with the schools to support.
- 

Goal 4:

- Promote access to healthy food because Belle Haven is a food desert
- All are priorities with this topic of food.
- All are priority
- \*Mobile farmers markets \* Spanish- English programs.
- Improve the quality of foods.
- More mobile farmers markets, more EBT money for more
- More money for EBT each month.
- It'd be great to have a community garden.
- More mobile farmers markets. More money for EBT for more.
- There are no community spaces, more programs, and there are homeless people.
- Example

Goal 5:

- To help the renters have rent control
- There is a need to reduce the cost of water
- Help renters to keep rent control.
- Workshops for kids to support them

- Clean the streets after fireworks.
- The buildings are empty for many years. X2
- Lots of support, programming and places to live.

Goal 6:

- Implement educational campaigns
- Belle Haven needs more streets lights, sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike lanes for safety
- Take care of pedestrians. Bike ways.
- Implement secure walkways for kids to cross over to schools.
- You can't see the lines for bicycles on the street.
- Workshops for kids to learn about bike safety.
- You can't see the bike lanes. X2
- Safety is important for people walking and biking.
- Lots and more transportation. Workshops for kids.

Goal 7:

- The community needs prepared for disasters
- The residents of the community need to know what is happening in the community to be better prepared
- English classes
- Provide Emergency kits before composting.
- Emergency kits, implement shelters for safe places during disasters.
- Protect the kids.
- Good communication between the city and community.
- More all-spanish workshops.
- Good communication with the community and the city. X2
- Lots of participation and support thank you.

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	7	2	5	5	5	2	2	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	3	6	2	2	3	3	5
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	7	3	4	4	1	2
Promoting physical activity	4	4	5	4	6	3	5	7	7
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	5	6	2	4	7	6	6	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	7	3	7	6	7	4	6

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	6	2	2	7	2	2	1	2	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	5	7	4	6	7	7	2	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	3	1	4	3	3	7	4	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	3	5	1	1	4	1	4
Promoting physical activity	7	6	6	3	6	6	3	7	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	3	5	5	2	5	5	5	3	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	4	4	7	1	4	4	6	5	5

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	7	6	3	5	1	6	6	4	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	5	6	3	2	3	7	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	1	5	4	4	1	1	2	1
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	2	3	4	2	1	4
Promoting physical activity	6	2	1	7	5	7	3	5	2
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	4	2	6	6	5	4	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	1	7	7	1	7	2	5	7	6

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	5	5	5	4	4	1	5	3	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	4	4	2	6	7	6	4	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	1	1	1	3	2	4	2	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	2	2	2	1	1	6	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	3	3	3	5	7	5	4	5	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	7	7	7	6	3	2	3	6	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	6	7	5	3	7	7	7

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	3	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	4
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	6	4	3	4	7	7	5	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	2	3
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	5	1	6	3	5	1	2
Promoting physical activity	5	5	3	6	7	5	3	6	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	6	4	6	7	3	6	2	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	7	7	7	5	5	4	6	7	1

Overall	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	4	4	4	1	6	2	5	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	6	6	6	5	5	7	6	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	2	2	6	2	3	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	1	1	5	3	1	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	4	7	7	3	7	4	4	3	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	3	3	1	4	3	5	4	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	5	5	7	2	7	6	7	7

Overall	Total	Average	Top Ranked
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	168	3.1111	16
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	273	5.0556	0
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	138	2.5556	10
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	137	2.537	22
Promoting physical activity	263	4.8704	1
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	243	4.5	1
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	290	5.3704	4

Overall	Total	Average	Top Ranks
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	168	3.05	16
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	273	4.96	0
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	138	2.51	10
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	137	2.49	22
Promoting physical activity	263	4.78	1
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	243	4.42	1
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	290	5.27	4

Overall	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	7	2	5	5	5	2	2	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	3	6	2	2	3	3	5
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	7	3	4	4	1	2
Promoting physical activity	4	4	5	4	6	3	5	7	7
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	5	6	2	4	7	6	6	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	7	3	7	6	7	4	6

Overall	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	6	2	2	7	2	2	1	2	1
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	5	7	4	6	7	7	2	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	3	1	4	3	3	7	4	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	3	5	1	1	4	1	4
Promoting physical activity	7	6	6	3	6	6	3	7	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	3	5	5	2	5	5	5	3	3
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	4	4	7	1	4	4	6	5	5

Overall	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	7	6	3	5	1	6	6	4	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	5	6	3	2	3	7	6	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	1	5	4	4	1	1	2	1
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	3	4	2	3	4	2	1	4
Promoting physical activity	6	2	1	7	5	7	3	5	2
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	4	2	6	6	5	4	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	1	7	7	1	7	2	5	7	6

Overall	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	5	5	5	4	4	1	5	3	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	4	4	2	6	7	6	4	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	1	1	1	3	2	4	2	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	2	2	2	1	1	6	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	3	3	3	5	7	5	4	5	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	7	7	7	6	3	2	3	6	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	6	6	7	5	3	7	7	7

Overall	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	3	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	4
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	4	6	4	3	4	7	7	5	7
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	1	2	2	1	4	2	3
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	1	1	5	1	6	3	5	1	2
Promoting physical activity	5	5	3	6	7	5	3	6	6
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	6	4	6	7	3	6	2	3	5
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	7	7	7	5	5	4	6	7	1

Overall	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	1	4	4	4	1	6	2	5	3
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	7	6	6	6	5	5	7	6	4
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	2	2	2	2	6	2	3	2	2
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	3	1	1	5	3	1	1	1	1
Promoting physical activity	4	7	7	3	7	4	4	3	5
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	5	3	3	1	4	3	5	4	6
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	6	5	5	7	2	7	6	7	7

Overall	Total	Average	Top Ranks
Reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality	355.1	3.11	16
Promoting equitable access to high quality public facilities	551	5.06	0
Promoting access to high quality and affordable food	288.5	2.56	10
Providing safe, sanitary, and stable homes	298.5	2.54	22
Promoting physical activity	531.8	4.87	1
Reducing unique or compounded health risks	491.4	4.50	1
Promoting civic engagement in the public decision-making processes	589.3	5.37	4

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	1	1	3	2	2	2	3	2	1	1
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	3	2	1	1	3	4	2	1	4	3
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	2	3	2	3	1	1	1	3	2	2
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	3	3	2	1	3	1	1	4	1	1
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	1	2	4	3	1	2	4	3	3	3
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	2	4	3	2	2	3	2	1	4	2
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	4	1	1	4	4	4	3	2	2	4

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	3	1	2	2	4	4	4	2	2	2
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	2	4	3	4	2	2	1	4	3	3

Goal 1	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Prioritize public infrastructure improvements needed in Belle Haven	1	1	4	1	1	1	59
Report annually how Belle Haven is considered and prioritized in infrastructure improvement plans	2	3	2	3	4	2	92
Report annually on measurable progress and outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element	4	2	3	2	2	3	95
Assess how well Environmental Justice policies and programs are addressing unique and compounded health risks	3	4	1	4	3	4	114



Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	3	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	4
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	1	2	4	2	9	4	4	2	3
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	2	3	5	3	6	5	5	3	2
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	5	4	1	5	8	1	1	5	1
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	4	6	6	4	2	6	6	4	5
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	6	5	3	6	3	3	3	6	7
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	7	7	9	8	4	7	10	8	6
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in	8	8	10	9	5	9	9	9	9
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	9	10	7	7	7	10	7	7	8
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	10	9	8	10	10	8	8	10	10

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	4	1	4	5	3	1	7	2	2
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	2	7	5	6	5	3	8	3	3
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	1	5	3	1	4	4	6	1	1
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	3	3	8	2	7	2	4	4	4
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	7	8	7	10	10	6	9	9	9
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	6	2	2	4	8	5	10	5	5
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	10	9	9	9	6	9	1	7	8
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in	9	10	6	8	9	7	3	8	10
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	5	1	1	3	2	8	5	6	6
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	8	4	10	7	4	10	2	10	7

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	1	7	4	1	4	5	2	2	6
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	4	6	10	4	5	3	4	10	1
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	2	2	5	2	2	4	7	3	2
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	6	5	1	7	1	8	3	1	5
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	5	4	6	8	10	9	10	9	3
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	8	3	7	3	9	7	5	7	9
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	7	8	8	10	3	1	9	6	7
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in	10	1	2	5	8	2	8	8	10
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	3	9	9	6	6	10	1	5	4
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	9	10	3	9	7	6	6	4	8

Goal 2	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with significant polluters to minimize their pollution by using the best available technologies	4	5	2	3	4	1	7	6	110
Implement and update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions	5	10	3	5	7	3	6	7	166
Promote education and outreach about air quality and protective actions to minimize exposure	2	2	7	4	3	4	2	5	118
Minimize and mitigate illegal dumping and reduce fees at landfills	1	1	4	7	5	2	3	4	132
Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan with focus on environmental justice	10	10	5	10	2	7	10	9	245
Increase community outreach on and awareness of Flood Insurance Program	9	10	10	8	9	9	4	3	209
Encourage carpooling and alternative methods of travel for City events	3	3	6	6	6	6	5	2	230
Collaborate with SamTrans and large employers to prioritize bus electrification in Belle Haven	8	10	9	9	8	8	8	6	266
Revise City regulations to reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life	6	10	1	2	1	5	1	1	189
Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) for the City of Menlo Park to improve the number of trees	7	10	8	1	10	10	9	8	270

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	1	8	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	6
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	2	2	7	2	4	7	7	2	3	5
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	3	3	2	4	1	2	2	4	4	7
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	4	4	3	5	5	3	3	5	2	4
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	8	5	8	3	6	8	8	3	5	3
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	5	6	6	7	8	6	6	7	7	8
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	6	7	4	6	3	4	4	6	6	1
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	7	8	5	8	7	5	5	8	8	2

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	1	8	4	7	5	6	4	4	5	5
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	5	7	3	1	7	7	3	5	2	1
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	3	5	5	3	1	2	2	8	4	4
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	4	1	1	5	2	1	6	7	1	2
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	6	4	8	4	6	5	5	6	6	3
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	8	6	7	8	3	4	8	3	8	6
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	2	2	2	6	4	3	7	2	7	7
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	7	3	6	2	8	8	1	1	3	8

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	7	7	6	3	6	7	4	8	8	7
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	5	8	4	2	7	8	8	7	6	1
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	8	6	1	4	8	1	1	1	4	3
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	4	5	2	7	2	5	2	2	1	5
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	3	4	3	6	5	2	7	3	5	4
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	1	1	5	5	1	6	6	6	2	8
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	2	2	7	1	3	3	5	5	3	6
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	6	3	8	8	4	4	3	4	7	2

Goal 3	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Identify and improve public buildings in Belle Haven to serve as Climate Resilience Hubs	8	3	2	7	155
Install infrastructure allowing for easy waste disposal at parks and along streets	7	6	1	8	160
Support affordable internet access for low-income households and improve internet literacy and technological skills	1	4	8	3	122
Use City facilities to promote and support access to health care for Belle Haven residents	2	2	4	2	113
Work with local schools to enhance use of their facilities for affordable after-school care and recreational facilities	3	1	6	5	167
Form partnerships to provide a community bank or banking services in Belle Haven	4	8	3	4	187
Ensure City's Community Center Programming meets Belle Haven residents' needs adapting programming based on community feedback	5	5	7	1	144
Ensure recreational facilities provide all residents with access to parks, community centers, fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities	6	3	5	6	179

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	1	1	3	1	3	3	3	1	2	2
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	2	2	4	2	2	4	4	2	5	1
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	3	3	1	3	5	1	1	3	1	4
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	4	4	5	4	4	5	5	5	3	5
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	5	5	2	5	1	2	2	4	4	3

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	4	3	2	2	1	5	3	5	1	4
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	3	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	3
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	2	4	5	5	4	1	4	2	3	1
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	1	2	3	3	3	2	2	4	5	2
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	1	5	4	4	5	4	5	3	4	5

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	4	2	1	1	5	1	4	4	1	1
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	3	3	2	2	1	5	5	3	2	2
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	2	5	4	5	3	4	3	5	4	4
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	1	4	3	3	2	2	1	2	3	3
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	5	1	5	4	4	3	2	1	5	5

Goal 4	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Work with grocery stores and other food providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food, encouraging the acceptance of SNAP, CalFresh, and food assistance programs.	1	2	3	1	1	2	84
Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual outreach and community organizations	2	1	4	2	5	1	89
Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at City-participating events and source food from local small businesses	3	5	2	4	4	3	116
Support the availability of farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets	4	3	1	3	2	4	112
Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years	5	4	5	5	3	5	135

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	1	1	7	2	2	7	7	2	6	4
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	2	2	6	4	5	6	6	4	4	3
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	3	3	2	1	7	2	2	1	2	7
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	4	4	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	6
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process	5	5	4	6	3	4	4	6	5	1
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	6	6	5	7	4	5	5	7	7	2
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	7	7	1	5	6	1	1	5	1	5

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	5	7	6	7	2	7	4	2	1	7
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	6	3	5	5	6	4	6	5	4	3
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	3	5	3	6	3	3	7	7	6	6
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	2	4	7	4	7	6	2	6	7	2
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process	4	6	4	3	1	1	3	1	5	4
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	7	2	2	2	4	5	5	3	3	5
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	1	1	1	1	5	2	1	4	2	1

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	1	6	7	1	4	7	4	5	3	7
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	4	2	2	6	3	6	7	4	6	6
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	5	5	1	5	7	2	6	6	5	4
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	6	7	4	2	6	3	3	1	4	3
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process	2	1	3	7	2	4	2	2	2	2
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	7	3	5	3	5	5	5	7	7	5
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	3	1	6	4	1	1	1	3	1	1

Goal 5	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	7	7	3	4	3	1	7	6	7	5
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	6	2	6	3	4	4	5	2	2	4
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	3	4	7	1	1	5	6	5	5	6
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	2	3	4	2	2	6	4	4	3	3
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process	1	1	2	5	5	7	3	1	1	2
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	4	6	5	6	6	3	2	3	4	7
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	5	5	1	7	7	2	1	7	6	1

Goal 5	Ranking	Total	Top Ranks
Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in Belle Haven	7	189	6
Help enroll eligible households in programs that reduce water bills	6	179	0
Create a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters Conduct outreach and education to inform Belle Haven tenants of available resources including culturally competent, in-language educational workshops.	5	173	5
Identify opportunities to support a Community Land Trust to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing	2	154	2
Conduct community outreach to help first-time homebuyers navigate the process	3	133	9
Promote home electrification programs that minimize passing costs through to tenants	4	194	0
Ensure that City's Anti-displacement Strategy supports households in Belle Haven Strategies can include a rental inventory, updated rent control	1	123	20

**Goal 6**

Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice

Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking

1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	2
2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	1
3	4	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	3
4	2	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4

**Goal 6**

Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice

Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking

1	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	3	1
2	4	2	3	2	2	2	4	2	2
4	2	3	2	3	1	3	1	1	3
3	3	4	4	4	4	4	2	4	4

**Goal 6**

Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice

Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking

3	1	3	1	1	1	4	2	1	1
4	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
1	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	3
2	4	2	3	4	4	2	4	3	4

**Goal 6**

Identify and eliminate barriers to outdoor physical activity including sidewalks, bike paths, and lack of safe street crossings, Reduce excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping or shade trees in Belle Haven
Implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling, and taking transit
Expand the Safe Routes to School program, including increased crossing guards at key intersections
Update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan to improve environmental justice

Ranking Ranking Ranking Ranking Total

3	1	1	2	55
4	3	2	1	75
2	2	4	3	95
1	4	3	4	116

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	1	1	2	5	4	2	2	7	3	1
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	2	2	4	7	3	4	4	10	9	2
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	3	3	3	10		3	3	5	7	5
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	4	4	10	9	6	10	10	9	8	3
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	4
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	6	6	5	8	2	5	5	8	5	6
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	7	7	6	6	10	6	6	6	4	7
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.	8	8	7	2	9	7	7	2	1	9
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	9	9	8	3	8	8	8	3	10	10
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	10	10	9	4	7	9	9	4	2	8

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	5	4	4	2	3	4	1	8	6	1
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	4	8	10	3	2	1	2	1	5	2
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	6	5	3	4	9	9	4	5	4	5
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	3	3	9	9	5	7	3	9	3	3
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	2	2	2	7	1	2	9	2	1	4
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	1	7	8	6	7	10	6	6	2	6
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	10	6	6	5	8	3	8	3	10	7
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.	7	1	1	1	4	5	7	7	7	8
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	8	9	5	8	10	6	10	10	8	9
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	9	10	7	9	6	8	5	4	9	10

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	10	1	1	4	1	1	1	2	5	1
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	1	10	6	5	6	2	2	1	1	3
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	9	2	5	8	10	9	4	3	4	4
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	2	3	2	10	8	8	3	4	10	9
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	6	6	3	1	7	7	6	5	3	2
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	3	7	4	3	5	3	5	6	6	6
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	8	9	10	9	4	10	7	7	7	5
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.	4	4	9	7	2	4	9	8	2	1
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	5	8	7	2	3	5	8	9	9	8
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	1	5	8	6	9	6	10	10	8	9

Goal 7	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Ranking	Total
Promote and evaluate educational workshops that involve Belle Haven residents in public decision-making processes	6	1	2	1	103
All meetings with an item in Belle Haven should take place in a location or manner easily accessible to Belle Haven residents	9	8	3	2	144
Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation at community outreach events in Belle Haven	5	2	1	3	165
Pursue equitable civic and community engagement	4	3	8	4	205
Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the Belle Haven Community Campus as a community hub for learning and opportunities to connect residents with resources and encourage participation in public meetings, events, and decision making	7	4	6	5	126
Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating all City Councilors and appointed commissioners to make the positions more accessible to residents of Belle Haven	2	9	5	8	187
Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions	8	6	10	6	237
Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Belle Haven Conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that includes Belle Haven and encourage signing up for emergency alert systems.	3	5	4	10	180
Encourage involvement of Belle Haven in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea level rise and coastal flooding	10	7	7	7	254
Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach	1	10	9	9	250

# City of Menlo Park

## Environmental Justice Element Action Guide

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment.

The Action Guide lists Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, programs, and action items. The community-prioritized goals lead the Action Guide, followed by the other goals in sequential order.

Policies and programs are under the goals in sequential order, while action items are under the program they implement. The organizing structure and color scheme, demonstrated below, allows for easy reference:

Item	Structure	Example
Goal	<b>EJ#</b>	<b>EJ1</b>
<i>Policy</i>	<i>EJ#.#</i>	<i>EJ1.1</i>
Program	<b>EJ#.X</b>	<b>EJ1.A</b>
Action Item	<b>EJ#.X.#</b>	<b>EJ1.A.1</b>

The Action Guide includes details on programs and action items, organized under three groups: Descriptive Information, Implementation, and Time Frame. The structure and presentation style of the Action Guide may evolve over time.



## Descriptive Information

### Column A: ID

Identification of the policy, program, or action item corresponding to the goal they support (e.g., EJ4):

- Policies are given a number (e.g., EJ4.1)
- Programs are given a letter (e.g., EJ4.D)
- Action items are given a letter and a number (e.g., EJ4.D.1)

### Column B: Policy / Program / Action Item Text

Text of the policy, program, or action item.

### Column C: Classification

Identification of whether the row is a policy, program, or action item.

### Column D: In Progress?

If City and/or partners are currently conducting a process that would accomplish the objective of the program or action item, this column includes a brief description. As the City fulfills programs and action items, and initiates activity on additional programs and action items, this column may be updated.

## Implementation

Implementation data describes who would likely lead carrying out the program or action item and what funding is potentially available to fulfill it. Also included in this section are supporting City departments and partners outside City government, such as County authorities or non-governmental organizations.

### Column E: Lead Role

The City department or division who would likely lead the implementation of the program or action item.

### Column F: Supporting Role

City departments or divisions, as well as partner organizations, that may support implementation of the program or action item.

### Column G: Funding Source(s)

Potential sources of funding that may support program or action item implementation.

### Time Frame

The estimated time frame for programs and action items is arranged into two components: initiation (when work will begin) and completion (when work will be finished).

### Column H: Initiation

The programs and action items are sorted into four categories: those that can be started in a short-term time frame, a medium-term time frame, a long-term time frame, and those that are in progress. As the City fulfills programs and action items, and initiates action on additional programs and action items, this column may be updated. For the purposes of the Environmental Justice Element, the time frames are defined accordingly:

- **In Progress:** Already in progress. These are highlighted in gold in the Action Guide.
- **Short-Term:** Zero to three years from Element adoption, estimated
- **Medium-Term:** More than three and less than six years from Element adoption, estimated
- **Long-Term:** Six years or more from Element adoption, estimated

### Column I: Completion

The programs and action items are sorted into four categories: those that can be accomplished in a short-term time frame, a medium-term time frame, a long-term time frame, and those that are ongoing from initiation of work. For the purposes of the Environmental Justice Element, the time frames are defined accordingly:

- **Ongoing from Initiation:** Estimated to be worked on indefinitely
- **Short-Term:** Zero to three years from beginning of work on the item, estimated
- **Medium-Term:** More than three and less than six years from beginning of work on the item, estimated
- **Long-Term:** Six years or more from beginning of work on the item, estimated

Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element Action Guide								
DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>Community Priority #1: Goal EJ5. Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes</b>								
<b>EJ5.1</b>	<i>Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe, sanitary, and stable homes, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ5.2</b>	<i>Maintain and develop safe, sanitary, and stable homes across all locations and affordability ranges, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ5.3</b>	<i>Support housing development distribution throughout the city and not concentrated within Menlo Park's underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ5.A</b>	Identify, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments and work with property owners to resolve issues, particularly in underserved communities.	Program	The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. The Safety Element (Table S-4) includes a list of sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation.	Community Development	San Mateo County Environmental Health Services, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	Department of Food and Agriculture (Healthy Soils Demonstration Program)	<b>In Progress</b>	Short Term
<b>EJ5.B</b>	Conduct outreach to potentially eligible households regarding programs that support safe, sanitary, and stable homes.	Program	-	Community Development	California Department of Community Services and Development, City Manager's Office	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ5.C</b>	Create or partner with providers to provide a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters with questions. If such resources already exist, conduct proactive outreach and education to inform the community of available resources. Hold culturally competent, in-language outreach workshops.	Program	-	Community Development	Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ5.D	Identify opportunities to support a Community Land trust or other fiscal vehicle to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Community Development Department, MidPen Housing Community Land Trust	BMR Housing Fund	Long Term	Long Term
EJ5.E	Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F (regarding collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART)) and helping to facilitate first-time homeowner workshops for residents in underserved communities.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Local Community Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ5.F	Promote funds and subsidies that minimize the passing through of any upfront investment costs of building electrification on to tenants.	Program	-	Sustainability Division	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Medium Term
EJ5.G	Ensure that City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This will include consideration, at a minimum, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rental inventory of all dwelling units</li> <li>- Updated or expanded rent control laws</li> <li>- Rent increase mitigations, such as longer noticing requirements</li> <li>- Community and tenant opportunity to purchase</li> <li>- Revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper affordability (e.g., subsidies)</li> <li>- Expand relocation assistance for tenants</li> <li>- Just Cause Eviction protections regardless of tenant duration</li> <li>- Strengthened anti-tenant harassment ordinances</li> <li>- An examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs</li> </ul>	Program	Sixth Cycle Housing Element includes Program H2.E focusing on developing an Anti-Displacement Strategy	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department	General Fund	Short Term	Long Term
EJ5.H	As part of an anti-displacement program and to ensure stable housing, support increasing access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction by conducting community outreach, education, and engagement to ensure renters are aware of this resource. Include progress reports on usage annually.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Community Priority #2: Goal EJ4. Promote access to high quality and affordable food</b>								

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ4.1</b>	<i>Encourage adequate food access to fresh and healthy foods for all residents, particularly those in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ4.A</b>	Work with grocery stores and online food service delivery and meal providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food (e.g., reduced or waived delivery service fees). Encourage and support the acceptance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), CalFresh, and other governmental food assistance programs that increase food security.	Program	-	Community Development	Local Grocery Stores (e.g., Safeway, Trader Joe's), Local Grocery Delivery Services (e.g., Uber Eats, GrubHub, DoorDash), CalFresh	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.B</b>	Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual fliers, community events, information at shelters and food banks, as well as other appropriate outreach methods.	Program	-	Community Development	Communications and Public Engagement Division, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Homeless Outreach Team, San Mateo County Human Services Agency	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.C</b>	Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at municipal buildings and City-participating events. Encourage sourcing food from local small businesses.	Program	-	All City Departments	Sustainability Division	General Fund	Long Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.D</b>	Encourage and facilitate the establishment and operation of a farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets in underserved communities. Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)	Long Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.D.1</b>	At existing and future farmer's markets, or similar events, offer free or subsidized space for vendors who provide healthy, fresh, and affordable food for underserved communities.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.E</b>	Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens within or adjacent to neighborhoods and housing development sites. Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years of Environmental Justice Element adoption.	Program	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.E.1</b>	Explore identifying unused City-owned property to support community gardens. Encourage community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily and mixed-use development projects.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Short Term	Short Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ4.E.2	Identify private properties suitable for community gardens on vacant or undeveloped lots, or other opportunities for community-supported agriculture within the community. Encourage community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily and mixed-use development projects.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Short Term	Short Term
EJ4.E.3	Facilitate the installation of community gardens at senior centers and senior housing facilities.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	Community Development, Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g. Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ4.E.4	Develop programs and encourage developments that make smaller planter boxes or garden beds accessible for apartment dwellers.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>Community Priority #3: Goal EJ2. Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality</b>								
EJ2.1	<i>Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality (both indoor and outdoor), and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.2	<i>Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale, as well as collaborate on countywide and regional efforts. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve watershed and human health.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.3	<i>Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to promote and encourage urban greening on public and private projects (e.g., bioswales, raingardens, habitat restoration) in areas with relatively less tree canopy or other greenery to provide health and safety benefits to underserved communities residents.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.4	<i>Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards and maximize air quality (both indoor and outdoor) in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.5	<i>Work with Caltrans on improvements on State-owned rights of way.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.6	<i>When updating or installing transportation infrastructure, consider factors such as stormwater management, Universal Design Principles and attractive green roadway design.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.A	Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City's jurisdiction (e.g., gas stations, automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.	Program	-	Community Development	Peninsula Clean Energy, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Westbay Sanitary District, San Mateo County Environmental Health, San Mateo County Fire, Sustainability Division	Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.B	Implement and periodically update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Program	The Climate Action Plan is subject to annual progress reports as a standalone document are scheduled for 2028 update .Starting in 2024, the City will implement a zero emission landscaping equipment rule to improve air quality and reduce emissions.	Sustainability Division	City Manager's Office	General Fund, grants (e.g., California Energy Commission, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy, and CALFIRE)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.C	Conduct proactive education and outreach about indoor and outdoor air quality and protective actions that can be taken to both improve air quality inside one's home and to minimize exposure to poor air quality index days.	Program	-	Sustainability Division	Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), City Manager's Office, Peninsula Clean Energy, County Office of Sustainability	Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.C.1	Identify and implement methods and avenues for public education and outreach about air quality issues in the community.	Action Item	-	All City Departments	Public Works, Communications and Public Engagement Division, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), City Manager's Office, Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County Sustainability Department	-	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.C.2	Support the distribution of air purifiers and/or other air cleaning devices within underserved communities, especially for sensitive populations.	Action Item	-	Sustainability Division	Police, Sustainability Division, San Mateo County Sustainability Department	General Fund	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.D	Minimize and mitigate illegal solid waste dumping (as defined in 7.04.030 of the Municipal Code), potentially through minimizing fees for disposal at landfills in collaboration with South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA).	Program	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.D.1	Conduct proactive outreach in underserved communities to inform households of free trash pickup days and solid waste disposal opportunities and programs, including the ACT Menlo Park reporting app. Outreach can include signage about ACT Menlo Park along Pierce Road.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement, Recology, Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.D.2	Explore ways to subsidize or eliminate fees for disposal at landfills and implement for underserved communities	Action Item	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement, Recology, Public Works	Clean California (Local Grants)	Long Term	Ongoing upon commencement
EJ2.E	Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan and update, as necessary, to incorporate environmental justice. Focus on underserved communities and implement programs in this Element, in coordination with related regional efforts.	Program	-	Public Works	Community Development	General Fund	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.1	Support efforts by other agencies to abate hazardous, polluted, or toxic sites. Encourage incorporating sea-level rise and groundwater rise in their remediation decisions.	Action Item	-	If on private property then Community development, if for public projects then Public Works	San Mateo County Health, Department of Water Resources, OneShoreline	Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)	Short Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.2	Prioritize comprehensive undergrounding of utilities in underserved communities on private and public property to promote resilience.	Action Item	The Menlo Park Municipal Code requires the undergrounding of electric and communication service connections on private property under certain circumstances. Some categories of private development in Office (O), Life Sciences (LS) and Residential Mixed Use (R-MU) Zoning Districts require undergrounding of overhead electric distribution lines of less than sixty (60) kilovolts and communication lines along the property frontage. The specified zoning districts are adjacent to and serve underserved communities.	Public Works	Community Development, City Manager's Office, utilities (e.g., PG&E)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), PG&E Rule 20 Program, Community Amenities Fund, Bonds per project specific deferred frontage agreements	In Progress	Medium Term



DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.E.3	Focus green stormwater improvements for areas at risk of flooding with an emphasis on underserved communities.	Action Item	Public Works evaluates all opportunities to plan for and incorporate green stormwater improvements, including areas at risk of flooding and within underserved communities, per the City's 2019 Green Infrastructure Plan.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.E.4	Support West Bay Sanitary District, the respective responsible agency, in their efforts to prevent sewage discharges during large stormwater events. In the event of occurrence, coordinate with the responsible agency in conducting proactive, extensive, and prolonged community outreach and education to inform underserved communities of protective actions and risks. The City can coordinate with agencies to promptly share their information with the City Council and community after storms.	Action Item	-	Public Works	City Manager's Office, West Bay Sanitary District, East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Fair Oaks Sewer Maintenance District	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning and Project Development Grant)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.5	Collaborate with landowners to decrease the risk of flooding by advancing watershed management projects that reduce and/or store runoff during rainfall events, including the installation of green infrastructure and Low Impact Development (LID) practices, and improve the condition in the floodplain, for example through floodplain restoration or improvement.	Action Item	The City coordinates the incorporation of Low Impact Development (LID) and green infrastructure elements into project stormwater management designs.	Public Works	OneShoreline, Department of Water Resources, City Manager's Office, Community Development	Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (Infrastructure State Revolving Fund (ISRF) Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.E.6	Encourage green infrastructure in future developments, including using green infrastructure as preferred alternative.	Action Item	Green infrastructure, including Low Impact Development (LID), is currently utilized for stormwater management and treatment in development projects.	Public Works	Community Development, City Manager's Office, Sustainability Division	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.E.7	Establish requirements for major development and redevelopment projects to construct and maintain urban greening projects in the adjacent public right of way. Community benefits for such projects could include shade trees for pedestrian and biking routes.	Action Item	The existing heritage tree ordinance has requirements for tree planting on private properties and replacement of trees in the public right of way. The City is currently updating administrative guidelines.	Public Works	Caltrans, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, Canopy	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grants	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.E.8	Restore and enhance parks, natural lands and large open spaces and explore expansion of the City's natural areas preservation system through land transfers and acquisitions of undeveloped/unprotected private and public lands.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	City Manager's Office, Community Development, Public Works, Save The Bay, California Department of Conservation	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.F	Increase community outreach and awareness of the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, including the Community Rating System, and the potential benefits to homeowners (e.g., reduced insurance premiums)	Program	-	Communications and Public Engagement Division	Public Works	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.G	Develop incentives to encourage shared commute programs and alternative methods of travel for city events, meetings, and official business.	Program	-	City Manager's Office, Public Works	SamTrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Public Works, Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Long Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.H	Collaborate with SamTrans and Ravenswood City School District, as well as Meta and other large employers to leverage transportation electrification initiatives to prioritize bus electrification in underserved communities.	Program	SamTrans anticipated being fully electric by 2034, in compliance with State law requiring transit fleets be all electric by 2040.	Public Works	Sustainability Division, SamTrans, Ravenswood City School District, Large Local Businesses (over 50 employees, e.g., Meta, SRI International, Grail, others)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.I	Consider revisions to applicable City regulations that will reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life in underserved communities.	Program	Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance, Municipal Code Chapter 7.30 (Smoking Regulated or Prohibited), Building Code amendments.	All City Departments	-	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.I.1	Review truck routes and/or identify and pursue measures for reductions to diesel emissions in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.I.2	Identify, evaluate and implement potential mitigation measures that support Caltrans mitigation efforts to reduce noise and air quality impacts from adjacent freeways and highways, particularly those impacting underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.I.3	Install improved vegetative buffers between freeways and highways and adjacent land uses to reduce noise and air quality impacts, upon identification of the roadway segments for such installations.	Action Item	Landscaping work on the Willow/US-101 interchange is in the design phase as of early 2024.	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning) Community Amenities Fund	In Progress	Long Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.I.4	Review and update the Transportation Toolkit (Appendix I to the Transportation Master Plan) and the City's standard design details to incorporate Universal Design principles to enhance access for all people.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Long Term	Medium Term
EJ2.I.5	Support roadway design that integrates green stormwater infrastructure into traffic calming (where appropriate) and includes trees, landscape buffer areas, public art, public space, and other visual enhancement.	Action Item	The City is currently integrating green stormwater infrastructure in roadway design, but is limited by the available space/right-of-way where landscape buffers can be incorporated.	Public Works	Caltrans, Library and Community Services	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.I.6	Consider rezoning and limiting the intensity and usage of industrially zoned properties and/or other means such as landscaping to ensure a healthier and safer separation between residential and industrial uses.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ2.I.7	Explore reductions to parking requirements with the intent to encourage balanced live, work, and play environments.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ2.I.8	Inform residents and organizations in underserved communities of the permit application process for temporary street closures for temporary events such as farmers' markets, arts and craft fairs, bicycle and pedestrian events, and other public events. Consider easing the permitting process for temporary street closures in the city.	Action Item	An update to the special event permitting process was made in 2022.	Police	City Manager's Office, City Attorney's Office, Community Development, Public Works.	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Short Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.J	Develop Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park within four years of the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	The City applied for CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant for Urban Forest Management Plan in May 2024. This grant requires projects to be completed by March 31, 2028. The City has budgeted \$250,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as matching funds.	Public Works	Sustainability Division, Canopy	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 Planning Grant), United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) Grants, CALFIRE grants. City of Menlo Park Heritage Tree in-lieu fee program	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.J.1	Urban canopy expansion prioritizing underserved communities and areas vulnerable to urban heat effects, using tools such as the Tree Equity Score and Bay Area Greenprint.	Action Item	The City is currently updating administrative guidelines, adding more City approved consulting arborists to the list, and working towards securing grant funds for Urban Forest: Developing a Master Plan for Menlo Park.	Public Works	Canopy	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), Community Amenities Fund	In Progress	Short Term
EJ2.J.2	Implement equitable canopy expansion procedures and promote and maintain healthy and vibrant trees that may require dedicating additional resources within the City Arborist Division, Public Works.	Action Item	The City is working towards the development of an urban forest management plan, updating administrative guidelines, and adding more City approved consulting arborists. One additional employee was added to the Trees maintenance section in 2022-23. In May 2024, the City applied for the CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant to develop an Urban Forest Management Plan for Menlo Park.	City Manager's Office, Public Works	Sustainability Division, Public Works	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program),	In Progress	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.J.3	Include trees, landscape buffer areas, public art, public space, and other visual enhancements in roadway projects, emphasizing tree planting and landscaping along all streets.	Action Item	Routine maintenance is conducted every 5 years. Residents may request evaluation of work needs outside of routine maintenance, which is on a 5-year cycle.	Public Works	Community Development, Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), Community Amenities Fund (north of 101 implementation of Action Item 2.N.3)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.J.4	Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to prioritize the retention of mature street trees in public rights of way or City-owned parcels during infrastructure modifications. (e.g., using solutions such as bulb-outs, basin expansion, and sidewalk re-routing.)	Action Item	The City has preservation requirements for heritage and street trees.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.J.5	Coordinate with property owners to help preserve mature trees by replacing any that require removal in any redevelopment process. Explore opportunities to transplant trees and vegetation that require removal during construction to other places within underserved communities. Consider requiring multiple new trees be planted for each mature tree removed.	Action Item	The City is updating administrative guidelines and adding more City approved consulting arborists to the list.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.K	Prioritize relief from extreme heat (Safety Element Program S1.T) in underserved communities. Information on these resources shall be provided at community facilities (e.g., BHCC).	Program	The City currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public.	Library and Community Services	Communications and Public Engagement	General Fund	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Goal EJ1. Address unique and compounded health risks</b>								

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<i>EJ1.1</i>	<i>Prioritize programs that address the unique and compounded health risks present in underserved communities currently and in the future.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.2</i>	<i>Reduce climate vulnerability in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.3</i>	<i>Strengthen collaboration efforts with residents in underserved communities, particularly on public improvement projects.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.4</i>	<i>Prioritize active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) improvements, transit incentives, and neighborhood connectivity in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ1.A</b>	Prioritize public/capital improvements needed in underserved communities with priority allocation of funding, available to the City locally and from regional, statewide, and federal entities, for such projects, and to address climate change.	Program	-	City Manager's Office, Public Works	Community Development, Sustainability Division	General Fund, General Capital Fund, Countywide Transportation Sales Tax Funds (Measure A & W), State and Federal Gas Taxes	Short Term	Long Term
<b>EJ1.A.1</b>	Support (to the extent possible and subject to funding limitations) non-governmental agencies' grant applications and projects that will specifically help implement the Environmental Justice Element and address highlighted issues in underserved communities such as safe housing, increased tree coverage, recreational resources, active transportation, environmental concerns, air quality.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	Bayfront Mitigation Fund (project specific) Community Amenities Fund (projects specific)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.B</b>	Prepare publicly available reports annually to describe how underserved communities are considered and prioritized in capital improvement plans, departmental work plans, and budgets within four years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	-	All City Departments	-	General Fund	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.C</b>	Develop and publicize annual or every-other-year reports that measure progress and outcomes of the implementation of the Environmental Justice Element programs within six years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.D</b>	Review CalEnviroScreen to support evaluation of Environmental Justice Element policies and programs.	Program	-	Community Development	California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, All City Departments	General Fund	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Goal EJ3. Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities</b>								
<i>EJ3.1</i>	<i>Prioritize providing public facilities and programming for underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ3.2</i>	<i>Ensure accessibility of public facilities for all community members, especially those in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ3.3</b>	<i>Support programs that increase access to public and private health resources for underserved communities in locations that are convenient and accessible.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ3.4</b>	<i>Coordinate with local school districts, transit operators, and other public agencies to provide adequate public facilities, improvements, and programs in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ3.A</b>	Identify, renovate, and retrofit candidate public buildings in underserved communities to serve as Climate Resilience Centers as outlined by the California Strategic Growth Council. These buildings should be places where the community already regularly gathers, such as libraries, community centers, or the Belle Haven neighborhood substation.	Program	-	Public Works	Sustainability Division, Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.B</b>	Work with relevant departments to install infrastructure allowing for easy disposal of pet and animal waste at parks and along highly trafficked streets.	Program	-	Public Works	City Manager's Office	General Fund	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.C</b>	Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills. In addition, expand outreach and community access to the City Library's laptop and wireless hotspot, or similar, borrowing programs.	Program	The City currently offers laptop lending and wi-fi hotspots free to residents at the library with their library card.	Library and Community Services	Local Internet Providers (e.g., AT&T, Xfinity, Spectrum), San Mateo County Public Works, California Public Utilities Commission, Administrative Services Department/Information Technology Department	California Advanced Services Fund: Broadband Public Housing Account	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.D</b>	Seek to form partnerships, particularly with community based organizations and businesses, and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ3.D.1</b>	Encourage local transit providers to establish and maintain routes and services that provide underserved communities with convenient access to health service facilities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	SamTrans, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term



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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.D.2	Partner with local transit providers to provide a comprehensive system of para-transit service for seniors and people of all abilities and enhance service within the city and to regional public facilities, especially for access to health care and other needs.	Action Item	-	Public Works	SamTrans, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.D.3	Identify means of supporting a citywide paramedicine program providing health care delivery, pop-up clinics, and home visits, especially to those most vulnerable or underserved, such as seniors and residents of underserved communities through partnering with health care services.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, City Manager's Office, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.D.4	Identify a partner who can provide a community health clinic in Belle Haven.	Action Item	A Community health clinic has been proposed as part of Belle Haven Elementary School redesign by Ravenswood City School District.	City Manager's Office	Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.E	Coordinate with schools and other local organizations (e.g., Boys and Girls Club) to support after-school activities and related outreach/communications generally.	Program	-	Library and Community Services	Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.E.1	Coordinate with the Ravenswood City School District to help publicize affordable after school care options/programs and explore opportunities to enhance transportation options for youth to BHCC.	Action Item	Ravenswood City School District has a number of after school care options/programs and the City can help publicize and enhance usage. City vans provide transportation to BHCC for youth enrolled in the City's after school program, however, there is not transportation for youth interested in going to BHCC after school but are not enrolled in the City's program.	Library and Community Services	Communications and Public Engagement, Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.E.2	Encourage joint use of recreational fields.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	Public Works, Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

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EJ3.F	Seek to form partnerships or other agreements with a banking specialist and other identified partners to provide a community bank or banking services in the underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Local banks	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.G	Ensure delivery on the needs of underserved communities through the City's Programming Plans currently in place and continue to adapt programming based on community feedback through regular community surveys and outreach.	Program	City staff, with input from the community, Belle Haven Community Campus subcommittee and working group, Library Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission, have developed robust programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus. City will continue to adapt programming to community needs through regular community surveys and outreach that solicit community feedback.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ3.G.1	During facility renovations, install distributed solar panels and battery storage over facility parking lots for resiliency and heat reduction.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Community Campus is an all-electric, zero combustion, net zero energy public building with onsite renewable energy generation, battery microgrid, and electric vehicle charging stations. The facility is built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum environmental standards, and its structural design is resilient to serve as an emergency shelter. Construction is complete.	Public Works	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department, Menlo Park Public Works Department, Silicon Valley Clean Energy, Menlo Park Building Division	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Complete	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.G.2	Provide equitable access to programs at the Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities.	Action Item	Programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) emphasize equitable access to programs through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities. Menlo Park residents who live or attend K-12 school within the service area of BHCC are eligible for hyperlocal resident enrollment fees at BHCC.	Library and Community Services	Library and Community Services Department, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.3	Providing community programming for all age groups, including older teens and older adults not considered seniors.	Action Item	The City provides and is working to develop additional programming for all age groups, including teens and older adults not considered seniors, and will continue to adapt programming to meet community needs and desires as they change over time, with community input.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.4	Provide childcare, potentially with funding support for residents of underserved communities.	Action Item	The City provides childcare with funding support for underserved communities at the Belle Haven Child Development Center (BHCCDC) and Belle Haven Youth Center (BHYC). Tuition is subsidized based on income level with grant funding from the State and other sources.	Library and Community Services	Local Childcare Organizations	California Department of Education	In Progress	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.G.5	Communicate with the Ravenswood City School District to enhance an understanding of preferred amenities and activities that can be included at Belle Haven Community Campus.	Action Item	Communication between the City and the Ravenswood City School District is ongoing. The School District partners with Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring, and City Year to provide before-school and after-school care. These collaborations offer both academic support and enrichment activities and the City continually seeks opportunities to amplify support for youth and families.	Library and Community Services	Ravenswood City School District, Communications and Public Engagement	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.6	Provide safe and highly visible pathways that connect residential areas in underserved communities to the new community center. Safety and visibility features should include adequate lighting.	Action Item	The Vision Zero Action Plan identifies high priority systemic safety issues to be addressed in all neighborhoods, with a focus on underserved communities.	Public Works	Library and Community Services, Community Development	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.7	Support the inclusion of artwork (e.g., murals) that reflects the diversity and culture of underserved communities at community centers and beyond. Include community artifacts and testaments to community history in the community center.	Action Item	Belle Haven Community Campus will include exhibits and displays focused on Belle Haven history, people, and neighborhood stories, rotating exhibits by local artists, interpretive artworks and multimedia.	Library and Community Services	Local Art Initiatives (e.g., Elevate Art Menlo Park, Allied Arts Guild)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ3.G.8</b>	Uplift culturally relevant holiday events at Belle Haven Community Campus to foster a feeling of belonging among all residents.	Action Item	The City is committed to work with community members to create more culturally relevant events is ongoing, including through mini-grants.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
<b>EJ3.G.9</b>	Facilitate yoga classes and other opportunities for regular community-gathering physical activities, such as walking groups and/or hiking programs for the underserved communities. Plan programs suitable to multiple age groups and abilities.	Action Item	The City currently offers yoga, Zumba, line-dancing and other movement classes for various age groups. Work with the community to develop new opportunities for community-oriented physical activities such as walking and/or hiking programs is ongoing.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
<b>EJ3.H</b>	Ensure that recreational facilities throughout Menlo Park provide all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles, with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities.	Program	City prioritizes access for all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles.	Library and Community Services	Public Works, Community Development	General Fund	In Progress	Long Term
<b>EJ3.H.1</b>	Provide public facilities that are well designed, energy efficient, maintained, and compatible with adjacent land uses.	Action Item	-	All City Departments	Community Development	General Fund	Medium Term	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.H.2	Offer substantially reduced costs for recreation activities, particularly to residents of underserved communities based on economic need.	Action Item	Programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) emphasize equitable access to programs through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities. Menlo Park residents who live or attend K-12 school within the service area of BHCC are eligible for hyperlocal resident enrollment fees at BHCC.	Library and Community Services	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	General Fund	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.H.3	In coordination with the City's Parks and Recreational Facilities Master Plan, provide public restroom facilities at parks in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department, Menlo Park Public Works Department	General Fund, Recreation In-Lieu Fee Fund	Short Term	Long Term
EJ3.H.4	Expand hours for public recreation facilities to allow working people to take advantage of the facilities. This should include open hours until 9:00 p.m. on weekdays and possibly shortened hours on weekends.	Action Item	-	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	-	General Fund	Short Term	Short Term
<b>Goal EJ6. Encourage physical activity and active transportation</b>								
EJ6.1	<i>Prioritize programs that encourage physical activity in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.2	<i>Support physically active lifestyles through investment in complete streets and active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) and safety in underserved communities</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.3	<i>Prioritize the implementation of traffic and transit improvements in underserved communities to reduce excessive speed, limit cut through traffic, and make streets comfortable and accessible places for all users and abilities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.A	Identify and eliminate, barriers to outdoor physical activity, such as damaged, incomplete, blocked, or littered sidewalks and bike paths, lack of safe street crossings and direct connections, excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping and shade trees along streets in underserved communities.	Program	-	Public Works	Community Development, Sustainability Division	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.B	In concurrence with the City's Vision Zero Action Plan, develop and implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling and taking transit. These efforts should include education for people using all modes.	Program	-	Public Works	Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, SamTrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ6.C	Coordinate with Ravenswood City School District to expand the Safe Routes to School program, including potential for increased crossing guards at key intersections.	Program	-	Public Works	Ravenswood City School District	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ6.D	Prepare to update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan (best practice is to update every 10-15 years) to improve environmental justice.	Program	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities), Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation Grants (Safe Streets and Roads for All, Sustainable Transportation Planning)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ6.D.1	Consider community solutions for addressing concerns related to parking (e.g., idling and noise, parking availability challenges) in underserved communities and explore the creation of Residential Preferential Parking (RPP) programs.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Police	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.D.2	Seek opportunities to improve pedestrian safety, at all Willow Road intersections.	Action Item	The City adopted the Vision Zero Action Plan in January 2024. The City is working on a Willow Road bicycle and pedestrian improvement project.	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
EJ6.D.3	Consider strategies to reduce excessive speed and cut-through traffic in underserved communities.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan is nearly complete and the City is coordinating with Caltrans to complete signal improvements at Willow and Newbridge	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ6.D.4	Install traffic calming measures to reduce speeds, as well as flashing stop signs in underserved communities, particularly around schools during pick-up and drop-off periods.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan is near completion. The Plan has completed speed humps near Belle Haven Elementary School, and bulbouts along Ivy, Chilco, Terminal and Newbridge.	Public Works	Caltrans, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, Ravenswood City School District, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Short Term



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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.D.5	Install bikeways on Ivy Drive, ideally Class I or Class IV.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Long Term	Long Term
EJ6.D.6	Expand the network of safe, accessible, and appealing pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including pedestrian connections within and in between neighborhoods. Poles, signs, or other impediments in the center of sidewalks should be modified to improve accessibility and sidewalk safety.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ6.D.7	Install lighting to encourage walking and safe travel at night. This may begin with installation on Ivy Drive, Hamilton Avenue, Chilco Street, Newbridge Street, and at public buildings at parks. It should continue after subsequent community outreach that identifies other streets and locations with inadequate lighting, prioritizing underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Community Development	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Short Term	Long Term
<b>Goal EJ7. Create equitable civic and community engagement</b>								
<i>EJ7.1</i>	<i>Prioritize civic and community engagement programs that enhance the participation and inclusion of underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ7.2</i>	<i>Keep residents informed about governmental meetings and actions by ensuring transparency and accessibility in government and decision making.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ7.3</b>	<i>Treat all members of the community fairly and promote equity and capacity building toward creating a healthy environment and just community.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ7.A</b>	Promote and evaluate capacity-building efforts to educate and involve traditionally underrepresented populations, including underserved communities, in the public decision-making process.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.1</b>	Partner with community-based organizations that have relationships, trust and cultural competency with target communities to outreach on local initiatives and issues and allow them the use of space in the Belle Haven Community Campus at no cost.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.2</b>	Use culturally appropriate approaches to public participation and involvement in a partnership with community based organization.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.3</b>	Deploy educational workshops for City staff to enhance understanding social injustice and housing needs pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.4</b>	Provide training for decision makers, City staff, applicants, and public on social justice issues that affect community members.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.B</b>	All meetings with an agendized item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the underserved community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as satellite meeting centers, simulcasting, and/or remote participation. Consider hardcopy materials for outreach, particularly door-to-door outreach.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Library and Community Services	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.C</b>	Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation (such as food and refreshments, stipends, on-site child care) at community outreach events in underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D</b>	Pursue equitable civic and community engagement.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.1</b>	Initiate outreach efforts as early as possible in the decision-making process before significant resources have been invested.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.2</b>	Conduct open meetings on issues affecting land use and the environment.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Public Works	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.3</b>	At least twice per year, beginning immediately following Environmental Justice Element Adoption, conduct City Council meetings in underserved communities.	Action Item	The Planning Commission and City Council will review and recommend/consider adoption of the Environmental Justice Element at BHCC.	Community Development	-	General Fund	<b>In Progress</b>	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.4</b>	Encourage representation from all districts on City boards and commissions.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.D.5	Evaluate scheduling of public meetings in order to allow for a wide range of participation options around typical and atypical working hours.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.6	Coordinate outreach efforts between City departments to avoid duplication and encourage that all Menlo Park community stakeholders receive notification and information.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.7	Inform the public on decisions – and seek feedback on decisions – using multiple communication methods, including traditional and online forms of communication.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.8	Incorporate multilingual outreach, announcements and noticing into City procedures for public meetings and hearings and offer interpretation services at all meetings and workshops on environmental issues.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.9	Consider offering childcare at key meetings and workshops on environmental issues affecting entire neighborhoods and the city as a whole.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.10	Distribute contact information (such as phone numbers to call) for various departments, programs and other functions in the City organization in underserved communities and in appropriate languages.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.E	Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the BHCC as a community hub for learning and engagement opportunities strengthened with partner organizations. These will connect residents in underserved communities with pre-existing city and state resources as well as encourage resident participation in public meetings, events, and decision making.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.E.1	Provide resources at BHCC about environmental safety, including flooding, extreme heat, and other issues identified in the Safety Element. Consider having a concierge or dedicated staff/resources to provide outreach on local mitigation efforts in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, Public Works, Sustainability Division	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.F	Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating City Councilmembers and appointed commissioners for the time they spend in their positions to make the positions more accessible to residents of underserved communities.	Program	A Planning Commission stipend pilot program was added in the 2023-2024 budget.	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	In Progress	Short Term
EJ7.G	Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions.	Program	SamTrans currently operates a countywide paratransit service.	Library and Community Services	SamTrans, Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.H	Ensure that disaster preparedness planning as described in the Safety Element includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park's underserved communities. Upon adoption of the Environmental Justice Element, conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that may include participation and information dissemination at public event and/or fairs in underserved communities with proactive encouragement and opportunity for the residents to sign up for emergency alert systems.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Menlo Park Fire Protection District	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.I	Encourage the sustained engagement and involvement of underserved communities in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. Maintain membership and partnership with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority during their oversight of levee installations and expansions protecting underserved communities.	Program	The SAFER Bay Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in 2022 and provides engagement and involvement opportunities.	Public Works	City Manager's Office, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ7.J	Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Annual reporting, at a minimum, should be provided to the City Council and made available on the City website.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.1	Monitoring programming at community centers for usage, popularity, and equitable access, including an annual report on community center programming to Council. The report shall include community outreach and will recommend any updates to programming and outreach methods to address inequitable access.	Action Item	The City currently collects usage data and statistics, and provides monthly usage reports to Library Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission. Annual report to City Council is currently under development.	Library and Community Services	-	General Fund	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.2	Publish an annual report on the progress of the Transportation Master Plan, beginning a year after adoption of the updated Transportation Master Plan.	Action Item	An online map showing completed projects is published on the City website.  Further status/dashboard information about the Transportation Master Plan and Vision Zero Action Plan is under development.	Public Works	Community Development Department, Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.J.3	Diligently implement all state laws and mandated bias and sensitivity training requirements for law enforcement officers, current and new upon hire, who may interact with historically discriminated groups. The Police Department shall maintain records as required by state law to show vigilant compliance with all state laws and California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requirements. The Police Department includes documentation of records generated in compliance with the department's "Bias-Based Policing" policy as well as California's Racial and Identity Profiling Act in its quarterly reporting to the community through City Council.	Action Item	-	Police	City Manager's Office	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.4	Prepare and publicize an annual report describing the City's progress on promoting and evaluating capacity-building efforts per Program EJ7.D. This report shall also evaluate outreach methods and recommend adjusting outreach strategies to reflect best practices and results.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.K	The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.L	The City Council shall consider the community-identified environmental justice priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation

**RESOLUTION NO. XXXX****RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK  
ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL PLAN TO UPDATE THE  
SAFETY ELEMENT**

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park (“City”) General Plan includes the Open Space/Conservation, Noise, and Safety Elements in a combined document that was last comprehensively updated on May 21, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Safety Element requires revision and updating to ensure compliance with current State law and regulations, including Senate Bill 379 (2015), Senate Bill 1035 (2018), Senate Bill 99 (2019), and Senate Bill 272 (2023); and

WHEREAS, the update to the Safety Element (“Project”) intentionally focuses on revision and updating to ensure compliance with current State law and regulations, and the Open Space/Conservation and Noise Elements are unchanged; and

WHEREAS, the Safety Element incorporates by reference the current San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and City of Menlo Park Annex, approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 2021, as required by Assembly Bill 2140 (2006) to increase opportunities for financial assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act; and

WHEREAS, the City conducted an extensive community outreach and engagement process that was inclusive and intentional to ensure the Safety Element reflects the community’s input and values while meeting state requirements and included activities such as community meetings, pop-ups, focus groups, English-Spanish translation/interpretation services, and surveys; and

WHEREAS, community meetings were held on August 26, 2021; April 5, 2022; February 9, 2023; February 10, 2023; May 2, 2024; and May 9, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed and provided feedback on the draft Safety Element on June 20, 2023 and June 3, 2024 and received and considered all public comment; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed and provided feedback on the draft Safety Element on June 20, 2023 and June 18, 2024 and received and considered all public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Project requires discretionary action by the City and therefore the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA,” Public Resources Code §21000 *et seq.*) and CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15000 *et seq.*) require analysis and a determination regarding the Project’s environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, the City is the lead agency, as defined by CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, and is therefore responsible for the preparation, consideration, certification, and approval of environmental documents for the Project; and

WHEREAS, as part of adopting the ConnectMenlo General Plan Update in 2016, the City prepared and certified the ConnectMenlo EIR, and for the Housing Element Update project (i.e., update to the Housing Element, update to the Safety Element, new Environmental Justice

Element, and associated changes including zoning amendments), a subsequent environmental impact report (SEIR) was prepared (State Clearinghouse No. 1990030530) which incorporated and revised the ConnectMenlo EIR to ensure that environmental aspects of the Housing Element Update were evaluated, and the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6808 on January 31, 2023 certifying the SEIR and taking associated CEQA actions; and

WHEREAS, CEQA recognizes that the specificity of environmental analysis for approval of a project is related to the nature and level of detail of the project being studied, does not require an agency to engage in speculation or conjecture as to potential impacts, and allows an agency to forego environmental analysis of project impacts upon determining it would be too speculative; and

WHEREAS, the amendment to the General Plan to update the Safety Element was considered in the certified SEIR and ultimately, the SEIR determined that an evaluation of potential environmental effects of the updated Safety Element was neither appropriate nor required under CEQA, as the Safety Element is primarily a policy document addressing general City direction so that it would be too speculative and uncertain to consider future development that might arise from the Safety Element, and the SEIR noted that any future proposed physical action associated with the Safety Element would undergo its own environmental analysis; and

WHEREAS, the certified SEIR concluded that the City's decision not to include such an evaluation was based on the purpose and characteristics of the Safety Element and as informed and supported by statute, regulation, and applicable case law indicating that such an analysis was not required by CEQA under such circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing as prescribed by law to consider the amendment to the General Plan to update the Safety Element on August 26, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission adopted Planning Commission Resolution No. 2024-035, on file with the Office of the City Clerk and incorporated by this reference, recommending that the City Council adopt an amendment to the General Plan to update the Safety Element; and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing as prescribed by law to consider the Planning Commission's recommendation and the amendment to the General Plan to update the Safety Element on September 24, 2024, and received and considered public comment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Menlo Park, acting by and through its City Council, having considered and been fully advised in the matter and good cause appearing therefore, as follows:

**Section 1. Recitals.**

The following recitations are true and correct and are hereby incorporated into this resolution.

**Section 2. General Plan Consistency.**

The update to the Safety Element (part of the City's combined Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements document) is consistent with the purposes of the General Plan in that the amendment supports a variety of objectives such as: promoting the orderly development of Menlo Park and its surrounding area (Land Use Goal LU-1); enhancing collaboration with adjacent jurisdictions (Land Use Policy LU-1.5); maintaining and enhancing the stability of Menlo Park's residential neighborhoods (Land Use Goal LU-2); promoting property maintenance

(Land Use Policy LU-2.8); avoiding development in areas with hazards to life or property (Land Use Policy LU-7.7); coordinating sea level rise/flood protection and planning (Land Use Program LU-7.G and LU-7.H); and encouraging resilient housing designs (Housing Element Policy H6.2).

**Section 3. Environmental Review.**

The amendment to the General Plan to update the Safety Element was addressed in the previously certified SEIR and no further environmental consideration is required under CEQA, and staff is directed to process a Notice of Determination to that effect.

**Section 4. Adoption.**

The amendment to the General Plan to update the Safety Element including the current San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and City of Menlo Park Annex, approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 2021 is hereby adopted (Exhibit A).

**Section 5. Effective Date.**

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the City Council.

I, Judi A. Herren, City Clerk of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing City Council Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said City Council on the twenty-fourth day of September, 2024, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of said City on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_, 2024.

---

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

Exhibit:

- A. Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements (amendments only to the Safety Element)



# City of Menlo Park

## Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements

Original Adoption: May 21, 2013  
Safety Element Update Adoption: \_\_\_\_\_

## Acknowledgments

### Safety (2024)

#### City Council

Drew Combs, Vice Mayor  
Maria Doerr, Councilmember  
Ray Mueller, Councilmember (former)  
Betsy Nash, Councilmember  
Cecilia Taylor, Mayor  
Jen Wolosin, Councilmember

#### Planning Commission

Andrew Barnes (former)  
Katie Behroozi  
Chris DeCardy (former)  
Linh Dan Do  
Michael Doran (former)  
Andrew Ehrich, Vice Chair  
Katie Ferrick  
Cynthia Harris (former)  
Camille Kennedy (former)  
Henry Riggs (former)  
Jennifer Schindler, Chair  
Misha Silin  
Ross Silverstein  
Michele Tate (former)  
David Thomas (former)

#### City Staff

Deanna Chow, Community Development Director  
Tom Smith, Principal Planner  
Calvin Chan, Senior Planner  
Chris Turner, Senior Planner  
Matthew Pruter, Associate Planner  
Justin Murphy, City Manager  
Nira Doherty, City Attorney  
Mary Wagner, Assistant City Attorney  
Ed Shaffer, Assistant City Attorney

#### Consultant Assistance

Metropolitan Planning Group (M-Group)  
Environmental Science Associates (ESA)  
Climate Resilient Communities (CRC)

## Open Space/Conservation and Noise (2013)

### City Council

Catherine Carlton  
Richard Cline  
Kirsten Keith  
Ray Mueller, Mayor Pro Tem  
Peter Ohtaki, Mayor

### Planning Commission

Vincent Bressler  
Ben Eiref  
Katie Ferrick, Chair  
John Kadvany, Vice Chair  
John O'Malley  
John Onken  
Henry Riggs

### City Staff

Justin Murphy, Project Manager and Development Services Manager  
Deanna Chow, Senior Planner  
Momoko Ishijima, Planner  
Arlinda Heineck, Community Development Director  
Vanh Malathong, Technical Services Coordinator  
Ron LaFrance, Building Official  
Rebecca Fotu, Environmental Programs Manager  
Cherise Brandell, Community Services Director  
Alex D. McIntyre, City Manager  
Starla Jerome-Robinson, Assistant City Manager  
Bill McClure, City Attorney  
Leigh F. Prince, Assistant City Attorney

### Consultant Assistance

Jeffery Baird, Baird + Driskell Community Planning  
The Planning Center / DC&E



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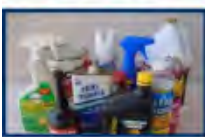
### Background

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## Technical Appendices

The *San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP)*, including the City of Menlo Park Annex, is incorporated and adopted by reference into the Safety Element, available online at the County of San Mateo’s website ([smcgov.org/dem/multijurisdictional-local-hazard-mitigation-plan](http://smcgov.org/dem/multijurisdictional-local-hazard-mitigation-plan)). The MJLHMP is presented in two volumes: Volume 1 includes planning area-wide elements and Volume 2 includes planning partner annexes, including one for the City of Menlo Park. This two-volume MJLHMP was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA’s Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The MJLHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities.

Menlo Park’s *2030 Climate Action Plan (2021)* is incorporated and adopted by reference into the Safety Element, available online from the City of Menlo Park’s website ([menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/City-Managers-Office/Sustainability/Climate-Action-Plan](http://menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/City-Managers-Office/Sustainability/Climate-Action-Plan)).



Note: The *City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update, General Plan Consistency Update and Zoning Ordinance Amendments Environmental Assessment*, prepared April 4, 2013, is available at the City of Menlo Park Community Development Department. The Environmental Assessment contains background technical analysis prepared for the Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements of the Menlo Park General Plan adopted May 21, 2013. The background sections in this document provide a summary of the information and technical analysis contained in the Environmental Assessment. The 2024 update of the Safety Element supersedes the prior information and technical analysis contained in the April 4, 2013 Environmental Assessment. Section VII (Safety Background) contains new information and analysis applicable to the 2024 update of the Safety Element.

## Introduction

### Section I

## Overview

---

### **A** Purposes and Requirements of the Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements



The Open Space/ Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements reflect current conditions, important community issues and relevant State laws related to environmental conditions in Menlo Park. The elements focus on providing direction as to how to protect community safety and to maintain a clean, safe and healthy environment including air and water quality, noise, greenhouse gas, conservation

of energy and minimizing impacts of development in hazardous or environmentally sensitive habitat areas.

A general plan is required to address the specified provisions of each of the seven mandated elements listed in Government Code §65302 — land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise and safety — to the extent that the provisions are locally relevant. Cities and counties that have identified disadvantaged communities must also address environmental justice in their general plans, including air quality. The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has prepared General Plan Guidelines to provide a broad overview of what a general plan might contain. Jurisdictions may combine elements of their general plan, as appropriate, but all elements of a general plan have equal weight under the law. In this document, the Open Space and Conservation Elements have been combined because of the many overlapping issues addressed.

#### **Open Space/Conservation Element Requirements**

The Open Space/Conservation Element of the Menlo Park General Plan combines two of the seven elements required by State law (California Government Code, Section 65300 et. seq.) — Open Space and Conservation. Open Space issues include policies and programs to maintain, expand and improve Menlo Park’s open space and recreation areas, while Conservation institutes policies and programs to conserve natural resources. Under State law, parks are encompassed within the mandate of the Open Space Element.



Both Open Space and Conservation Elements have been required as part of local General Plans since 1970. In enacting these requirements, it was the intent of the State Legislature to assure that cities recognize that open space land is a limited and valuable resource and to assure that every city and county will prepare and carry out an open space plan.

Section 65560 and 65561 of the Government Code specifies the contents of an Open Space Element. State policy with regard to open space is described in Section 65561 as follows:

- "(1) That the preservation of open-space land . . . is necessary not only for the maintenance of the economy of the state, but also for the assurance of the continued availability of land for the production of food and fiber, for the enjoyment of scenic beauty, for recreation, and for the use of natural resources.*
- (2) That discouraging premature and unnecessary conversion of open-space land to urban uses is a matter of public interest and will be of benefit to urban dwellers because it will discourage non-contiguous development patterns which unnecessarily increase the costs of community services to community residents.*
- (3) That the anticipated increase in the population of the state demands that cities, counties, and the state at the earliest possible date make definite plans for the preservation of valuable open-space land and take positive action to carry out such plans by the adoption and strict administration of laws, ordinances, rules and regulations as authorized by this chapter or by other appropriate methods.*
- (4) That in order to assure that the interests of all its people are met in the orderly growth and development of the state and the preservation and conservation of its resources, it is necessary to provide for the development by the state, regional agencies, counties and cities, including charter cities, of statewide coordinated plans for the conservation and preservation of open-space lands.*
- (5) That for these reasons this article is necessary for the promotion of the general welfare and for the protection of the public interest in open-space land."*

Below is an excerpt from Section 65302(d) of the California Government Code covering Conservation Elements.

*"A conservation element for the conservation, development, and utilization of natural*



*resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources. The conservation element shall consider the effect of development within the jurisdiction, as described in the land use element, on natural resources located on public lands, including military installations. That portion of the conservation element including waters shall be developed in coordination with any countywide water agency and with all district and city agencies, including flood management, water conservation, or groundwater agencies that have developed, served, controlled, managed, or conserved water of any type for any purpose in the county or city for which the plan is prepared. Coordination shall include the discussion and evaluation of any water supply and demand information described in Section 65352.5, if that information has been submitted by the water agency to the city or county.*

*The conservation element may also cover all of the following:*

- (A) The reclamation of land and waters.*
- (B) Prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other waters.*
- (C) Regulation of the use of land in stream channels and other areas required for the accomplishment of the conservation plan.*
- (D) Prevention, control, and correction of the erosion of soils, beaches, and shores.*
- (E) Protection of watersheds.*
- (F) The location, quantity and quality of the rock, sand and gravel resources.*

*Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2009, the conservation element shall identify rivers, creeks, streams, flood corridors, riparian habitats, and land that may accommodate floodwater for purposes of groundwater recharge and storm-water management.”*

### **Noise Element Requirements**

A Noise Element has been required as part of local General Plans since 1971. The State Legislature adopted the California Noise Control Act of 1973, which defined the following findings and policy:

- (1) Excessive noise is a serious hazard to the public health and welfare.
- (2) Exposure to certain levels of noise can result in physiological, psychological, and economic damage.
- (3) There is a continuous and increasing bombardment of noise in urban, suburban, and rural areas.
- (4) Government has by and large not taken the steps necessary to provide for the control, abatement, and prevention of unwanted and hazardous noise.
- (5) It is the policy of the State to provide an environment for all Californians free from noise that jeopardizes their health or welfare.

To implement this policy, Section 65302(f) of the California Government Code requires each city to have a Noise Element as part of its General Plan. The Government Code states that the Noise Element should be prepared according to guidelines established by the State Department of Health Services, Office of Noise Control. The excerpt below is from Section 65302(f) of the Government Code.

*“(f) A noise element which shall identify and appraise noise problems in the community. The noise element shall recognize the guidelines established by the Office of Noise Control in the State Department of Health Services and shall analyze and quantify, to the extent practicable, as determined by the legislative body, current and projected noise levels for all of the following sources:*

- (1) Highway and freeways.*
- (2) Primary arterials and major local streets.*
- (3) Passenger and freight on-line railroad operations and ground rapid transit systems.*
- (4) Commercial, general aviation, heliport, helistop, and military airport operations, aircraft overflights, jet engine test stands, and all other ground facilities and maintenance functions related to airport operation.*
- (5) Local industrial plants, including, but not limited to, railroad classification yards.*
- (6) Other ground stationary noise sources identified by local agencies as contributing to the community noise environment.*

*Noise contours shall be shown for all of these sources and stated in terms of community noise equivalent level (CNEL) or day-night average level (Ldn). The noise contours shall be prepared on the basis of noise monitoring or following generally accepted noise modeling techniques for the various sources identified in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive.*

*The noise contours shall be used as a guide for establishing a pattern of land uses in the land use element that minimizes the exposure of community residents to excessive noise.*

*The noise element shall include implementation measures and possible solutions that address existing and foreseeable noise problems, if any. The adopted noise element shall serve as a guideline for compliance with the state’s noise insulation standards.”*

## Safety Element Requirements

Safety issues have been required to be addressed as part of local general plans since 1971. The San Fernando earthquake of February 1971, which claimed 64 lives and resulted in over \$500 million in property damage, and devastating wildland fires in September and October of 1970, were largely responsible for prompting the Legislature to pass this requirement. The following citation is from Government Code Section 65302(g)(1):

*“A safety element for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence; liquefaction; and other seismic hazards identified pursuant to Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 2690) of Division 2 of the Public Resources Code, and other geologic hazards known to the legislative body; flooding; and wildland and urban fires. The safety element shall include mapping of known seismic and other geologic hazards. It shall also address evacuation routes, military installations, peakload water supply requirements, and minimum road widths and clearances around structures, as those items relate to identified fire and geologic hazards.”*

Since the previous Safety Element was adopted in 2013, there have been several updates requiring safety elements to include climate change vulnerability and adaptation, and increased attention to wildfire and evacuation routes.

- **Senate Bill (SB) 1241 (2012):** Regarding wildfire hazards specifically, jurisdictions in a State Responsibility Area (SRA) or jurisdictions with Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ), are required to revise their safety element to include information about wildfire hazards and risks, as well as goals, policies, objectives and implementation measures for the protection of the community from unreasonable fire risk. *Note: Menlo Park does not fall in an SRA or VHFHSZ. SB 1241 does not apply to this document.*
- **SB 379 (2015):** Jurisdictions are required to complete a vulnerability assessment; develop climate adaptation and resilience goals, policies and objectives; and develop a set of feasible implementation measures addressing climate change adaptation and resiliency.
- **SB 1035 (2018):** Jurisdictions must review and update climate adaption and resiliency strategies in the safety element upon each revision of the housing element or local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP or multijurisdictional local hazard mitigation plan: MJLHMP), but not less than once every 8 years.
- **SB 99 (2019):** Identify residential development in hazard areas without at least two emergency evacuation routes.
- **SB 272 (2023):** By January 1, 2034, develop a sea level rise plan as part of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan that is subject to

approval by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

In addition, Assembly Bill (AB) 747 (2019) requires local jurisdictions that have not adopted a LHMP or MJLHMP before January 1, 2022 to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios in the Safety Element. AB 1409 (2021) added the requirement to also identify evacuation locations. Menlo Park is part of the San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was adopted in 2021. Therefore, the information required by AB 747 and AB 1409 do not apply to the 2024 update of the Safety Element. However, this analysis will be required upon the next revision of the LHMP or MJLHMP.

## **B** Definitions of Key Terms

### **Definitions**

#### *Open Space/Conservation*

- Baylands.** Areas along a bay that are permanently wet or periodically covered with shallow water, such as saltwater and freshwater marshes, open or closed brackish marshes, swamps, mudflats, and fans.
- Biotic Community.** A group of living organisms characterized by a distinctive combination of both animal and plant species in a particular habitat.
- Conservation.** Conservation is the wise management of renewable and non-renewable resources to prevent the unnecessary waste, destruction or neglect of resources for the enjoyment of future generations, such as water, air and energy systems. The preservation of these resources is concerned with the quality and quantity of the resource. Conservation areas may sustain a rare species and/or natural resource that cannot be restored or replaced. The purpose of conservation areas is to provide a protected location where the properties of a natural resource may be observed and enjoyed without risk of endangering the resource.
- Endangered Species.** A species of animal or plant that is considered endangered when its prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes.
- Habitat.** The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs.
- Historic Preservation.** The preservation of historically significant structures and neighborhoods until such time as, and in order to facilitate, restoration and rehabilitation of the building(s) to a former condition.
- Joint Powers Authority (JPA).** A legal arrangement that enables two or more units of government to share authority in order to plan and carry out a specific program or set of

programs that serves both units.

- **Open Space.** An open area that is primarily maintained in its natural condition and is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use for the purposes of (1) the preservation of natural resources, (2) the managed production of resources, (3) outdoor recreation, or (4) public health and safety. In some cases this definition includes pathways, landscaping and other improvements that are maintained. The provision of open space is intended to offer residents and visitors opportunities for quiet introspection in a location that provides visual relief from buildings, concrete and noise associated with more urban life.
- **Park.** A park is an improved, primarily unobstructed area, with landscaping and recreational equipment such as play apparatuses and/or basketball courts. In some cases this definition includes property with recreation buildings or structures. The purpose of parks is to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and physical exercise near to residential and employment areas.
- **Plan Bay Area.** Plan Bay Area is an integrated long-range transportation and land-use/housing plan for the San Francisco Bay Area. Legislation calls upon the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to adopt a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), which will coordinate land use and transportation in the regional transportation plan.
- **Rare or Endangered Species.** A species of animal or plant listed in: Sections 670.2 or 670.5, Title 14, California Administrative Code; or Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 17.11 or Section 17.2, pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act designating species as rare, threatened, or endangered.
- **Regional Park.** A park typically 150-500 acres in size focusing on activities and natural features not included in most other types of parks and often based on a specific scenic or recreational opportunity.
- **Riparian Lands.** Riparian lands are comprised of the vegetative and wildlife areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams. Riparian areas are delineated by the existence of plant species normally found near freshwater.
- **Sustainability.** Community use of natural resources in a way that does not jeopardize the ability of future generations to live and prosper.
- **Wetlands.** Transitional area between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or the land is covered by shallow water. Under a "unified" methodology now used by all Federal agencies, wetlands are defined as "those areas meeting certain criteria for hydrology, vegetation, and soils."

#### *Noise*

- **A-Weighted Decibel (dBA).** An overall frequency-weighted sound level in decibels that approximates the frequency response of the human ear.

- Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL).** The energy-average of the A-weighted sound levels occurring during a 24-hour period, with 5 dB added to the levels occurring during the period from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and 10 dB added to the sound levels occurring during the period from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- dBA.** The "A-weighted" scale for measuring sound in decibels; weighs or reduces the effects of low and high frequencies in order to simulate human hearing. Every increase of 10 dBA doubles the perceived loudness though the noise is actually ten times more intense.
- Day-Night Sound Level (Ldn).** The energy-average of the A-weighted sound levels occurring during a 24-hour period, with 10 dB added to the sound levels occurring during the period from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- Decibel (dB).** A unit measure of sound on a logarithmic scale.
- Equivalent Continuous Noise Level (Leq).** The mean of the noise level, energy averaged over the measurement period, such as the 24-hour CNEL used by the State of California.
- Noise.** Sound that is loud, unpleasant, unexpected, or otherwise undesirable.
- Noise Attenuation.** Reduction of the level of a noise source using a substance, material, or surface, such as earth berms and/or solid concrete walls.
- Noise Contour.** A line connecting points of equal noise level as measured on the same scale. Noise levels greater than the 60 Ldn contour (measured in dBA) require noise attenuation in residential development.
- Sound.** A disturbance created by a vibrating object, which, when transmitted by pressure waves through a medium such as air, is capable of being detected by a receiving mechanism, such as the human ear or a microphone.
- Statistical Sound Level (Ln).** The sound level that is exceeded "n" percent of time during a given sample period. For example, the L50 level is the statistical indicator of the time-varying noise signal that is exceeded 50 percent of the time (during each sampling period); that is, half of the sampling time, the changing noise levels are above this value and half of the time they are below it. This is called the "median sound level." The L10 level, likewise, is the value that is exceeded 10 percent of the time (i.e. near the maximum) and this is often known as the "intrusive sound level." The L90 is the sound level exceeded 90 percent of the time and is often considered the "effective background level" or "residual noise level."

#### *Safety*

- Critical Use Structures.** Critical use structures include those required for effective disaster response (emergency operating centers, police and fire stations, medical facilities), lifelines (gas, water, sewage, and electrical systems), and structures whose failure would be catastrophic (dams).

- Fault.** A fracture in the earth's crust forming a boundary between shifting rock masses.
- Fire Hazard Zone.** An area where, due to slope, fuel, weather, or other fire-related conditions, the potential loss of life and property from a fire necessitates special fire protection measures and planning before development occurs.
- Flood, 100-Year and 500-Year.** The magnitude of a flood expected to occur on the average every 100 or 500 years, based on historical data. The 100-year flood has a 1/100, or one percent, chance of occurring in any given year. The 500-year flood has a 1/500, or two-tenths of one percent, chance of occurring in any given year.
- Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).** For each community, the official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated areas of special flood hazard and the risk premium zones applicable to that community.
- Hazardous Material.** Any substance that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. The term includes, but is not limited to, hazardous substances and hazardous wastes.
- High-Occupancy Structure.** All pre-1935 buildings with over 25 occupants, and all pre-1976 buildings with more than 100 occupants.
- Landslide.** A general term for a falling mass of soil or rocks.
- Liquefaction.** The transformation of loose water-saturated granular materials (such as sand or silt) from a solid into a liquid state that can occur during an earthquake.
- Mercalli Intensity Scale.** A subjective measure of the observed effects (human reactions, structural damage, geologic effects) of an earthquake. Expressed in Roman numerals from I to XII.
- Richter Scale.** A measure of the size or energy release of an earthquake at its source. The scale is logarithmic; the wave amplitude of each number on the scale is 10 times greater than that of the previous whole number.
- Seiche.** An earthquake-generated wave in an enclosed body of water such as a lake, reservoir, or bay.
- Sensitive Populations.** Sensitive populations include those persons or groups of persons particularly vulnerable and in need of special attention in an emergency or disaster situation. Examples of sensitive populations include older adults, pregnant women, children, people with disabilities, access and functional needs, multiple chemical sensitivities, etc.
- State Responsibility Areas.** As used in the Safety Element of the general plan, areas of the state in which the financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires has been

determined by the State Board of Forestry (pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4125) to be primarily the responsibility of the State of California.

- Tsunami.** A large ocean wave generated by an earthquake in or near the ocean.



## Acronyms

AAQS	Ambient air quality standards
AB	Assembly Bill
ABAG	Association of Bay Area Governments
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BCDC	San Francisco Bay Area Conservation and Development Commission
CAP	City of Menlo Park Climate Action Plan
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBC	California Building Code
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGS	California Geological Society
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CDMG	California Division of Mines and Geology (State Resources Agency)
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
dB/ dBA	Decibel/"A-weighted" decibel
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
ECR/DSP	El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
Ldn	Day and Night Average Sound Level
Leq	Sound Energy Equivalent Level
MJLHMP	Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
M	Magnitude (Richer Scale)
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OPR	Governor's Office of Planning and Research
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SFBAAB	San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin
STOPPP	San Mateo Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
TACs	Toxic Air Contaminants
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey

## Goals, Policies and Implementing Programs

### Section II

# Open Space/Conservation Goals, Policies and Programs

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## **A** The Need for Open Space and Conservation



The Open Space/Conservation Element addresses issues related to the use, preservation, management and sustainability of land-based resources in Menlo Park, whether that land is dedicated to active recreation use, passive use or the protection of natural resources and environmental quality.

A central concern of the Open Space/Conservation Element, in considering the location, design, intensity and type of land uses in the City, is to continue to protect important natural resources and areas. Open Space and Conservation helps prevent the wasteful destruction and neglect of Menlo Park's natural resources, particularly scarce resources. The City recognizes that natural resources must be maintained for their economic and recreational use as well as for their ecological and scenic value.

The approach to natural resource conservation includes:

- Preserve the natural state, unique appeal and visual amenities of Menlo Park's bay lands and shoreline.
- Protect the wildlife habitat, scenic value and natural character of the San Francisquito Creek and Atherton Creek riparian corridors.
- Protect sensitive species and natural communities.
- Preserve open areas needed for protection from natural hazards.
- Maintain, preserve and enhance contiguous open space on Stanford lands within Menlo Park's unincorporated sphere of influence.
- Protect lands that have inherent qualities to provide visual amenity, including topographic features, views or vistas, street landscape areas, scenic water areas, creeks and the San Francisco Bay.

- Provide landscaped areas that visually and environmentally enhance the community.

## **B** Open Space/Conservation Goals



### **Goal OSC1 — MAINTAIN, PROTECT AND ENHANCE OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Protect, conserve and enhance valuable natural resources, open areas and designated open space lands rich in scenic value, wildlife or of a fragile ecological nature through conservation and restoration efforts.**

*Natural features and resources have shaped both the growth and form of Menlo Park and provide many of the attractive characteristics of the area. The City has a responsibility to maintain and protect these assets for future generations, and to*

*anticipate future needs.*

### **Goal OSC2 — PROVIDE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

**Develop and maintain a parks and recreation system to provide areas and facilities conveniently located, sustainable, properly designed and well-maintained to serve the recreation needs and promote healthy living of residents, workers and visitors to Menlo Park.**

*Park and recreation facilities play a critical role in determining the quality of life in Menlo Park. The City is committed to ongoing improvements to address the recreational needs of its residents. Numerous parks, public spaces and playing fields are integral to the life of the City. Recreational facilities and playing fields are well maintained.*

### **Goal OSC3 — PROTECT AND ENHANCE HISTORIC RESOURCES**

**Protect and enhance cultural and historical resources for their aesthetic, scientific, educational, and cultural values.**

*It is the goal of Menlo Park to have protected and maintained historic buildings and archaeological resources as part of Menlo Park's cultural heritage. City policy has been to protect and build upon the historic character that exists in the City. City policy also protects known archeological resources to the maximum extent feasible.*

**Goal OSC4 — PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING**  
**Promote a sustainable energy supply and implement the City’s Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the sustainability of actions by City government, residents, and businesses in Menlo Park. This includes promoting land use patterns that reduce the number and length of motor vehicle trips, and encouraging recycling, reduction and reuse programs.**

*Menlo Park’s Climate Action Plan addresses greenhouse gas emissions through planned emission reduction strategies covering the City’s operations and life in the community at large. But, it is important to recognize that a major determinant in the City of Menlo Park’s success in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions will be the actions taken by regional, State and national bodies across all sectors. The City’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through such actions as land use and transportation initiatives and reducing, reusing and recycling resources, also consider the broader sustainability benefits that accompany local climate protection efforts, such as cleaner air and water, healthier people and local economic development.*

**Goal OSC5 — ENSURE HEALTHY AIR QUALITY AND WATER QUALITY**  
**Enhance and preserve air quality in accord with State and regional standards, and encourage the coordination of total water quality management including both supply and wastewater treatment.**

*The Open Space/Conservation Element is intended to ensure that high quality air and water are available to all who reside, work and play in the City. The City seeks to mitigate the effects of vehicular pollution by supporting policies that promote more environmentally friendly forms of transport as well as promote land use design practices that are more efficient. Maintaining and improving water quality is essential to protect public health, wildlife, and watersheds, and to ensure opportunities for public recreation and economic development in Menlo Park.*

## **C** Open Space/Conservation Policies and Implementing Programs

### *Goal OSC1*

### MAINTAIN, PROTECT AND ENHANCE OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

#### ***Policies***

- OSC1.1 **Natural Resources Integration with Other Uses.** Protect Menlo Park's natural environment and integrate creeks, utility corridors, and other significant natural and scenic features into development plans.
- OSC1.2 **Habitat for Open Space and Conservation Purposes.** Preserve, protect, maintain and enhance water, water-related areas, plant and wildlife habitat for open space and conservation purposes.
- OSC1.3 **Sensitive Habitats.** Require new development on or near sensitive habitats to provide baseline assessments prepared by qualified biologists, and specify requirements relative to the baseline assessments.
- OSC1.4 **Habitat Enhancement.** Require new development to minimize the disturbance of natural habitats and vegetation, and requires revegetation of disturbed natural habitat areas with native or non-invasive naturalized species.
- OSC1.5 **Invasive, Non-Native Plant Species.** Avoid the use of invasive, non-native species, as identified on the lists of invasive plants maintained at the California Invasive Plant Inventory and United States Department of Agriculture invasive and noxious weeds database, or other authoritative sources, in landscaping on public property.
- OSC1.6 **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and Flood Management Project.** Continue to support and participate in Federal and State efforts related to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and flood management project. Provide public access to the Bay for scenic enjoyment and recreation opportunities as well as conservation education opportunities related to the open Bay, the sloughs, and the marshes.
- OSC1.7 **San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority.** Continue efforts through San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority to enhance the value of the

creek as a community amenity for trails and open space, conservation and educational opportunities.

- OSC1.8 **Regional Open Space Preservation Efforts.** Support regional and sub-regional efforts to acquire, develop and maintain open space conservation lands.
- OSC1.9 **Federal, State and County Open Space and Conservation Programs.** Make maximum use of Federal, State and county programs wherever possible in all matters concerned with open space and conservation.
- OSC1.10 **Public Education and Stewardship.** Promote public education, environmental programs, and stewardship of open space and natural resources conservation.
- OSC1.11 **Sustainable Landscape Practices.** Encourage the enhancement of boulevards, plazas and other urban open spaces in high-density and mixed-use residential developments, commercial and industrial areas with landscaping practices that minimize water usage.
- OSC1.12 **Landscaping and Plazas.** Include landscaping and plazas on public and private lands, and well-designed pedestrian and bicycle facilities in areas of intensive non-vehicular activity. Require landscaping for shade, surface runoff, or to obscure parked cars in extensive parking areas.
- OSC1.13 **Yard and Open Space Requirements in New Development.** Ensure that required yard and open spaces are provided for as part of new multi-family residential, mixed-use, commercial and industrial development.
- OSC1.14 **Protection of Conservation and Scenic Areas.** Protect conservation and scenic areas from deterioration or destruction by vandalism, private actions or public actions.
- OSC1.15 **Heritage Trees.** Protect Heritage Trees, including during construction activities through enforcement of the Heritage Tree Ordinance (Chapter 13.24 of the Municipal Code).
- OSC1.16 **Visual Amenities in Public Improvements.** Require that all public improvements to facilities, such as streets, civic structures and major municipal projects, recognize the need for visual amenities such as landscaping, public plazas, public art, and pedestrian and bicycle access.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC1.A **Provide Incentives for Maintaining Private Lands in Open Space.** Establish programs to provide incentives for maintaining private lands in open space and for insuring open areas within future developments through programs including but not limited, to cluster development, acquisition of a permanent open space easement, and/or transfer of development rights.
- OSC1.B **Continue Subdivision Assessments.** Continue subdivision assessments for parks and open space purposes consistent with the Subdivision Ordinance.
- OSC1.C **Promote Environmental Stewardship.** Promote public education, environmental programs and stewardship of natural resources and open space preservation within the City.

### ***Goal OSC2***

## **PROVIDE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**



### ***Policies***

- OSC2.1 **Open Space for Recreation Use.** Provide open space lands for a variety of recreation opportunities, make improvements, construct facilities and maintain programs that incorporate sustainable practices that promote healthy living and quality of life.
- OSC2.2 **Planning for Residential Recreational Needs.** Work with residential developers to ensure that parks and recreational facilities planned to serve new development will be available concurrently with need.
- OSC2.3 **Recreation Requirements for New Development.** Require dedication of improved land, or payment of fee in lieu of, for park and recreation land for all residential uses.

- OSC2.4 **Parkland Standards.** Strive to maintain the standard of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.
- OSC2.5 **Schools for Recreational Use.** Coordinate with the local school districts to continue to operate school sites for local recreation purposes.
- OSC2.6 **Pedestrian and Bicycle Paths.** Develop pedestrian and bicycle paths consistent with the recommendations of local and regional trail and bicycle route projects, including the Bay Trail.
- OSC2.7 **Conservation of Resources at City Facilities.** Reduce consumption of water, energy, landfilled waste, and fossil fuels in the construction, operations and maintenance of City owned and/or operated facilities.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC2.A **Support Regional Open Space, Conservation and Recreational Efforts.** Coordinate with Mid-Peninsula Regional Park District, San Mateo County and other regional open space and conservation measures to ensure recreational opportunities at existing and future parks and trails.
- OSC2.B **Evaluate Recreational Needs.** Evaluate park facilities on a regular basis for their overall function and ability to meet recreational needs. Provide new amenities as needed and based on financial resources to support changing needs of the population and recreational trends.

## ***Goal OSC3***

### **PROTECT AND ENHANCE HISTORIC RESOURCES**

#### ***Policies***

- OSC3.1 **Prehistoric or Historic Cultural Resources Investigation and Preservation.** Preserve historical and cultural resources to the maximum extent practical.
- OSC3.2 **Prehistoric or Historic Cultural Resources Protection.** Require significant historic or prehistoric artifacts be examined by a qualified consulting archaeologist or historian for appropriate protection and preservation, and to ensure compliance with local, State and Federal regulations.
- OSC3.3 **Archaeological or Paleontological Resources Protection.** Protect prehistoric or historic cultural resources either on site or through appropriate documentation as a condition of removal. Require that when a development



project has sufficient flexibility, avoidance and preservation of the resource shall be the primary mitigation measure, unless the City identifies superior mitigation. If resources are documented, undertake coordination with descendants and/or stakeholder groups, as warranted.

- OSC3.4 **Prehistoric or Historic Cultural Resources Found During Construction.** Require that if cultural resources, including archaeological or paleontological resources, are uncovered during grading or other on-site excavation activities, construction shall stop until appropriate mitigation is implemented.
- OSC3.5 **Consultation with Native American Tribes.** Consult with those Native American tribes with ancestral ties to the Menlo Park city limits regarding General Plan Amendments and land use policy changes.
- OSC3.6 **Identification of Potential Historic Resources.** Identify historic resources for the historic district in the Zoning Ordinance and require design review of proposals affecting historic buildings.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC3.A **Evaluate Historic Resources Around the Downtown Specific Plan Area.** Hire a cultural resources professional to conduct a Historic Resources Survey of potential infill sites around the Downtown Specific Plan to determine whether the designated infill housing sites, or adjacent lots, contain buildings eligible to the California Register and/or the historic zoning designation.
- OSC3.B **Support a Study of Cultural Resources on the Veterans Affairs' Clinic Site.** Work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure study and protection of cultural resources through oversight by a cultural resource professional of any proposed development on the vacant portion of the Veterans Affairs' Clinic site.

## ***Goal OSC4***

### **PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING**

#### ***Policies***

- OSC4.1 **Sustainable Approach to Land Use Planning to Reduce Resource Consumption.** Encourage, to the extent feasible, (1) a balance and match between jobs and housing, (2) higher density residential and mixed-use development to be located adjacent to commercial centers and transit corridors, and (3) retail and office areas to be located within walking and biking distance of transit or existing and proposed residential developments.

- OSC4.2 **Sustainable Building.** Promote and/or establish environmentally sustainable building practices or standards in new development that would conserve water and energy, prevent stormwater pollution, reduce landfilled waste, and reduce fossil fuel consumption from transportation and energy activities.
- OSC4.3 **Renewable Energy.** Promote the installation of renewable energy technology, such as, on residences and businesses through education, social marketing methods, establishing standards and/or providing incentives.
- OSC4.4 **Vehicles Using Alternative Fuel.** Explore the potential for installing infrastructure for vehicles that use alternative fuel, such as electric plug in recharging stations.
- OSC4.5 **Energy Standards in Residential and Commercial Construction.** Encourage projects to achieve a high level of energy conservation exceeding standards set forth in the California Energy Code for Residential and Commercial development.
- OSC4.6 **Waste Reduction Target.** Strive to meet the California State Integrated Waste Management Board per person target of waste generation per person per day through their source reduction, reuse, and recycling programs.
- OSC4.7 **Waste Management Collaboration.** Continue to support and participate in efforts such as the South Bayside Waste Management Authority, which provides waste reduction, recycling, and solid waste programs and solutions.
- OSC4.8 **Waste Diversion.** Develop and implement a zero waste policy, or implement standards, incentives, or other programs that would lead the community towards a zero waste goal.
- OSC4.9 **Climate Action Planning.** Undertake annual review and updates, as needed, to the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP).
- OSC4.10 **Energy Upgrade California.** Consider actively marketing and providing additional incentives for residents and businesses to participate in local, State, and/or Federal renewable or energy conservation programs.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC4.A **Develop a Residential Energy Efficiency Program.** Develop an energy efficiency/renewable energy program or policy for the residential and commercial sectors through education, social marketing methods, standards and/or incentive

programs to the degree feasible.

- OSC4.B **Monitor the City's Climate Action Plan.** Establish a Climate Action Plan monitoring and progress reporting program.
- OSC4.C **Expand the Green Business Program.** Expand Green Business Certification Program/Include Green Business education to new business permit applicants.
- OSC4.D **Promote Local Food Production.** Develop a promotion and education program to encourage local and/or organic food production, including community gardens.

## *Goal OSC5*

### ENSURE HEALTHY AIR AND WATER QUALITY

#### ***Policies***

- OSC5.1 **Air and Water Quality Standards.** Continue to apply standards and policies established by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program (SMCWPPP), and City of Menlo Park Climate Action Plan through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and other means as applicable.
- OSC5.2 **Development in Industrial Areas.** Evaluate development projects in industrial areas for impacts to air and water resources in relation to truck traffic, hazardous materials use and production-level manufacturing per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and require measures to mitigate potential impacts to less than significant levels.
- OSC5.3 **Water Conservation.** Encourage water-conserving practices in businesses, homes and institutions.

#### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC5.A **Expand Water Conservation Programs.** Expand the Menlo Park Municipal Water District's conservation programs through education, social marketing methods, establishing standards, and providing incentives.

## Section III

# Noise Goals, Policies and Programs

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## **A** The Importance of Noise Attenuation



The purpose of the Noise Element is to appraise existing noise problems in the community and to provide guidance to the community and developers for avoiding problems in the future. It also can provide the basis for code enforcement and other regulations, including implementation of the City's Noise Ordinance to control nuisance noise.

Noise is part of everyday life in a community and is generally defined as unwanted sound. Whether a sound is unwanted depends on when and where it occurs, what the listener is doing when it occurs, characteristics of the sound (loudness, pitch and duration, speech or music content, irregularity), and how intrusive it is above background sound levels. Acceptable levels of noise vary from land use to land use. Also, in any one location, the noise level will vary over time, from the lowest background or ambient levels to that of passing airplanes or construction equipment. Various techniques have been developed that measure the effects of noise levels over a period of time.

It is difficult to specify noise levels that are generally acceptable to everyone. What is annoying to one person may be unnoticed by another. Standards may be based on documented complaint activity in response to noise levels, or based on studies on the ability of people to sleep, talk, or work under various noise conditions. All such studies, however, recognize that individual responses vary considerably. Standards usually address the needs of most of the general population. With this caution in mind, noise standards for planning purposes need to examine outdoor and indoor noise levels acceptable for different uses. The standards must relate to existing conditions in the City so that they are realistically enforceable and consistent with other General Plan policies.

## B Noise Goal



### Goal N1 — ACHIEVE ACCEPTABLE NOISE LEVELS

**It is the goal of Menlo Park to have acceptable noise levels.**

*Excessive noise is a concern for many residents of Menlo Park. These concerns can be managed with proper mitigation or through the implementation of the City's noise ordinance. The City of Menlo Park recognizes the issue of noise and has standards to protect the peace, health and safety of residents and the community from unreasonable noise from any and all sources in the community and to strive to locate uses compatible to the area to minimize escalation of noise from mobile and stationary sources.*

## C Noise Policies and Implementing Programs

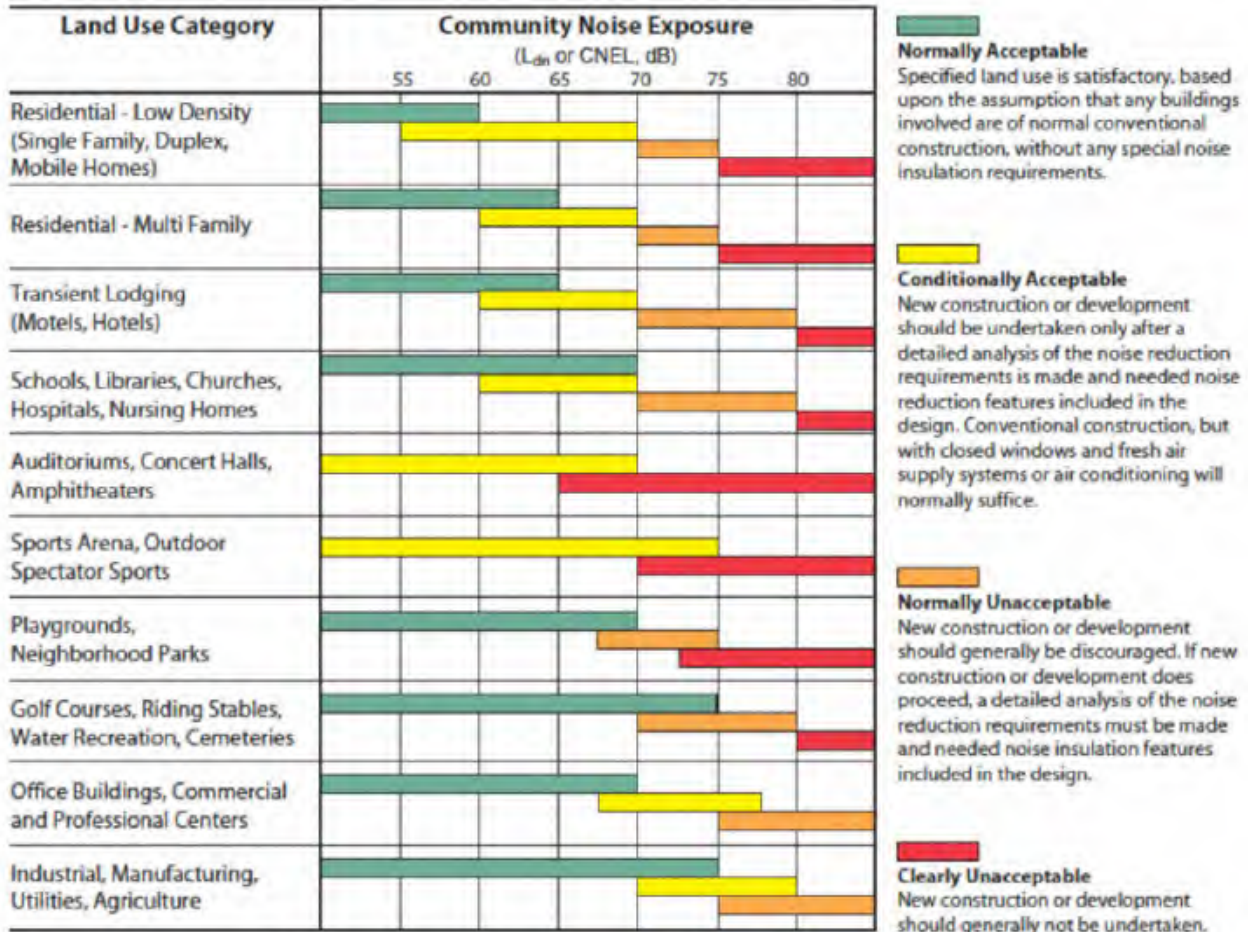
### Goal N1

### ACHIEVE ACCEPTABLE NOISE LEVELS

#### **Policies**

- N1.1 **Compliance with Noise Standards.** Consider the compatibility of proposed land uses with the noise environment when preparing or revising community and/or specific plans. Require new projects to comply with the noise standards of local, regional, and building code regulations, including but not limited to the City's Municipal Code, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, and subdivision and zoning codes.
- N1.2 **Land Use Compatibility Noise Standards.** Protect people in new development from excessive noise by applying the City's Land Use Compatibility Noise Standards for New Development (see chart on the next page) to the siting and required mitigation for new uses in existing noise environments.

### Land Use Compatibility Noise Standards for New Development



**N1.3 Exterior and Interior Noise Standards for Residential Use Areas.** Strive to achieve acceptable interior noise levels and exterior noise levels for backyards and/or common usable outdoor areas in new residential development, and reduce outdoor noise levels in existing residential areas where economically and aesthetically feasible.

**N1.4 Noise Sensitive Uses.** Protect existing residential neighborhoods and noise sensitive uses from unacceptable noise levels and vibration impacts. Noise sensitive uses include, but are not limited to, hospitals, schools, religious facilities, convalescent homes and businesses with highly sensitive equipment. Discourage the siting of noise-sensitive uses in areas in excess of 65 dBA CNEL without appropriate mitigation and locate noise sensitive uses away from noise sources unless mitigation measures are included in development plans.

**N1.5 Planning and Design of New Development to Reduce Noise Impacts.** Design residential developments to minimize the transportation-related noise

impacts to adjacent residential areas and encourage new development to be site planned and architecturally designed to minimize noise impacts on noise-sensitive spaces. Proper site planning can be effective in reducing noise impacts.

- N1.6 **Noise Reduction Measures.** Encourage the use of construction methods, state-of-the-art noise abating materials and technology and creative site design including, but not limited to, open space, earthen berms, parking, accessory buildings, and landscaping to buffer new and existing development from noise and to reduce potential conflicts between ambient noise levels and noise-sensitive land uses. Use sound walls only when other methods are not practical or when recommended by an acoustical expert.
- N1.7 **Noise and Vibration from New Non-Residential Development.** Design non-residential development to minimize noise impacts on nearby uses. Where vibration impacts may occur, reduce impacts on residences and businesses through the use of setbacks and/or structural design features that reduce vibration to levels at or below the guidelines of the Federal Transit Administration near rail lines and industrial uses.
- N1.8 **Potential Annoying or Harmful Noise.** Preclude the generation of annoying or harmful noise on stationary noise sources, such as construction and property maintenance activity and mechanical equipment.
- N1.9 **Transportation Related Noise Attenuation.** Strive to minimize traffic noise through land use policies, traffic-calming methods to reduce traffic speed, law enforcement and street improvements, and encourage other agencies to reduce noise levels generated by roadways, railways, rapid transit, and other facilities.
- N1.10 **Nuisance Noise.** Minimize impacts from noise levels that exceed community sound levels through enforcement of the City's Noise Ordinance. Control unnecessary, excessive and annoying noises within the City where not preempted by Federal and State control through implementation and updating of the Noise Ordinance.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- N1.A **Require Acoustical Studies.** Require acoustical studies for all new multi-family residential projects within the projected Ldn 60 dB noise contours so that noise mitigation measures can be incorporated into project design and site planning.

- N1.B **Reduce Existing Vehicular Noise Through Enforcement.** Actively enforce the provisions of the California Motor Vehicle Code pertaining to vehicle speed and noise emission.
- N1.C **Consider Noise Impacts in Street Design.** Employ noise mitigation practices and materials, as necessary, when designing future streets and when improvements occur along existing road segments. Mitigation measures should consider quieter pavements and emphasize the establishment of natural buffers or setbacks between the arterial roadways and adjoining noise-sensitive areas. Strive to maintain smooth street surfaces adjacent to land uses that are sensitive to noise intrusion.
- N1.D **Minimize Construction Activity Noise.** Minimize the exposure of nearby properties to excessive noise levels from construction-related activity through CEQA review, conditions of approval and enforcement of the City's Noise Ordinance.
- N1.E **Consider Noise Levels in City Equipment Purchases.** Include noise specifications in requests for equipment information and bids for new City equipment and consider this information as part of evaluation of the bids. The City of Menlo Park should consider noise emission when purchasing vehicles, construction equipment, etc. This consideration should be balanced with the required performance and cost.
- N1.F **Work with Other Agencies to Reduce Transportation-Related Noise Levels.** Work closely with Caltrans, San Mateo County Department of Public Works and other jurisdictions to reduce noise levels along State highways and county roadways through or near the City.
- N1.G **Monitor Airport Noise.** Engage airport authorities and participate in regional planning efforts to ensure future activities and flight patterns at commercial airports do not negatively impact noise levels in the city.
- N1.H **Work with Railroad Operators to Reduce Noise and Vibration Levels.** Work with the railroad operators (e.g, Caltrain, Union Pacific, etc.) to reduce, to the extent possible, the contribution of railroad train noise and vibration to Menlo Park's noise environment.
- N1.I **Work with Neighboring Communities When Implementing Noise Policies and Programs.** Work with neighboring communities to ensure compliance with the land use and noise compatibility policies contained in this Noise Element at Menlo Park's boundaries.
- N1.J **Evaluate Noise Related Impacts of City Actions as Appropriate.** Analyze in detail the potential noise impacts of any actions that the City may take or act upon which could significantly alter noise level in the community.



## Section IV

# Safety Goals, Policies and Programs

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## **A** Overview of Safety Considerations

The Safety Element provides a framework for planning for and responding to potential hazards in the city. The purpose of the Safety Element is to identify and appraise risks in the community and provide high-level strategies for mitigating risks and ensuring the wellness of the community, city services, and infrastructure. The Safety Element focuses on protection of the community from hazards associated with climate change, earthquakes, floods, fires, toxic waste, and other hazards. In addition, issues such as disaster preparedness and residential areas without two emergency evacuation routes are addressed.

Some level of risk associated with these factors is unavoidable; the Safety Element is the means by which the City defines what measures will be undertaken to reduce these risks. The extent of a hazard depends on local conditions since most hazards are confined to a particular area or site. Various health and safety hazards should be considered in planning the location, design, intensity, density, and type of land uses in a given area. Long-term costs to the City, such as maintenance, liability exposure, and emergency services are potentially greater where high hazards exist.

The Safety Element of the General Plan is aimed at reducing potential risk of death, injuries, damage to property, and the economic and social disruptions resulting from fire, flood, geologic and other hazards. The General Plan provides policies and standards for the type, location, intensity, and design of development in areas of potential hazards. The intent is not to remove all risks associated with each specific type of hazard, but to reduce risks to life and property and to make informed decisions about land use and development near these hazards. A safety element is required to identify unreasonable risks and provide policies for the protection of the community from such risks.<sup>1</sup> The traditional risks entailed are slope instability, seismic risks, flooding, and fire. More recently, after the passage of SB 379 (2015), climate change risks are required for consideration.

The Safety Element is supported by San Mateo County's Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP), the City of Menlo Park's 2030 CAP, San Mateo County's 2015 Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), and anticipated sea level rise planning as required by SB 272 (2023). These resources are subsequently discussed in the

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<sup>1</sup> Gov. Code § 65302(g)(1)

“Relationship to Other Plans” section. The MJLHMP provides several of the required maps for the Safety Element.

## **B** Safety Goal

### GOAL S1 — ASSURE A SAFE COMMUNITY

Minimize risk to life and damage to the environment and property from natural and human-caused hazards, and assure community emergency and disaster preparedness and a high level of public safety services and facilities.

## **C** Safety Policies and Implementing Programs

### Goal S1

#### ASSURE A SAFE COMMUNITY

##### **Policies**

##### *General Safety Policies*

- S1.1 **Location of Future Development.** Permit development only in those areas where potential danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the community can be adequately mitigated.
- S1.2 **Location of Public Improvements.** Avoid locating public improvements and utilities in areas with identified flood, geologic and/or soil hazards to avoid any extraordinary maintenance and operating expenses. When the location of public improvements and utilities in such areas cannot be avoided, assure that effective mitigation measures will be implemented.
- S1.3 **Hazard Data and Standards.** Integrate hazard data (flood, earthquake, sea level rise, etc.) and risk evaluations into the development review process and maintain, develop and adopt up-to-date FEMA standards to reduce the level of risk from natural and human-caused hazards for all land uses.
- S1.4 **Inter-Jurisdictional Cooperation.** Continue to improve inter-jurisdictional cooperation with regard to public safety concerns related to natural hazard disaster response and mitigation.
- S1.5 **New Habitable Structures.** Require that all new habitable structures

incorporate adequate hazard mitigation measures to reduce identified risks from natural and human-caused hazards.

- S1.6 **Design and Location of Utilities.** Monitor appropriate location, design, construction, maintenance, and inspection standards for utility systems traversing hazard areas within the City limits. This would include evaluating and upgrading outdated systems and infrastructure, integrating green infrastructure as much as practical, coordinating with the State Public Utilities Commission, and locating new utility systems away from potential hazard areas.
- S1.7 **Hazard Reduction.** Continue to require new development to reduce the seismic vulnerability of buildings and susceptibility to other hazards through enforcement of the California Building Standards Code and other programs.
- S1.8 **Safety Element Updates.** Review and comprehensively revise the Safety Element whenever there is a change in relevant state law and/or new standards reflecting new scientific data or evidence related to prevention of natural and human hazards becomes available. Coordinate revisions with countywide planning efforts, other General Plan elements, and City emergency plans.
- S1.9 **Community Safety Services and Facilities.** In coordination with other agencies, maintain adequate and cost-effective levels of safety services, facilities, and programs to address safety concerns in Menlo Park.
- S1.10 **Safety Review of Development Projects.** Continue to require hazard mitigation, fire prevention, and adequate access for emergency vehicles in new development.
- S1.11 **Visibility and Access to Address Safety Concerns.** Require that development be designed to permit maximum visibility and access to law enforcement, ambulance, and fire control vehicles consistent with privacy and other design considerations.
- S1.12 **Provide a Safe Transportation System.** Aligning with Circulation Element policies CIRC-1.1 through CIRC-1.9, provide and maintain a safe circulation system that promotes a healthy, safe, and active community throughout Menlo Park.
- S1.13 **Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Funding.** Identify ways to maximize opportunities to secure federal funding for mitigation and

disaster recovery projects. This could include inter-jurisdictional cooperation (S1.4).

#### Geologic and Seismic Safety Policies

- S1.14 **Geotechnical Studies.** Continue to require site-specific geologic and geotechnical studies for land development or construction in areas of potential land instability as shown on the State and/or local geologic hazard maps or identified through other means.
- S1.15 **Potential Land Instability.** Prohibit development in areas of potential land instability identified on State and/or local geologic hazard maps, or identified through other means, unless a geologic investigation demonstrates hazards can be mitigated to an acceptable level as defined by the State of California, consistent with any applicable State and local standard and requirement.
- S1.16 **Funding Earthquake Resistance Improvements.** Support State and Federal financial assistance or tax incentive programs to encourage repair, demolition or abatement of earthquake hazardous structures.

#### Hazardous Materials Policies

- S1.17 **Hazardous Materials Regulations.** Review and strengthen, if necessary, regulations for the structural design and/or uses involving hazardous materials to minimize risk to local populations. Enforce compliance with current State and local requirements for the manufacturing, use, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials, and the designation of appropriate truck routes in Menlo Park.
- S1.18 **Potential Exposure of New Residential Development to Hazardous Materials.** Minimize risk associated with hazardous materials by assessing exposure to hazardous materials of new residential development and sensitive populations near existing industrial and manufacturing areas.
- S1.19 **Potential Hazardous Materials Conditions Investigation.** Continue to require developers to conduct an investigation of soils, groundwater, and buildings affected by hazardous materials potentially released from prior land uses in areas historically used for commercial or industrial uses, and identify and implement mitigation measures to avoid adversely affecting the environment or the health and safety of residents or new uses.
- S1.20 **Disposal of Existing Hazardous Materials on Sites Planned for Housing.** Continue to require that sites planned for housing be cleared of

hazardous materials (e.g., paint, solvents, chlorine) and the hazardous materials disposed in compliance with State, county, and Federal laws.

- S1.21 **Pipeline Safety.** Require, to the extent practical, that new pipelines and other channels carrying hazardous materials be placed to avoid residential areas and, in particular, areas where the population is less mobile.

#### Sea Level Rise and Flood Hazard Management Policies

- S1.22 **Flood and Tsunami Hazard Planning and Mapping.** Consider the threat of flooding and tsunamis in planning and management practices to minimize risk to life, environment, and property, and maintain tsunami hazard zones maps and flood maps as new information is provided by FEMA and other regional agencies. Permit only uses and development where damage and impacts to health and safety can be minimized in the event of inundation.

- S1.23 **Flood Damage Prevention.** Continue to apply standards for any construction projects (new structures and existing structures proposed for substantial improvement) in areas of special flood hazard in accordance with FEMA and the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, including the use of flood-resistant construction materials and construction methods that minimize flood damage. To the extent practicable, locate new essential public facilities outside of flood zones, such as City operations facilities, police and fire stations, and hospitals, unless risks are minimized.

- S1.24 **Potential Dam Inundation.** Consider potential risks from dam inundation in the development approval process.

- S1.25 **Dam Safety.** Support programs by the California Division of Safety of Dams to retrofit or replace dams or to increase earthquake resistance of dams and mitigate impacts of dam failures. State efforts to inspect dams and evaluate dam safety requirements shall also be supported.

- S1.26 **Creeks and Drainage-ways.** Minimize undue erosion of creek banks. Protect creek-side habitat by limiting development within 50 feet of the creek bank and provide maintenance access along creeks where appropriate and consistent with State law.

- S1.27 **Erosion and Sediment Control.** Continue to require the use of best management practices for erosion and sediment control measures with proposed development in compliance with applicable regional regulations.

- S1.28 **Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Requirements.** Enforce stormwater pollution prevention practices and appropriate watershed management plans in the RWQCB general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements, the San Mateo County Water Pollution Prevention Program, and the City's Stormwater Management Program. Revise, as necessary, City plans so they integrate water quality and watershed protection with water supply, flood management, habitat protection, groundwater recharge, and other sustainable development principles and policies.
- S1.29 **Sea Level Rise and Flood Protection.** Collaborate in regional sea level rise planning and consider sea level rise in siting new facilities or residences. Ensure that new development, substantial retrofits, critical facilities, City-owned buildings, and existing and future flood management infrastructures are planned and designed to accommodate climate change hazards, including increases in flooding, sea level rise, and rising groundwater, based on the best available science.

*Fire Safety Policies*

- S1.30 **Fire Equipment and Personnel Access.** Require adequate access and clearance, to the maximum extent practical, for fire equipment, fire suppression personnel, and evacuation for high occupancy structures in coordination with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.
- S1.31 **Coordination with the Menlo Park Fire District.** Encourage City-Fire District coordination in the planning process and require, where appropriate, development applications to be reviewed by the Menlo Park Fire Protection District prior to project approval by the City.
- S1.32 **Fire Resistant Design.** Encourage new homes to incorporate fire resistant design and strategies such as the use of fire-resistant materials and landscaping, and creating defensible space (e.g., areas free of highly flammable vegetation).

*Public Safety and Emergency Response Policies*

- S1.33 **Location of Critical Facilities.** Locate critical facilities (e.g., hospitals, schools, Emergency Operations Center (E.O.C.)) to minimize impacts from hazards.

- S1.34 **Continued Functioning of Utilities and Critical Use Facilities (Essential Service Buildings).** Encourage local public utilities and service providers to locate and design facilities and systems to ensure continued service in emergency conditions. Maintain structural and operational integrity of essential public facilities during flooding and other emergency conditions.
- S1.35 **Disaster Preparedness Planning.** Ensure disaster preparedness in cooperation with other public agencies and appropriate public-interest organizations. Encourage and support residents to organize in volunteer response groups and collaborate with all related Public Safety Agencies for a coordinated response. Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park’s Underserved Communities.
- S1.36 **Community Preparedness.** Embrace FEMA’s Whole Community approach by encouraging improved safety programs for schools, institutions, and industries to promote greater public awareness of all types of hazards and appropriate responses and support the San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management’s efforts for countywide preparedness, response and protection services and activities for large-scale incidents and disasters.
- S1.37 **Emergency Notification System.** Continue to support and improve on the Emergency Notification System for disaster information release in emergencies. Maintain official communication updates to the City website and communication outlets (e.g., SMC Alerts and social media channels).
- S1.38 **Emergency Connectors and Evacuation Routes.** Maintain a system of emergency connectors and evacuation routes as part of the City’s disaster planning.
- S1.39 **Emergency Vehicle Access.** Require that all private roads be designed to allow access for emergency vehicles as a prerequisite to the granting of permits and approvals for construction.
- S1.40 **Public Health.** Collaborate with county health services (and other health services as appropriate) on communication and mitigation/adaptation strategies during public health crises, such as communicable and infectious diseases.
- S1.41 **Heat Adaptation.** Support strategies to help reduce the heat island effect and minimize its effect on the Menlo Park community.

## ***Implementing Programs***

### *General Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.A **Link the City's Housing and Safety Elements.** Continue to review and revise the Safety Element, as necessary, concurrently with updates to the General Plan Housing Element in response to new state guidance on new data or evidence related to prevention of natural and human hazards become available.
- S1.B **Maintain Up-to-Date Hazard Maps and Databases.** Maintain databases and maps of geologic and other hazards to identify areas prone to hazards for planning purposes on an on-going basis concurrently with updates to the General Plan Housing Element.
- S1.C **Review Building Code Updates.** Continue to review State Building Code updates and incorporate local amendments as appropriate to require that new construction be designed under the most current safety standards. The review of updates should also consider requirements for facilities housing sensitive populations.
- S1.D **Require Early Investigation of Potential Hazard Conditions.** Require that potential geologic, seismic, soils, and/or hydrologic problems confronting public or private development be thoroughly investigated at the earliest stages of the design process, and that these topics be comprehensively evaluated in the environmental review process by technical experts.
- S1.E **Modify the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances as Needed to Address Hazard Mitigation.** Modify the Zoning Ordinance as needed when new information on natural hazards becomes available, and to provide for hazard reduction measures as part of the design criteria for development review. Review the Subdivision Ordinance and modify as needed to include hazard reduction in the process of dividing land for development.
- S1.F **Work with the Public Utilities Commission.** Work with the California Public Utilities Commission to require public utilities to apply the policies in the Safety Element to the planning and operation of their facilities, and to coordinate their activities with local planning agencies.
- S1.G **Share Hazard Data with Other Agencies.** Participate in a cooperative countywide program to pool natural hazard data developed through special studies or via the project review process and continue to update and implement the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### *Geologic and Seismic Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.H **Enforce Seismic Risk Analysis and Adequate Construction Standards.** Enforce seismic risk analysis and adequate construction standards through the building permit and inspection process.



- S1.I **Review Approach to Buildings in High Seismic Risk Areas.** Continue to support the California Residential Mitigation Program's (CRMP) Earthquake Brace & Bolt program and consider establishing a program to help both residential and non-residential property owners identify if they own a building in a high seismic hazard risk area or a seismically vulnerable building, including soft-story buildings, and identify what incentives exist to encourage repair or demolition.

*Hazardous Materials Implementing Programs*

- S1.J **Require Health and Safety Plan for Hazardous Materials.** Require the preparation of health and safety plans to be used to protect the general public and all workers in construction areas from potentially hazardous materials. The plan shall describe the practices and procedures to protect worker health in the event of an accidental release of hazardous materials or if previously undiscovered hazardous materials are encountered during construction. The plan shall include items such as spill prevention, cleanup and evacuation procedures. The plan will help protect the public and workers by providing procedures and contingencies that will help reduce the exposure to hazardous materials.

- S1.K **Track Remediation Needs for Existing Known Hazardous Soils and Other Hazardous Materials.** Monitor remediation of existing known hazards, such as contaminated soils and clean-up of leaking or abandoned underground storage tanks.

*Flood Management, Tsunami and Dam Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.L **Evaluate New Community Facilities Proposed in Dam Inundation Zones.** Require that new community facilities located within dam inundation zones evaluate the potential for flooding and the impact on evacuation during the development approval process.

- S1.M **Sea Level Rise Planning.** Collaborate with other agencies to develop a sea level rise plan as part of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan that is subject to approval by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, as applicable, on or before January 1, 2034. As part of this collaboration, consider and implement OneShoreline recommendations, as appropriate, to plan for future conditions impacted by climate change including those related to sea level rise.

*Fire Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.N **Fire Sprinkler Requirements.** Work with the Fire District to evaluate whether to encourage sprinkler requirements that are beyond State minimum code.

*Public Safety and Emergency Response Implementing Programs*

- S1.O **Investigate Potential Impact of Train Derailment on Emergency Services.** Coordinate with Caltrain and Union Pacific. Expand to encompass emergency plans for all transit and paratransit operators.
- S1.P **Encourage Disaster Drills in Schools.** Coordinate with private schools in conducting disaster drills in schools, augmented with a community awareness campaign on how, when, and where young people in primary and secondary schools are to be reunited with their guardians. Coordinate with public school districts and the County as appropriate.
- S1.Q **Coordinate the General Plan with City Emergency Planning Efforts.** Implement the Safety Element with other General Plan elements and City emergency plans — the Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) and Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) — and make necessary revisions.
- S1.R **Outreach for Sensitive Populations.** Develop disaster preparedness response capabilities, recovery operations, evacuation planning, outreach, and education for sensitive populations. Engagement should include prevention, shelter-in-place, and evacuation plans. Special care should be given to engage individuals who require in-home support.
- S.1S **Public Communication.** Develop communication protocols – including a language access policy – for disseminating information to the Menlo Park community, including public-facing businesses (such as retail and restaurants) and congregative living facilities, during public health crises.
- S1.T **Public Heat Respite.** Incorporate public respite areas from heat when remodeling or developing new public buildings and open space. This could include landscaping, architectural, or design features as well as policies to allow community members into public buildings on days and nights with extreme heat (e.g., cooling centers).
- S1.U **Heat Island Minimization.** Develop street tree and landscaping policies that minimize heat islands within Menlo Park, particularly in Underserved Communities (see Figure S.13. Heat Island Effect Map).

## Background

### Section V

## Open Space/Conservation Background

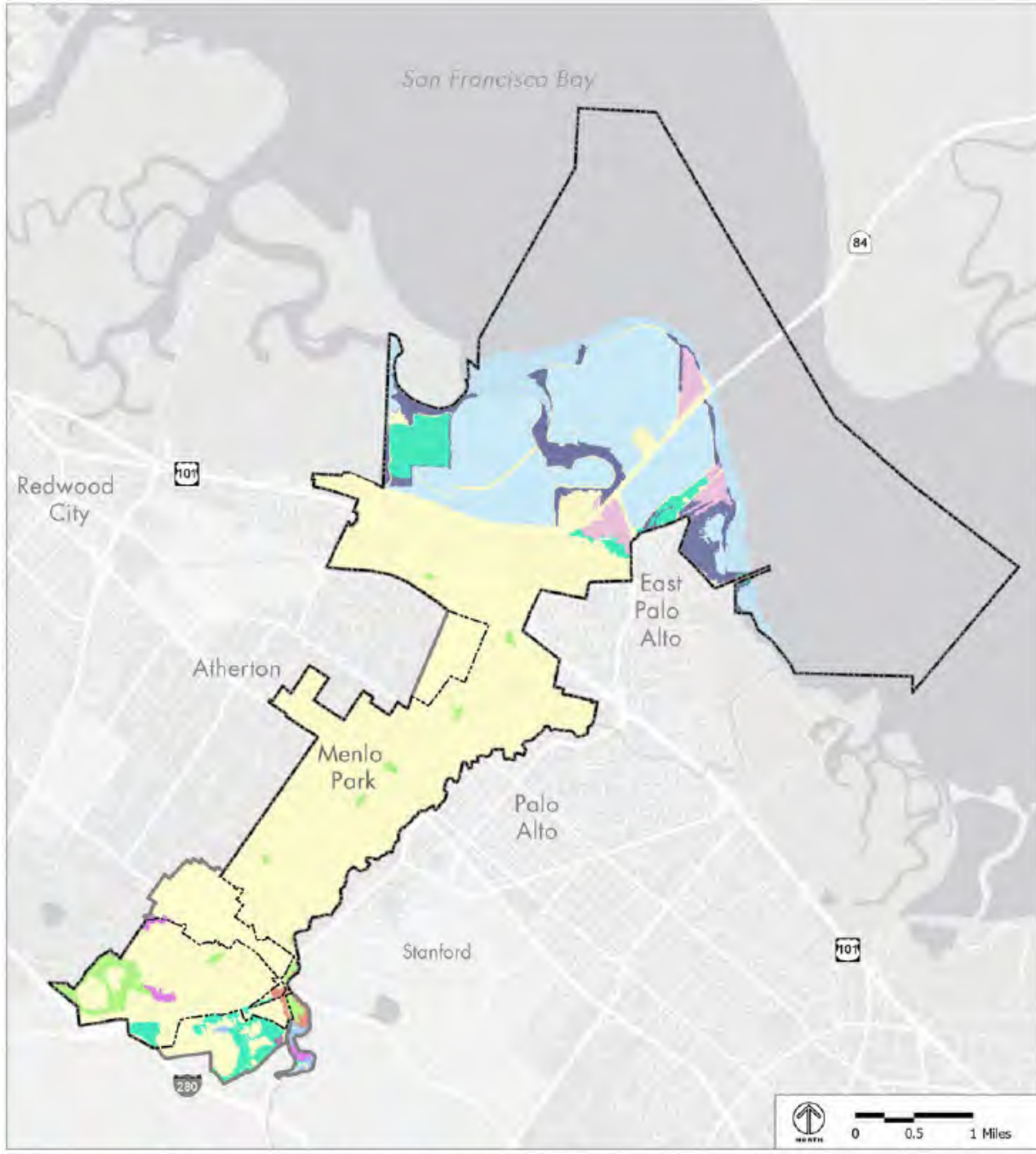
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### **A** Natural Resources

Menlo Park stretches from 326 feet above sea level in the foothills of Jasper Ridge (located outside the City limits and part of the Santa Cruz Mountains) in the west, through the flatlands in the center of the valley, to sea level at the marshes and mudflats of San Francisco Bay in the west. The City's center is relatively flat, with slopes of approximately 0.5 to 0.8 percent. The higher, hilly portion of the City is west of the street Alameda de las Pulgas. The lower, flatter portion of the City is east of Alameda de las Pulgas. Topography helps to define several sub-areas of the City from a natural resources standpoint, as follows:

- (1) **Eastern.** The eastern edge of the City, east of U.S. 101 to the Bay, consists of near-sea-level elevation flat land roughly 4 to 10 feet above sea level. This area is comprised of coastal salt marshes, mudflats, as well as urbanized land or baylands.
- (2) **Central.** Central Menlo Park, lying west of U.S. 101 and east of Alameda de las Pulgas, is gently sloping from roughly 20 feet above sea level to 130 feet above sea level, and consists mostly of flat, urbanized area. The southern border of central Menlo Park is flanked by the San Francisquito Creek riparian canopy and channel.
- (3) **Western.** The far western side of Menlo Park, located from the western edge of Alameda de las Pulgas to City limits, is roughly 130 to 300 feet above sea level and consists of the hilly grasslands below Jasper Ridge, which have been partially urbanized.

The natural community types in Menlo Park are defined by a combination of dominant plant community characteristics, landform, land use and ecological function. They include the Coastal Salt Marsh and Salt Ponds; Tidal Mudflats; San Francisquito Creek; Oak Woodlands; and Grasslands. Existing vegetation in Menlo Park is shown on the map on the next page.



Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2012; ESRI 2010; USDE Forest Service, March 2007.

- |  |                          |             |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|
| California Bay                                 | Riparian Mixed Hardwoods | City Limits |
| Annual Grasses and Forbs                       | Tule - Cattail           |             |
| Coast Live Oak                                 | Urban                    |             |
| Non-Native/Ornamental Conifer/Hardwood Mixture | Valley Oak               |             |
| Non-Native/Ornamental Grass                    | Water                    |             |
| Pickleweed - Cordgrass                         |                          |             |

### Existing Vegetation

## Description of Natural Resources Types

### Coastal Salt Marsh and Salt Ponds

Salt ponds and marshes once covered the edges of Bay, including the baylands in Menlo Park. In 1850, the conversion of these marshes through diking and filling began, and by 1969, just 75 square miles remained throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Menlo Park has large, intact marshes within its borders. Ravenswood Slough, Westpoint Slough, and Flood Point Slough contribute to the approximately 2,300 acres of tidal mudflats and 300 acres of salt marsh of the City.



These salt and brackish water marshes that border the Bay are a part of the Don Edwards Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and are associated with the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. Most of the salt ponds and marshes in or near Menlo Park have been (or will be) restored to or are retained in their natural state.

Coastal salt marshes are closely associated with tidal action and are characterized by sloughs (marshy creeks). These habitats are dominated by native species such as pickleweed and edged by cordgrass and salt grass. Coastal salt marshes are high biodiversity wildlife habitats, and are associated with a wide variety of native shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, waterfowl, fish, and crustaceans. Special status species are not uncommon in San Francisco Bay Area salt marshes.

### Tidal Mudflats

Tidal mudflats consist of unvegetated mud deposits along the shoreline that are regularly inundated and exposed by the tides of the Bay waters. These mudflats provide a habitat for a wide variety of crabs, snails, sea squirts, clams, mussels, and tubeworms. These species offer a rich feeding ground of macro-invertebrates to tens of thousands of migratory and resident shorebirds that travel from as far as Canada and Alaska. At higher tides, large marine species such as leopard sharks, starry flounder, and bat rays feed on these same macro-invertebrates. Migratory birds are an example of the special status species found in this habitat.

### San Francisquito Creek

In the urbanized portion of Menlo Park, San Francisquito Creek is the main creek. It originates west of Menlo Park just below Searsville Lake in Jasper Ridge, defines the southern border of Menlo Park for roughly three miles from the intersection of Alpine Road and Junipero Serra Boulevard, until it reaches Euclid Avenue near U.S. 101, then turns eastward and empties into the bay from within the borders of East Palo Alto. San

Francisquito Creek flows through Menlo Park largely in its natural alignment where it forms the southern boundary of the Menlo Park City limits.

Riparian vegetation around San Francisquito Creek spans a 25-75 meter-wide space, depending on adjacent land use and topography, and its canopy consists primarily of native trees—willow, bay laurels, redwoods, alders, cottonwoods, California buckeye, valley oaks, and coast live oaks. San Francisquito Creek shrub vegetation commonly consists of native species such as blackberry, and poison oak. In the urbanized lower reaches of the creek, non-native exotics such as eucalyptus, black locust, acacia, bamboo, pines, and redwoods are mixed in with the native plant species.

Riparian habitats, even in heavily urbanized areas, are very valuable to wildlife, providing food, water, and shelter in one location. Riparian habitat is associated with a wide variety of native resident and migratory songbirds, raptors, rodents, bats, and other mammals, as well as fish and amphibians. Urban creeks, such as San Francisquito that have preserved canopies and/or understories, are usually the most species rich, and some of these species are under special protections.

### **Oak Woodlands**

Mature oaks provide nesting and foraging opportunities for birds, including raptors. They also provide essential food resources for animals that include acorns in their diet, such as squirrels and woodpeckers. Other wildlife species that commonly nest or den in woodland habitat include mammals such as woodrats and deer mice, and birds such as owls, raptors, and songbirds. Native reptiles and amphibians associated with this habitat include snakes, newts, and salamanders. Contiguous oak woodlands with mature trees are relatively biodiverse and species rich, and some species found in these habitats are under special protections.

### **Grasslands**

The foothills of Menlo Park are located on the City's western border and are dominated by common non-native annual grasses. Portions of this area have been developed for housing and related uses, while another portion of these foothills, owned by Stanford University, have been preserved as open space. Plant species include wild oats, Italian ryegrass, foxtail barley, yellow star thistle, field bindweed, prickly lettuce, prickly ox-tongue, and field mustard. The grasslands are also dotted with taller trees and shrubs, including native California species such as coyote bush, toyon, valley oak, and coast live oak. Adult, large circumference non-native trees, such as black walnut, red gum, and acacia, are also present. This open space area provides important foraging habitat for raptors, native prey and predator mammals, and reptiles. Grasslands which are large and contiguous are usually the most species-rich. Some grassland species, such as nesting raptors, are under special protection.

### **Developed Baylands**

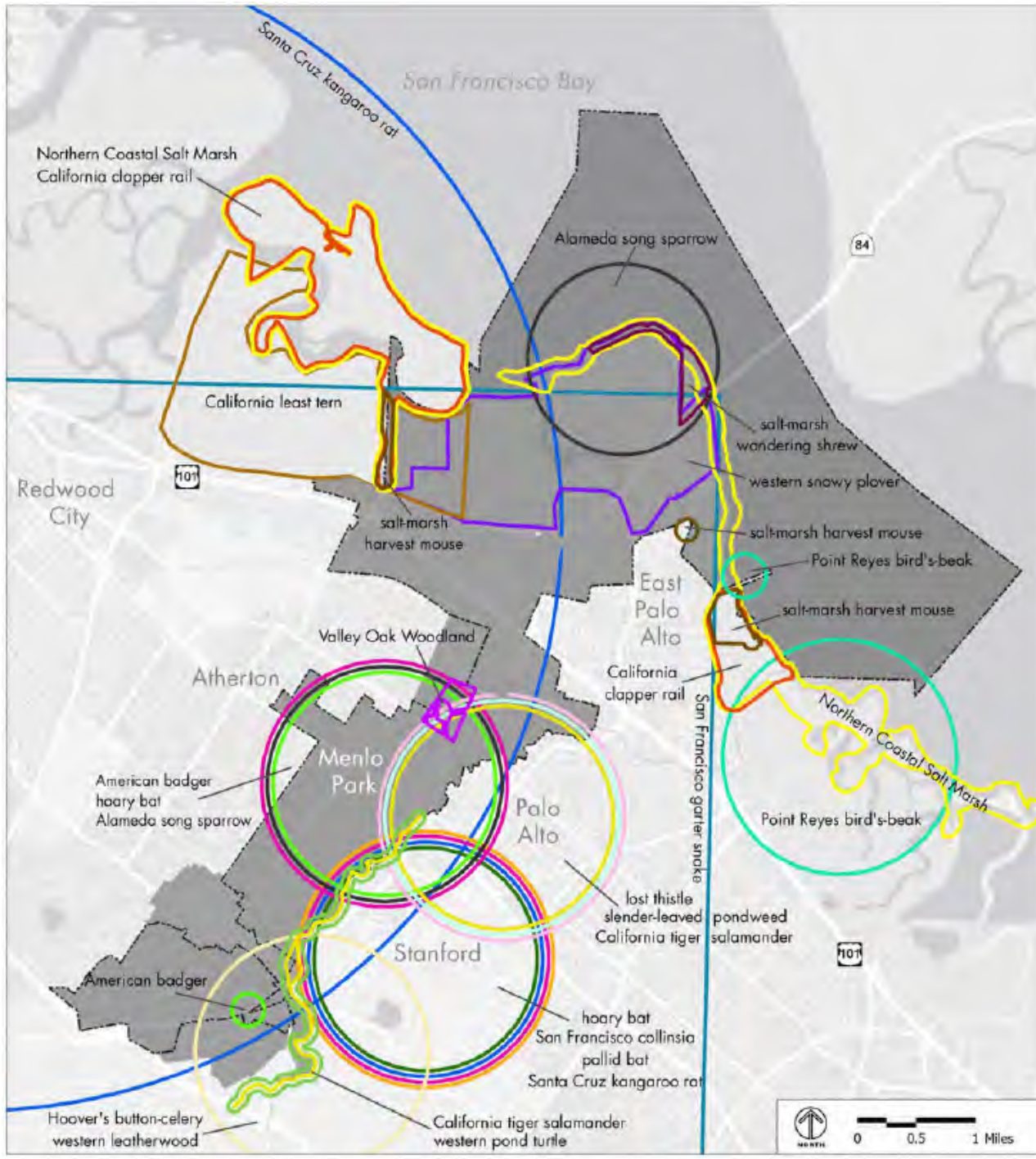
Developed sites in eastern Menlo Park along the bayshore have been built on diked and filled coastal marshes. These marshes were converted in the 1960s to create more land for development. In the process, these marshes have been cut off from tidal influence and filled with materials to raise their surface level and fill in their slough channels. While in some cases such bayfill lands can start to revert to wetland conditions, Menlo Park's developed bayland areas are primarily paved, landscaped with non-native plants, and disturbed with automobile activity. Developed salt marsh areas typically have relatively low habitat values. Species found in the urbanized baylands are similar to other urbanized areas.

### **Urbanized Area**

The well-landscaped, suburban character of developed areas of Menlo Park includes parks, backyards, and vacant lots that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species that have adapted to human disturbance. Native and ornamental trees and shrubs in the urban area provide nesting sites for songbirds such as scrub jays, brewer's black birds, and American crows. Parks and quiet streets provide foraging grounds for opportunistic predator and prey wildlife, including turkey vultures, coyotes, and raccoons. Few urban species are under special protections, although a few, such as the red-tailed hawk, are designated protected species.

### **Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species**

The locations of sightings of special-status plant and wildlife species are shown in the map on the next page. Following the map is a table listing the special-status plant and wildlife species that have the potential for occurring in Menlo Park. They include those listed under the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts, plants listed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California and wildlife designated as Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2012; ESRI 2010; California National Diversity Database, 2012.

Common Name (CNDDDB)					
	Alameda song sparrow		Hoover's button-celery		Valley Oak Woodland
	American badger		Northern Coastal Salt Marsh		hoary bat
	California clapper rail		Point Reyes bird's-beak		lost thistle
	California least tern		San Francisco collinsia		pallid bat
	California tiger salamander		San Francisco garter snake		salt-marsh harvest mouse
			Santa Cruz kangaroo rat		salt-marsh wandering shrew
					slender-leaved pondweed
					western leatherwood
					western pond turtle
					western snowy plover
					City Limit

**Special Status Plant and Wildlife Species**



California Natural Diversity Database Special Status Species in Menlo Park (2013)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Presence	Federal List	California List	CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife	California Native Plant Society	General Habitat	Micro Habitation
<b>Sensitive Habitat</b>								
	Northern Coastal Salt Marsh	Extant	None	None				
	Valley Oak Woodland	Extant	None	None				
<b>Sensitive Plants</b>								
<i>Chloropyron mantiforme</i> ssp. <i>palustre</i>	Point Reyes bird's-beak	Possibly Extirpated	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Coastal salt marsh	Usually in coastal salt marsh with <i>Salicornia</i> , <i>distichlis</i> , <i>jaumea</i> , and <i>spartina</i> .
<i>Cirsium praeteriens</i>	Lost thistle	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants presumed extinct in California.	Little information exists on this plant; it was collected from the Palo Alto area at the turn of the 20th century.	Although not seen since 1901, this <i>cirsium</i> is thought to be quite distinct from other <i>cirsium</i> s.
<i>Collinsia multicolor</i>	San Francisco collinsia	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal scrub	On decomposed shale (mudstone) mixed with humus.
<i>Dirca occidentalis</i>	western leatherwood	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Upland forest, chaparral, woodland, riparian forest, riparian woodland	On brushy slopes, mesic sites; mostly in mixed evergreen and foothill woodland communities.
<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>hooveri</i>	Hoover's button-celery	Possibly Extirpated	None	None		Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.	Vernal pools	Alkaline depressions, vernal pools, roadside ditches and other wet places near the coast.
<i>Stuckenia filiformis</i>	Slender-leaved pondweed	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Marshes and swamps	Shallow, clear water of lakes and drainage channels.
<b>Sensitive Animals</b>								
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	California tiger salamander	Extirpated	Threatened	Threatened	Special Concern		Central Valley DPS federally listed as threatened. Santa Barbara and Sonoma Counties DPS federally listed as endangered	Need underground refuges, especially ground squirrel burrows and vernal pools or other seasonal water sources for breeding
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid bat	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting	Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.
<i>Athene cucularia</i>	Western burrowing owl	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, shrub lands	Burrows into ground. Uses a variety of natural and artificial burrowing sites. Prefers short grasses.
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	Western snowy plover	Presumed Extant	Threatened	None	Special Concern		Sandy beaches, salt pond levees and shores of large alkali lakes	Needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting.
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern harrier	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, salt marshes, open habitats with rodent populations	Ground nesting, typically near shrubs in marshes.
<i>Dipodomys venustus venustus</i>	Santa Cruz kangaroo rat	Presumed Extant	None	None			Silverleaf manzanita mixed chaparral in the Zayante sand hills ecosystem of the Santa Cruz Mountains	Needs soft, well-drained sand.

California Natural Diversity Database Special Status Species in Menlo Park (2013) — *Continued*

Scientific Name	Common Name	Presence	Federal List	California List	CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife	California Native Plant Society	General Habitat	Micro Habitation
<b>Sensitive Animals</b>								
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	Western pond turtle	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation	Need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary bat	Presumed Extant	None	None			Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding	Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths. Requires water.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead shrike	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, shrub-grasslands, savannah	Nests in landscaping trees and shrubs. Uses barbed wire to impale prey, and for perching.
<i>Reithrodontomys raviventris</i>	Salt-marsh harvest mouse	Presumed Extant	Endangered	Endangered			Only in the saline emergent wetlands of San Francisco Bay and its tributaries	Pick/lowweed is primary habitat. Do not burrow, build loosely organized nests. Require higher areas for flood escape.
<i>Sorex vagrans halicoeles</i>	Salt-marsh wandering shrew	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Salt marshes of the south arm of San Francisco Bay	Medium high marsh 6-8 ft above sea level where abundant driftwood is scattered among <i>Salicornia</i> .
<i>Spinus lawrenci</i>	Lawrence's gold finch	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Uplands, non-native grasslands, ruderal	Forages from seed-bearing plants, such as thistles.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American Badger	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable (easy to dig) soils.	Needs sufficient food, friable soils & open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i>	San Francisco garter snake	Presumed Extant	Endangered	Endangered			Vicinity of freshwater marshes, ponds and slow moving streams in San Mateo County and extreme Northern Santa Cruz County.	Prefers dense cover and water depths of at least one foot. Upland areas near water are also very important.
	Tree Nesting Raptors	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, woodlands	Trees

Source: California Natural Diversity Database, 2013; City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update, General Plan Consistency Update and Zoning Ordinance Amendments Environmental Assessment prepared April 2, 2013

The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) indicates 21 special status plant species, animal species or sensitive habitat types with recorded occurrences in the Menlo Park vicinity. Additionally, another five special status animals species are known to occur based on other reports done in Menlo Park.

**Special-Status Plant Species**

Six plant species with special-status have been recorded in Menlo Park. These species have varied status, but each is considered rare by the California Native Plant Society. Three of these special status plant species have been recorded in the Menlo Park vicinity, the Hoover's button-celery, Point Reyes bird's-beak, and slender-leaved pondweed, and are associated with wet or marshy conditions such as those found in riparian, wetlands, or marshes of the eastern Menlo Park baylands, and central Menlo Park's San Francisquito Creek area. Two other plants, the western leatherwood and San Francisco collinsia, are associated with drier conditions, such as those of the grasslands on the western edge of Menlo Park. The sixth species, the lost thistle, has been assigned a category indicating likely extinction or extreme rarity within California.

### **Special-Status Animal Species**

Thirteen bird, mammal, reptile, fish, and invertebrate species with special-status have recorded occurrences in Menlo Park as reported by the California Natural Diversity Database. Another four species were found in recent local studies, bringing the total to 17 special status animal species. Information on habitat association, or conditions under which an animal is typically found, assists in predicting its likelihood of occurrence. The habitat association and ranking of these species are described below.

Six of the special-status animal species with recorded occurrences in the Menlo Park vicinity are associated with wetland habitat, specifically with the salt marsh at the northeastern edge of the City. Of these, the California clapper rail, California least tern, salt-marsh harvest mouse, and western snowy plover each are listed as protected on the Federal Endangered Species List. The two other species, the Alameda song sparrow and the salt marsh wandering shrew, are afforded protection through State listing as species of special concern.

Four of the special-status animal species with CNDDDB recorded occurrences in Menlo Park are associated with the grasslands on the western boundary of the City, and the oak woodlands in the center of the City. These four grassland or woodland associated special status species are the American badger, pallid bat, hoary bat, and Santa Cruz kangaroo rat. The American badger and pallid bat are State Species of Special Concern.

Two special-status animal species with CNDDDB recorded occurrences in Menlo Park are associated with (freshwater) wetlands and riparian habitats such as those of San Francisquito Creek. These are the San Francisco garter snake and western pond turtle. The San Francisco garter snake is on the Federal endangered species list. The western pond turtle is a State of California species of special concern. A third species associated with San Francisquito Creek, the steelhead (a member of the salmon fish family), is Federally threatened.

### **Sensitive Habitats and Wildlife Dispersal Corridors**

The CNDDDB search identifies two types of sensitive habitat within the Menlo Park area — coastal salt marsh and oak woodland. Coastal salt marsh occurs on the eastern edge of Menlo Park where the baylands have not been converted. The oak woodland occurs within the center of Menlo Park, and consists of a large patch of native habitat situated within the otherwise urbanized City center. In addition to serving as valuable habitat, riparian areas serve as important travel corridors for wildlife. San Francisquito Creek's intact, multi-layered canopy of riparian habitat and large creek channel serves as an important wildlife dispersal corridor.

## **B** Parks and Recreation Facilities



The Menlo Park Community Services Department owns and operates parks and recreational facilities in the City of Menlo Park. The City has adopted a goal of maintaining a ratio of five acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents. Currently, the City provides a net of 220.86 acres of parkland for the residents, with a ratio of 6.79 acres per capita. A detailed list of available parks and recreation facilities located in Menlo Park is shown in the table on the next page.

### Parks and Recreation Facilities in Menlo Park (2013)

Name	Location	Size	Description
<b>Facilities</b>			
Arrillaga Family Recreation Center	700 Alma Street	10,000 sq2	A kitchen, lobby area, offices, and 2 patios, 7 main rooms for purposes of banquets, meetings, exercise, dance, and enrichment activities.
Arrillaga Family Gymnasium	600 Alma Street	24,100 sq2	Two full size basketball courts, 3 volleyball courts, 4 badminton courts, and 4 cross-court basketball, a conference room, offices, lobby area, restrooms, and locker rooms.
Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center	501 Laurel Street	19,380 sq2	A state of the art gymnastics facility, 2 multipurpose rooms, office area, lobby, restrooms, and storage.
Burgess Pool	501 Laurel Street	22,700 sq2	Three pools- performance pool, instructional pool (covered during winter months), and kiddie pool (summer only). The facility contracted to Team Sheeper LLC (Menlo Swim and Sport).
Menlo Children's Center	801 Laurel Street	13,000 sq2	Licensed preschool (18 months to 5 years) and school age (Kindergarten to 5th Grade) services.
Belle Haven Child Development Center	410 Ivy Drive	6,600 sq2	(Licensed by the Department of Social Services.) Quality subsidized, full-time child development services.
Belle Haven After School Center	100 Terminal Ave	2,485 sq2	(Licensed by the Department of Social Services.) Care for children in kindergarten to 6th grade.
Senior Center	110 Terminal Ave	11,000 sq2	Health, recreational, and educational programs, as well as cultural events and social services for older adults. Nutritionally balanced hot meals and door-to-door local transportation to and from the Center are offered on weekdays for minimal cost to the registered patrons. Weekly brown bag through Second Harvest Food Bank, Farmer's Market, monthly free health screenings, HI CAP and tax assistance are also available.
Onetta Harris Community Center	100 Terminal Ave	11,000 sq2	A gym, weight room, computer lab, a large multipurpose room with adjacent kitchen, 3 classrooms, and office space.
Belle Haven Pool	100 Terminal Ave	6,300 sq2	Currently a seasonal pool that is open from mid-June to the end of August; a 25 meter pool with an additional shallow area as well as a small kiddie pool.
<b>Parks</b>			
Bedwell/Bayfront Park	Bayfront Expressway & Marsh Road	155 Acres	An extensive trail system, as part of the San Francisco Bay Trail, allowing hiking, running, bicycling, dog walking, bird watching, kite flying, and photography.
Burgess Park	Alma Street & Burgess Drive	9.31 acres	Little league baseball field; soccer field (300' x 200'); regulation baseball field; open play field; skate park; 2 lighted tennis courts, children's playground; picnic areas, and restrooms.
Jack W. Lyle Park	Middle Ave & Fremont Street	4.55 acres	Walking path with benches; Open Play field; Half-court basketball; Children's (5 to 12 year old) Playground; and Tot-Lot (2 to 5 year old) Playground.
Fremont Park	Santa Cruz Avenue & University Drive	0.38 acres	Lighted walkways; benches; picnic areas, drinking fountain, and open grass areas. It is home to the City of Menlo Park Summer Concert Series and other downtown parties.
Joseph B. Kelly Park	100 Terminal Ave	8.3 acres	A synthetic turf soccer field with lights, full size track with 4 different exercise apparatuses, lighted tennis courts, lighted basketball court, benches, bleachers, and a full men's and women's bathroom facility.
Marketplace Park	Market Place & Hamilton Avenue	1 acre	Playground, open grass areas, and walkways.
Nealon Park	800 Middle Avenue	9 acres	Five lighted tennis courts, softball field, playground, picnic areas, grass areas, and an off-leash dog area.
Seminary Oaks Park	Seminary Drive & Santa Monica Avenue	3.51 acres	Walking path with benches; open play field; "Serenity Rock Garden"; children's playground, and tot-lot playground.

**Parks and Recreation Facilities in Menlo Park (2013) — Continued**

Name	Location	Size	Description
<b>Parks</b>			
Sharon Hills Park	Altschul Avenue & Valparaiso Avenue	12.5 acres	Walking paths and benches.
Sharon Park	Sharon Park Drive & Monte Rosa Drive	9.83 acres	A small lake with fountain; gazebo; walking path with benches; shaded picnic area; grass areas; natural wooded area; and tot-lot playground.
Stanford Hills Park	Sand Hill Road & Branner Drive	3.11 acres	Benches, walkways, picnic tables, and a large grass area.
Tinker Park	Santa Cruz Avenue & Olive Street	0.54 acres	Tot-lot playground and picnic area.
Willow Oaks Park	Willow Street & Colmen Ave	2.63 acres	Three lighted tennis courts, children's playground, tot-lot playground, public area, off leash dog area, little league field, and large open play field for soccer and other sports.
Hamilton Park	Hamilton Ave	1.2 acres	A play structure, picnic tables, and open grass area.
<b>Total</b>		<b>232 acres</b>	

Source: City of Menlo Park

**Regional Parks and Preserves**

In addition to the City's parks facilities, Menlo Park residents have access to a range of regional parks and open space, including the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Wunderlich County Park, Huddart County Park, and San Francisco Bay Trail also provide recreational opportunities for Menlo Park residents. Flood Park, a 26-acre facility owned by San Mateo County Parks Department, provides a place for picnicking and strolling. The City and the County have discussed transferring it to the City because of the County's budget deficit. However, there are no plans to move forward at this time. Furthermore, the residents of Menlo Park have access to the 373-acre Ravenswood Preserve located largely within Menlo Park and owned and managed by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The southern portion of the preserve offers pedestrian and bicycle access along the shore and levees along the marshland.

**School Facilities**

The City has joint use agreements with La Entrada, Oak Knoll, Belle Haven, Hillview, and Willow Oaks Schools for use of fields after school hours, as follows:

- (1) **La Entrada:** soccer, basketball, baseball, and tennis courts; playground
- (2) **Oak Knoll:** soccer, basketball and baseball
- (3) **Belle Haven:** basketball and baseball
- (4) **Hillview:** soccer, football, lacrosse, basketball court, track
- (5) **Willow Oaks School:** baseball and soccer

### **Private Facilities**

The Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club is located in the Sharon Heights neighborhood near Sand Hill Road and Interstate 280. A portion of the Stanford University Golf Course is located within the City of Menlo Park and its Sphere of Influence along Sand Hill Road and Alpine Road. In addition, a few private, fee-based facilities are available in Menlo Park, such as small yoga and dance studios.

## **C Historic Resources**

The City of Menlo Park was originally the home of Ohlone Indians. The Ohlone lived off the land and due to the abundance of food they did not practice agriculture. Evidences of their civilization are still being unearthed on the Filoli estate in Woodside, and along San Francisquito Creek.

In 1769 Spanish rule was introduced to the area when the exploration party led by Don Gaspar de Portola camped near "El Palo Alto" after their momentous discovery of San Francisco Bay. The colonizing of the Peninsula began after the expedition of Juan Bautista DeAnza passed through Menlo Park on its way to establishing Mission Dolores and the Presidio of San Francisco in 1776. The mission padres, explorers, military personnel, travelers and settlers occupied certain areas, developing and populating the land.

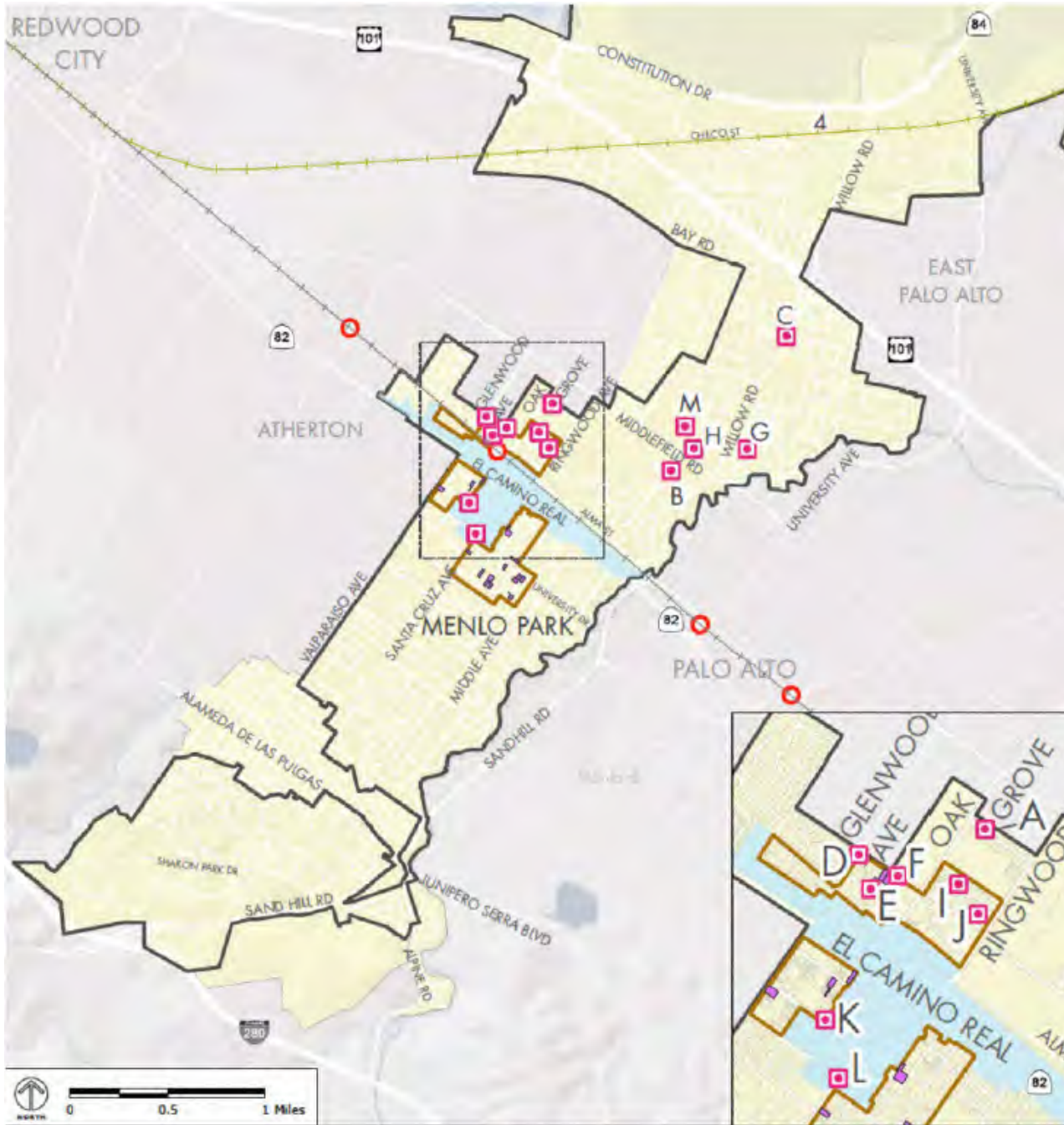
In 1854 Dennis J. Oliver and Daniel McGlynn purchased 1,700 acres from the Don Jose Dario Arguello family that had legally obtained the title to the land in 1853. Around this time Menlo Park received its official name when Oliver and McGlynn erected an arch with the words "Menlo Park" on it to honor their former home in Menlough, County Galway, Ireland. In 1863, the Southern Pacific Railroad was extended to the community of Menlo Park. During this same period, the downtown area of Menlo Park began to develop along Oak Grove Avenue between the railroad station and El Camino Real. By 1870, twelve buildings situated between the railroad station and El Camino Real in the vicinity of Oak Grove Avenue were constructed, consisting of two general stores, three hotels, livery stables, saloons, and three blacksmith shops. The first store in Menlo Park was on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and El Camino Real.

On March 23, 1874, Menlo Park became the second incorporated city in San Mateo County, although only for a short time. The purpose was to provide a quick way to raise money for road repairs. This incorporation, including Fair Oaks (later Atherton) and Ravenswood (later East Palo Alto), lasted only until 1876. Churches were founded, schools were opened and businesses were established. Menlo Park's population increased slowly until World War I. In 1917, 27,000 soldiers were stationed at Camp Fremont in Menlo Park. Menlo Park's first gas and water services, its first paved streets, and an increase in businesses were a direct result of the transient military population.

The original Dumbarton Bridge opened in 1927, connecting the South Bay and East Bay. In 1931, the Bayshore Highway (now Highway 101) linked Menlo Park and San Francisco. In 1940, Menlo Park's population was 3,258. World War II brought about many changes in the small town. Between 1943 and 1946 another military installation, Dibble General Hospital, was built on the old Timothy Hopkins estate to care for the thousands of soldiers injured in the South Pacific in World War II. Following World War II, in the 1950s, the hospital campus became the site of the Menlo Park Civic Center, Stanford Research Institute (today's SRI International), and the United States Geological Survey. Today Menlo Park is a suburban residential community with a variety of businesses, including high-tech industries.

The map on the next page identifies historic resources near the downtown. *Additional information on historic resources is available in the Environmental Assessment.*





Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2013; ESRI 2010; FHA 200

- Historic Resources
- CalTrain Stations
- Infill Areas around Downtown
- City Limits
- Sphere of Influence
- El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan

### Existing Historic Resources Near Downtown Menlo Park

## **D** Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Menlo Park experiences a coastal Mediterranean climate, which consists of long dry, relatively cool summers and wet, mild winters. The City receives approximately 15.5 inches of rain annually, primarily experienced from the five-month stretch between November and April.

The climate is dominated by the strength and location of a semi-permanent, subtropical high-pressure cell. During the summer, the Pacific high-pressure cell is centered over the northeastern Pacific Ocean, resulting in stable meteorological conditions and a steady northwesterly wind flow. Upwelling of cold ocean water from below the surface because of the northwesterly flow produces a band of cold water off the California coast. The cool and moisture-laden air approaching the coast from the Pacific Ocean is further cooled by the presence of the cold-water band, resulting in condensation and the presence of fog and stratus clouds along the Northern California coast. In the winter, the Pacific high-pressure cell weakens and shifts southward, resulting in wind flow offshore, the absence of upwelling, and the occurrence of storms. Weak inversions coupled with moderate winds result in a low air pollution potential.

### **Air Quality**

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is the regional air quality agency for the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin (SFBAAB), which comprises all of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties; the southern portion of Sonoma County; and the southwestern portion of Solano County. Air quality in this area is determined by such natural factors as topography, meteorology, and climate, in addition to the presence of existing air pollution sources and ambient conditions.

Ambient air quality standards (AAQS) have been adopted at State and Federal levels for criteria air pollutants. In addition, both the State and Federal government regulate the release of toxic air contaminants (TACs). Jurisdictions in the Bay Area are also subject to the regulations imposed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Existing levels of ambient air quality and historical trends and projections in the vicinity of Menlo Park show occasional violations of both the State and Federal Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) standards and the Federal Fine Particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) standard. The State and Federal

Course Particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) standards have not been exceeded in the last five years in the vicinity of Menlo Park.

### **Sensitive Receptors**

Some land uses are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others due to the types of population groups or activities involved. Sensitive population groups include children, the elderly, the acutely ill, and the chronically ill, especially those with cardio-respiratory diseases. Residential areas are also considered sensitive receptors to air pollution because residents (including children and the elderly) tend to be at home for extended periods of time, resulting in sustained exposure to any pollutants present. Other sensitive receptors include retirement facilities, hospitals, and schools.

Recreational land uses are considered moderately sensitive to air pollution. Although exposure periods are generally short, exercise places a high demand on respiratory functions, which can be impaired by air pollution. In addition, noticeable air pollution can detract from the enjoyment of recreation. Industrial, commercial, retail, and office areas are considered the least sensitive to air pollution. Exposure periods are relatively short and intermittent, as the majority of the workers tend to stay indoors most of the time. In addition, the working population is generally the healthiest segment of the public.

### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Scientists have concluded that human activities are contributing to global climate change by adding large amounts of heat-trapping gases, known as GHG, to the atmosphere. The primary source of these GHG is fossil fuel use. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified four major GHG—water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)—that are the likely cause of an increase in global average temperatures observed within the 20th and 21st centuries. Other GHG identified by the IPCC that contribute to global warming to a lesser extent include nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and chlorofluorocarbons. The major GHG are briefly described below.

- (1) **Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)** enters the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal), solid waste, trees and wood products, and respiration, and also as a result of other chemical reactions (e.g. manufacture of cement). Carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere (sequestered) when it is absorbed by plants as part of the biological carbon cycle.
- (2) **Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)** is emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices and from the decay of organic waste in municipal landfills and water treatment facilities.

- (3) **Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)** is emitted during agricultural and industrial activities as well as during combustion of fossil fuels and solid waste.
- (4) **Fluorinated gases** are synthetic, strong GHGs that are emitted from a variety of industrial processes. Fluorinated gases are sometimes used as substitutes for ozone-depleting substances. These gases are typically emitted in smaller quantities, but because they are potent GHGs, they are sometimes referred to as High global warming potential gases.
- (5) **Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)** are GHGs covered under the 1987 Montreal Protocol and used for refrigeration, air conditioning, packaging, insulation, solvents, or aerosol propellants. Since they are not destroyed in the lower atmosphere (troposphere, stratosphere), CFCs drift into the upper atmosphere where, given suitable conditions, they break down ozone. These gases are also ozone-depleting gases and are therefore being replaced by other compounds that are GHGs covered under the Kyoto Protocol.
- (6) **Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)** are a group of human-made chemicals composed of carbon and fluorine only. These chemicals (predominantly perfluoromethane [CF<sub>4</sub>] and perfluoroethane [C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>]) were introduced as alternatives, along with HFCs, to the ozone-depleting substances. In addition, PFCs are emitted as by-products of industrial processes and are also used in manufacturing. PFCs do not harm the stratospheric ozone layer, but they have a high global warming potential.

### **City Actions to Promote Sustainability**

The City maintains several environmental programs under the City's Public Works Department. The City's environmental programs promote sustainable environmental practices and policies Citywide and within City-owned facilities and open space areas. The City adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2020 to reduce municipal and community GHG emissions.

The City's Public Works Department is also responsible for developing a more functional and efficient roadway network for the effective movement of people and goods. The division promotes the use of public transit, ride sharing, bicycles, and walking as commuting alternatives to single-occupant automobiles. The City operates a trip reduction program and was the first City on the Peninsula to establish a shuttle program.

The City also manages two Caltrain shuttle bus routes, the Willow and Marsh shuttles, which operate during the AM and PM peak hours taking passengers from Caltrain to their workplaces, schools, shopping, or appointments. In addition, the City manages a Midday shuttle service, a community service route open to the general public but focusing on the senior community. For residents who do not live within an easy walking distance of a SamTrans stop or the Midday shuttle service stop, Menlo Park offers a

twice weekly shopper's shuttle service that picks up passengers at their homes and provides rides to specific shopping areas.

### **City of Menlo Park Climate Change Action Plan (CAP)**

The City of Menlo Park has prepared and updated its community-wide GHG emissions inventory several times since the release of the City's 2005 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis, which was prepared by the City with assistance from ICLEI in 2007. In 2020, the City adopted an updated Climate Action Plan (CAP): 2030 Climate Action Plan. This plan includes GHG emissions inventories and strategies to reduce GHG emissions within the City.

## **E Water Quality**

The City is located within the 50-square mile San Francisquito Creek watershed, which includes portions of both Santa Clara County and San Mateo County. The uppermost elevations of the watershed are west of Highway 35 (locally known as Skyline Boulevard), and its lowest points are in East Palo Alto where San Francisquito Creek empties into the San Francisco Bay. The southernmost edge of the watershed is in the Los Trancos Regional Preserve near Palo Alto, and its northern most edge is Sweeny Ridge in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Water flows west to east through natural creeks and streams and channelized waterways. In the undeveloped marshes, water flows through Flood Slough and Ravenswood Slough. In the urbanized portion of Menlo Park, the main creek system is San Francisquito Creek. In general, the creek flows in a northeasterly direction, flows through Menlo Park largely in its natural alignment, and it forms the southern boundary of the City limits. Riparian vegetation around the creek spans a 25- to 75-meter-wide space, depending on adjacent land use and topography, consisting primarily of willow, bay laurels, redwoods, alders, cottonwoods, dogwoods, valley oaks, and coast live oaks.

### **Groundwater Aquifers**

The City is situated above the Santa Clara Valley groundwater basin and San Mateo sub-basin. The San Mateo sub-basin is bounded by the Santa Cruz Mountains to the west, the Bay to the east, San Francisquito Creek to the south, and the Westside basin to the north. A relatively shallow water table aquifer overlies confined and semi-confined aquifers near the margins of the Bay, with most wells constructed to draw from the deeper portions. Recharge of the groundwater occurs through infiltration into streambeds and through percolation of rain on the valley floor. Well data from the California Department of Water Resources indicate that groundwater recharge in the City increases from the hilly west to the flatter eastern portions of the City, and decreases with increasing depth.

## Water Quality

Menlo Park is within the San Francisquito Creek Watershed. More specifically, runoff from development within Menlo Park will eventually discharge to San Francisquito Creek, which ultimately discharges into South San Francisco Bay.

### **Beneficial Uses of Water Bodies in Menlo Park**

The beneficial uses of the surface water bodies in Menlo Park have been designated in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Region (Basin Plan). These potential and beneficial uses include:

#### *Designated Beneficial Uses of Surface Water in Menlo Park*

**South San Francisco Bay:** Commercial and sport fishing; Estuarine habitat; Industrial service supply; Fish migration; Navigation; Preservation of rare and endangered species; Water contact recreation; Non-contact water recreation; Shellfish harvesting; Fish spawning; and Wildlife habitat.

**San Francisquito Creek:** Cold freshwater habitat; Fish migration; Water contact recreation; Non-contact water recreation; Fish spawning; and Wildlife habitat.

#### *Designated Beneficial Uses of Groundwater in Menlo Park*

**Santa Clara Valley (San Mateo Sub-Basin):** Municipal and domestic water supply; Industrial process water supply; Industrial service water supply; and Agricultural water supply (potential).

### Impaired Water Bodies in Menlo Park

In accordance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, the State must present USEPA with a list of impaired water bodies that do not meet water quality standards. Listed impaired water bodies within Menlo Park are shown in the table below.

**List of Impaired Water Bodies in Menlo Park**

Pollutant	Potential Source	Status of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
<b>San Francisquito Creek</b>		
Diazinon	Urban runoff/storm sewers	Approved (2007)
Sedimentation/siltation	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
Trash	Illegal dumping; urban runoff/storm sewers	Planned (2021)
<b>South San Francisco Bay</b>		
Chlordane	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
DDT	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
Dieldrin	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
Dioxin compounds	Atmospheric deposition	Planned (2019)
Invasive species	Ballast water	Planned (2019)
Furan compounds	Atmospheric deposition	Planned (2019)
Mercury	Industrial and municipal point sources; resource extraction; atmospheric deposition; natural sources; nonpoint sources	Approved (2008)
PCBs	Unknown nonpoint sources	Approved (2010)
Selenium	Domestic use of groundwater	Planned (2019)

Source: State Water Resources Control Board. 2010 Integrated Report, Clean Water Act, Section 303(d) List, January 13, 2013; City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update, General Plan Consistency Update and Zoning Ordinance Amendments Environmental Assessment prepared April 2, 2013

Once a water body has been placed on the 303(d) list of impaired waters, states are required to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to address each pollutant causing impairment. A TMDL defines how much of a pollutant a water body can tolerate and still meet water quality standards. TMDLs have been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for diazinon in San Francisquito Creek and mercury and PCBs in South San Francisco Bay.

The Basin Plan also contains water quality criteria for groundwater. Menlo Park is within the San Mateo Plain Sub-basin of the Santa Clara Valley Groundwater Basin. Groundwater in this sub-basin is generally characterized as calcium magnesium calcium carbonate water and the mineral content is very “hard,” averaging 471 mg/l of calcium carbonate. Some wells have reported concentrations of nitrate-nitrogen that exceed USEPA maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).

Groundwater contamination can result from releases of hazardous materials from underground storage tanks or historical industrial activities. There are about 20 Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) or Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) hazardous waste cleanup sites within Menlo Park. If groundwater de-watering activities are required as part of the construction efforts, a more detailed assessment of the potential for contaminated groundwater to be present is warranted.



## Section VI

# Noise Background

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## **A** Background on Sound and Sound Measurement



The Noise Element is most closely associated with the Land Use and Circulation Elements of the Menlo Park General Plan. Specific concerns are addressed in this Element and in the Land Use and Circulation Element. Issues are: (1) establishment of noise compatible land uses; (2) regulation of new development to limit noise impacts on noise-sensitive

uses; (3) minimization of traffic noise; (4) enforcement of noise standards to protect the existing quality of life; and (5) insulation of residences exposed to excessive levels of noise.

### **Characteristics of Sound**

Noise is most often defined as unwanted sound. Whether a sound is unwanted depends on when and where it occurs, what the listener is doing when it occurs, characteristics of the sound (loudness, pitch and duration, speech or music content, irregularity) and how intrusive it is above background sound levels. Although sound can be easily measured, the perception of noise and the physical response to sound complicate the analysis of its impact on people. People judge the relative magnitude of sound sensation in subjective terms such as “noisiness” or “loudness.”

Sound is the result of the vibration of an object, which is transmitted through the air in waves that in turn vibrate the eardrum. Sound can be described in terms of amplitude (loudness), frequency (pitch), or duration (time), and is measured in a logarithmic scale using units called decibels (dB). Since the human ear is not equally sensitive to sound at all frequencies, a special A-weighted filter decibel measurement (dBA) is used to simulate human hearing.

Another measure of sound is called the Day-Night Weighted Average (Ldn), which is the average dBA sound level during a 24-hour day. Sound levels during the night are weighted over those during daylight hours, by adding 10 dB to actual sound levels during the period from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. to recognize the increased annoyance factor related to noise at night.

### Noise Levels

The outdoor noise environment throughout the United States varies considerably. Outdoor Day-Night Average (Ldn) sound levels can be as low as 30 to 40 dBA (Ldn) in wilderness areas and as high as 85-90 dBA (Ldn) in noisy industrial urban areas. In Menlo Park, Ldn levels in residential areas are as low as 45 dBA (Ldn) in areas shielded from major roads and as high as 65-75 dBA (Ldn) along highways and major roads.

#### Typical Noise Levels

Common Outdoor Sound Levels	Noise Level Db (A)	Common Indoor Sound Levels
Commercial Airliner Takeoff at 1,000 feet	110	Rock Band
	100	Ambulance Siren at 100 feet
Gas Lawn Mower at 3 feet	90	Food Blender at 3 feet
Diesel Truck at 50 feet	80	Garbage Disposal at 3 feet
Noisy Urban Daytime		Shouting at 3 feet
	70	
Commercial Area	60	Vacuum Cleaner at 10 feet
		Normal Speech at 3 feet
Quiet Urban Daytime	50	Large Business Office
		Dishwasher Next Room
Quiet Urban Nighttime	40	Small Theatre
Quiet Suburban Nighttime		Large Conference Room
	30	
Quiet Rural Nighttime	20	Bedroom at Night
Rustling Leaves		Broadcast & Recording Studio
	10	Soft Whisper
	0	Threshold of Hearing

Construction operations generally include a wide range of activities that can generate groundborne vibration. In general, blasting and demolition of structures generate the highest vibrations. Vibratory compactors or rollers, pile drivers, and pavement breakers can generate perceptible amounts of vibration at up to 200 feet. Heavy trucks can also generate groundborne vibrations, which can vary, depending on vehicle type, weight, and pavement conditions. Potholes, pavement joints, discontinuities, differential settlement of pavement, etc., all increase the vibration levels from vehicles passing over

a road surface. Construction vibration is normally of greater concern than vibration from normal traffic flows on streets and freeways with smooth pavement conditions. Trains generate substantial quantities of vibration due to their engines, steel wheels, heavy loads, and wheel-rail interactions. The table below shows various construction equipment noise emission levels.

### Construction Equipment Noise Emission Levels

Construction Equipment	Typical Noise Level (dBA) at 50 Feet	Construction Equipment	Typical Noise Level (dBA) at 50 Feet
Air Compressor	81	Pile-Driver (Impact)	101
Backhoe	80	Pile-Driver (Sonic)	96
Ballast Equalizer	82	Pneumatic Tool	85
Ballast Tamper	83	Pump	76
Compactor	82	Rail Saw	90
Concrete Mixer	85	Rock Drill	98
Concrete Pump	71	Roller	74
Concrete Vibrator	76	Saw	76
Crane, Derrick	88	Scarifier	83
Crane, Mobile	83	Scraper	89
Dozer	85	Shovel	82
Generator	81	Spike Driver	77
Grader	85	Tie Cutter	84
Impact Wrench	85	Tie Handler	80
Jack Hammer	88	Tie Inserter	85
Loader	85	Truck	88
Paver	89		

Source: Federal Transit Administration, Transit Noise, and Vibration Impact Assessment, 2006.

### Acceptable Noise Levels and Attitude Surveys About Noise

Acceptable levels of noise vary from land use to land use. Also, in any one location, the noise level will vary over time, from the lowest background or ambient levels to that of passing airplanes or construction equipment. Various techniques have been developed that measure the effects of noise levels over a period of time. It is difficult to specify noise levels that are generally acceptable to everyone. What is annoying to one person may be unnoticed by another. Standards may be based on documented complaint activity in response to noise levels, or based on studies on the ability of people to sleep, talk, or work under various noise conditions. All such studies, however, recognize that individual responses vary considerably. Standards usually address the needs of most of the general population.

Attitude surveys are used to measure annoyance felt in a community for noises intruding into homes or affecting outdoor activity areas. In these surveys, it has been determined that the causes for annoyance include interference with hearing, radio and television reception, sleep and rest, and house vibrations. The Ldn as a measure of noise has been found to provide a valid correlation of noise level and the percentage of people annoyed.

When measuring the percentage of the population highly annoyed, the threshold for ground vehicle noise is about 55 dBA Ldn. At an Ldn of about 60 dBA, approximately 2% of the population is highly annoyed. When the Ldn increases to 70 dBA, the percentage of the population highly annoyed increases to about 12% of the population. There is, therefore, an increase of about 1% per dBA from an Ldn of 60 to 70 dBA. From an Ldn of 70 to 80 dBA, each decibel increases by about 2% the percentage of people highly annoyed.

Unlike linear units such as inches or pounds, decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale. Because of the physical characteristics of noise transmission and perception, the relative loudness of sound does not closely match the actual amounts of sound energy. The table below presents the subjective effect of changes in sound pressure levels.

**Change in Apparent Loudness**

± 3 dB	Threshold of human perceptibility
± 5 dB	Clearly noticeable change in noise level
± 10 dB	Half or twice as loud
± 20 dB	Much quieter or louder

Source: Bies and Hansen 2009.

**Approximate Exterior-to-Interior Noise Reduction Achieved by Structures**

Building Type	Window Condition	Exterior-to-Interior Noise Reduction	Maximum Exterior CNEL Value for 45 dB Interior CNEL Value
All	Open	10 dB	55 dB
Light Frame	Ordinary sash, closed	20 dB	65 dB
Masonry	Single pane, closed	25 dB	70 dB
Masonry	Sound-rated windows, closed	35 dB	80 dB

Source: Federal Highway Administration

Because community receptors are more sensitive to unwanted noise intrusion during the evening and nighttime hours, State law requires that, for planning purposes and to

account for this increased receptiveness of noise, an artificial decibel increment is to be added to quiet-time noise levels to calculate a 24-hour CNEL (Community Noise Equivalent Level) noise metric. CNEL is the average sound level over a 24 hour period, with a penalty of 5 dB added for the evening hours from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and a penalty of 10 dB added for the nighttime hours of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. CNEL It is very similar in nature (and in results) to the Ldn, but with the added penalty for the evening period.

### **Psychological and Physiological Effects of Noise**

Physical damage to human hearing begins at prolonged exposure to noise levels higher than 85 dBA. Exposure to high noise levels affects the entire system; prolonged noise exposure in excess of 75 dBA increases body tensions, thereby affecting blood pressure and functions of the heart and nervous system. Extended periods of noise exposure above 90 dBA results in permanent cell damage, which is the main driver for employee hearing protection regulations in the workplace. For community environments, the ambient or background noise problem is widespread and generally more concentrated in urban areas than in outlying, less-developed areas. Elevated ambient noise levels can result in noise interference (e.g. speech interruption/masking, sleep disturbance, disturbance of concentration) and cause annoyance. Since most people do not routinely work with decibels or A-weighted sound levels, it is often difficult to appreciate what a given sound pressure level (SPL) number means.

### **Noise Sensitive Receptors**

Certain land uses are particularly sensitive to noise and vibration, including residential, school and open space/recreation areas where quiet environments are necessary for enjoyment, public health, and safety. Sensitive land uses within Menlo Park include residences, schools, places of worship and recreational areas. These uses are regarded as sensitive because they are where citizens most frequently engage in activities that are likely to be disturbed by noise, such as reading, studying, sleeping, resting, or otherwise engaging in quiet or passive recreation. Commercial and industrial uses are not considered noise sensitive uses and often themselves generate more noise than they receive from other uses.

## **B Noise Regulation**

To limit population exposure to physically and/or psychologically damaging as well as intrusive noise levels, the Federal government, the State of California, various county governments, and most municipalities in the state have established standards and ordinances to control noise.

### **State of California Building Code**

The State of California's noise insulation standards are codified in the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, *Building Standards Administrative Code*, Part 2, *California Building*

*Code.* These noise standards are applied to new construction in California for the purpose of interior noise compatibility from exterior noise sources. Acoustical studies that accompany building plans must demonstrate that the structure has been designed to limit interior noise in habitable rooms to acceptable noise levels. For new residential buildings, schools, and hospitals, the acceptable interior noise limit is 45 dBA CNEL.

### **State of California Land Use Compatibility Criteria**

The table below is a land use compatibility chart for community noise adopted by the State of California as part of its General Plan Guidelines. It provides cities with a tool to gauge the compatibility of new land uses relative to existing and future noise levels by identifying normally acceptable, conditionally acceptable and clearly unacceptable noise levels for various land uses. A conditionally acceptable designation implies new development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features are incorporated in the design. By comparison, a normally acceptable designation indicates that standard construction can occur with no special noise reduction requirements.

### **Menlo Park Municipal Code (Noise Ordinance)**

Menlo Park addresses noise in various capacities under multiple chapters of its municipal code. Noise is primarily addressed in Chapter 8.06 (Noise); additional chapters making brief mention of minor and/or incidental noise issues and regulations include Chapters 8.07 (Leaf Blowers), 8.12 (Business Operations after Midnight), 8.28 (Parks and Recreation), 9.26 (Poultry and Rabbits), 11.64 (Transportation Systems Management), and 13.18 (Use of Public Rights-of-Way).

Chapter 8.06 (Noise) contains the primary set of statutes through which Menlo Park regulates noise. For all noise measurements pursuant to the noise ordinance, the municipal code specifies standard procedures for conducting noise measurements, with specifications for sound-meter settings and placement. Section 8.06.030 sets maximum noise levels at any residential receiving property to a maximum of 60 dBA during the daytime hours between 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and to 50 dBA during the nighttime hours between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. The ordinance applies an additional 5 dBA penalty to sounds of a particularly annoying nature, such as tones, screeches, whines, and pulses, among others. The ordinance also includes a qualitative standard that prohibits noises that can be reasonably determined to be disturbing to an entire neighborhood or any considerable number of residents.

The Menlo Park noise ordinance also contains a number of qualified exceptions to the limitations stipulated in the ordinance; these include construction, powered equipment, and leaf blowers, deliveries, social gatherings, pavement sweeping, garbage collection, and animals. Additionally, the ordinance contains general exemptions for emergencies and emergency warning devices, sporting and City-permitted events, City and State projects, and the normal operation of typical motor vehicles. Of these, the most notable

exceptions and exemptions for the purposes of this analysis include those for construction, motor vehicles, and deliveries.

Construction activities are exempted from the noise ordinance between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; construction activities are only allowed on Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and only if they are being personally undertaken by property owners performing maintenance or improvements. Despite these allowances for weekend residential maintenance, the ordinance still prohibits the use of any equipment that results in noise levels exceeding 85 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. Construction that is sufficiently quiet so as to be fully compliant with the basic exterior noise limitations set out by the ordinance is generally allowed at any time.

Notwithstanding specialized vehicle equipment or sound amplification systems, noise from the normal operation of motor vehicles (including cars, trucks, busses, trains, and airplanes) is exempted from the provisions of the noise ordinance. Noise from deliveries to food retailers and restaurants are generally excepted from the ordinance, while noise from other commercial and industrial deliveries are generally excepted between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Temporally and geographically specific exceptions for street sweeping and garbage collection are also described in detail by the noise ordinance.

### **Other City Noise Standards**

In addition to Chapter 8.06 (Noise), there are several other chapters in the Menlo Park municipal code that mention noise. In Chapter 8.07 (Leaf Blowers), the municipal code mentions that leaf blowers are a source of loud noise and stipulates that operators of these devices must wear ear protection. In Chapter 8.12 (Business Operations after Midnight), Section 8.12.040 indicates that a permit for late-night business operations may be revoked if noise from the establishment exceeds that foreseen by the permit. Chapter 8.28 (Parks and Recreation) prohibits the creation of obtrusive noise in parks. Section 9.26.080 of Chapter 9.26 (Poultry and Rabbits) prohibits the keeping of animals or fowl that cause unreasonable and disturbing noise for residents. In the goals of Chapter 11.64 (Transportation Systems Management), it is stated that noise reduction through decreased traffic is a goal of the chapter. Finally, in Chapter 13.18 (Use of Public Rights-of-Way), Section 13.18.110 (Regulations) stipulates that all regulations, including those related to noise, apply to the construction, operation, maintenance, and repair of facilities in the public rights-of-way.

## **C Existing and Future Noise Environment**

## Roadways

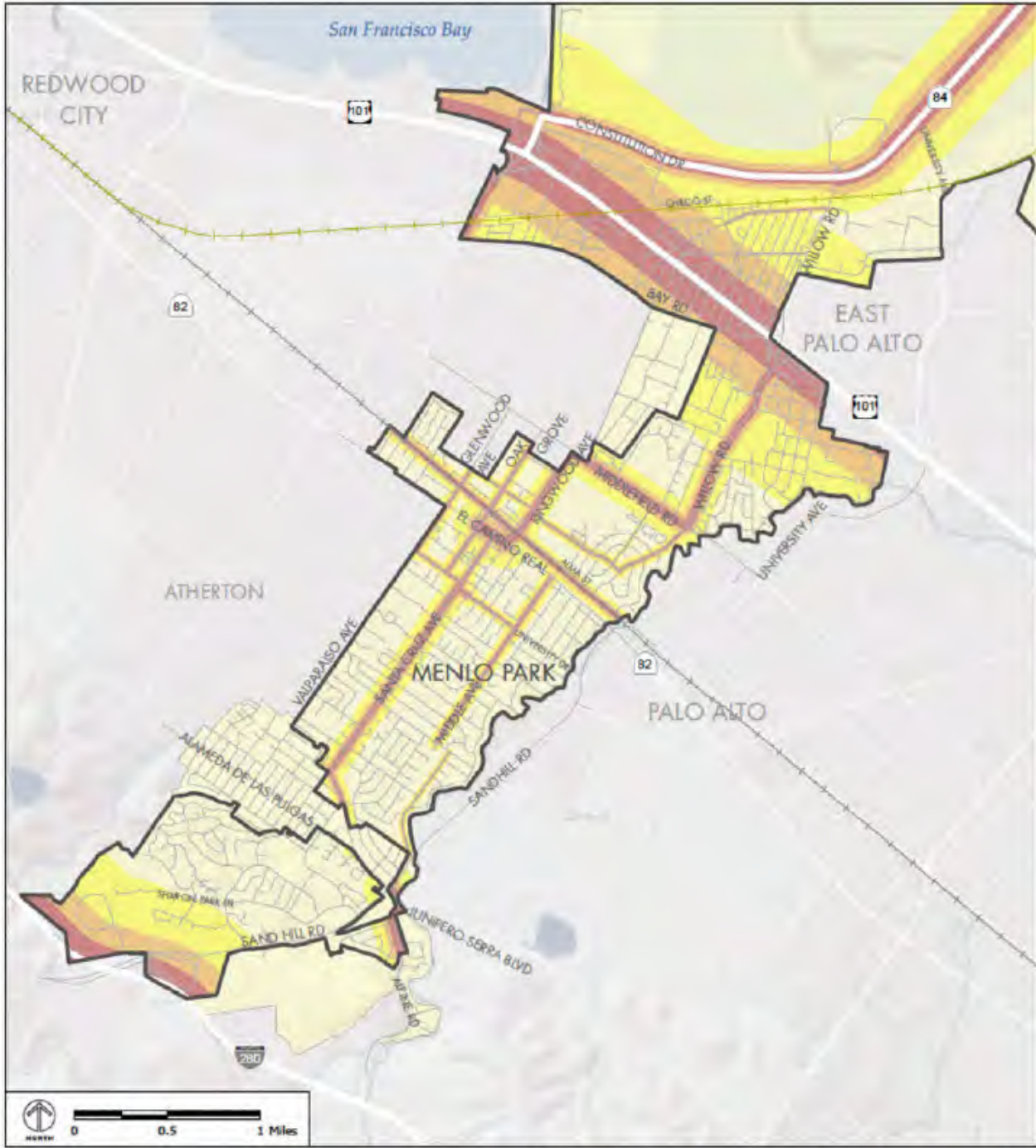
Freeways that run along the City's northeastern and southwestern boundaries are U.S. Highway 101 and Interstate 280, respectively; Highway 84, which becomes the Dumbarton Bridge, also runs east to west across the northern end of the City. In addition to the previously mentioned highways, major roadways running northwest to southeast through Menlo Park include El Camino Real and Middlefield Road. Major northeast to southwest roadways include Willow Road, Ravenswood Avenue, Santa Cruz Avenue, and Sand Hill Road. Together, these highways and streets comprise the major roads in the City of Menlo Park. The table below shows existing and future roadway noise levels. Following the table is a map showing noise contours for the year 2035.



**Existing and Future Noise Levels Along Major Streets in Menlo Park  
CNEL at 100 Feet (dBA)**

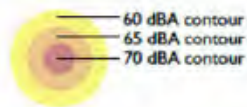
<b>Roadway</b>	<b>Segment</b>	<b>Existing</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Haven Ave	City Limits-Bayfront Expwy/Marsh Rd	62.6	64.5	1.9
Marsh Rd	Bay Rd-Bohannon Dr/Florence St	70.4	72.6	2.2
Marsh Rd	Bohannon Dr/Florence St-Scott Dr	71.2	73.3	2.1
Hamilton Ave	Chilco St-Willow Rd	59.8	62	2.1
Willow Rd	Laurel St-Middlefield Rd	61.1	63.5	2.4
Willow Rd	Middlefield Rd-Gilbert Ave	68.2	70.6	2.4
Willow Rd	Gilbert Ave-Coleman Ave	68.2	70.6	2.4
Willow Rd	Coleman Ave-Durham St/Hospital Ave	68.5	70.8	2.3
Willow Rd	Durham St/Hospital Ave-Bay Rd	69.1	71.2	2.1
Middlefield Rd	Ravenswood Ave-Willow Rd	69.2	70.9	1.7
Laurel St	Glenwood Ave-Oak Grove Ave	59.9	61.6	1.7
Laurel St	Oak Grove Ave-Ravenswood Ave	60.4	61.4	1
Laurel St	Ravenswood Ave-Willow Rd	60.9	62.8	1.9
University Dr	Middle Ave-Menlo Ave	61.5	63.2	1.7
University Dr	Menlo Ave-Santa Cruz Ave	66.4	67.9	1.5
University Dr	Santa Cruz Ave-Oak Grove Ave	62.4	63.6	1.2
University Dr	Oak Grove Ave-Valparaiso Ave	61.3	62.6	1.3
Valparaiso Ave/Glenwood Ave	University Dr-El Camino Real	65.2	66.6	1.4
Valparaiso Ave/Glenwood Ave	El Camino Real-Laurel St	61.7	63	1.3
Oak Grove Ave	University Dr -El Camino Real	64	65	1.1
Oak Grove Ave	El Camino Real-Laurel St	63.8	65.2	1.4
Oak Grove Ave	Laurel St-Middlefield Rd	63.3	64.3	1
Ravenswood Ave	El Camino Real-Alma St	68.9	70.9	2
Ravenswood Ave	Alma St-Laurel St	67	68.8	1.8
Ravenswood Ave	Laurel St-Middlefield Rd	67.6	69.2	1.6
Santa Cruz Ave	Alameda de las Pulgas Ave/Orange Ave	64.7	66.3	1.6
Santa Cruz Ave	Avy Ave/Orange Ave-Olive St	67.1	68.8	1.7
Santa Cruz Ave	Olive St-University Dr	67.4	69	1.6
Santa Cruz Ave	University Dr-Crane St	63.5	65.3	1.8
Santa Cruz Ave	Crane St-El Camino Real	63.1	65.2	2.1
Middle Ave	Olive St-University Dr	63.6	65.1	1.5
Middle Ave	University Dr-El Camino Real	63.8	65.3	1.5
Alpine Rd/Santa Cruz Ave	Junipero Serra Blvd-City Limits	70.6	71.6	1
Alpine Rd/Santa Cruz Avenue	Sand Hill Rd-Junipero Serra Blvd	71.7	72.9	1.1
Linfield Drive	Middlefield Rd - Laurel St	55.9	57.2	1.3
Oak Avenue	Sand Hill Rd - Olive St	58	59.6	1.6
El Camino Real	Oak Grove - Ravenswood	71.2	72.9	1.7
US 101	N/O Marsh Rd	82.3	83.2	1
US 101	S/O Marsh Rd	81.8	82.9	1.1
US 101	S/O Willow Rd	82	83.2	1.2
US 101	S/O University	82	83.2	1.2
SR 84	Marsh Rd - Willow Rd	70.8	73	2.2
SR 84	Willow Rd - University Ave	73.4	75.2	1.8
SR 84	W/O University Ave	74.9	76.4	1.5
I-280	N/O Sand Hill	80	81.4	1.4
I-280	S/O Sand Hill	79.6	81	1.4

Source: Noise Study conducted for the Environmental Assessment (2013)



Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2012; ESRI 2010; FHA 2002.

- Dumbarton Rail Corridor
- CalTrain ROW
- City Limits
- Sphere of Influence



### 2035 Noise Contours

### Train Noise

One major and one minor rail line traverse Menlo Park. One rail line, which crosses the northern-most portion of the City from east to west, is a little-used segment of a former

Union Pacific line, which once crossed San Francisco Bay. This railway currently consists of a single track and the rail bridge that served as the connection for this line that is no longer functional; however, this bridge is planned for reconstruction and future use as part of the Dumbarton Rail Project.

The second and more major rail line which crosses Menlo Park is the Caltrain right-of-way, which bisects a portion of Menlo Park along the City's short northwest-southeast axis. The Caltrain tracks run in the area between Camino Real and Alma Road, entering the City at Watkins Avenue and exiting to Palo Alto at San Francisquito Creek. Caltrain runs on a double track throughout its entire length through Menlo Park, and its right-of-way is owned and administered by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board. Menlo Park is served by one Caltrain station along this line, and though there are currently only 65 weekday daily stops at this station (either northbound or southbound), more than 90 trains pass either north or south through Menlo Park on a daily basis during the work week. The sheer number of passings by these diesel-powered commuter trains ensures that the activity along the Caltrain railway contributes significantly to the ambient noise environment of nearby areas of Menlo Park.

### **Heliports**

There are no heliports within Menlo Park; however, Stanford University Hospital does operate one heliport, which is located approximately 0.4-mile to the southeast of the nearest border with Menlo Park.

### **Aircraft Noise**

Menlo Park is located approximately 6 miles to the northwest of Moffet Federal Airfield, 14 miles to the northwest of the San Jose International Airport, 15 miles to the southeast of San Francisco International Airport, and 18 miles to the south of Oakland International Airport. Menlo Park is also located in close proximity to two smaller airports; with portions of Menlo Park as near as 2 miles from the Palo Alto Airport and other areas of Menlo Park as near as approximately 4 miles from the San Carlos Airport. Additional small airports in the vicinity include the Hayward Executive Airport, at 11 miles away, and the Half Moon Bay airport, at 16 miles away. Although Menlo Park does receive some noise from aircraft using these facilities, Menlo Park does not fall within the airport land use planning areas, runway protection zones, or the 55 dBA CNEL noise contours of any of these airports.

### **Stationary Source Noise**

Stationary sources of noise may occur from all types of land uses. Menlo Park is mostly developed with residential, commercial and some light industrial uses. Commercial uses can generate noise from heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) systems, loading docks, trash compactors, and other sources. Industrial uses may generate noise from HVAC systems, loading docks, and machinery required for manufacturing processes.

Noise generated by commercial uses is generally short and intermittent. Industrial uses may generate noise on a more continual basis, or intermittently, depending on the processes and types of machinery involved.

In addition to on-site mechanical equipment, which generates stationary noise, warehousing and industrial land uses generate substantial truck traffic that results in additional sources of noise on local roadways in the vicinity of industrial operations.

The vast majority of Menlo Park's limited industrial operations are located in the far northern reaches of the city, and are usually separated from sensitive uses, such as residences, by either rail lines or by major roads. In both cases, this added distance serves to decrease the noise perceived by these receptors and, in the case of major roads, the noise from the roads was generally observed to exceed that from the industrial uses. Residential areas with the greatest potential to be impacted by noise from industrial operations include those along the previously mentioned Union Pacific rail right-of-way (Dumbarton Rail Corridor) and those along the northern end of Willow Road between Ivy Drive and the Bayfront Expressway.

Outdoor activities that occur on school campuses throughout Menlo Park also generate noticeable levels of noise in the vicinity of the campus. While it is preferable to have schools located within a residential setting to support the neighborhood, noise generated on both the weekdays (from physical education classes and sports programs) and weekends (from use of the fields and stadiums by youth organizations) can elevate community noise levels.

## Section VII

# Safety Background

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The Safety Element is an element required to be included within the General Plan, under California Government Code Section 65302(g). The goal of the Safety Element is to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social disruptions from fires, floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides, climate change, and other hazards. The Safety Element relates to topics also mandated under land use, conservation, environmental justice, and open space. With climate change and sea level rise presenting potential risks and hazards, the Safety Element also serves to address climate risk, including consideration of vulnerabilities, mitigations, and actions to respond to potential impacts.

The Safety Element provides information and establishes policies to protect against identified hazards. Regarding flooding, the Safety Element includes information on flood hazards and flood hazard zones, flood plain maps, dam inundation areas, levee protection zones, sea level and groundwater rise, and inundation areas, historical flooding, existing or planned development in flood hazard zones, and agencies responsible for flood protection. Regarding fire hazard, the Safety Element includes information on fire hazard severity zone maps and wildfire hazard areas, historical wildfires, location of existing or planned land uses in very high fire hazard severity zones and in state responsibility areas, and agencies responsible for fire protection. With this information, the Safety Element is required to include goals, policies, and programs for protection against unreasonable risk of such hazards, including avoiding development in hazard areas where feasible or minimizing potential damage, maintaining operation of essential public facilities, designing adequate infrastructure, and establishing cooperative relations with agencies responsible for protection against hazards.

The City of Menlo Park adopted the MJLHMP on November 16, 2021. Cities that have an adopted hazard mitigation plan, climate adaptation plan, or substantially equivalent provisions in their general plans may use that information in the Safety Element to comply with requirements for Safety Elements under Government Code Section 65302(g)(4), and shall summarize and incorporate by reference into the Safety Element the other general plan provisions, climate adaptation plan or document.

AB 747 (2019) requires local jurisdictions that have not adopted a LHMP or MJLHMP before January 1, 2022 to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios in the Safety Element. AB 1409 (2021) added the requirement to also identify evacuation locations. Menlo Park is part of the San Mateo County MJLHMP which was adopted in 2021, prior to January 1, 2022. Therefore, the information required by AB 747 and AB 1409 do not apply to the

2024 update of the Safety Element. However, this analysis will be required upon the next revision of the MJLHMP.

## Relationship to Other Plans

### Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of Menlo Park planning area was completed as part of the San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP). It was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA's 2011 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The MJLHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short- and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. The Countywide MJLHMP includes two volumes: Volume 1 includes countywide issues and Volume 2 includes "annexes" for each partner jurisdiction, including Menlo Park.

The MJLHMP helps San Mateo County and the City of Menlo Park (as well as other partner jurisdictions) remain eligible for various types of pre- and post-disaster community assistance, such as grants, from FEMA and the State government. The current MJLHMP is available at the City of Menlo Park and linked on the City's website.

The MJLHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. Hazards that are discussed in the MJLHMP include: dam failures, droughts, earthquakes, floods, landslides, sea level rise, severe weather, tsunamis, wildfires, climate change, public health emergencies, terrorism, and hazardous materials. The MJLHMP shall be consulted for actions to ensure the safety of the community from known environmental hazards.

The County's Department of Emergency Management led the MJLHMP update, in coordination with County departments, all twenty San Mateo County cities (including the City of Menlo Park), and regional special districts. The process was informed by a steering committee and robust public engagement.

Outreach for the MJLHMP was conducted by the County Office of Sustainability, focusing on socially vulnerable groups that are typically under-represented in safety

planning. Mitigation themes brought forward by the community included capacity building, infrastructure, eliminating barriers to access, and managing multiple, interrelated hazards. The three hazards identified as the highest risk for Menlo Park were sea level rise, earthquakes, and landslides. Community-recommended ideas for mitigation of sea level rise and earthquake hazards include:

- **Sea Level Rise:** Promoting flood-conscious architecture, completing drainage ditch maintenance, improving evacuation signage
- **Earthquakes:** Safety training, retrofit training, emergency kit distribution

Landslide hazard mitigation measures were not discussed in the outreach summary. The full outreach summary is available in English and Spanish on the County website.<sup>2</sup>

### Climate Action Plan

Menlo Park adopted a resolution declaring a climate emergency in 2019 (Resolution 6535 (Dec. 10, 2019)). The City adopted a 2030 CAP in 2020 and amended it in 2021. The CAP guides the citywide strategy to reach carbon neutrality (i.e., 90% reduction and removal of remaining 10%) by 2030. The document includes goals and implementation actions to electrify municipal, residential, and commercial buildings; increase electric vehicle usage; reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT); and develop a climate adaptation plan to protect the community from the impacts of climate change.

The Safety Element complements the CAP by providing data and contextual information on climate risks in Menlo Park.

The CAP directs the City to develop a climate adaptation plan, stating that “The Safety Element in Menlo Park’s General Plan, which was updated in 2013, will be updated to bring it into compliance with recent changes in General Plan law, including SB 379 (Climate Adaptation and Resiliency.)”<sup>3</sup> The MJLHMP includes a vulnerability assessment, resiliency goals and policies, and implementation actions and is incorporated into this Safety Element by reference. The vulnerability assessment is described under Section G: Climate Adaptation and Resiliency.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.smcgov.org/media/23131/download>

<sup>3</sup> Menlo Park CAP (June 2020), page 9.

## Emergency Operations Plan

The City's Emergency Operations Plan was adopted in 2014 and is being revised to address new and emerging threats impacting the hazards and risks of the city.

The Safety Element supports the Emergency Operations Plan by providing jurisdiction-level context to hazards that may lead to emergencies and disasters. As the Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) and Emergency Operations Plan are adjusting to the emerging threats such as climate change, the Safety Element may need to be reviewed and revised accordingly.

## Sea Level Rise Planning (SB 272)

Senate Bill 272 (2023) requires that a local government, lying in whole or in part within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, develop a sea level rise plan as part of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan on or before January 1, 2034. This shoreline resiliency plan would be subject to approval by BCDC. The City of Menlo Park is within the jurisdiction of BCDC and thus is subject to SB 272. In response to SB 272, the Safety Element includes S1.M, an implementing program for ongoing sea level rise planning, which serves as a guide for the future development of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan.

In order to best address the multijurisdictional aspects of sea level rise planning, Menlo Park will work collaboratively with neighboring cities, San Mateo County, and other regional partners rather than pursue its own plan that may complicate resiliency efforts for others and for the city itself.

## Outreach

Concurrent with the 2023-2031 Housing Element update, the City of Menlo Park conducted a series of outreach efforts that also considered Safety Element topics.

On August 26, 2021, the City held a community meeting to share information about housing equity, environmental justice, and safety issues in Menlo Park and provide an opportunity to receive input from the public. The information provided and feedback received helped form policies for the Housing, Environmental Justice, and Safety Elements. Comments most closely associated with the Safety Element included questions about how more housing would reduce pollution and housing burden in Belle Haven, concerns about air quality and safety in Belle Haven, and statements about the need to protect communities affected by sea level rise.



Between July and September 2021, a survey was conducted to support the updates to the 2023-2031 Housing Element, the Safety Element, and preparation of the City’s first Environmental Justice Element. The intent of the survey was to gain a better understanding of community values and priorities and to create a foundation for future conversations about possible solutions and policy changes. The survey was advertised via a citywide mailer, on virtual platforms, at community meetings, in focus groups, and interviews. The survey was available for completion digitally and in paper format. Below are highlighted findings:

- With regard to concerns about hazards, the top areas of high concern were drought (76% of 684 respondents), wildfire and smoke (68%), air quality (68%), and heatwaves (48%) (see Table S-1).
- In gauging how people thought their neighborhoods have been affected by various hazards, the survey found that respondents considered their neighborhoods to be most highly affected by wildfire and smoke (48%), air quality (43%), and drought conditions (41%). Respondents thought their neighborhoods have not been as affected by flooding (84%), sea level rise (84%), and earthquakes (67%), and listed them as areas of least effect (see Table S-2).

**Table S-1.** Survey Question: How Concerned Are You About Each Hazard?

	High concern	Medium concern	Low concern
Wildfire and smoke	68%	24%	8%
Heatwaves	48%	37%	15%
Drought conditions	76%	19%	6%
Flooding	15%	27%	58%
Earthquakes	29%	47%	23%
Sea level rise	28%	38%	34%
Air quality	68%	25%	6%

Source: City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update: Summary of Community Outreach January 2022. Data is from July to September 2021 Survey.

**Table S-2.** Survey Question: Has your neighborhood been affected by wildfire smoke, heatwaves, drought, flooding and other climate hazards?

	Highly affected	Somewhat affected	Not affected
Wildfire and smoke	48%	43%	10%
Heatwaves	32%	51%	17%
Drought conditions	41%	45%	14%
Flooding	5%	11%	84%
Earthquakes	8%	25%	67%
Sea level rise	5%	11%	84%
Air quality	43%	44%	13%

Source: City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update: Summary of Community Outreach January 2022. Data is from July to September 2021 Survey.

Additional outreach documentation can be found in the appendices to the Environmental Justice Element concerning outreach.

A study session was held on June 20, 2023, to obtain feedback from the community, the City Council, and the Planning Commission on both the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements. Two subsequent study sessions were conducted on June 3, 2024 and June 18, 2024, with the Planning Commission and City Council, respectively.

## **A** Geologic Hazards



### **Seismicity**

Menlo Park, like much of the San Francisco Bay area, is vulnerable to seismic activity due to the presence of several active faults in the region. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act has resulted in the identification of earthquake fault zones, which identify areas around surface traces of active faults and where the potential for surface rupture exists. The closest and most prominent active fault

near the city is the San Andreas Fault System, which is located about 2.5 miles west of Interstate 280 and the western boundary of the city. There are no Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones that have been mapped within Menlo Park and the potential for ground rupture is therefore considered low.

Although, there are no Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones in the city that would likely result in ground rupture, groundshaking from the San Andreas Fault and other major earthquake faults may still be experienced within the city. Other major faults include the Monte Vista Fault (approximately 3 miles to the south), the Butano Fault (approximately 10 miles to the south), the Hayward Fault (approximately 13 miles to the east), and the Calaveras Fault (approximately 19 miles to the east). Although the Hayward Fault is not the closest fault to Menlo Park, it poses the greatest risk to the Bay Area's critical infrastructure and key resources and would have devastating impacts on the region.

Magnitude is the measure of energy release by an earthquake. This measure is expressed as whole numbers and decimals, where each whole number is an order of magnitude greater than the preceding whole number. For example, the California Geologic Survey describes a magnitude 6.0 quake as releasing approximately as much energy as 6,270 tons of the explosive material TNT (trinitrotoluene), a magnitude 7.0 as

199,000 tons, a magnitude 8.0 as 6.27 million tons, and a magnitude 9.0 as 99 million tons. The April 1906 earthquake on the San Andreas Fault, estimated between magnitude (M) 7.7 and M 8.3, was the largest seismic event in recent history that affected Menlo Park. More recently, the M 6.9 Loma Prieta earthquake of October 1989 on the San Andreas Fault caused significant damage throughout the Bay Area, but no deaths were reported in San Mateo County.

The severity of ground shaking depends on several variables such as earthquake magnitude; hypocenter proximity; and local geology including the properties of unconsolidated sediments, groundwater conditions, and topographic setting. In general, ground shaking hazards are most pronounced in areas that are underlain by loosely consolidated soil/sediment.

The USGS estimated that the probability of a magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake prior to 2036 occurring in the Bay Area is 63 percent.<sup>4</sup>

Individually, the forecasted probability for each individual fault to produce an M 6.7 or greater seismic event in the next 30 years is as follows: 31 percent for the Hayward Fault, 21 percent for the San Andreas Fault, 7 percent for the Calaveras Fault, and 6 percent for the San Gregorio Fault. Earthquakes of this magnitude can create ground accelerations severe enough to cause major damage to structures and foundations not designed to resist the forces generated by earthquakes. Underground utility lines are also susceptible where they lack sufficient flexibility to accommodate the seismic ground motion.

In the event of an earthquake of this magnitude, the seismic forecasts presented on the Association of Bay Area Governments' website (developed by a cooperative working group that included the USGS and the California Geological Society (CGS) suggest that most parts of Menlo Park southwest of Highway 101 are expected to experience "strong" shaking, and most areas east of Highway 101 are expected to experience "very strong" shaking, with areas located within 1 mile of the Dumbarton Bridge expected to experience "violent" shaking.<sup>5</sup> Possible groundshaking intensities are shown in Figure S-1Figure S-2. Butano Earthquake Scenario to Figure S-4.

The MJLHMP provides further evaluation of earthquake intensity in Menlo Park. The perceived and observed effect of an earthquake on the surface is known as intensity, and the Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) Scale is the method used to classify earthquake intensity in the United States. The lowest intensity, MMI I categorizes shaking that is not felt except by very few under especially favorable conditions, and the

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<sup>4</sup> "What is the probability that an earthquake will occur in the Los Angeles Area? In the San Francisco Bay area?" (USGS: Last accessed November 18, 2022). Available at <https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-probability-earthquake-will-occur-los-angeles-area-san-francisco-bay-area>

<sup>5</sup> Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), 2012. GIS Viewer, Hazards Maps Earthquake Shaking Scenarios.

highest intensity, MMI X categorizes shaking that is extreme and the level of damage includes destruction of well-built wooden structures and most masonry and frame structures. The MJLHMP finds the city may experience intensities of Mercalli Intensity Scale VI (strong perceived shaking/ potential light damage) to VII (severe perceived shaking/ potential moderate-heavy damage). Intensities may also vary based on the origin and magnitude of the earthquake.

Earthquakes can also produce secondary hazards, such as tsunamis, landslides, and liquefaction. A tsunami is a large tidal wave generated by an earthquake, landslide, or volcanic eruption. Seiches are waves that oscillate in enclosed water bodies, such as reservoirs, lakes, ponds, or semi-enclosed bodies of water such as San Francisco Bay. Seiches may be triggered by moderate or large submarine earthquakes, or sometimes by large onshore earthquakes. The following map of tsunami hazard areas (Figure S-7. Tsunami Hazard Areas) shows that a very small portion of the Menlo Park planning area would be impacted by a seismically-induced sea wave (tsunami). Liquefaction (a phenomenon involving loose, saturated, cohesionless soil that experiences temporary loss of strength during cyclic loading, such as from strong ground shaking during earthquakes) occurs when the soil is oversaturated with water, creating ground instability which can lead to buildings and road foundations to sink. Eastern parts of Menlo Park, particularly those areas underlain by Bay Muds, are judged to have a very high potential for seismically-induced liquefaction.

The performance of human-made structures during a major seismic event varies considerably due to a number of factors, most importantly:

- Location with respect to:
  - Active fault traces
  - Areas prone to liquefaction
  - Seismically-induced landslides;
- Type of building construction (i.e., wood frame, unreinforced masonry, non-ductile concrete frame);
- Building Age; and
- Proximity, magnitude, and intensity of the seismic event itself.

In general, evidence from past earthquakes shows that wood frame structures tend to perform well especially when their foundations are properly designed and anchored.

Older, unreinforced masonry structures, on the other hand, do not perform as well, especially if they have not undergone appropriate seismic retrofitting. Soft story

buildings<sup>6</sup> or multi-story buildings with one or more floors that are “soft” because of structural design, could also be more vulnerable to seismic impacts if they have not been designed to withstand ground shaking and other earthquake-induced impacts. A building is considered to be “soft story” if it has a floor that is 70% less stiff than the floor above it. Soft stories are typically associated with open plan retail spaces and parking garages, and they are often on the lower stories of a building. Soft-story collapse is one of the leading causes of earthquake damage to private residences.<sup>7</sup>

Applicable building code requirements, such as Menlo Park’s seismic hazard identification program (Chapter 12.46) and those found in the California Building Code (CBC), include seismic requirements that are designed to ensure the satisfactory performance of building materials under prescribed seismic conditions. The City updates its building code following each update of the CBC, which occurs on three year intervals.

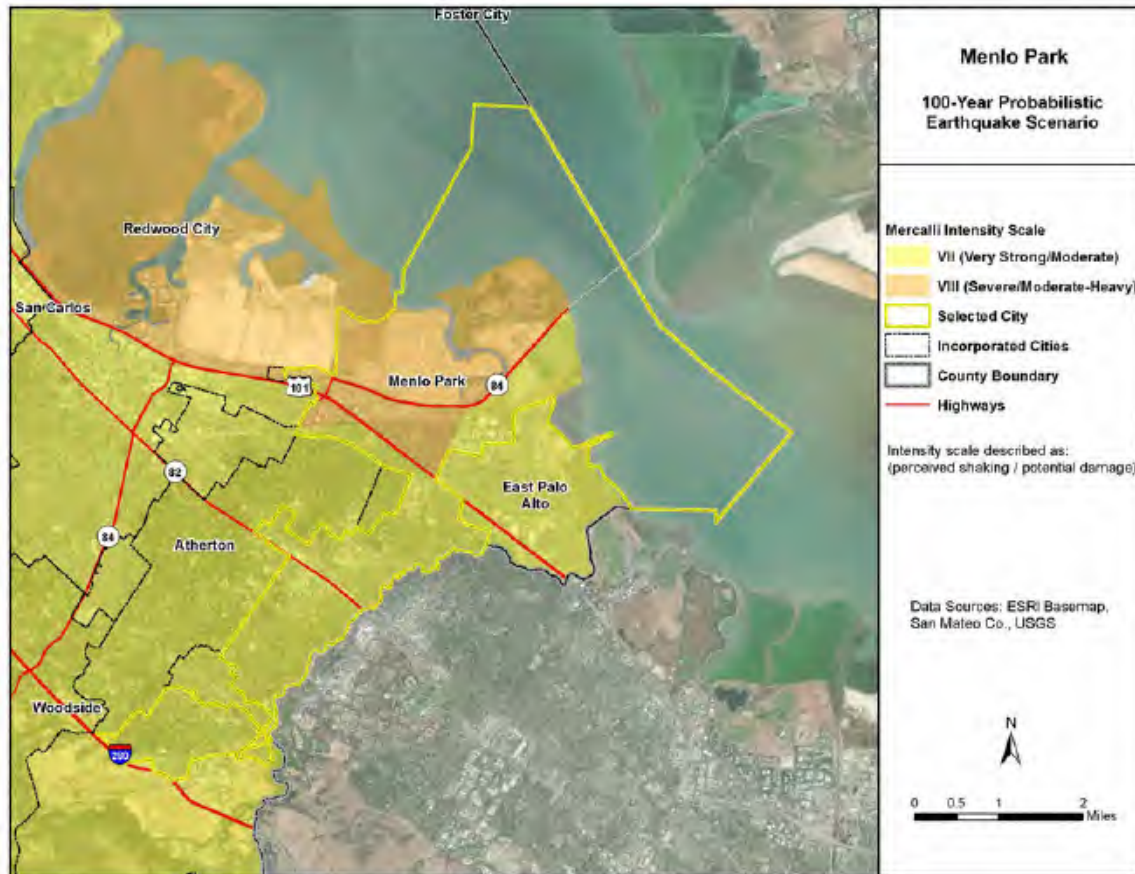
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<sup>6</sup> “Soft-story residential buildings are those that have open parking or commercial space on the first floor and housing on higher floors. In an earthquake, ground shaking causes such structures to sway and sometimes to collapse.”; “Soft Story Resources (Policy)” (ABAG), available at <https://abag.ca.gov/soft-story-resources-policy>

<sup>7</sup> County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Figure S-1 is a combined map of predicted shaking from all possible earthquakes over the course of 10,000 years. The map shows the ground motion scenario in 100 years, a 1-percent annual chance event. If an earthquake happens, the City of Menlo Park would most likely experience a very strong to severe ground shaking with moderate to moderate-heavy potential damage.

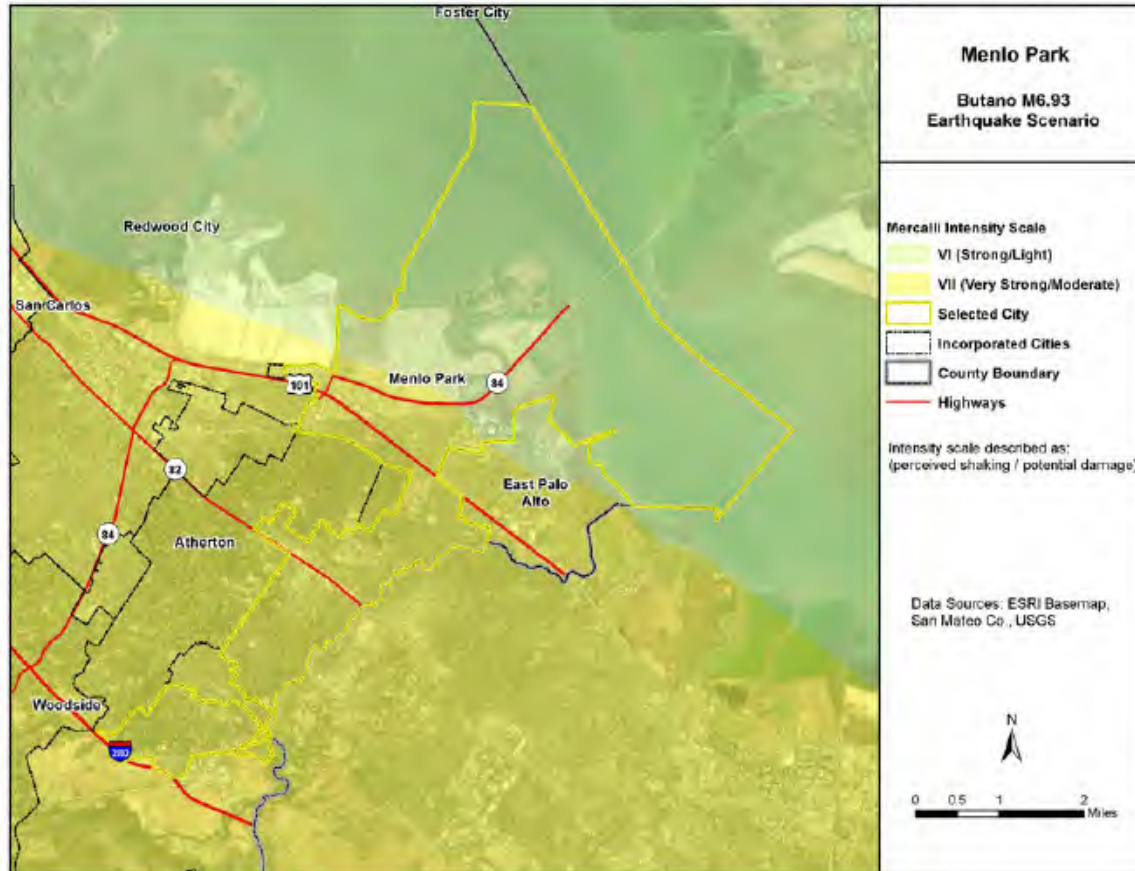
**Figure S-1. 100-year Probabilistic Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-2 uses a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-6.93 event on the Butano Fault with an epicenter 17.5 miles south of Redwood City occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience a very strong ground shaking with moderate potential damage.

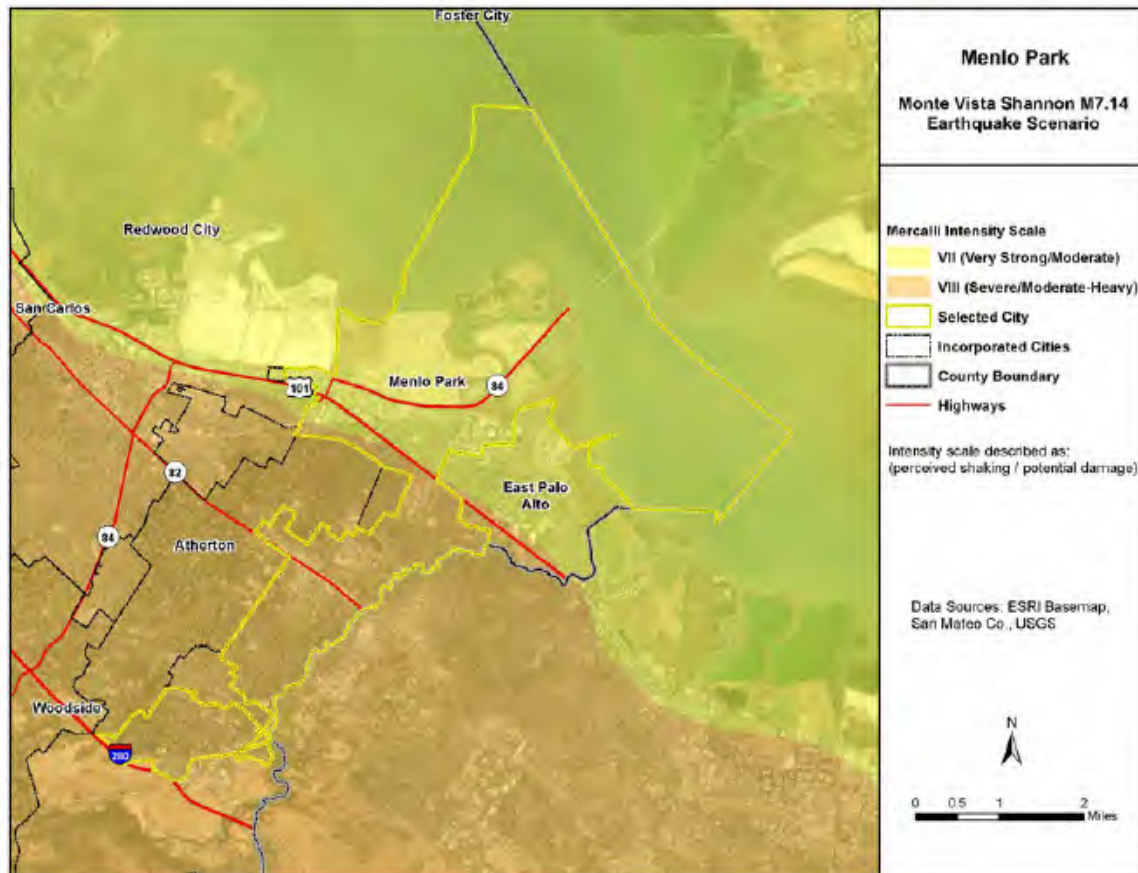
**Figure S-2. Butano Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-3 uses a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-7.14 event on the Monte Vista Shannon Fault with an epicenter 16 miles south-southeast of Redwood City occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience very strong to severe ground shaking with moderate to moderate-heavy potential damage.

**Figure S-3. Monte Vista Shannon Earthquake Scenario**

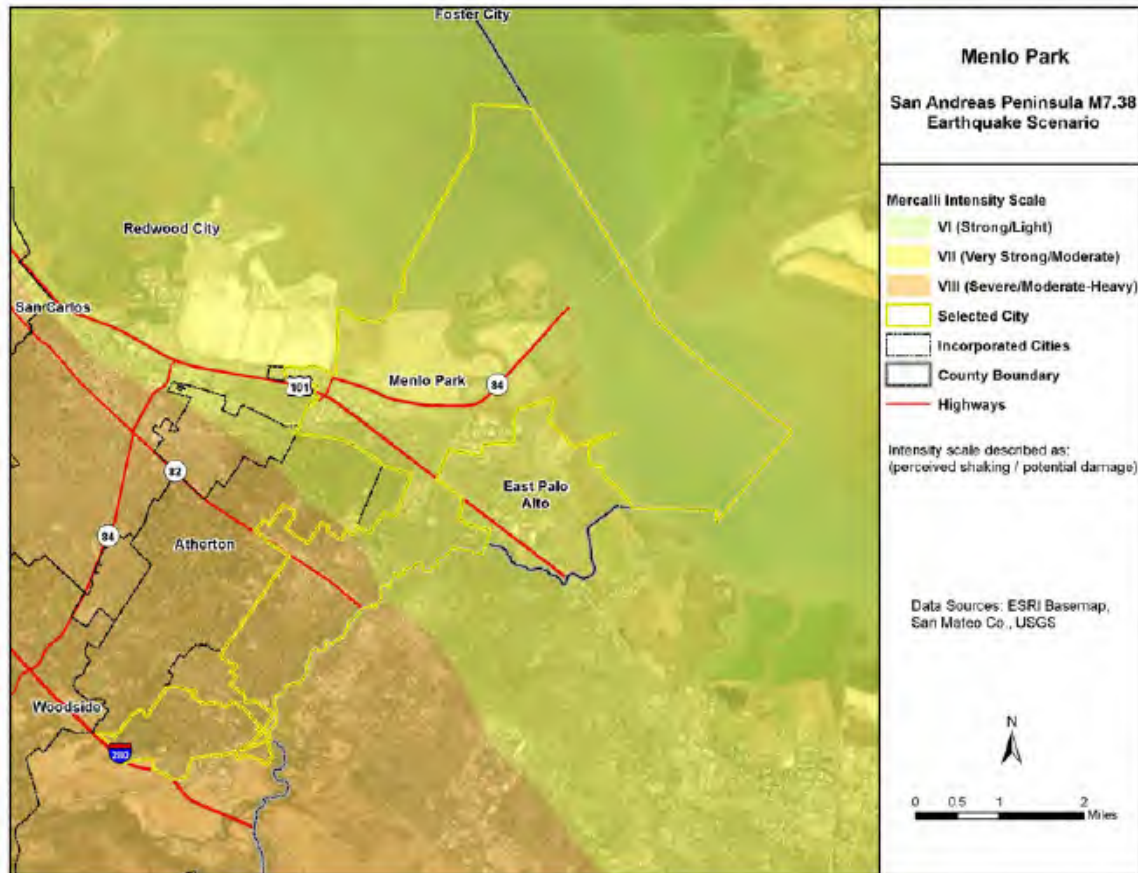


Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes



Figure S-4 indicates a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-7.38 event on the San Andreas Fault with an epicenter 4 miles west of Belmont occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience very strong to severe ground shaking with moderate to moderate-heavy potential damage.

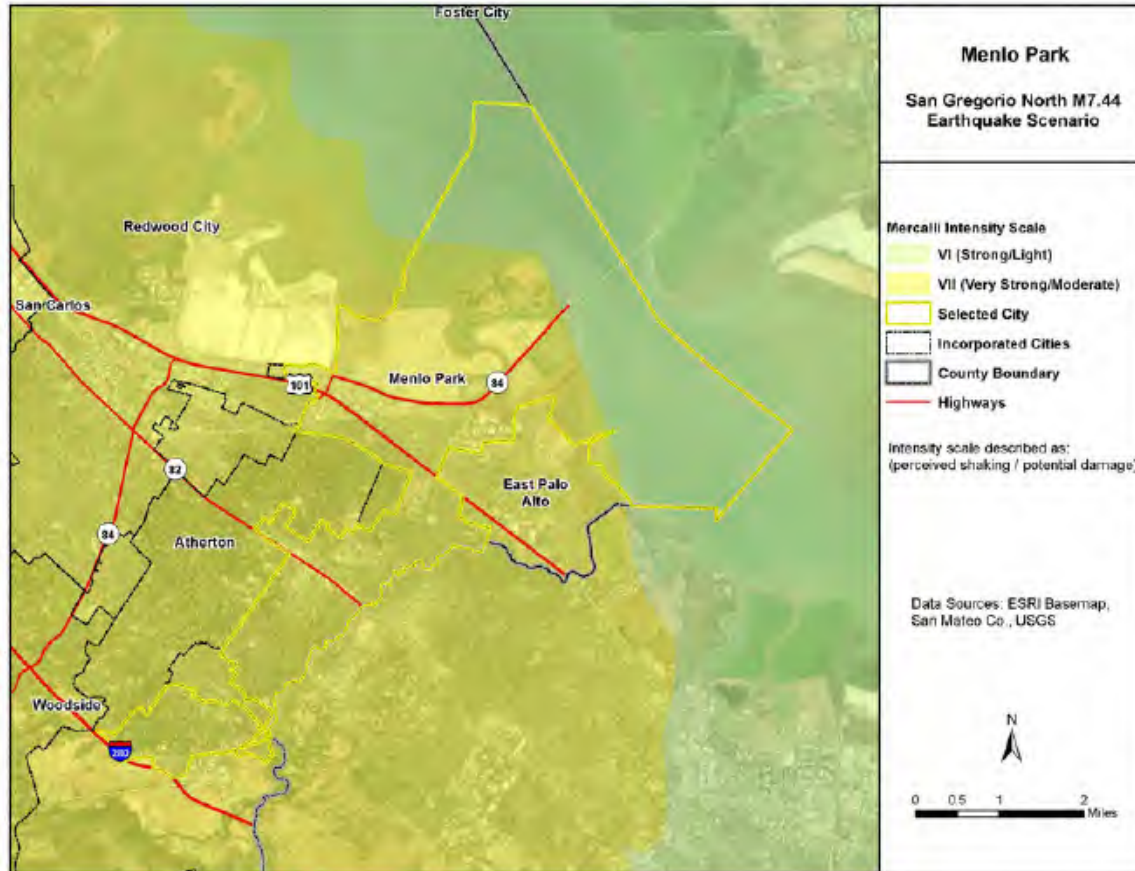
**Figure S-4. San Andreas Peninsula Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-5 indicates a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-7.44 event on the San Gregorio Fault with an epicenter 4 miles south of Half Moon Bay occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience very strong ground shaking with moderate potential damage.

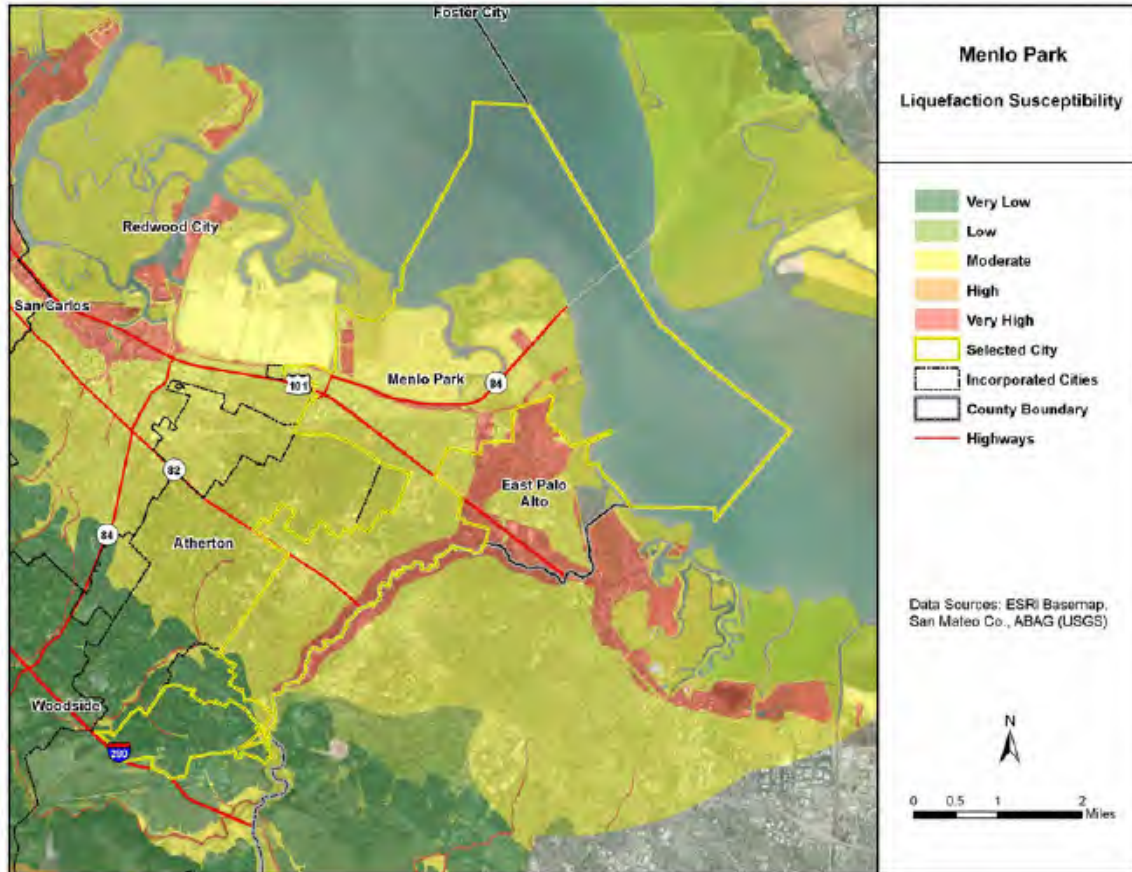
**Figure S-5. San Gregorio North Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) creates maps based on soil characteristics to help identify locations subject to liquefaction. NEHRP soil types define the locations that will be significantly impacted by an earthquake. The areas that are commonly most affected by ground shaking have NEHRP Soils D, E and F. As a result, most of the City would experience a moderate to very high liquefaction susceptibility (see Figure S-6).

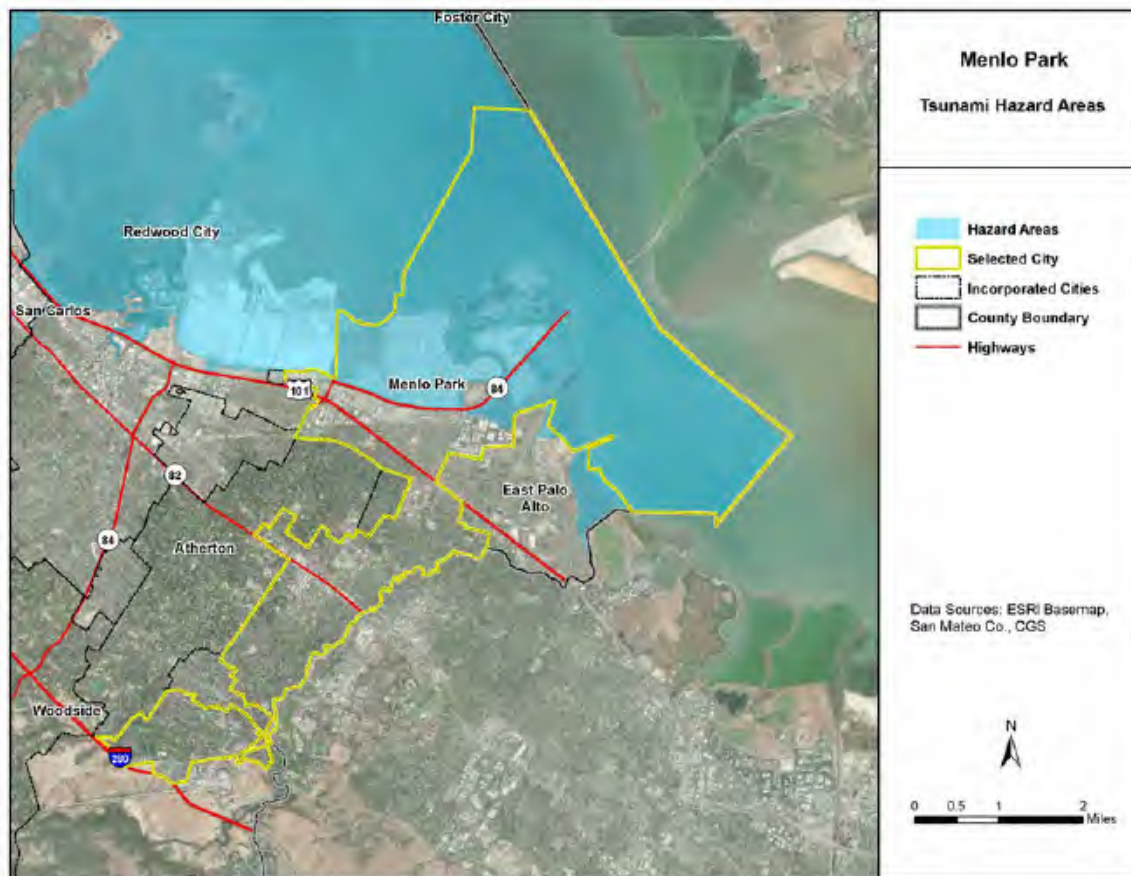
**Figure S-6. Liquefaction Susceptibility**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Recent tsunami modeling uses probabilistic tsunami hazard analysis to compute tsunami waves from sources from around the Pacific Ocean and results in inundation models that are associated with different probabilities of exceedance over time. The California Geological Survey, Seismic Hazards Program, Tsunami Unit selected the 975-year average return period tsunami model, with a 5% probability of exceedance in 50 years, as a basis for the minimum hazard level. As a result, a tsunami would affect the areas near Highway 84 (see Figure S-7).

**Figure S-7. Tsunami Hazard Areas**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

## Landslides, Erosion and Subsidence

Landslides are gravity-driven movements of earth materials that may include rock, soil, unconsolidated sediment, or combinations of such materials. The rate of landslide movement can vary considerably. Some move rapidly as in a soil or rock avalanche, while other landslides creep or move slowly for extended periods of time. The susceptibility of a given area to landslides depends on many variables, although the general characteristics that influence landslide hazards are well understood. The factors

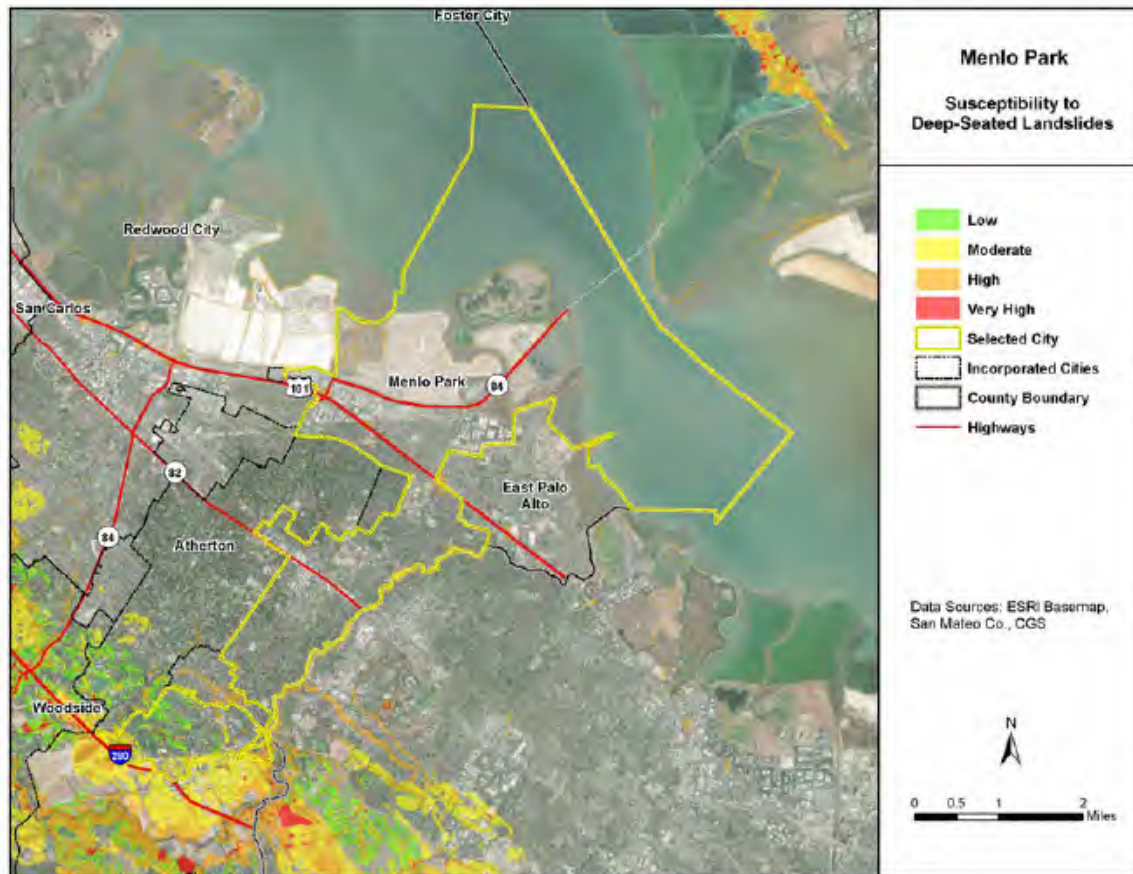
that influence the probability of a landslide and its relative level of risk include the following:

- (1) **Slope Material:** Loose, unconsolidated soils and soft, weak rocks are more hazardous than are firm, consolidated soils or hard bedrock.
- (2) **Slope Steepness:** Most landslides occur on moderate to steep slopes.
- (3) **Structure and Physical Properties of Materials:** This includes the orientation of layering and zones of weakness relative to slope direction.
- (4) **Water Content:** Increased water content increases landslide hazard by decreasing friction and adding weight to the materials on a slope.
- (5) **Vegetation Coverage:** Abundant vegetation with deep roots promote slope stability.
- (6) **Proximity to Areas of Erosion or Human-made Cuts:** Undercutting slopes can greatly increase landslide potential.
- (7) **Earthquake Ground Motions:** Strong seismic ground motions can trigger landslides in marginally stable slopes or loosen slope materials, and also increase the risk of future landslides.

Landslides have the potential to occur within Menlo Park, most notably on some of the hilly slopes that lie west of the Alameda de las Pulgas roadway. In general, landslides are commonly associated with bedrock outcrops of the Franciscan Formation, which frequently form steeper slopes. Shale is the most unstable of the rock types within the Franciscan Formation, whereas sandstone and conglomerate tend to be more stable with a lower landslide risk. Much of the upland areas in Menlo Park are typified by shallow soil that overlies Franciscan bedrock very close to the surface. Landslides are not an issue in parts of the city where the topography is flat.

Figure S-8 and associated data show the relative likelihood of deep-seated landsliding based on regional estimates of rock strength and steepness of slopes. On the most basic level, weak rocks and steep slopes are most likely to generate landslides. The map uses detailed information on the location of past landslides, the location and relative strength of rock units, and steepness of slope to estimate susceptibility to deep-seated landsliding. As a result, the City would experience low to moderate landslides.

**Figure S-8. Susceptibility to Deep-Seated Landslides**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Subsidence hazards are known to be present in the diked baylands due to the highly compressible nature of the underlying fill as well as historical groundwater overdraft. Areas susceptible to earthquake-induced subsidence include those areas underlain by thick layers of colluvial material (loose, unconsolidated sediments) or poorly engineered fill. This fill was reported to have settled historically with hydro-compaction being an element of the settlement as well. Land subsidence occurred within the low-lying areas, mainly along the Bay margins.

Expansive soils can change dramatically in volume depending on moisture content. When wet, these soils can expand; conversely, when dry, they can contract or shrink. Sources of moisture that can trigger this shrink-swell phenomenon include seasonal rainfall, landscape irrigation, utility leakage, and/or perched groundwater. Expansive soil can exhibit wide cracks in the dry season, and changes in soil volume have the potential to damage concrete slabs, foundations, and pavement. Special building/structure design or soil treatment are often needed in areas with expansive soils. Shrink-swell potential ranges from high along the marshlands of San Francisco Bay, to moderate in the center of the City, and to low in the western foothills.

## **B** Hydrology (Flooding and Rise in Sea Level)

### **Flooding and Dam Failure**

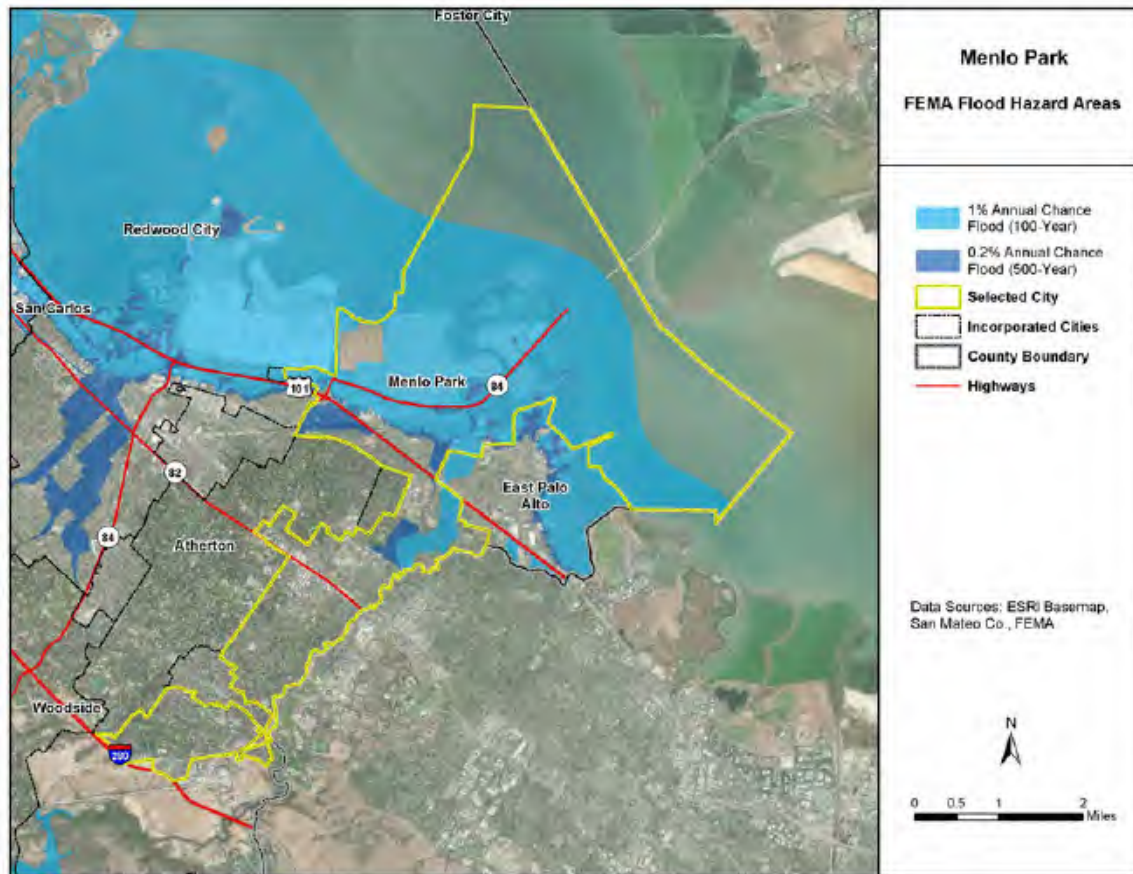
FEMA prepares maps of the 100-year flood hazard area of U.S. communities. Areas within the 100-year flood hazard area have a one percent risk of flooding in any given year. Maps are also available for 500-year floods, which mean that in any given year, the risk of flooding in the designated area is 0.2 percent.

In some locations, FEMA also provides a measurement of base flood elevation for the 100-year flood, which is the minimum height of the flood waters during a 100-year event. Base flood elevation is reported in feet above sea level. Depth of flooding is determined by subtracting the land's height above sea level from the base flood elevation. Areas within the 100-year flood hazard area that are financed by Federally-backed mortgages are subject to mandatory Federal insurance requirements and building standards to reduce flood damage.

The northernmost portion of Menlo Park, including much of the area between State Route 84 and Highway 101, is within the 100-year floodplain subject to tidal flooding from San Francisco Bay. In addition, portions of Menlo Park between Middlefield Road and Highway 101 are within the 100-year floodplain due to overflow from San Francisquito Creek. The MJLHMP identifies numerous critical facilities, including shelters, health facilities, safety and security facilities, communications facilities, energy facilities, hazardous materials locations, and transportation facilities throughout the city, as shown in the Critical Facilities maps in the following sections. A number of these facilities (Bedwell Bayfront Park Landfill and Gas Flare, and Chrysler Pump Station, and a Menlo Park Police Neighborhood Service Center) are located in areas identified as 100-year and 500-year flood hazard areas.

Flood hazard areas are from the countywide effective FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) dated April 5, 2019. Some parts of the City may experience flooding, especially areas closer to the San Francisco Bay.

**Figure S-9. Flood Hazard Areas**



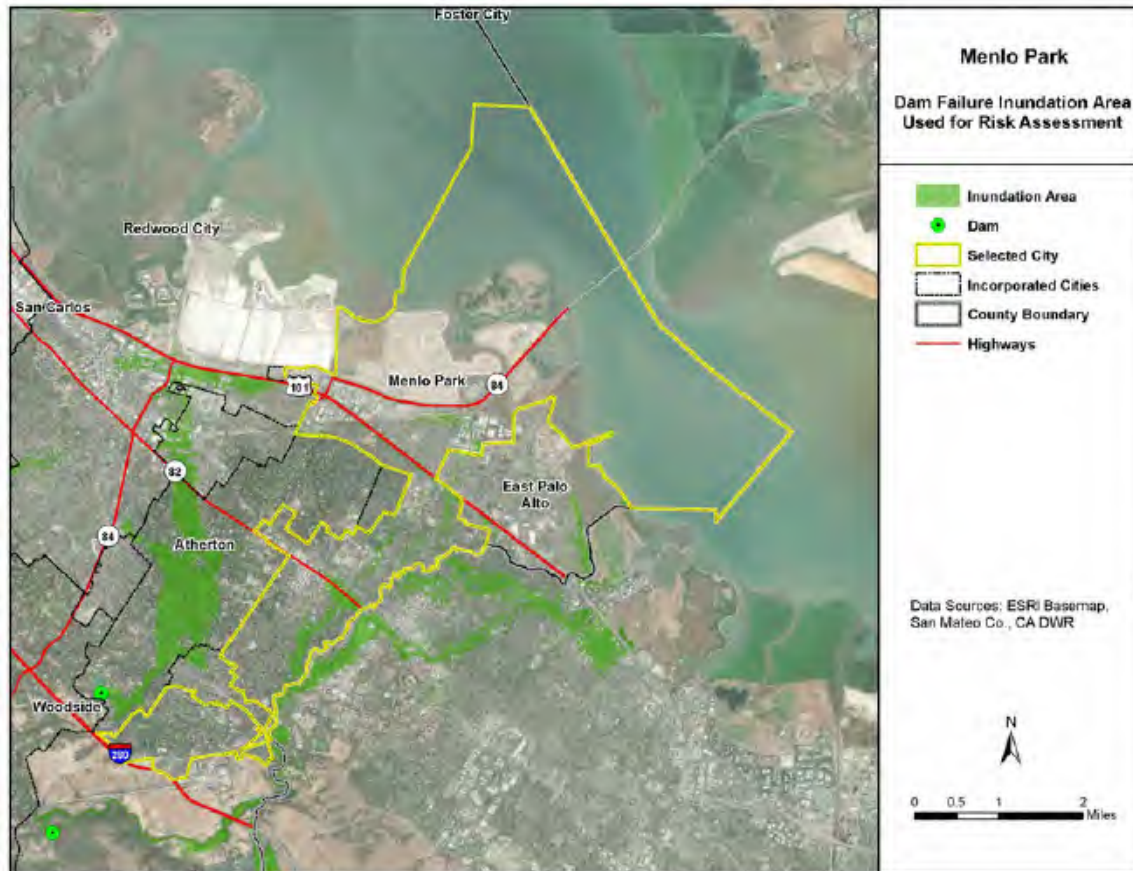
Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Dam failures can be caused by overtopping caused by floods or precipitation that exceeds dam capacity, damage to the foundation of the dam, or structural failures of the dam. Several reservoirs in the area present the remote risk of downstream inundation in the event of a dam failure as the result of an earthquake or other catastrophic event. According to the California Department of Water Resources dam failure inundation maps, portions of Menlo Park are within the Searsville, Felt Lake, and Foothill Park dam inundation zones. A dam failure at Felt Lake would affect the Arrillaga Gym and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Although dam inundation areas for Bear Gulch are not located within City limits, they do cover some areas in proximity to the western City limits. Dam failures have been rare in San Mateo County with only one recorded dam failure in 1926, which did not impact Menlo Park.



Inundation maps are based on a hypothetical failure of a dam or critical appurtenant structure and the information depicted on the maps is approximate. Some parts of Menlo Park would be affected if a dam failed nearby.

**Figure S-10. Dam Failure Inundation Area**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA), in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, are implementing improvements to provide 100-year flood protection for flood-prone reaches of San Francisquito Creek both upstream and downstream from Highway 101.

The California Department of Water Resources is required to inspect dams, reservoirs, and appurtenant structures once per fiscal year, with the exception of low hazard potential dams that would be inspected at least every two fiscal years. Owners of dams are required to operate critical outlet and spillway control features on an annual basis and to demonstrate their full operability in the presence of the Department every three years or as directed by the Department.

## Sea Level and Groundwater Rise

California Executive Order S-13-2008 states that all State agencies planning construction projects in areas vulnerable to sea level rise must consider a range of sea level rise scenarios for the years 2050 and 2100 to assess project vulnerability and to the extent feasible, reduce expected risks from sea level rise.

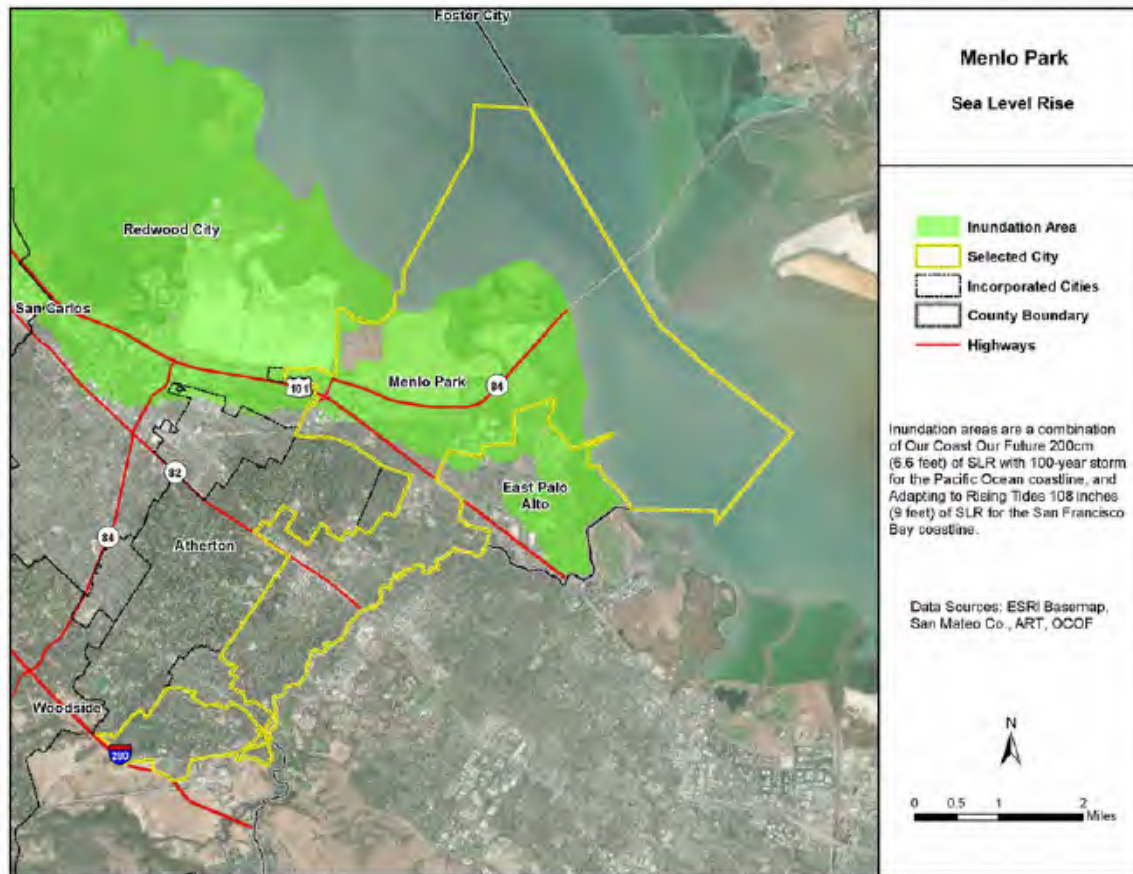
As a result of decades of increasing atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide and methane as a result of fossil fuel consumption, rising temperatures worldwide have warmed the atmosphere and the world's oceans. Sea level rise, in turn reflects both melting glaciers and the expansion of seawater as it warms. Different scenarios and predictive models result in different estimates in the magnitude of sea level rise. The California Fourth Climate Assessment projects a 2.5-foot rise in sea level rise by 2100. Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) program, which is a collaboration between BCDC and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Coastal Management maps different sea level rise scenarios. Sea level rise can cause flood damage to property and infrastructure. In Menlo Park, the Bayfront and Belle Haven neighborhoods are most vulnerable to sea level rise. These neighborhoods may expect damage from storm activity in combination with higher sea levels. Key factors that will further exacerbate the impacts of sea level rise include high tides, storm surge, El Niño winter storms, storm waves, and high runoff rates from rivers and creeks. Much of the damage, as shown in Figure S-11, will occur north of US-101.

The MJLHMP estimates that Menlo Park currently has 998 structures at risk of inundation due to sea level rise, and 4,576 residents living in areas at risk.<sup>8</sup> The MJLHMP additionally estimates that 38 critical facilities are at risk of inundation in the city due to sea level rise including facilities related to communications, energy, food and water, hazardous material, health and medical, safety and security, and transportation. The City has efforts underway to address sea level rise including collaboration with BCDC and adjacent jurisdictions and groups, including, but not limited to, City of East Palo Alto, County of San Mateo, City of Redwood City, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority, and OneShoreline (San Mateo County Flood & Sea Level Rise Resiliency District), to develop a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan. The Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan is a region-wide plan for the Bay shoreline that guides the creation of coordinated, locally-planned sea level rise adaptation actions that work together to meet regional goals.

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<sup>8</sup> County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Figure S-11. Sea Level Rise

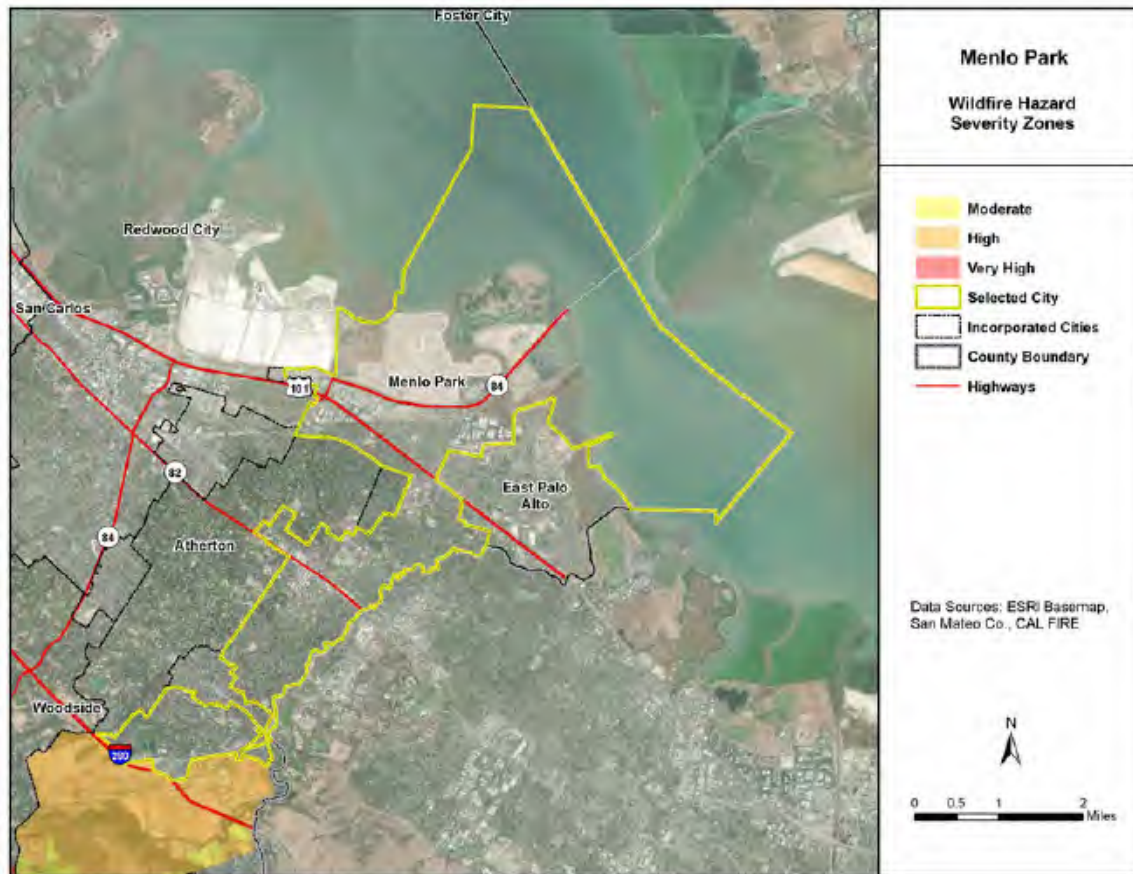


Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

## C Fire Hazards

The severity of the wildfire hazard is determined by the relationship between three factors — (1) fuel classification, (2) topography, and (3) critical fire weather frequency. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) defines Fire Hazard Severity Zones for areas within the state. A fire hazard is defined as a “measure of the likelihood of an area burning and how it burns,” with a zone being an area characterized by a particular level of fire hazard. CAL FIRE’s Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps indicate areas for which the State of California has fiscal responsibility for wildland fire protection services as the State Responsibility Area, and areas for which local jurisdictions have fiscal responsibility as the Local Responsibility Area. Menlo Park does not contain any fire hazard severity zones. However, there is a high Fire Hazard Severity zone identified as a State Responsibility Area just outside of the southwestern City Limits (see Figure S-12).

**Figure S-12. Wildfire Hazard Severity Zones**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The frequency and length of wildfire season is increasing as the result of climate change. This trend combined with human activity that is exacerbating wildfire risk could result in more frequent and intense wildfires in the future. The most recent notable wildfire that has impacted the city was the August 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire in Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties. As of mid-2021, this fire was recorded as the 12<sup>th</sup> most destructive wildfire in California history. While wildfires have a lower chance of causing the destruction of property in Menlo Park, nearby burning wildfires can expose the community to health-related impacts of poor air quality.

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District reviews development plans within the city. At the planning review phase, the Fire District considers capacity to serve the development and provides initial comments and conditions. At building permit submittal, the Fire District confirms development would meet requirements for fire safety. In review of proposed projects, the Fire District considers peakload water

supply requirements to serve the development, road widths, and clearances around structures.

## Fire Stations

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District serves Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto, and parts of unincorporated San Mateo County. There are five fire stations strategically located within or adjacent to the city's boundaries that serve Menlo Park:

- Fire Station 1: 300 Middlefield Road
- Fire Station 4: 3322 Alameda de las Pulgas (in nearby unincorporated San Mateo County, and can serve Menlo Park)
- Fire Station 5: 4101 Fair Oaks Avenue
- Fire Station 6: 700 Oak Grove Avenue
- Fire Station 77: 1467 Chilco Street

## D Extreme Temperatures

Climate change is causing rising temperatures across the Bay Area. According to the California 4<sup>th</sup> Climate Assessment, average temperatures throughout the Bay Area are expected to increase by 3.3 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050. Extreme heat days are defined as any day where the daily maximum or minimum temperature exceeds the 98<sup>th</sup> historical percentile of daily maximum or minimum temperatures from 1961-1990.<sup>9</sup> In Menlo Park, maximum temperatures that exceed 97.2 degrees Fahrenheit are classified as extreme heat. In 2021, Menlo Park experienced five extreme heat days. By 2050, the number of extreme heat days in the city is projected to increase to 11 days.

Warmer temperatures can cause an increased risk of heat-related illnesses, including heat exhaustion and heat stroke. In addition to health impacts, rising temperatures can result in worsening air quality due to the formation of ground-level ozone and an increased risk of wildfires. Populations that are more acutely impacted by heat include older adults, outdoor workers, unhoused individuals, and low-income communities of color.

The City of Menlo Park currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public. The Belle Haven Community Campus and the Menlo Park Library cooling centers are open every day, with all the facilities operating from June to October during each facility's

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<sup>9</sup> *Extreme Heat Days and Warm Nights*. Cal-Adapt. <https://cal-adapt.org/tools/extreme-heat/>. This tool was used to identify extreme heat day temperatures for location.

regular operating hours. On dates when the National Weather Service issues an excessive heat warning, the City Manager may designate additional hours or locations to respond to community needs.

The Belle Haven Community Campus is an all-electric, zero combustion, net zero energy public building with onsite renewable energy generation, battery microgrid, and electric vehicle charging stations. The facility is built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum environmental standards, and its structural design is resilient to serve as an emergency shelter.

## Climate Adaptation and Resiliency

Climate change is a long-term shift in temperature and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, such as through variations in solar cycles, however human activities have been the main driver of climate change since the 1800s, primarily due to burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas<sup>10</sup>. The release of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere through human activities around the Earth traps the sun's heat and raises temperatures. Carbon dioxide is the most commonly known greenhouse gas, but methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gas also contribute to warming. The major scientific agencies such as NASA and the NOAA have found evidence that climate change is occurring through global temperature rise, warming oceans, shrinking ice sheets in Greenland and the Antarctic, glacial retreat around the world, decreased snow cover, sea level rise, declining arctic sea ice, extreme temperature events, and ocean acidification from absorption of carbon dioxide. The associated impacts from climate changes present risks of hazards affecting both the natural and built environments, not only at a global level but also at a local level.

Climate change impact concerns for San Mateo County and the region include:<sup>11</sup>

- A significant temperature increase by mid-century
- High year-to-year variability within very wet and very dry years
- Longer and deeper droughts
- Sea level rise, even with emissions reductions
- Extreme heat events, increased air pollution
- Socioeconomic inequity in different abilities to prepare for and recover from heatwaves and fires
- Heatwaves increasing health risk due to urban heat island and lack of local cooling infrastructure
- Climate less suitable for evergreen forests (e.g., redwoods and Douglas fir)
- Sea level and groundwater rise impact on wetlands and wildlife

On December 10, 2019, the Menlo Park City Council adopted Resolution No. 6535 declaring a climate emergency. The City adopted the 2030 Climate Action Plan in July 2020 and approved amendments to it in April 2021. According to the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, climate change will continue to exacerbate environmental hazards in cities and threaten damage to property and people. As the result of past discriminatory policies and planning practices, communities of color and low-income communities nationwide are more likely to live in areas that have a higher risk from climate impacts, including flooding, urban heat islands, and poor air

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<sup>10</sup> What is Climate Change. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>

<sup>11</sup> 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 1-Planning-Area-Wide Elements. County of San Mateo

quality.<sup>12</sup> In addition, these communities may face additional challenges to coping with the impacts of climate change, such as limited financial resources.

Climate adaption and resiliency strategies are required considerations within Safety Elements, which aim to identify potential hazards from climate change that may affect a community and the strategies to respond to such potential hazards. A vulnerability assessment presents the means to identify impacts from climate change.

### **Vulnerability Assessment**

The Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) included an assessment of vulnerabilities and the ability of the City to adapt. The MJLHMP addresses climate change and sea level rise risks and impacts, as well as climate adaptation and resiliency strategies and listed actions for the City in addressing these hazards. Per Government Code Section 65302(g)(4), if a local jurisdiction has not adopted a local hazard mitigation plan, beginning on or before January 1, 2022, the Safety Element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to the city or county. The City of Menlo Park adopted the MJLHMP before January 1, 2022. Cities that have an adopted hazard mitigation plan, climate adaptation plan, or substantially equivalent provisions in their general plans may use that information in the Safety Element to comply with requirements for Safety Elements under Government Code Section 65302(g)(4), and shall summarize and incorporate by reference into the Safety Element the other general plan provisions, climate adaptation plan or document.

The MJLHMP identifies a high risk for sea level rise/climate change as a hazard affecting the community. In addition, to direct climate impacts such as sea level rise, the vulnerability assessment addresses indirect climate impacts across key sectors including infrastructure, buildings, natural systems, economic assets, and populations. Broader vulnerabilities at the countywide level that were identified would affect the city as well.

#### *Infrastructure*

The high variability in expected weather and the extensiveness of drought conditions places greater impact on the ability of infrastructure and systems to accommodate demand. For prolonged droughts, conservation of water and efficient management of water resources would be required to reduce overuse of water resources. For heavy rain events, infrastructure to manage runoff would need to be at capacities that would be able to handle the volume of runoff. Additionally, pro-active planning to prevent/address tree failure, street flooding due to blocked drains, and loss of electricity should be pursued.

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<sup>12</sup> Urban Sustainability Directors Network.  
[https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn\\_guide\\_to\\_equitable\\_community-driven\\_climate\\_preparedness-high\\_res.pdf](https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn_guide_to_equitable_community-driven_climate_preparedness-high_res.pdf)



In addition to policies and programs in the Safety Element, the MJLHMP includes several relevant actions:

- Action MPK-3 will integrate the MJLHMP into other plans and programs that support infrastructure investments.
- Action MPK-24 will plan, design, and implement the water infrastructure improvements recommended in the Water System Master Plan.
- Action MPK-28 will support green infrastructure projects that enhance resiliency to natural disasters.
- Action MPK-29 will identify and pursue strategies to enhance recycled water infrastructure planning/implementation.

### *Buildings*

Development and buildings would be most likely to be directly impacted by sea-level rise. As shown in Figure S-11, the risk of sea level rise has greatest potential to affect areas north of Highway 101. Indirect impacts from climate change may include the availability of water resources to support development where prolonged droughts affect supply. Without adequate measures to address sea level rise, this could mean a reduction in available land for building new development and could displace residents of the Bayfront and Belle Haven neighborhoods over time.

In addition to policies and programs in the Safety Element, the MJLHMP includes several relevant actions:

- Action MPK-1 will when appropriate, support retro-fitting, purchase or relocation of structures located in high hazard areas and prioritize those structures that have experienced repetitive losses.
- Action MPK-8 will work with building officials to identify ways to improve the jurisdiction's Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) classification.

### *Natural Systems*

Climate change causing rising sea levels can negatively affect wetland habitats because of the limited potential of wetlands to relocate and reestablish inland. In addition to rising sea levels, a rise in bay waters can permanently take out wildlife and subsequent habitat due to the marshes and wetlands along the bay being taken up by development. Reduced rainfall, drought, and warmer weather would negatively impact amphibians and reptiles. Wildfires may destroy habitats, negatively affecting birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

The Safety Element identifies multiple actions to safeguard natural systems and reduce the risk from environmental impacts. Some plans currently in place to address this are the Habitat Conservation Plan and the Shoreline Management Plan. Some actions in the MJLHMP that will be conducted to save floodplains and natural systems include:

- Action MPK-7, which involves continuing to maintain good standing and compliance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) via floodplain management programs.
- Action MPK-28 will support green infrastructure projects that enhance resiliency to natural disasters and incorporate green design elements into hazard mitigation projects where feasible.

### *Economic Assets*

Climate change may disrupt development through impacts to infrastructure and building. Without upgrades to infrastructure, issues such as a strained power grid, rising costs for construction, or worsening roads could become more common due to wildfires, more frequent droughts and flooding, as well as less precipitation. The urban heat island effect and pollution from greenhouse emitting automobiles and trucks pose a serious public health issue. In addition, sea level rise could remove some existing land for development impacting an already high cost housing market for development. Without proper mitigation, this can impact costs of living in Menlo Park and could even drive business out of town due to the high costs.

The Safety Element includes plans and actions that can be taken by Menlo Park to mitigate economic issues. For example, the City of Menlo Park has an economic development plan that can serve as a groundwork for economic prosperity. But, it should be reviewed to ensure it is in line with environmental issues. In addition, the Climate Action Plan also has economic contingencies as new mitigation technologies or sectors are activated in the future.

In addition to policies and programs in the Safety Element, the MJLHMP includes Action MPK-2, which states the integration of the hazard mitigation plan and CalEnviroScreen into other plans, ordinances, and programs that dictate land use decisions within the community, including the General Plan Safety Element and Environmental Justice Element.

### *Populations*

In addition to the potential effects of climate change on the community through impacts to infrastructure and buildings, populations may experience further impacts from air quality impacts and urban heat island effects.

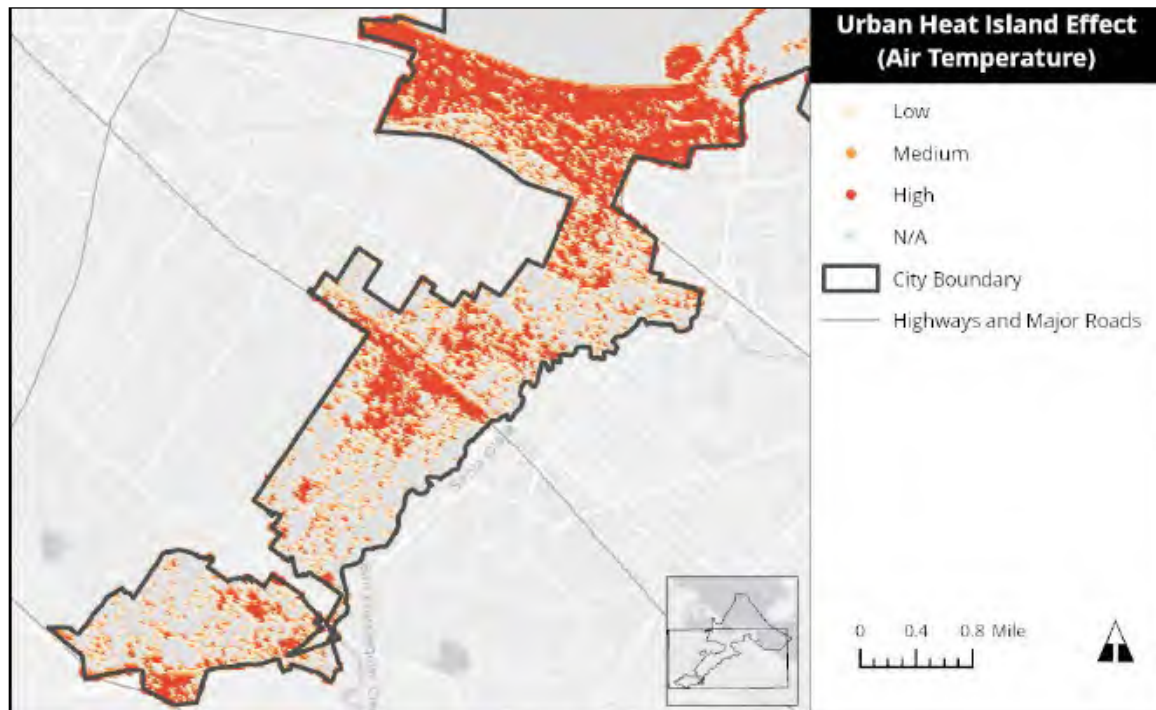
Where climate change increases temperatures, precipitation, and duration of conditions of fire risk, the frequency and intensity of wildfires can also increase. Air quality impacts from smoke carried across the region may impact sensitive local populations.

Heat waves can pose increased health risks due to urban heat islands and lack of cooling infrastructure. An urban heat island occurs in urban areas that experience

higher temperatures relative to outlying areas. The effect occurs due to structures, such as buildings, roads, and other infrastructure, absorbing and re-emitting the sun's heat more than natural landscapes. Urban areas become islands of higher temperature due to limited greenery and concentrated development, with temperatures that can be about 1 to 7°F higher during the daytime and 2 to 5°F higher during the nighttime than outlying areas.<sup>13</sup> In Menlo Park, the areas experiencing the highest urban heat island effect generally occur in the eastern part of the city adjacent to the bay (including the Belle Haven area) and in the downtown area, as shown in

Figure S-13.

**Figure S-13. Urban Heat Island Effect**



Source: Bay Area Greenprint. Data from March 2015. For a definition of how data was calculated, visit <https://www.bayareagreenprint.org/glossary/#urbanheatislandair>.

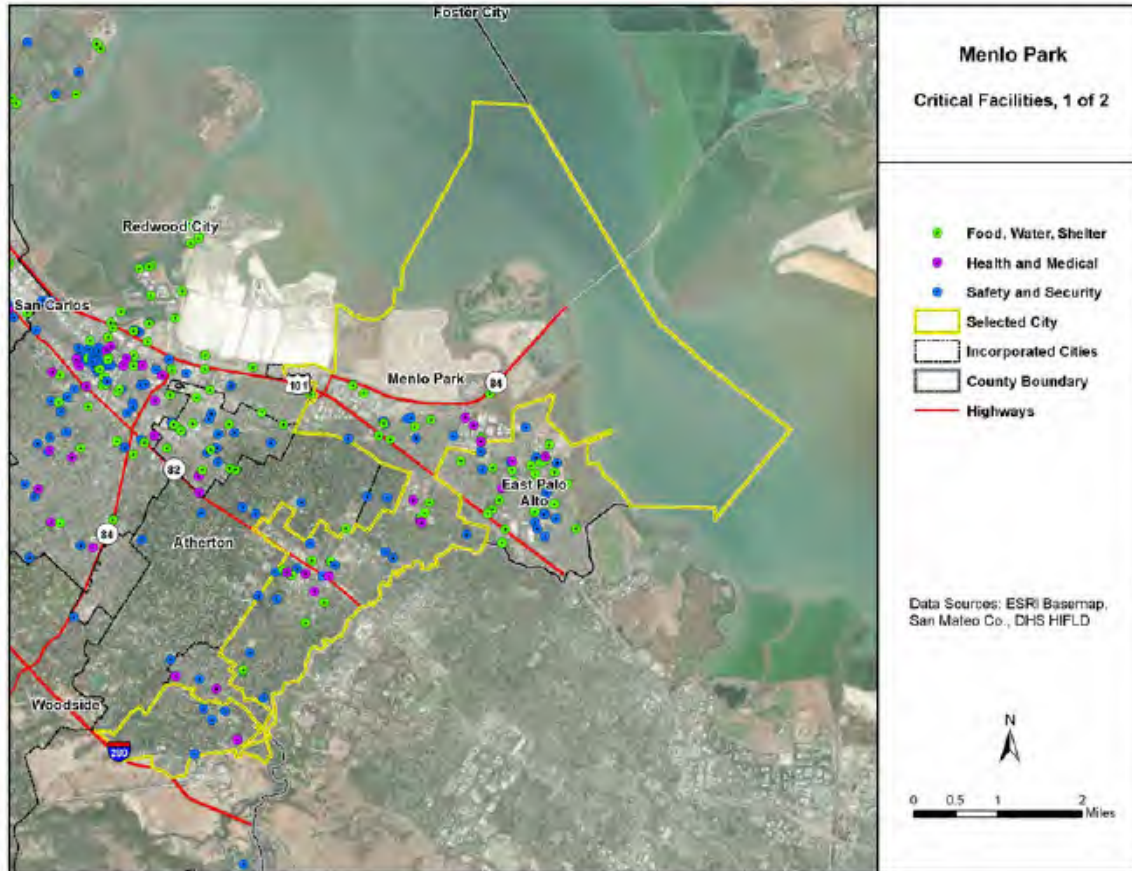
### Vulnerable Facilities

City-specific vulnerabilities identified in the MJLHMP include public facilities located in either flood hazard, high liquefaction, or sea level rise areas. The facilities include the Belle Haven Community Campus, Belle Haven Child Development Center, Menlo Park Police Neighborhood Services Center, Belle Haven Branch Library, Bedwell Bayfront Park Landfill and Gas Flare, Chrysler Pump Station, U.S. Veterans Administration

<sup>13</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. Heat Island Effect, <https://www.epa.gov/heatislands>, accessed August 8, 2022.

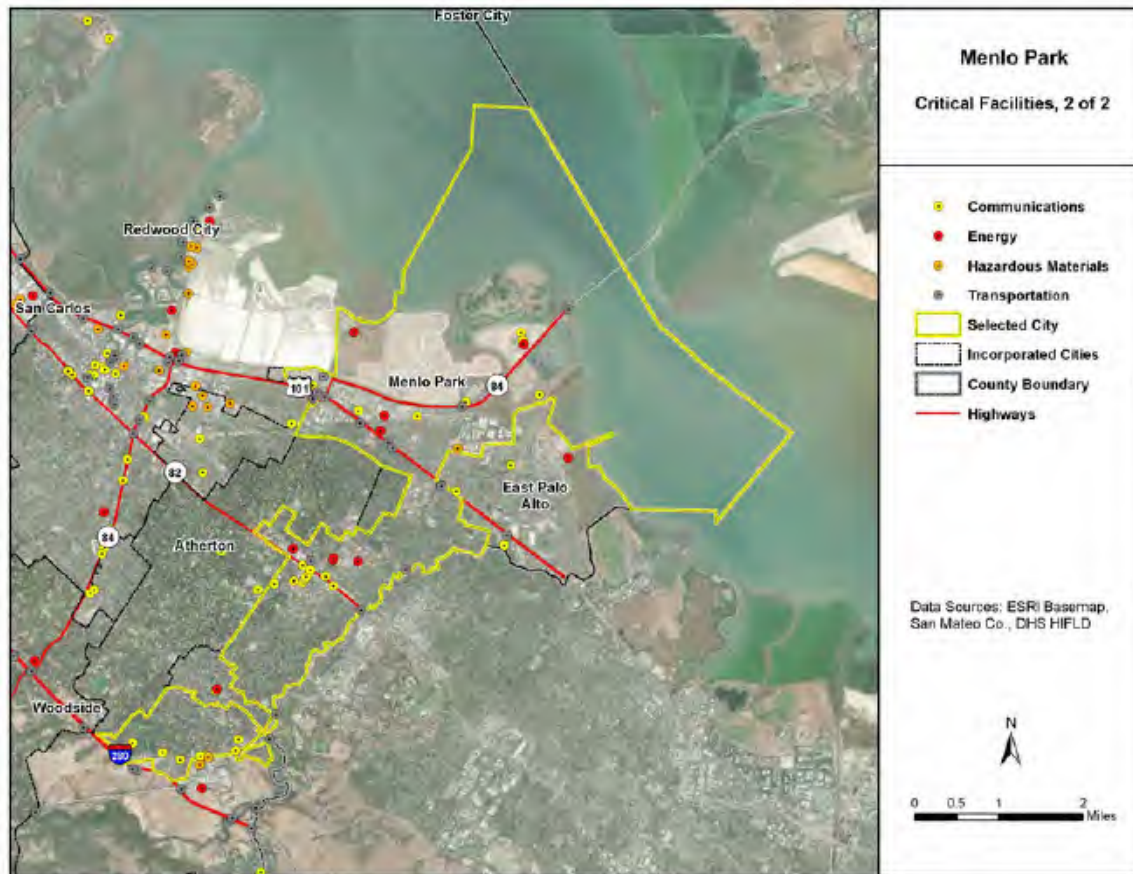
Medical Center, and Nealon Park Little House and Nursery School (see Figure S-14 and Figure S-15).

**Figure S-14. Critical Facilities, Part 1**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-15. Critical Facilities, Part 2



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The MJLHMP identifies feasible methods to avoid or minimize climate change impacts associated with new uses of land. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including:

- Action MPK-2 (integrating the hazard mitigation plan into other plans that dictate land use decisions)
- Action MPK-5 (continue to participate in floodplain management programs)
- Action MPK-12 (produce flood hazard maps accounting for flooding due to climate change)
- Action MPK-13 (prepare a climate adaptation and resiliency plan)
- Action MPK-16 (incentives for retrofits)
- Action MPK-21 (provide education on Climate Action Plan goals and strategies)
- Action MPK-26 (consider FEMA 100-year tide and sea level rise data in land use planning and shoreline development)
- Action MPK-28 (support green infrastructure projects)

The MJLHMP contains policies related to location of new essential facilities outside of at-risk areas as feasible, implementation of construction methods to minimize damage, and designation of adequate and feasible infrastructure located in at-risk areas. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including:

- Action MPK-3 (integrate the hazard mitigation plan into other plans that support infrastructure investment)
- Action MPK-7 (mitigation controls and ensuring protections for vulnerable critical facilities)
- Action MPK-8 (maintenance and plans for drains, ditches, and waterways for flood protection)
- Action MPK-11 (upgrade Chrysler Pump station to improve Bayfront flood protection)
- Action MPK-15 (program for maintaining and replacing emergency generators at critical facilities)
- Action MPK-17 (identify areas vulnerable to localized flooding and capital projects to mitigate)
- Action MPK-19 (review and update the Emergency Operation Plan)
- Action MPK-22 (develop an emergency water storage and supply project)
- Action MPK-23 (ensure functionality of emergency water storage reservoir)
- Action MPK-27 (identify and plan updates to utility systems, equipment, and critical facilities)
- Action MPK-30 (improve community response to flood emergencies including early warning system and education)
- Action MPK-31 (emergency action plans for Bayfront Canal and Atherton Channel)
- Action MPK-32 (enhance long-term resilience for communities and critical infrastructure along the shoreline south of Whipple Road to Marsh Road)
- Action MPK-33 (complete and oversee operation for Bayfront Canal and Atherton Channel Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration Project)
- Action MPK-34 (advance long-term resilience for communities and critical assets adjacent to San Francisquito Creek and nearby shoreline areas)

The MJLHMP provides guidelines for working cooperatively with local, regional, state, and federal agencies. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including:

- Action MPK-4 (support Countywide initiatives and participate in plan maintenance)

- Action MPK-9 (coordination with San Francisquito Creek JPA)
- Action MPK-10 (coordination with California Coastal Conservancy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services)
- Action MPK-14 (continue to participate with San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District)

The MJLHMP identifies natural infrastructure that may be used in adaptation projects, where feasible. As provided in Government Code Section 65302(g)(4)(C)(v), “natural infrastructure” means using natural ecological systems or processes to reduce vulnerability to climate change related hazards, or other related climate change effects, while increasing the long-term adaptive capacity of coastal and inland areas by perpetuating or restoring ecosystem services. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including: MPK-18 (shoreline management plan to protect and enhance the coastline with trails, parks, and wildlife refuge).

**Adaptive Capacity**

The MJLHMP identifies the City’s adaptive capacity to respond to climate change. The 2021 MJLHMP evaluated and rated the ability of the City to adapt to climate change, as provided in Table S-3, with additional detail incorporated as part of the 2024 Safety Element update. In general, the technical capacity ranges from low to medium. Implementation capacity generally ranges from medium to high. Public capacity is noted as medium in terms of understanding the risk of climate change, but the capacity to residents, economy, and ecosystem to adapt is uncertain.

**Table S-3. Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change**

Criterion	Evaluation	Rating
Technical Capacity		
Jurisdiction-level understanding of potential climate change impacts	<p>Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) and sustainability staff update the CAP as needed based on the biennial findings of the community’s greenhouse gas emissions inventory analysis. The Plan outlines strategies that may take several years to implement by the City, its residents, and businesses.</p> <p>One of the primary anticipated impacts of climate change is sea level rise and more frequent and severe flooding. The City is pursuing the SAFER Bay project through a grant application to FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program to protect the community from sea level rise and flooding. This is consistent with the General Plan Land Use</p>	Med.

	<p>Element Goal LU-7: Promote the implementation and maintenance of sustainable development, facilities, and services to meet the needs of the Menlo Park community. This project application proposes to construct approximately 3.7 miles of nature-based flood management and sea level rise barriers along the San Francisco Bay shoreline. This would be a significant advancement toward the ultimate goal of providing full flood protection for the residents and business near the Bay. As of July 2021, FEMA has selected the SAFER Bay project for further evaluation. Staff has incorporated funding to support this work into the fiscal year 2021-22 capital improvement program. This project aligns with the City's 2030 CAP goal to develop a climate action adaptation plan. Because this is a large project, more staff capacity may be needed and is being assessed as the City awaits notification from FEMA regarding the grant award.</p>	
Jurisdiction-level monitoring of climate change impacts	In partnership with the County, air quality monitors were installed for public health and safety and the data is available on publicly accessible portals. More capacity would be needed to increase monitoring the impacts of climate change.	Med.
Technical resources to assess proposed strategies for feasibility and externalities	The City could use more technical resources to assess the proposed strategies for feasibility and externalities.	Low
Jurisdiction-level capacity for development of greenhouse gas emissions inventory	The City is partnering with San Mateo County on regular emissions inventories.	Med.
Capital planning and land use decisions informed by potential climate impacts	<p>The City has a number of ordinances, plans, and projects to address climate impacts through capital planning and land use decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal Code Section 16.43.140 is a green and sustainable building ordinance, which requires developers to submit zero waste management plans to document how the project will reduce waste during the construction and occupancy phase. This ordinance will help the City meet its zero waste goal of 90% diversion by 2035.</li> <li>• The City is updating the Safety Element to comply with the changes to SB 379.</li> <li>• Development projects, both commercial and residential, need to be assessed by the standards set by the California Environmental Quality Act, which may require preparation of environmental impact reports.</li> <li>• The Belle Haven Community Campus will be an all-electric building, eliminating use of natural gas.</li> </ul>	Med.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City adopted the sustainable fleet policy in 2020, which will contribute to the City’s 2030 zero carbon goal.</li> <li>• The City has undertaken master planning efforts in most capital planning areas in the last five years. These efforts have helped identify funding and project needs (e.g., facilities, streets, transportation, parks, stormwater, etc.), but additional resources (funding and staff or consultants) will be needed to deliver the needed projects to address expected climate impacts. Funds to operate and maintain new infrastructure for adapting to climate change will also be needed.</li> <li>• Potentially more staff resources are needed to process building permits and more outreach is needed to educate the public about all-electric construction.</li> </ul>	
<p>Participation in regional groups addressing climate risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A councilmember is a board member of Peninsula Clean Energy, which offers renewable energy to Menlo Park residents. Peninsula Clean Energy offers electricity powered 100 percent by renewable and carbon-free sources as of 2021. With renewable energy powering an all-electric building, the occupants and indoor air quality may significantly improve health and safety.</li> <li>• Both councilmember and staff participate in South Bay Waste Management Authority and Technical Advisory Committee monthly meetings to discuss innovative waste reduction and recycling programs. For instance, the group is discussing the upcoming Senate Bill 1383, which is to enforce a more stringent organics program and surplus food recovery. When food waste decomposes in the landfill without air, it creates methane, which is harmful to the environment.</li> <li>• Staff and a councilmember liaison participate in with San Mateo Flood &amp; Sea Level Rise District to discuss climate change impacts of sea level rise and flooding across jurisdictional boundaries. Menlo Park City Council also supported pursuit of the SAFER Bay project for a FEMA BRIC grant application, which proposes to construct approximately 3.7 miles of nature-based flood management and sea level rise barriers along the San Francisco Bay shoreline. This would be a significant advancement toward the ultimate goal of providing full flood protection for the residents and business near the Bay. As of July 2021, FEMA has selected the SAFER Bay project for further evaluation. Staff has incorporated funding to support this work into the fiscal year 2021-22 capital improvement program.</li> <li>• The City partners with local organizations to help monitor and implement climate change goals. For instance, Joint Venture Silicon Valley’s Beyond Gasoline Initiative will assist in reaching the goal to increase new EV vehicle ownership to 100% by 2025 and to reduce gasoline sales by 10% a year from the 2018 baseline.</li> <li>• City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) staff manage the County’s stormwater program and permitting requirements. City staff actively participate in C/CAG’s stormwater committees, and a City Councilmember serves on the C/CAG board.</li> <li>• Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) is an international non-governmental organization that promotes sustainable</li> </ul>	<p>Med.</p>

	<p>development and provides technical consulting to help the City meet its sustainability initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bay Area Water Supply &amp; Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) and Flows to Bay offer various water conservation programs, such as rain barrel rebates and Lawn Be Gone programs.</li> </ul>	
Implementation Capacity		
Clear authority/mandate to consider climate change impacts during public decision-making processes	<p>On December 10, 2019, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6535 declaring a climate emergency. During public decision-making processes, internal and external stakeholders must comply with the City's sustainability-related policies and ordinances. The City would need more capacity or to reduce other projects and priorities to adopt and implement programs, ordinances, or solutions to further advance in climate change adaptation.</p>	Med.
Identified strategies for greenhouse gas mitigation efforts	<p>Menlo Park City Council adopted the 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) in July 2020 and approved amendments to it in April 2021. The CAP outlines six goals to reach zero carbon by 2030. Five of these goals address mitigation, as listed below. The CAP goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore policy/program options to convert 95 percent of existing buildings to all-electric by 2030</li> <li>• Increase electric vehicle ownership and decrease gasoline sales</li> <li>• Increase access to EV charging infrastructure in multi-family and commercial properties</li> <li>• Reduce vehicle miles traveled by 25 percent or an amount recommended by the Complete Streets Commission</li> <li>• Eliminate the use of fossil fuels from municipal operations.</li> </ul> <p>The scope of work for 2021 implementation is the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a cost effectiveness analysis on various policy/program pathways towards achieving 95% electrification by 2030.</li> <li>• Collaborate with Joint Venture Silicon Valley to increase the number of new vehicle purchases to be electric vehicles (EV) and decrease gasoline sales by 10%.</li> <li>• Promote and market incentives to expand access to EV charging stations in multi-family and commercial properties.</li> <li>• Reduce vehicle miles traveled through the SB2 Housing grant, completion of Transportation Management Association feasibility study, and implementation of vehicle miles traveled guidelines for new development.</li> <li>• Update the Safety Element of Menlo Park's General Plan to respond to SB 379.</li> <li>• Utilize current resources and available budget toward eliminating fossil fuels in building the new Menlo Park Community Campus.</li> <li>• Replace fossil fuel appliances/assets at the end of life with non-fossil fuel options unless infeasible</li> <li>• Utilize current resources and available budget toward eliminating fossil fuels in building the new Menlo Park Community Campus.</li> <li>• Replace fossil fuel appliances/assets at the end of life with non-fossil fuel options unless infeasible</li> </ul>	High

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pilot program to transition landscaping equipment for gas from electric</li> </ul> <p>The City is in the process of updating the scope of work for 2025-2030 implementation.</p>	
Identified strategies for adaptation to impacts	<p>The sixth goal from the City’s CAP is to develop a climate adaptation plan. The City has participated in past regional efforts to develop adaptation plans for sea level rise, including the SAFER Bay Feasibility Study, led by the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority; and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s Dumbarton Bridge West Approach + Adjacent Communities Resilience Study. The City has applied for a FEMA BRIC grant to support implementation of the first phase of the SAFER Bay project and would continue to partner with other stakeholders to complete the project.</p>	High
Champions for climate action in local government departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City Manager’s Office has a sustainability division to implement the climate action plan and collaborate across departments to adopt climate-related policies and initiatives. More capacity is needed to adopt and implement new programs, ordinances, and implement the CAP goals.</li> <li>• As of fiscal year 2020-21, the City has 109 fleet vehicles, which include vehicles, motorcycles, and parking enforcement buggies. Out of the total fleet vehicles, twenty-one are hybrids and four are all-electric vehicles. The City is waiting for technology to advance for electric utility vehicles, which may be available within the next three years. Public Works is also transitioning its maintenance equipment to electric.</li> <li>• Green and sustainable building requirements apply to multiple zoning districts throughout Menlo Park.</li> <li>• In 2015, several solar photovoltaic panels were installed on various City facilities. In 2024, the City signed power purchase agreements with Peninsula Clean Energy to install solar on the remaining City facilities.</li> <li>• The City installed electric vehicle charging stations for public use with capacity to charge 8 vehicles at City Hall and 27 vehicles at the Belle Haven Community Campus.</li> <li>• The Police Department is currently transitioning their paper parking permits to paperless permits.</li> <li>• The Community Development and Public Works Departments transitioned from paper permitting applications to electronic submittals.</li> <li>• The City’s transportation demand management coordinator provides support to local employers and City employees to provide information about non-single occupancy vehicle travel options, which can help reduce vehicle miles traveled and emissions from transportation mobile sources.</li> </ul>	Med.
Political support for implementing climate change adaptation strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Council adopted a resolution to declare climate emergency, which demands accelerated actions on the climate crisis and requests regional collaboration to address climate change. The City Council also approved a resolution in 2019 to reaffirm the City’s commitment to tackle climate change at a local level.</li> <li>• In Fiscal Year 2023-2024, 14 of 61 Council priority projects are related to the CAP.</li> </ul>	High

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Menlo Park City Council also supported pursuit of the SAFER Bay project FEMA BRIC grant application.</li> <li>• The Environmental Quality Commission continues to advise City Council on implementing the CAP goals.</li> </ul>	
Financial resources devoted to climate change adaptation	The City filed a FEMA BRIC grant application, which would help develop a climate action adaptation plan to protect the community from sea level rise and flooding. More capacity is likely to be needed in this effort and other climate change adaptation.	Med.
Local authority over sectors likely to be negative impacted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code Enforcement officers may be impacted if new building regulations are adopted that require enforcement resources, but not enough information is known at this time to assign a rating.</li> <li>• Gas and oil manufacturing sectors may be negatively impacted if the City reduces its gasoline consumption (either for vehicles or for building appliances). This impact would be related to the 2030 CAP goals and the reach codes, but not enough information is known at this time to assign a rating.</li> </ul>	Unsure
<b>Public Capacity</b>		
Local residents knowledge of and understanding of climate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), a commission body made up of seven Menlo Park residents, created the 2030 CAP. The Complete Streets Commission, another resident-based commission body of seven members, developed Transportation Master Plan Implementation Recommendations that include VMT reduction as a key strategy.</li> <li>• Strong advocacy occurs when climate policies are considered by City Council. Several residents expressed interest to ban gas leaf blowers by adopting an ordinance.</li> <li>• More outreach needs to be done to understand the community's knowledge and understanding of climate risk. A resolution was approved in April 2021 for the scope of work for implementation of the CAP and to educate residents about climate emergency and to include health, socio-economic, and racial equity in policymaking and climate solutions.</li> </ul>	Med.
Local residents support of adaptation efforts	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure
Local residents' capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure
Local economy current capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure
Local ecosystems capacity to adapt to climate	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure

impacts		
High = Capacity exists and is in use; Medium = Capacity may exist but is not used or could use some improvement; Low = Capacity does not exist or could use substantial improvement; Unsure= Not enough information is known to assign a rating.		

Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes (Note: Table S-3 includes 2024 updates from the 2021 MJLHMP)

Menlo Park will increase resiliency to future climate impacts through adaptation policies in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Climate Action Plan. In addition, there are adaptation policies that focus on the city’s Underserved Communities in the Environmental Justice Element. Climate change exacerbates existing hazards, such as flooding and extreme temperatures, and the hazard mitigation and adaptation policies in this Safety Element are designed to allow the city to adapt to additional climate risks during the planning period.

## **F** Hazardous Materials

The term “hazardous material” is defined in different ways for different regulatory programs. The California Health and Safety Code Section 25501 definition of a hazardous material is “any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment.”

Once a hazardous material is released, it moves from the source to a point of contact with the community or environment through an exposure pathway. To reach that point of contact, the exposure pathway must have: (1) a contamination source or point of release; (2) a transport mechanism from the source to the air, surface water, groundwater, or soil; (3) contact point where people are exposed to contaminated air, surface water, groundwater or soil; and (4) a route of entry into the body. Routes of entry include ingestion (eating or drinking), inhalation (breathing), and absorption (skin contact). If any of these requirements for an exposure pathway are not present, the pathway is incomplete and no exposure or risk is possible. In some cases, although a pathway is complete, the likelihood that exposure will occur is very small.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. Table S-4 lists the sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation. More information and definitions can be found on the EnviroStor website.

**Table S-4. Hazardous Waste and Clean Up Sites**

Project Name	Status	Project Type	Address
Beltramo Property	Certified / Operation & Maintenance	Voluntary Cleanup	1459 San Antonio Street And 1460 El Camino Real
Derry Lane Mixed Use Development	Active	State Response	Derry Lane
Former Norge / Atherton Village Cleaners	Active	State Response	1438 El Camino Real
Former Peninsula Sportsmen's Club	Refer: Rwqcb	Voluntary Cleanup	East Of University Avenue
General Circuits Inc.	Refer: Epa	Corrective Action	3549 J Haven Avenue
Hillview Middle School	Certified	School Cleanup	1100 Elder Avenue
Menlo Park West Campus	Certified / Operation & Maintenance	Voluntary Cleanup	312-314 Constitution Drive
Menlo Tech	Refer: Rwqcb	Evaluation	188 Constitution Drive
O'Connor School	Active	School Cleanup	275 Elliott Drive
Sanford Metal Processing Co.	Refer: Other Agency	Tiered Permit	990 O'Brien Drive
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center	Refer: Other Agency	Tiered Permit	2575 Sand Hill Road
Tyco Electronics Corporation	Certified / Operation & Maintenance	Corrective Action	300 Constitution Dr

Source: Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor website, accessed April 5, 2024.

The State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) tracks sites that have potential to impact water quality, which include Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Sites, Department of Defense Sites, and Cleanup Program Sites. The Water Board's Geotracker program identifies the locations of these sites, listed below. LUST sites are scattered throughout the city, concentrated along El Camino Real and in downtown Menlo Park. LUST sites are a common source of soil and groundwater contamination. A wide variety of industries have historically used underground storage tanks for gasoline, diesel, waste oils, solvents, and other chemicals. Prior to regulation in the 1980s, these underground tanks typically were not monitored or provided with secondary containment. If a tank leaked, the contents could migrate to the soil and groundwater. Under the Site Cleanup Program, the Board regulates and oversees the investigation and cleanup of non-federally owned sites where recent or historical unauthorized releases of pollutants to the environment, including soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment, have occurred. Several locations that are listed under the Site Cleanup Program have been identified within Menlo Park. These are found mostly in the downtown area and the northeastern portion of the city. Sites that have open cases or are closed but with land use restrictions are shown in Table S-5.

**Table S-5. Underground Storage Tank and Cleanup Program Sites**

Site Name	Site Type	Status	Address
3705 Haven Avenue	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	3705 Haven Avenue
Hotel Moxy Development	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	3723 Haven Avenue

Site Name	Site Type	Status	Address
Edison Technology Park	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Long Term Management	3477-3522 Edison Way
Launderland Dry Cleaners	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	995 El Camino Real
Menlo Flats	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	165 Jefferson Drive
Menlo Portal	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	115 Independence Drive & 104-110 Constitution Drive
Menlo Uptown	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	141 Jefferson Drive (And 172 - 188 Constitution Drive)
New Guild Cleaners (Former)	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	961 El Camino Real
Norge/ Atherton Cleaners, Former	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	1438 El Camino Real
Peninsula Arts Guild	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Long Term Management	949 El Camino Real
Sharon Heights Cleaners	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	325 Sharon Park Drive
Siltec	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	3705-3723 Haven Avenue
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC Groundwater Volatile Organic Compound (Voc) Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC Research Yard-SSRL / Ir-6 Drainage Channel Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC Tritium Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC West SLAC/ Campus Area/ Ir-8 Drainage Channel Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
Wo Sing Cleaners	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	570 Derry Lane

Source: State Water Resources Control Board, GeoTracker website, <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>, accessed April 5, 2024.

## **G** Emergency Preparedness

The MJLHMP directs the update of the City's 2014 Emergency Operation Plan to include new FEMA guidelines in order to receive federal funding and address SB160: Cultural Competence (which requires a county to integrate cultural competence, into its emergency plan). The City developed the EOP to better prepare for responses to emergency situations that could result from natural disasters and technological incidents. To better prepare for these emergencies, the City estimated the potential risks associated with earthquakes, flooding, wildland fire, and other disasters. Based on this evaluation, various preparation strategies were developed.

In 2024, the City hired an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator to focus on the following objectives of the Emergency Services Program (ESP):

**Objective 1: Operational Readiness:** ESP works with all City departments to promote resilience to threats and risks of all types. This is a measure of the ability of the City to handle a major critical incident or disaster. People, infrastructure (facilities), supplies, and training are all elements of this. ESP manages the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located in City Hall, along with other assets.

**Objective 2: Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA):** ESP leads the process to understand what risks the City faces. Often known as a Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) processes, this ongoing activity involves updates of Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) (facility inventories, registries) and awareness of the sorts of risks such as those listed in the Menlo Park annex to the regional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) and the National Planning Scenarios.

**Objective 3: Policy & Plans:** ESP leads or coordinates the development and maintenance of policies and plans related to disasters, critical incidents, and City safety. The City's Emergency Operations Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), and various department plans are all part of this activity.

**Objective 4: Emergency Public Information:** ESP coordinates with the Public Information Officers (PIOs) to develop protocols for communication with the public and with partners.

**Objective 5: Whole Community Engagement:** ESP develops structures to link non-governmental organizations (NGOs), residents, and businesses to the Incident Command System (ICS). Elements of this include MPC Ready, ARES/RACES Amateur (ham) Radio, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers and many more.



**Objective 6:** Training and Exercises: In compliance with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), ESP works with community and partner stakeholders, such the Menlo Park Fire District, the County of San Mateo and others to develop training and exercises.

**Objective 7:** Grant Management: ESP seeks funding and manages awarded grants pertaining to emergency management and homeland security.

**Objective 8:** Technology: ESP coordinates with other city departments to deploy new technologies for emergency services.

**Objective 9:** Regionalization: ESP participates in the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), in addition to the San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Operational Area and our mutual aid relationships with other agencies.

### Emergency Routes

The Safety Element is required to address evacuation routes according to Government Code Section 65302(g)(1). This often goes hand-in-hand with fire evacuation needs, though it could also consider sea level rise, seismic events including earthquakes and tsunamis, or other hazards. Menlo Park's Safety Element includes policy S1.37 (Emergency Connectors and Evacuation Routes) to "Maintain a system of emergency connectors and evacuation routes as part of the City's disaster planning." The Police Department is the primary agency for establishing emergency evacuation routes. Evacuation routes are generally the City's major arterial streets. However, the appropriate evacuation routes depend upon the type of incident (whether it is a flood, fire, earthquake, etc.) and then which routes have the least hazards, the least traffic stress and the most residential accessibility. Neighborhood disaster programs provide information and help to coordinate resident and business responses during the first 72 hours of an emergency event.

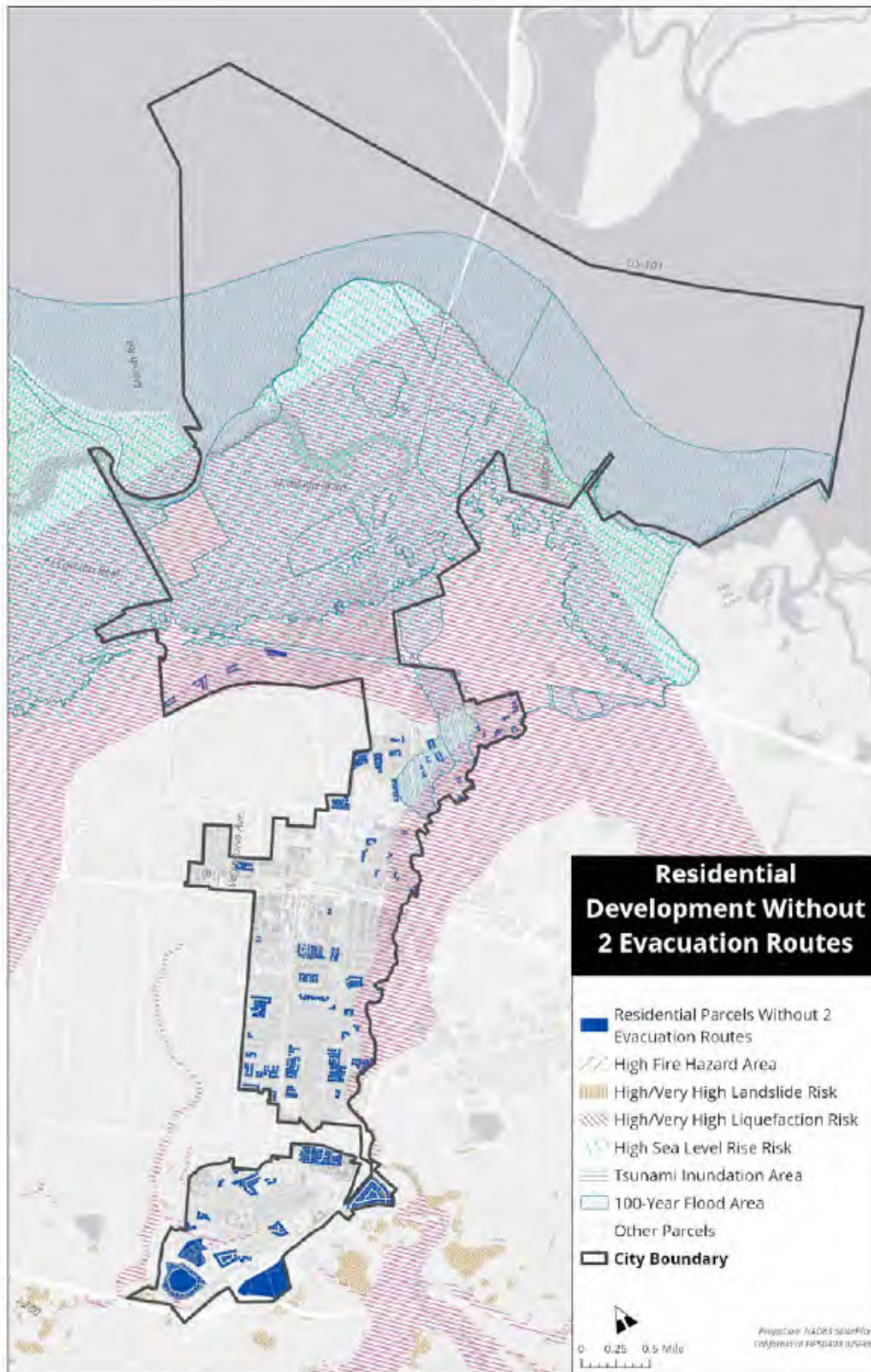
Under Government Code Section 65302(g)(5), upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2020, the Safety Element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to identify residential developments in any hazard area identified in the safety element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes (see Figure 2.16).

Per Government Code Section 65302.15, amended following the adoption of AB 1409 in 2021, upon the next revision of a local hazard mitigation plan on or

after January 1, 2022, the Safety Element shall be updated as necessary to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability and evacuation locations under a range of emergency scenarios. A city that has adopted a local hazard mitigation plan, emergency operations plan, or other document that fulfills commensurate goals and objectives may use that information in the Safety Element to comply by summarizing and incorporating it into the Safety Element. This evacuation route update will be done upon the next revision of a local hazard mitigation plan to be developed once the current MJLHMP requires an update. The current MJLHMP was adopted in 2021.

There are several residential developments within the city that only have one evacuation route, some of which are in hazard zones. Evacuation routes are determined as roadways that allow ingress and egress. Any residential subdivision with only one roadway (such as a parcel on a cul-de-sac) is identified as having only one route. This map, Figure S-16, may be used as reference for residential areas at increased risk during fire evacuation needs. It could also be used for reference in sea level rise, seismic events including earthquakes and tsunamis, or other hazards.

Figure S-16. Residential Development Without Two Evacuation Routes



# City of Menlo Park

## Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements

Original Adoption: May 21, 2013  
Safety Element Update Adoption: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Technical Appendices

The *San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP)*, including the City of Menlo Park Annex, is incorporated and adopted by reference into the Safety Element, available online at the County of San Mateo’s website ([smcgov.org/dem/multijurisdictional-local-hazard-mitigation-plan](http://smcgov.org/dem/multijurisdictional-local-hazard-mitigation-plan)). The MJLHMP is presented in two volumes: Volume 1 includes planning area-wide elements and Volume 2 includes planning partner annexes, including one for the City of Menlo Park. This two-volume MJLHMP was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA’s Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The MJLHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities.

Menlo Park’s *2030 Climate Action Plan (2021)* is incorporated and adopted by reference into the Safety Element, available online from the City of Menlo Park’s website ([menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/City-Managers-Office/Sustainability/Climate-Action-Plan](http://menlopark.gov/Government/Departments/City-Managers-Office/Sustainability/Climate-Action-Plan)).





Note: The *City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update, General Plan Consistency Update and Zoning Ordinance Amendments Environmental Assessment*, prepared April 4, 2013, is available at the City of Menlo Park Community Development Department. The Environmental Assessment contains background technical analysis prepared for the Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements of the Menlo Park General Plan adopted May 21, 2013. The background sections in this document provide a summary of the information and technical analysis contained in the Environmental Assessment. The 2024 update of the Safety Element supersedes the prior information and technical analysis contained in the April 4, 2013 Environmental Assessment. Section VII (Safety Background) contains new information and analysis applicable to the 2024 update of the Safety Element.

## Introduction

### Section I

## Overview

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### **A** Purposes and Requirements of the Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements



The Open Space/ Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements reflect current conditions, important community issues and relevant State laws related to environmental conditions in Menlo Park. The elements focus on providing direction as to how to protect community safety and to maintain a clean, safe and healthy environment including air and water quality, noise, greenhouse gas, conservation

of energy and minimizing impacts of development in hazardous or environmentally sensitive habitat areas.

A general plan is required to address the specified provisions of each of the seven mandated elements listed in Government Code §65302 — land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise and safety — to the extent that the provisions are locally relevant. Cities and counties that have identified disadvantaged communities must also address environmental justice in their general plans, including air quality. The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has prepared General Plan Guidelines to provide a broad overview of what a general plan might contain. Jurisdictions may combine elements of their general plan, as appropriate, but all elements of a general plan have equal weight under the law. In this document, the Open Space and Conservation Elements have been combined because of the many overlapping issues addressed.

#### **Open Space/Conservation Element Requirements**

The Open Space/Conservation Element of the Menlo Park General Plan combines two of the seven elements required by State law (California Government Code, Section 65300 et. seq.) — Open Space and Conservation. Open Space issues include policies and programs to maintain, expand and improve Menlo Park’s open space and recreation areas, while Conservation institutes policies and programs to conserve natural resources. Under State law, parks are encompassed within the mandate of the Open Space Element.



Both Open Space and Conservation Elements have been required as part of local General Plans since 1970. In enacting these requirements, it was the intent of the State Legislature to assure that cities recognize that open space land is a limited and valuable resource and to assure that every city and county will prepare and carry out an open space plan.

Section 65560 and 65561 of the Government Code specifies the contents of an Open Space Element. State policy with regard to open space is described in Section 65561 as follows:

- "(1) That the preservation of open-space land . . . is necessary not only for the maintenance of the economy of the state, but also for the assurance of the continued availability of land for the production of food and fiber, for the enjoyment of scenic beauty, for recreation, and for the use of natural resources.*
- (2) That discouraging premature and unnecessary conversion of open-space land to urban uses is a matter of public interest and will be of benefit to urban dwellers because it will discourage non-contiguous development patterns which unnecessarily increase the costs of community services to community residents.*
- (3) That the anticipated increase in the population of the state demands that cities, counties, and the state at the earliest possible date make definite plans for the preservation of valuable open-space land and take positive action to carry out such plans by the adoption and strict administration of laws, ordinances, rules and regulations as authorized by this chapter or by other appropriate methods.*
- (4) That in order to assure that the interests of all its people are met in the orderly growth and development of the state and the preservation and conservation of its resources, it is necessary to provide for the development by the state, regional agencies, counties and cities, including charter cities, of statewide coordinated plans for the conservation and preservation of open-space lands.*
- (5) That for these reasons this article is necessary for the promotion of the general welfare and for the protection of the public interest in open-space land."*

Below is an excerpt from Section 65302(d) of the California Government Code covering Conservation Elements.

*"A conservation element for the conservation, development, and utilization of natural*

*resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources. The conservation element shall consider the effect of development within the jurisdiction, as described in the land use element, on natural resources located on public lands, including military installations. That portion of the conservation element including waters shall be developed in coordination with any countywide water agency and with all district and city agencies, including flood management, water conservation, or groundwater agencies that have developed, served, controlled, managed, or conserved water of any type for any purpose in the county or city for which the plan is prepared. Coordination shall include the discussion and evaluation of any water supply and demand information described in Section 65352.5, if that information has been submitted by the water agency to the city or county.*

*The conservation element may also cover all of the following:*

- (A) The reclamation of land and waters.*
- (B) Prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other waters.*
- (C) Regulation of the use of land in stream channels and other areas required for the accomplishment of the conservation plan.*
- (D) Prevention, control, and correction of the erosion of soils, beaches, and shores.*
- (E) Protection of watersheds.*
- (F) The location, quantity and quality of the rock, sand and gravel resources.*

*Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2009, the conservation element shall identify rivers, creeks, streams, flood corridors, riparian habitats, and land that may accommodate floodwater for purposes of groundwater recharge and storm-water management.”*

### **Noise Element Requirements**

A Noise Element has been required as part of local General Plans since 1971. The State Legislature adopted the California Noise Control Act of 1973, which defined the following findings and policy:

- (1) Excessive noise is a serious hazard to the public health and welfare.
- (2) Exposure to certain levels of noise can result in physiological, psychological, and economic damage.
- (3) There is a continuous and increasing bombardment of noise in urban, suburban, and rural areas.
- (4) Government has by and large not taken the steps necessary to provide for the control, abatement, and prevention of unwanted and hazardous noise.
- (5) It is the policy of the State to provide an environment for all Californians free from noise that jeopardizes their health or welfare.

To implement this policy, Section 65302(f) of the California Government Code requires each city to have a Noise Element as part of its General Plan. The Government Code states that the Noise Element should be prepared according to guidelines established by the State Department of Health Services, Office of Noise Control. The excerpt below is from Section 65302(f) of the Government Code.

*“(f) A noise element which shall identify and appraise noise problems in the community. The noise element shall recognize the guidelines established by the Office of Noise Control in the State Department of Health Services and shall analyze and quantify, to the extent practicable, as determined by the legislative body, current and projected noise levels for all of the following sources:*

- (1) Highway and freeways.*
- (2) Primary arterials and major local streets.*
- (3) Passenger and freight on-line railroad operations and ground rapid transit systems.*
- (4) Commercial, general aviation, heliport, helistop, and military airport operations, aircraft overflights, jet engine test stands, and all other ground facilities and maintenance functions related to airport operation.*
- (5) Local industrial plants, including, but not limited to, railroad classification yards.*
- (6) Other ground stationary noise sources identified by local agencies as contributing to the community noise environment.*

*Noise contours shall be shown for all of these sources and stated in terms of community noise equivalent level (CNEL) or day-night average level (Ldn). The noise contours shall be prepared on the basis of noise monitoring or following generally accepted noise modeling techniques for the various sources identified in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive.*

*The noise contours shall be used as a guide for establishing a pattern of land uses in the land use element that minimizes the exposure of community residents to excessive noise.*

*The noise element shall include implementation measures and possible solutions that address existing and foreseeable noise problems, if any. The adopted noise element shall serve as a guideline for compliance with the state’s noise insulation standards.”*

## Safety Element Requirements

Safety issues have been required to be addressed as part of local general plans since 1971. The San Fernando earthquake of February 1971, which claimed 64 lives and resulted in over \$500 million in property damage, and devastating wildland fires in September and October of 1970, were largely responsible for prompting the Legislature to pass this requirement. The following citation is from Government Code Section 65302(g)(1):

*“A safety element for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides; subsidence; liquefaction; and other seismic hazards identified pursuant to Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 2690) of Division 2 of the Public Resources Code, and other geologic hazards known to the legislative body; flooding; and wildland and urban fires. The safety element shall include mapping of known seismic and other geologic hazards. It shall also address evacuation routes, military installations, peakload water supply requirements, and minimum road widths and clearances around structures, as those items relate to identified fire and geologic hazards.”*

Since the previous Safety Element was adopted in 2013, there have been several updates requiring safety elements to include climate change vulnerability and adaptation, and increased attention to wildfire and evacuation routes.

- **Senate Bill (SB) 1241 (2012):** Regarding wildfire hazards specifically, jurisdictions in a State Responsibility Area (SRA) or jurisdictions with Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ), are required to revise their safety element to include information about wildfire hazards and risks, as well as goals, policies, objectives and implementation measures for the protection of the community from unreasonable fire risk. *Note: Menlo Park does not fall in an SRA or VHFHSZ. SB 1241 does not apply to this document.*
- **SB 379 (2015):** Jurisdictions are required to complete a vulnerability assessment; develop climate adaptation and resilience goals, policies and objectives; and develop a set of feasible implementation measures addressing climate change adaptation and resiliency.
- **SB 1035 (2018):** Jurisdictions must review and update climate adaption and resiliency strategies in the safety element upon each revision of the housing element or local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP or multijurisdictional local hazard mitigation plan: MJLHMP), but not less than once every 8 years.
- **SB 99 (2019):** Identify residential development in hazard areas without at least two emergency evacuation routes.
- **SB 272 (2023):** By January 1, 2034, develop a sea level rise plan as part of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan that is subject to

approval by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

In addition, Assembly Bill (AB) 747 (2019) requires local jurisdictions that have not adopted a LHMP or MJLHMP before January 1, 2022 to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios in the Safety Element. AB 1409 (2021) added the requirement to also identify evacuation locations. Menlo Park is part of the San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was adopted in 2021. Therefore, the information required by AB 747 and AB 1409 do not apply to the 2024 update of the Safety Element. However, this analysis will be required upon the next revision of the LHMP or MJLHMP.

## **B** Definitions of Key Terms

### **Definitions**

#### *Open Space/Conservation*

- Baylands.** Areas along a bay that are permanently wet or periodically covered with shallow water, such as saltwater and freshwater marshes, open or closed brackish marshes, swamps, mudflats, and fans.
- Biotic Community.** A group of living organisms characterized by a distinctive combination of both animal and plant species in a particular habitat.
- Conservation.** Conservation is the wise management of renewable and non-renewable resources to prevent the unnecessary waste, destruction or neglect of resources for the enjoyment of future generations, such as water, air and energy systems. The preservation of these resources is concerned with the quality and quantity of the resource. Conservation areas may sustain a rare species and/or natural resource that cannot be restored or replaced. The purpose of conservation areas is to provide a protected location where the properties of a natural resource may be observed and enjoyed without risk of endangering the resource.
- Endangered Species.** A species of animal or plant that is considered endangered when its prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes.
- Habitat.** The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs.
- Historic Preservation.** The preservation of historically significant structures and neighborhoods until such time as, and in order to facilitate, restoration and rehabilitation of the building(s) to a former condition.
- Joint Powers Authority (JPA).** A legal arrangement that enables two or more units of government to share authority in order to plan and carry out a specific program or set of

programs that serves both units.

- **Open Space.** An open area that is primarily maintained in its natural condition and is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use for the purposes of (1) the preservation of natural resources, (2) the managed production of resources, (3) outdoor recreation, or (4) public health and safety. In some cases this definition includes pathways, landscaping and other improvements that are maintained. The provision of open space is intended to offer residents and visitors opportunities for quiet introspection in a location that provides visual relief from buildings, concrete and noise associated with more urban life.
- **Park.** A park is an improved, primarily unobstructed area, with landscaping and recreational equipment such as play apparatuses and/or basketball courts. In some cases this definition includes property with recreation buildings or structures. The purpose of parks is to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and physical exercise near to residential and employment areas.
- **Plan Bay Area.** Plan Bay Area is an integrated long-range transportation and land-use/housing plan for the San Francisco Bay Area. Legislation calls upon the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to adopt a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), which will coordinate land use and transportation in the regional transportation plan.
- **Rare or Endangered Species.** A species of animal or plant listed in: Sections 670.2 or 670.5, Title 14, California Administrative Code; or Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 17.11 or Section 17.2, pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act designating species as rare, threatened, or endangered.
- **Regional Park.** A park typically 150-500 acres in size focusing on activities and natural features not included in most other types of parks and often based on a specific scenic or recreational opportunity.
- **Riparian Lands.** Riparian lands are comprised of the vegetative and wildlife areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams. Riparian areas are delineated by the existence of plant species normally found near freshwater.
- **Sustainability.** Community use of natural resources in a way that does not jeopardize the ability of future generations to live and prosper.
- **Wetlands.** Transitional area between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or the land is covered by shallow water. Under a "unified" methodology now used by all Federal agencies, wetlands are defined as "those areas meeting certain criteria for hydrology, vegetation, and soils."

#### *Noise*

- **A-Weighted Decibel (dBA).** An overall frequency-weighted sound level in decibels that approximates the frequency response of the human ear.



- Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL).** The energy-average of the A-weighted sound levels occurring during a 24-hour period, with 5 dB added to the levels occurring during the period from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and 10 dB added to the sound levels occurring during the period from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- dBA.** The "A-weighted" scale for measuring sound in decibels; weighs or reduces the effects of low and high frequencies in order to simulate human hearing. Every increase of 10 dBA doubles the perceived loudness though the noise is actually ten times more intense.
- Day-Night Sound Level (Ldn).** The energy-average of the A-weighted sound levels occurring during a 24-hour period, with 10 dB added to the sound levels occurring during the period from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- Decibel (dB).** A unit measure of sound on a logarithmic scale.
- Equivalent Continuous Noise Level (Leq).** The mean of the noise level, energy averaged over the measurement period, such as the 24-hour CNEL used by the State of California.
- Noise.** Sound that is loud, unpleasant, unexpected, or otherwise undesirable.
- Noise Attenuation.** Reduction of the level of a noise source using a substance, material, or surface, such as earth berms and/or solid concrete walls.
- Noise Contour.** A line connecting points of equal noise level as measured on the same scale. Noise levels greater than the 60 Ldn contour (measured in dBA) require noise attenuation in residential development.
- Sound.** A disturbance created by a vibrating object, which, when transmitted by pressure waves through a medium such as air, is capable of being detected by a receiving mechanism, such as the human ear or a microphone.
- Statistical Sound Level (Ln).** The sound level that is exceeded "n" percent of time during a given sample period. For example, the L50 level is the statistical indicator of the time-varying noise signal that is exceeded 50 percent of the time (during each sampling period); that is, half of the sampling time, the changing noise levels are above this value and half of the time they are below it. This is called the "median sound level." The L10 level, likewise, is the value that is exceeded 10 percent of the time (i.e. near the maximum) and this is often known as the "intrusive sound level." The L90 is the sound level exceeded 90 percent of the time and is often considered the "effective background level" or "residual noise level."

#### *Safety*

- Critical Use Structures.** Critical use structures include those required for effective disaster response (emergency operating centers, police and fire stations, medical facilities), lifelines (gas, water, sewage, and electrical systems), and structures whose failure would be catastrophic (dams).

- Fault.** A fracture in the earth's crust forming a boundary between shifting rock masses.
- Fire Hazard Zone.** An area where, due to slope, fuel, weather, or other fire-related conditions, the potential loss of life and property from a fire necessitates special fire protection measures and planning before development occurs.
- Flood, 100-Year and 500-Year.** The magnitude of a flood expected to occur on the average every 100 or 500 years, based on historical data. The 100-year flood has a 1/100, or one percent, chance of occurring in any given year. The 500-year flood has a 1/500, or two-tenths of one percent, chance of occurring in any given year.
- Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).** For each community, the official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated areas of special flood hazard and the risk premium zones applicable to that community.
- Hazardous Material.** Any substance that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. The term includes, but is not limited to, hazardous substances and hazardous wastes.
- High-Occupancy Structure.** All pre-1935 buildings with over 25 occupants, and all pre-1976 buildings with more than 100 occupants.
- Landslide.** A general term for a falling mass of soil or rocks.
- Liquefaction.** The transformation of loose water-saturated granular materials (such as sand or silt) from a solid into a liquid state that can occur during an earthquake.
- Mercalli Intensity Scale.** A subjective measure of the observed effects (human reactions, structural damage, geologic effects) of an earthquake. Expressed in Roman numerals from I to XII.
- Richter Scale.** A measure of the size or energy release of an earthquake at its source. The scale is logarithmic; the wave amplitude of each number on the scale is 10 times greater than that of the previous whole number.
- Seiche.** An earthquake-generated wave in an enclosed body of water such as a lake, reservoir, or bay.
- Sensitive Populations.** Sensitive populations include those persons or groups of persons particularly vulnerable and in need of special attention in an emergency or disaster situation. Examples of sensitive populations include older adults, pregnant women, children, people with disabilities, access and functional needs, multiple chemical sensitivities, etc.
- State Responsibility Areas.** As used in the Safety Element of the general plan, areas of the state in which the financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires has been

determined by the State Board of Forestry (pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4125) to be primarily the responsibility of the State of California.

- Tsunami.** A large ocean wave generated by an earthquake in or near the ocean.

## Acronyms

AAQS	Ambient air quality standards
AB	Assembly Bill
ABAG	Association of Bay Area Governments
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BCDC	San Francisco Bay Area Conservation and Development Commission
CAP	City of Menlo Park Climate Action Plan
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBC	California Building Code
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGS	California Geological Society
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CDMG	California Division of Mines and Geology (State Resources Agency)
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
dB/ dBA	Decibel/"A-weighted" decibel
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
ECR/DSP	El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
Ldn	Day and Night Average Sound Level
Leq	Sound Energy Equivalent Level
MJLHMP	Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
M	Magnitude (Richer Scale)
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OPR	Governor's Office of Planning and Research
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SFBAAB	San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin
STOPPP	San Mateo Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
TACs	Toxic Air Contaminants
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey

## Goals, Policies and Implementing Programs

### Section II

# Open Space/Conservation Goals, Policies and Programs

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## **A** The Need for Open Space and Conservation



The Open Space/Conservation Element addresses issues related to the use, preservation, management and sustainability of land-based resources in Menlo Park, whether that land is dedicated to active recreation use, passive use or the protection of natural resources and environmental quality.

A central concern of the Open Space/Conservation Element, in considering the location, design, intensity and type of land uses in the City, is to continue to protect important natural resources and areas. Open Space and Conservation helps prevent the wasteful destruction and neglect of Menlo Park's natural resources, particularly scarce resources. The City recognizes that natural resources must be maintained for their economic and recreational use as well as for their ecological and scenic value.

The approach to natural resource conservation includes:

- Preserve the natural state, unique appeal and visual amenities of Menlo Park's bay lands and shoreline.
- Protect the wildlife habitat, scenic value and natural character of the San Francisquito Creek and Atherton Creek riparian corridors.
- Protect sensitive species and natural communities.
- Preserve open areas needed for protection from natural hazards.
- Maintain, preserve and enhance contiguous open space on Stanford lands within Menlo Park's unincorporated sphere of influence.
- Protect lands that have inherent qualities to provide visual amenity, including topographic features, views or vistas, street landscape areas, scenic water areas, creeks and the San Francisco Bay.

- Provide landscaped areas that visually and environmentally enhance the community.

## **B** Open Space/Conservation Goals



### **Goal OSC1 — MAINTAIN, PROTECT AND ENHANCE OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Protect, conserve and enhance valuable natural resources, open areas and designated open space lands rich in scenic value, wildlife or of a fragile ecological nature through conservation and restoration efforts.**

*Natural features and resources have shaped both the growth and form of Menlo Park and provide many of the attractive characteristics of the area. The City has a responsibility to maintain and protect these assets for future generations, and to*

*anticipate future needs.*

### **Goal OSC2 — PROVIDE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

**Develop and maintain a parks and recreation system to provide areas and facilities conveniently located, sustainable, properly designed and well-maintained to serve the recreation needs and promote healthy living of residents, workers and visitors to Menlo Park.**

*Park and recreation facilities play a critical role in determining the quality of life in Menlo Park. The City is committed to ongoing improvements to address the recreational needs of its residents. Numerous parks, public spaces and playing fields are integral to the life of the City. Recreational facilities and playing fields are well maintained.*

### **Goal OSC3 — PROTECT AND ENHANCE HISTORIC RESOURCES**

**Protect and enhance cultural and historical resources for their aesthetic, scientific, educational, and cultural values.**

*It is the goal of Menlo Park to have protected and maintained historic buildings and archaeological resources as part of Menlo Park's cultural heritage. City policy has been to protect and build upon the historic character that exists in the City. City policy also protects known archeological resources to the maximum extent feasible.*

**Goal OSC4 — PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING**  
**Promote a sustainable energy supply and implement the City’s Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the sustainability of actions by City government, residents, and businesses in Menlo Park. This includes promoting land use patterns that reduce the number and length of motor vehicle trips, and encouraging recycling, reduction and reuse programs.**

*Menlo Park’s Climate Action Plan addresses greenhouse gas emissions through planned emission reduction strategies covering the City’s operations and life in the community at large. But, it is important to recognize that a major determinant in the City of Menlo Park’s success in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions will be the actions taken by regional, State and national bodies across all sectors. The City’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through such actions as land use and transportation initiatives and reducing, reusing and recycling resources, also consider the broader sustainability benefits that accompany local climate protection efforts, such as cleaner air and water, healthier people and local economic development.*

**Goal OSC5 — ENSURE HEALTHY AIR QUALITY AND WATER QUALITY**  
**Enhance and preserve air quality in accord with State and regional standards, and encourage the coordination of total water quality management including both supply and wastewater treatment.**

*The Open Space/Conservation Element is intended to ensure that high quality air and water are available to all who reside, work and play in the City. The City seeks to mitigate the effects of vehicular pollution by supporting policies that promote more environmentally friendly forms of transport as well as promote land use design practices that are more efficient. Maintaining and improving water quality is essential to protect public health, wildlife, and watersheds, and to ensure opportunities for public recreation and economic development in Menlo Park.*

## **C** Open Space/Conservation Policies and Implementing Programs

### *Goal OSC1*

### MAINTAIN, PROTECT AND ENHANCE OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

#### ***Policies***

- OSC1.1 **Natural Resources Integration with Other Uses.** Protect Menlo Park's natural environment and integrate creeks, utility corridors, and other significant natural and scenic features into development plans.
- OSC1.2 **Habitat for Open Space and Conservation Purposes.** Preserve, protect, maintain and enhance water, water-related areas, plant and wildlife habitat for open space and conservation purposes.
- OSC1.3 **Sensitive Habitats.** Require new development on or near sensitive habitats to provide baseline assessments prepared by qualified biologists, and specify requirements relative to the baseline assessments.
- OSC1.4 **Habitat Enhancement.** Require new development to minimize the disturbance of natural habitats and vegetation, and requires revegetation of disturbed natural habitat areas with native or non-invasive naturalized species.
- OSC1.5 **Invasive, Non-Native Plant Species.** Avoid the use of invasive, non-native species, as identified on the lists of invasive plants maintained at the California Invasive Plant Inventory and United States Department of Agriculture invasive and noxious weeds database, or other authoritative sources, in landscaping on public property.
- OSC1.6 **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and Flood Management Project.** Continue to support and participate in Federal and State efforts related to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and flood management project. Provide public access to the Bay for scenic enjoyment and recreation opportunities as well as conservation education opportunities related to the open Bay, the sloughs, and the marshes.
- OSC1.7 **San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority.** Continue efforts through San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority to enhance the value of the



creek as a community amenity for trails and open space, conservation and educational opportunities.

- OSC1.8 **Regional Open Space Preservation Efforts.** Support regional and sub-regional efforts to acquire, develop and maintain open space conservation lands.
- OSC1.9 **Federal, State and County Open Space and Conservation Programs.** Make maximum use of Federal, State and county programs wherever possible in all matters concerned with open space and conservation.
- OSC1.10 **Public Education and Stewardship.** Promote public education, environmental programs, and stewardship of open space and natural resources conservation.
- OSC1.11 **Sustainable Landscape Practices.** Encourage the enhancement of boulevards, plazas and other urban open spaces in high-density and mixed-use residential developments, commercial and industrial areas with landscaping practices that minimize water usage.
- OSC1.12 **Landscaping and Plazas.** Include landscaping and plazas on public and private lands, and well-designed pedestrian and bicycle facilities in areas of intensive non-vehicular activity. Require landscaping for shade, surface runoff, or to obscure parked cars in extensive parking areas.
- OSC1.13 **Yard and Open Space Requirements in New Development.** Ensure that required yard and open spaces are provided for as part of new multi-family residential, mixed-use, commercial and industrial development.
- OSC1.14 **Protection of Conservation and Scenic Areas.** Protect conservation and scenic areas from deterioration or destruction by vandalism, private actions or public actions.
- OSC1.15 **Heritage Trees.** Protect Heritage Trees, including during construction activities through enforcement of the Heritage Tree Ordinance (Chapter 13.24 of the Municipal Code).
- OSC1.16 **Visual Amenities in Public Improvements.** Require that all public improvements to facilities, such as streets, civic structures and major municipal projects, recognize the need for visual amenities such as landscaping, public plazas, public art, and pedestrian and bicycle access.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC1.A **Provide Incentives for Maintaining Private Lands in Open Space.** Establish programs to provide incentives for maintaining private lands in open space and for insuring open areas within future developments through programs including but not limited, to cluster development, acquisition of a permanent open space easement, and/or transfer of development rights.
- OSC1.B **Continue Subdivision Assessments.** Continue subdivision assessments for parks and open space purposes consistent with the Subdivision Ordinance.
- OSC1.C **Promote Environmental Stewardship.** Promote public education, environmental programs and stewardship of natural resources and open space preservation within the City.

### ***Goal OSC2***

## **PROVIDE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**



### ***Policies***

- OSC2.1 **Open Space for Recreation Use.** Provide open space lands for a variety of recreation opportunities, make improvements, construct facilities and maintain programs that incorporate sustainable practices that promote healthy living and quality of life.
- OSC2.2 **Planning for Residential Recreational Needs.** Work with residential developers to ensure that parks and recreational facilities planned to serve new development will be available concurrently with need.
- OSC2.3 **Recreation Requirements for New Development.** Require dedication of improved land, or payment of fee in lieu of, for park and recreation land for all residential uses.

- OSC2.4 **Parkland Standards.** Strive to maintain the standard of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.
- OSC2.5 **Schools for Recreational Use.** Coordinate with the local school districts to continue to operate school sites for local recreation purposes.
- OSC2.6 **Pedestrian and Bicycle Paths.** Develop pedestrian and bicycle paths consistent with the recommendations of local and regional trail and bicycle route projects, including the Bay Trail.
- OSC2.7 **Conservation of Resources at City Facilities.** Reduce consumption of water, energy, landfilled waste, and fossil fuels in the construction, operations and maintenance of City owned and/or operated facilities.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC2.A **Support Regional Open Space, Conservation and Recreational Efforts.** Coordinate with Mid-Peninsula Regional Park District, San Mateo County and other regional open space and conservation measures to ensure recreational opportunities at existing and future parks and trails.
- OSC2.B **Evaluate Recreational Needs.** Evaluate park facilities on a regular basis for their overall function and ability to meet recreational needs. Provide new amenities as needed and based on financial resources to support changing needs of the population and recreational trends.

## ***Goal OSC3***

### **PROTECT AND ENHANCE HISTORIC RESOURCES**

#### ***Policies***

- OSC3.1 **Prehistoric or Historic Cultural Resources Investigation and Preservation.** Preserve historical and cultural resources to the maximum extent practical.
- OSC3.2 **Prehistoric or Historic Cultural Resources Protection.** Require significant historic or prehistoric artifacts be examined by a qualified consulting archaeologist or historian for appropriate protection and preservation, and to ensure compliance with local, State and Federal regulations.
- OSC3.3 **Archaeological or Paleontological Resources Protection.** Protect prehistoric or historic cultural resources either on site or through appropriate documentation as a condition of removal. Require that when a development

project has sufficient flexibility, avoidance and preservation of the resource shall be the primary mitigation measure, unless the City identifies superior mitigation. If resources are documented, undertake coordination with descendants and/or stakeholder groups, as warranted.

- OSC3.4 **Prehistoric or Historic Cultural Resources Found During Construction.** Require that if cultural resources, including archaeological or paleontological resources, are uncovered during grading or other on-site excavation activities, construction shall stop until appropriate mitigation is implemented.
- OSC3.5 **Consultation with Native American Tribes.** Consult with those Native American tribes with ancestral ties to the Menlo Park city limits regarding General Plan Amendments and land use policy changes.
- OSC3.6 **Identification of Potential Historic Resources.** Identify historic resources for the historic district in the Zoning Ordinance and require design review of proposals affecting historic buildings.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC3.A **Evaluate Historic Resources Around the Downtown Specific Plan Area.** Hire a cultural resources professional to conduct a Historic Resources Survey of potential infill sites around the Downtown Specific Plan to determine whether the designated infill housing sites, or adjacent lots, contain buildings eligible to the California Register and/or the historic zoning designation.
- OSC3.B **Support a Study of Cultural Resources on the Veterans Affairs' Clinic Site.** Work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure study and protection of cultural resources through oversight by a cultural resource professional of any proposed development on the vacant portion of the Veterans Affairs' Clinic site.

## ***Goal OSC4***

### **PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING**

#### ***Policies***

- OSC4.1 **Sustainable Approach to Land Use Planning to Reduce Resource Consumption.** Encourage, to the extent feasible, (1) a balance and match between jobs and housing, (2) higher density residential and mixed-use development to be located adjacent to commercial centers and transit corridors, and (3) retail and office areas to be located within walking and biking distance of transit or existing and proposed residential developments.

- OSC4.2 **Sustainable Building.** Promote and/or establish environmentally sustainable building practices or standards in new development that would conserve water and energy, prevent stormwater pollution, reduce landfilled waste, and reduce fossil fuel consumption from transportation and energy activities.
- OSC4.3 **Renewable Energy.** Promote the installation of renewable energy technology, such as, on residences and businesses through education, social marketing methods, establishing standards and/or providing incentives.
- OSC4.4 **Vehicles Using Alternative Fuel.** Explore the potential for installing infrastructure for vehicles that use alternative fuel, such as electric plug in recharging stations.
- OSC4.5 **Energy Standards in Residential and Commercial Construction.** Encourage projects to achieve a high level of energy conservation exceeding standards set forth in the California Energy Code for Residential and Commercial development.
- OSC4.6 **Waste Reduction Target.** Strive to meet the California State Integrated Waste Management Board per person target of waste generation per person per day through their source reduction, reuse, and recycling programs.
- OSC4.7 **Waste Management Collaboration.** Continue to support and participate in efforts such as the South Bayside Waste Management Authority, which provides waste reduction, recycling, and solid waste programs and solutions.
- OSC4.8 **Waste Diversion.** Develop and implement a zero waste policy, or implement standards, incentives, or other programs that would lead the community towards a zero waste goal.
- OSC4.9 **Climate Action Planning.** Undertake annual review and updates, as needed, to the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP).
- OSC4.10 **Energy Upgrade California.** Consider actively marketing and providing additional incentives for residents and businesses to participate in local, State, and/or Federal renewable or energy conservation programs.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC4.A **Develop a Residential Energy Efficiency Program.** Develop an energy efficiency/renewable energy program or policy for the residential and commercial sectors through education, social marketing methods, standards and/or incentive

programs to the degree feasible.

- OSC4.B **Monitor the City's Climate Action Plan.** Establish a Climate Action Plan monitoring and progress reporting program.
- OSC4.C **Expand the Green Business Program.** Expand Green Business Certification Program/Include Green Business education to new business permit applicants.
- OSC4.D **Promote Local Food Production.** Develop a promotion and education program to encourage local and/or organic food production, including community gardens.

### *Goal OSC5*

## ENSURE HEALTHY AIR AND WATER QUALITY

### ***Policies***

- OSC5.1 **Air and Water Quality Standards.** Continue to apply standards and policies established by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program (SMCWPPP), and City of Menlo Park Climate Action Plan through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and other means as applicable.
- OSC5.2 **Development in Industrial Areas.** Evaluate development projects in industrial areas for impacts to air and water resources in relation to truck traffic, hazardous materials use and production-level manufacturing per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and require measures to mitigate potential impacts to less than significant levels.
- OSC5.3 **Water Conservation.** Encourage water-conserving practices in businesses, homes and institutions.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- OSC5.A **Expand Water Conservation Programs.** Expand the Menlo Park Municipal Water District's conservation programs through education, social marketing methods, establishing standards, and providing incentives.

## Section III

# Noise Goals, Policies and Programs

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## **A** The Importance of Noise Attenuation



The purpose of the Noise Element is to appraise existing noise problems in the community and to provide guidance to the community and developers for avoiding problems in the future. It also can provide the basis for code enforcement and other regulations, including implementation of the City's Noise Ordinance to control nuisance noise.

Noise is part of everyday life in a community and is generally defined as unwanted sound. Whether a sound is unwanted depends on when and where it occurs, what the listener is doing when it occurs, characteristics of the sound (loudness, pitch and duration, speech or music content, irregularity), and how intrusive it is above background sound levels. Acceptable levels of noise vary from land use to land use. Also, in any one location, the noise level will vary over time, from the lowest background or ambient levels to that of passing airplanes or construction equipment. Various techniques have been developed that measure the effects of noise levels over a period of time.

It is difficult to specify noise levels that are generally acceptable to everyone. What is annoying to one person may be unnoticed by another. Standards may be based on documented complaint activity in response to noise levels, or based on studies on the ability of people to sleep, talk, or work under various noise conditions. All such studies, however, recognize that individual responses vary considerably. Standards usually address the needs of most of the general population. With this caution in mind, noise standards for planning purposes need to examine outdoor and indoor noise levels acceptable for different uses. The standards must relate to existing conditions in the City so that they are realistically enforceable and consistent with other General Plan policies.

## **B** Noise Goal



### *Goal N1 — ACHIEVE ACCEPTABLE NOISE LEVELS*

**It is the goal of Menlo Park to have acceptable noise levels.**

*Excessive noise is a concern for many residents of Menlo Park. These concerns can be managed with proper mitigation or through the implementation of the City's noise ordinance. The City of Menlo Park recognizes the issue of noise and has standards to protect the peace, health and safety of residents and the community from unreasonable noise from any and all sources in the community and to strive to locate uses compatible to the area to minimize escalation of noise from mobile and stationary sources.*

## **C** Noise Policies and Implementing Programs

### *Goal N1*

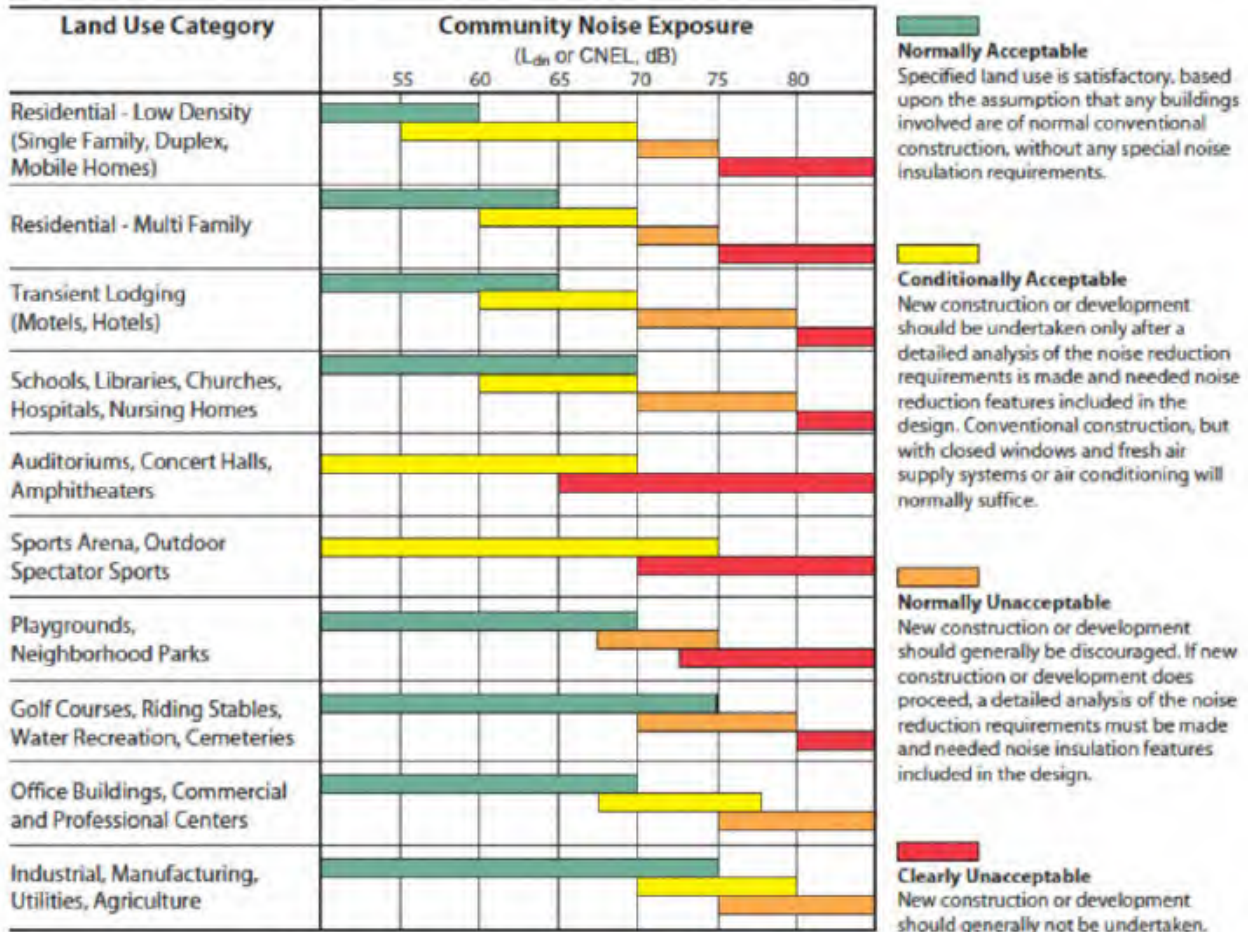
### **ACHIEVE ACCEPTABLE NOISE LEVELS**

#### ***Policies***

- N1.1 **Compliance with Noise Standards.** Consider the compatibility of proposed land uses with the noise environment when preparing or revising community and/or specific plans. Require new projects to comply with the noise standards of local, regional, and building code regulations, including but not limited to the City's Municipal Code, Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, and subdivision and zoning codes.
- N1.2 **Land Use Compatibility Noise Standards.** Protect people in new development from excessive noise by applying the City's Land Use Compatibility Noise Standards for New Development (see chart on the next page) to the siting and required mitigation for new uses in existing noise environments.



### Land Use Compatibility Noise Standards for New Development



**N1.3 Exterior and Interior Noise Standards for Residential Use Areas.** Strive to achieve acceptable interior noise levels and exterior noise levels for backyards and/or common usable outdoor areas in new residential development, and reduce outdoor noise levels in existing residential areas where economically and aesthetically feasible.

**N1.4 Noise Sensitive Uses.** Protect existing residential neighborhoods and noise sensitive uses from unacceptable noise levels and vibration impacts. Noise sensitive uses include, but are not limited to, hospitals, schools, religious facilities, convalescent homes and businesses with highly sensitive equipment. Discourage the siting of noise-sensitive uses in areas in excess of 65 dBA CNEL without appropriate mitigation and locate noise sensitive uses away from noise sources unless mitigation measures are included in development plans.

**N1.5 Planning and Design of New Development to Reduce Noise Impacts.** Design residential developments to minimize the transportation-related noise

impacts to adjacent residential areas and encourage new development to be site planned and architecturally designed to minimize noise impacts on noise-sensitive spaces. Proper site planning can be effective in reducing noise impacts.

- N1.6 **Noise Reduction Measures.** Encourage the use of construction methods, state-of-the-art noise abating materials and technology and creative site design including, but not limited to, open space, earthen berms, parking, accessory buildings, and landscaping to buffer new and existing development from noise and to reduce potential conflicts between ambient noise levels and noise-sensitive land uses. Use sound walls only when other methods are not practical or when recommended by an acoustical expert.
- N1.7 **Noise and Vibration from New Non-Residential Development.** Design non-residential development to minimize noise impacts on nearby uses. Where vibration impacts may occur, reduce impacts on residences and businesses through the use of setbacks and/or structural design features that reduce vibration to levels at or below the guidelines of the Federal Transit Administration near rail lines and industrial uses.
- N1.8 **Potential Annoying or Harmful Noise.** Preclude the generation of annoying or harmful noise on stationary noise sources, such as construction and property maintenance activity and mechanical equipment.
- N1.9 **Transportation Related Noise Attenuation.** Strive to minimize traffic noise through land use policies, traffic-calming methods to reduce traffic speed, law enforcement and street improvements, and encourage other agencies to reduce noise levels generated by roadways, railways, rapid transit, and other facilities.
- N1.10 **Nuisance Noise.** Minimize impacts from noise levels that exceed community sound levels through enforcement of the City's Noise Ordinance. Control unnecessary, excessive and annoying noises within the City where not preempted by Federal and State control through implementation and updating of the Noise Ordinance.

### ***Implementing Programs***

- N1.A **Require Acoustical Studies.** Require acoustical studies for all new multi-family residential projects within the projected Ldn 60 dB noise contours so that noise mitigation measures can be incorporated into project design and site planning.

- N1.B **Reduce Existing Vehicular Noise Through Enforcement.** Actively enforce the provisions of the California Motor Vehicle Code pertaining to vehicle speed and noise emission.
- N1.C **Consider Noise Impacts in Street Design.** Employ noise mitigation practices and materials, as necessary, when designing future streets and when improvements occur along existing road segments. Mitigation measures should consider quieter pavements and emphasize the establishment of natural buffers or setbacks between the arterial roadways and adjoining noise-sensitive areas. Strive to maintain smooth street surfaces adjacent to land uses that are sensitive to noise intrusion.
- N1.D **Minimize Construction Activity Noise.** Minimize the exposure of nearby properties to excessive noise levels from construction-related activity through CEQA review, conditions of approval and enforcement of the City's Noise Ordinance.
- N1.E **Consider Noise Levels in City Equipment Purchases.** Include noise specifications in requests for equipment information and bids for new City equipment and consider this information as part of evaluation of the bids. The City of Menlo Park should consider noise emission when purchasing vehicles, construction equipment, etc. This consideration should be balanced with the required performance and cost.
- N1.F **Work with Other Agencies to Reduce Transportation-Related Noise Levels.** Work closely with Caltrans, San Mateo County Department of Public Works and other jurisdictions to reduce noise levels along State highways and county roadways through or near the City.
- N1.G **Monitor Airport Noise.** Engage airport authorities and participate in regional planning efforts to ensure future activities and flight patterns at commercial airports do not negatively impact noise levels in the city.
- N1.H **Work with Railroad Operators to Reduce Noise and Vibration Levels.** Work with the railroad operators (e.g, Caltrain, Union Pacific, etc.) to reduce, to the extent possible, the contribution of railroad train noise and vibration to Menlo Park's noise environment.
- N1.I **Work with Neighboring Communities When Implementing Noise Policies and Programs.** Work with neighboring communities to ensure compliance with the land use and noise compatibility policies contained in this Noise Element at Menlo Park's boundaries.
- N1.J **Evaluate Noise Related Impacts of City Actions as Appropriate.** Analyze in detail the potential noise impacts of any actions that the City may take or act upon which could significantly alter noise level in the community.

## Section IV

# Safety Goals, Policies and Programs

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## **A** Overview of Safety Considerations

The Safety Element provides a framework for planning for and responding to potential hazards in the city. The purpose of the Safety Element is to identify and appraise risks in the community and provide high-level strategies for mitigating risks and ensuring the wellness of the community, city services, and infrastructure. The Safety Element focuses on protection of the community from hazards associated with climate change, earthquakes, floods, fires, toxic waste, and other hazards. In addition, issues such as disaster preparedness and residential areas without two emergency evacuation routes are addressed.

Some level of risk associated with these factors is unavoidable; the Safety Element is the means by which the City defines what measures will be undertaken to reduce these risks. The extent of a hazard depends on local conditions since most hazards are confined to a particular area or site. Various health and safety hazards should be considered in planning the location, design, intensity, density, and type of land uses in a given area. Long-term costs to the City, such as maintenance, liability exposure, and emergency services are potentially greater where high hazards exist.

The Safety Element of the General Plan is aimed at reducing potential risk of death, injuries, damage to property, and the economic and social disruptions resulting from fire, flood, geologic and other hazards. The General Plan provides policies and standards for the type, location, intensity, and design of development in areas of potential hazards. The intent is not to remove all risks associated with each specific type of hazard, but to reduce risks to life and property and to make informed decisions about land use and development near these hazards. A safety element is required to identify unreasonable risks and provide policies for the protection of the community from such risks.<sup>1</sup> The traditional risks entailed are slope instability, seismic risks, flooding, and fire. More recently, after the passage of SB 379 (2015), climate change risks are required for consideration.

The Safety Element is supported by San Mateo County's Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP), the City of Menlo Park's 2030 CAP, San Mateo County's 2015 Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), and anticipated sea level rise planning as required by SB 272 (2023). These resources are subsequently discussed in the

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<sup>1</sup> Gov. Code § 65302(g)(1)

“Relationship to Other Plans” section. The MJLHMP provides several of the required maps for the Safety Element.

## **B** Safety Goal

### GOAL S1 — ASSURE A SAFE COMMUNITY

Minimize risk to life and damage to the environment and property from natural and human-caused hazards, and assure community emergency and disaster preparedness and a high level of public safety services and facilities.

## **C** Safety Policies and Implementing Programs

### Goal S1

#### ASSURE A SAFE COMMUNITY

##### **Policies**

##### *General Safety Policies*

- S1.1 **Location of Future Development.** Permit development only in those areas where potential danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the community can be adequately mitigated.
- S1.2 **Location of Public Improvements.** Avoid locating public improvements and utilities in areas with identified flood, geologic and/or soil hazards to avoid any extraordinary maintenance and operating expenses. When the location of public improvements and utilities in such areas cannot be avoided, assure that effective mitigation measures will be implemented.
- S1.3 **Hazard Data and Standards.** Integrate hazard data (flood, earthquake, sea level rise, etc.) and risk evaluations into the development review process and maintain, develop and adopt up-to-date FEMA standards to reduce the level of risk from natural and human-caused hazards for all land uses.
- S1.4 **Inter-Jurisdictional Cooperation.** Continue to improve inter-jurisdictional cooperation with regard to public safety concerns related to natural hazard disaster response and mitigation.
- S1.5 **New Habitable Structures.** Require that all new habitable structures

incorporate adequate hazard mitigation measures to reduce identified risks from natural and human-caused hazards.

- S1.6 **Design and Location of Utilities.** Monitor appropriate location, design, construction, maintenance, and inspection standards for utility systems traversing hazard areas within the City limits. This would include evaluating and upgrading outdated systems and infrastructure, integrating green infrastructure as much as practical, coordinating with the State Public Utilities Commission, and locating new utility systems away from potential hazard areas.
- S1.7 **Hazard Reduction.** Continue to require new development to reduce the seismic vulnerability of buildings and susceptibility to other hazards through enforcement of the California Building Standards Code and other programs.
- S1.8 **Safety Element Updates.** Review and comprehensively revise the Safety Element whenever there is a change in relevant state law and/or new standards reflecting new scientific data or evidence related to prevention of natural and human hazards becomes available. Coordinate revisions with countywide planning efforts, other General Plan elements, and City emergency plans.
- S1.9 **Community Safety Services and Facilities.** In coordination with other agencies, maintain adequate and cost-effective levels of safety services, facilities, and programs to address safety concerns in Menlo Park.
- S1.10 **Safety Review of Development Projects.** Continue to require hazard mitigation, fire prevention, and adequate access for emergency vehicles in new development.
- S1.11 **Visibility and Access to Address Safety Concerns.** Require that development be designed to permit maximum visibility and access to law enforcement, ambulance, and fire control vehicles consistent with privacy and other design considerations.
- S1.12 **Provide a Safe Transportation System.** Aligning with Circulation Element policies CIRC-1.1 through CIRC-1.9, provide and maintain a safe circulation system that promotes a healthy, safe, and active community throughout Menlo Park.
- S1.13 **Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Funding.** Identify ways to maximize opportunities to secure federal funding for mitigation and

disaster recovery projects. This could include inter-jurisdictional cooperation (S1.4).

#### Geologic and Seismic Safety Policies

- S1.14 **Geotechnical Studies.** Continue to require site-specific geologic and geotechnical studies for land development or construction in areas of potential land instability as shown on the State and/or local geologic hazard maps or identified through other means.
- S1.15 **Potential Land Instability.** Prohibit development in areas of potential land instability identified on State and/or local geologic hazard maps, or identified through other means, unless a geologic investigation demonstrates hazards can be mitigated to an acceptable level as defined by the State of California, consistent with any applicable State and local standard and requirement.
- S1.16 **Funding Earthquake Resistance Improvements.** Support State and Federal financial assistance or tax incentive programs to encourage repair, demolition or abatement of earthquake hazardous structures.

#### Hazardous Materials Policies

- S1.17 **Hazardous Materials Regulations.** Review and strengthen, if necessary, regulations for the structural design and/or uses involving hazardous materials to minimize risk to local populations. Enforce compliance with current State and local requirements for the manufacturing, use, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials, and the designation of appropriate truck routes in Menlo Park.
- S1.18 **Potential Exposure of New Residential Development to Hazardous Materials.** Minimize risk associated with hazardous materials by assessing exposure to hazardous materials of new residential development and sensitive populations near existing industrial and manufacturing areas.
- S1.19 **Potential Hazardous Materials Conditions Investigation.** Continue to require developers to conduct an investigation of soils, groundwater, and buildings affected by hazardous materials potentially released from prior land uses in areas historically used for commercial or industrial uses, and identify and implement mitigation measures to avoid adversely affecting the environment or the health and safety of residents or new uses.
- S1.20 **Disposal of Existing Hazardous Materials on Sites Planned for Housing.** Continue to require that sites planned for housing be cleared of

hazardous materials (e.g., paint, solvents, chlorine) and the hazardous materials disposed in compliance with State, county, and Federal laws.

- S1.21 **Pipeline Safety.** Require, to the extent practical, that new pipelines and other channels carrying hazardous materials be placed to avoid residential areas and, in particular, areas where the population is less mobile.

#### Sea Level Rise and Flood Hazard Management Policies

- S1.22 **Flood and Tsunami Hazard Planning and Mapping.** Consider the threat of flooding and tsunamis in planning and management practices to minimize risk to life, environment, and property, and maintain tsunami hazard zones maps and flood maps as new information is provided by FEMA and other regional agencies. Permit only uses and development where damage and impacts to health and safety can be minimized in the event of inundation.

- S1.23 **Flood Damage Prevention.** Continue to apply standards for any construction projects (new structures and existing structures proposed for substantial improvement) in areas of special flood hazard in accordance with FEMA and the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, including the use of flood-resistant construction materials and construction methods that minimize flood damage. To the extent practicable, locate new essential public facilities outside of flood zones, such as City operations facilities, police and fire stations, and hospitals, unless risks are minimized.

- S1.24 **Potential Dam Inundation.** Consider potential risks from dam inundation in the development approval process.

- S1.25 **Dam Safety.** Support programs by the California Division of Safety of Dams to retrofit or replace dams or to increase earthquake resistance of dams and mitigate impacts of dam failures. State efforts to inspect dams and evaluate dam safety requirements shall also be supported.

- S1.26 **Creeks and Drainage-ways.** Minimize undue erosion of creek banks. Protect creek-side habitat by limiting development within 50 feet of the creek bank and provide maintenance access along creeks where appropriate and consistent with State law.

- S1.27 **Erosion and Sediment Control.** Continue to require the use of best management practices for erosion and sediment control measures with proposed development in compliance with applicable regional regulations.



- S1.28 **Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Requirements.** Enforce stormwater pollution prevention practices and appropriate watershed management plans in the RWQCB general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements, the San Mateo County Water Pollution Prevention Program, and the City's Stormwater Management Program. Revise, as necessary, City plans so they integrate water quality and watershed protection with water supply, flood management, habitat protection, groundwater recharge, and other sustainable development principles and policies.
- S1.29 **Sea Level Rise and Flood Protection.** Collaborate in regional sea level rise planning and consider sea level rise in siting new facilities or residences. Ensure that new development, substantial retrofits, critical facilities, City-owned buildings, and existing and future flood management infrastructures are planned and designed to accommodate climate change hazards, including increases in flooding, sea level rise, and rising groundwater, based on the best available science.

*Fire Safety Policies*

- S1.30 **Fire Equipment and Personnel Access.** Require adequate access and clearance, to the maximum extent practical, for fire equipment, fire suppression personnel, and evacuation for high occupancy structures in coordination with the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.
- S1.31 **Coordination with the Menlo Park Fire District.** Encourage City-Fire District coordination in the planning process and require, where appropriate, development applications to be reviewed by the Menlo Park Fire Protection District prior to project approval by the City.
- S1.32 **Fire Resistant Design.** Encourage new homes to incorporate fire resistant design and strategies such as the use of fire-resistant materials and landscaping, and creating defensible space (e.g., areas free of highly flammable vegetation).

*Public Safety and Emergency Response Policies*

- S1.33 **Location of Critical Facilities.** Locate critical facilities (e.g., hospitals, schools, Emergency Operations Center (E.O.C.)) to minimize impacts from hazards.

- S1.34 **Continued Functioning of Utilities and Critical Use Facilities (Essential Service Buildings).** Encourage local public utilities and service providers to locate and design facilities and systems to ensure continued service in emergency conditions. Maintain structural and operational integrity of essential public facilities during flooding and other emergency conditions.
- S1.35 **Disaster Preparedness Planning.** Ensure disaster preparedness in cooperation with other public agencies and appropriate public-interest organizations. Encourage and support residents to organize in volunteer response groups and collaborate with all related Public Safety Agencies for a coordinated response. Ensure disaster preparedness planning includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park's Underserved Communities.
- S1.36 **Community Preparedness.** Embrace FEMA's Whole Community approach by encouraging improved safety programs for schools, institutions, and industries to promote greater public awareness of all types of hazards and appropriate responses and support the San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management's efforts for countywide preparedness, response and protection services and activities for large-scale incidents and disasters.
- S1.37 **Emergency Notification System.** Continue to support and improve on the Emergency Notification System for disaster information release in emergencies. Maintain official communication updates to the City website and communication outlets (e.g., SMC Alerts and social media channels).
- S1.38 **Emergency Connectors and Evacuation Routes.** Maintain a system of emergency connectors and evacuation routes as part of the City's disaster planning.
- S1.39 **Emergency Vehicle Access.** Require that all private roads be designed to allow access for emergency vehicles as a prerequisite to the granting of permits and approvals for construction.
- S1.40 **Public Health.** Collaborate with county health services (and other health services as appropriate) on communication and mitigation/adaptation strategies during public health crises, such as communicable and infectious diseases.
- S1.41 **Heat Adaptation.** Support strategies to help reduce the heat island effect and minimize its effect on the Menlo Park community.

## ***Implementing Programs***

### *General Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.A **Link the City's Housing and Safety Elements.** Continue to review and revise the Safety Element, as necessary, concurrently with updates to the General Plan Housing Element in response to new state guidance on new data or evidence related to prevention of natural and human hazards become available.
- S1.B **Maintain Up-to-Date Hazard Maps and Databases.** Maintain databases and maps of geologic and other hazards to identify areas prone to hazards for planning purposes on an on-going basis concurrently with updates to the General Plan Housing Element.
- S1.C **Review Building Code Updates.** Continue to review State Building Code updates and incorporate local amendments as appropriate to require that new construction be designed under the most current safety standards. The review of updates should also consider requirements for facilities housing sensitive populations.
- S1.D **Require Early Investigation of Potential Hazard Conditions.** Require that potential geologic, seismic, soils, and/or hydrologic problems confronting public or private development be thoroughly investigated at the earliest stages of the design process, and that these topics be comprehensively evaluated in the environmental review process by technical experts.
- S1.E **Modify the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances as Needed to Address Hazard Mitigation.** Modify the Zoning Ordinance as needed when new information on natural hazards becomes available, and to provide for hazard reduction measures as part of the design criteria for development review. Review the Subdivision Ordinance and modify as needed to include hazard reduction in the process of dividing land for development.
- S1.F **Work with the Public Utilities Commission.** Work with the California Public Utilities Commission to require public utilities to apply the policies in the Safety Element to the planning and operation of their facilities, and to coordinate their activities with local planning agencies.
- S1.G **Share Hazard Data with Other Agencies.** Participate in a cooperative countywide program to pool natural hazard data developed through special studies or via the project review process and continue to update and implement the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### *Geologic and Seismic Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.H **Enforce Seismic Risk Analysis and Adequate Construction Standards.** Enforce seismic risk analysis and adequate construction standards through the building permit and inspection process.

- S1.I **Review Approach to Buildings in High Seismic Risk Areas.** Continue to support the California Residential Mitigation Program's (CRMP) Earthquake Brace & Bolt program and consider establishing a program to help both residential and non-residential property owners identify if they own a building in a high seismic hazard risk area or a seismically vulnerable building, including soft-story buildings, and identify what incentives exist to encourage repair or demolition.

*Hazardous Materials Implementing Programs*

- S1.J **Require Health and Safety Plan for Hazardous Materials.** Require the preparation of health and safety plans to be used to protect the general public and all workers in construction areas from potentially hazardous materials. The plan shall describe the practices and procedures to protect worker health in the event of an accidental release of hazardous materials or if previously undiscovered hazardous materials are encountered during construction. The plan shall include items such as spill prevention, cleanup and evacuation procedures. The plan will help protect the public and workers by providing procedures and contingencies that will help reduce the exposure to hazardous materials.

- S1.K **Track Remediation Needs for Existing Known Hazardous Soils and Other Hazardous Materials.** Monitor remediation of existing known hazards, such as contaminated soils and clean-up of leaking or abandoned underground storage tanks.

*Flood Management, Tsunami and Dam Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.L **Evaluate New Community Facilities Proposed in Dam Inundation Zones.** Require that new community facilities located within dam inundation zones evaluate the potential for flooding and the impact on evacuation during the development approval process.

- S1.M **Sea Level Rise Planning.** Collaborate with other agencies to develop a sea level rise plan as part of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan that is subject to approval by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, as applicable, on or before January 1, 2034. As part of this collaboration, consider and implement OneShoreline recommendations, as appropriate, to plan for future conditions impacted by climate change including those related to sea level rise.

*Fire Safety Implementing Programs*

- S1.N **Fire Sprinkler Requirements.** Work with the Fire District to evaluate whether to encourage sprinkler requirements that are beyond State minimum code.

*Public Safety and Emergency Response Implementing Programs*

- S1.O **Investigate Potential Impact of Train Derailment on Emergency Services.** Coordinate with Caltrain and Union Pacific. Expand to encompass emergency plans for all transit and paratransit operators.
- S1.P **Encourage Disaster Drills in Schools.** Coordinate with private schools in conducting disaster drills in schools, augmented with a community awareness campaign on how, when, and where young people in primary and secondary schools are to be reunited with their guardians. Coordinate with public school districts and the County as appropriate.
- S1.Q **Coordinate the General Plan with City Emergency Planning Efforts.** Implement the Safety Element with other General Plan elements and City emergency plans — the Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) and Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) — and make necessary revisions.
- S1.R **Outreach for Sensitive Populations.** Develop disaster preparedness response capabilities, recovery operations, evacuation planning, outreach, and education for sensitive populations. Engagement should include prevention, shelter-in-place, and evacuation plans. Special care should be given to engage individuals who require in-home support.
- S.1S **Public Communication.** Develop communication protocols – including a language access policy – for disseminating information to the Menlo Park community, including public-facing businesses (such as retail and restaurants) and congregative living facilities, during public health crises.
- S1.T **Public Heat Respite.** Incorporate public respite areas from heat when remodeling or developing new public buildings and open space. This could include landscaping, architectural, or design features as well as policies to allow community members into public buildings on days and nights with extreme heat (e.g., cooling centers).
- S1.U **Heat Island Minimization.** Develop street tree and landscaping policies that minimize heat islands within Menlo Park, particularly in Underserved Communities (see Figure S.13. Heat Island Effect Map).

## Background

### Section V

## Open Space/Conservation Background

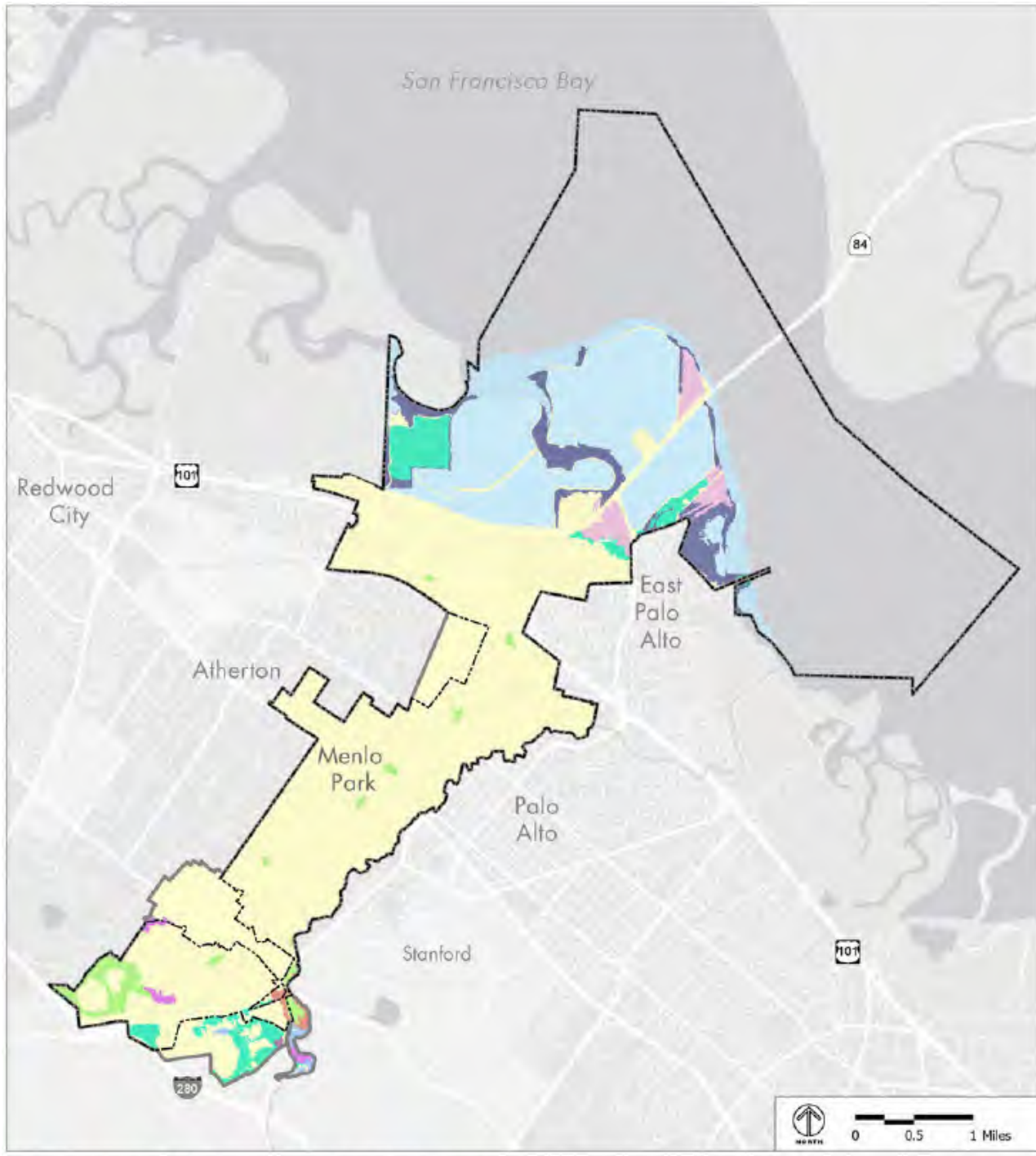
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### **A** Natural Resources

Menlo Park stretches from 326 feet above sea level in the foothills of Jasper Ridge (located outside the City limits and part of the Santa Cruz Mountains) in the west, through the flatlands in the center of the valley, to sea level at the marshes and mudflats of San Francisco Bay in the west. The City's center is relatively flat, with slopes of approximately 0.5 to 0.8 percent. The higher, hilly portion of the City is west of the street Alameda de las Pulgas. The lower, flatter portion of the City is east of Alameda de las Pulgas. Topography helps to define several sub-areas of the City from a natural resources standpoint, as follows:

- (1) **Eastern.** The eastern edge of the City, east of U.S. 101 to the Bay, consists of near-sea-level elevation flat land roughly 4 to 10 feet above sea level. This area is comprised of coastal salt marshes, mudflats, as well as urbanized land or baylands.
- (2) **Central.** Central Menlo Park, lying west of U.S. 101 and east of Alameda de las Pulgas, is gently sloping from roughly 20 feet above sea level to 130 feet above sea level, and consists mostly of flat, urbanized area. The southern border of central Menlo Park is flanked by the San Francisquito Creek riparian canopy and channel.
- (3) **Western.** The far western side of Menlo Park, located from the western edge of Alameda de las Pulgas to City limits, is roughly 130 to 300 feet above sea level and consists of the hilly grasslands below Jasper Ridge, which have been partially urbanized.

The natural community types in Menlo Park are defined by a combination of dominant plant community characteristics, landform, land use and ecological function. They include the Coastal Salt Marsh and Salt Ponds; Tidal Mudflats; San Francisquito Creek; Oak Woodlands; and Grasslands. Existing vegetation in Menlo Park is shown on the map on the next page.



Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2012; ESRI 2010; USDE Forest Service, March 2007.

- |  |                          |             |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|
| California Bay                                 | Riparian Mixed Hardwoods | City Limits |
| Annual Grasses and Forbs                       | Tule - Cattail           |             |
| Coast Live Oak                                 | Urban                    |             |
| Non-Native/Ornamental Conifer/Hardwood Mixture | Valley Oak               |             |
| Non-Native/Ornamental Grass                    | Water                    |             |
| Pickleweed - Cordgrass                         |                          |             |

**Existing Vegetation**

## Description of Natural Resources Types

### Coastal Salt Marsh and Salt Ponds

Salt ponds and marshes once covered the edges of Bay, including the baylands in Menlo Park. In 1850, the conversion of these marshes through diking and filling began, and by 1969, just 75 square miles remained throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Menlo Park has large, intact marshes within its borders. Ravenswood Slough, Westpoint Slough, and Flood Point Slough contribute to the approximately 2,300 acres of tidal mudflats and 300 acres of salt marsh of the City.



These salt and brackish water marshes that border the Bay are a part of the Don Edwards Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and are associated with the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. Most of the salt ponds and marshes in or near Menlo Park have been (or will be) restored to or are retained in their natural state.

Coastal salt marshes are closely associated with tidal action and are characterized by sloughs (marshy creeks). These habitats are dominated by native species such as pickleweed and edged by cordgrass and salt grass. Coastal salt marshes are high biodiversity wildlife habitats, and are associated with a wide variety of native shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, waterfowl, fish, and crustaceans. Special status species are not uncommon in San Francisco Bay Area salt marshes.

### Tidal Mudflats

Tidal mudflats consist of unvegetated mud deposits along the shoreline that are regularly inundated and exposed by the tides of the Bay waters. These mudflats provide a habitat for a wide variety of crabs, snails, sea squirts, clams, mussels, and tubeworms. These species offer a rich feeding ground of macro-invertebrates to tens of thousands of migratory and resident shorebirds that travel from as far as Canada and Alaska. At higher tides, large marine species such as leopard sharks, starry flounder, and bat rays feed on these same macro-invertebrates. Migratory birds are an example of the special status species found in this habitat.

### San Francisquito Creek

In the urbanized portion of Menlo Park, San Francisquito Creek is the main creek. It originates west of Menlo Park just below Searsville Lake in Jasper Ridge, defines the southern border of Menlo Park for roughly three miles from the intersection of Alpine Road and Junipero Serra Boulevard, until it reaches Euclid Avenue near U.S. 101, then turns eastward and empties into the bay from within the borders of East Palo Alto. San



Francisquito Creek flows through Menlo Park largely in its natural alignment where it forms the southern boundary of the Menlo Park City limits.

Riparian vegetation around San Francisquito Creek spans a 25-75 meter-wide space, depending on adjacent land use and topography, and its canopy consists primarily of native trees—willow, bay laurels, redwoods, alders, cottonwoods, California buckeye, valley oaks, and coast live oaks. San Francisquito Creek shrub vegetation commonly consists of native species such as blackberry, and poison oak. In the urbanized lower reaches of the creek, non-native exotics such as eucalyptus, black locust, acacia, bamboo, pines, and redwoods are mixed in with the native plant species.

Riparian habitats, even in heavily urbanized areas, are very valuable to wildlife, providing food, water, and shelter in one location. Riparian habitat is associated with a wide variety of native resident and migratory songbirds, raptors, rodents, bats, and other mammals, as well as fish and amphibians. Urban creeks, such as San Francisquito that have preserved canopies and/or understories, are usually the most species rich, and some of these species are under special protections.

### **Oak Woodlands**

Mature oaks provide nesting and foraging opportunities for birds, including raptors. They also provide essential food resources for animals that include acorns in their diet, such as squirrels and woodpeckers. Other wildlife species that commonly nest or den in woodland habitat include mammals such as woodrats and deer mice, and birds such as owls, raptors, and songbirds. Native reptiles and amphibians associated with this habitat include snakes, newts, and salamanders. Contiguous oak woodlands with mature trees are relatively biodiverse and species rich, and some species found in these habitats are under special protections.

### **Grasslands**

The foothills of Menlo Park are located on the City's western border and are dominated by common non-native annual grasses. Portions of this area have been developed for housing and related uses, while another portion of these foothills, owned by Stanford University, have been preserved as open space. Plant species include wild oats, Italian ryegrass, foxtail barley, yellow star thistle, field bindweed, prickly lettuce, prickly ox-tongue, and field mustard. The grasslands are also dotted with taller trees and shrubs, including native California species such as coyote bush, toyon, valley oak, and coast live oak. Adult, large circumference non-native trees, such as black walnut, red gum, and acacia, are also present. This open space area provides important foraging habitat for raptors, native prey and predator mammals, and reptiles. Grasslands which are large and contiguous are usually the most species-rich. Some grassland species, such as nesting raptors, are under special protection.

### **Developed Baylands**

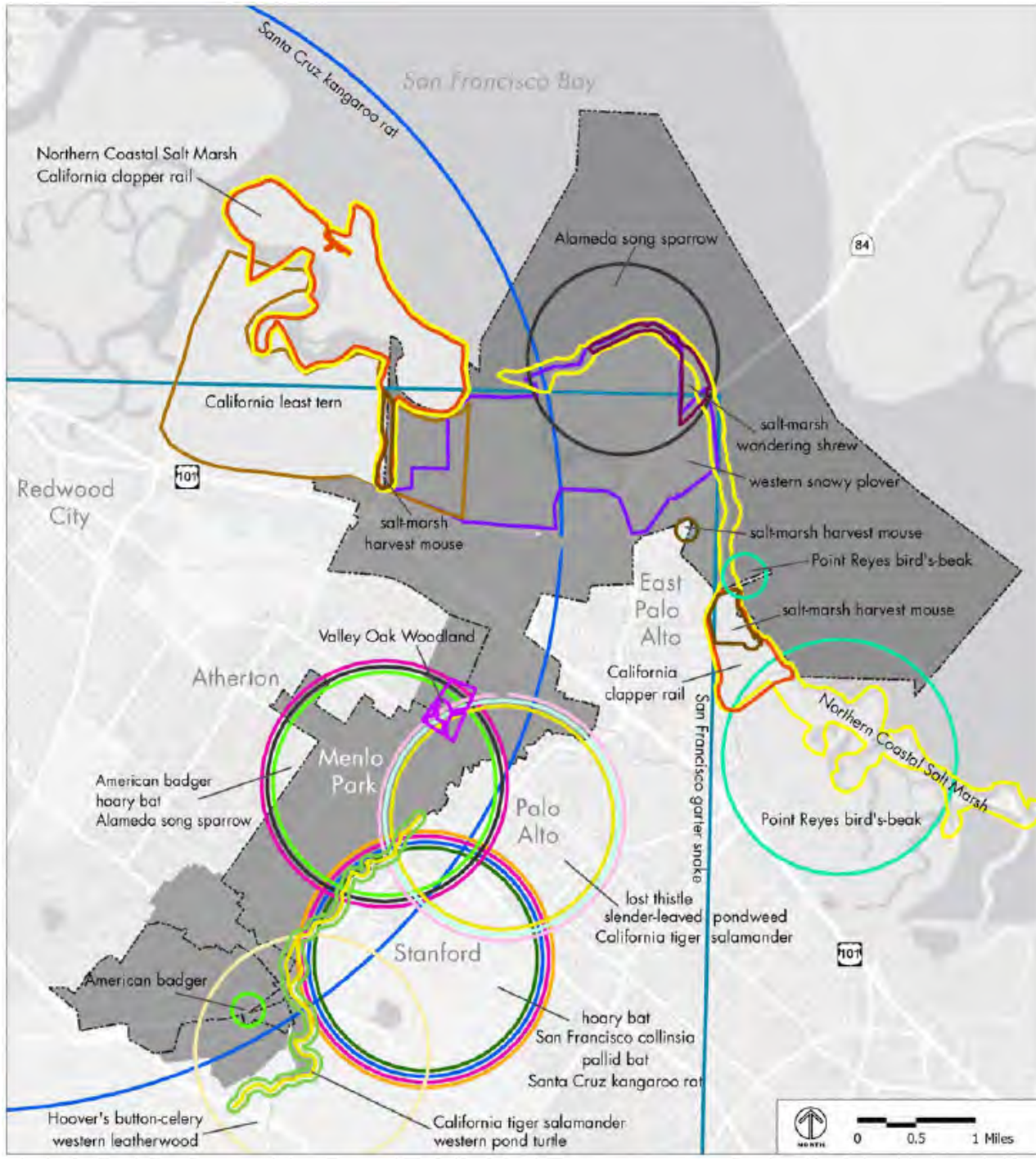
Developed sites in eastern Menlo Park along the bayshore have been built on diked and filled coastal marshes. These marshes were converted in the 1960s to create more land for development. In the process, these marshes have been cut off from tidal influence and filled with materials to raise their surface level and fill in their slough channels. While in some cases such bayfill lands can start to revert to wetland conditions, Menlo Park's developed bayland areas are primarily paved, landscaped with non-native plants, and disturbed with automobile activity. Developed salt marsh areas typically have relatively low habitat values. Species found in the urbanized baylands are similar to other urbanized areas.

### **Urbanized Area**

The well-landscaped, suburban character of developed areas of Menlo Park includes parks, backyards, and vacant lots that provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species that have adapted to human disturbance. Native and ornamental trees and shrubs in the urban area provide nesting sites for songbirds such as scrub jays, brewer's black birds, and American crows. Parks and quiet streets provide foraging grounds for opportunistic predator and prey wildlife, including turkey vultures, coyotes, and raccoons. Few urban species are under special protections, although a few, such as the red-tailed hawk, are designated protected species.

### **Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species**

The locations of sightings of special-status plant and wildlife species are shown in the map on the next page. Following the map is a table listing the special-status plant and wildlife species that have the potential for occurring in Menlo Park. They include those listed under the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts, plants listed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California and wildlife designated as Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2012; ESRI 2010; California National Diversity Database, 2012.

Common Name (CNDDDB)					
	Alameda song sparrow		Hoover's button-celery		Valley Oak Woodland
	American badger		Northern Coastal Salt Marsh		hoary bat
	California clapper rail		Point Reyes bird's-beak		lost thistle
	California least tern		San Francisco collinsia		pallid bat
	California tiger salamander		San Francisco garter snake		salt-marsh harvest mouse
			Santa Cruz kangaroo rat		salt-marsh wandering shrew
					slender-leaved pondweed
					western leatherwood
					western pond turtle
					western snowy plover
					City Limit

**Special Status Plant and Wildlife Species**

### California Natural Diversity Database Special Status Species in Menlo Park (2013)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Presence	Federal List	California List	CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife	California Native Plant Society	General Habitat	Micro Habitation
<b>Sensitive Habitat</b>								
	Northern Coastal Salt Marsh	Extant	None	None				
	Valley Oak Woodland	Extant	None	None				
<b>Sensitive Plants</b>								
<i>Chloropyron mantiforme</i> ssp. <i>palustre</i>	Point Reyes bird's-beak	Possibly Extirpated	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Coastal salt marsh	Usually in coastal salt marsh with <i>Salicornia</i> , <i>distichlis</i> , <i>jaumea</i> , and <i>spartina</i> .
<i>Cirsium praeritense</i>	Lost thistle	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants presumed extinct in California.	Little information exists on this plant; it was collected from the Palo Alto area at the turn of the 20th century.	Although not seen since 1901, this <i>cirsium</i> is thought to be quite distinct from other <i>cirsium</i> s.
<i>Collinsia multicolor</i>	San Francisco collinsia	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal scrub	On decomposed shale (mudstone) mixed with humus.
<i>Dirca occidentalis</i>	western leatherwood	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Upland forest, chaparral, woodland, riparian forest, riparian woodland	On brushy slopes, mesic sites; mostly in mixed evergreen and foothill woodland communities.
<i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>hooveri</i>	Hoover's button-celery	Possibly Extirpated	None	None		Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.	Vernal pools	Alkaline depressions, vernal pools, roadside ditches and other wet places near the coast.
<i>Stuckenia filiformis</i>	Slender-leaved pondweed	Presumed Extant	None	None		Plants rare and endangered in California but more common elsewhere.	Marshes and swamps	Shallow, clear water of lakes and drainage channels.
<b>Sensitive Animals</b>								
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	California tiger salamander	Extirpated	Threatened	Threatened	Special Concern		Central Valley DPS federally listed as threatened. Santa Barbara and Sonoma Counties DPS federally listed as endangered	Need underground refuges, especially ground squirrel burrows and vernal pools or other seasonal water sources for breeding
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid bat	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting	Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.
<i>Athene cucularia</i>	Western burrowing owl	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, shrub lands	Burrows into ground. Uses a variety of natural and artificial burrowing sites. Prefers short grasses.
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	Western snowy plover	Presumed Extant	Threatened	None	Special Concern		Sandy beaches, salt pond levees and shores of large alkali lakes	Needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting.
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern harrier	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, salt marshes, open habitats with rodent populations	Ground nesting, typically near shrubs in marshes.
<i>Dipodomys venustus venustus</i>	Santa Cruz kangaroo rat	Presumed Extant	None	None			Silverleaf manzanita mixed chaparral in the Zayante sand hills ecosystem of the Santa Cruz Mountains	Needs soft, well-drained sand.

California Natural Diversity Database Special Status Species in Menlo Park (2013) — Continued

Scientific Name	Common Name	Presence	Federal List	California List	CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife	California Native Plant Society	General Habitat	Micro Habitation
<b>Sensitive Animals</b>								
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	Western pond turtle	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation	Need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary bat	Presumed Extant	None	None			Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding	Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths. Requires water.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead shrike	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, shrub-grasslands, savannah	Nests in landscaping trees and shrubs. Uses barbed wire to impale prey, and for perching.
<i>Reithrodontomys raviventris</i>	Salt-marsh harvest mouse	Presumed Extant	Endangered	Endangered			Only in the saline emergent wetlands of San Francisco Bay and its tributaries	Pickweed is primary habitat. Do not burrow, build loosely organized nests. Require higher areas for flood escape.
<i>Sorex vagrans halicoeles</i>	Salt-marsh wandering shrew	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Salt marshes of the south arm of San Francisco Bay	Medium high marsh 6-8 ft above sea level where abundant driftwood is scattered among <i>Salicornia</i> .
<i>Spinus lawrenci</i>	Lawrence's gold finch	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Uplands, non-native grasslands, ruderal	Forages from seed-bearing plants, such as thistles.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American Badger	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable (easy to dig) soils.	Needs sufficient food, friable soils & open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i>	San Francisco garter snake	Presumed Extant	Endangered	Endangered			Vicinity of freshwater marshes, ponds and slow moving streams in San Mateo County and extreme Northern Santa Cruz County.	Prefers dense cover and water depths of at least one foot. Upland areas near water are also very important.
	Tree Nesting Raptors	Presumed Extant	None	None	Special Concern		Grasslands, woodlands	Trees

Source: California Natural Diversity Database, 2013; City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update, General Plan Consistency Update and Zoning Ordinance Amendments Environmental Assessment prepared April 2, 2013

The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) indicates 21 special status plant species, animal species or sensitive habitat types with recorded occurrences in the Menlo Park vicinity. Additionally, another five special status animals species are known to occur based on other reports done in Menlo Park.

**Special-Status Plant Species**

Six plant species with special-status have been recorded in Menlo Park. These species have varied status, but each is considered rare by the California Native Plant Society. Three of these special status plant species have been recorded in the Menlo Park vicinity, the Hoover's button-celery, Point Reyes bird's-beak, and slender-leaved pondweed, and are associated with wet or marshy conditions such as those found in riparian, wetlands, or marshes of the eastern Menlo Park baylands, and central Menlo Park's San Francisquito Creek area. Two other plants, the western leatherwood and San Francisco collinsia, are associated with drier conditions, such as those of the grasslands on the western edge of Menlo Park. The sixth species, the lost thistle, has been assigned a category indicating likely extinction or extreme rarity within California.

### **Special-Status Animal Species**

Thirteen bird, mammal, reptile, fish, and invertebrate species with special-status have recorded occurrences in Menlo Park as reported by the California Natural Diversity Database. Another four species were found in recent local studies, bringing the total to 17 special status animal species. Information on habitat association, or conditions under which an animal is typically found, assists in predicting its likelihood of occurrence. The habitat association and ranking of these species are described below.

Six of the special-status animal species with recorded occurrences in the Menlo Park vicinity are associated with wetland habitat, specifically with the salt marsh at the northeastern edge of the City. Of these, the California clapper rail, California least tern, salt-marsh harvest mouse, and western snowy plover each are listed as protected on the Federal Endangered Species List. The two other species, the Alameda song sparrow and the salt marsh wandering shrew, are afforded protection through State listing as species of special concern.

Four of the special-status animal species with CNDDDB recorded occurrences in Menlo Park are associated with the grasslands on the western boundary of the City, and the oak woodlands in the center of the City. These four grassland or woodland associated special status species are the American badger, pallid bat, hoary bat, and Santa Cruz kangaroo rat. The American badger and pallid bat are State Species of Special Concern.

Two special-status animal species with CNDDDB recorded occurrences in Menlo Park are associated with (freshwater) wetlands and riparian habitats such as those of San Francisquito Creek. These are the San Francisco garter snake and western pond turtle. The San Francisco garter snake is on the Federal endangered species list. The western pond turtle is a State of California species of special concern. A third species associated with San Francisquito Creek, the steelhead (a member of the salmon fish family), is Federally threatened.

### **Sensitive Habitats and Wildlife Dispersal Corridors**

The CNDDDB search identifies two types of sensitive habitat within the Menlo Park area — coastal salt marsh and oak woodland. Coastal salt marsh occurs on the eastern edge of Menlo Park where the baylands have not been converted. The oak woodland occurs within the center of Menlo Park, and consists of a large patch of native habitat situated within the otherwise urbanized City center. In addition to serving as valuable habitat, riparian areas serve as important travel corridors for wildlife. San Francisquito Creek's intact, multi-layered canopy of riparian habitat and large creek channel serves as an important wildlife dispersal corridor.

## **B** Parks and Recreation Facilities



The Menlo Park Community Services Department owns and operates parks and recreational facilities in the City of Menlo Park. The City has adopted a goal of maintaining a ratio of five acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents. Currently, the City provides a net of 220.86 acres of parkland for the residents, with a ratio of 6.79 acres per capita. A detailed list of available parks and recreation facilities located in Menlo Park is shown in the table on the next page.



### Parks and Recreation Facilities in Menlo Park (2013)

Name	Location	Size	Description
<b>Facilities</b>			
Arrillaga Family Recreation Center	700 Alma Street	10,000 sq2	A kitchen, lobby area, offices, and 2 patios, 7 main rooms for purposes of banquets, meetings, exercise, dance, and enrichment activities.
Arrillaga Family Gymnasium	600 Alma Street	24,100 sq2	Two full size basketball courts, 3 volleyball courts, 4 badminton courts, and 4 cross-court basketball, a conference room, offices, lobby area, restrooms, and locker rooms.
Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center	501 Laurel Street	19,380 sq2	A state of the art gymnastics facility, 2 multipurpose rooms, office area, lobby, restrooms, and storage.
Burgess Pool	501 Laurel Street	22,700 sq2	Three pools- performance pool, instructional pool (covered during winter months), and kiddie pool (summer only). The facility contracted to Team Sheeper LLC (Menlo Swim and Sport).
Menlo Children's Center	801 Laurel Street	13,000 sq2	Licensed preschool (18 months to 5 years) and school age (Kindergarten to 5th Grade) services.
Belle Haven Child Development Center	410 Ivy Drive	6,600 sq2	(Licensed by the Department of Social Services.) Quality subsidized, full-time child development services.
Belle Haven After School Center	100 Terminal Ave	2,485 sq2	(Licensed by the Department of Social Services.) Care for children in kindergarten to 6th grade.
Senior Center	110 Terminal Ave	11,000 sq2	Health, recreational, and educational programs, as well as cultural events and social services for older adults. Nutritionally balanced hot meals and door-to-door local transportation to and from the Center are offered on weekdays for minimal cost to the registered patrons. Weekly brown bag through Second Harvest Food Bank, Farmer's Market, monthly free health screenings, HI CAP and tax assistance are also available.
Onetta Harris Community Center	100 Terminal Ave	11,000 sq2	A gym, weight room, computer lab, a large multipurpose room with adjacent kitchen, 3 classrooms, and office space.
Belle Haven Pool	100 Terminal Ave	6,300 sq2	Currently a seasonal pool that is open from mid-June to the end of August; a 25 meter pool with an additional shallow area as well as a small kiddie pool.
<b>Parks</b>			
Bedwell/Bayfront Park	Bayfront Expressway & Marsh Road	155 Acres	An extensive trail system, as part of the San Francisco Bay Trail, allowing hiking, running, bicycling, dog walking, bird watching, kite flying, and photography.
Burgess Park	Alma Street & Burgess Drive	9.31 acres	Little league baseball field; soccer field (300' x 200'); regulation baseball field; open play field; skate park; 2 lighted tennis courts, children's playground; picnic areas, and restrooms.
Jack W. Lyle Park	Middle Ave & Fremont Street	4.55 acres	Walking path with benches; Open Play field; Half-court basketball; Children's (5 to 12 year old) Playground; and Tot-Lot (2 to 5 year old) Playground.
Fremont Park	Santa Cruz Avenue & University Drive	0.38 acres	Lighted walkways; benches; picnic areas, drinking fountain, and open grass areas. It is home to the City of Menlo Park Summer Concert Series and other downtown parties.
Joseph B. Kelly Park	100 Terminal Ave	8.3 acres	A synthetic turf soccer field with lights, full size track with 4 different exercise apparatuses, lighted tennis courts, lighted basketball court, benches, bleachers, and a full men's and women's bathroom facility.
Marketplace Park	Market Place & Hamilton Avenue	1 acre	Playground, open grass areas, and walkways.
Nealon Park	800 Middle Avenue	9 acres	Five lighted tennis courts, softball field, playground, picnic areas, grass areas, and an off-leash dog area.
Seminary Oaks Park	Seminary Drive & Santa Monica Avenue	3.51 acres	Walking path with benches; open play field; "Serenity Rock Garden"; children's playground, and tot-lot playground.



**Parks and Recreation Facilities in Menlo Park (2013) — Continued**

Name	Location	Size	Description
<b>Parks</b>			
Sharon Hills Park	Altschul Avenue & Valparaiso Avenue	12.5 acres	Walking paths and benches.
Sharon Park	Sharon Park Drive & Monte Rosa Drive	9.83 acres	A small lake with fountain; gazebo; walking path with benches; shaded picnic area; grass areas; natural wooded area; and tot-lot playground.
Stanford Hills Park	Sand Hill Road & Branner Drive	3.11 acres	Benches, walkways, picnic tables, and a large grass area.
Tinker Park	Santa Cruz Avenue & Olive Street	0.54 acres	Tot-lot playground and picnic area.
Willow Oaks Park	Willow Street & Colmen Ave	2.63 acres	Three lighted tennis courts, children's playground, tot-lot playground, public area, off leash dog area, little league field, and large open play field for soccer and other sports.
Hamilton Park	Hamilton Ave	1.2 acres	A play structure, picnic tables, and open grass area.
<b>Total</b>		<b>232 acres</b>	

Source: City of Menlo Park

**Regional Parks and Preserves**

In addition to the City's parks facilities, Menlo Park residents have access to a range of regional parks and open space, including the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Wunderlich County Park, Huddart County Park, and San Francisco Bay Trail also provide recreational opportunities for Menlo Park residents. Flood Park, a 26-acre facility owned by San Mateo County Parks Department, provides a place for picnicking and strolling. The City and the County have discussed transferring it to the City because of the County's budget deficit. However, there are no plans to move forward at this time. Furthermore, the residents of Menlo Park have access to the 373-acre Ravenswood Preserve located largely within Menlo Park and owned and managed by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The southern portion of the preserve offers pedestrian and bicycle access along the shore and levees along the marshland.

**School Facilities**

The City has joint use agreements with La Entrada, Oak Knoll, Belle Haven, Hillview, and Willow Oaks Schools for use of fields after school hours, as follows:

- (1) **La Entrada:** soccer, basketball, baseball, and tennis courts; playground
- (2) **Oak Knoll:** soccer, basketball and baseball
- (3) **Belle Haven:** basketball and baseball
- (4) **Hillview:** soccer, football, lacrosse, basketball court, track
- (5) **Willow Oaks School:** baseball and soccer

### **Private Facilities**

The Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club is located in the Sharon Heights neighborhood near Sand Hill Road and Interstate 280. A portion of the Stanford University Golf Course is located within the City of Menlo Park and its Sphere of Influence along Sand Hill Road and Alpine Road. In addition, a few private, fee-based facilities are available in Menlo Park, such as small yoga and dance studios.

## **C Historic Resources**

The City of Menlo Park was originally the home of Ohlone Indians. The Ohlone lived off the land and due to the abundance of food they did not practice agriculture. Evidences of their civilization are still being unearthed on the Filoli estate in Woodside, and along San Francisquito Creek.

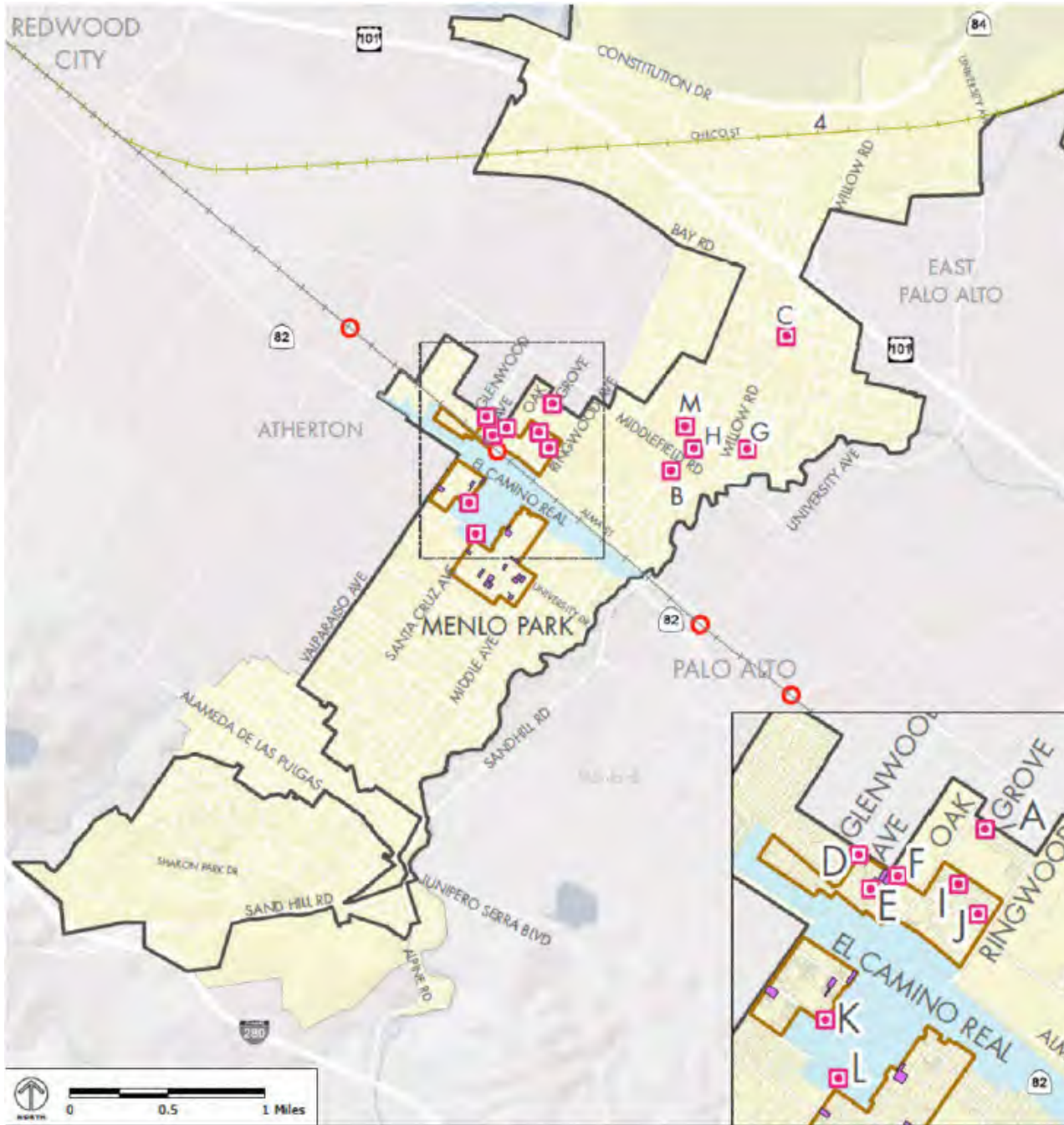
In 1769 Spanish rule was introduced to the area when the exploration party led by Don Gaspar de Portola camped near "El Palo Alto" after their momentous discovery of San Francisco Bay. The colonizing of the Peninsula began after the expedition of Juan Bautista DeAnza passed through Menlo Park on its way to establishing Mission Dolores and the Presidio of San Francisco in 1776. The mission padres, explorers, military personnel, travelers and settlers occupied certain areas, developing and populating the land.

In 1854 Dennis J. Oliver and Daniel McGlynn purchased 1,700 acres from the Don Jose Dario Arguello family that had legally obtained the title to the land in 1853. Around this time Menlo Park received its official name when Oliver and McGlynn erected an arch with the words "Menlo Park" on it to honor their former home in Menlough, County Galway, Ireland. In 1863, the Southern Pacific Railroad was extended to the community of Menlo Park. During this same period, the downtown area of Menlo Park began to develop along Oak Grove Avenue between the railroad station and El Camino Real. By 1870, twelve buildings situated between the railroad station and El Camino Real in the vicinity of Oak Grove Avenue were constructed, consisting of two general stores, three hotels, livery stables, saloons, and three blacksmith shops. The first store in Menlo Park was on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and El Camino Real.

On March 23, 1874, Menlo Park became the second incorporated city in San Mateo County, although only for a short time. The purpose was to provide a quick way to raise money for road repairs. This incorporation, including Fair Oaks (later Atherton) and Ravenswood (later East Palo Alto), lasted only until 1876. Churches were founded, schools were opened and businesses were established. Menlo Park's population increased slowly until World War I. In 1917, 27,000 soldiers were stationed at Camp Fremont in Menlo Park. Menlo Park's first gas and water services, its first paved streets, and an increase in businesses were a direct result of the transient military population.

The original Dumbarton Bridge opened in 1927, connecting the South Bay and East Bay. In 1931, the Bayshore Highway (now Highway 101) linked Menlo Park and San Francisco. In 1940, Menlo Park's population was 3,258. World War II brought about many changes in the small town. Between 1943 and 1946 another military installation, Dibble General Hospital, was built on the old Timothy Hopkins estate to care for the thousands of soldiers injured in the South Pacific in World War II. Following World War II, in the 1950s, the hospital campus became the site of the Menlo Park Civic Center, Stanford Research Institute (today's SRI International), and the United States Geological Survey. Today Menlo Park is a suburban residential community with a variety of businesses, including high-tech industries.

The map on the next page identifies historic resources near the downtown. *Additional information on historic resources is available in the Environmental Assessment.*



Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2013; ESRI 2010; FHA 200

- Historic Resources
- CalTrain Stations
- Infill Areas around Downtown
- City Limits
- Sphere of Influence
- El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan

### Existing Historic Resources Near Downtown Menlo Park

## **D** Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Menlo Park experiences a coastal Mediterranean climate, which consists of long dry, relatively cool summers and wet, mild winters. The City receives approximately 15.5 inches of rain annually, primarily experienced from the five-month stretch between November and April.

The climate is dominated by the strength and location of a semi-permanent, subtropical high-pressure cell. During the summer, the Pacific high-pressure cell is centered over the northeastern Pacific Ocean, resulting in stable meteorological conditions and a steady northwesterly wind flow. Upwelling of cold ocean water from below the surface because of the northwesterly flow produces a band of cold water off the California coast. The cool and moisture-laden air approaching the coast from the Pacific Ocean is further cooled by the presence of the cold-water band, resulting in condensation and the presence of fog and stratus clouds along the Northern California coast. In the winter, the Pacific high-pressure cell weakens and shifts southward, resulting in wind flow offshore, the absence of upwelling, and the occurrence of storms. Weak inversions coupled with moderate winds result in a low air pollution potential.

### **Air Quality**

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) is the regional air quality agency for the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin (SFBAAB), which comprises all of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties; the southern portion of Sonoma County; and the southwestern portion of Solano County. Air quality in this area is determined by such natural factors as topography, meteorology, and climate, in addition to the presence of existing air pollution sources and ambient conditions.

Ambient air quality standards (AAQS) have been adopted at State and Federal levels for criteria air pollutants. In addition, both the State and Federal government regulate the release of toxic air contaminants (TACs). Jurisdictions in the Bay Area are also subject to the regulations imposed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Existing levels of ambient air quality and historical trends and projections in the vicinity of Menlo Park show occasional violations of both the State and Federal Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) standards and the Federal Fine Particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) standard. The State and Federal

Course Particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) standards have not been exceeded in the last five years in the vicinity of Menlo Park.

### **Sensitive Receptors**

Some land uses are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others due to the types of population groups or activities involved. Sensitive population groups include children, the elderly, the acutely ill, and the chronically ill, especially those with cardio-respiratory diseases. Residential areas are also considered sensitive receptors to air pollution because residents (including children and the elderly) tend to be at home for extended periods of time, resulting in sustained exposure to any pollutants present. Other sensitive receptors include retirement facilities, hospitals, and schools.

Recreational land uses are considered moderately sensitive to air pollution. Although exposure periods are generally short, exercise places a high demand on respiratory functions, which can be impaired by air pollution. In addition, noticeable air pollution can detract from the enjoyment of recreation. Industrial, commercial, retail, and office areas are considered the least sensitive to air pollution. Exposure periods are relatively short and intermittent, as the majority of the workers tend to stay indoors most of the time. In addition, the working population is generally the healthiest segment of the public.

### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Scientists have concluded that human activities are contributing to global climate change by adding large amounts of heat-trapping gases, known as GHG, to the atmosphere. The primary source of these GHG is fossil fuel use. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified four major GHG—water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)—that are the likely cause of an increase in global average temperatures observed within the 20th and 21st centuries. Other GHG identified by the IPCC that contribute to global warming to a lesser extent include nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and chlorofluorocarbons. The major GHG are briefly described below.

- (1) **Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)** enters the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal), solid waste, trees and wood products, and respiration, and also as a result of other chemical reactions (e.g. manufacture of cement). Carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere (sequestered) when it is absorbed by plants as part of the biological carbon cycle.
- (2) **Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)** is emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices and from the decay of organic waste in municipal landfills and water treatment facilities.

- (3) **Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)** is emitted during agricultural and industrial activities as well as during combustion of fossil fuels and solid waste.
- (4) **Fluorinated gases** are synthetic, strong GHGs that are emitted from a variety of industrial processes. Fluorinated gases are sometimes used as substitutes for ozone-depleting substances. These gases are typically emitted in smaller quantities, but because they are potent GHGs, they are sometimes referred to as High global warming potential gases.
- (5) **Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)** are GHGs covered under the 1987 Montreal Protocol and used for refrigeration, air conditioning, packaging, insulation, solvents, or aerosol propellants. Since they are not destroyed in the lower atmosphere (troposphere, stratosphere), CFCs drift into the upper atmosphere where, given suitable conditions, they break down ozone. These gases are also ozone-depleting gases and are therefore being replaced by other compounds that are GHGs covered under the Kyoto Protocol.
- (6) **Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)** are a group of human-made chemicals composed of carbon and fluorine only. These chemicals (predominantly perfluoromethane [CF<sub>4</sub>] and perfluoroethane [C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>]) were introduced as alternatives, along with HFCs, to the ozone-depleting substances. In addition, PFCs are emitted as by-products of industrial processes and are also used in manufacturing. PFCs do not harm the stratospheric ozone layer, but they have a high global warming potential.

### **City Actions to Promote Sustainability**

The City maintains several environmental programs under the City's Public Works Department. The City's environmental programs promote sustainable environmental practices and policies Citywide and within City-owned facilities and open space areas. The City adopted a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2020 to reduce municipal and community GHG emissions.

The City's Public Works Department is also responsible for developing a more functional and efficient roadway network for the effective movement of people and goods. The division promotes the use of public transit, ride sharing, bicycles, and walking as commuting alternatives to single-occupant automobiles. The City operates a trip reduction program and was the first City on the Peninsula to establish a shuttle program.

The City also manages two Caltrain shuttle bus routes, the Willow and Marsh shuttles, which operate during the AM and PM peak hours taking passengers from Caltrain to their workplaces, schools, shopping, or appointments. In addition, the City manages a Midday shuttle service, a community service route open to the general public but focusing on the senior community. For residents who do not live within an easy walking distance of a SamTrans stop or the Midday shuttle service stop, Menlo Park offers a

twice weekly shopper's shuttle service that picks up passengers at their homes and provides rides to specific shopping areas.

### **City of Menlo Park Climate Change Action Plan (CAP)**

The City of Menlo Park has prepared and updated its community-wide GHG emissions inventory several times since the release of the City's 2005 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis, which was prepared by the City with assistance from ICLEI in 2007. In 2020, the City adopted an updated Climate Action Plan (CAP): 2030 Climate Action Plan. This plan includes GHG emissions inventories and strategies to reduce GHG emissions within the City.

## **E Water Quality**

The City is located within the 50-square mile San Francisquito Creek watershed, which includes portions of both Santa Clara County and San Mateo County. The uppermost elevations of the watershed are west of Highway 35 (locally known as Skyline Boulevard), and its lowest points are in East Palo Alto where San Francisquito Creek empties into the San Francisco Bay. The southernmost edge of the watershed is in the Los Trancos Regional Preserve near Palo Alto, and its northern most edge is Sweeny Ridge in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Water flows west to east through natural creeks and streams and channelized waterways. In the undeveloped marshes, water flows through Flood Slough and Ravenswood Slough. In the urbanized portion of Menlo Park, the main creek system is San Francisquito Creek. In general, the creek flows in a northeasterly direction, flows through Menlo Park largely in its natural alignment, and it forms the southern boundary of the City limits. Riparian vegetation around the creek spans a 25- to 75-meter-wide space, depending on adjacent land use and topography, consisting primarily of willow, bay laurels, redwoods, alders, cottonwoods, dogwoods, valley oaks, and coast live oaks.

### **Groundwater Aquifers**

The City is situated above the Santa Clara Valley groundwater basin and San Mateo sub-basin. The San Mateo sub-basin is bounded by the Santa Cruz Mountains to the west, the Bay to the east, San Francisquito Creek to the south, and the Westside basin to the north. A relatively shallow water table aquifer overlies confined and semi-confined aquifers near the margins of the Bay, with most wells constructed to draw from the deeper portions. Recharge of the groundwater occurs through infiltration into streambeds and through percolation of rain on the valley floor. Well data from the California Department of Water Resources indicate that groundwater recharge in the City increases from the hilly west to the flatter eastern portions of the City, and decreases with increasing depth.



## Water Quality

Menlo Park is within the San Francisquito Creek Watershed. More specifically, runoff from development within Menlo Park will eventually discharge to San Francisquito Creek, which ultimately discharges into South San Francisco Bay.

### **Beneficial Uses of Water Bodies in Menlo Park**

The beneficial uses of the surface water bodies in Menlo Park have been designated in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Region (Basin Plan). These potential and beneficial uses include:

#### *Designated Beneficial Uses of Surface Water in Menlo Park*

**South San Francisco Bay:** Commercial and sport fishing; Estuarine habitat; Industrial service supply; Fish migration; Navigation; Preservation of rare and endangered species; Water contact recreation; Non-contact water recreation; Shellfish harvesting; Fish spawning; and Wildlife habitat.

**San Francisquito Creek:** Cold freshwater habitat; Fish migration; Water contact recreation; Non-contact water recreation; Fish spawning; and Wildlife habitat.

#### *Designated Beneficial Uses of Groundwater in Menlo Park*

**Santa Clara Valley (San Mateo Sub-Basin):** Municipal and domestic water supply; Industrial process water supply; Industrial service water supply; and Agricultural water supply (potential).

### Impaired Water Bodies in Menlo Park

In accordance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, the State must present USEPA with a list of impaired water bodies that do not meet water quality standards. Listed impaired water bodies within Menlo Park are shown in the table below.

**List of Impaired Water Bodies in Menlo Park**

Pollutant	Potential Source	Status of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
<b>San Francisquito Creek</b>		
Diazinon	Urban runoff/storm sewers	Approved (2007)
Sedimentation/siltation	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
Trash	Illegal dumping; urban runoff/storm sewers	Planned (2021)
<b>South San Francisco Bay</b>		
Chlordane	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
DDT	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
Dieldrin	Nonpoint source	Planned (2013)
Dioxin compounds	Atmospheric deposition	Planned (2019)
Invasive species	Ballast water	Planned (2019)
Furan compounds	Atmospheric deposition	Planned (2019)
Mercury	Industrial and municipal point sources; resource extraction; atmospheric deposition; natural sources; nonpoint sources	Approved (2008)
PCBs	Unknown nonpoint sources	Approved (2010)
Selenium	Domestic use of groundwater	Planned (2019)

Source: State Water Resources Control Board. 2010 Integrated Report, Clean Water Act, Section 303(d) List, January 13, 2013; City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update, General Plan Consistency Update and Zoning Ordinance Amendments Environmental Assessment prepared April 2, 2013

Once a water body has been placed on the 303(d) list of impaired waters, states are required to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to address each pollutant causing impairment. A TMDL defines how much of a pollutant a water body can tolerate and still meet water quality standards. TMDLs have been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for diazinon in San Francisquito Creek and mercury and PCBs in South San Francisco Bay.

The Basin Plan also contains water quality criteria for groundwater. Menlo Park is within the San Mateo Plain Sub-basin of the Santa Clara Valley Groundwater Basin. Groundwater in this sub-basin is generally characterized as calcium magnesium calcium carbonate water and the mineral content is very “hard,” averaging 471 mg/l of calcium carbonate. Some wells have reported concentrations of nitrate-nitrogen that exceed USEPA maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).

Groundwater contamination can result from releases of hazardous materials from underground storage tanks or historical industrial activities. There are about 20 Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) or Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) hazardous waste cleanup sites within Menlo Park. If groundwater de-watering activities are required as part of the construction efforts, a more detailed assessment of the potential for contaminated groundwater to be present is warranted.

## Section VI

# Noise Background

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## **A** Background on Sound and Sound Measurement



The Noise Element is most closely associated with the Land Use and Circulation Elements of the Menlo Park General Plan. Specific concerns are addressed in this Element and in the Land Use and Circulation Element. Issues are: (1) establishment of noise compatible land uses; (2) regulation of new development to limit noise impacts on noise-sensitive

uses; (3) minimization of traffic noise; (4) enforcement of noise standards to protect the existing quality of life; and (5) insulation of residences exposed to excessive levels of noise.

### **Characteristics of Sound**

Noise is most often defined as unwanted sound. Whether a sound is unwanted depends on when and where it occurs, what the listener is doing when it occurs, characteristics of the sound (loudness, pitch and duration, speech or music content, irregularity) and how intrusive it is above background sound levels. Although sound can be easily measured, the perception of noise and the physical response to sound complicate the analysis of its impact on people. People judge the relative magnitude of sound sensation in subjective terms such as “noisiness” or “loudness.”

Sound is the result of the vibration of an object, which is transmitted through the air in waves that in turn vibrate the eardrum. Sound can be described in terms of amplitude (loudness), frequency (pitch), or duration (time), and is measured in a logarithmic scale using units called decibels (dB). Since the human ear is not equally sensitive to sound at all frequencies, a special A-weighted filter decibel measurement (dBA) is used to simulate human hearing.

Another measure of sound is called the Day-Night Weighted Average (Ldn), which is the average dBA sound level during a 24-hour day. Sound levels during the night are weighted over those during daylight hours, by adding 10 dB to actual sound levels during the period from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. to recognize the increased annoyance factor related to noise at night.

### Noise Levels

The outdoor noise environment throughout the United States varies considerably. Outdoor Day-Night Average (Ldn) sound levels can be as low as 30 to 40 dBA (Ldn) in wilderness areas and as high as 85-90 dBA (Ldn) in noisy industrial urban areas. In Menlo Park, Ldn levels in residential areas are as low as 45 dBA (Ldn) in areas shielded from major roads and as high as 65-75 dBA (Ldn) along highways and major roads.

#### Typical Noise Levels

Common Outdoor Sound Levels	Noise Level Db (A)	Common Indoor Sound Levels
Commercial Airliner Takeoff at 1,000 feet	110	Rock Band
	100	Ambulance Siren at 100 feet
Gas Lawn Mower at 3 feet	90	Food Blender at 3 feet
Diesel Truck at 50 feet	80	Garbage Disposal at 3 feet
Noisy Urban Daytime		Shouting at 3 feet
	70	
Commercial Area	60	Vacuum Cleaner at 10 feet
		Normal Speech at 3 feet
Quiet Urban Daytime	50	Large Business Office
		Dishwasher Next Room
Quiet Urban Nighttime	40	Small Theatre
Quiet Suburban Nighttime		Large Conference Room
	30	
Quiet Rural Nighttime	20	Bedroom at Night
Rustling Leaves		Broadcast & Recording Studio
	10	Soft Whisper
	0	Threshold of Hearing

Construction operations generally include a wide range of activities that can generate groundborne vibration. In general, blasting and demolition of structures generate the highest vibrations. Vibratory compactors or rollers, pile drivers, and pavement breakers can generate perceptible amounts of vibration at up to 200 feet. Heavy trucks can also generate groundborne vibrations, which can vary, depending on vehicle type, weight, and pavement conditions. Potholes, pavement joints, discontinuities, differential settlement of pavement, etc., all increase the vibration levels from vehicles passing over

a road surface. Construction vibration is normally of greater concern than vibration from normal traffic flows on streets and freeways with smooth pavement conditions. Trains generate substantial quantities of vibration due to their engines, steel wheels, heavy loads, and wheel-rail interactions. The table below shows various construction equipment noise emission levels.

### Construction Equipment Noise Emission Levels

Construction Equipment	Typical Noise Level (dBA) at 50 Feet	Construction Equipment	Typical Noise Level (dBA) at 50 Feet
Air Compressor	81	Pile-Driver (Impact)	101
Backhoe	80	Pile-Driver (Sonic)	96
Ballast Equalizer	82	Pneumatic Tool	85
Ballast Tamper	83	Pump	76
Compactor	82	Rail Saw	90
Concrete Mixer	85	Rock Drill	98
Concrete Pump	71	Roller	74
Concrete Vibrator	76	Saw	76
Crane, Derrick	88	Scarifier	83
Crane, Mobile	83	Scraper	89
Dozer	85	Shovel	82
Generator	81	Spike Driver	77
Grader	85	Tie Cutter	84
Impact Wrench	85	Tie Handler	80
Jack Hammer	88	Tie Inserter	85
Loader	85	Truck	88
Paver	89		

Source: Federal Transit Administration, Transit Noise, and Vibration Impact Assessment, 2006.

### Acceptable Noise Levels and Attitude Surveys About Noise

Acceptable levels of noise vary from land use to land use. Also, in any one location, the noise level will vary over time, from the lowest background or ambient levels to that of passing airplanes or construction equipment. Various techniques have been developed that measure the effects of noise levels over a period of time. It is difficult to specify noise levels that are generally acceptable to everyone. What is annoying to one person may be unnoticed by another. Standards may be based on documented complaint activity in response to noise levels, or based on studies on the ability of people to sleep, talk, or work under various noise conditions. All such studies, however, recognize that individual responses vary considerably. Standards usually address the needs of most of the general population.

Attitude surveys are used to measure annoyance felt in a community for noises intruding into homes or affecting outdoor activity areas. In these surveys, it has been determined that the causes for annoyance include interference with hearing, radio and television reception, sleep and rest, and house vibrations. The Ldn as a measure of noise has been found to provide a valid correlation of noise level and the percentage of people annoyed.

When measuring the percentage of the population highly annoyed, the threshold for ground vehicle noise is about 55 dBA Ldn. At an Ldn of about 60 dBA, approximately 2% of the population is highly annoyed. When the Ldn increases to 70 dBA, the percentage of the population highly annoyed increases to about 12% of the population. There is, therefore, an increase of about 1% per dBA from an Ldn of 60 to 70 dBA. From an Ldn of 70 to 80 dBA, each decibel increases by about 2% the percentage of people highly annoyed.

Unlike linear units such as inches or pounds, decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale. Because of the physical characteristics of noise transmission and perception, the relative loudness of sound does not closely match the actual amounts of sound energy. The table below presents the subjective effect of changes in sound pressure levels.

**Change in Apparent Loudness**

± 3 dB	Threshold of human perceptibility
± 5 dB	Clearly noticeable change in noise level
± 10 dB	Half or twice as loud
± 20 dB	Much quieter or louder

Source: Bies and Hansen 2009.

**Approximate Exterior-to-Interior Noise Reduction Achieved by Structures**

Building Type	Window Condition	Exterior-to-Interior Noise Reduction	Maximum Exterior CNEL Value for 45 dB Interior CNEL Value
All	Open	10 dB	55 dB
Light Frame	Ordinary sash, closed	20 dB	65 dB
Masonry	Single pane, closed	25 dB	70 dB
Masonry	Sound-rated windows, closed	35 dB	80 dB

Source: Federal Highway Administration

Because community receptors are more sensitive to unwanted noise intrusion during the evening and nighttime hours, State law requires that, for planning purposes and to

account for this increased receptiveness of noise, an artificial decibel increment is to be added to quiet-time noise levels to calculate a 24-hour CNEL (Community Noise Equivalent Level) noise metric. CNEL is the average sound level over a 24 hour period, with a penalty of 5 dB added for the evening hours from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and a penalty of 10 dB added for the nighttime hours of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. CNEL It is very similar in nature (and in results) to the Ldn, but with the added penalty for the evening period.

### **Psychological and Physiological Effects of Noise**

Physical damage to human hearing begins at prolonged exposure to noise levels higher than 85 dBA. Exposure to high noise levels affects the entire system; prolonged noise exposure in excess of 75 dBA increases body tensions, thereby affecting blood pressure and functions of the heart and nervous system. Extended periods of noise exposure above 90 dBA results in permanent cell damage, which is the main driver for employee hearing protection regulations in the workplace. For community environments, the ambient or background noise problem is widespread and generally more concentrated in urban areas than in outlying, less-developed areas. Elevated ambient noise levels can result in noise interference (e.g. speech interruption/masking, sleep disturbance, disturbance of concentration) and cause annoyance. Since most people do not routinely work with decibels or A-weighted sound levels, it is often difficult to appreciate what a given sound pressure level (SPL) number means.

### **Noise Sensitive Receptors**

Certain land uses are particularly sensitive to noise and vibration, including residential, school and open space/recreation areas where quiet environments are necessary for enjoyment, public health, and safety. Sensitive land uses within Menlo Park include residences, schools, places of worship and recreational areas. These uses are regarded as sensitive because they are where citizens most frequently engage in activities that are likely to be disturbed by noise, such as reading, studying, sleeping, resting, or otherwise engaging in quiet or passive recreation. Commercial and industrial uses are not considered noise sensitive uses and often themselves generate more noise than they receive from other uses.

## **B Noise Regulation**

To limit population exposure to physically and/or psychologically damaging as well as intrusive noise levels, the Federal government, the State of California, various county governments, and most municipalities in the state have established standards and ordinances to control noise.

### **State of California Building Code**

The State of California's noise insulation standards are codified in the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, *Building Standards Administrative Code*, Part 2, *California Building*



*Code.* These noise standards are applied to new construction in California for the purpose of interior noise compatibility from exterior noise sources. Acoustical studies that accompany building plans must demonstrate that the structure has been designed to limit interior noise in habitable rooms to acceptable noise levels. For new residential buildings, schools, and hospitals, the acceptable interior noise limit is 45 dBA CNEL.

### **State of California Land Use Compatibility Criteria**

The table below is a land use compatibility chart for community noise adopted by the State of California as part of its General Plan Guidelines. It provides cities with a tool to gauge the compatibility of new land uses relative to existing and future noise levels by identifying normally acceptable, conditionally acceptable and clearly unacceptable noise levels for various land uses. A conditionally acceptable designation implies new development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features are incorporated in the design. By comparison, a normally acceptable designation indicates that standard construction can occur with no special noise reduction requirements.

### **Menlo Park Municipal Code (Noise Ordinance)**

Menlo Park addresses noise in various capacities under multiple chapters of its municipal code. Noise is primarily addressed in Chapter 8.06 (Noise); additional chapters making brief mention of minor and/or incidental noise issues and regulations include Chapters 8.07 (Leaf Blowers), 8.12 (Business Operations after Midnight), 8.28 (Parks and Recreation), 9.26 (Poultry and Rabbits), 11.64 (Transportation Systems Management), and 13.18 (Use of Public Rights-of-Way).

Chapter 8.06 (Noise) contains the primary set of statutes through which Menlo Park regulates noise. For all noise measurements pursuant to the noise ordinance, the municipal code specifies standard procedures for conducting noise measurements, with specifications for sound-meter settings and placement. Section 8.06.030 sets maximum noise levels at any residential receiving property to a maximum of 60 dBA during the daytime hours between 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and to 50 dBA during the nighttime hours between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. The ordinance applies an additional 5 dBA penalty to sounds of a particularly annoying nature, such as tones, screeches, whines, and pulses, among others. The ordinance also includes a qualitative standard that prohibits noises that can be reasonably determined to be disturbing to an entire neighborhood or any considerable number of residents.

The Menlo Park noise ordinance also contains a number of qualified exceptions to the limitations stipulated in the ordinance; these include construction, powered equipment, and leaf blowers, deliveries, social gatherings, pavement sweeping, garbage collection, and animals. Additionally, the ordinance contains general exemptions for emergencies and emergency warning devices, sporting and City-permitted events, City and State projects, and the normal operation of typical motor vehicles. Of these, the most notable

exceptions and exemptions for the purposes of this analysis include those for construction, motor vehicles, and deliveries.

Construction activities are exempted from the noise ordinance between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; construction activities are only allowed on Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and only if they are being personally undertaken by property owners performing maintenance or improvements. Despite these allowances for weekend residential maintenance, the ordinance still prohibits the use of any equipment that results in noise levels exceeding 85 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. Construction that is sufficiently quiet so as to be fully compliant with the basic exterior noise limitations set out by the ordinance is generally allowed at any time.

Notwithstanding specialized vehicle equipment or sound amplification systems, noise from the normal operation of motor vehicles (including cars, trucks, busses, trains, and airplanes) is exempted from the provisions of the noise ordinance. Noise from deliveries to food retailers and restaurants are generally excepted from the ordinance, while noise from other commercial and industrial deliveries are generally excepted between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Temporally and geographically specific exceptions for street sweeping and garbage collection are also described in detail by the noise ordinance.

### **Other City Noise Standards**

In addition to Chapter 8.06 (Noise), there are several other chapters in the Menlo Park municipal code that mention noise. In Chapter 8.07 (Leaf Blowers), the municipal code mentions that leaf blowers are a source of loud noise and stipulates that operators of these devices must wear ear protection. In Chapter 8.12 (Business Operations after Midnight), Section 8.12.040 indicates that a permit for late-night business operations may be revoked if noise from the establishment exceeds that foreseen by the permit. Chapter 8.28 (Parks and Recreation) prohibits the creation of obtrusive noise in parks. Section 9.26.080 of Chapter 9.26 (Poultry and Rabbits) prohibits the keeping of animals or fowl that cause unreasonable and disturbing noise for residents. In the goals of Chapter 11.64 (Transportation Systems Management), it is stated that noise reduction through decreased traffic is a goal of the chapter. Finally, in Chapter 13.18 (Use of Public Rights-of-Way), Section 13.18.110 (Regulations) stipulates that all regulations, including those related to noise, apply to the construction, operation, maintenance, and repair of facilities in the public rights-of-way.

## **C Existing and Future Noise Environment**

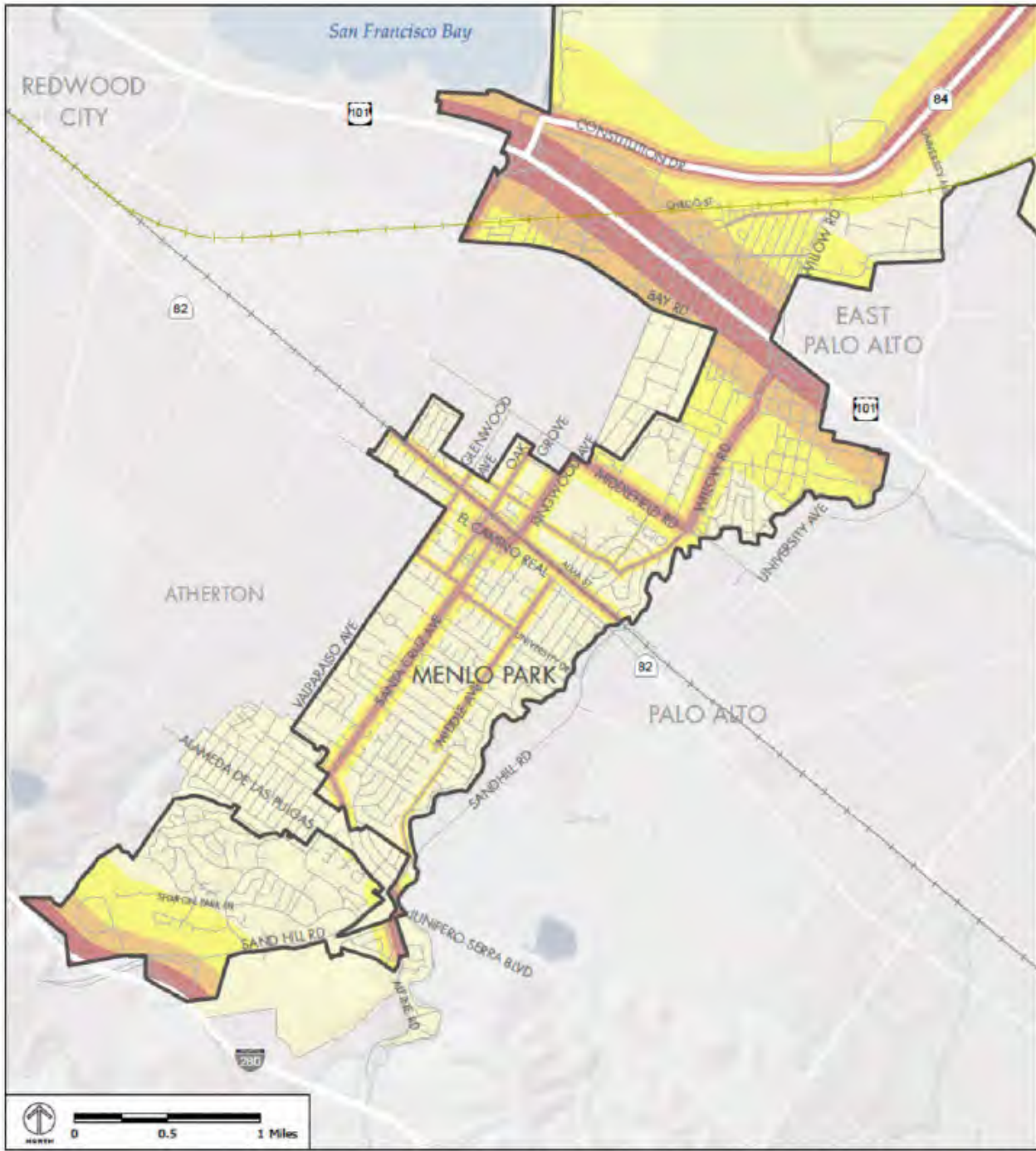
## Roadways

Freeways that run along the City's northeastern and southwestern boundaries are U.S. Highway 101 and Interstate 280, respectively; Highway 84, which becomes the Dumbarton Bridge, also runs east to west across the northern end of the City. In addition to the previously mentioned highways, major roadways running northwest to southeast through Menlo Park include El Camino Real and Middlefield Road. Major northeast to southwest roadways include Willow Road, Ravenswood Avenue, Santa Cruz Avenue, and Sand Hill Road. Together, these highways and streets comprise the major roads in the City of Menlo Park. The table below shows existing and future roadway noise levels. Following the table is a map showing noise contours for the year 2035.

**Existing and Future Noise Levels Along Major Streets in Menlo Park  
CNEL at 100 Feet (dBA)**

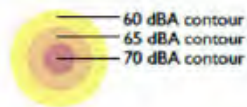
<b>Roadway</b>	<b>Segment</b>	<b>Existing</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Haven Ave	City Limits-Bayfront Expwy/Marsh Rd	62.6	64.5	1.9
Marsh Rd	Bay Rd-Bohannon Dr/Florence St	70.4	72.6	2.2
Marsh Rd	Bohannon Dr/Florence St-Scott Dr	71.2	73.3	2.1
Hamilton Ave	Chilco St-Willow Rd	59.8	62	2.1
Willow Rd	Laurel St-Middlefield Rd	61.1	63.5	2.4
Willow Rd	Middlefield Rd-Gilbert Ave	68.2	70.6	2.4
Willow Rd	Gilbert Ave-Coleman Ave	68.2	70.6	2.4
Willow Rd	Coleman Ave-Durham St/Hospital Ave	68.5	70.8	2.3
Willow Rd	Durham St/Hospital Ave-Bay Rd	69.1	71.2	2.1
Middlefield Rd	Ravenswood Ave-Willow Rd	69.2	70.9	1.7
Laurel St	Glenwood Ave-Oak Grove Ave	59.9	61.6	1.7
Laurel St	Oak Grove Ave-Ravenswood Ave	60.4	61.4	1
Laurel St	Ravenswood Ave-Willow Rd	60.9	62.8	1.9
University Dr	Middle Ave-Menlo Ave	61.5	63.2	1.7
University Dr	Menlo Ave-Santa Cruz Ave	66.4	67.9	1.5
University Dr	Santa Cruz Ave-Oak Grove Ave	62.4	63.6	1.2
University Dr	Oak Grove Ave-Valparaiso Ave	61.3	62.6	1.3
Valparaiso Ave/Glenwood Ave	University Dr-El Camino Real	65.2	66.6	1.4
Valparaiso Ave/Glenwood Ave	El Camino Real-Laurel St	61.7	63	1.3
Oak Grove Ave	University Dr -El Camino Real	64	65	1.1
Oak Grove Ave	El Camino Real-Laurel St	63.8	65.2	1.4
Oak Grove Ave	Laurel St-Middlefield Rd	63.3	64.3	1
Ravenswood Ave	El Camino Real-Alma St	68.9	70.9	2
Ravenswood Ave	Alma St-Laurel St	67	68.8	1.8
Ravenswood Ave	Laurel St-Middlefield Rd	67.6	69.2	1.6
Santa Cruz Ave	Alameda de las Pulgas Ave/Orange Ave	64.7	66.3	1.6
Santa Cruz Ave	Avy Ave/Orange Ave-Olive St	67.1	68.8	1.7
Santa Cruz Ave	Olive St-University Dr	67.4	69	1.6
Santa Cruz Ave	University Dr-Crane St	63.5	65.3	1.8
Santa Cruz Ave	Crane St-El Camino Real	63.1	65.2	2.1
Middle Ave	Olive St-University Dr	63.6	65.1	1.5
Middle Ave	University Dr-El Camino Real	63.8	65.3	1.5
Alpine Rd/Santa Cruz Ave	Junipero Serra Blvd-City Limits	70.6	71.6	1
Alpine Rd/Santa Cruz Avenue	Sand Hill Rd-Junipero Serra Blvd	71.7	72.9	1.1
Linfield Drive	Middlefield Rd - Laurel St	55.9	57.2	1.3
Oak Avenue	Sand Hill Rd - Olive St	58	59.6	1.6
El Camino Real	Oak Grove - Ravenswood	71.2	72.9	1.7
US 101	N/O Marsh Rd	82.3	83.2	1
US 101	S/O Marsh Rd	81.8	82.9	1.1
US 101	S/O Willow Rd	82	83.2	1.2
US 101	S/O University	82	83.2	1.2
SR 84	Marsh Rd - Willow Rd	70.8	73	2.2
SR 84	Willow Rd - University Ave	73.4	75.2	1.8
SR 84	W/O University Ave	74.9	76.4	1.5
I-280	N/O Sand Hill	80	81.4	1.4
I-280	S/O Sand Hill	79.6	81	1.4

Source: Noise Study conducted for the Environmental Assessment (2013)



Source: City of Menlo Park; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2012; ESRI 2010; FHA 2002.

- Dumbarton Rail Corridor
- CalTrain ROW
- City Limits
- Sphere of Influence



### 2035 Noise Contours

### Train Noise

One major and one minor rail line traverse Menlo Park. One rail line, which crosses the northern-most portion of the City from east to west, is a little-used segment of a former

Union Pacific line, which once crossed San Francisco Bay. This railway currently consists of a single track and the rail bridge that served as the connection for this line that is no longer functional; however, this bridge is planned for reconstruction and future use as part of the Dumbarton Rail Project.

The second and more major rail line which crosses Menlo Park is the Caltrain right-of-way, which bisects a portion of Menlo Park along the City's short northwest-southeast axis. The Caltrain tracks run in the area between Camino Real and Alma Road, entering the City at Watkins Avenue and exiting to Palo Alto at San Francisquito Creek. Caltrain runs on a double track throughout its entire length through Menlo Park, and its right-of-way is owned and administered by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board. Menlo Park is served by one Caltrain station along this line, and though there are currently only 65 weekday daily stops at this station (either northbound or southbound), more than 90 trains pass either north or south through Menlo Park on a daily basis during the work week. The sheer number of passings by these diesel-powered commuter trains ensures that the activity along the Caltrain railway contributes significantly to the ambient noise environment of nearby areas of Menlo Park.

### **Heliports**

There are no heliports within Menlo Park; however, Stanford University Hospital does operate one heliport, which is located approximately 0.4-mile to the southeast of the nearest border with Menlo Park.

### **Aircraft Noise**

Menlo Park is located approximately 6 miles to the northwest of Moffet Federal Airfield, 14 miles to the northwest of the San Jose International Airport, 15 miles to the southeast of San Francisco International Airport, and 18 miles to the south of Oakland International Airport. Menlo Park is also located in close proximity to two smaller airports; with portions of Menlo Park as near as 2 miles from the Palo Alto Airport and other areas of Menlo Park as near as approximately 4 miles from the San Carlos Airport. Additional small airports in the vicinity include the Hayward Executive Airport, at 11 miles away, and the Half Moon Bay airport, at 16 miles away. Although Menlo Park does receive some noise from aircraft using these facilities, Menlo Park does not fall within the airport land use planning areas, runway protection zones, or the 55 dBA CNEL noise contours of any of these airports.

### **Stationary Source Noise**

Stationary sources of noise may occur from all types of land uses. Menlo Park is mostly developed with residential, commercial and some light industrial uses. Commercial uses can generate noise from heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) systems, loading docks, trash compactors, and other sources. Industrial uses may generate noise from HVAC systems, loading docks, and machinery required for manufacturing processes.

Noise generated by commercial uses is generally short and intermittent. Industrial uses may generate noise on a more continual basis, or intermittently, depending on the processes and types of machinery involved.

In addition to on-site mechanical equipment, which generates stationary noise, warehousing and industrial land uses generate substantial truck traffic that results in additional sources of noise on local roadways in the vicinity of industrial operations.

The vast majority of Menlo Park's limited industrial operations are located in the far northern reaches of the city, and are usually separated from sensitive uses, such as residences, by either rail lines or by major roads. In both cases, this added distance serves to decrease the noise perceived by these receptors and, in the case of major roads, the noise from the roads was generally observed to exceed that from the industrial uses. Residential areas with the greatest potential to be impacted by noise from industrial operations include those along the previously mentioned Union Pacific rail right-of-way (Dumbarton Rail Corridor) and those along the northern end of Willow Road between Ivy Drive and the Bayfront Expressway.

Outdoor activities that occur on school campuses throughout Menlo Park also generate noticeable levels of noise in the vicinity of the campus. While it is preferable to have schools located within a residential setting to support the neighborhood, noise generated on both the weekdays (from physical education classes and sports programs) and weekends (from use of the fields and stadiums by youth organizations) can elevate community noise levels.

## Section VII

# Safety Background

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The Safety Element is an element required to be included within the General Plan, under California Government Code Section 65302(g). The goal of the Safety Element is to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage, and economic and social disruptions from fires, floods, droughts, earthquakes, landslides, climate change, and other hazards. The Safety Element relates to topics also mandated under land use, conservation, environmental justice, and open space. With climate change and sea level rise presenting potential risks and hazards, the Safety Element also serves to address climate risk, including consideration of vulnerabilities, mitigations, and actions to respond to potential impacts.

The Safety Element provides information and establishes policies to protect against identified hazards. Regarding flooding, the Safety Element includes information on flood hazards and flood hazard zones, flood plain maps, dam inundation areas, levee protection zones, sea level and groundwater rise, and inundation areas, historical flooding, existing or planned development in flood hazard zones, and agencies responsible for flood protection. Regarding fire hazard, the Safety Element includes information on fire hazard severity zone maps and wildfire hazard areas, historical wildfires, location of existing or planned land uses in very high fire hazard severity zones and in state responsibility areas, and agencies responsible for fire protection. With this information, the Safety Element is required to include goals, policies, and programs for protection against unreasonable risk of such hazards, including avoiding development in hazard areas where feasible or minimizing potential damage, maintaining operation of essential public facilities, designing adequate infrastructure, and establishing cooperative relations with agencies responsible for protection against hazards.

The City of Menlo Park adopted the MJLHMP on November 16, 2021. Cities that have an adopted hazard mitigation plan, climate adaptation plan, or substantially equivalent provisions in their general plans may use that information in the Safety Element to comply with requirements for Safety Elements under Government Code Section 65302(g)(4), and shall summarize and incorporate by reference into the Safety Element the other general plan provisions, climate adaptation plan or document.

AB 747 (2019) requires local jurisdictions that have not adopted a LHMP or MJLHMP before January 1, 2022 to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability under a range of emergency scenarios in the Safety Element. AB 1409 (2021) added the requirement to also identify evacuation locations. Menlo Park is part of the San Mateo County MJLHMP which was adopted in 2021, prior to January 1, 2022. Therefore, the information required by AB 747 and AB 1409 do not apply to the



2024 update of the Safety Element. However, this analysis will be required upon the next revision of the MJLHMP.

## Relationship to Other Plans

### Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of Menlo Park planning area was completed as part of the San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP). It was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA's 2011 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The MJLHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short- and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. The Countywide MJLHMP includes two volumes: Volume 1 includes countywide issues and Volume 2 includes "annexes" for each partner jurisdiction, including Menlo Park.

The MJLHMP helps San Mateo County and the City of Menlo Park (as well as other partner jurisdictions) remain eligible for various types of pre- and post-disaster community assistance, such as grants, from FEMA and the State government. The current MJLHMP is available at the City of Menlo Park and linked on the City's website.

The MJLHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. Hazards that are discussed in the MJLHMP include: dam failures, droughts, earthquakes, floods, landslides, sea level rise, severe weather, tsunamis, wildfires, climate change, public health emergencies, terrorism, and hazardous materials. The MJLHMP shall be consulted for actions to ensure the safety of the community from known environmental hazards.

The County's Department of Emergency Management led the MJLHMP update, in coordination with County departments, all twenty San Mateo County cities (including the City of Menlo Park), and regional special districts. The process was informed by a steering committee and robust public engagement.

Outreach for the MJLHMP was conducted by the County Office of Sustainability, focusing on socially vulnerable groups that are typically under-represented in safety

planning. Mitigation themes brought forward by the community included capacity building, infrastructure, eliminating barriers to access, and managing multiple, interrelated hazards. The three hazards identified as the highest risk for Menlo Park were sea level rise, earthquakes, and landslides. Community-recommended ideas for mitigation of sea level rise and earthquake hazards include:

- **Sea Level Rise:** Promoting flood-conscious architecture, completing drainage ditch maintenance, improving evacuation signage
- **Earthquakes:** Safety training, retrofit training, emergency kit distribution

Landslide hazard mitigation measures were not discussed in the outreach summary. The full outreach summary is available in English and Spanish on the County website.<sup>2</sup>

### Climate Action Plan

Menlo Park adopted a resolution declaring a climate emergency in 2019 (Resolution 6535 (Dec. 10, 2019)). The City adopted a 2030 CAP in 2020 and amended it in 2021. The CAP guides the citywide strategy to reach carbon neutrality (i.e., 90% reduction and removal of remaining 10%) by 2030. The document includes goals and implementation actions to electrify municipal, residential, and commercial buildings; increase electric vehicle usage; reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT); and develop a climate adaptation plan to protect the community from the impacts of climate change.

The Safety Element complements the CAP by providing data and contextual information on climate risks in Menlo Park.

The CAP directs the City to develop a climate adaptation plan, stating that “The Safety Element in Menlo Park’s General Plan, which was updated in 2013, will be updated to bring it into compliance with recent changes in General Plan law, including SB 379 (Climate Adaptation and Resiliency.)”<sup>3</sup> The MJLHMP includes a vulnerability assessment, resiliency goals and policies, and implementation actions and is incorporated into this Safety Element by reference. The vulnerability assessment is described under Section G: Climate Adaptation and Resiliency.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.smcgov.org/media/23131/download>

<sup>3</sup> Menlo Park CAP (June 2020), page 9.

## Emergency Operations Plan

The City's Emergency Operations Plan was adopted in 2014 and is being revised to address new and emerging threats impacting the hazards and risks of the city.

The Safety Element supports the Emergency Operations Plan by providing jurisdiction-level context to hazards that may lead to emergencies and disasters. As the Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) and Emergency Operations Plan are adjusting to the emerging threats such as climate change, the Safety Element may need to be reviewed and revised accordingly.

## Sea Level Rise Planning (SB 272)

Senate Bill 272 (2023) requires that a local government, lying in whole or in part within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, develop a sea level rise plan as part of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan on or before January 1, 2034. This shoreline resiliency plan would be subject to approval by BCDC. The City of Menlo Park is within the jurisdiction of BCDC and thus is subject to SB 272. In response to SB 272, the Safety Element includes S1.M, an implementing program for ongoing sea level rise planning, which serves as a guide for the future development of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan.

In order to best address the multijurisdictional aspects of sea level rise planning, Menlo Park will work collaboratively with neighboring cities, San Mateo County, and other regional partners rather than pursue its own plan that may complicate resiliency efforts for others and for the city itself.

## Outreach

Concurrent with the 2023-2031 Housing Element update, the City of Menlo Park conducted a series of outreach efforts that also considered Safety Element topics.

On August 26, 2021, the City held a community meeting to share information about housing equity, environmental justice, and safety issues in Menlo Park and provide an opportunity to receive input from the public. The information provided and feedback received helped form policies for the Housing, Environmental Justice, and Safety Elements. Comments most closely associated with the Safety Element included questions about how more housing would reduce pollution and housing burden in Belle Haven, concerns about air quality and safety in Belle Haven, and statements about the need to protect communities affected by sea level rise.

Between July and September 2021, a survey was conducted to support the updates to the 2023-2031 Housing Element, the Safety Element, and preparation of the City’s first Environmental Justice Element. The intent of the survey was to gain a better understanding of community values and priorities and to create a foundation for future conversations about possible solutions and policy changes. The survey was advertised via a citywide mailer, on virtual platforms, at community meetings, in focus groups, and interviews. The survey was available for completion digitally and in paper format. Below are highlighted findings:

- With regard to concerns about hazards, the top areas of high concern were drought (76% of 684 respondents), wildfire and smoke (68%), air quality (68%), and heatwaves (48%) (see Table S-1).
- In gauging how people thought their neighborhoods have been affected by various hazards, the survey found that respondents considered their neighborhoods to be most highly affected by wildfire and smoke (48%), air quality (43%), and drought conditions (41%). Respondents thought their neighborhoods have not been as affected by flooding (84%), sea level rise (84%), and earthquakes (67%), and listed them as areas of least effect (see Table S-2).

**Table S-1.** Survey Question: How Concerned Are You About Each Hazard?

	High concern	Medium concern	Low concern
Wildfire and smoke	68%	24%	8%
Heatwaves	48%	37%	15%
Drought conditions	76%	19%	6%
Flooding	15%	27%	58%
Earthquakes	29%	47%	23%
Sea level rise	28%	38%	34%
Air quality	68%	25%	6%

Source: City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update: Summary of Community Outreach January 2022. Data is from July to September 2021 Survey.

**Table S-2.** Survey Question: Has your neighborhood been affected by wildfire smoke, heatwaves, drought, flooding and other climate hazards?

	Highly affected	Somewhat affected	Not affected
Wildfire and smoke	48%	43%	10%
Heatwaves	32%	51%	17%
Drought conditions	41%	45%	14%
Flooding	5%	11%	84%
Earthquakes	8%	25%	67%
Sea level rise	5%	11%	84%
Air quality	43%	44%	13%

Source: City of Menlo Park Housing Element Update: Summary of Community Outreach January 2022. Data is from July to September 2021 Survey.

Additional outreach documentation can be found in the appendices to the Environmental Justice Element concerning outreach.

A study session was held on June 20, 2023, to obtain feedback from the community, the City Council, and the Planning Commission on both the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements. Two subsequent study sessions were conducted on June 3, 2024 and June 18, 2024, with the Planning Commission and City Council, respectively.

## **A** Geologic Hazards



### **Seismicity**

Menlo Park, like much of the San Francisco Bay area, is vulnerable to seismic activity due to the presence of several active faults in the region. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act has resulted in the identification of earthquake fault zones, which identify areas around surface traces of active faults and where the potential for surface rupture exists. The closest and most prominent active fault

near the city is the San Andreas Fault System, which is located about 2.5 miles west of Interstate 280 and the western boundary of the city. There are no Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones that have been mapped within Menlo Park and the potential for ground rupture is therefore considered low.

Although, there are no Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones in the city that would likely result in ground rupture, groundshaking from the San Andreas Fault and other major earthquake faults may still be experienced within the city. Other major faults include the Monte Vista Fault (approximately 3 miles to the south), the Butano Fault (approximately 10 miles to the south), the Hayward Fault (approximately 13 miles to the east), and the Calaveras Fault (approximately 19 miles to the east). Although the Hayward Fault is not the closest fault to Menlo Park, it poses the greatest risk to the Bay Area's critical infrastructure and key resources and would have devastating impacts on the region.

Magnitude is the measure of energy release by an earthquake. This measure is expressed as whole numbers and decimals, where each whole number is an order of magnitude greater than the preceding whole number. For example, the California Geologic Survey describes a magnitude 6.0 quake as releasing approximately as much energy as 6,270 tons of the explosive material TNT (trinitrotoluene), a magnitude 7.0 as

199,000 tons, a magnitude 8.0 as 6.27 million tons, and a magnitude 9.0 as 99 million tons. The April 1906 earthquake on the San Andreas Fault, estimated between magnitude (M) 7.7 and M 8.3, was the largest seismic event in recent history that affected Menlo Park. More recently, the M 6.9 Loma Prieta earthquake of October 1989 on the San Andreas Fault caused significant damage throughout the Bay Area, but no deaths were reported in San Mateo County.

The severity of ground shaking depends on several variables such as earthquake magnitude; hypocenter proximity; and local geology including the properties of unconsolidated sediments, groundwater conditions, and topographic setting. In general, ground shaking hazards are most pronounced in areas that are underlain by loosely consolidated soil/sediment.

The USGS estimated that the probability of a magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake prior to 2036 occurring in the Bay Area is 63 percent.<sup>4</sup>

Individually, the forecasted probability for each individual fault to produce an M 6.7 or greater seismic event in the next 30 years is as follows: 31 percent for the Hayward Fault, 21 percent for the San Andreas Fault, 7 percent for the Calaveras Fault, and 6 percent for the San Gregorio Fault. Earthquakes of this magnitude can create ground accelerations severe enough to cause major damage to structures and foundations not designed to resist the forces generated by earthquakes. Underground utility lines are also susceptible where they lack sufficient flexibility to accommodate the seismic ground motion.

In the event of an earthquake of this magnitude, the seismic forecasts presented on the Association of Bay Area Governments' website (developed by a cooperative working group that included the USGS and the California Geological Society (CGS) suggest that most parts of Menlo Park southwest of Highway 101 are expected to experience "strong" shaking, and most areas east of Highway 101 are expected to experience "very strong" shaking, with areas located within 1 mile of the Dumbarton Bridge expected to experience "violent" shaking.<sup>5</sup> Possible groundshaking intensities are shown in Figure S-1Figure S-2. Butano Earthquake Scenario to Figure S-4.

The MJLHMP provides further evaluation of earthquake intensity in Menlo Park. The perceived and observed effect of an earthquake on the surface is known as intensity, and the Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) Scale is the method used to classify earthquake intensity in the United States. The lowest intensity, MMI I categorizes shaking that is not felt except by very few under especially favorable conditions, and the

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<sup>4</sup> "What is the probability that an earthquake will occur in the Los Angeles Area? In the San Francisco Bay area?" (USGS: Last accessed November 18, 2022). Available at <https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-probability-earthquake-will-occur-los-angeles-area-san-francisco-bay-area>

<sup>5</sup> Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), 2012. GIS Viewer, Hazards Maps Earthquake Shaking Scenarios.

highest intensity, MMI X categorizes shaking that is extreme and the level of damage includes destruction of well-built wooden structures and most masonry and frame structures. The MJLHMP finds the city may experience intensities of Mercalli Intensity Scale VI (strong perceived shaking/ potential light damage) to VII (severe perceived shaking/ potential moderate-heavy damage). Intensities may also vary based on the origin and magnitude of the earthquake.

Earthquakes can also produce secondary hazards, such as tsunamis, landslides, and liquefaction. A tsunami is a large tidal wave generated by an earthquake, landslide, or volcanic eruption. Seiches are waves that oscillate in enclosed water bodies, such as reservoirs, lakes, ponds, or semi-enclosed bodies of water such as San Francisco Bay. Seiches may be triggered by moderate or large submarine earthquakes, or sometimes by large onshore earthquakes. The following map of tsunami hazard areas (Figure S-7. Tsunami Hazard Areas) shows that a very small portion of the Menlo Park planning area would be impacted by a seismically-induced sea wave (tsunami). Liquefaction (a phenomenon involving loose, saturated, cohesionless soil that experiences temporary loss of strength during cyclic loading, such as from strong ground shaking during earthquakes) occurs when the soil is oversaturated with water, creating ground instability which can lead to buildings and road foundations to sink. Eastern parts of Menlo Park, particularly those areas underlain by Bay Muds, are judged to have a very high potential for seismically-induced liquefaction.

The performance of human-made structures during a major seismic event varies considerably due to a number of factors, most importantly:

- Location with respect to:
  - Active fault traces
  - Areas prone to liquefaction
  - Seismically-induced landslides;
- Type of building construction (i.e., wood frame, unreinforced masonry, non-ductile concrete frame);
- Building Age; and
- Proximity, magnitude, and intensity of the seismic event itself.

In general, evidence from past earthquakes shows that wood frame structures tend to perform well especially when their foundations are properly designed and anchored.

Older, unreinforced masonry structures, on the other hand, do not perform as well, especially if they have not undergone appropriate seismic retrofitting. Soft story

buildings<sup>6</sup> or multi-story buildings with one or more floors that are “soft” because of structural design, could also be more vulnerable to seismic impacts if they have not been designed to withstand ground shaking and other earthquake-induced impacts. A building is considered to be “soft story” if it has a floor that is 70% less stiff than the floor above it. Soft stories are typically associated with open plan retail spaces and parking garages, and they are often on the lower stories of a building. Soft-story collapse is one of the leading causes of earthquake damage to private residences.<sup>7</sup>

Applicable building code requirements, such as Menlo Park’s seismic hazard identification program (Chapter 12.46) and those found in the California Building Code (CBC), include seismic requirements that are designed to ensure the satisfactory performance of building materials under prescribed seismic conditions. The City updates its building code following each update of the CBC, which occurs on three year intervals.

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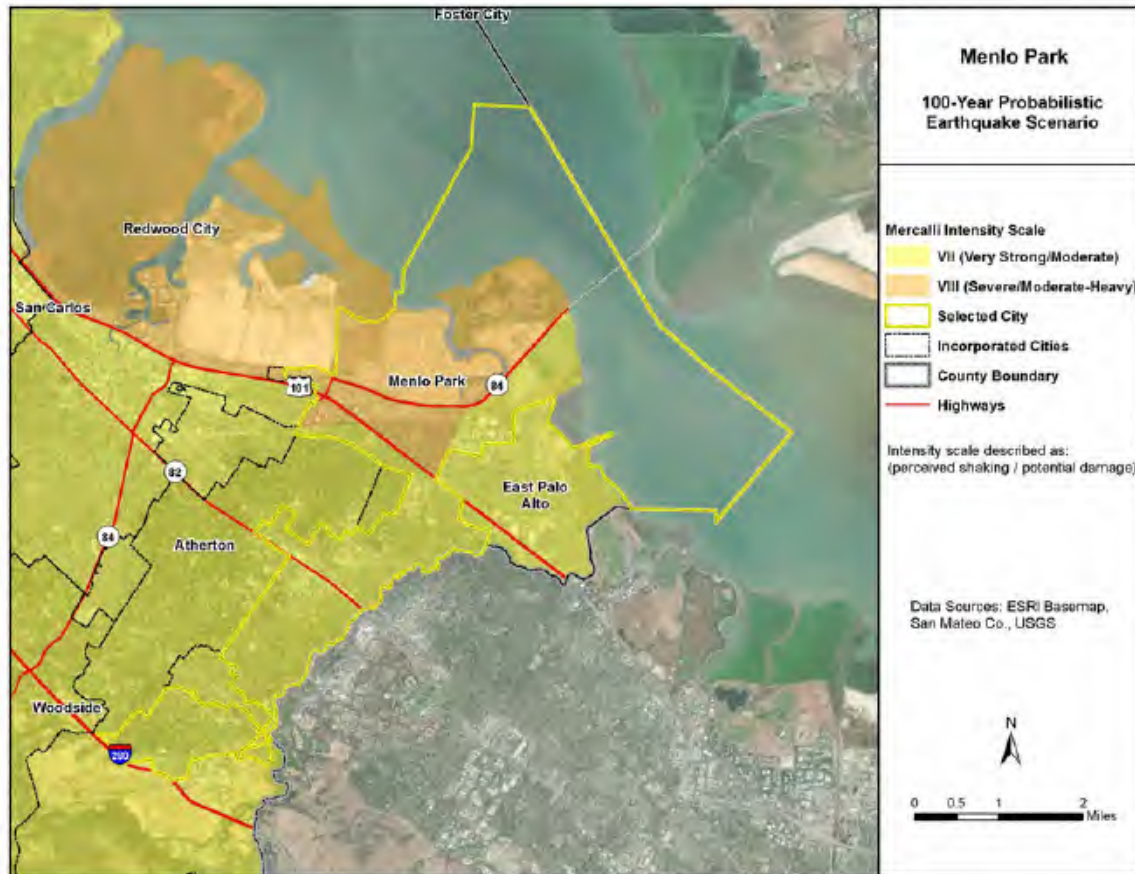
<sup>6</sup> “Soft-story residential buildings are those that have open parking or commercial space on the first floor and housing on higher floors. In an earthquake, ground shaking causes such structures to sway and sometimes to collapse.”; “Soft Story Resources (Policy)” (ABAG), available at <https://abag.ca.gov/soft-story-resources-policy>

<sup>7</sup> County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan



Figure S-1 is a combined map of predicted shaking from all possible earthquakes over the course of 10,000 years. The map shows the ground motion scenario in 100 years, a 1-percent annual chance event. If an earthquake happens, the City of Menlo Park would most likely experience a very strong to severe ground shaking with moderate to moderate-heavy potential damage.

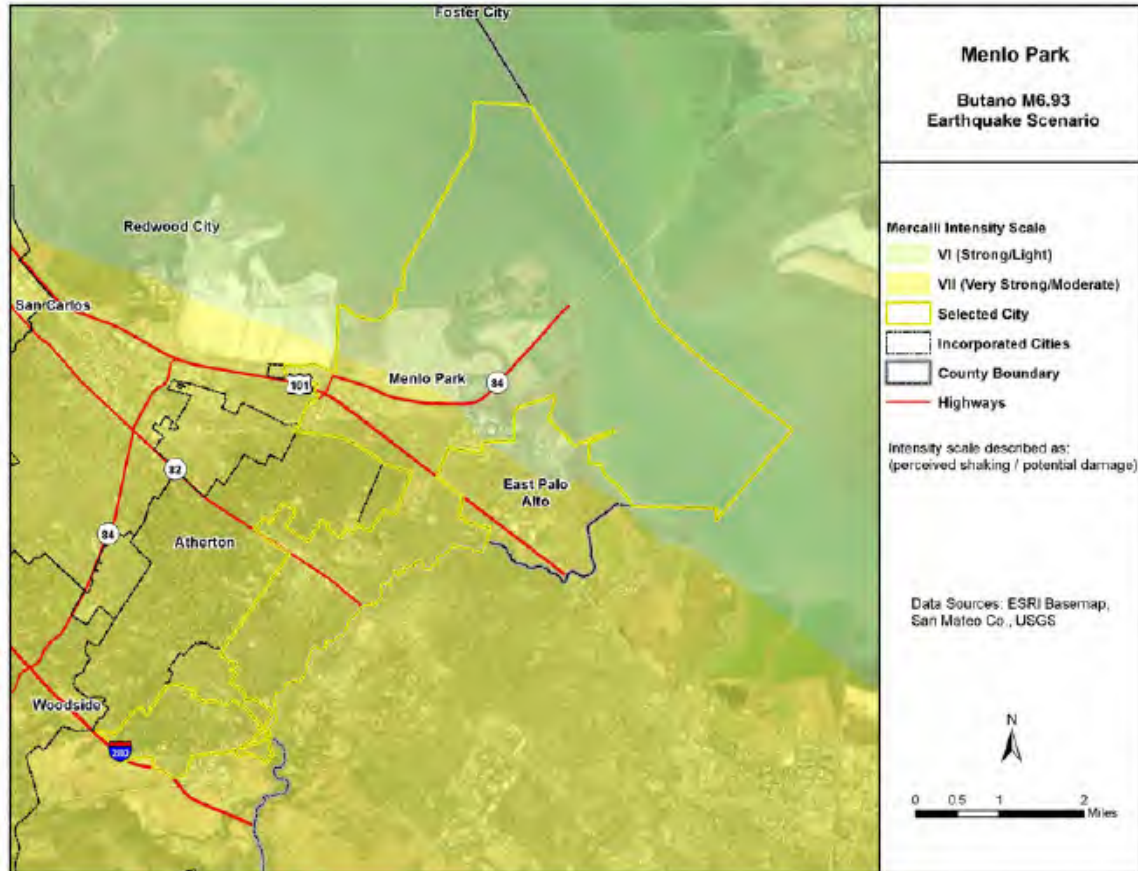
**Figure S-1. 100-year Probabilistic Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-2 uses a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-6.93 event on the Butano Fault with an epicenter 17.5 miles south of Redwood City occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience a very strong ground shaking with moderate potential damage.

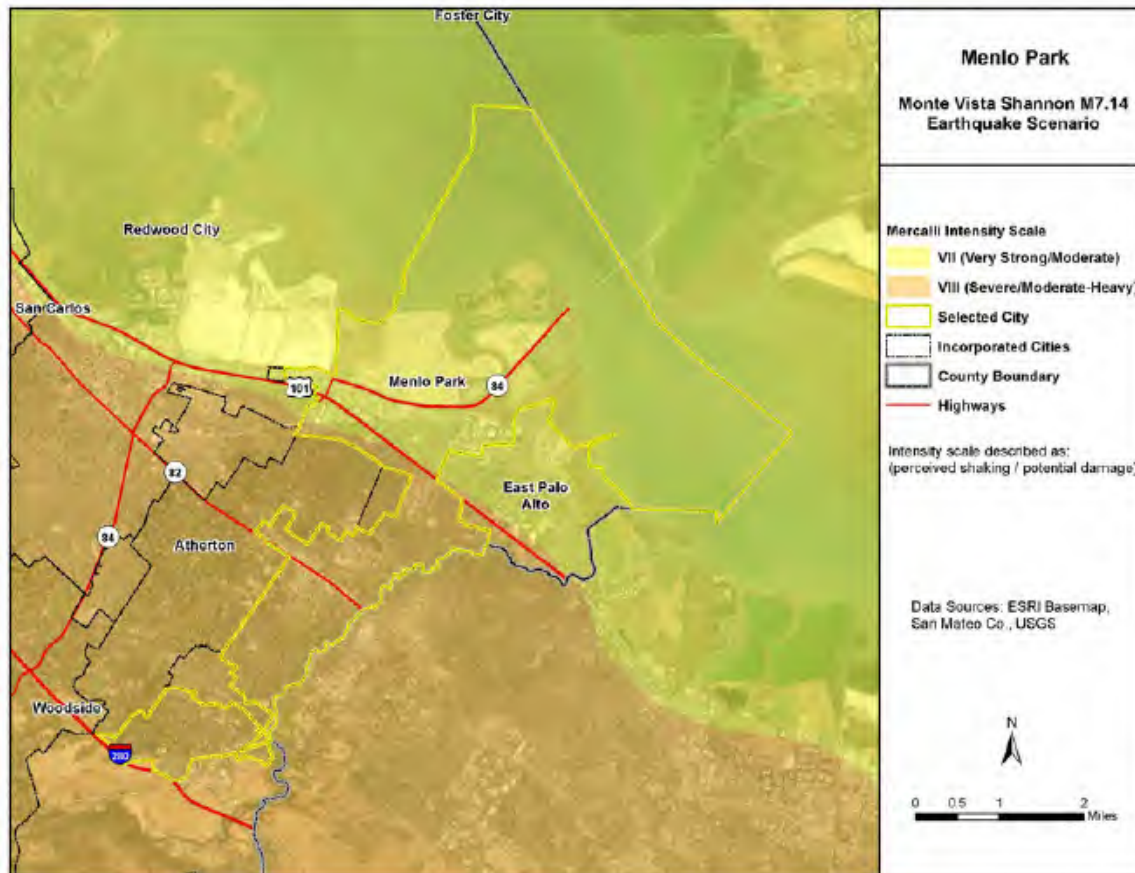
**Figure S-2. Butano Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-3 uses a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-7.14 event on the Monte Vista Shannon Fault with an epicenter 16 miles south-southeast of Redwood City occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience very strong to severe ground shaking with moderate to moderate-heavy potential damage.

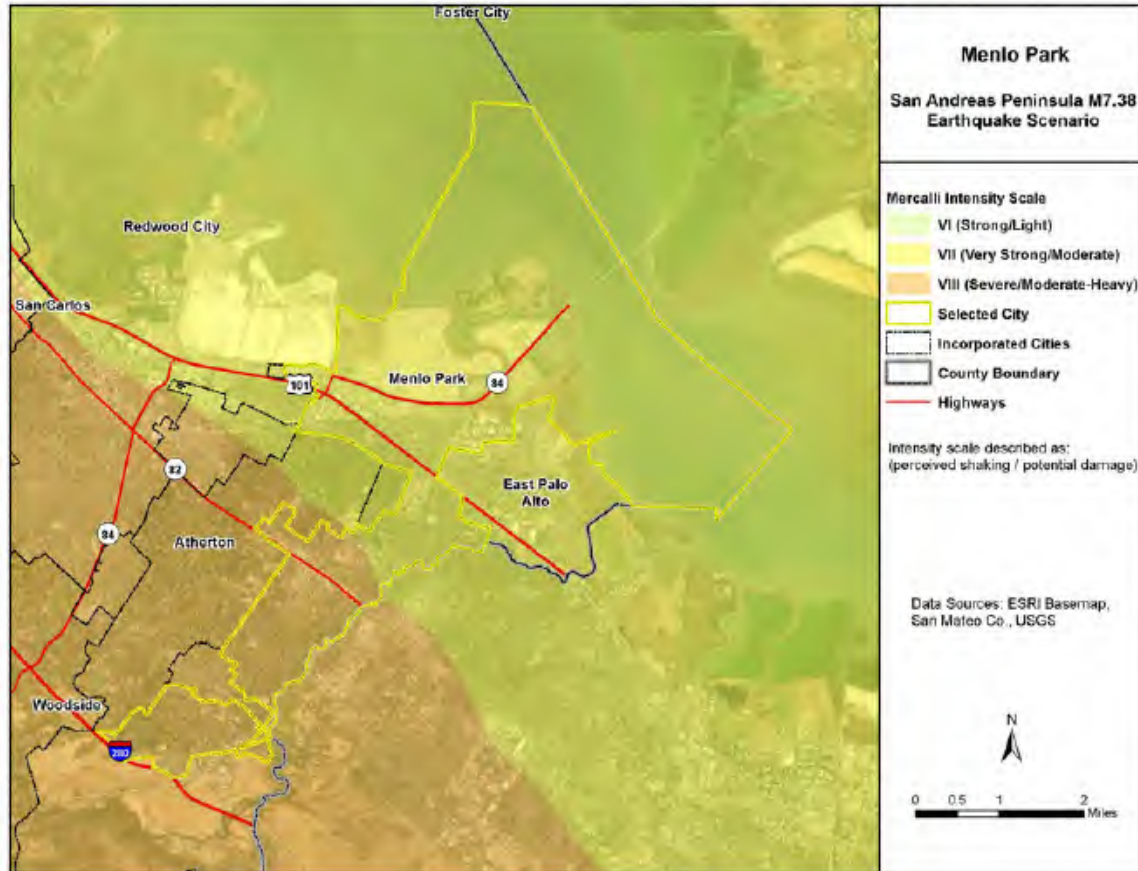
**Figure S-3. Monte Vista Shannon Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-4 indicates a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-7.38 event on the San Andreas Fault with an epicenter 4 miles west of Belmont occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience very strong to severe ground shaking with moderate to moderate-heavy potential damage.

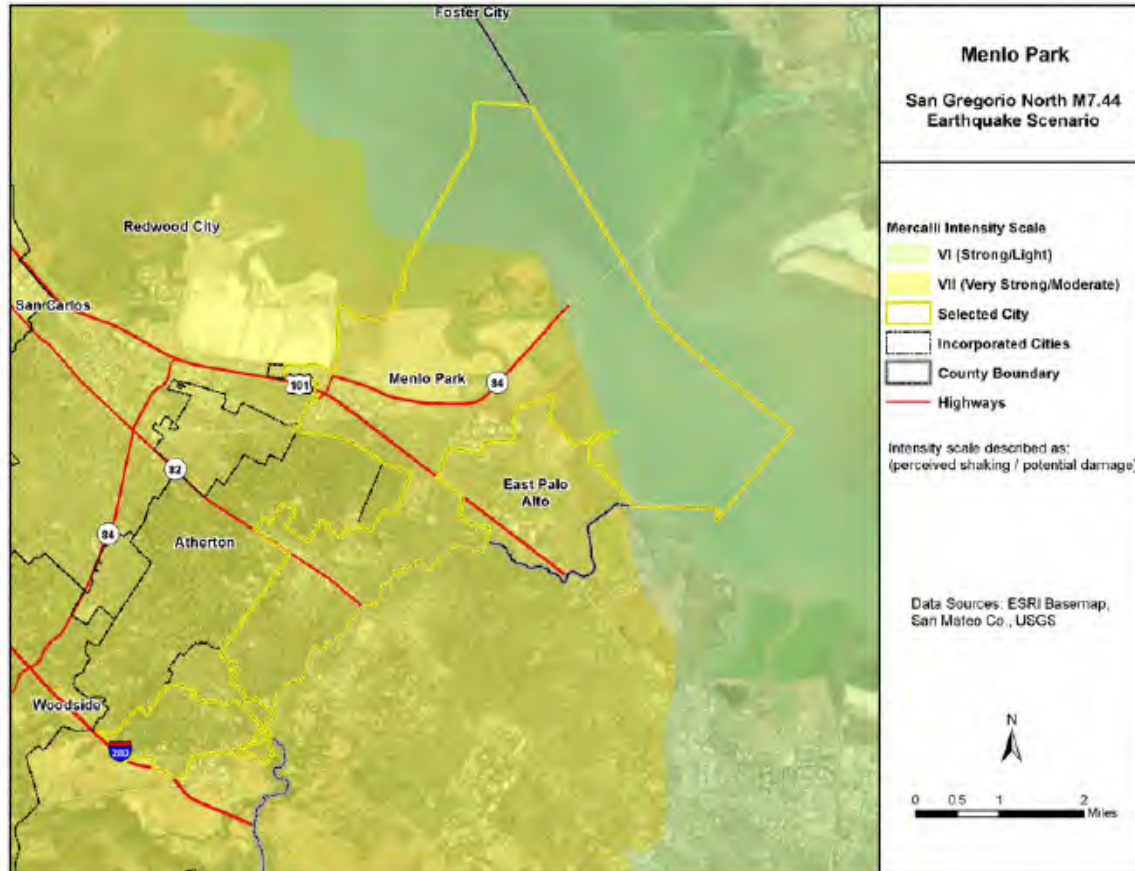
**Figure S-4. San Andreas Peninsula Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-5 indicates a Level 2 analysis to assess earthquake exposure and vulnerability when a magnitude-7.44 event on the San Gregorio Fault with an epicenter 4 miles south of Half Moon Bay occurs. With this scenario, the City would experience very strong ground shaking with moderate potential damage.

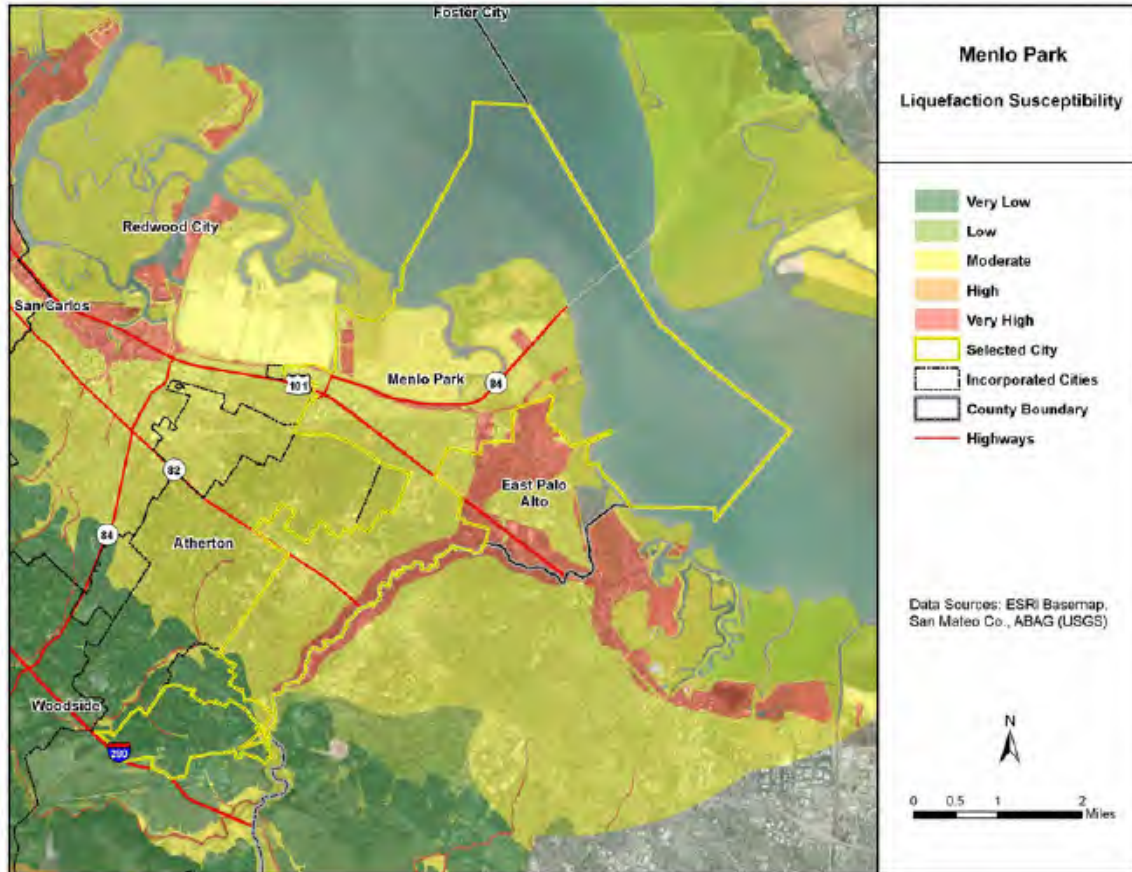
**Figure S-5. San Gregorio North Earthquake Scenario**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) creates maps based on soil characteristics to help identify locations subject to liquefaction. NEHRP soil types define the locations that will be significantly impacted by an earthquake. The areas that are commonly most affected by ground shaking have NEHRP Soils D, E and F. As a result, most of the City would experience a moderate to very high liquefaction susceptibility (see Figure S-6).

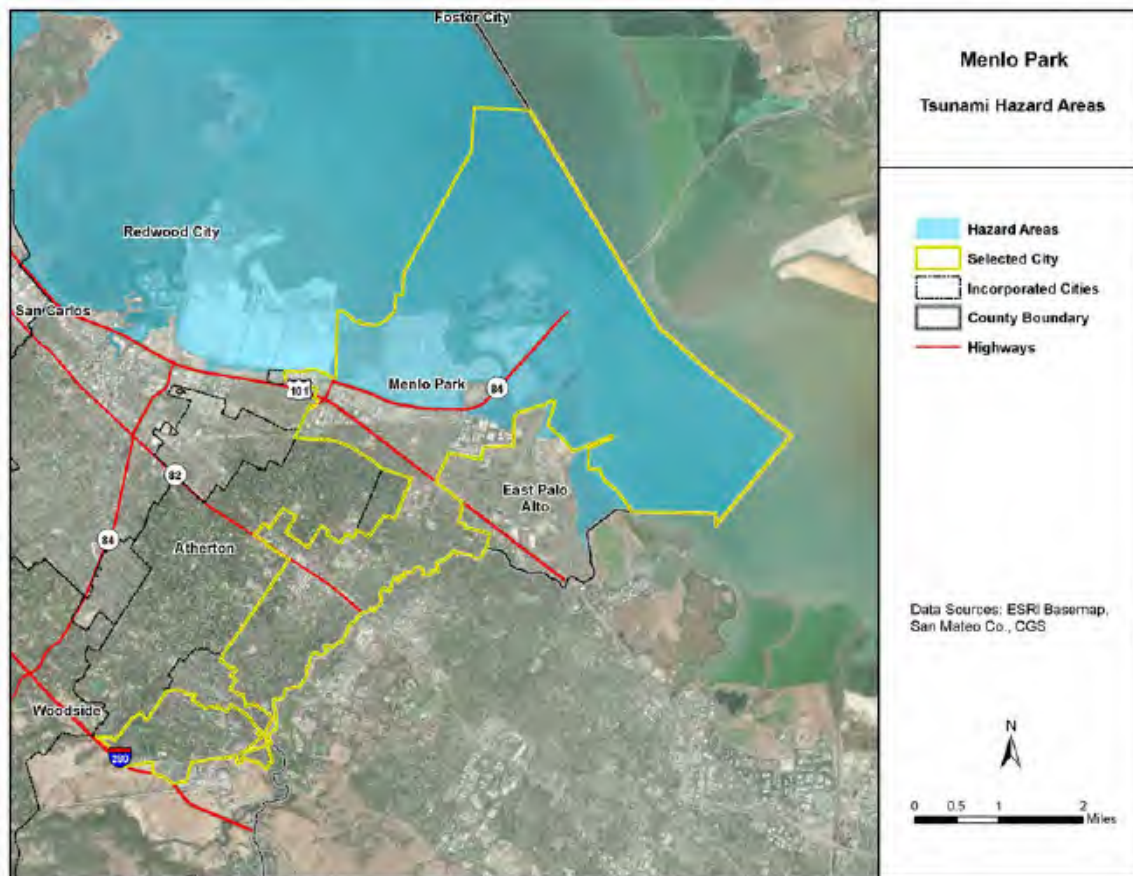
**Figure S-6. Liquefaction Susceptibility**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Recent tsunami modeling uses probabilistic tsunami hazard analysis to compute tsunami waves from sources from around the Pacific Ocean and results in inundation models that are associated with different probabilities of exceedance over time. The California Geological Survey, Seismic Hazards Program, Tsunami Unit selected the 975-year average return period tsunami model, with a 5% probability of exceedance in 50 years, as a basis for the minimum hazard level. As a result, a tsunami would affect the areas near Highway 84 (see Figure S-7).

**Figure S-7. Tsunami Hazard Areas**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

## **Landslides, Erosion and Subsidence**

Landslides are gravity-driven movements of earth materials that may include rock, soil, unconsolidated sediment, or combinations of such materials. The rate of landslide movement can vary considerably. Some move rapidly as in a soil or rock avalanche, while other landslides creep or move slowly for extended periods of time. The susceptibility of a given area to landslides depends on many variables, although the general characteristics that influence landslide hazards are well understood. The factors

that influence the probability of a landslide and its relative level of risk include the following:

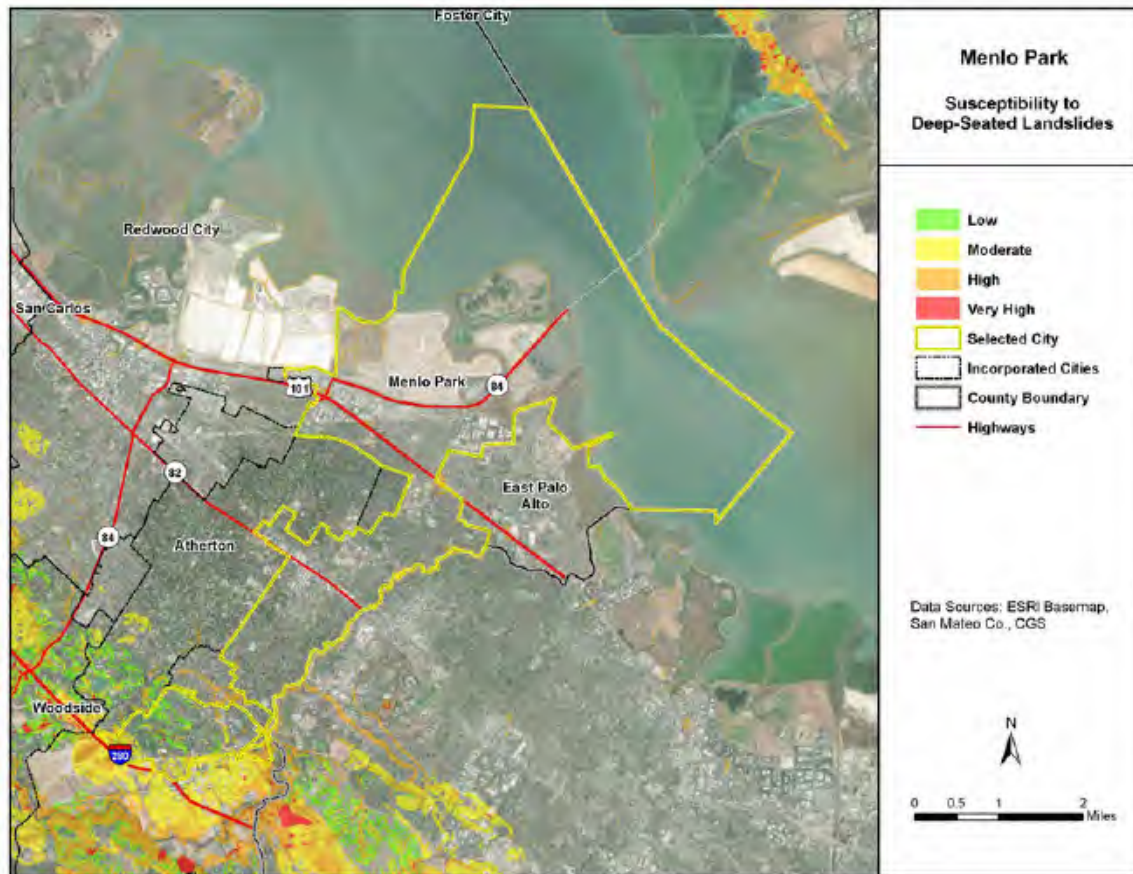
- (1) **Slope Material:** Loose, unconsolidated soils and soft, weak rocks are more hazardous than are firm, consolidated soils or hard bedrock.
- (2) **Slope Steepness:** Most landslides occur on moderate to steep slopes.
- (3) **Structure and Physical Properties of Materials:** This includes the orientation of layering and zones of weakness relative to slope direction.
- (4) **Water Content:** Increased water content increases landslide hazard by decreasing friction and adding weight to the materials on a slope.
- (5) **Vegetation Coverage:** Abundant vegetation with deep roots promote slope stability.
- (6) **Proximity to Areas of Erosion or Human-made Cuts:** Undercutting slopes can greatly increase landslide potential.
- (7) **Earthquake Ground Motions:** Strong seismic ground motions can trigger landslides in marginally stable slopes or loosen slope materials, and also increase the risk of future landslides.

Landslides have the potential to occur within Menlo Park, most notably on some of the hilly slopes that lie west of the Alameda de las Pulgas roadway. In general, landslides are commonly associated with bedrock outcrops of the Franciscan Formation, which frequently form steeper slopes. Shale is the most unstable of the rock types within the Franciscan Formation, whereas sandstone and conglomerate tend to be more stable with a lower landslide risk. Much of the upland areas in Menlo Park are typified by shallow soil that overlies Franciscan bedrock very close to the surface. Landslides are not an issue in parts of the city where the topography is flat.

Figure S-8 and associated data show the relative likelihood of deep-seated landsliding based on regional estimates of rock strength and steepness of slopes. On the most basic level, weak rocks and steep slopes are most likely to generate landslides. The map uses detailed information on the location of past landslides, the location and relative strength of rock units, and steepness of slope to estimate susceptibility to deep-seated landsliding. As a result, the City would experience low to moderate landslides.



**Figure S-8. Susceptibility to Deep-Seated Landslides**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Subsidence hazards are known to be present in the diked baylands due to the highly compressible nature of the underlying fill as well as historical groundwater overdraft. Areas susceptible to earthquake-induced subsidence include those areas underlain by thick layers of colluvial material (loose, unconsolidated sediments) or poorly engineered fill. This fill was reported to have settled historically with hydro-compaction being an element of the settlement as well. Land subsidence occurred within the low-lying areas, mainly along the Bay margins.

Expansive soils can change dramatically in volume depending on moisture content. When wet, these soils can expand; conversely, when dry, they can contract or shrink. Sources of moisture that can trigger this shrink-swell phenomenon include seasonal rainfall, landscape irrigation, utility leakage, and/or perched groundwater. Expansive soil can exhibit wide cracks in the dry season, and changes in soil volume have the potential to damage concrete slabs, foundations, and pavement. Special building/structure design or soil treatment are often needed in areas with expansive soils. Shrink-swell potential ranges from high along the marshlands of San Francisco Bay, to moderate in the center of the City, and to low in the western foothills.

## **B** Hydrology (Flooding and Rise in Sea Level)

### **Flooding and Dam Failure**

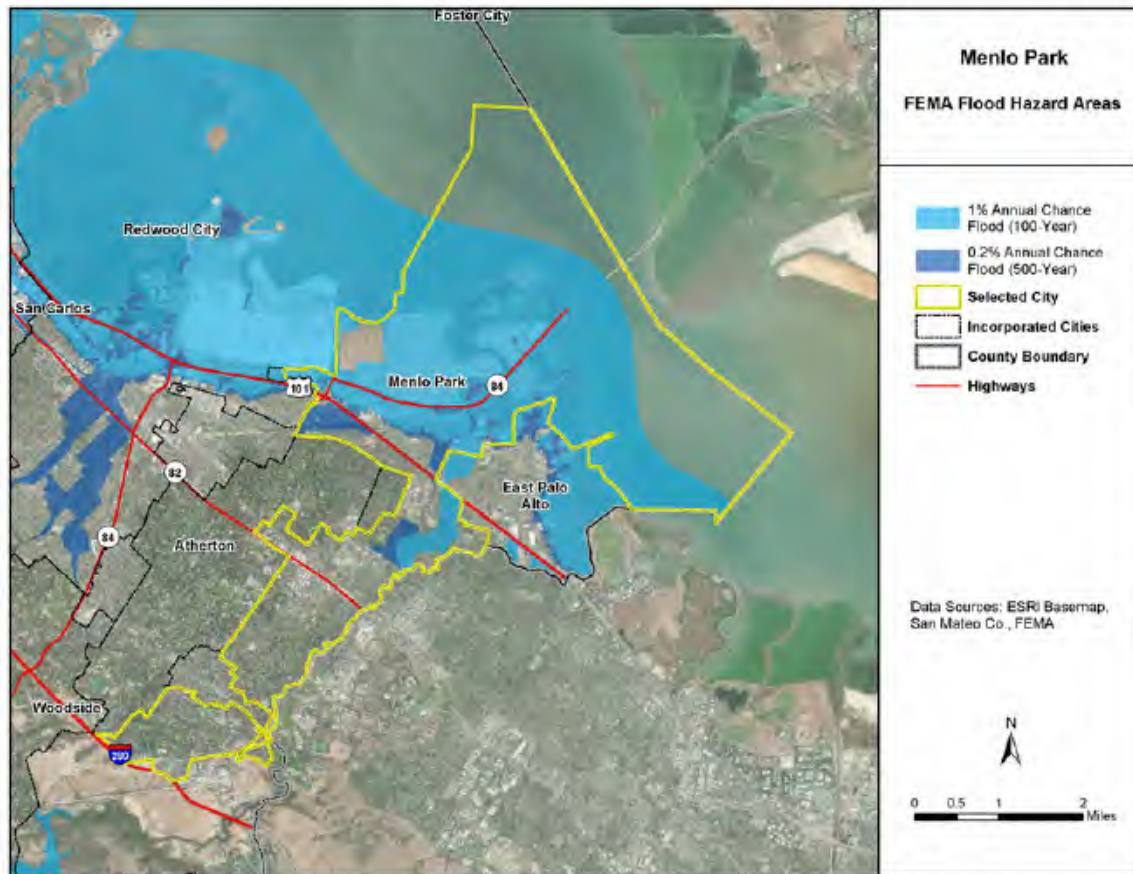
FEMA prepares maps of the 100-year flood hazard area of U.S. communities. Areas within the 100-year flood hazard area have a one percent risk of flooding in any given year. Maps are also available for 500-year floods, which mean that in any given year, the risk of flooding in the designated area is 0.2 percent.

In some locations, FEMA also provides a measurement of base flood elevation for the 100-year flood, which is the minimum height of the flood waters during a 100-year event. Base flood elevation is reported in feet above sea level. Depth of flooding is determined by subtracting the land's height above sea level from the base flood elevation. Areas within the 100-year flood hazard area that are financed by Federally-backed mortgages are subject to mandatory Federal insurance requirements and building standards to reduce flood damage.

The northernmost portion of Menlo Park, including much of the area between State Route 84 and Highway 101, is within the 100-year floodplain subject to tidal flooding from San Francisco Bay. In addition, portions of Menlo Park between Middlefield Road and Highway 101 are within the 100-year floodplain due to overflow from San Francisquito Creek. The MJLHMP identifies numerous critical facilities, including shelters, health facilities, safety and security facilities, communications facilities, energy facilities, hazardous materials locations, and transportation facilities throughout the city, as shown in the Critical Facilities maps in the following sections. A number of these facilities (Bedwell Bayfront Park Landfill and Gas Flare, and Chrysler Pump Station, and a Menlo Park Police Neighborhood Service Center) are located in areas identified as 100-year and 500-year flood hazard areas.

Flood hazard areas are from the countywide effective FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) dated April 5, 2019. Some parts of the City may experience flooding, especially areas closer to the San Francisco Bay.

**Figure S-9. Flood Hazard Areas**

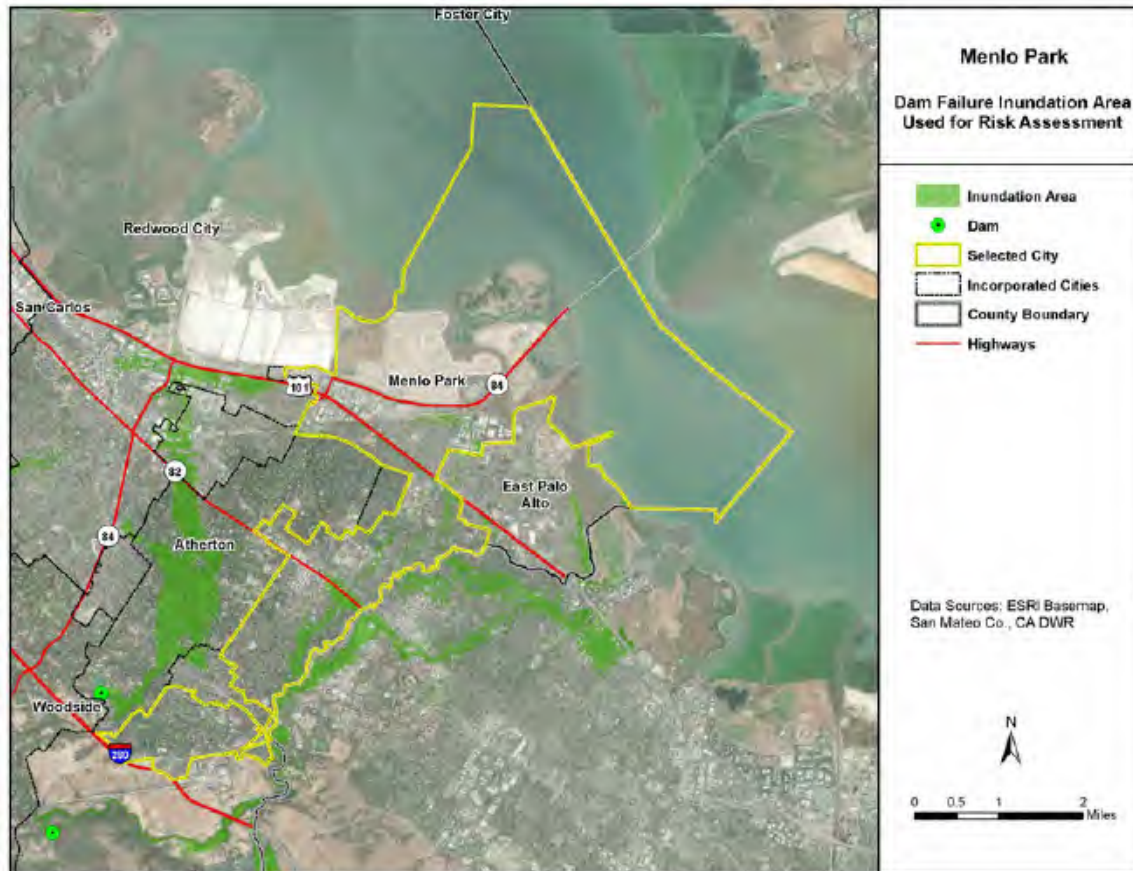


Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Dam failures can be caused by overtopping caused by floods or precipitation that exceeds dam capacity, damage to the foundation of the dam, or structural failures of the dam. Several reservoirs in the area present the remote risk of downstream inundation in the event of a dam failure as the result of an earthquake or other catastrophic event. According to the California Department of Water Resources dam failure inundation maps, portions of Menlo Park are within the Searsville, Felt Lake, and Foothill Park dam inundation zones. A dam failure at Felt Lake would affect the Arrillaga Gym and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Although dam inundation areas for Bear Gulch are not located within City limits, they do cover some areas in proximity to the western City limits. Dam failures have been rare in San Mateo County with only one recorded dam failure in 1926, which did not impact Menlo Park.

Inundation maps are based on a hypothetical failure of a dam or critical appurtenant structure and the information depicted on the maps is approximate. Some parts of Menlo Park would be affected if a dam failed nearby.

**Figure S-10. Dam Failure Inundation Area**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA), in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, are implementing improvements to provide 100-year flood protection for flood-prone reaches of San Francisquito Creek both upstream and downstream from Highway 101.

The California Department of Water Resources is required to inspect dams, reservoirs, and appurtenant structures once per fiscal year, with the exception of low hazard potential dams that would be inspected at least every two fiscal years. Owners of dams are required to operate critical outlet and spillway control features on an annual basis and to demonstrate their full operability in the presence of the Department every three years or as directed by the Department.

## Sea Level and Groundwater Rise

California Executive Order S-13-2008 states that all State agencies planning construction projects in areas vulnerable to sea level rise must consider a range of sea level rise scenarios for the years 2050 and 2100 to assess project vulnerability and to the extent feasible, reduce expected risks from sea level rise.

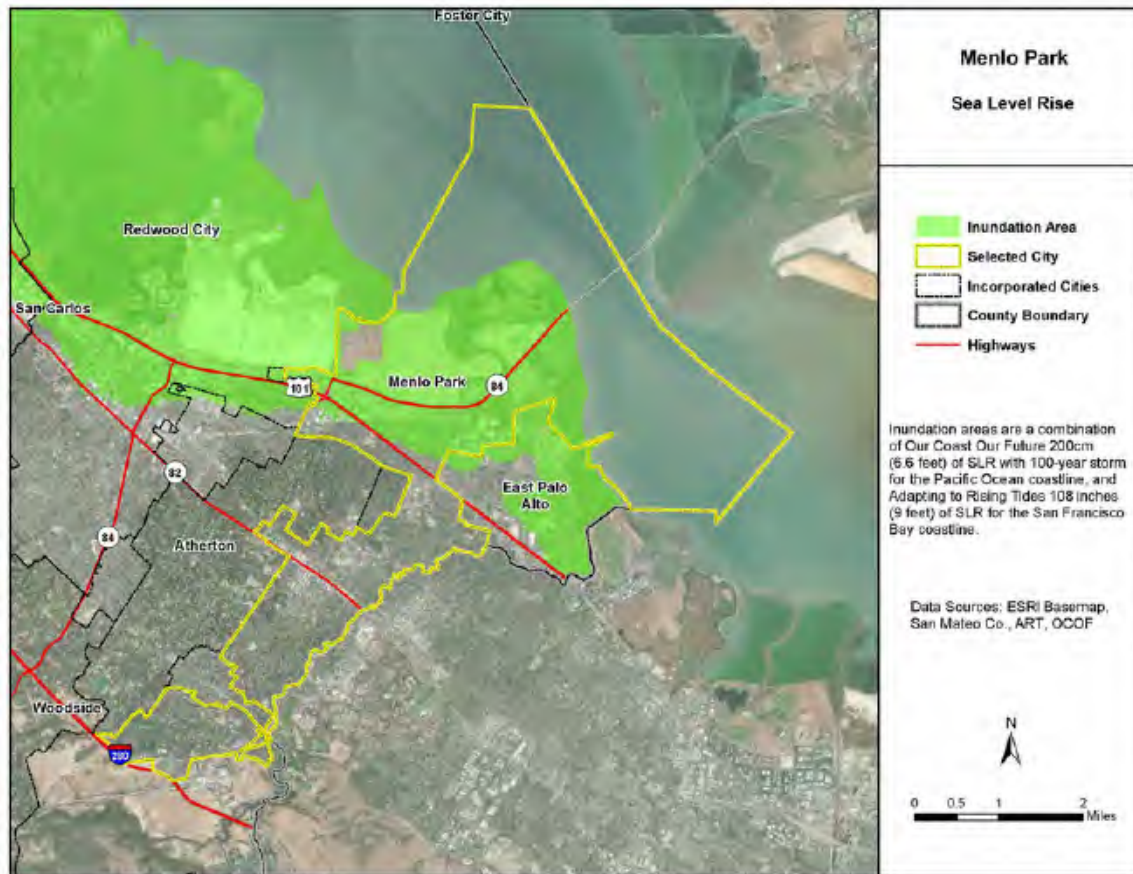
As a result of decades of increasing atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide and methane as a result of fossil fuel consumption, rising temperatures worldwide have warmed the atmosphere and the world's oceans. Sea level rise, in turn reflects both melting glaciers and the expansion of seawater as it warms. Different scenarios and predictive models result in different estimates in the magnitude of sea level rise. The California Fourth Climate Assessment projects a 2.5-foot rise in sea level rise by 2100. Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) program, which is a collaboration between BCDC and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Coastal Management maps different sea level rise scenarios. Sea level rise can cause flood damage to property and infrastructure. In Menlo Park, the Bayfront and Belle Haven neighborhoods are most vulnerable to sea level rise. These neighborhoods may expect damage from storm activity in combination with higher sea levels. Key factors that will further exacerbate the impacts of sea level rise include high tides, storm surge, El Niño winter storms, storm waves, and high runoff rates from rivers and creeks. Much of the damage, as shown in Figure S-11, will occur north of US-101.

The MJLHMP estimates that Menlo Park currently has 998 structures at risk of inundation due to sea level rise, and 4,576 residents living in areas at risk.<sup>8</sup> The MJLHMP additionally estimates that 38 critical facilities are at risk of inundation in the city due to sea level rise including facilities related to communications, energy, food and water, hazardous material, health and medical, safety and security, and transportation. The City has efforts underway to address sea level rise including collaboration with BCDC and adjacent jurisdictions and groups, including, but not limited to, City of East Palo Alto, County of San Mateo, City of Redwood City, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority, and OneShoreline (San Mateo County Flood & Sea Level Rise Resiliency District), to develop a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan. The Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan is a region-wide plan for the Bay shoreline that guides the creation of coordinated, locally-planned sea level rise adaptation actions that work together to meet regional goals.

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<sup>8</sup> County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Figure S-11. Sea Level Rise

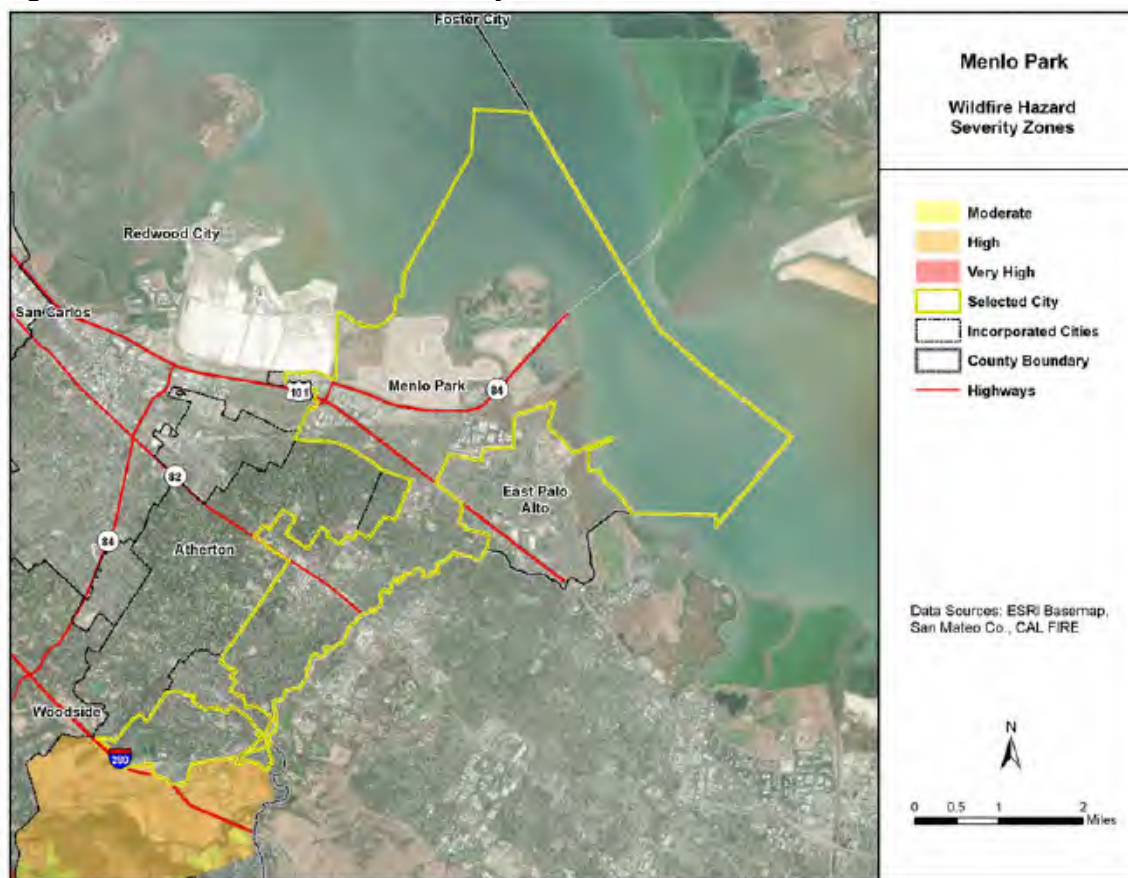


Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

## C Fire Hazards

The severity of the wildfire hazard is determined by the relationship between three factors — (1) fuel classification, (2) topography, and (3) critical fire weather frequency. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) defines Fire Hazard Severity Zones for areas within the state. A fire hazard is defined as a “measure of the likelihood of an area burning and how it burns,” with a zone being an area characterized by a particular level of fire hazard. CAL FIRE’s Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps indicate areas for which the State of California has fiscal responsibility for wildland fire protection services as the State Responsibility Area, and areas for which local jurisdictions have fiscal responsibility as the Local Responsibility Area. Menlo Park does not contain any fire hazard severity zones. However, there is a high Fire Hazard Severity zone identified as a State Responsibility Area just outside of the southwestern City Limits (see Figure S-12).

**Figure S-12. Wildfire Hazard Severity Zones**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The frequency and length of wildfire season is increasing as the result of climate change. This trend combined with human activity that is exacerbating wildfire risk could result in more frequent and intense wildfires in the future. The most recent notable wildfire that has impacted the city was the August 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire in Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties. As of mid-2021, this fire was recorded as the 12<sup>th</sup> most destructive wildfire in California history. While wildfires have a lower chance of causing the destruction of property in Menlo Park, nearby burning wildfires can expose the community to health-related impacts of poor air quality.

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District reviews development plans within the city. At the planning review phase, the Fire District considers capacity to serve the development and provides initial comments and conditions. At building permit submittal, the Fire District confirms development would meet requirements for fire safety. In review of proposed projects, the Fire District considers peakload water

supply requirements to serve the development, road widths, and clearances around structures.

## Fire Stations

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District serves Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto, and parts of unincorporated San Mateo County. There are five fire stations strategically located within or adjacent to the city's boundaries that serve Menlo Park:

- Fire Station 1: 300 Middlefield Road
- Fire Station 4: 3322 Alameda de las Pulgas (in nearby unincorporated San Mateo County, and can serve Menlo Park)
- Fire Station 5: 4101 Fair Oaks Avenue
- Fire Station 6: 700 Oak Grove Avenue
- Fire Station 77: 1467 Chilco Street

## D Extreme Temperatures

Climate change is causing rising temperatures across the Bay Area. According to the California 4<sup>th</sup> Climate Assessment, average temperatures throughout the Bay Area are expected to increase by 3.3 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050. Extreme heat days are defined as any day where the daily maximum or minimum temperature exceeds the 98<sup>th</sup> historical percentile of daily maximum or minimum temperatures from 1961-1990.<sup>9</sup> In Menlo Park, maximum temperatures that exceed 97.2 degrees Fahrenheit are classified as extreme heat. In 2021, Menlo Park experienced five extreme heat days. By 2050, the number of extreme heat days in the city is projected to increase to 11 days.

Warmer temperatures can cause an increased risk of heat-related illnesses, including heat exhaustion and heat stroke. In addition to health impacts, rising temperatures can result in worsening air quality due to the formation of ground-level ozone and an increased risk of wildfires. Populations that are more acutely impacted by heat include older adults, outdoor workers, unhoused individuals, and low-income communities of color.

The City of Menlo Park currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public. The Belle Haven Community Campus and the Menlo Park Library cooling centers are open every day, with all the facilities operating from June to October during each facility's

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<sup>9</sup> *Extreme Heat Days and Warm Nights*. Cal-Adapt. <https://cal-adapt.org/tools/extreme-heat/>. This tool was used to identify extreme heat day temperatures for location.



regular operating hours. On dates when the National Weather Service issues an excessive heat warning, the City Manager may designate additional hours or locations to respond to community needs.

The Belle Haven Community Campus is an all-electric, zero combustion, net zero energy public building with onsite renewable energy generation, battery microgrid, and electric vehicle charging stations. The facility is built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum environmental standards, and its structural design is resilient to serve as an emergency shelter.

## Climate Adaptation and Resiliency

Climate change is a long-term shift in temperature and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, such as through variations in solar cycles, however human activities have been the main driver of climate change since the 1800s, primarily due to burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas<sup>10</sup>. The release of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere through human activities around the Earth traps the sun's heat and raises temperatures. Carbon dioxide is the most commonly known greenhouse gas, but methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gas also contribute to warming. The major scientific agencies such as NASA and the NOAA have found evidence that climate change is occurring through global temperature rise, warming oceans, shrinking ice sheets in Greenland and the Antarctic, glacial retreat around the world, decreased snow cover, sea level rise, declining arctic sea ice, extreme temperature events, and ocean acidification from absorption of carbon dioxide. The associated impacts from climate changes present risks of hazards affecting both the natural and built environments, not only at a global level but also at a local level.

Climate change impact concerns for San Mateo County and the region include:<sup>11</sup>

- A significant temperature increase by mid-century
- High year-to-year variability within very wet and very dry years
- Longer and deeper droughts
- Sea level rise, even with emissions reductions
- Extreme heat events, increased air pollution
- Socioeconomic inequity in different abilities to prepare for and recover from heatwaves and fires
- Heatwaves increasing health risk due to urban heat island and lack of local cooling infrastructure
- Climate less suitable for evergreen forests (e.g., redwoods and Douglas fir)
- Sea level and groundwater rise impact on wetlands and wildlife

On December 10, 2019, the Menlo Park City Council adopted Resolution No. 6535 declaring a climate emergency. The City adopted the 2030 Climate Action Plan in July 2020 and approved amendments to it in April 2021. According to the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, climate change will continue to exacerbate environmental hazards in cities and threaten damage to property and people. As the result of past discriminatory policies and planning practices, communities of color and low-income communities nationwide are more likely to live in areas that have a higher risk from climate impacts, including flooding, urban heat islands, and poor air

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<sup>10</sup> What is Climate Change. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>

<sup>11</sup> 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 1-Planning-Area-Wide Elements. County of San Mateo

quality.<sup>12</sup> In addition, these communities may face additional challenges to coping with the impacts of climate change, such as limited financial resources.

Climate adaption and resiliency strategies are required considerations within Safety Elements, which aim to identify potential hazards from climate change that may affect a community and the strategies to respond to such potential hazards. A vulnerability assessment presents the means to identify impacts from climate change.

### **Vulnerability Assessment**

The Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) included an assessment of vulnerabilities and the ability of the City to adapt. The MJLHMP addresses climate change and sea level rise risks and impacts, as well as climate adaptation and resiliency strategies and listed actions for the City in addressing these hazards. Per Government Code Section 65302(g)(4), if a local jurisdiction has not adopted a local hazard mitigation plan, beginning on or before January 1, 2022, the Safety Element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to address climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to the city or county. The City of Menlo Park adopted the MJLHMP before January 1, 2022. Cities that have an adopted hazard mitigation plan, climate adaptation plan, or substantially equivalent provisions in their general plans may use that information in the Safety Element to comply with requirements for Safety Elements under Government Code Section 65302(g)(4), and shall summarize and incorporate by reference into the Safety Element the other general plan provisions, climate adaptation plan or document.

The MJLHMP identifies a high risk for sea level rise/climate change as a hazard affecting the community. In addition, to direct climate impacts such as sea level rise, the vulnerability assessment addresses indirect climate impacts across key sectors including infrastructure, buildings, natural systems, economic assets, and populations. Broader vulnerabilities at the countywide level that were identified would affect the city as well.

#### *Infrastructure*

The high variability in expected weather and the extensiveness of drought conditions places greater impact on the ability of infrastructure and systems to accommodate demand. For prolonged droughts, conservation of water and efficient management of water resources would be required to reduce overuse of water resources. For heavy rain events, infrastructure to manage runoff would need to be at capacities that would be able to handle the volume of runoff. Additionally, pro-active planning to prevent/address tree failure, street flooding due to blocked drains, and loss of electricity should be pursued.

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<sup>12</sup> Urban Sustainability Directors Network.  
[https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn\\_guide\\_to\\_equitable\\_community-driven\\_climate\\_preparedness-high\\_res.pdf](https://www.usdn.org/uploads/cms/documents/usdn_guide_to_equitable_community-driven_climate_preparedness-high_res.pdf)

In addition to policies and programs in the Safety Element, the MJLHMP includes several relevant actions:

- Action MPK-3 will integrate the MJLHMP into other plans and programs that support infrastructure investments.
- Action MPK-24 will plan, design, and implement the water infrastructure improvements recommended in the Water System Master Plan.
- Action MPK-28 will support green infrastructure projects that enhance resiliency to natural disasters.
- Action MPK-29 will identify and pursue strategies to enhance recycled water infrastructure planning/implementation.

### *Buildings*

Development and buildings would be most likely to be directly impacted by sea-level rise. As shown in Figure S-11, the risk of sea level rise has greatest potential to affect areas north of Highway 101. Indirect impacts from climate change may include the availability of water resources to support development where prolonged droughts affect supply. Without adequate measures to address sea level rise, this could mean a reduction in available land for building new development and could displace residents of the Bayfront and Belle Haven neighborhoods over time.

In addition to policies and programs in the Safety Element, the MJLHMP includes several relevant actions:

- Action MPK-1 will when appropriate, support retro-fitting, purchase or relocation of structures located in high hazard areas and prioritize those structures that have experienced repetitive losses.
- Action MPK-8 will work with building officials to identify ways to improve the jurisdiction's Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) classification.

### *Natural Systems*

Climate change causing rising sea levels can negatively affect wetland habitats because of the limited potential of wetlands to relocate and reestablish inland. In addition to rising sea levels, a rise in bay waters can permanently take out wildlife and subsequent habitat due to the marshes and wetlands along the bay being taken up by development. Reduced rainfall, drought, and warmer weather would negatively impact amphibians and reptiles. Wildfires may destroy habitats, negatively affecting birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

The Safety Element identifies multiple actions to safeguard natural systems and reduce the risk from environmental impacts. Some plans currently in place to address this are the Habitat Conservation Plan and the Shoreline Management Plan. Some actions in the MJLHMP that will be conducted to save floodplains and natural systems include:

- Action MPK-7, which involves continuing to maintain good standing and compliance under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) via floodplain management programs.
- Action MPK-28 will support green infrastructure projects that enhance resiliency to natural disasters and incorporate green design elements into hazard mitigation projects where feasible.

### *Economic Assets*

Climate change may disrupt development through impacts to infrastructure and building. Without upgrades to infrastructure, issues such as a strained power grid, rising costs for construction, or worsening roads could become more common due to wildfires, more frequent droughts and flooding, as well as less precipitation. The urban heat island effect and pollution from greenhouse emitting automobiles and trucks pose a serious public health issue. In addition, sea level rise could remove some existing land for development impacting an already high cost housing market for development. Without proper mitigation, this can impact costs of living in Menlo Park and could even drive business out of town due to the high costs.

The Safety Element includes plans and actions that can be taken by Menlo Park to mitigate economic issues. For example, the City of Menlo Park has an economic development plan that can serve as a groundwork for economic prosperity. But, it should be reviewed to ensure it is in line with environmental issues. In addition, the Climate Action Plan also has economic contingencies as new mitigation technologies or sectors are activated in the future.

In addition to policies and programs in the Safety Element, the MJLHMP includes Action MPK-2, which states the integration of the hazard mitigation plan and CalEnviroScreen into other plans, ordinances, and programs that dictate land use decisions within the community, including the General Plan Safety Element and Environmental Justice Element.

### *Populations*

In addition to the potential effects of climate change on the community through impacts to infrastructure and buildings, populations may experience further impacts from air quality impacts and urban heat island effects.

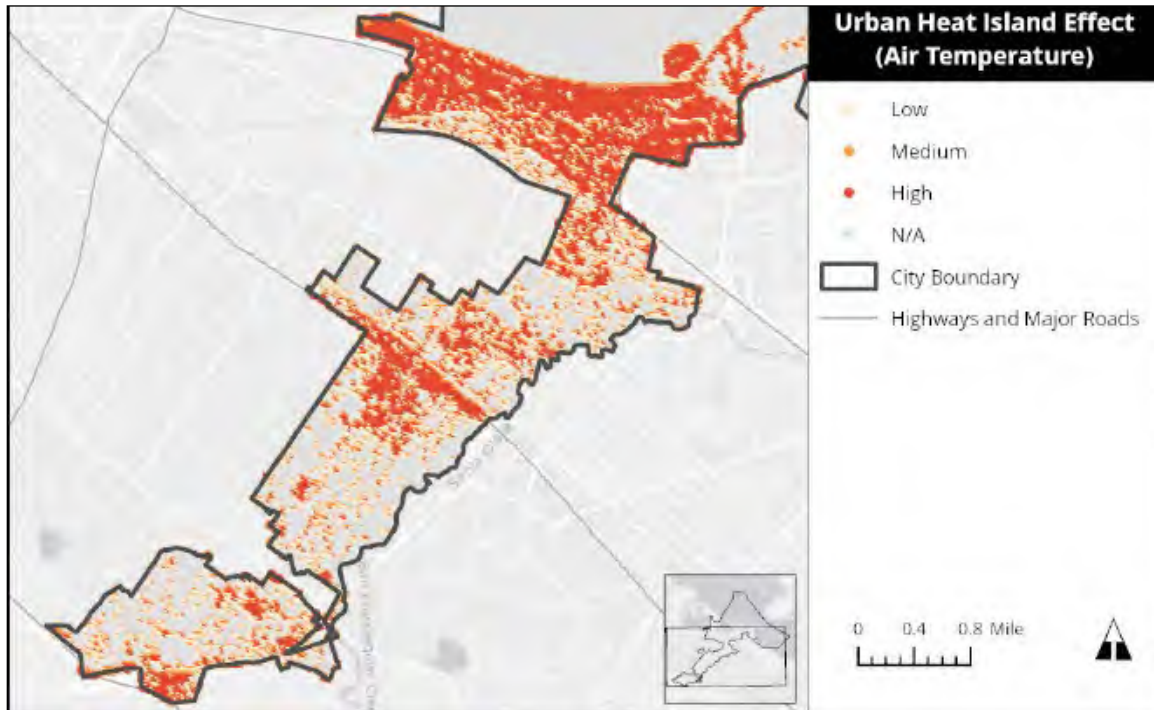
Where climate change increases temperatures, precipitation, and duration of conditions of fire risk, the frequency and intensity of wildfires can also increase. Air quality impacts from smoke carried across the region may impact sensitive local populations.

Heat waves can pose increased health risks due to urban heat islands and lack of cooling infrastructure. An urban heat island occurs in urban areas that experience

higher temperatures relative to outlying areas. The effect occurs due to structures, such as buildings, roads, and other infrastructure, absorbing and re-emitting the sun's heat more than natural landscapes. Urban areas become islands of higher temperature due to limited greenery and concentrated development, with temperatures that can be about 1 to 7°F higher during the daytime and 2 to 5°F higher during the nighttime than outlying areas.<sup>13</sup> In Menlo Park, the areas experiencing the highest urban heat island effect generally occur in the eastern part of the city adjacent to the bay (including the Belle Haven area) and in the downtown area, as shown in

Figure S-13.

**Figure S-13. Urban Heat Island Effect**



Source: Bay Area Greenprint. Data from March 2015. For a definition of how data was calculated, visit <https://www.bayareagreenprint.org/glossary/#urbanheatislandair>.

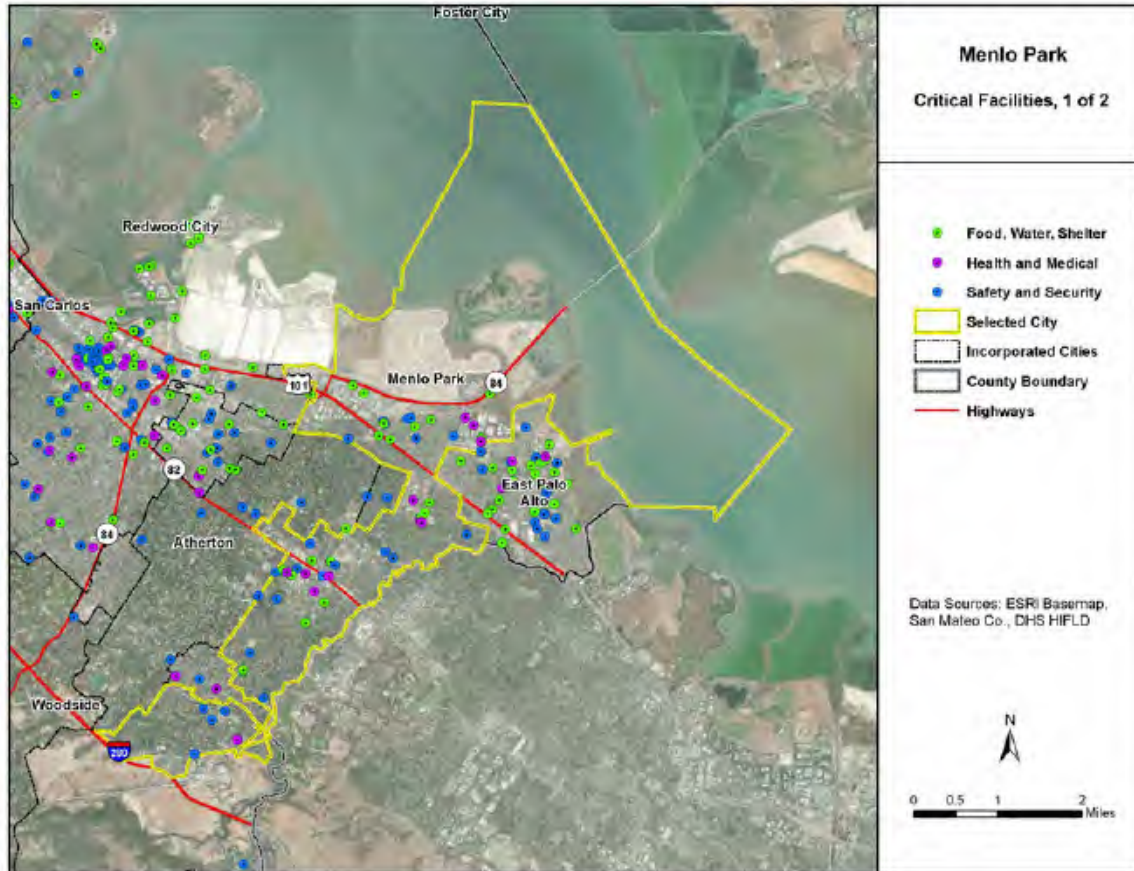
### Vulnerable Facilities

City-specific vulnerabilities identified in the MJLHMP include public facilities located in either flood hazard, high liquefaction, or sea level rise areas. The facilities include the Belle Haven Community Campus, Belle Haven Child Development Center, Menlo Park Police Neighborhood Services Center, Belle Haven Branch Library, Bedwell Bayfront Park Landfill and Gas Flare, Chrysler Pump Station, U.S. Veterans Administration

<sup>13</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency. Heat Island Effect, <https://www.epa.gov/heatislands>, accessed August 8, 2022.

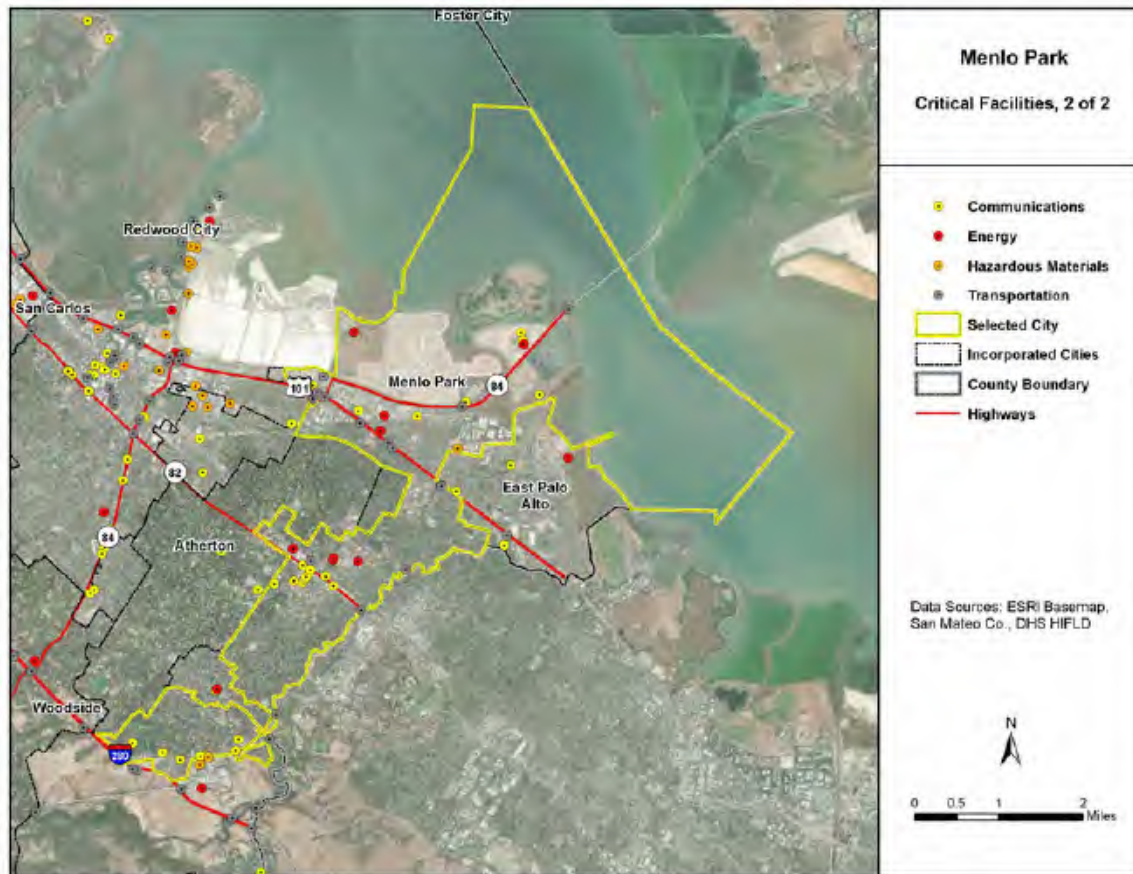
Medical Center, and Nealon Park Little House and Nursery School (see Figure S-14 and Figure S-15).

**Figure S-14. Critical Facilities, Part 1**



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

Figure S-15. Critical Facilities, Part 2



Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

The MJLHMP identifies feasible methods to avoid or minimize climate change impacts associated with new uses of land. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including:

- Action MPK-2 (integrating the hazard mitigation plan into other plans that dictate land use decisions)
- Action MPK-5 (continue to participate in floodplain management programs)
- Action MPK-12 (produce flood hazard maps accounting for flooding due to climate change)
- Action MPK-13 (prepare a climate adaptation and resiliency plan)
- Action MPK-16 (incentives for retrofits)
- Action MPK-21 (provide education on Climate Action Plan goals and strategies)
- Action MPK-26 (consider FEMA 100-year tide and sea level rise data in land use planning and shoreline development)
- Action MPK-28 (support green infrastructure projects)



The MJLHMP contains policies related to location of new essential facilities outside of at-risk areas as feasible, implementation of construction methods to minimize damage, and designation of adequate and feasible infrastructure located in at-risk areas. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including:

- Action MPK-3 (integrate the hazard mitigation plan into other plans that support infrastructure investment)
- Action MPK-7 (mitigation controls and ensuring protections for vulnerable critical facilities)
- Action MPK-8 (maintenance and plans for drains, ditches, and waterways for flood protection)
- Action MPK-11 (upgrade Chrysler Pump station to improve Bayfront flood protection)
- Action MPK-15 (program for maintaining and replacing emergency generators at critical facilities)
- Action MPK-17 (identify areas vulnerable to localized flooding and capital projects to mitigate)
- Action MPK-19 (review and update the Emergency Operation Plan)
- Action MPK-22 (develop an emergency water storage and supply project)
- Action MPK-23 (ensure functionality of emergency water storage reservoir)
- Action MPK-27 (identify and plan updates to utility systems, equipment, and critical facilities)
- Action MPK-30 (improve community response to flood emergencies including early warning system and education)
- Action MPK-31 (emergency action plans for Bayfront Canal and Atherton Channel)
- Action MPK-32 (enhance long-term resilience for communities and critical infrastructure along the shoreline south of Whipple Road to Marsh Road)
- Action MPK-33 (complete and oversee operation for Bayfront Canal and Atherton Channel Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration Project)
- Action MPK-34 (advance long-term resilience for communities and critical assets adjacent to San Francisquito Creek and nearby shoreline areas)

The MJLHMP provides guidelines for working cooperatively with local, regional, state, and federal agencies. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including:

- Action MPK-4 (support Countywide initiatives and participate in plan maintenance)

- Action MPK-9 (coordination with San Francisquito Creek JPA)
- Action MPK-10 (coordination with California Coastal Conservancy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services)
- Action MPK-14 (continue to participate with San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District)

The MJLHMP identifies natural infrastructure that may be used in adaptation projects, where feasible. As provided in Government Code Section 65302(g)(4)(C)(v), “natural infrastructure” means using natural ecological systems or processes to reduce vulnerability to climate change related hazards, or other related climate change effects, while increasing the long-term adaptive capacity of coastal and inland areas by perpetuating or restoring ecosystem services. In the MJLHMP, the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for Menlo Park contains actions to address climate change and sea level rise, including: MPK-18 (shoreline management plan to protect and enhance the coastline with trails, parks, and wildlife refuge).

**Adaptive Capacity**

The MJLHMP identifies the City’s adaptive capacity to respond to climate change. The 2021 MJLHMP evaluated and rated the ability of the City to adapt to climate change, as provided in Table S-3, with additional detail incorporated as part of the 2024 Safety Element update. In general, the technical capacity ranges from low to medium. Implementation capacity generally ranges from medium to high. Public capacity is noted as medium in terms of understanding the risk of climate change, but the capacity to residents, economy, and ecosystem to adapt is uncertain.

**Table S-3. Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change**

Criterion	Evaluation	Rating
Technical Capacity		
Jurisdiction-level understanding of potential climate change impacts	<p>Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) and sustainability staff update the CAP as needed based on the biennial findings of the community’s greenhouse gas emissions inventory analysis. The Plan outlines strategies that may take several years to implement by the City, its residents, and businesses.</p> <p>One of the primary anticipated impacts of climate change is sea level rise and more frequent and severe flooding. The City is pursuing the SAFER Bay project through a grant application to FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program to protect the community from sea level rise and flooding. This is consistent with the General Plan Land Use</p>	Med.

	<p>Element Goal LU-7: Promote the implementation and maintenance of sustainable development, facilities, and services to meet the needs of the Menlo Park community. This project application proposes to construct approximately 3.7 miles of nature-based flood management and sea level rise barriers along the San Francisco Bay shoreline. This would be a significant advancement toward the ultimate goal of providing full flood protection for the residents and business near the Bay. As of July 2021, FEMA has selected the SAFER Bay project for further evaluation. Staff has incorporated funding to support this work into the fiscal year 2021-22 capital improvement program. This project aligns with the City's 2030 CAP goal to develop a climate action adaptation plan. Because this is a large project, more staff capacity may be needed and is being assessed as the City awaits notification from FEMA regarding the grant award.</p>	
Jurisdiction-level monitoring of climate change impacts	In partnership with the County, air quality monitors were installed for public health and safety and the data is available on publicly accessible portals. More capacity would be needed to increase monitoring the impacts of climate change.	Med.
Technical resources to assess proposed strategies for feasibility and externalities	The City could use more technical resources to assess the proposed strategies for feasibility and externalities.	Low
Jurisdiction-level capacity for development of greenhouse gas emissions inventory	The City is partnering with San Mateo County on regular emissions inventories.	Med.
Capital planning and land use decisions informed by potential climate impacts	<p>The City has a number of ordinances, plans, and projects to address climate impacts through capital planning and land use decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal Code Section 16.43.140 is a green and sustainable building ordinance, which requires developers to submit zero waste management plans to document how the project will reduce waste during the construction and occupancy phase. This ordinance will help the City meet its zero waste goal of 90% diversion by 2035.</li> <li>• The City is updating the Safety Element to comply with the changes to SB 379.</li> <li>• Development projects, both commercial and residential, need to be assessed by the standards set by the California Environmental Quality Act, which may require preparation of environmental impact reports.</li> <li>• The Belle Haven Community Campus will be an all-electric building, eliminating use of natural gas.</li> </ul>	Med.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City adopted the sustainable fleet policy in 2020, which will contribute to the City’s 2030 zero carbon goal.</li> <li>• The City has undertaken master planning efforts in most capital planning areas in the last five years. These efforts have helped identify funding and project needs (e.g., facilities, streets, transportation, parks, stormwater, etc.), but additional resources (funding and staff or consultants) will be needed to deliver the needed projects to address expected climate impacts. Funds to operate and maintain new infrastructure for adapting to climate change will also be needed.</li> <li>• Potentially more staff resources are needed to process building permits and more outreach is needed to educate the public about all-electric construction.</li> </ul>	
<p>Participation in regional groups addressing climate risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A councilmember is a board member of Peninsula Clean Energy, which offers renewable energy to Menlo Park residents. Peninsula Clean Energy offers electricity powered 100 percent by renewable and carbon-free sources as of 2021. With renewable energy powering an all-electric building, the occupants and indoor air quality may significantly improve health and safety.</li> <li>• Both councilmember and staff participate in South Bay Waste Management Authority and Technical Advisory Committee monthly meetings to discuss innovative waste reduction and recycling programs. For instance, the group is discussing the upcoming Senate Bill 1383, which is to enforce a more stringent organics program and surplus food recovery. When food waste decomposes in the landfill without air, it creates methane, which is harmful to the environment.</li> <li>• Staff and a councilmember liaison participate in with San Mateo Flood &amp; Sea Level Rise District to discuss climate change impacts of sea level rise and flooding across jurisdictional boundaries. Menlo Park City Council also supported pursuit of the SAFER Bay project for a FEMA BRIC grant application, which proposes to construct approximately 3.7 miles of nature-based flood management and sea level rise barriers along the San Francisco Bay shoreline. This would be a significant advancement toward the ultimate goal of providing full flood protection for the residents and business near the Bay. As of July 2021, FEMA has selected the SAFER Bay project for further evaluation. Staff has incorporated funding to support this work into the fiscal year 2021-22 capital improvement program.</li> <li>• The City partners with local organizations to help monitor and implement climate change goals. For instance, Joint Venture Silicon Valley’s Beyond Gasoline Initiative will assist in reaching the goal to increase new EV vehicle ownership to 100% by 2025 and to reduce gasoline sales by 10% a year from the 2018 baseline.</li> <li>• City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) staff manage the County’s stormwater program and permitting requirements. City staff actively participate in C/CAG’s stormwater committees, and a City Councilmember serves on the C/CAG board.</li> <li>• Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) is an international non-governmental organization that promotes sustainable</li> </ul>	<p>Med.</p>

	<p>development and provides technical consulting to help the City meet its sustainability initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bay Area Water Supply &amp; Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) and Flows to Bay offer various water conservation programs, such as rain barrel rebates and Lawn Be Gone programs.</li> </ul>	
Implementation Capacity		
Clear authority/mandate to consider climate change impacts during public decision-making processes	<p>On December 10, 2019, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6535 declaring a climate emergency. During public decision-making processes, internal and external stakeholders must comply with the City's sustainability-related policies and ordinances. The City would need more capacity or to reduce other projects and priorities to adopt and implement programs, ordinances, or solutions to further advance in climate change adaptation.</p>	Med.
Identified strategies for greenhouse gas mitigation efforts	<p>Menlo Park City Council adopted the 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) in July 2020 and approved amendments to it in April 2021. The CAP outlines six goals to reach zero carbon by 2030. Five of these goals address mitigation, as listed below. The CAP goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore policy/program options to convert 95 percent of existing buildings to all-electric by 2030</li> <li>• Increase electric vehicle ownership and decrease gasoline sales</li> <li>• Increase access to EV charging infrastructure in multi-family and commercial properties</li> <li>• Reduce vehicle miles traveled by 25 percent or an amount recommended by the Complete Streets Commission</li> <li>• Eliminate the use of fossil fuels from municipal operations.</li> </ul> <p>The scope of work for 2021 implementation is the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a cost effectiveness analysis on various policy/program pathways towards achieving 95% electrification by 2030.</li> <li>• Collaborate with Joint Venture Silicon Valley to increase the number of new vehicle purchases to be electric vehicles (EV) and decrease gasoline sales by 10%.</li> <li>• Promote and market incentives to expand access to EV charging stations in multi-family and commercial properties.</li> <li>• Reduce vehicle miles traveled through the SB2 Housing grant, completion of Transportation Management Association feasibility study, and implementation of vehicle miles traveled guidelines for new development.</li> <li>• Update the Safety Element of Menlo Park's General Plan to respond to SB 379.</li> <li>• Utilize current resources and available budget toward eliminating fossil fuels in building the new Menlo Park Community Campus.</li> <li>• Replace fossil fuel appliances/assets at the end of life with non-fossil fuel options unless infeasible</li> <li>• Utilize current resources and available budget toward eliminating fossil fuels in building the new Menlo Park Community Campus.</li> <li>• Replace fossil fuel appliances/assets at the end of life with non-fossil fuel options unless infeasible</li> </ul>	High

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pilot program to transition landscaping equipment for gas from electric</li> </ul> <p>The City is in the process of updating the scope of work for 2025-2030 implementation.</p>	
Identified strategies for adaptation to impacts	<p>The sixth goal from the City’s CAP is to develop a climate adaptation plan. The City has participated in past regional efforts to develop adaptation plans for sea level rise, including the SAFER Bay Feasibility Study, led by the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority; and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s Dumbarton Bridge West Approach + Adjacent Communities Resilience Study. The City has applied for a FEMA BRIC grant to support implementation of the first phase of the SAFER Bay project and would continue to partner with other stakeholders to complete the project.</p>	High
Champions for climate action in local government departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City Manager’s Office has a sustainability division to implement the climate action plan and collaborate across departments to adopt climate-related policies and initiatives. More capacity is needed to adopt and implement new programs, ordinances, and implement the CAP goals.</li> <li>• As of fiscal year 2020-21, the City has 109 fleet vehicles, which include vehicles, motorcycles, and parking enforcement buggies. Out of the total fleet vehicles, twenty-one are hybrids and four are all-electric vehicles. The City is waiting for technology to advance for electric utility vehicles, which may be available within the next three years. Public Works is also transitioning its maintenance equipment to electric.</li> <li>• Green and sustainable building requirements apply to multiple zoning districts throughout Menlo Park.</li> <li>• In 2015, several solar photovoltaic panels were installed on various City facilities. In 2024, the City signed power purchase agreements with Peninsula Clean Energy to install solar on the remaining City facilities.</li> <li>• The City installed electric vehicle charging stations for public use with capacity to charge 8 vehicles at City Hall and 27 vehicles at the Belle Haven Community Campus.</li> <li>• The Police Department is currently transitioning their paper parking permits to paperless permits.</li> <li>• The Community Development and Public Works Departments transitioned from paper permitting applications to electronic submittals.</li> <li>• The City’s transportation demand management coordinator provides support to local employers and City employees to provide information about non-single occupancy vehicle travel options, which can help reduce vehicle miles traveled and emissions from transportation mobile sources.</li> </ul>	Med.
Political support for implementing climate change adaptation strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Council adopted a resolution to declare climate emergency, which demands accelerated actions on the climate crisis and requests regional collaboration to address climate change. The City Council also approved a resolution in 2019 to reaffirm the City’s commitment to tackle climate change at a local level.</li> <li>• In Fiscal Year 2023-2024, 14 of 61 Council priority projects are related to the CAP.</li> </ul>	High

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Menlo Park City Council also supported pursuit of the SAFER Bay project FEMA BRIC grant application.</li> <li>• The Environmental Quality Commission continues to advise City Council on implementing the CAP goals.</li> </ul>	
Financial resources devoted to climate change adaptation	The City filed a FEMA BRIC grant application, which would help develop a climate action adaptation plan to protect the community from sea level rise and flooding. More capacity is likely to be needed in this effort and other climate change adaptation.	Med.
Local authority over sectors likely to be negative impacted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code Enforcement officers may be impacted if new building regulations are adopted that require enforcement resources, but not enough information is known at this time to assign a rating.</li> <li>• Gas and oil manufacturing sectors may be negatively impacted if the City reduces its gasoline consumption (either for vehicles or for building appliances). This impact would be related to the 2030 CAP goals and the reach codes, but not enough information is known at this time to assign a rating.</li> </ul>	Unsure
<b>Public Capacity</b>		
Local residents knowledge of and understanding of climate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), a commission body made up of seven Menlo Park residents, created the 2030 CAP. The Complete Streets Commission, another resident-based commission body of seven members, developed Transportation Master Plan Implementation Recommendations that include VMT reduction as a key strategy.</li> <li>• Strong advocacy occurs when climate policies are considered by City Council. Several residents expressed interest to ban gas leaf blowers by adopting an ordinance.</li> <li>• More outreach needs to be done to understand the community's knowledge and understanding of climate risk. A resolution was approved in April 2021 for the scope of work for implementation of the CAP and to educate residents about climate emergency and to include health, socio-economic, and racial equity in policymaking and climate solutions.</li> </ul>	Med.
Local residents support of adaptation efforts	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure
Local residents' capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure
Local economy current capacity to adapt to climate impacts	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure
Local ecosystems capacity to adapt to climate	Not enough information is known to assign a rating. More outreach is needed.	Unsure

impacts		
High = Capacity exists and is in use; Medium = Capacity may exist but is not used or could use some improvement; Low = Capacity does not exist or could use substantial improvement; Unsure= Not enough information is known to assign a rating.		

Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes (Note: Table S-3 includes 2024 updates from the 2021 MJLHMP)

Menlo Park will increase resiliency to future climate impacts through adaptation policies in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Climate Action Plan. In addition, there are adaptation policies that focus on the city’s Underserved Communities in the Environmental Justice Element. Climate change exacerbates existing hazards, such as flooding and extreme temperatures, and the hazard mitigation and adaptation policies in this Safety Element are designed to allow the city to adapt to additional climate risks during the planning period.

## **F** Hazardous Materials

The term “hazardous material” is defined in different ways for different regulatory programs. The California Health and Safety Code Section 25501 definition of a hazardous material is “any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment.”

Once a hazardous material is released, it moves from the source to a point of contact with the community or environment through an exposure pathway. To reach that point of contact, the exposure pathway must have: (1) a contamination source or point of release; (2) a transport mechanism from the source to the air, surface water, groundwater, or soil; (3) contact point where people are exposed to contaminated air, surface water, groundwater or soil; and (4) a route of entry into the body. Routes of entry include ingestion (eating or drinking), inhalation (breathing), and absorption (skin contact). If any of these requirements for an exposure pathway are not present, the pathway is incomplete and no exposure or risk is possible. In some cases, although a pathway is complete, the likelihood that exposure will occur is very small.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. Table S-4 lists the sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation. More information and definitions can be found on the EnviroStor website.



**Table S-4. Hazardous Waste and Clean Up Sites**

Project Name	Status	Project Type	Address
Beltramo Property	Certified / Operation & Maintenance	Voluntary Cleanup	1459 San Antonio Street And 1460 El Camino Real
Derry Lane Mixed Use Development	Active	State Response	Derry Lane
Former Norge / Atherton Village Cleaners	Active	State Response	1438 El Camino Real
Former Peninsula Sportsmen's Club	Refer: Rwqcb	Voluntary Cleanup	East Of University Avenue
General Circuits Inc.	Refer: Epa	Corrective Action	3549 J Haven Avenue
Hillview Middle School	Certified	School Cleanup	1100 Elder Avenue
Menlo Park West Campus	Certified / Operation & Maintenance	Voluntary Cleanup	312-314 Constitution Drive
Menlo Tech	Refer: Rwqcb	Evaluation	188 Constitution Drive
O'Connor School	Active	School Cleanup	275 Elliott Drive
Sanford Metal Processing Co.	Refer: Other Agency	Tiered Permit	990 O'Brien Drive
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center	Refer: Other Agency	Tiered Permit	2575 Sand Hill Road
Tyco Electronics Corporation	Certified / Operation & Maintenance	Corrective Action	300 Constitution Dr

Source: Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor website, accessed April 5, 2024.

The State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) tracks sites that have potential to impact water quality, which include Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Sites, Department of Defense Sites, and Cleanup Program Sites. The Water Board's Geotracker program identifies the locations of these sites, listed below. LUST sites are scattered throughout the city, concentrated along El Camino Real and in downtown Menlo Park. LUST sites are a common source of soil and groundwater contamination. A wide variety of industries have historically used underground storage tanks for gasoline, diesel, waste oils, solvents, and other chemicals. Prior to regulation in the 1980s, these underground tanks typically were not monitored or provided with secondary containment. If a tank leaked, the contents could migrate to the soil and groundwater. Under the Site Cleanup Program, the Board regulates and oversees the investigation and cleanup of non-federally owned sites where recent or historical unauthorized releases of pollutants to the environment, including soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediment, have occurred. Several locations that are listed under the Site Cleanup Program have been identified within Menlo Park. These are found mostly in the downtown area and the northeastern portion of the city. Sites that have open cases or are closed but with land use restrictions are shown in Table S-5.

**Table S-5. Underground Storage Tank and Cleanup Program Sites**

Site Name	Site Type	Status	Address
3705 Haven Avenue	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	3705 Haven Avenue
Hotel Moxy Development	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	3723 Haven Avenue

Site Name	Site Type	Status	Address
Edison Technology Park	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Long Term Management	3477-3522 Edison Way
Launderland Dry Cleaners	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	995 El Camino Real
Menlo Flats	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	165 Jefferson Drive
Menlo Portal	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	115 Independence Drive & 104-110 Constitution Drive
Menlo Uptown	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	141 Jefferson Drive (And 172 - 188 Constitution Drive)
New Guild Cleaners (Former)	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	961 El Camino Real
Norge/ Atherton Cleaners, Former	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	1438 El Camino Real
Peninsula Arts Guild	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Long Term Management	949 El Camino Real
Sharon Heights Cleaners	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	325 Sharon Park Drive
Siltec	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Site Assessment	3705-3723 Haven Avenue
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC Groundwater Volatile Organic Compound (Voc) Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC Research Yard-SSRL / Ir-6 Drainage Channel Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC Tritium Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory - SLAC West SLAC/ Campus Area/ Ir-8 Drainage Channel Operable Unit	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	2575 Sand Hill Road
Wo Sing Cleaners	Cleanup Program Site	Open - Remediation	570 Derry Lane

Source: State Water Resources Control Board, GeoTracker website, <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>, accessed April 5, 2024.

## **G** Emergency Preparedness

The MJLHMP directs the update of the City's 2014 Emergency Operation Plan to include new FEMA guidelines in order to receive federal funding and address SB160: Cultural Competence (which requires a county to integrate cultural competence, into its emergency plan). The City developed the EOP to better prepare for responses to emergency situations that could result from natural disasters and technological incidents. To better prepare for these emergencies, the City estimated the potential risks associated with earthquakes, flooding, wildland fire, and other disasters. Based on this evaluation, various preparation strategies were developed.

In 2024, the City hired an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator to focus on the following objectives of the Emergency Services Program (ESP):

**Objective 1: Operational Readiness:** ESP works with all City departments to promote resilience to threats and risks of all types. This is a measure of the ability of the City to handle a major critical incident or disaster. People, infrastructure (facilities), supplies, and training are all elements of this. ESP manages the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), located in City Hall, along with other assets.

**Objective 2: Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA):** ESP leads the process to understand what risks the City faces. Often known as a Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) processes, this ongoing activity involves updates of Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) (facility inventories, registries) and awareness of the sorts of risks such as those listed in the Menlo Park annex to the regional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) and the National Planning Scenarios.

**Objective 3: Policy & Plans:** ESP leads or coordinates the development and maintenance of policies and plans related to disasters, critical incidents, and City safety. The City's Emergency Operations Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), and various department plans are all part of this activity.

**Objective 4: Emergency Public Information:** ESP coordinates with the Public Information Officers (PIOs) to develop protocols for communication with the public and with partners.

**Objective 5: Whole Community Engagement:** ESP develops structures to link non-governmental organizations (NGOs), residents, and businesses to the Incident Command System (ICS). Elements of this include MPC Ready, ARES/RACES Amateur (ham) Radio, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers and many more.

**Objective 6:** Training and Exercises: In compliance with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), ESP works with community and partner stakeholders, such the Menlo Park Fire District, the County of San Mateo and others to develop training and exercises.

**Objective 7:** Grant Management: ESP seeks funding and manages awarded grants pertaining to emergency management and homeland security.

**Objective 8:** Technology: ESP coordinates with other city departments to deploy new technologies for emergency services.

**Objective 9:** Regionalization: ESP participates in the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), in addition to the San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) Operational Area and our mutual aid relationships with other agencies.

### **Emergency Routes**

The Safety Element is required to address evacuation routes according to Government Code Section 65302(g)(1). This often goes hand-in-hand with fire evacuation needs, though it could also consider sea level rise, seismic events including earthquakes and tsunamis, or other hazards. Menlo Park's Safety Element includes policy S1.37 (Emergency Connectors and Evacuation Routes) to "Maintain a system of emergency connectors and evacuation routes as part of the City's disaster planning." The Police Department is the primary agency for establishing emergency evacuation routes. Evacuation routes are generally the City's major arterial streets. However, the appropriate evacuation routes depend upon the type of incident (whether it is a flood, fire, earthquake, etc.) and then which routes have the least hazards, the least traffic stress and the most residential accessibility. Neighborhood disaster programs provide information and help to coordinate resident and business responses during the first 72 hours of an emergency event.

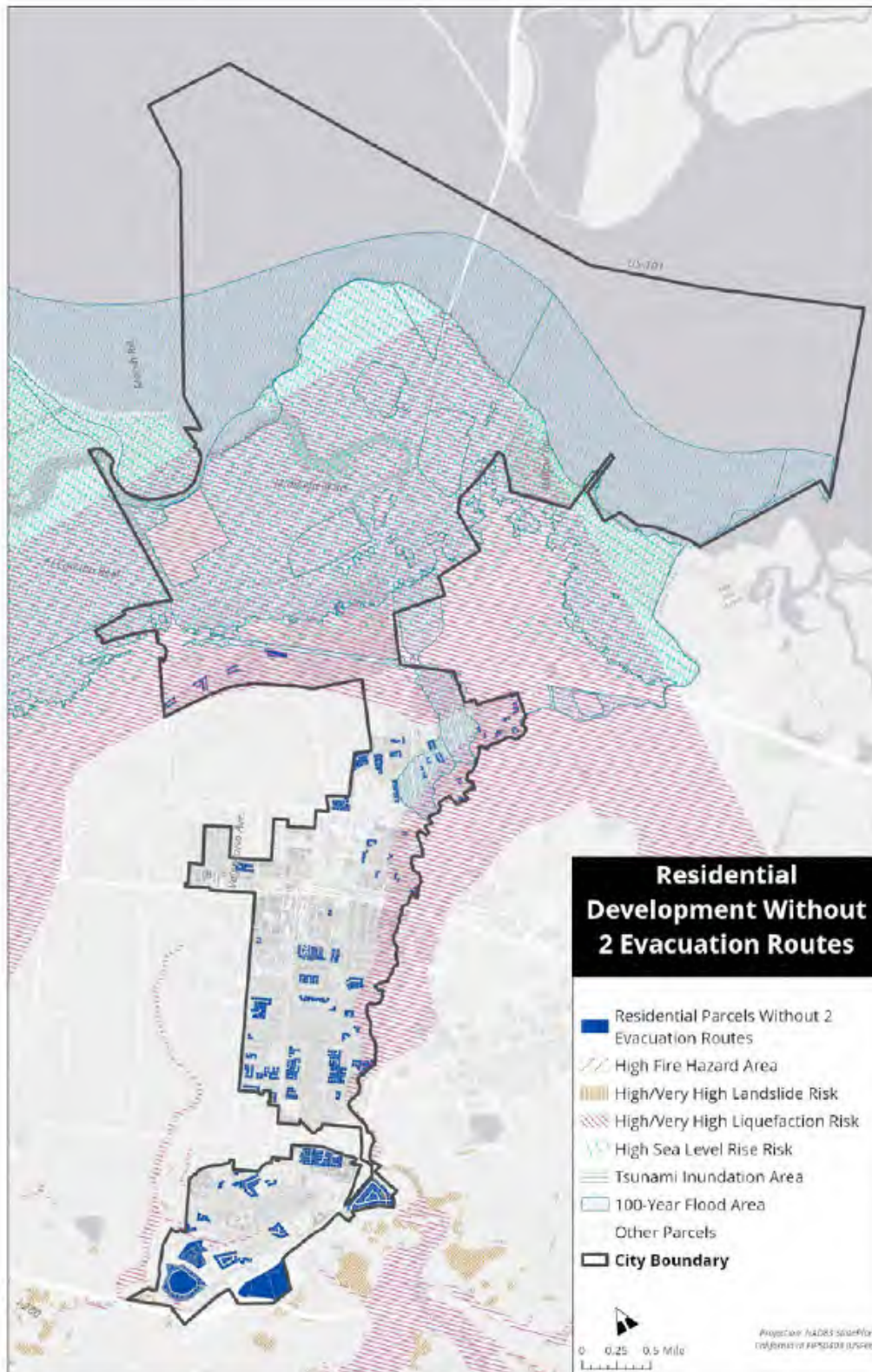
Under Government Code Section 65302(g)(5), upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2020, the Safety Element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to identify residential developments in any hazard area identified in the safety element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes (see Figure 2.16).

Per Government Code Section 65302.15, amended following the adoption of AB 1409 in 2021, upon the next revision of a local hazard mitigation plan on or

after January 1, 2022, the Safety Element shall be updated as necessary to identify evacuation routes and their capacity, safety, and viability and evacuation locations under a range of emergency scenarios. A city that has adopted a local hazard mitigation plan, emergency operations plan, or other document that fulfills commensurate goals and objectives may use that information in the Safety Element to comply by summarizing and incorporating it into the Safety Element. This evacuation route update will be done upon the next revision of a local hazard mitigation plan to be developed once the current MJLHMP requires an update. The current MJLHMP was adopted in 2021.

There are several residential developments within the city that only have one evacuation route, some of which are in hazard zones. Evacuation routes are determined as roadways that allow ingress and egress. Any residential subdivision with only one roadway (such as a parcel on a cul-de-sac) is identified as having only one route. This map, Figure S-16, may be used as reference for residential areas at increased risk during fire evacuation needs. It could also be used for reference in sea level rise, seismic events including earthquakes and tsunamis, or other hazards.

Figure S-16. Residential Development Without Two Evacuation Routes



Environmental Justice (EJ) Element Revisions and Feedback Log							
#	EJ Element Location	April 2024 Draft Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Track Changes Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Clean Copy Page Number	Key Topic(s)	Revision and/or Feedback	Notes
1	Environmental Justice Element Action Guide; Goal EJ7	5 and 31	6 and 53	7 and 54	EJ Element Action Guide; EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	<p>Clarify the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide as a tool to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element</p> <p>Clarify updating process and ongoing outreach with new Program EJ7.K</p>	<p>Project team revision</p> <p>The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. This separate, complementary document is guided by the goals, policies, and programs of the Environmental Justice Element and the Guiding Principles of the Menlo Park General Plan, however, the Action Guide lies outside of the General Plan itself. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment.</p> <p>The Action Guide includes action items that will be pursued by the City to improve environmental justice. The action items are similar to Environmental Justice Element programs, and are assigned a lead department/division and time frame similar to these programs. Each action item in the Action Guide is organized under an Environmental Justice Element program, with the intention to provide additional direction and community-based feedback to City staff on desirable methods to fulfill the programs laid out in the Environmental Justice Element.</p> <p>Many of the action items in the Action Guide were developed from outreach in Menlo Park’s underserved communities, described in detail in the “Environmental Justice Outreach” section below. The Action Guide is included as Appendix EJ-F. The Action Guide will be maintained on the City’s website and is intended to improve accountability by being more adaptable and responsive to community needs and opportunities.</p> <p>Per Program EJ7.K, the City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing.</p> <p>EJ7.K Text: The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.</p>
2	Regulatory Context	9	11	10	State Law	<p>Included reference to AB 1628 (2019), which enhanced previous state law on environmental justice.</p>	<p>Project team revision</p> <p>Revised Text: AB 1628 (2019) enhanced the previous definition of environmental justice to include meaningful involvement and national origins to the prior language of Gov. Code Section 65040.12(e). The law also elaborates on the prior language to describe additional forms of distributive and procedural justice, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The availability of a healthy environment for all people.</li> <li>-The deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for populations and communities experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution, so that the effects of the pollution are not disproportionately borne by those populations and communities.</li> <li>-Governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to populations and communities most impacted by pollution to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decision-making process.</li> <li>-At a minimum, the meaningful consideration of recommendations from populations and communities most impacted by pollution in environmental and land use decisions.</li> </ul>

**Environmental Justice (EJ) Element Revisions and Feedback Log**

#	EJ Element Location	April 2024 Draft Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Track Changes Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Clean Copy Page Number	Key Topic(s)	Revision and/or Feedback	Notes
3	Environmental Justice Outreach; Appendix EJ-E: Prioritization Workshop Summary	24, 30	27 and 34	25 and 31	EJ priorities; outreach	List top three community-identified EJ Element goals to be prioritized and summarize May 2024 community workshops  Include May 2024 Prioritization Workshop Summary report as appendix	Project team revision  Top three EJ Element priorities listed and summary report included.  Additional text on page EJ-25: Through the development of Menlo Park's first Environmental Justice Element, the community identified three Environmental Justice Element goals to be prioritized: - Priority #1: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5) - Priority #2: Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4) - Priority #3: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)  This work included multiple public study sessions. The Planning Commission and City Council met in a joint study session on June 2023, to discuss initial public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements. They later met separately, on June 3 (Planning Commission) and June 18 (City Council), 2024, to discuss revised public review drafts of the Environmental Justice and Safety Elements, prior to public hearings for adoption in fall 2024. Community-identified priorities may change over time.  New section: Community Workshops and Study Sessions (2024) After making revisions to the Environmental Justice Element to reflect the community meetings, focus groups, and survey described above, the document was revised and re-published in April 2024 and discussed at four public meetings:  -May 2: Community Workshop in Belle Haven (in Spanish) -May 9: Community Workshop in Belle Haven (in English) -June 3: Planning Commission Study Session (in English) -June 18: City Council Study Session (in English, with Spanish interpretation)  The full Community Workshops summary report is included as Appendix EJ-E: Prioritization Workshop Summary.  Approximately 80 attendees at the May workshops provided feedback on the relevant elements, regarding recommended policies, programs and their prioritization. This feedback was provided to Planning Commission and City Council at their respective study sessions. At these study sessions, commissioners and councilmembers affirmed the community input and provided additional feedback.  <i>A key finding of these study sessions was the affirmation that the City should move forward with highlighting the top three priorities.</i>
4	Table EJ-6 (Environmental Justice Element Organization)	32	37	34	Environmental Justice Element Action Guide	Revise table to better capture the utility of the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide	Project team revision  Revised Table EJ-6 on page EJ-34 to clarify what is included in the Environmental Justice Element itself and the complementary Environmental Justice Element Action Guide
5	Table EJ-8 (Environmental Justice Goals, Policies, and Programs)	39	40-54	37-54	EJ Element Action Guide; accountability; EJ priorities; outreach	Focus on key themes around accountability (e.g., stronger language), accessibility, and ensuring that Environmental Justice Element Action Guide includes metrics for success and clear timelines, as well as how prioritization and funding occur  Remove policies, programs, and action items that listed a "Staff Recommendation" of removal in the June 2024 Planning Commission and City Council study sessions  Streamline/simplify table presentation	Table and text revised per Council direction and project team revision  Environmental Justice Element Action Guide will be revised and posted online, with community-identified priorities highlighted. Fulfillment of programs and action items will be identified on Action Guide, updated annually, and future priorities will be included as appropriate.  Table EJ-8 goals, policies, and programs is presented in a streamlined/simplified format similar to the Housing Element. Former outdated reference to superseded Program 7.K removed.
6	Policy EJ2.1	40	41	38	Pollution reduction; air quality	Expand on indoor and outdoor air quality	Text revised per Council direction and project team revision  April 2024 Text: Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality, and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities. Maximize the positive impacts on environmental quality for Menlo Park's planning efforts.  Revised Text: Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality (both indoor and outdoor), and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities.
7	Policy EJ2.2 (formerly Policy 2.4)	40	41	38	Pollution reduction; air quality; collaboration	Incorporate multi-jurisdictional collaboration for land management practices	Text revised per Council direction and project team revision—former Policy 2.3 (removed) included text regarding countywide and regional collaboration that was integrated into Policy EJ2.2  April 2024 Text: Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve watershed and human health.  Revised Text: Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale, as well as collaborate on countywide and regional efforts. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve watershed and human health.
8	Policy EJ2.4 (formerly Policy 2.7)	41	41	38	Pollution reduction; air quality; collaboration	Expand consideration of indoor and outdoor air quality	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards in underserved communities.  Revised Text: Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards and maximize air quality (both indoor and outdoor) in underserved communities.



**Environmental Justice (EJ) Element Revisions and Feedback Log**

#	EJ Element Location	April 2024 Draft Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Track Changes Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Clean Copy Page Number	Key Topic(s)	Revision and/or Feedback	Notes
9	Program EJ2.A	42	41	39	Pollution reduction; air quality; collaboration	Add gas stations as an example of a potential stationary pollutant generator	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City's jurisdiction (e.g., automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.  Revised Text: Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City's jurisdiction (e.g., gas stations, automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.
10	Program EJ2.C	42	42	39	Pollution reduction; air quality; outreach	Expand on indoor and outdoor air quality	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Conduct proactive education and outreach about Air Quality and protective actions that can be taken to minimize exposure.  Revised Text: Conduct proactive education and outreach about indoor and outdoor air quality and protective actions that can be taken to both improve air quality inside one's home and to minimize exposure to poor air quality index days.
11	Program EJ2.I	43	43	41	Air quality	Clarify "In Progress" call-out, particularly regarding no smoking regulations downtown.	Text revised per Council direction and project team revision  In Progress: Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance, Municipal Code Chapter 7.30 (Smoking Regulated or Prohibited)
12	Program EJ2.K	44	44	42	Extreme heat; outreach	Consider emphasizing access to information on cooling centers, extreme heat, and other community resources	Project team revision  New Program: Prioritize relief from extreme heat (Safety Element Program S1.T) in underserved communities. Information on these resources shall be provided at community facilities (e.g., BHCC).
13	Program EJ3.C	45	45	43	Collaboration; tech access; outreach	Improve access to wireless internet, potentially working with community benefit organizations to expand access to network	Council direction  April 2024 Text: Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills.  Revised Text: Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills. In addition, expand outreach and community access to the City Library's laptop and wireless hotspot, or similar, borrowing programs.
14	Program EJ3.D	45	45	43	Collaboration; health care access; outreach	Highlight access to health care services and partnerships with community based organizations and businesses	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Seek to form partnerships and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.  Revised Text: Seek to form partnerships, particularly with community based organizations and businesses, and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.  Program EJ3.D and accompanying Action Items EJ3.D.1-4 highlight access to health care.
15	Policy EJ5.1	49	47	46	Housing; EJ priorities	Clarify policy as particularly important for underserved communities	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe and sanitary homes in underserved communities  Revised Text: Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe, sanitary, and stable homes, particularly in underserved communities.
16	Policy EJ5.2	49	48	46	Housing; EJ priorities	Clarify policy as particularly important for underserved communities	Policy retained and text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Maintain and develop safe and sanitary housing across all locations and affordability ranges.  Revised Text: Maintain and develop safe, sanitary, and stable homes across all locations and affordability ranges, particularly in underserved communities.
17	Program EJ5.A	49	48	47	Pollution reduction; collaboration	Clarify soil remediation is the responsibility of the property owner	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments, particularly in underserved communities.  Revised Text: Identify and resolve, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments and work with property owners to resolve issues, particularly in underserved communities.
18	Program EJ5.B	49	48	47	Housing; EJ priorities; outreach	Revise text to align with Goal EJ5	Project team revision  April 2024 Text: Support the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) administered by the California Department of Community Services and Development with outreach to potentially eligible households.  Revised Text: Conduct outreach to potentially eligible households regarding programs that support safe, sanitary, and stable homes.

**Environmental Justice (EJ) Element Revisions and Feedback Log**

#	EJ Element Location	April 2024 Draft Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Track Chages Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Clean Copy Page Number	Key Topic(s)	Revision and/or Feedback	Notes
19	Program EJ5.E	50	49	48	Housing; EJ priorities; outreach	Clarify text	Text revised per Council direction and project team revision  April 2024 Text: Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F, to continue collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART) to offer first-time, moderate income homebuyers down- payment assistance loans for homes purchased in the city. Add information for the HEART homeownership program to the City's website, and coordinate with HEART on additional opportunities to promote the program, including in conjunction with BMR ownership units who conduct this work to facilitate workshops for residents in underserved communities.  Revised Text: Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F (regarding collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART)) and helping to facilitate first-time homeowner workshops for residents in underserved communities.
20	Program EJ5.G	51	49	48	Housing; EJ priorities; outreach	Modify Program 5.G to include more prescriptive language about the City's Anti-Displacement Strategy development	Project team (including Climate Resilient Communities) revision  April 2024 Text: Ensure that City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This could include strategies such as a rental inventory, updated rent control laws, and/or rent increase prohibition.  Revised Text: Ensure that City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This will include consideration, at a minimum, of the following: - Rental inventory of all dwelling units - Updated or expanded rent control laws - Rent increase mitigations, such as longer noticing requirements - Community and tenant opportunity to purchase - Revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper affordability (e.g., subsidies) - Expand relocation assistance for tenants - Just Cause Eviction protections regardless of tenant duration - Strengthened anti-tenant harassment ordinances - An examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs
21	Program EJ5.H	31	50	49	Housing; EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	Revise Action Item EJ7.J.3 text and move into EJ Element as a program under Goal 5 as a new program  Remove Action Item 7.J.3 and renumber Action Items EJ7.J.4-6 as appropriate	Project team (including Climate Resilient Communities) revision  New Program: As part of an anti-displacement program and to ensure stable housing, support increasing access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction by conducting community outreach, education, and engagement to ensure renters are aware of this resource. Include progress reports on usage annually.
22	Program EJ7.B	54	51	51	EJ priorities; outreach	Consider hardcopy materials for outreach to households, particularly door-to-door outreach.	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: All meetings with an agendized item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the Underserved Community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as simulcasting and/or remote participation.  Revised Text: All meetings with an agendized item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the underserved community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as satellite meeting centers, simulcasting, and/or remote participation. Consider hardcopy materials for outreach, particularly door-to-door outreach.
23	Program EJ7.J	56	53	53	EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	Increase opportunities for accountability through strict reporting requirements by clarifying annual reporting timeframe and provision to the City Council and public	Text revised per Planning Commission and project team revision  April 2024 Text: Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Implementation Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. These reports should be annual, at a minimum.  Revised Text: Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Annual reporting, at a minimum, should be provided to the City Council and made available on the City website.
24	Program EJ7.K	N/A	53	54	EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	Include new program to clarify Environmental Justice Element Action Guide updating process and ongoing outreach	Project team revision  New program: The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.  Note: Bayfront Mitigation Fund is listed as a potential financing source to support EJ Element programs.

**Environmental Justice (EJ) Element Revisions and Feedback Log**

#	EJ Element Location	April 2024 Draft Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Track Changes Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Clean Copy Page Number	Key Topic(s)	Revision and/or Feedback	Notes
25	Program EJ7.L	N/A	54	54	EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	Include new program to consider EJ priorities in the City Council's annual priority and goal setting.	Project team revision  New Program: The City Council shall consider the community identified environmental justice priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop.  Note: The 2024 adoption of the EJ Element identified the following top three priorities: - Priority #1: Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes (Goal EJ5) - Priority #2: Promote access to high quality and affordable food (Goal EJ4) - Priority #3: Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality (Goal EJ2)  Note: Bayfront Mitigation Fund is listed as a potential financing source to support EJ Element programs.
26	Action Item EJ3.H.3	24	Appendix EJ-F	Appendix EJ-F	Parks; collaboration; accountability	Clarify direction to City departments without constraining flexibility	Text revised per Council direction  April 2024 Text: Plan for, in coordination with the City's Parks and Recreational Facilities Master Plan, and provide public restroom facilities at all parks in the underserved communities.  Revised Text: In coordination with the City's Parks and Recreational Facilities Master Plan, provide public restroom facilities at parks in underserved communities.
27	Action Item EJ7.E.1	N/A	Appendix EJ-F	Appendix EJ-F	EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	Consider having a concierge or dedicated person or resource on environmental safety issues at BHCC.	New Action Item per Council direction and project team revision  New Action Item: Provide resources at BHCC about environmental safety, including flooding, extreme heat, and other issues identified in the Safety Element. Consider having a concierge or dedicated staff/resources to provide outreach on local mitigation efforts in underserved communities.
28	Environmental Justice Element Action Guide	N/A	N/A	N/A	EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	Continue to evaluate opportunities for funding as they arise and seek opportunities to communicate/publicize resources that assist Menlo Park residents secure/maintain safe, sanitary, and stable homes	Council direction--to be completed with development of Online Environmental Justice Element Action Guide and aligned with Programs EJ7.J and EJ7.K
29	Environmental Justice Element Action Guide	N/A	N/A	N/A	EJ priorities; outreach; accountability	Clarify and enhance connections between funding and spending actions, with a focus toward continually enhancing civic engagement in these matters and establishing links between environmental justice implementation and City funding processes, where feasible	Council direction--to be completed with development of Online Environmental Justice Element Action Guide and aligned with Programs EJ7.J and EJ7.K
30	Global	N/A	N/A	N/A	Housing; EJ priorities	Replace Goal EJ5 text of "safe and sanitary homes" with "safe, sanitary, and stable homes."	Project team (including Climate Resilient Communities) revision
31	Global	N/A	N/A	N/A	Accountability; outreach	Replace "Implementation Guide" with "Action Guide."	Project team revision
32	Appendix EJ-A - Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations	64	64	64	Reference document	Clarify Bay Road exit route for residents from the Suburban Park, Lorelei Manor, and Flood Triangle area and also bus routes.	Project team revision  Transportation section is updated: U.S. Highway 101 closes off the north side of Suburban Park and this results in residents from Suburban Park, Lorelei Manor, and Flood Triangle exiting only from Bay Road, the southern boundary of the neighborhood. SamTrans operates three school-oriented bus routes along Bay Road that may also be used by members of the general public. School-oriented bus routes generally have limited hours of operation timed with school bell schedules and pause operations on weekends and during the summer months.
33	Goal EJ7	53	51	50	Education; outreach	Where feasible, identify if improving education outcomes can be incorporated into goals and policy.	Council direction--no revised text  School districts are primarily responsible for leading efforts to improve education outcomes, however, the City can seek opportunities to partner and collaborate with school districts/higher education to support academic achievement and overall positive community development.
34	Table EJ-8 (Environmental Justice Goals, Policies, and Programs); Environmental Justice Element Action Guide	39	40-54	37-54	EJ Element Action Guide; EJ priorities; accountability	Clarify and refine responsibilities of City departments and divisions	Project team revision  Several programs and action items have been revised to clarify text, City progress, the responsible lead and/or supporting City department/division, and funding sources as applicable. These include:  Programs: EJ1.D, EJ2.D, EJ2.E, EJ2.I, EJ3.A, EJ3.C, EJ4.B, EJ4.C, EJ4.D, EJ5.A, EJ5.B, EJ5.C, EJ5.E, EJ5.F, EJ5.H, EJ7.F, EJ7.J, EJ7.K, EJ7.L  Action Items: EJ1.A.1, EJ2.C.1, EJ2.C.2, EJ2.D.1, EJ2.D.2, EJ2.E.4, EJ2.E.5, EJ2.E.8, EJ2.I.5, EJ2.J.4, EJ3.D.3, EJ3.E.1, EJ3.E.2, EJ3.G.1, EJ3.G.2, EJ3.G.5, EJ3.H.1, EJ3.H.2, EJ3.H.4, EJ4.E.1, EJ4.E.2, EJ4.E.3, EJ6.D.1, EJ6.D.2, EJ6.D.3, EJ6.D.4, EJ6.D.5, EJ7.D.3, EJ7.D.4, EJ7.D.8, EJ7.E.1, EJ7.J.3, EJ7.J.4

#	Safety Element Location	April 2024 Draft Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Track Changes Page Number	August 2024 Adoption Draft Clean Copy Page Number	Key Topic(s)	Revision and/or Feedback	Notes
1	Acknowledgements	2	2	2	General	Update Acknowledgements	Project team revision Confirm acknowledgements; Climate Resilient Communities (CRC) has been added.
2	Table of Contents	3	4	4	General	Update Table of Contents	Project team revision
3	Safety Element Requirements	10	11, 41, 98	11, 38, 80	Sea level rise; climate change	Identify SB 272 (2023) requirement and current efforts to collaboratively develop a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan	Project team revision SB 272 (2023): By January 1, 2034, develop a sea level rise plan as part of a subregional San Francisco Bay shoreline resiliency plan that is subject to approval by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.
4	Relationship to Other Plans	76	5,78	5, 78	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan	Clarify Menlo Park's LHMP as part of countywide Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP)	Project team revision The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of Menlo Park planning area was completed as part of the San Mateo County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP), adopted in 2021. It was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA's 2011 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The MJLHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short- and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. The Countywide MJLHMP includes two volumes: Volume 1 includes countywide issues and Volume 2 includes "annexes" for each partner jurisdiction, including Menlo Park.
5	Outreach	80	82	82	General	Record dates for completed June 2024 study sessions	Project team revision A study session was held on June 20, 2023, to obtain feedback from the community, the City Council, and the Planning Commission on both the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements. Two subsequent study sessions were conducted on June 3, 2024 and June 18, 2024, with the Planning Commission and City Council, respectively.
6	Geologic Hazards	83	85	84	Soft story buildings	Include more information on soft story buildings	Revised text per Council direction Older, unreinforced masonry structures, on the other hand, do not perform as well, especially if they have not undergone appropriate seismic retrofitting. Soft story buildings or multi-story buildings with one or more floors that are "soft" because of structural design, could also be more vulnerable to seismic impacts if they have not been designed to withstand ground shaking and other earthquake-induced impacts. A building is considered to be "soft story" if it has a floor that is 70% less stiff than the floor above it. Soft stories are typically associated with open plan retail spaces and parking garages, and they are often on the lower stories of a building. Soft-story collapse is one of the leading causes of earthquake damage to private residences.
	Geologic Hazards	59, 89	61, 91	62, 91	Liquefaction and groundwater mapping	Consider liquefaction and groundwater mapping	Council direction--no revised text Groundwater aquifers are described under "Water Quality" in the Safety Background section of the element, including a description of recharge and a note about well data from the California Department of Water Resources. The San Mateo County MJLHMP discusses groundwater in the context of both drought preparedness and geologic risk. These discussions, which are County-wide and multijurisdictional in scale, are located in Volume 1 of the MJLHMP. Liquefaction is described under "Geologic Hazards" in the Safety Background section of the Element, including a description of soil types significantly impacted by an earthquake. A map is included in this section: Figure S-6. Liquefaction Susceptibility.
7	Sea Level and Groundwater Rise	96	98	98	Sea level rise; climate change	Include more information on sea level rise and climate change, incorporating data from MJLHMP	Revised text per Council direction and project team revision California Executive Order S-13-2008 states that all State agencies planning construction projects in areas vulnerable to sea level rise must consider a range of sea level rise scenarios for the years 2050 and 2100 to assess project vulnerability and to the extent feasible, reduce expected risks from sea level rise. As a result of decades of increasing atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide and methane as a result of fossil fuel consumption, rising temperatures worldwide have warmed the atmosphere and the world's oceans. Sea level rise, in turn reflects both melting glaciers and the expansion of seawater as it warms. Different scenarios and predictive models result in different estimates in the magnitude of sea level rise. The California Fourth Climate Assessment projects a 2.5-foot rise in sea level rise by 2100. Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) program, which is a collaboration between the BCDC and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Coastal Management maps different sea level rise scenarios. Sea level rise can cause flood damage to property and infrastructure. In Menlo Park, the Bayfront and Belle Haven neighborhoods are most vulnerable to sea level rise. These neighborhoods may expect damage from storm activity in combination with higher sea levels. Key factors that will further exacerbate the impacts of sea level rise include high tides, storm surge, El Niño winter storms, storm waves, and high runoff rates from rivers and creeks. Much of the damage, as shown in Figure S-11, will occur north of US-101. The MJLHMP estimates that Menlo Park currently has 998 structures at risk of inundation due to sea level rise, and 4,576 residents living in areas at risk. The MJLHMP additionally estimates that 38 critical facilities are at risk of inundation in the city due to sea level rise including facilities related to communications, energy, food and water, hazardous material, health and medical, safety and security, and transportation. The City has efforts underway to address sea level rise including collaboration with BCDC and adjacent jurisdictions and groups, including, but not limited to, City of East Palo Alto, County of San Mateo, City of Redwood City, San Francisco Bay Joint Powers Authority, and OneShoreline (San Mateo County Flood & Sea Level Rise Resiliency District), to develop a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan. The Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan is a region-wide plan for the Bay shoreline that guides the creation of coordinated, locally-planned sea level rise adaptation actions that work together to meet regional goals.
8	Extreme Temperatures	99	101	101	Heat; climate change	Include information on cooling centers, in Belle Haven and elsewhere, as well as other community resources	Project team revision The City of Menlo Park currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public. The Belle Haven Community Campus and the Menlo Park Library cooling centers are open every day, with all the facilities operating from June to October during each facility's regular operating hours. On dates when the National Weather Service issues an excessive heat warning, the City Manager may designate additional hours or locations to respond to community needs. The Belle Haven Community Campus is an all-electric, zero combustion, net zero energy public building with onsite renewable energy generation, battery microgrid, and electric vehicle charging stations. The facility is built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum environmental standards, and its structural design is resilient to serve as an emergency shelter.
9	Climate Adaptation and Resiliency (Infrastructure)	101	104	104	Climate change, resiliency, storms	Include examples of storm-related issues to pro-actively plan for	Revised text per Commission direction The high variability in expected weather and the extensiveness of drought conditions places greater impact on the ability of infrastructure and systems to accommodate demand. For prolonged droughts, conservation of water and efficient management of water resources would be required to reduce overuse of water resources. For heavy rain events, infrastructure to manage runoff would need to be at capacities that would be able to handle the volume of runoff. Additionally, pro-active planning to prevent/address tree failure, street flooding due to blocked drains, and loss of electricity should be pursued.
10	Climate Adaptation and Resiliency (Buildings)	96	105	105	Climate change; sea level rise	Include more information on sea level rise and climate change, bringing in data from MJLHMP	Revised text per Council direction and project team revision Development and buildings would be most likely to be directly impacted by sea level rise. As shown in Figure S-11, the risk of sea level rise has greatest potential to affect areas north of Highway 101. Indirect impacts from climate change may include the availability of water resources to support development where prolonged droughts affect supply. Without adequate measures to address sea level rise, this could mean a reduction in available land for building new development and could displace residents of the Bayfront and Belle Haven neighborhoods over time.
11	Emergency Preparedness	116	120	120	Emergency preparedness; partnerships	Include business districts in disaster and emergency plan preparations	Revised text per Council direction and project team revision The Emergency Preparedness section has been updated to list nine objectives of the City's Emergency Services Program (ESP). Objective 5, Whole Community Engagement, states: ESP develops structures to link non-governmental organizations (NGOs), residents, and businesses to the Incident Command System (ICS). Elements of this include MPC Ready, ARES/RACES Amateur (ham) Radio, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers and many more.
12	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan	Focus on specific Safety Element updates in response to recent legislation in 2024 update, and consider a potential update to the entire Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements in the future	Council direction--no revised text The Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) was last updated in 2021 and the County of San Mateo is in the process of updating the document for the next cycle (FEMA recommends updates every five years). The City could consider further updates to the Open Space/Conservation, Noise and Safety Elements in conjunction with updating the LHMP (2026) or with the next Housing Element update (2031, which would also be a MJLHMP update milestone).
13	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Biosafety levels	Pause development of a new program regarding planning for biosafety levels as part of the update to the Safety Element, however, staff can plan for study session on the issue in the future	Council direction--no revised text Consider Biosafety Levels and zoning study session to be scheduled by end of 2025

# City of Menlo Park

## **Environmental Justice Element Action Guide**

The Environmental Justice Element is accompanied by an Environmental Justice Element Action Guide. The Action Guide is a tool to be used to manage and coordinate City efforts to accomplish the goals, policies, and programs outlined in the Environmental Justice Element. This dual document approach allows for more frequent updating of the Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach – particularly input from Menlo Park’s underserved communities – without requiring a General Plan Amendment.

The Action Guide lists Environmental Justice Element goals, policies, programs, and action items. The community-prioritized goals lead the Action Guide, followed by the other goals in sequential order.

Policies and programs are under the goals in sequential order, while action items are under the program they implement. The organizing structure and color scheme, demonstrated below, allows for easy reference:

Item	Structure	Example
Goal	<b>EJ#</b>	<b>EJ1</b>
<i>Policy</i>	<i>EJ#.#</i>	<i>EJ1.1</i>
Program	<b>EJ#.X</b>	<b>EJ1.A</b>
Action Item	<b>EJ#.X.#</b>	<b>EJ1.A.1</b>

The Action Guide includes details on programs and action items, organized under three groups: Descriptive Information, Implementation, and Time Frame. The structure and presentation style of the Action Guide may evolve over time.

## Descriptive Information

### Column A: ID

Identification of the policy, program, or action item corresponding to the goal they support (e.g., EJ4):

- Policies are given a number (e.g., EJ4.1)
- Programs are given a letter (e.g., EJ4.D)
- Action items are given a letter and a number (e.g., EJ4.D.1)

### Column B: Policy / Program / Action Item Text

Text of the policy, program, or action item.

### Column C: Classification

Identification of whether the row is a policy, program, or action item.

### Column D: In Progress?

If City and/or partners are currently conducting a process that would accomplish the objective of the program or action item, this column includes a brief description. As the City fulfills programs and action items, and initiates activity on additional programs and action items, this column may be updated.

## Implementation

Implementation data describes who would likely lead carrying out the program or action item and what funding is potentially available to fulfill it. Also included in this section are supporting City departments and partners outside City government, such as County authorities or non-governmental organizations.

### Column E: Lead Role

The City department or division who would likely lead the implementation of the program or action item.

### Column F: Supporting Role

City departments or divisions, as well as partner organizations, that may support implementation of the program or action item.

### Column G: Funding Source(s)

Potential sources of funding that may support program or action item implementation.

### Time Frame

The estimated time frame for programs and action items is arranged into two components: initiation (when work will begin) and completion (when work will be finished).

### Column H: Initiation

The programs and action items are sorted into four categories: those that can be started in a short-term time frame, a medium-term time frame, a long-term time frame, and those that are in progress. As the City fulfills programs and action items, and initiates action on additional programs and action items, this column may be updated. For the purposes of the Environmental Justice Element, the time frames are defined accordingly:

- **In Progress:** Already in progress. These are highlighted in gold in the Action Guide.
- **Short-Term:** Zero to three years from Element adoption, estimated
- **Medium-Term:** More than three and less than six years from Element adoption, estimated
- **Long-Term:** Six years or more from Element adoption, estimated

### Column I: Completion

The programs and action items are sorted into four categories: those that can be accomplished in a short-term time frame, a medium-term time frame, a long-term time frame, and those that are ongoing from initiation of work. For the purposes of the Environmental Justice Element, the time frames are defined accordingly:

- **Ongoing from Initiation:** Estimated to be worked on indefinitely
- **Short-Term:** Zero to three years from beginning of work on the item, estimated
- **Medium-Term:** More than three and less than six years from beginning of work on the item, estimated
- **Long-Term:** Six years or more from beginning of work on the item, estimated



Menlo Park Environmental Justice Element Action Guide								
DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>Community Priority #1: Goal EJ5. Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes</b>								
<i>EJ5.1</i>	<i>Prioritize housing programs that provide and maintain safe, sanitary, and stable homes, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ5.2</i>	<i>Maintain and develop safe, sanitary, and stable homes across all locations and affordability ranges, particularly in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ5.3</i>	<i>Support housing development distribution throughout the city and not concentrated within Menlo Park's underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ5.A</b>	Identify, to the extent feasible, any potential toxic soil contamination in residential developments and work with property owners to resolve issues, particularly in underserved communities.	Program	The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate further. The Safety Element (Table S-4) includes a list of sites along with their current status of evaluation or remediation.	Community Development	San Mateo County Environmental Health Services, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	Department of Food and Agriculture (Healthy Soils Demonstration Program)	<b>In Progress</b>	Short Term
<b>EJ5.B</b>	Conduct outreach to potentially eligible households regarding programs that support safe, sanitary, and stable homes.	Program	-	Community Development	California Department of Community Services and Development, City Manager's Office	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ5.C</b>	Create or partner with providers to provide a central multilingual tenant protection hotline for renters with questions. If such resources already exist, conduct proactive outreach and education to inform the community of available resources. Hold culturally competent, in-language outreach workshops.	Program	-	Community Development	Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ5.D	Identify opportunities to support a Community Land trust or other fiscal vehicle to purchase land to develop for deeply affordable housing.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Community Development Department, MidPen Housing Community Land Trust	BMR Housing Fund	Long Term	Long Term
EJ5.E	Conduct community outreach to help prospective first-time homeowners navigate the process. This includes 6th Cycle Housing Element Program H5.F (regarding collaborating with the Housing Endowment and Regional Trust of San Mateo County (HEART)) and helping to facilitate first-time homeowner workshops for residents in underserved communities.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Local Community Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ5.F	Promote funds and subsidies that minimize the passing through of any upfront investment costs of building electrification on to tenants.	Program	-	Sustainability Division	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Medium Term
EJ5.G	Ensure that City's Anti-Displacement Strategy (Housing Element Program H2.E) supports households and neighborhoods in underserved communities. This will include consideration, at a minimum, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rental inventory of all dwelling units</li> <li>- Updated or expanded rent control laws</li> <li>- Rent increase mitigations, such as longer noticing requirements</li> <li>- Community and tenant opportunity to purchase</li> <li>- Revised BMR guidelines allowing for deeper affordability (e.g., subsidies)</li> <li>- Expand relocation assistance for tenants</li> <li>- Just Cause Eviction protections regardless of tenant duration</li> <li>- Strengthened anti-tenant harassment ordinances</li> <li>- An examination of opportunities to limit additional fees passed to tenants like laundry, parking, and utility costs</li> </ul>	Program	Sixth Cycle Housing Element includes Program H2.E focusing on developing an Anti-Displacement Strategy	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Public Works Department	General Fund	Short Term	Long Term
EJ5.H	As part of an anti-displacement program and to ensure stable housing, support increasing access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction by conducting community outreach, education, and engagement to ensure renters are aware of this resource. Include progress reports on usage annually.	Program	-	Community Development	City Manager's Office, Local Tenant Protection Services (e.g., Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (HomeSavers Project), Project Sentinel by San Mateo County)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Community Priority #2: Goal EJ4. Promote access to high quality and affordable food</b>								

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ4.1</b>	<i>Encourage adequate food access to fresh and healthy foods for all residents, particularly those in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ4.A</b>	Work with grocery stores and online food service delivery and meal providers to increase access to high-quality affordable and healthy food (e.g., reduced or waived delivery service fees). Encourage and support the acceptance of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), CalFresh, and other governmental food assistance programs that increase food security.	Program	-	Community Development	Local Grocery Stores (e.g., Safeway, Trader Joe's), Local Grocery Delivery Services (e.g., Uber Eats, GrubHub, DoorDash), CalFresh	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.B</b>	Inform low-income households and people experiencing homelessness about food assistance programs through multilingual fliers, community events, information at shelters and food banks, as well as other appropriate outreach methods.	Program	-	Community Development	Communications and Public Engagement Division, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, Homeless Outreach Team, San Mateo County Human Services Agency	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.C</b>	Encourage healthy food options, including vegan and vegetarian options, at municipal buildings and City-participating events. Encourage sourcing food from local small businesses.	Program	-	All City Departments	Sustainability Division	General Fund	Long Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.D</b>	Encourage and facilitate the establishment and operation of a farmer's market(s), farm stands, ethnic markets, and mobile health food markets in underserved communities. Conduct widespread outreach and engagement to advertise these markets.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Program)	Long Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.D.1</b>	At existing and future farmer's markets, or similar events, offer free or subsidized space for vendors who provide healthy, fresh, and affordable food for underserved communities.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Second Harvest Food Bank	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.E</b>	Encourage and simplify the process of developing community gardens within or adjacent to neighborhoods and housing development sites. Facilitate the creation or enhancement of one community garden within three years of Environmental Justice Element adoption.	Program	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ4.E.1</b>	Explore identifying unused City-owned property to support community gardens. Encourage community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily and mixed-use development projects.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Short Term	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ4.E.2	Identify private properties suitable for community gardens on vacant or undeveloped lots, or other opportunities for community-supported agriculture within the community. Encourage community gardens as an amenity in required open space areas of new multifamily and mixed-use development projects.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Short Term	Short Term
EJ4.E.3	Facilitate the installation of community gardens at senior centers and senior housing facilities.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	Community Development, Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g. Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ4.E.4	Develop programs and encourage developments that make smaller planter boxes or garden beds accessible for apartment dwellers.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Local Community-Based Organizations (e.g., Rotary Club of Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>Community Priority #3: Goal EJ2. Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality</b>								
EJ2.1	<i>Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality (both indoor and outdoor), and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.2	<i>Implement regenerative and nature-based land management practices at the city scale, as well as collaborate on countywide and regional efforts. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve watershed and human health.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.3	<i>Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to promote and encourage urban greening on public and private projects (e.g., bioswales, raingardens, habitat restoration) in areas with relatively less tree canopy or other greenery to provide health and safety benefits to underserved communities residents.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.4	<i>Collaborate with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and other agencies to continuously monitor air quality and seek opportunities to minimize exposure to air pollution and other hazards and maximize air quality (both indoor and outdoor) in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.5	<i>Work with Caltrans on improvements on State-owned rights of way.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ2.6	<i>When updating or installing transportation infrastructure, consider factors such as stormwater management, Universal Design Principles and attractive green roadway design.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.A	Work with any identified significant stationary pollutant generators to the extent it is within the City's jurisdiction (e.g., gas stations, automobile repair, dry cleaners, and/or diesel generators) to minimize the generation of pollution through best available control technologies.	Program	-	Community Development	Peninsula Clean Energy, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Westbay Sanitary District, San Mateo County Environmental Health, San Mateo County Fire, Sustainability Division	Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.B	Implement and periodically update the City's Climate Action Plan to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Program	The Climate Action Plan is subject to annual progress reports as a standalone document are scheduled for 2028 update .Starting in 2024, the City will implement a zero emission landscaping equipment rule to improve air quality and reduce emissions.	Sustainability Division	City Manager's Office	General Fund, grants (e.g., California Energy Commission, PG&E, Peninsula Clean Energy, and CALFIRE)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.C	Conduct proactive education and outreach about indoor and outdoor air quality and protective actions that can be taken to both improve air quality inside one's home and to minimize exposure to poor air quality index days.	Program	-	Sustainability Division	Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), City Manager's Office, Peninsula Clean Energy, County Office of Sustainability	Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program)	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.C.1	Identify and implement methods and avenues for public education and outreach about air quality issues in the community.	Action Item	-	All City Departments	Public Works, Communications and Public Engagement Division, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), City Manager's Office, Peninsula Clean Energy, San Mateo County Sustainability Department	-	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.C.2	Support the distribution of air purifiers and/or other air cleaning devices within underserved communities, especially for sensitive populations.	Action Item	-	Sustainability Division	Police, Sustainability Division, San Mateo County Sustainability Department	General Fund	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ2.D	Minimize and mitigate illegal solid waste dumping (as defined in 7.04.030 of the Municipal Code), potentially through minimizing fees for disposal at landfills in collaboration with South Bayside Waste Management Authority (SBWMA).	Program	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.D.1	Conduct proactive outreach in underserved communities to inform households of free trash pickup days and solid waste disposal opportunities and programs, including the ACT Menlo Park reporting app. Outreach can include signage about ACT Menlo Park along Pierce Road.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement, Recology, Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.D.2	Explore ways to subsidize or eliminate fees for disposal at landfills and implement for underserved communities	Action Item	-	Public Works	Communications and Public Engagement, Recology, Public Works	Clean California (Local Grants)	Long Term	Ongoing upon commencement
EJ2.E	Review the City's Green Infrastructure Plan and update, as necessary, to incorporate environmental justice. Focus on underserved communities and implement programs in this Element, in coordination with related regional efforts.	Program	-	Public Works	Community Development	General Fund	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.1	Support efforts by other agencies to abate hazardous, polluted, or toxic sites. Encourage incorporating sea-level rise and groundwater rise in their remediation decisions.	Action Item	-	If on private property then Community development, if for public projects then Public Works	San Mateo County Health, Department of Water Resources, OneShoreline	Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)	Short Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.2	Prioritize comprehensive undergrounding of utilities in underserved communities on private and public property to promote resilience.	Action Item	The Menlo Park Municipal Code requires the undergrounding of electric and communication service connections on private property under certain circumstances. Some categories of private development in Office (O), Life Sciences (LS) and Residential Mixed Use (R-MU) Zoning Districts require undergrounding of overhead electric distribution lines of less than sixty (60) kilovolts and communication lines along the property frontage. The specified zoning districts are adjacent to and serve underserved communities.	Public Works	Community Development, City Manager's Office, utilities (e.g., PG&E)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), PG&E Rule 20 Program, Community Amenities Fund, Bonds per project specific deferred frontage agreements	In Progress	Medium Term

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EJ2.E.3	Focus green stormwater improvements for areas at risk of flooding with an emphasis on underserved communities.	Action Item	Public Works evaluates all opportunities to plan for and incorporate green stormwater improvements, including areas at risk of flooding and within underserved communities, per the City's 2019 Green Infrastructure Plan.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.E.4	Support West Bay Sanitary District, the respective responsible agency, in their efforts to prevent sewage discharges during large stormwater events. In the event of occurrence, coordinate with the responsible agency in conducting proactive, extensive, and prolonged community outreach and education to inform underserved communities of protective actions and risks. The City can coordinate with agencies to promptly share their information with the City Council and community after storms.	Action Item	-	Public Works	City Manager's Office, West Bay Sanitary District, East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Fair Oaks Sewer Maintenance District	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning and Project Development Grant)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.E.5	Collaborate with landowners to decrease the risk of flooding by advancing watershed management projects that reduce and/or store runoff during rainfall events, including the installation of green infrastructure and Low Impact Development (LID) practices, and improve the condition in the floodplain, for example through floodplain restoration or improvement.	Action Item	The City coordinates the incorporation of Low Impact Development (LID) and green infrastructure elements into project stormwater management designs.	Public Works	OneShoreline, Department of Water Resources, City Manager's Office, Community Development	Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (Infrastructure State Revolving Fund (ISRF) Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.E.6	Encourage green infrastructure in future developments, including using green infrastructure as preferred alternative.	Action Item	Green infrastructure, including Low Impact Development (LID), is currently utilized for stormwater management and treatment in development projects.	Public Works	Community Development, City Manager's Office, Sustainability Division	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term

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EJ2.E.7	Establish requirements for major development and redevelopment projects to construct and maintain urban greening projects in the adjacent public right of way. Community benefits for such projects could include shade trees for pedestrian and biking routes.	Action Item	The existing heritage tree ordinance has requirements for tree planting on private properties and replacement of trees in the public right of way. The City is currently updating administrative guidelines.	Public Works	Caltrans, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, Canopy	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grants	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.E.8	Restore and enhance parks, natural lands and large open spaces and explore expansion of the City's natural areas preservation system through land transfers and acquisitions of undeveloped/unprotected private and public lands.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	City Manager's Office, Community Development, Public Works, Save The Bay, California Department of Conservation	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.F	Increase community outreach and awareness of the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, including the Community Rating System, and the potential benefits to homeowners (e.g., reduced insurance premiums)	Program	-	Communications and Public Engagement Division	Public Works	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ2.G	Develop incentives to encourage shared commute programs and alternative methods of travel for city events, meetings, and official business.	Program	-	City Manager's Office, Public Works	SamTrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Public Works, Sustainability Division, Library and Community Services	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Long Term



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EJ2.H	Collaborate with SamTrans and Ravenswood City School District, as well as Meta and other large employers to leverage transportation electrification initiatives to prioritize bus electrification in underserved communities.	Program	SamTrans anticipated being fully electric by 2034, in compliance with State law requiring transit fleets be all electric by 2040.	Public Works	Sustainability Division, SamTrans, Ravenswood City School District, Large Local Businesses (over 50 employees, e.g., Meta, SRI International, Grail, others)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.I	Consider revisions to applicable City regulations that will reduce pollution exposure, eliminate environmental inequities, and improve quality of life in underserved communities.	Program	Zero Emission Landscaping Ordinance, Municipal Code Chapter 7.30 (Smoking Regulated or Prohibited), Building Code amendments.	All City Departments	-	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.I.1	Review truck routes and/or identify and pursue measures for reductions to diesel emissions in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.I.2	Identify, evaluate and implement potential mitigation measures that support Caltrans mitigation efforts to reduce noise and air quality impacts from adjacent freeways and highways, particularly those impacting underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ2.I.3	Install improved vegetative buffers between freeways and highways and adjacent land uses to reduce noise and air quality impacts, upon identification of the roadway segments for such installations.	Action Item	Landscaping work on the Willow/US-101 interchange is in the design phase as of early 2024.	Public Works	Caltrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning) Community Amenities Fund	In Progress	Long Term

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EJ2.I.4	Review and update the Transportation Toolkit (Appendix I to the Transportation Master Plan) and the City's standard design details to incorporate Universal Design principles to enhance access for all people.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Long Term	Medium Term
EJ2.I.5	Support roadway design that integrates green stormwater infrastructure into traffic calming (where appropriate) and includes trees, landscape buffer areas, public art, public space, and other visual enhancement.	Action Item	The City is currently integrating green stormwater infrastructure in roadway design, but is limited by the available space/right-of-way where landscape buffers can be incorporated.	Public Works	Caltrans, Library and Community Services	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.I.6	Consider rezoning and limiting the intensity and usage of industrially zoned properties and/or other means such as landscaping to ensure a healthier and safer separation between residential and industrial uses.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ2.I.7	Explore reductions to parking requirements with the intent to encourage balanced live, work, and play environments.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ2.I.8	Inform residents and organizations in underserved communities of the permit application process for temporary street closures for temporary events such as farmers' markets, arts and craft fairs, bicycle and pedestrian events, and other public events. Consider easing the permitting process for temporary street closures in the city.	Action Item	An update to the special event permitting process was made in 2022.	Police	City Manager's Office, City Attorney's Office, Community Development, Public Works.	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Short Term

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EJ2.J	Develop Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park within four years of the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	The City applied for CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant for Urban Forest Management Plan in May 2024. This grant requires projects to be completed by March 31, 2028. The City has budgeted \$250,000 in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as matching funds.	Public Works	Sustainability Division, Canopy	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Round 1 Planning Grant), United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) Grants, CALFIRE grants. City of Menlo Park Heritage Tree in-lieu fee program	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.J.1	Urban canopy expansion prioritizing underserved communities and areas vulnerable to urban heat effects, using tools such as the Tree Equity Score and Bay Area Greenprint.	Action Item	The City is currently updating administrative guidelines, adding more City approved consulting arborists to the list, and working towards securing grant funds for Urban Forest: Developing a Master Plan for Menlo Park.	Public Works	Canopy	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), Community Amenities Fund	In Progress	Short Term
EJ2.J.2	Implement equitable canopy expansion procedures and promote and maintain healthy and vibrant trees that may require dedicating additional resources within the City Arborist Division, Public Works.	Action Item	The City is working towards the development of an urban forest management plan, updating administrative guidelines, and adding more City approved consulting arborists. One additional employee was added to the Trees maintenance section in 2022-23. In May 2024, the City applied for the CalFire Urban and Community Forestry Grant to develop an Urban Forest Management Plan for Menlo Park.	City Manager's Office, Public Works	Sustainability Division, Public Works	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program),	In Progress	Short Term

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EJ2.J.3	Include trees, landscape buffer areas, public art, public space, and other visual enhancements in roadway projects, emphasizing tree planting and landscaping along all streets.	Action Item	Routine maintenance is conducted every 5 years. Residents may request evaluation of work needs outside of routine maintenance, which is on a 5-year cycle.	Public Works	Community Development, Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), Community Amenities Fund (north of 101 implementation of Action Item 2.N.3)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ2.J.4	Use Urban Forest: Developing the Management Plan for Menlo Park to prioritize the retention of mature street trees in public rights of way or City-owned parcels during infrastructure modifications. (e.g., using solutions such as bulb-outs, basin expansion, and sidewalk re-routing.)	Action Item	The City has preservation requirements for heritage and street trees.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ2.J.5	Coordinate with property owners to help preserve mature trees by replacing any that require removal in any redevelopment process. Explore opportunities to transplant trees and vegetation that require removal during construction to other places within underserved communities. Consider requiring multiple new trees be planted for each mature tree removed.	Action Item	The City is updating administrative guidelines and adding more City approved consulting arborists to the list.	Public Works	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ2.K	Prioritize relief from extreme heat (Safety Element Program S1.T) in underserved communities. Information on these resources shall be provided at community facilities (e.g., BHCC).	Program	The City currently operates three cooling centers at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, Belle Haven Community Campus, and the Menlo Park Library. The facilities are air-conditioned and open to the public.	Library and Community Services	Communications and Public Engagement	General Fund	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Goal EJ1. Address unique and compounded health risks</b>								

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<i>EJ1.1</i>	<i>Prioritize programs that address the unique and compounded health risks present in underserved communities currently and in the future.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.2</i>	<i>Reduce climate vulnerability in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.3</i>	<i>Strengthen collaboration efforts with residents in underserved communities, particularly on public improvement projects.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ1.4</i>	<i>Prioritize active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) improvements, transit incentives, and neighborhood connectivity in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ1.A</b>	Prioritize public/capital improvements needed in underserved communities with priority allocation of funding, available to the City locally and from regional, statewide, and federal entities, for such projects, and to address climate change.	Program	-	City Manager's Office, Public Works	Community Development, Sustainability Division	General Fund, General Capital Fund, Countywide Transportation Sales Tax Funds (Measure A & W), State and Federal Gas Taxes	Short Term	Long Term
<b>EJ1.A.1</b>	Support (to the extent possible and subject to funding limitations) non-governmental agencies' grant applications and projects that will specifically help implement the Environmental Justice Element and address highlighted issues in underserved communities such as safe housing, increased tree coverage, recreational resources, active transportation, environmental concerns, air quality.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	Bayfront Mitigation Fund (project specific) Community Amenities Fund (projects specific)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.B</b>	Prepare publicly available reports annually to describe how underserved communities are considered and prioritized in capital improvement plans, departmental work plans, and budgets within four years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	-	All City Departments	-	General Fund	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.C</b>	Develop and publicize annual or every-other-year reports that measure progress and outcomes of the implementation of the Environmental Justice Element programs within six years after the adoption of the Environmental Justice Element.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ1.D</b>	Review CalEnviroScreen to support evaluation of Environmental Justice Element policies and programs.	Program	-	Community Development	California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, All City Departments	General Fund	Long Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>Goal EJ3. Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities</b>								
<i>EJ3.1</i>	<i>Prioritize providing public facilities and programming for underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>EJ3.2</i>	<i>Ensure accessibility of public facilities for all community members, especially those in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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<b>EJ3.3</b>	<i>Support programs that increase access to public and private health resources for underserved communities in locations that are convenient and accessible.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ3.4</b>	<i>Coordinate with local school districts, transit operators, and other public agencies to provide adequate public facilities, improvements, and programs in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ3.A</b>	Identify, renovate, and retrofit candidate public buildings in underserved communities to serve as Climate Resilience Centers as outlined by the California Strategic Growth Council. These buildings should be places where the community already regularly gathers, such as libraries, community centers, or the Belle Haven neighborhood substation.	Program	-	Public Works	Sustainability Division, Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.B</b>	Work with relevant departments to install infrastructure allowing for easy disposal of pet and animal waste at parks and along highly trafficked streets.	Program	-	Public Works	City Manager's Office	General Fund	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.C</b>	Work with internet service providers to support affordable access for low-income households, potentially in partnership with neighboring jurisdictions or state agencies. Inform the community of existing or future partnerships through community workshops that also serve to improve internet literacy and technological skills. In addition, expand outreach and community access to the City Library's laptop and wireless hotspot, or similar, borrowing programs.	Program	The City currently offers laptop lending and wi-fi hotspots free to residents at the library with their library card.	Library and Community Services	Local Internet Providers (e.g., AT&T, Xfinity, Spectrum), San Mateo County Public Works, California Public Utilities Commission, Administrative Services Department/Information Technology Department	California Advanced Services Fund: Broadband Public Housing Account	Medium Term	Medium Term
<b>EJ3.D</b>	Seek to form partnerships, particularly with community based organizations and businesses, and consider option for the use of City facilities to promote and support access to health care for underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
<b>EJ3.D.1</b>	Encourage local transit providers to establish and maintain routes and services that provide underserved communities with convenient access to health service facilities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	SamTrans, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

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EJ3.D.2	Partner with local transit providers to provide a comprehensive system of para-transit service for seniors and people of all abilities and enhance service within the city and to regional public facilities, especially for access to health care and other needs.	Action Item	-	Public Works	SamTrans, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.D.3	Identify means of supporting a citywide paramedicine program providing health care delivery, pop-up clinics, and home visits, especially to those most vulnerable or underserved, such as seniors and residents of underserved communities through partnering with health care services.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, City Manager's Office, Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.D.4	Identify a partner who can provide a community health clinic in Belle Haven.	Action Item	A Community health clinic has been proposed as part of Belle Haven Elementary School redesign by Ravenswood City School District.	City Manager's Office	Local Medical Centers (e.g., Menlo Medical Clinic, Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park)	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant), Department of Health and Human Services (Service Area Competition Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ3.E	Coordinate with schools and other local organizations (e.g., Boys and Girls Club) to support after-school activities and related outreach/communications generally.	Program	-	Library and Community Services	Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.E.1	Coordinate with the Ravenswood City School District to help publicize affordable after school care options/programs and explore opportunities to enhance transportation options for youth to BHCC.	Action Item	Ravenswood City School District has a number of after school care options/programs and the City can help publicize and enhance usage. City vans provide transportation to BHCC for youth enrolled in the City's after school program, however, there is not transportation for youth interested in going to BHCC after school but are not enrolled in the City's program.	Library and Community Services	Communications and Public Engagement, Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.E.2	Encourage joint use of recreational fields.	Action Item	-	Library and Community Services	Public Works, Ravenswood City School District	Strategic Growth Council (Community Resilience Centers Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

DESCRIPTION				IMPLEMENTATION			TIME FRAME	
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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.F	Seek to form partnerships or other agreements with a banking specialist and other identified partners to provide a community bank or banking services in the underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Local banks	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Planning Grant)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ3.G	Ensure delivery on the needs of underserved communities through the City's Programming Plans currently in place and continue to adapt programming based on community feedback through regular community surveys and outreach.	Program	City staff, with input from the community, Belle Haven Community Campus subcommittee and working group, Library Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission, have developed robust programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus. City will continue to adapt programming to community needs through regular community surveys and outreach that solicit community feedback.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ3.G.1	During facility renovations, install distributed solar panels and battery storage over facility parking lots for resiliency and heat reduction.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Community Campus is an all-electric, zero combustion, net zero energy public building with onsite renewable energy generation, battery microgrid, and electric vehicle charging stations. The facility is built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum environmental standards, and its structural design is resilient to serve as an emergency shelter. Construction is complete.	Public Works	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department, Menlo Park Public Works Department, Silicon Valley Clean Energy, Menlo Park Building Division	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Complete	Short Term



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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.G.2	Provide equitable access to programs at the Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities.	Action Item	Programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) emphasize equitable access to programs through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities. Menlo Park residents who live or attend K-12 school within the service area of BHCC are eligible for hyperlocal resident enrollment fees at BHCC.	Library and Community Services	Library and Community Services Department, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.3	Providing community programming for all age groups, including older teens and older adults not considered seniors.	Action Item	The City provides and is working to develop additional programming for all age groups, including teens and older adults not considered seniors, and will continue to adapt programming to meet community needs and desires as they change over time, with community input.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.4	Provide childcare, potentially with funding support for residents of underserved communities.	Action Item	The City provides childcare with funding support for underserved communities at the Belle Haven Child Development Center (BHCCDC) and Belle Haven Youth Center (BHYC). Tuition is subsidized based on income level with grant funding from the State and other sources.	Library and Community Services	Local Childcare Organizations	California Department of Education	In Progress	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.G.5	Communicate with the Ravenswood City School District to enhance an understanding of preferred amenities and activities that can be included at Belle Haven Community Campus.	Action Item	Communication between the City and the Ravenswood City School District is ongoing. The School District partners with Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring, and City Year to provide before-school and after-school care. These collaborations offer both academic support and enrichment activities and the City continually seeks opportunities to amplify support for youth and families.	Library and Community Services	Ravenswood City School District, Communications and Public Engagement	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.6	Provide safe and highly visible pathways that connect residential areas in underserved communities to the new community center. Safety and visibility features should include adequate lighting.	Action Item	The Vision Zero Action Plan identifies high priority systemic safety issues to be addressed in all neighborhoods, with a focus on underserved communities.	Public Works	Library and Community Services, Community Development	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.G.7	Support the inclusion of artwork (e.g., murals) that reflects the diversity and culture of underserved communities at community centers and beyond. Include community artifacts and testaments to community history in the community center.	Action Item	Belle Haven Community Campus will include exhibits and displays focused on Belle Haven history, people, and neighborhood stories, rotating exhibits by local artists, interpretive artworks and multimedia.	Library and Community Services	Local Art Initiatives (e.g., Elevate Art Menlo Park, Allied Arts Guild)	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.G.8	Uplift culturally relevant holiday events at Belle Haven Community Campus to foster a feeling of belonging among all residents.	Action Item	The City is committed to work with community members to create more culturally relevant events is ongoing, including through mini-grants.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
EJ3.G.9	Facilitate yoga classes and other opportunities for regular community-gathering physical activities, such as walking groups and/or hiking programs for the underserved communities. Plan programs suitable to multiple age groups and abilities.	Action Item	The City currently offers yoga, Zumba, line-dancing and other movement classes for various age groups. Work with the community to develop new opportunities for community-oriented physical activities such as walking and/or hiking programs is ongoing.	Library and Community Services	-	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program), National Endowment for the Humanities (Public Humanities Projects Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
EJ3.H	Ensure that recreational facilities throughout Menlo Park provide all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles, with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, libraries, and other amenities.	Program	City prioritizes access for all residents of all ages, income levels, genders, and lifestyles.	Library and Community Services	Public Works, Community Development	General Fund	In Progress	Long Term
EJ3.H.1	Provide public facilities that are well designed, energy efficient, maintained, and compatible with adjacent land uses.	Action Item	-	All City Departments	Community Development	General Fund	Medium Term	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ3.H.2	Offer substantially reduced costs for recreation activities, particularly to residents of underserved communities based on economic need.	Action Item	Programming plans for Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) emphasize equitable access to programs through appropriate costs and proactive, multilingual, and multimodal outreach for residents of underserved communities. Menlo Park residents who live or attend K-12 school within the service area of BHCC are eligible for hyperlocal resident enrollment fees at BHCC.	Library and Community Services	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	General Fund	In Progress	Medium Term
EJ3.H.3	In coordination with the City's Parks and Recreational Facilities Master Plan, provide public restroom facilities at parks in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department, Menlo Park Public Works Department	General Fund, Recreation In-Lieu Fee Fund	Short Term	Long Term
EJ3.H.4	Expand hours for public recreation facilities to allow working people to take advantage of the facilities. This should include open hours until 9:00 p.m. on weekdays and possibly shortened hours on weekends.	Action Item	-	Menlo Park Library and Community Services Department	-	General Fund	Short Term	Short Term
<b>Goal EJ6. Encourage physical activity and active transportation</b>								
EJ6.1	<i>Prioritize programs that encourage physical activity in underserved communities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.2	<i>Support physically active lifestyles through investment in complete streets and active transportation (e.g., walking, bicycling, wheelchair) and safety in underserved communities</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.3	<i>Prioritize the implementation of traffic and transit improvements in underserved communities to reduce excessive speed, limit cut through traffic, and make streets comfortable and accessible places for all users and abilities.</i>	Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ6.A	Identify and eliminate, barriers to outdoor physical activity, such as damaged, incomplete, blocked, or littered sidewalks and bike paths, lack of safe street crossings and direct connections, excessive speeding, insufficient lighting, and lack of landscaping and shade trees along streets in underserved communities.	Program	-	Public Works	Community Development, Sustainability Division	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.B	In concurrence with the City's Vision Zero Action Plan, develop and implement education campaigns to increase the safety and comfort of people walking, bicycling and taking transit. These efforts should include education for people using all modes.	Program	-	Public Works	Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, SamTrans	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ6.C	Coordinate with Ravenswood City School District to expand the Safe Routes to School program, including potential for increased crossing guards at key intersections.	Program	-	Public Works	Ravenswood City School District	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning)	Medium Term	Long Term
EJ6.D	Prepare to update and adopt the City's Transportation Master Plan (best practice is to update every 10-15 years) to improve environmental justice.	Program	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Outreach Organizations (e.g., Menlo Together, Climate Resilient Communities), Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation Grants (Safe Streets and Roads for All, Sustainable Transportation Planning)	Long Term	Long Term
EJ6.D.1	Consider community solutions for addressing concerns related to parking (e.g., idling and noise, parking availability challenges) in underserved communities and explore the creation of Residential Preferential Parking (RPP) programs.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), Police	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.D.2	Seek opportunities to improve pedestrian safety, at all Willow Road intersections.	Action Item	The City adopted the Vision Zero Action Plan in January 2024. The City is working on a Willow Road bicycle and pedestrian improvement project.	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Short Term
EJ6.D.3	Consider strategies to reduce excessive speed and cut-through traffic in underserved communities.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan is nearly complete and the City is coordinating with Caltrans to complete signal improvements at Willow and Newbridge	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ6.D.4	Install traffic calming measures to reduce speeds, as well as flashing stop signs in underserved communities, particularly around schools during pick-up and drop-off periods.	Action Item	The Belle Haven Traffic Calming Plan is near completion. The Plan has completed speed humps near Belle Haven Elementary School, and bulbouts along Ivy, Chilco, Terminal and Newbridge.	Public Works	Caltrans, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, Ravenswood City School District, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Short Term

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ6.D.5	Install bikeways on Ivy Drive, ideally Class I or Class IV.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Federal Transit Administration (Metropolitan & Statewide Planning and NonMetropolitan Transportation Planning), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission	Long Term	Long Term
EJ6.D.6	Expand the network of safe, accessible, and appealing pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including pedestrian connections within and in between neighborhoods. Poles, signs, or other impediments in the center of sidewalks should be modified to improve accessibility and sidewalk safety.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Medium Term	Medium Term
EJ6.D.7	Install lighting to encourage walking and safe travel at night. This may begin with installation on Ivy Drive, Hamilton Avenue, Chilco Street, Newbridge Street, and at public buildings at parks. It should continue after subsequent community outreach that identifies other streets and locations with inadequate lighting, prioritizing underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Public Works	Community Development	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	Short Term	Long Term
<b>Goal EJ7. Create equitable civic and community engagement</b>								
EJ7.1	<i>Prioritize civic and community engagement programs that enhance the participation and inclusion of underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
EJ7.2	<i>Keep residents informed about governmental meetings and actions by ensuring transparency and accessibility in government and decision making.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
<b>EJ7.3</b>	<i>Treat all members of the community fairly and promote equity and capacity building toward creating a healthy environment and just community.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EJ7.A</b>	Promote and evaluate capacity-building efforts to educate and involve traditionally underrepresented populations, including underserved communities, in the public decision-making process.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.1</b>	Partner with community-based organizations that have relationships, trust and cultural competency with target communities to outreach on local initiatives and issues and allow them the use of space in the Belle Haven Community Campus at no cost.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.2</b>	Use culturally appropriate approaches to public participation and involvement in a partnership with community based organization.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.3</b>	Deploy educational workshops for City staff to enhance understanding social injustice and housing needs pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Belle Haven Action	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.A.4</b>	Provide training for decision makers, City staff, applicants, and public on social justice issues that affect community members.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.B</b>	All meetings with an agendized item located in an underserved community should take place in a location easily accessible to the underserved community and/or by means that facilitate such access, such as satellite meeting centers, simulcasting, and/or remote participation. Consider hardcopy materials for outreach, particularly door-to-door outreach.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Library and Community Services	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.C</b>	Consider and provide, as feasible, compensation (such as food and refreshments, stipends, on-site child care) at community outreach events in underserved communities.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D</b>	Pursue equitable civic and community engagement.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.1</b>	Initiate outreach efforts as early as possible in the decision-making process before significant resources have been invested.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.2</b>	Conduct open meetings on issues affecting land use and the environment.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	Community Development, Public Works	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.3</b>	At least twice per year, beginning immediately following Environmental Justice Element Adoption, conduct City Council meetings in underserved communities.	Action Item	The Planning Commission and City Council will review and recommend/consider adoption of the Environmental Justice Element at BHCC.	Community Development	-	General Fund	<b>In Progress</b>	Ongoing From Initiation
<b>EJ7.D.4</b>	Encourage representation from all districts on City boards and commissions.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation



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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.D.5	Evaluate scheduling of public meetings in order to allow for a wide range of participation options around typical and atypical working hours.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.6	Coordinate outreach efforts between City departments to avoid duplication and encourage that all Menlo Park community stakeholders receive notification and information.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.7	Inform the public on decisions – and seek feedback on decisions – using multiple communication methods, including traditional and online forms of communication.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.8	Incorporate multilingual outreach, announcements and noticing into City procedures for public meetings and hearings and offer interpretation services at all meetings and workshops on environmental issues.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.9	Consider offering childcare at key meetings and workshops on environmental issues affecting entire neighborhoods and the city as a whole.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.D.10	Distribute contact information (such as phone numbers to call) for various departments, programs and other functions in the City organization in underserved communities and in appropriate languages.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.E	Encourage resources for in-person outreach, enhancing the BHCC as a community hub for learning and engagement opportunities strengthened with partner organizations. These will connect residents in underserved communities with pre-existing city and state resources as well as encourage resident participation in public meetings, events, and decision making.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.E.1	Provide resources at BHCC about environmental safety, including flooding, extreme heat, and other issues identified in the Safety Element. Consider having a concierge or dedicated staff/resources to provide outreach on local mitigation efforts in underserved communities.	Action Item	-	Community Development	Library and Community Services, Public Works, Sustainability Division	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.F	Review Planning Commission stipend pilot and consider compensating City Councilmembers and appointed commissioners for the time they spend in their positions to make the positions more accessible to residents of underserved communities.	Program	A Planning Commission stipend pilot program was added in the 2023-2024 budget.	City Manager's Office	-	General Fund	In Progress	Short Term
EJ7.G	Expand outreach on SamTrans' paratransit services to support increased attendance at public functions.	Program	SamTrans currently operates a countywide paratransit service.	Library and Community Services	SamTrans, Public Works	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant)	In Progress	Medium Term

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EJ7.H	Ensure that disaster preparedness planning as described in the Safety Element includes multilingual and multimodal outreach in Menlo Park’s underserved communities. Upon adoption of the Environmental Justice Element, conduct regular disaster preparedness outreach that may include participation and information dissemination at public event and/or fairs in underserved communities with proactive encouragement and opportunity for the residents to sign up for emergency alert systems.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	Menlo Park Fire Protection District	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.I	Encourage the sustained engagement and involvement of underserved communities in long term adaptation planning projects related to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. Maintain membership and partnership with the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority during their oversight of levee installations and expansions protecting underserved communities.	Program	The SAFER Bay Citizens Advisory Committee was formed in 2022 and provides engagement and involvement opportunities.	Public Works	City Manager's Office, San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority	Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program's Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program)	In Progress	Long Term
EJ7.J	Continually maintain the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide in response to changing community needs, funding opportunities, and ongoing community outreach. Annual reporting, at a minimum, should be provided to the City Council and made available on the City website.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.1	Monitoring programming at community centers for usage, popularity, and equitable access, including an annual report on community center programming to Council. The report shall include community outreach and will recommend any updates to programming and outreach methods to address inequitable access.	Action Item	The City currently collects usage data and statistics, and provides monthly usage reports to Library Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission. Annual report to City Council is currently under development.	Library and Community Services	-	General Fund	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.2	Publish an annual report on the progress of the Transportation Master Plan, beginning a year after adoption of the updated Transportation Master Plan.	Action Item	An online map showing completed projects is published on the City website.  Further status/dashboard information about the Transportation Master Plan and Vision Zero Action Plan is under development.	Public Works	Community Development Department, Caltrans, Community-Based Active Transportation Organizations (e.g., Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition)	Strategic Growth Council (Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Planning Grant), Department of Transportation (Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity Grant)	In Progress	Ongoing From Initiation

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ID	Policy / Program / Action Item Text	Classification	In Progress?	Lead Role	Supporting Role	Funding Source(s)	Initiation	Completion
EJ7.J.3	Diligently implement all state laws and mandated bias and sensitivity training requirements for law enforcement officers, current and new upon hire, who may interact with historically discriminated groups. The Police Department shall maintain records as required by state law to show vigilant compliance with all state laws and California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requirements. The Police Department includes documentation of records generated in compliance with the department's "Bias-Based Policing" policy as well as California's Racial and Identity Profiling Act in its quarterly reporting to the community through City Council.	Action Item	-	Police	City Manager's Office	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.J.4	Prepare and publicize an annual report describing the City's progress on promoting and evaluating capacity-building efforts per Program EJ7.D. This report shall also evaluate outreach methods and recommend adjusting outreach strategies to reflect best practices and results.	Action Item	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.K	The City will update the Environmental Justice Element Action Guide annually to indicate progress, especially in meeting community-identified priorities. Revisions to existing action items and/or community-identified priorities will include outreach, particularly in underserved communities, and include a public process with City Council consideration. Outreach to further environmental justice will be ongoing. The Action Guide does not require a General Plan amendment to be updated.	Program	-	Community Development	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation
EJ7.L	The City Council shall consider the community-identified environmental justice priorities during its annual priority and goal setting workshop.	Program	-	City Manager's Office	All City Departments	General Fund	Short Term	Ongoing From Initiation



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# memorandum

date August 21, 2024  
to Project File  
from Luke Evans, Senior Managing Associate/Project Manager  
subject Evaluation of Environmental Impacts of the City of Menlo Park's Safety and Environmental Justice Elements Under the California Environmental Quality Act

This memorandum summarizes the environmental impact analysis undertaken for the City of Menlo Park's updated Safety Element and new Environmental Justice Element under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The two elements were considered in the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the City's Housing Element Update project (described to include an update to the Housing Element, update to the Safety Element, new Environmental Justice Element, and associated changes including zoning amendments) that was certified by the City Council on January 31, 2023. As part of adopting the ConnectMenlo General Plan Update in 2016, the City prepared and certified the ConnectMenlo EIR. The SEIR incorporated and revised the ConnectMenlo EIR to ensure that environmental aspects of the Housing Element Update project were properly evaluated for purposes of CEQA.

Section 6.5 of the SEIR provided an explanation of the SEIR's treatment of the Safety and Environmental Justice Elements. Ultimately, and as noted on page 6-8 of the SEIR, the SEIR did not include an evaluation of the potential environmental effects of the updated Safety Element and new Environmental Justice Element because they primarily address general City policy direction. The City's decision not to include such an evaluation was based on the purpose and characteristics of each element, and was informed and supported by statute, regulation, and applicable case law indicating that such an analysis was not required. Discussion within Section 6.5 of the SEIR provided a rationale for this decision. A summary of that discussion is provided below.

## **Analysis of the Safety Element and Environmental Justice Element in the SEIR**

Implementation of the update to the Housing Element would likely result in physical environmental impacts that could be identified and predicted in the SEIR. Most notably, the update to the Housing Element and its associated zoning changes could result in the development of more housing in the City, which would have direct physical effects on the environment. In the case of the update to the Housing Element's impacts, some degree of specificity was possible in identifying environmental effects in the SEIR since the update to the Housing Element identified specific housing opportunity sites and land use strategy sites and potential development on those sites, so that the environmental effects thereof were generally predictable. The SEIR noted that even though no specific

development applications or proposals had been advanced for these sites, an upper range of development intensity was established and the impacts of that development could therefore be described and analyzed in the SEIR. For this reason, the SEIR evaluated the environmental effects of the HEU in the SEIR's various topical sections.

The Safety Element and the Environmental Justice Element are primarily policy documents. Unlike the update to the Housing Element, these documents do not identify or propose specific, physical actions in particular locations that could impact the physical environment in those locations. The SEIR determined that attempting to identify and evaluate potential impacts associated with those policies would be too general and highly speculative.

For instance, some of the policies in the Environmental Justice Element encourage positive actions towards providing increased access to community services such as effective transit, quality schools, retail opportunities, and healthcare options in Underserved Communities, but there were no actions proposed to implement those policies that would have the direct specificity required to be effectively identified and analyzed for their probable environmental effects.

Identification and analysis of potential environmental effects would have required overly broad speculation as to the type and locations of activities that could arise from those policies, which would run counter to the directives of CEQA and its overall purpose of identifying and analyzing the known environmental effects of a proposal while avoiding undue speculation.

Similarly, the proposed policies in the updated Safety Element were developed to identify general areas of potential safety risk and to encourage effective City decisions around those risks. The updated Safety Element provides broad conceptual direction about the way the City should approach safety challenges and provides general direction to the City to consider aspects of safety in its decisions. No specific physical projects are identified in the Safety Element, nor were specific locations of activities identified. In other words, none of the proposed policies made CEQA analysis possible in anything but a general and highly speculative manner.

The CEQA Guidelines provide clear direction on how lead agencies should approach analysis of environmental effects for general policy measures and speculative activities. CEQA Guidelines Section 15146 notes:

*The degree of specificity required in an EIR will correspond to the degree of specificity involved in the underlying activity which is described in the EIR...an EIR on a construction project will necessarily be more detailed in the specific effects of the project than will be an EIR on the adoption of a local general plan or comprehensive zoning ordinance because the effects of the construction can be predicted with greater accuracy.*

While the environmental effects of the new housing provided for in the update to the Housing Element could be predicted with some accuracy, that was not the case with the updated Safety Element and the new Environmental Justice Element. The environmental discussion of both elements could only be provided in the most general terms, and their potential environmental effects could not be accurately known or assessed without resorting to speculation. CEQA Guidelines Section 15145 is specific in how a lead agency should treat these situations:

*If, after thorough investigation, a lead agency finds that a particular impact is too speculative for evaluation, the agency should note its conclusion and terminate discussion of the impact.*

Based upon this direction, the City determined that evaluation of the potential environmental effects of both the updated Safety Element and the new Environmental Justice Element was neither appropriate nor required in the SEIR. As stated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15187(d), a lead agency “*is not required to, nor should it, engage in speculation or conjecture.*” Recent case law has further affirmed that “CEQA does not require an EIR to discuss future developments which are unspecified or uncertain.”<sup>1</sup> Attempting such evaluation would not have been productive or provide results that would be useful or relevant in considering whether to approve the updated Safety Element or new Environmental Justice Element. In the future, if any physical action associated with implementation of either element is proposed, such action will be required to undergo its own environmental analysis per the requirements of CEQA before its approval and implementation.

Based upon these considerations, the SEIR did not include any evaluation of potential environmental effects of the updated Safety Element and new Environmental Justice Element. The City’s decision not to attempt such evaluation was based on the purpose and characteristics of each element, and was informed and supported by statute, regulation, and applicable case law indicating that it was not required by CEQA under those circumstances.

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<sup>1</sup> *Environmental Council of Sacramento v. County of Sacramento*. (2020) 45 Cal.App.5th 1020.



**STAFF REPORT**

**City Council Meeting Date:** 9/24/2024  
**Staff Report Number:** 24-166-CC

**Public Hearing:** Consider and adopt a resolution approving a variance to reduce the subdivision ordinance front setback requirement for an addition to an existing two-story, single-family residence at 600 Kenwood Dr.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Council consider and adopt a resolution to approve the request for a variance to reduce the subdivision ordinance front setback requirement to allow the construction of a front porch addition to an existing two-story, single-family residence in the R-1-U (Single Family Urban Residential) zoning district at 600 Kenwood Dr. (Attachment A).

**Policy Issues**

Each variance request is considered individually. The City Council should consider whether the required subdivision ordinance variance findings per Chapter 15.32.020 of the Municipal Code can be made for the proposal. At this time, the City Council will need to evaluate and consider the findings for the variance request in this specific application.

As a separate item in the future, staff may present potential modifications to the subdivision ordinance front setback requirements for the City Council's consideration. Modifying the subdivision ordinance front setback requirement, which is separate from and in addition to the zoning ordinance front setback requirements for certain lots, may reduce confusion among homeowners and the development community, and would permit development on the affected subset of residential properties to fit within the pattern of other properties in the same zoning district.

**Background**

Subdivision ordinance front setback

The majority of the rules governing what can be built, and where, on a property are established through development regulations found within the zoning ordinance; however, other titles of the Municipal Code also regulate development projects.

Chapter 15.16.110 of the subdivision ordinance specifies that for lots on a curve, where the radius of the curve is less than 100 feet, the front setback shall extend to the point at which the width of the lot meets the minimum lot width for the zoning district. The building setback shall be at least as great as the applicable zoning requirements. Attachment B illustrates the subdivision ordinance front setback requirement. The front setback requirement of the subdivision ordinance could result in a required front setback greater than the typical zoning ordinance front setback requirement of 20 feet.

A request to build within the subdivision ordinance front setback requires a variance from the subdivision

ordinance, which includes different findings than a variance from the zoning ordinance. The City Council is the decision-making body for such variance requests, whereas the Planning Commission would be the decision-making body for variance requests from development regulations set by the zoning ordinance. The subdivision ordinance variance request does not require review and a recommendation from the Planning Commission before City Council review and action.

## **Analysis**

### Project description

The applicant is proposing to construct an approximately 40-square-foot front porch addition to an existing two-story residence. The project plans and the applicant's project description letter are included as Attachment A, Exhibits A and B, respectively. The property is located on the curve of Kenwood Drive and subject to the subdivision ordinance for determining its front setback, as outlined in the previous section. Only the parcels located on the curves of Kenwood Drive and Morey Drive are subject to the subdivision ordinance front setback requirement. The minimum lot width in the R-1-U zoning district is 65 feet. The lot meets the minimum 65-foot width at approximately 39 feet, 6 inches from the front property line. Therefore, per the subdivision ordinance, the front setback would be measured at this point rather than at the standard 20-foot front setback applicable to other properties in the R-1-U zoning district.

The parcels along Kenwood Drive and Morey Drive are also located within the R-1-U zoning district, and contain primarily one-story, single-family residences with ranch-style architecture, however there are a few two-story residences of various architectural styles in the area. The property immediately to the northeast is the El Camino Real Safeway property in the SP-ECR-D (El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan) zoning district. Adjacent properties to the northwest are in the R-3 (Apartment) zoning district and are developed with two-story apartment buildings. A location map is included as Attachment C.

The proposed porch addition is located in the front of the residence and is approximately 40 square feet in area (5 feet deep by 8 feet wide). The porch is proposed to comply with all development regulations, with the exception of the front subdivision ordinance setback described above. The front setback of the existing residence is 21 feet, 11 inches, and the proposed front setback of the addition would be approximately 21 feet, 1 inch at its nearest point to the front property line. The proposed addition would have a side setback of 15 feet, 10 inches, where the minimum side setback in the R-1-U zoning district is 10% of the minimum lot width (6 feet, 6 inches). While the proposed addition would comply with the standard 20-foot front setback for the R-1-U zoning district, it would require a variance from the subdivision ordinance front setback requirement. For reference, a data table summarizing parcel and project attributes is included as Attachment D.

### Variance request

The applicant is requesting a variance to construct the proposed addition within the required subdivision ordinance front setback. The applicant's variance request letter is included as Attachment A, Exhibit C, which outlines the applicant's justification for the proposed variance. Pursuant to Chapter 15.32.020 of the Municipal Code, the required subdivision variance findings are evaluated below in succession. All findings are required to be met for a variance to be granted.

1. That any variance granted shall be subject to such conditions as will assure that the adjustment thereby authorized shall not constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the same vicinity;
  - a. The applicant has indicated that the request would not constitute a special privilege, in part due to the fact that the standard minimum front setback of 20 feet for the zoning district would be maintained and that their project would be consistent with other properties in the surrounding



- neighborhood. Staff finds that by exceeding the existing zoning ordinance front setback requirement and adhering to the other applicable development regulations would meet the first finding, prevents a granting of special privilege.
2. That because of special circumstances applicable to the subject property, including size, shape, topography, location or surroundings, the strict literal application of this title is found to deprive subject property of privileges enjoyed by other properties in the vicinity;
    - a. The applicant's letter describes the site characteristics, highlighting that the shape of the lot creates a required setback that is nearly double that of other R-1-U properties. Additionally, the existing house is nonconforming, which would preclude any additions to the front of the house without a variance. Staff recognizes the lot shape as a special circumstance because only four of the 42 properties along Morey Drive and Kenwood Drive would be subject to the subdivision ordinance front setback. Staff finds that strict application of the title deprives the subject property of development potential that a typical rectangular lot would enjoy, particularly because most other lots on the street are not subject to the subdivision ordinance front setback requirement.
  3. That under the circumstances of this particular case, the variance, rather than the sections at issue in this title, actually carries out the spirit and intent of this title.
    - a. The applicant states that the variance would carry out the spirit of the subdivision ordinance and zoning ordinance because it would allow them to be able to make reasonable repairs and improvements to their property consistent with other properties in their neighborhood. The applicant has prepared a design that would meet all the development regulations for the R-1-U zoning district. In looking at the spirit and intent of the title, the title was adopted for "the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, convenience and general welfare..." and staff believes that this finding can be made due to the fact that the zoning ordinance requirements would be met and that the variance would maintain the development pattern of nearby residences and other properties in the same zoning district.

#### Correspondence

Staff has not received any written correspondence regarding this item.

#### Conclusion

Staff recommends the City Council adopt the resolution to approve the variance to the subdivision ordinance front setback requirement. Staff believes that the variance request for the proposed addition is justifiable based upon the characteristics of the site and would not be a granting of special privileges not enjoyed by other properties. The proposed variance would allow for the construction of the porch addition, similar in location and scale of the neighboring properties, and the overall neighborhood.

#### **Impact on City Resources**

The project sponsor is required to pay planning, building and public works permit fees, based on the City's master fee schedule, to fully cover the cost of staff time spent on the review of the project.

#### **Environmental Review**

The project is categorically exempt under Class 5 (§15305, "Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations") of the current California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

#### **Public Notice**

Public Notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72

hours prior to the meeting. Public notification also consisted of publishing a notice in the local newspaper and notification by mail of owners and occupants within a 300-foot radius of the subject property.

**Attachments**

- A. Draft resolution approving the subdivision ordinance front setback variance
  - Exhibits to Attachment A
    - A. Project plans
    - B. Project description letter
    - C. Variance letter
    - D. Conditions of approval
- B. Hyperlink – Subdivision ordinance front setback diagram:  
[menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/community-development/documents/subdivision-ordinance-front-setback-201804\\_201804051510159966.pdf](https://menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/community-development/documents/subdivision-ordinance-front-setback-201804_201804051510159966.pdf)
- C. Location map
- D. Data table

Report prepared by:  
Chris Turner, Senior Planner

Report Reviewed by:  
Deanna Chow, Community Development Director

**RESOLUTION NO. XXXX****RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK  
APPROVING A VARIANCE FROM THE SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE TO  
CONSTRUCT AN ADDITION TO AN EXISTING RESIDENCE IN THE FRONT  
SETBACK FOR THE PROPERTY AT 600 KENWOOD DR.**

WHEREAS, a request for consideration of a variance from the subdivision ordinance was submitted by Archit and Mansi Shah (“Owners” and “Applicants”) to construct a first-floor porch addition in the front setback at approximately 21 feet, 1 inch where the setback established by the subdivision ordinance is approximately 39 feet, 6 inches, on a lot in the R-1-U (Single Family Urban Residential) zoning district (hereinafter the “Project”), as depicted in the plan set prepared by Nancy Harris Wyatt Architect dated Aug. 20, 2024 (Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, §15.32.020 of the Menlo Park Municipal Code's subdivision ordinance establishes criteria for granting variances from the subdivision ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the variance granted shall be subject to the conditions in Exhibit D, to assure that the adjustment thereby authorized shall not constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the same vicinity. The proposed variance is to construct the addition at 21 feet, 1 inch, which exceeds the front setback requirement of the R-1-U zoning district in which the property is located. Furthermore, the proposed addition shall be subject to review relative to the development regulations for the R-1-U zoning district and other requirements of the zoning ordinance, to which other properties in the vicinity are subject, therefore not granting the subject property special privilege; and

WHEREAS, due to special circumstances applicable to the subject property, including size, shape, topography, location or surroundings, the strict literal application of this title is found to deprive subject property of privileges enjoyed by other properties in the vicinity. Due to the irregular pie-shape and narrowness of the lot, the required front setback is approximately double the required setback of other properties in the R-1-U zoning. Therefore, the front setback established by the subdivision ordinance would preclude additional development at the front of the lot, whereas other properties in the vicinity are generally subject to a front setback of 20 feet, as established by the zoning ordinance; and

WHEREAS, under the circumstances of this particular case, the variance, rather than the sections at issue in Title 15, carries out the spirit and intent of the subdivision ordinance. In looking at the spirit and intent of the title, the title was adopted for “the purpose of promoting the public health, safety, convenience and general welfare...” The proposed size and location of the residence would comply with the standard zoning ordinance setback requirements and follow the development pattern of the subject zoning district; therefore, the variance, rather than the sections at issue in Title 15, carries out the spirit and intent of the title; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project and granting of a variance to permit a 21-foot, one-inch front setback for the construction of an addition would be appropriate and meet the findings pursuant to §15.32.020 of the subdivision ordinance;

WHEREAS, after notice having been lawfully given, a public meeting was scheduled and held before the City Council of the City of Menlo Park Sept. 24, 2024 whereat all persons interested therein might appear and be heard; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed the project Sept. 24, 2024, and found the project to be categorically exempt under Class 5 (§15305, "Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations") of the current California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Menlo Park having fully reviewed, considered, and evaluated all the testimony and evidence submitted in this matter voted affirmatively to make findings and approve the proposed variance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Menlo Park, acting by and through its City Council, having considered and been fully advised in the matter and good cause appearing therefore do hereby adopt the resolution approving a variance from the subdivision ordinance to construct an addition to an existing residence within the front setback.

I, Judi A. Herren, City Clerk of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing City Council Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said City Council on the twenty-fourth day of September, 2024, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

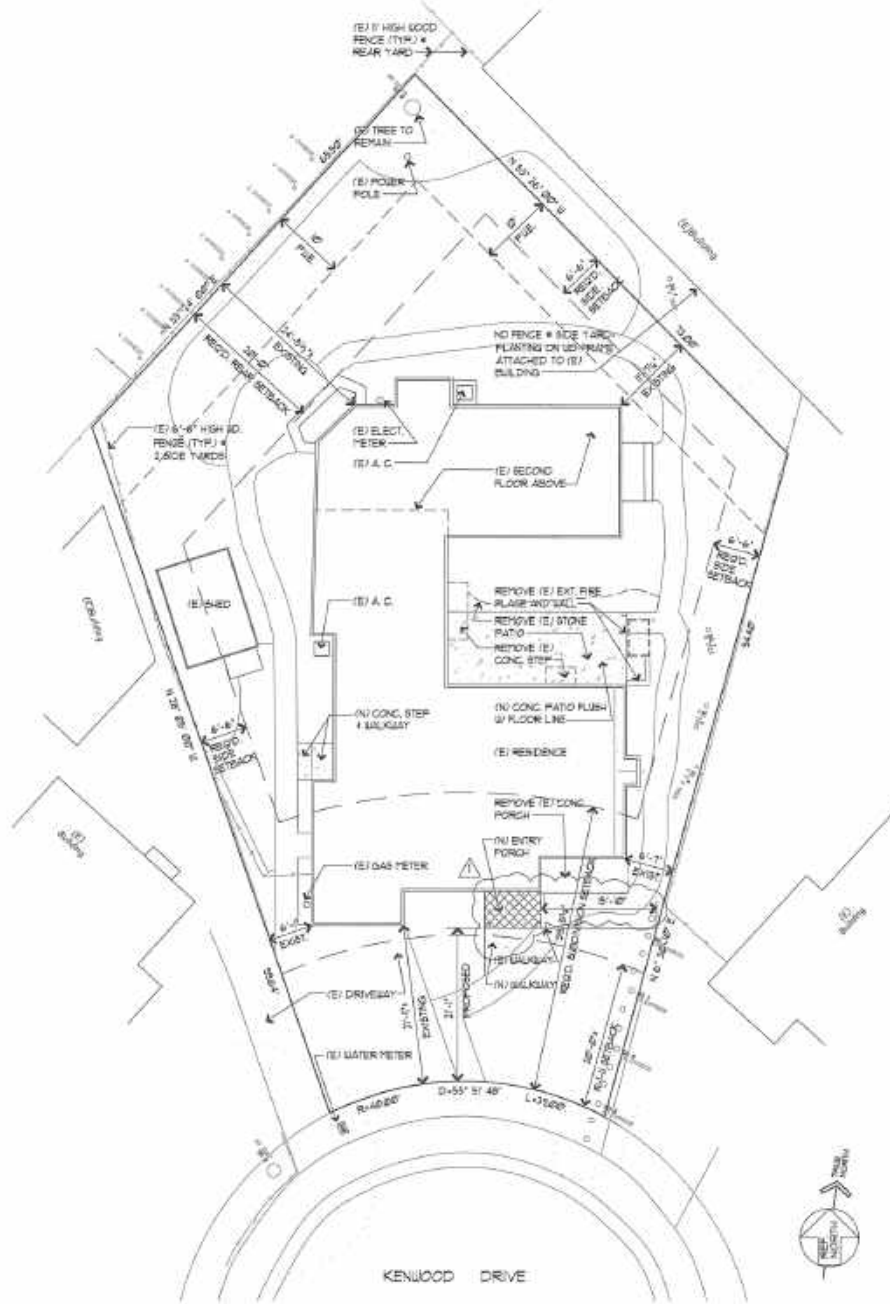
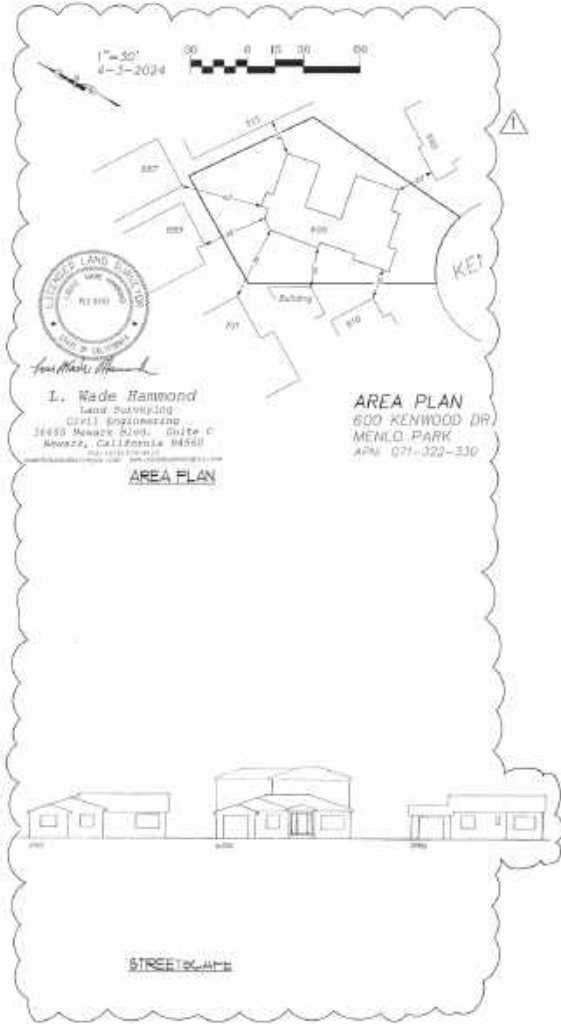
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of said City on this \_\_\_ day of September, 2024.

---

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

Exhibits

- A. Project plans
- B. Project description letter
- C. Variance letter
- D. Conditions of approval



**INDEX OF DRAWINGS**

- ARCHITECTURAL**  
 A1 SITE PLAN  
 A2 FLOOR PLANS  
 A3 ROOF PLAN  
 A4 EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS  
 A5 BUILDING SECTIONS  
 A6 FLOOR AREA CALCULATIONS  
 A7 IMPERVIOUS SURFACE CALCULATIONS

**SURVEY**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**JOB ADDRESS:** 600 KENWOOD DRIVE  
**BUILDING OCCUPANCY (SNOOBS):** R-3U  
**TYPE/IN OF CONSTRUCTION:** V-B  
**FIRE SPRINKLERS:** YES  
**OCCUPANCY CATEGORY:** I  
**APN:** 071-322-330  
**ZONING:** R-3U  
**PARKING:** COVERED SPACE  
 UNCOVERED SPACE

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

INTERIOR REMODEL OF TWO STORY HOUSE WITH NEW WINDOWS AND NEW ROOF

**REFERENCE CODES:**

- 2022 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE (T24, PART 2)
- 2022 CALIFORNIA RESIDENTIAL CODE (T24, PART 2.5)
- 2022 CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE (T24, PART 3)
- 2022 CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE (T24, PART 4)
- 2022 CALIFORNIA PLUMBING CODE (T24, PART 5)
- 2022 CALIFORNIA ENERGY CODE (CEC) (T24, PART 6)
- 2022 CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL CODE (T24, PART 8)
- 2022 CALIFORNIA EXISTING BUILDING CODE (T24, PART 10)
- 2022 CALIFORNIA GREEN BUILDING CODE (T24, PART 11)
- MENLO PARK MUNICIPAL CODES

**AREA SCHEDULE**

LOT AREA:	8485 SQ. FT.
FLOOR AREA - ALLOWED - (2486'±) (2486'±) (1,000')	3,911 SQ. FT.
AREA LIFT:	
FIRST FLOOR:	2638 SQ. FT.
SECOND FLOOR:	543 SQ. FT.
PROPOSED TOTAL:	3181 SQ. FT.
COVERAGE:	
ALLOWED (35%)	2971 SQ. FT.
GARAGE:	148 SQ. FT.
FIRST FLOOR:	2635 SQ. FT.
COVERED PATIO:	148 SQ. FT.
(E) TESC PER AB:	
FIRST FLOOR:	51 SQ. FT.
(N) ENTRY PORCH:	40 SQ. FT.
PROPOSED TOTAL:	3122 SQ. FT.



nancy harris wyatt  
architect  
5642 DRAKES DRIVE,  
DISCOVERY BAY, CA 94505  
tel (504) 254-8723  
nancywyatt@yahoo.com



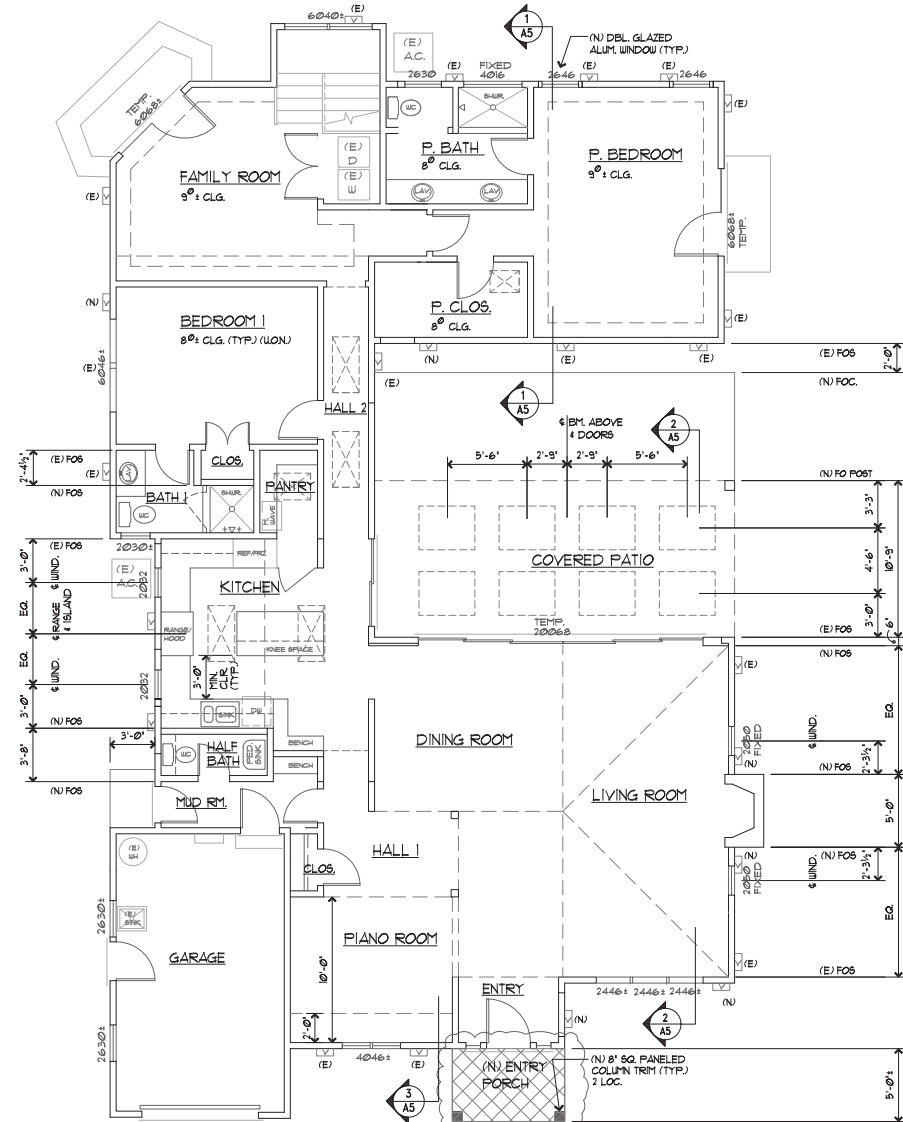
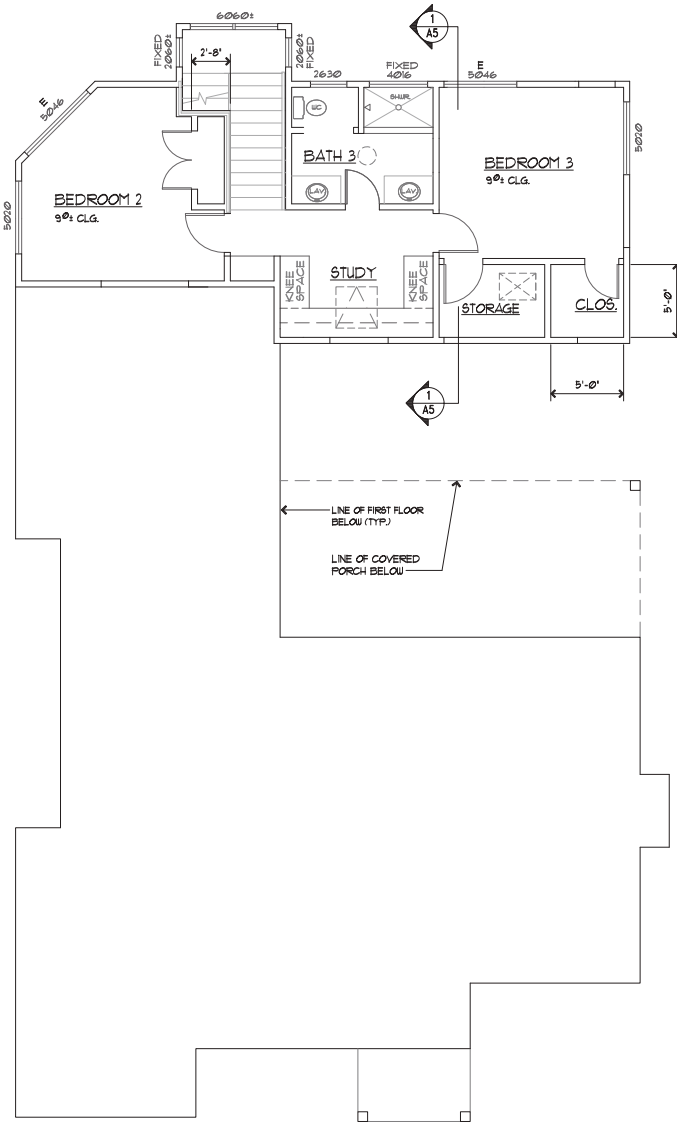
lightly sealed by  
NANCY A. WYATT  
Date: Jun 12, 2024

**SHAH**  
**RESIDENCE**  
600 KENWOOD DR.  
MENLO PARK, CA

**SITE PLAN**

Scale: 1/8"=1'-0"  
Date: 21 JUN 24  
Revisions: 30 AUG 24  
Project: 423

drawing: AI  
REV: 02/2024 FILE: SHH-423-02



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architect  
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discovery bay, ca 94505  
tel (650) 854-8723  
nancyhwyatt@yahoo.com

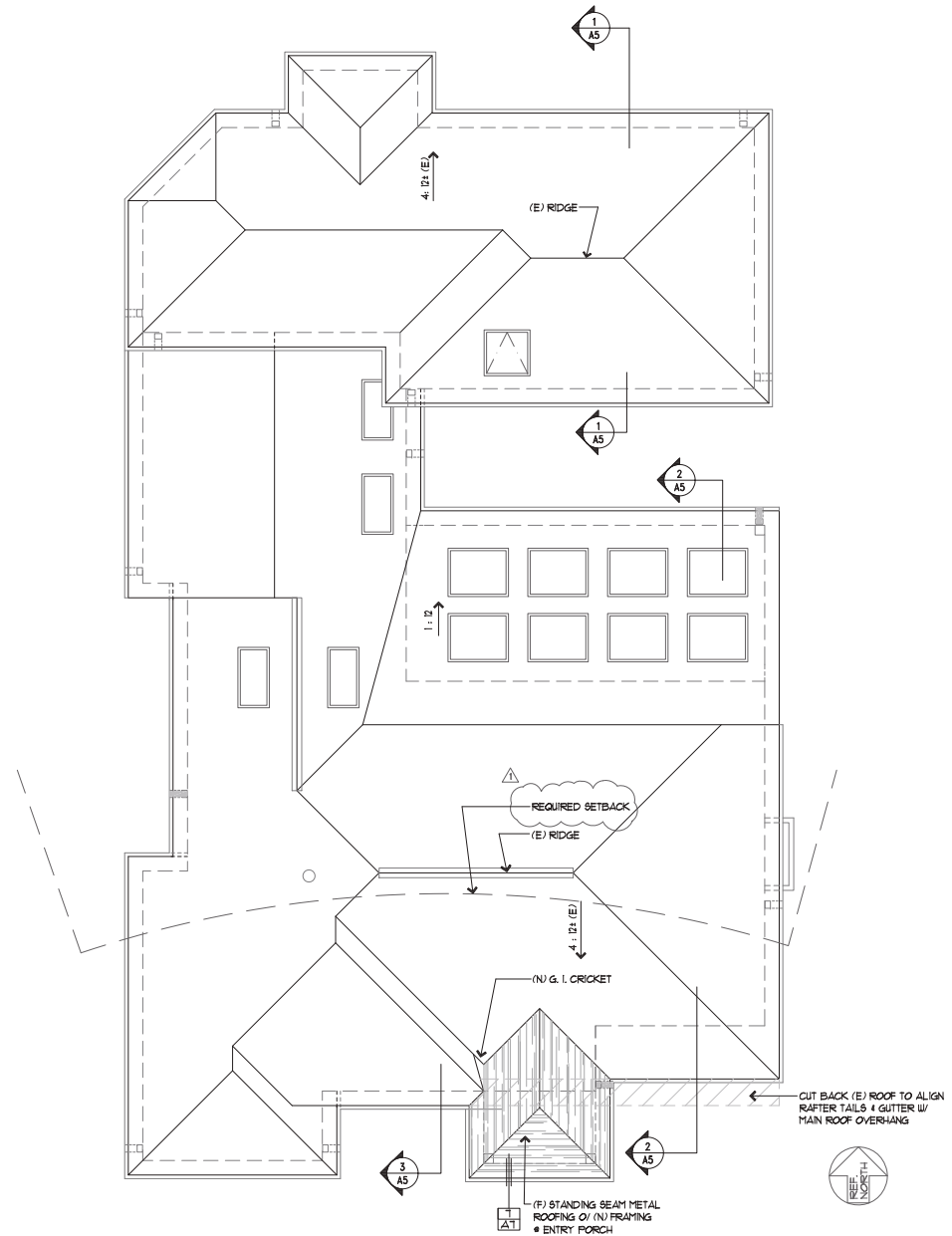


Digitally Signed By  
NANCY H. WYATT  
Date: June 12, 2024

SHAH  
RESIDENCE  
600 KENWOOD DR.  
MENLO PARK, CA

FLOOR PLANS  
scale 1/4"=1'-0"  
date 21 JUN 24  
revisions  
1 20 AUG 24  
project 423

drawing A2  
NW AUTOCAD FILE SHAH-AZ.DWG



**nancy harris wyatt**  
 architect  
 5642 DRAKES DRIVE,  
 DISCOVERY BAY, CA 94505  
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 nancywyatt@yahoo.com



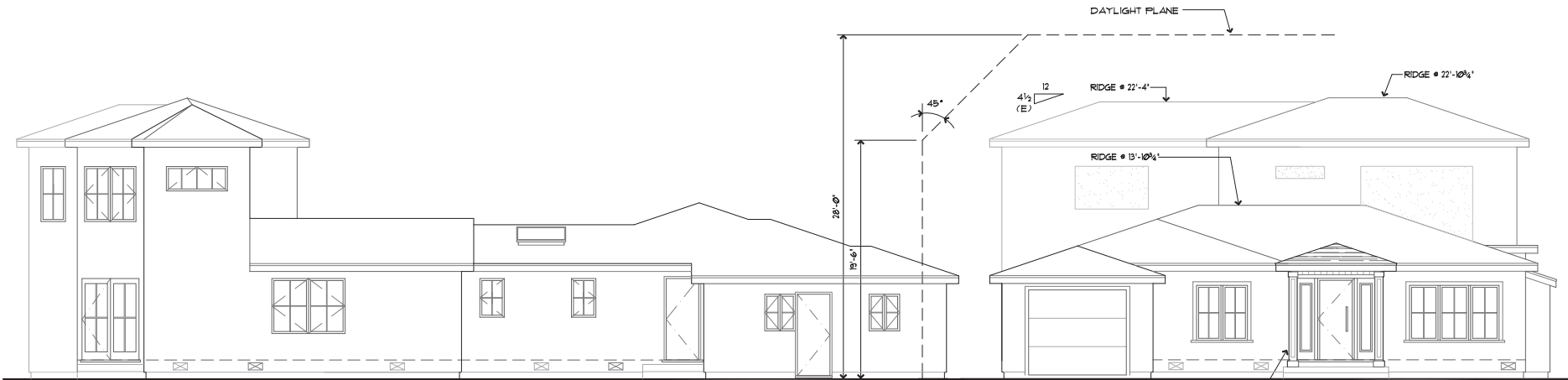
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 NANCY H. WYATT  
 Date: June 12, 2024

**SHAH**  
**RESIDENCE**  
 600 KENWOOD DR.  
 MENLO PARK, CA

**ROOF PLAN/**

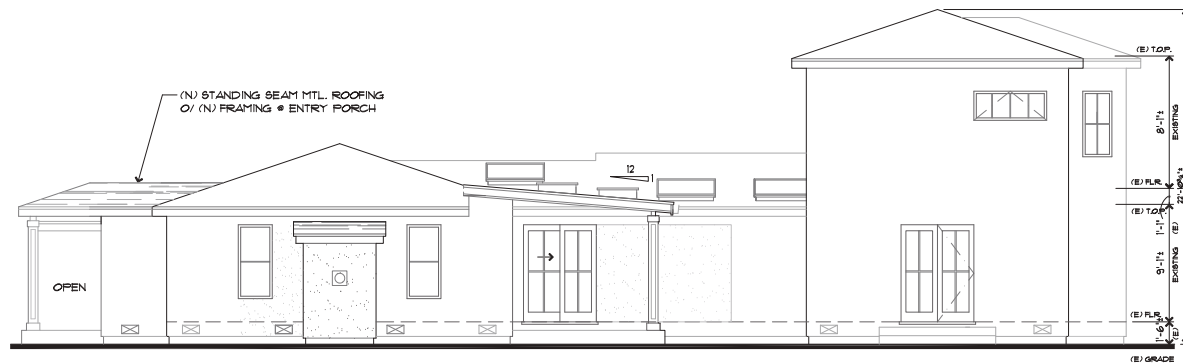
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revisions	20 AUG 2024
project	423

drawing **A3**  
 NHW AUTOCAD FILE SHAH-A3.DWG



WEST (LEFT)

SOUTH (FRONT)



EAST (RIGHT)



NORTH (REAR)

NOTE: ALL HEIGHTS MEASURED TO AVERAGE GRADE PER SURVEY



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Digitally Signed By  
NANCY H. WYATT  
Date: June 12, 2024

SHAH  
RESIDENCE  
600 KENWOOD DR.  
MENLO PARK, CA

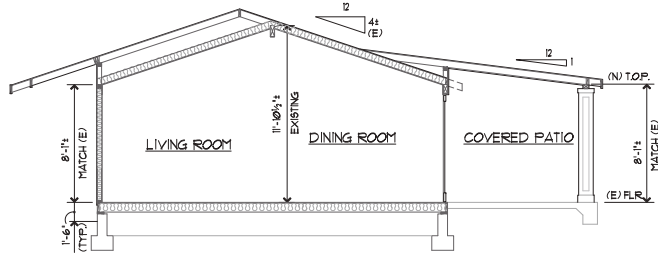
EXTERIOR  
ELEVATIONS

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date 21 JUN 24  
revisions  
20 AUG 2024

project 423

drawing A4  
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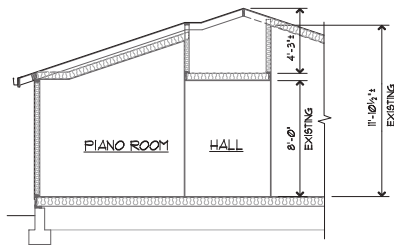




SECTION THRU LIVING/DINING & COVERED PATIO

1/4"=1'-0"

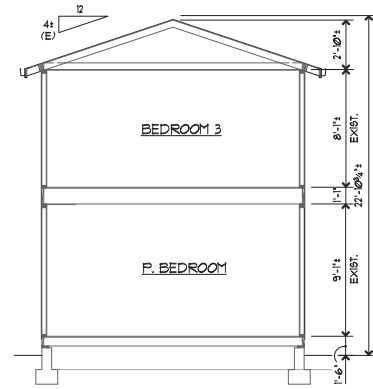
2



SECTION THRU PIANO ROOM & HALL

1/4"=1'-0"

3



SECTION THRU P. BEDROOM & BEDROOM 3

1/4"=1'-0"

1



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Digitally Signed By  
NANCY H. WYATT  
Date: June 12, 2024

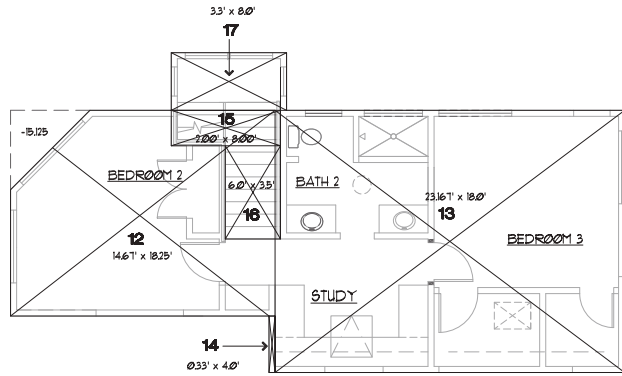
SHAH  
RESIDENCE  
600 KENWOOD DR.  
MENLO PARK, CA

BUILDING  
SECTIONS

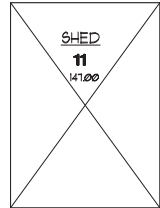
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revisions

project 423

drawing A5  
NHW AUTOCAD FILE SHAH-AS.DWG



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR AREA LIMIT

2	5.92 x 15.25	90.28
3	4.5 x 13.75	61.88
4	24.5 x 23.61	579.92
5	19.83 x 15.25	302.41
6	31.33 x 18.25-19.25	596.65
T	3.3 x 8.0	26.40
8	23.16-1 x 18.0	417.01
		<u>2034.55+1,035 SF.</u>

FIRST FLOOR COVERAGE

1	19.875 x 12.33	245.06
9	7.0 x 5.0	10.00
10	10.0 x 24.5	245.00
11	5.0 x 8.0	141.00
12	5.0 x 8.0	40.00
		<u>681.06+681 SF.</u>

FIRST FLOOR COVERAGE

TOTAL	2,722 SF.
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SECOND FLOOR AREA LIMIT

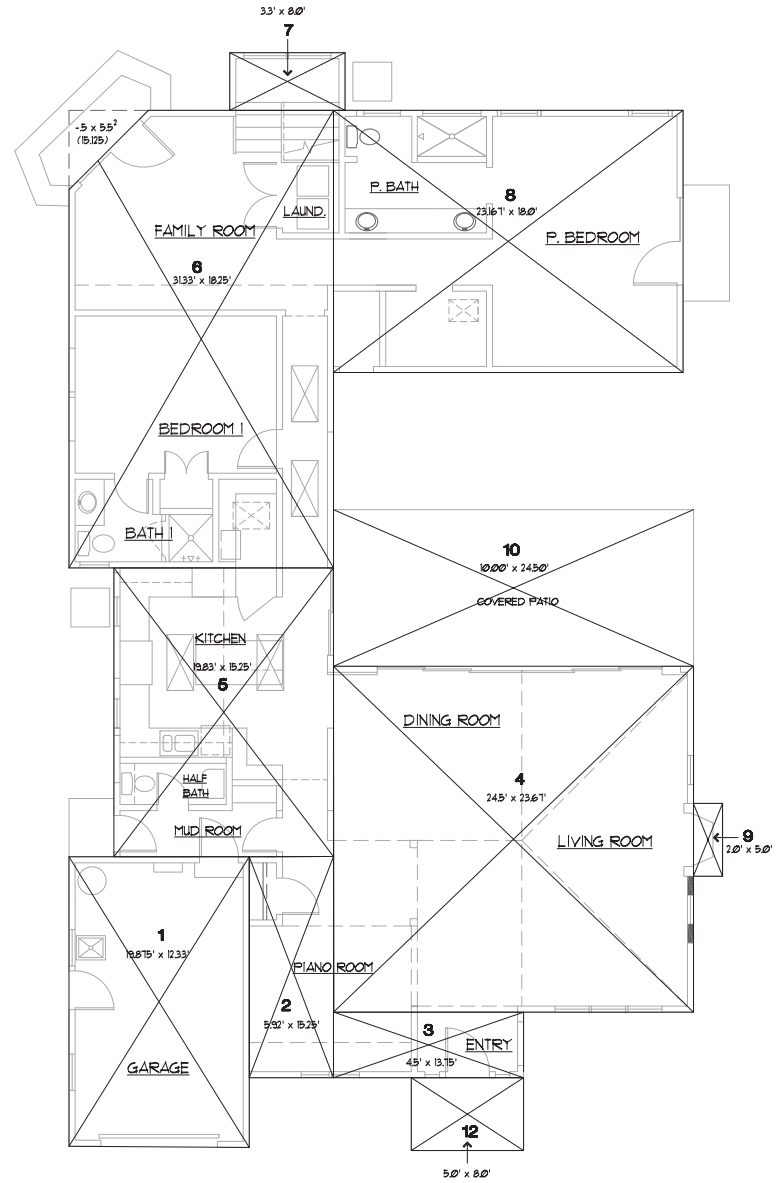
12	14.6' x 18.25	267.6 (267.13-19.25)
13	23.16' x 18.0	417.01
14	0.33 x 4.0	1.32
		<u>685.93</u>

SECOND FLOOR DEDUCTIONS

15	2.0 x 8.0	16.00
16	6.0 x 3.5	21.00
17	3.3 x 8.0	26.40
		<u>63.40</u>

SECOND FLOOR AREA LIMIT

TOTAL	607.53+608 SF.
-------	----------------



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



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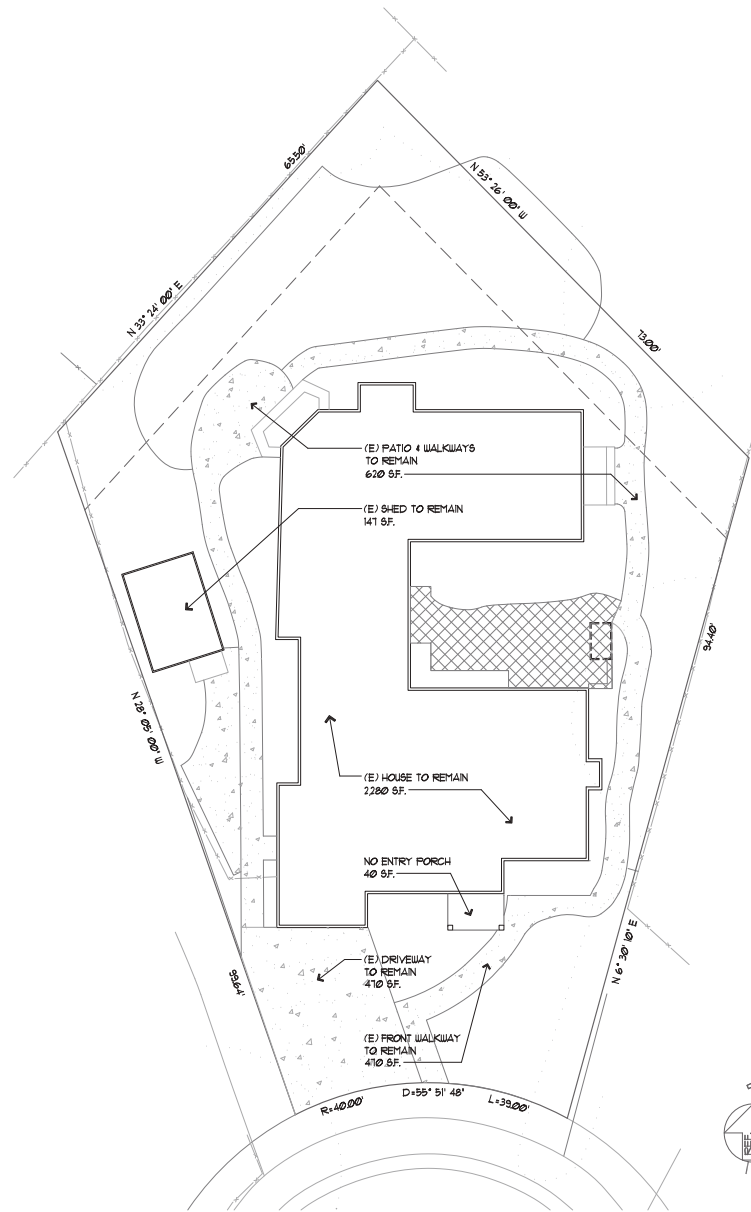
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FLOOR AREA  
CALCULATIONS

scale 1/4"=1'-0"  
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revisions

project 423

drawing A6  
NHW AUTOCAD FILE SHAH-A6.DWG



EXISTING IMPERVIOUS AREAS

IMPERVIOUS SURFACE CALCULATIONS				
TOTAL SITE AREA	8,405 SF. ± .18 ACRES			
IMPERVIOUS AREAS:	EXISTING TO BE REMOVED	EXISTING TO REMAIN	NEW	TOTAL PROPOSED
HOUSE	-	2280 SF.	-	2280 SF.
SHED	-	141 SF.	-	141 SF.
FRONT WALKWAY	-	196 SF.	-	196 SF.
DRIVEWAY	-	470 SF.	-	470 SF.
ENTRY PORCH	-	-	40 SF.	40 SF.
COVERED PATIO	-	245 SF.	-	245 SF.
PATIO & WALKWAYS	-	141 SF.	-	141 SF.
SUBTOTAL	-	4,085 SF.	40 SF.	4,125 SF.
TOTAL	-	-	-	4,125 SF.
NET CHANGE IN IMPERVIOUS AREAS			40 SF. NET INCREASE	



nancy harris wyatt  
architect  
5642 DRAKES DRIVE,  
discovery bay, ca 94505  
tel (650) 854-8723  
nancyhwyatt@yahoo.com



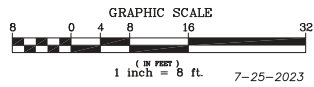
Digitally Signed By  
NANCY H. WYATT  
Date: June 12, 2024

SHAH  
RESIDENCE  
600 KENWOOD DR.  
MENLO PARK, CA

IMPERVIOUS  
SURFACE  
CALCULATIONS  
scale 1/8"=1'-0"  
date 21 JUN 24  
revisions

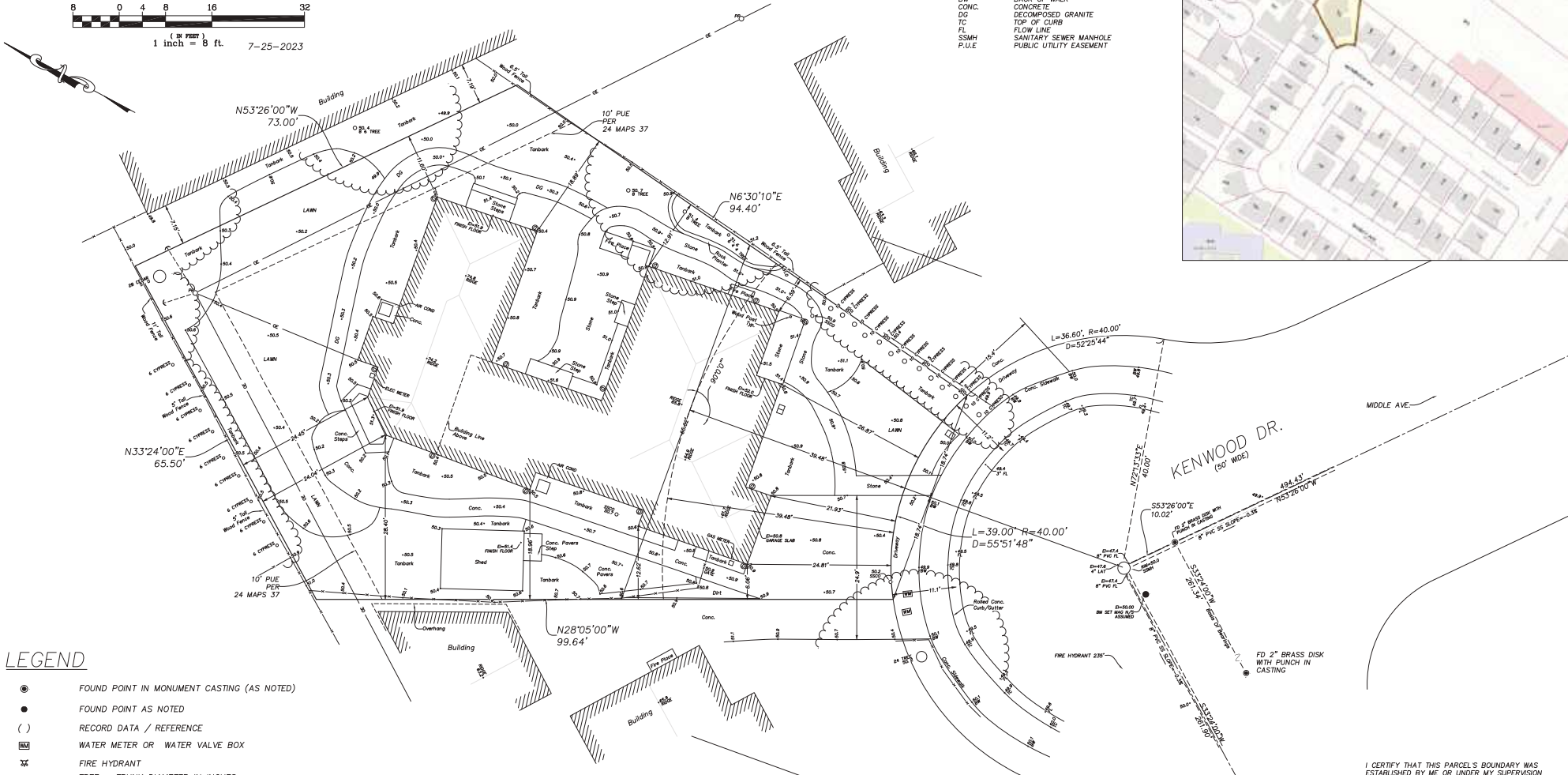
project 423

drawing A1  
NW AUTOCAD FILE SHAH-A7.DWG



**ABBREVIATIONS**

AC	ASPHALT
BW	BACK OF WALK
CONC.	CONCRETE
DC	DECOMPOSED GRANITE
TC	TOP OF CURB
FL	FLOW LINE
SMH	SANITARY SEWER MANHOLE
P.U.E.	PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT



- LEGEND**
- FOUND POINT IN MONUMENT CASTING (AS NOTED)
  - FOUND POINT AS NOTED
  - ( ) RECORD DATA / REFERENCE
  - ⊠ WATER METER OR WATER VALVE BOX
  - ⊠ FIRE HYDRANT
  - ⊙ 16 12 8 OAK TREE - TRUNK DIAMETER IN INCHES  
TREE SPECIES IDENTIFICATION: BEST EFFORT, WE ARE NOT ARBORISTS OR DENDROLOGISTS
  - ⊙ 16 12 8 OAK TREE WITH MULTIPLE TRUNKS
  - ⊙ TRUNK TREE DRIP LINE POINTS TOWARDS TREE TRUNKS. TREE DRIP LINES ABOVE PROPERTY LOCATED AS SHOWN.
  - + 55.34 TOP OF CURB
  - FENCE
  - OVERHEAD WIRES
  - ⊙ POWER POLE
  - + 12.24 SPOT ELEVATION
  - ⊠ SANITARY SEWER CLEAN OUT
  - ⊠ DOWN SPOUT
  - ⊠ IRRIGATION VALVE BOX
  - POLE ANCHOR

**NOTES**

ALL DISTANCES AND DIMENSIONS ARE IN FEET AND DECIMALS.

UNDERGROUND UTILITY - LOCATION IS BASED ON SURFACE EVIDENCE.

BUILDING LOCATION DIMENSIONS ARE MEASURED PERPENDICULAR OR RADIAL TO THE PROPERTY LINES.

DIMENSIONS TO THE BUILDING ARE TAKEN AT THE EXTERIOR FINISHED SURFACE. THE BUILDING EXTERIOR FINISHED SURFACE IS STUCCO AND VARIES APPROXIMATELY 0.05'-0.10' IN THICKNESS.

FINISH FLOOR ELEVATION TAKEN AT DOOR THRESHOLD (EXTERIOR).

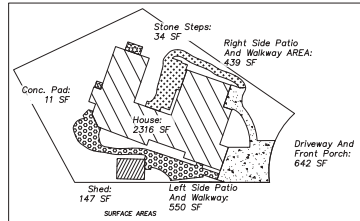
BENCHMARK: ASSUMED DATUM, POINT AS SHOWN

A BOUNDARY SURVEY WAS PERFORMED TO ACCURATELY LOCATE THE LEGAL PROPERTY LINES IN RELATION TO THE EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS (BUILDING)

A CURRENT TITLE REPORT FOR THE SUBJECT PROPERTY HAS NOT BEEN EXAMINED BY L. WADE HAMMOND LAND SURVEYOR. EASEMENTS OF RECORD MAY EXIST THAT ARE NOT SHOWN ON THIS MAP.

TREE SPECIES IDENTIFICATION: BEST EFFORT, WE ARE NOT ARBORISTS OR DENDROLOGISTS.

TREES SHOWN ARE 6" TRUNK DIAMETER OR LARGER, MEASURED 5' ABOVE GRADE



**BOUNDARY AND TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY**  
600 KENWOOD DR.  
MENLO PARK  
APN: 071-322-330  
LOT 33, 24 MAPS 37  
LOT AREA: 8405 SQ. FT.

I CERTIFY THAT THIS PARCEL'S BOUNDARY WAS ESTABLISHED BY ME OR UNDER MY SUPERVISION AND IS BASED ON A FIELD SURVEY IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND SURVEYOR'S ACT. ALL MONUMENTS ARE OF THE CHARACTER AND OCCUPY THE POSITIONS INDICATED AND ARE SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE THE SURVEY TO BE RETRACED.

*L. Wade Hammond*  
**L. Wade Hammond**  
Land Surveying  
Civil Engineering  
36660 Newark Blvd. Suite C  
Newark, California 94560  
Tel: (510) 579-6112  
wade@whlandsurveyor.com www.wadehammondpls.com

## **Project Description**

### **Purpose of the Proposal:**

The purpose of this proposal is to add a porch and remove rotting wood from the frame of the house. The project requires a variance because of a subdivision ordinance passed after the house was initially built.

### **Scope of Work:**

The scope of work includes the following:

- Adding an exterior porch to the front of the house
- Changing any rotting wood in the frame of the house (with no exterior change to the shape of the home)

### **Architectural Style, Materials, Colors, and Construction Methods:**

The architectural style of the project is California tract single-family homes post-war. There will be no change to the style of the home.

The materials to be used in the project include wood, stucco, and metal. The colors of the project will be gray and slate.

The construction methods to be used in the project will be conventional.

### **Basis for Site Layout:**

The basis for the site layout is the existing site layout. There will be no change to the site layout except for the addition of a porch which is less than the current garage setback.

### **Existing and Proposed Uses:**

The existing and proposed uses of the property are not changing. The property is a single-family dwelling.

### **Outreach to Neighboring Properties:**

We have included photos of our home house and the two neighboring properties in the project plans and have spoken to both neighbors about the addition of the porch. Neither neighbor expressed any concerns about the addition of the porch.

Mansi H. Shah  
600 Kenwood Drive  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
[REDACTED]

City Council  
City of Menlo Park  
701 Laurel Street  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

July 1, 2024

Re: Variance Request for 600 Kenwood Drive, Menlo Park, California

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to respectfully request a variance for the property located at 600 Kenwood Drive, Menlo Park, California. Our request aligns with the criteria outlined in Ordinance 15.32.020, and we would greatly appreciate your consideration.

1. Non-Grant of Special Privilege:

Our request is not intended to obtain a special privilege but rather to align the setback of our property with those of our neighbors and the current setback. The surrounding properties in our area have a standard 20-foot setback, whereas the unique shape of our pie-shaped lot results in a setback greater than 20 feet. This disparity places us at a disadvantage.

Indeed, the home's existing setback is 22 feet and 10.75 inches to the garage, and the proposed entry porch setback is 21 feet and 1 inch, which is less than the existing setback.

2. Special Circumstances of the Subject Property:

The unique shape of our corner lot creates a setback that exceeds 20 feet (over 39 feet), unlike the standard setback for neighboring properties. This variance is necessary for us to add a porch and make essential repairs, such as fixing the roof or replacing potentially rotten wood, without being unfairly restricted by our greater setback.

3. Spirit and Intent of the Ordinance:

Granting this variance would uphold the spirit and intent of the ordinance by ensuring that we have the same privileges as our neighbors. It would allow us to make reasonable improvements and repairs to our home, consistent with what is permitted for other properties in the vicinity.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of our request. If any further adjustments or additional details are needed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mansi H. Shah". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a distinct "H".

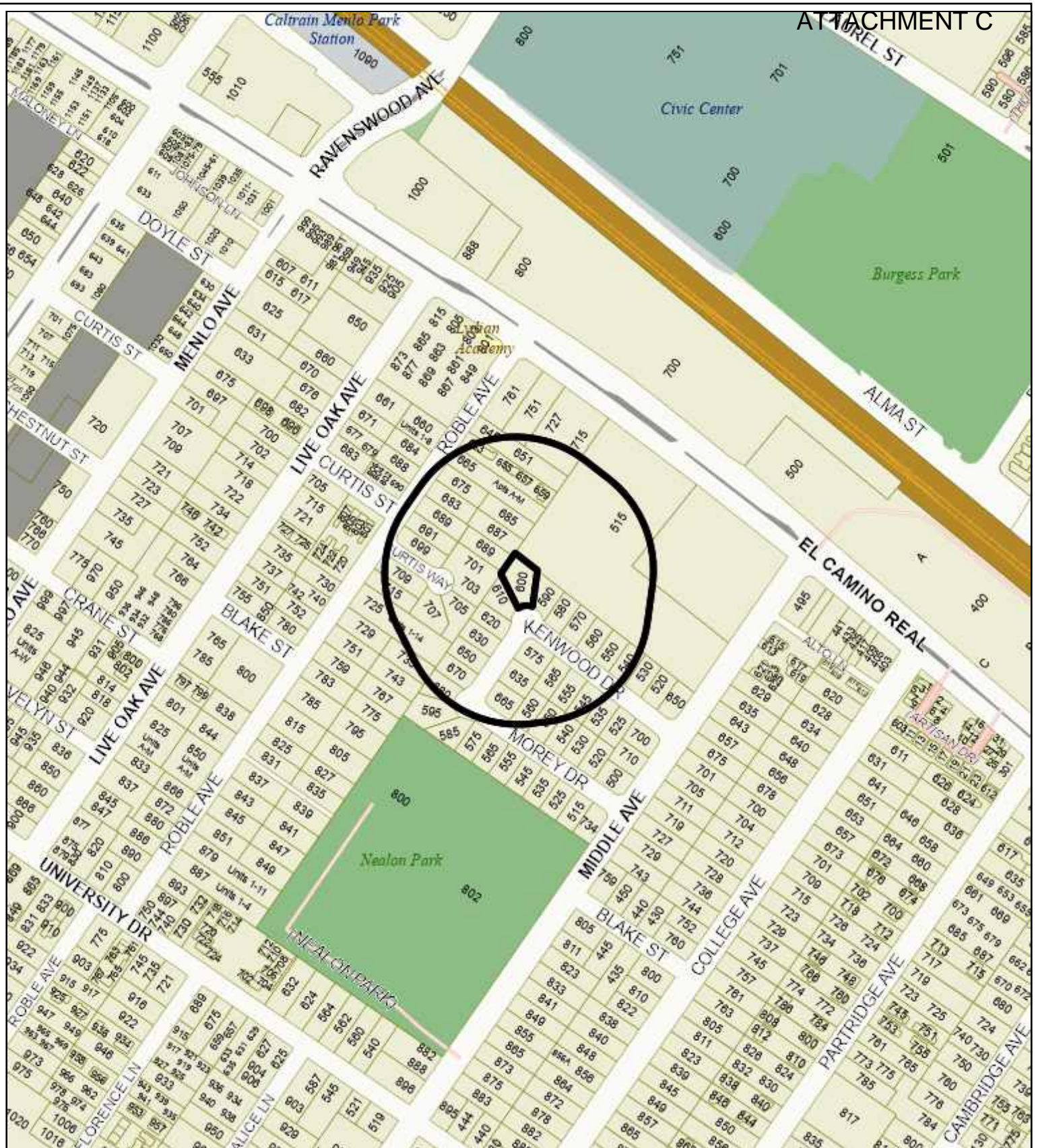
Mansi H. Shah

<b>LOCATION:</b> 600 Kenwood Dr.	<b>PROJECT NUMBER:</b> PLN2024-00025	<b>APPLICANT:</b> Archit and Mansi Shah	<b>OWNER:</b> Archit and Mansi Shah
<p><b>PROJECT CONDITIONS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The variance shall be subject to the following <b>standard</b> conditions:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. The applicant shall be required to apply for a building permit within one year from the date of approval (by September 24, 2025) for the variance to remain in effect.</li><li>b. Development of the project shall be substantially in conformance with the plans prepared by Nancy Harris Wyatt consisting of eight plan sheets, dated received August 21, 2024 and approved by the City Council on September 24, 2024, except as modified by the conditions contained herein, subject to review and approval of the City Council.</li><li>c. Prior to building permit issuance, the applicant shall comply with all Sanitary District, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, and utility companies' regulations that are directly applicable to the project.</li><li>d. Prior to building permit issuance, the applicant shall comply with all requirements of the Building Division, Engineering Division, and Transportation Division that are directly applicable to the project.</li><li>e. Prior to building permit issuance, the applicant shall submit a plan for any new utility installations or upgrades for review and approval by the Planning, Engineering and Building Divisions. All utility equipment that is installed outside of a building and that cannot be placed underground shall be properly screened by landscaping. The plan shall show exact locations of all meters, back flow prevention devices, transformers, junction boxes, relay boxes, and other equipment boxes.</li><li>f. Simultaneous with the submittal of a complete building permit application, the applicant shall submit plans indicating that the applicant shall remove and replace any damaged and significantly worn sections of frontage improvements. The plans shall be submitted for review and approval of the Engineering Division.</li><li>g. Simultaneous with the submittal of a complete building permit application, the applicant shall submit a Grading and Drainage Plan for review and approval of the Engineering Division. The Grading and Drainage Plan shall be approved prior to the issuance of grading, demolition or building permits.</li><li>h. Heritage trees in the vicinity of the construction project shall be protected pursuant to the Heritage Tree Ordinance.</li><li>i. Prior to building permit issuance, the applicant shall pay all fees incurred through staff time spent reviewing the application.</li><li>j. The applicant or permittee shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City of Menlo Park or its agents, officers, and employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against the City of Menlo Park or its agents, officers, or employees to attack, set aside, void, or annul an approval of the Planning Commission, City Council, Community Development Director, or any other department, committee, or agency of the City concerning a development, variance, permit, or land use approval which action is brought within the time period provided for in any applicable statute; provided, however, that the applicant's or permittee's duty to so defend, indemnify, and hold harmless shall be subject to the City's promptly notifying the applicant or permittee of any said claim, action, or proceeding and the City's full cooperation in the applicant's or permittee's defense of said claims, actions, or proceedings.</li><li>k. Notice of Fees Protest – The applicant may protest any fees, dedications, reservations, or other exactions imposed by the City as part of the approval or as a condition of</li></ol></li></ol>			



600 Kenwood Dr. – Conditions of Approval

<b>LOCATION:</b> 600 Kenwood Dr.	<b>PROJECT NUMBER:</b> PLN2024-00025	<b>APPLICANT:</b> Archit and Mansi Shah	<b>OWNER:</b> Archit and Mansi Shah
<b>PROJECT CONDITIONS:</b>  approval of this development. Per California Government Code 66020, this 90-day protest period has begun as of the date of the approval of this application.			



City of Menlo Park  
 Location Map  
 600 KENWOOD DRIVE



600 Kenwood Dr. – Data table

	PROPOSED PROJECT		EXISTING PROJECT		ZONING ORDINANCE	
Lot area	8,405	sf	8,405	sf	7,000	sf min
Lot width	65	ft	65	ft	65	ft min
Lot depth	119.8	ft	119.8	ft	100	ft min
Setbacks						
Front	21.1	ft	21.9	ft	39 ft., 5 ¾ in.	
Rear	24	ft	24	ft	20 ft	
Side (left)	6.1	ft	6.1	ft	10% of min. lot width not less than 5' or more than 10'	
Side (right)	6.6	ft	6.6	ft		
Building coverage	2,721.7	sf	2,681.7	sf	2,941	sf max
	32.4	%	31.9	%	35	% max
FAL (Floor Area Limit)*	3,097.6	sf	3,097.6	sf	3,151	sf max
Square footage by floor	2,034.6	sf/1 <sup>st</sup>	2,034.6	sf/1 <sup>st</sup>		
	670.9	sf/2 <sup>nd</sup>	670.9	sf/2 <sup>nd</sup>		
	245.1	sf/garage	245.1	sf/garage		
	285	sf/covered porch	245	sf/covered porches		
	10	sf/fireplace	10	sf/fireplace		
	147	sf/accessory building	147	sf/accessory building		
Square footage of buildings	3,392.6	sf	3,352.6	sf		
Building height	22.9	ft	22.9	ft	28 ft max	
Parking	1 covered space		1 covered space		1 covered and 1 uncovered space	
Note: Areas shown highlighted indicate a nonconforming or substandard situation						
Trees	Heritage trees	1	Non-Heritage trees	16	New trees	0
	Heritage trees proposed for removal	0	Non-Heritage trees proposed for removal	0	Total Number of trees	17



**STAFF REPORT**

**City Council**  
**Meeting Date:** 9/24/2024  
**Staff Report Number:** 24-170-CC

**Regular Business:** **Adopt resolutions to approve side letters of agreement amending the memoranda of understanding between the City of Menlo Park and the Service Employees International Union Local 521, American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees Local 829, Menlo Park Police Officers' Association, and Menlo Park Police Sergeants' Association to modify medical premium contributions for 2025**

**Recommendation**

Adopt resolutions to approve side letters of agreement amending the memoranda of understandings (MOUs) between the City of Menlo Park and the Service Employees International Union Local 521 (SEIU), the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 829 (AFSCME), the Menlo Park Police Officers' Association (POA), and the Menlo Park Police Sergeants' Association (PSA) to modify the City's medical premium contributions for the plan year beginning Jan. 1, 2025 (Attachments A-D).

**Policy Issues**

City Council retains sole authority to enter into MOUs with recognized labor units. Negotiations related to MOUs are governed by the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (MMBA), Government Code §3500. MMBA requires that local agencies meet and confer in good faith regarding wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment with representatives of recognized collective bargaining units.

**Background**

The City currently has closed labor contracts (i.e., MOUs) with SEIU and AFSCME expiring June 30, 2026, POA expiring Aug. 31, 2027, and PSA expiring June 30, 2025. Each labor contract contains automatic inflation-based adjustments to the City's non-elective employer contribution to employees' flexible benefits plan in an amount equal to the twelve-month increase in the consumer price index (consumer price index (CPI)-U San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose) measured from February 2023 to February 2024 for the plan year beginning Jan. 1, 2025. However, the increase in the City's contribution is limited to no less than 2% and no more than 4% (i.e., CPI 2-4%). The February 2023 to February 2024 CPI was 2.4%.

The City contracts with the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) to provide medical coverage to City employees pursuant to the Public Employees Medical and Hospital Care Act. CalPERS negotiates medical rates and plans with their providers in each region across the state.

Once per year, employees have the opportunity to change their medical coverage selections during open enrollment to take effect Jan. 1 of the following calendar year (CY). For 2025 elections, the CalPERS open enrollment period takes place Sept. 16 through Oct. 11.

**Analysis**

Currently, all City unionized employees (excluding unrepresented management) receive the same medical premium contribution amounts depending on the tier they enroll in (employee only, two-person or family coverage), which is increased by 2-4% CPI adjustment each year.

The majority of City employees (about two-thirds in 2024) subscribe to the Kaiser Permanente plan for medical coverage. Historically, the City’s annual increases to employer medical premium contributions have met or exceeded the Kaiser premiums. However, in 2024, premiums increased by 11.78% and the 2025 premiums are set to increase by 8.96%. Due to this significant rise in premiums, the agreed-upon 2.4% increase is insufficient to cover the Kaiser premiums at all tiers.

In order to address this significant rise in premiums, which impacts employees’ fixed out-of-pocket monthly expenses, and to maintain alignment between all unionized employees, staff propose to increase the City’s monthly medical contributions in 2025 to match the Kaiser premiums at each tier. Increasing the City’s contribution would have the greatest impact on lower-income wage earners on a proportional basis, since this fixed monthly expense applies per employee, regardless of income level.

Because the change in City medical premium contributions may impact employees’ selections during open enrollment, City staff met and conferred with SEIU, AFSCME, POA, and PSA and reached tentative agreement to increase the 2025 contributions to match the Kaiser premiums at each tier. Confidential employees are generally provided the same benefits as AFSCME.

Table 1 summarizes the tentative agreement terms with financial impacts. Side letters of agreement incorporating these terms into the MOUs for each bargaining unit are included in Attachments A-D.

Table 1: Proposed adjustment to City’s monthly medical contributions in 2025			
Item	Employee-only	Two-person	Family
Planned City contribution per existing MOUs	\$1,085.66	\$2,091.85	\$2,719.41
Kaiser premiums	\$1,112.90	\$2,225.80	\$2,893.54
Proposed City contribution	\$1,112.90	\$2,225.80	\$2,893.54
Monthly and annual difference between planned and proposed contributions per employee	\$27.24 / mo. \$326.94 / yr.	\$133.95 / mo. \$1,607.43 / yr.	\$174.13 / mo. \$2,089.61 / yr.

Table 2 provides the total additional costs per CY 2025 for each employee group above the 2.4% planned increase to the City’s medical premium contributions.

Table 2: Financial impact to City of side letters of agreement	
Employee group	Estimated cost (CY 2025)
SEIU	\$203,103
AFSCME	\$73,363
POA	\$53,254
PSA	\$11,429
Confidential	\$8,048
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$349,196</b>

Adjustments to the medical premium contributions are for CY 2025 only. Future year increases remain tied to inflation with a 2-4% CPI adjustment each year. Note that AFSCME’s MOU contains a provision whereby the parties agree to meet and confer in the event that the City’s contributions toward medical premiums are less than the Kaiser rate at each tier for future years of the agreement.

Continuing to align the City’s medical premium contributions for all City unionized and confidential employees results in administrative efficiencies for human resources and payroll. Providing a competitive total compensation package across pay and benefits assists in maintaining the City’s market position, and supports the recruitment and retention of highly-qualified and experienced City employees.

**Impact on City Resources**

The total estimated additional cost of these side letters of agreement amending the MOUs is approximately \$349,196 for CY 2025. Staff anticipates that there are sufficient funds already budgeted for the fiscal year 2024-25 medical premium contributions, which covers January through June 2025, and that no additional appropriation is necessary. Should the composition of employees or their elections during open enrollment change the projected costs to where an additional appropriation is needed, this amount would be requested as part of the mid-year budget amendment, which is scheduled to come before the City Council in February 2025.

**Environmental Review**

This action is not a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §§15378 and 15061(b)(3) as it will not result in any direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

**Public Notice**

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

**Attachments**

- A. Resolution to approve a side letter of agreement with SEIU
- B. Resolution to approve a side letter of agreement with AFSCME
- C. Resolution to approve a side letter of agreement with POA
- D. Resolution to approve a side letter of agreement with PSA

Report prepared by:  
Charla Freckmann, Human Resources Manager  
Brittany Mello, Administrative Services Director

RESOLUTION NO. XXXX

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK TO APPROVE A SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT AMENDING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 521 WITH A TERM OF JULY 11, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026**

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6850 approving the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the City of Menlo Park (“City”) and the Service Employees International Union Local 521 (“SEIU”) for the term of July 11, 2023, through June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Section 13.1.5 of the current MOU outlines the City’s non-elective employer contribution to the flexible benefits plan on behalf of each active employee for the plan year beginning January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City and SEIU have met and conferred in good faith regarding the City’s non-elective employer contribution to SEIU employees’ flexible benefits plan and have agreed to amend the contributions as outlined in the attached side letter of agreement (Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, the language in the side letter agreement shall become effective upon approval of the City Council and supersede the language in the current MOU.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Menlo Park City Council that:

1. City approves the side letter of agreement with SEIU modifying the MOU ending June 30, 2026, as set forth in Exhibit A attached and incorporated by reference; and
2. City Council authorizes the city manager or designee to execute the side letter of agreement; and
3. City Manager may approve formatting edits to the MOU.

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I, Judi A. Herren, City Clerk of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing City Council Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said City Council on the twenty-fourth day of September, 2024, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of said City on this \_\_\_ day of September, 2024.

---

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

Exhibits:

A. Side letter of agreement

**SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MENLO PARK AND  
THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 521**

The parties have met and conferred in good faith regarding this side letter of agreement, and agree to the following changes to the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the City of Menlo Park (“City”) and the Service Employees International Union Local 521 (“SEIU”) with the term of July 11, 2023, through June 30, 2026. The parties intend the following changes to be effective immediately upon execution.

**ARTICLE 13: BENEFIT PROGRAMS**

[Modify Article 13 as set forth below:]

13.1 Medical

13.1.5 For the plan year beginning January 1, 2025, the City shall make a non-elective employer contribution to the flexible benefits plan on behalf of each active employee in an amount which, together with the minimum PEMHCA contribution in 13.1.2 equals the following:

\$2,893.54 per month - family coverage

\$2,225.80 per month - two-person coverage

\$1,112.90 per month - single coverage

~~contributions in Section 13.1.4 increased by an amount equal to the twelve-month increase in the consumer price index (CPI-U San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose) measured from February 2023 to February 2024. However, the increase in the City’s contribution shall be no less than two percent (2.0%) and no more than four percent (4.0%) (i.e., CPI 2-4%).~~

[No change to remainder of Section 13.1]

FOR SEIU:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Yezenia Guzman, Chapter Chairperson

FOR THE CITY:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brittany Mello, Administrative Services Director

RESOLUTION NO. XXXX

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK TO APPROVE A SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT AMENDING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES LOCAL 829 WITH A TERM OF NOVEMBER 14, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026**

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6873 approving the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the City of Menlo Park (“City”) and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 829 (“AFSCME”) for the term of November 14, 2023, through June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Section 13.1.4 of the current MOU outlines the City’s non-elective employer contribution to the flexible benefits plan on behalf of each active employee for the plan year beginning January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City and AFSCME have met and conferred in good faith regarding the City’s non-elective employer contribution to AFSCME employees’ flexible benefits plan and have agreed to amend the contributions as outlined in the attached side letter of agreement (Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, the language in the side letter agreement shall become effective upon approval of the City Council and supersede the language in the current MOU.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Menlo Park City Council that:

1. City approves the side letter of agreement with AFSCME modifying the MOU ending June 30, 2026, as set forth in Exhibit A attached and incorporated by reference; and
2. City Council authorizes the city manager or designee to execute the side letter of agreement; and
3. City Manager may approve formatting edits to the MOU.

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I, Judi A. Herren, City Clerk of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing City Council Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said City Council on the twenty-fourth day of September, 2024, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of said City on this \_\_\_ day of September, 2024.

---

Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

Exhibits:

A. Side letter of agreement

**SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MENLO PARK AND  
THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL  
EMPLOYEES LOCAL 829**

The parties have met and conferred in good faith regarding this side letter of agreement, and agree to the following changes to the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the City of Menlo Park (“City”) and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 829 (“AFSCME”) with the term of November 14, 2023, through June 30, 2026. The parties intend the following changes to be effective immediately upon execution.

**ARTICLE 13: BENEFIT PROGRAMS**

[Modify Article 13 as set forth below:]

13.1 Medical

13.1.4 For the plan year beginning January 1, 2025, the City shall make a non-elective employer contribution to the flexible benefits plan on behalf of each active employee in an amount which, together with the minimum PEMHCA contribution in 13.1.1 equals the following:

\$2,893.54 per month - family coverage

\$2,225.80 per month - two-person coverage

\$1,112.90 per month - single coverage

~~contributions in Section 13.1.3 increased by an amount equal to the twelve-month increase in the consumer price index (CPI-U San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose) measured from February 2023 to February 2024. However, the increase in the City’s contribution shall be no less than two percent (2.0%) and no more than four percent (4.0%) (i.e., CPI 2-4%).~~

[No change to remainder of Section 13.1]

FOR AFSCME:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Whitney Loy, President

FOR THE CITY:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brittany Mello, Administrative Services Director

RESOLUTION NO. XXXX

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK TO APPROVE A SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT AMENDING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MENLO PARK POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION WITH A TERM OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2027**

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6928 approving the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between the City of Menlo Park ("City") and the Menlo Park Police Officers' Association ("POA") for the term of September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, Section 17.1.3 of the current MOU outlines the City's non-elective employer contribution to the flexible benefits plan on behalf of each active employee for the plan year beginning January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City and the POA have met and conferred in good faith regarding the City's non-elective employer contribution to POA employees' flexible benefits plan and have agreed to amend the contributions as outlined in the attached side letter of agreement (Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, the language in the side letter agreement shall become effective upon approval of the City Council and supersede the language in the current MOU.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Menlo Park City Council that:

1. City approves the side letter of agreement with POA modifying the MOU ending August 31, 2027, as set forth in Exhibit A attached and incorporated by reference; and
2. City Council authorizes the city manager or designee to execute the side letter of agreement; and
3. City Manager may approve formatting edits to the MOU.

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I, Judi A. Herren, City Clerk of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing City Council Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said City Council on the twenty-fourth day of September, 2024, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of said City on this \_\_\_ day of September, 2024.

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Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

Exhibits:

A. Side letter of agreement

**SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MENLO PARK AND  
THE MENLO PARK POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION**

The parties have met and conferred in good faith regarding this side letter of agreement and agree to the following changes to the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the City of Menlo Park (“City”) and the Menlo Park Police Officers’ Association (“POA”) with the term of September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2027. The parties intend the following change to be effective immediately upon execution.

**ARTICE 17: BENEFIT PROGRAMS**

[Modify Article 17 as set forth below:]

17.1 Cafeteria Plans

17.1.3 For the plan year beginning January 1, 2025, the City shall make a non-elective employer contribution to the flexible benefits plan on behalf of each active employee in an amount which, together with the minimum PEMHCA contribution in 17.1.1 equals the following:

- \$2,893.54 per month – family coverage
- \$2,225.80 per month – two-person coverage
- \$1,112.90 per month – single coverage

Cash-in-Lieu of Medical Coverage: Officers or corporals who waive coverage will be entitled to \$391.00 per month. This amount is no longer contributed through the flexible benefits plan.

[No change to remainder of 17.1]

FOR POA:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
James Walbridge, POA President

FOR THE CITY:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brittany Mello, Administrative Services Director



RESOLUTION NO. XXXX

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK TO APPROVE A SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT AMENDING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MENLO PARK POLICE SERGEANTS' ASSOCIATION WITH A TERM OF JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025**

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6737 approving the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between the City of Menlo Park ("City") and the Menlo Park Police Sergeants' Association ("PSA") for the term of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Section 6.1.5 of the current MOU outlines the City's non-elective employer contribution to the flexible benefits plan on behalf of each active employee for the plan year beginning January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City and the PSA have met and conferred in good faith regarding the City's non-elective employer contribution to PSA employees' flexible benefits plan and have agreed to amend the contributions as outlined in the attached side letter of agreement (Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, the language in the side letter agreement shall become effective upon approval of the City Council and supersede the language in the current MOU.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Menlo Park City Council that:

1. City approves the side letter of agreement with PSA modifying the MOU ending June 30, 2025, as set forth in Exhibit A attached and incorporated by reference; and
2. City Council authorizes the city manager or designee to execute the side letter of agreement; and
3. City Manager may approve formatting edits to the MOU.

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I, Judi A. Herren, City Clerk of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing City Council Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said City Council on the twenty-fourth day of September, 2024, by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of said City on this \_\_\_ day of September, 2024.

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Judi A. Herren, City Clerk

Exhibits:

A. Side letter of agreement

**SIDE LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MENLO PARK AND  
THE MENLO PARK POLICE SERGEANTS' ASSOCIATION**

The parties have met and conferred in good faith regarding this side letter of agreement and agree to the following changes to the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the City of Menlo Park (“City”) and the Menlo Park Police Sergeants’ Association (“PSA”) with the term of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025. The parties intend the following change to be effective immediately upon execution.

**ARTICE 6: BENEFIT PROGRAMS**

[Modify Article 6 as set forth below:]

6.1 Cafeteria Plan

6.1.5 For the plan year beginning January 1, 2025, the City shall make a non-elective employer contribution to the flexible benefits plan on behalf of each active employee in an amount which, together with the minimum PEMHCA contribution in 6.1.1 equals the following:

- \$2,893.54 per month – family coverage
- \$2,225.80 per month – two-person coverage
- \$1,112.90 per month – single coverage

~~contributions in Section 6.1.4 increased by an amount equal to the twelve-month increase in the consumer price index (CPI U San Francisco Oakland San Jose) measured from February 2023 to February 2024. However, the increase in the City’s contribution shall be no less than two percent (2.0%) and no more than four percent (4.0%) (i.e., CPI 2-4%).~~

Cash-in-Lieu of Medical Coverage: Officers or corporals who waive coverage will be entitled to \$391.00 per month.

[No change to remainder of 6.1]

FOR PSA:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher Sample, PSA President

FOR THE CITY:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brittany Mello, Administrative Services Director



## STAFF REPORT

### City Council

Meeting Date: 9/24/2024  
Staff Report Number: 24-174-CC

Informational Item: City Council agenda topics: October 2024

### Recommendation

The purpose of this informational item is to provide the City Council and members of the public access to the anticipated agenda items that will be presented to the City Council. The Mayor and city manager set the City Council agenda so there is no action required of the City Council as a result of this informational item.

### Policy Issues

In accordance with the City Council procedures manual, the Mayor and city manager set the agenda for City Council meetings.

### Analysis

In an effort to provide greater access to the City Council's future agenda items, staff has compiled a listing of anticipated agenda items for the Oct. 8 and 22 City Council meetings (Attachment A). The topics are arranged by department to help identify the work group most impacted by the agenda item.

Specific dates are not provided in the attachment due to a number of factors that influence the City Council agenda preparation process. In their agenda management, the Mayor and city manager strive to compile an agenda that is most responsive to the City Council's adopted priorities and work plan while also balancing the business needs of the organization. Certain agenda items, such as appeals or State mandated reporting, must be scheduled by a certain date to ensure compliance. In addition, the meeting agendas are managed to allow the greatest opportunity for public input while also allowing the meeting to conclude around 11 p.m. Every effort is made to avoid scheduling two matters that may be contentious to allow the City Council sufficient time to fully discuss the matter before the City Council.

### Public Notice

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

### Attachments

A. City Council agenda topics: October 2024

Report prepared by:

Judi A. Herren, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk

**Tentative City Council Agenda**

#	Title	Department	Item type	City Council action
1	Annual inflation adjustment of local minimum wage update	ASD	Receive and file	Consent
2	Closed session	CA	No action	Closed session
3	Direction on 1162 El Camino Real below market rate housing	CDD	Direction to staff	Study Session
4	Review and provide guidance on the Parkline development agreement term sheet and below market rate housing proposal	CDD	Direction to staff	Study Session
5	Adopt a resolution updating the City's conflict of interest code	CMO	Adopt resolution	Consent
6	Communitywide electrification program: Home Upgrade Services progress report update	CMO	No action	Informational
7	Consider applicants and make appointments to fill a vacancy on the Housing Commission	CMO	Decide	Advisory body reports
8	Presentation: Peninsula Clean Energy update	CMO	No action	Presentation
9	Proclamation: Cybersecurity Awareness Month	CMO	No action	Proclamation
10	Proclamation: Domestic Violence Awareness Month	CMO	No action	Proclamation
11	Proclamation: Hispanic Heritage Month	CMO	No action	Proclamation
12	Proclamation: National Bullying Prevention Month	CMO	No action	Proclamation
13	Adopt a resolution continuing grant fund from California Department of Education for Belle Haven Child Development Center operational costs	LCS	Approve	Consent
14	Authorize a short-term lease renewal for 802 Middle Ave.	LCS	Contract award or amend	Consent
15	Flock services contract award and ALPR ordinance update	PD	First read/intro ordinance, Contract award or amend	Regular
16	Authorize mobile computer replacement for police department agreement	PD	Contract award or amend	Consent
17	Police dept. quarterly update Q3 July - Sept. 2024	PD	Receive and file	Informational
18	Consider a resolution supporting a pilot on Coleman Avenue for the Coleman-Ringwood Avenues Transportation Study	PW	Approve	Regular
19	Emergency water supply project update	PW	Receive and file	Informational



**STAFF REPORT**

**City Council**  
**Meeting Date:** 9/24/2024  
**Staff Report Number:** 24-171-CC

**Informational Item:** **Communitywide electrification program: Home Upgrade Services progress report**

**Recommendation**

The purpose of this informational item is to provide an update on the progress of the state grant funded communitywide electrification program implemented through Peninsula Clean Energy's Home Upgrade Services.

**Policy Issues**

Climate action is a City Council priority for fiscal year 2024-25. The City has a 2030 Climate Action Plan (CAP) that provides a strategic roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. CAP strategy No. 1 aims to electrify 95% of existing buildings by 2030. To achieve this, the City Council directed staff to identify partners for funding and financing programs for existing building electrification, including a specific income qualified turnkey program.

**Background**

The California State Budget Act of 2022 (Assembly Bill 179) appropriated \$4.5 million through the California Energy Commission (CEC) to the City of Menlo Park for a communitywide electrification project. The City received the first half of the funding in September 2023 (a total of \$2.25 million). The first half of funding must be spent prior to the CEC processing payment for the remaining \$2.25 million. The full \$4.5 million must be spent by June 2026.

On April 2, City Council authorized an agreement with Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) for \$2,210,000 and provided guidance to staff to provide regular updates as informational items (Attachment A). The City retained the remaining \$40,000 in funds for marketing and promotion of the program.

**Analysis**

The City's program is part of Home Upgrade Services, a portfolio of programs offered by PCE and Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE), to support residents in electrifying their homes.

Program status

PCE, in partnership with Franklin Energy, soft launched the Home Upgrade Services program on August 28. To prepare for program launch, PCE collected contact information from Menlo Park residents through an interest form hosted on their website from May 2023 to August 2024. Additionally, Menlo Spark collected an interest list of residents. These lists were combined and PCE sent an email including a link to schedule an initial in-home assessment to each resident. City staff followed up on these emails with phone calls to ensure that residents were able to sign up for a home energy assessment appointment. Six

interested residents did not share an email and PCE plans to call them throughout the month of September to schedule an assessment. To date, four assessments have been scheduled, and the first took place Sept. 11. The program will launch an outreach campaign in October.

#### Administrative activities

Staff worked with PCE to develop the bilingual assessment email notification (Attachment B). PCE also completed task 1 (program set up) of its scope of work, which includes PCE providing a document outlining eligibility requirements and guidelines for the expenditure of City funds through the program. City staff also provided a monthly update to the CEC on progress.

#### Past outreach activities

City staff began program outreach and coordination with partners including the following activities:

- Hosted an information table at the Aug. 6 Belle Haven Community Campus National Night Out event.
- Called 32 applicants on the waitlist to ensure that they received the email to sign up for a home energy assessment appointment.
- Posted flyers at the libraries.
- Participated in Climate Resilient Communities' (CRC) Belle Haven Community Climate Change Team (CCCT) monthly meetings June through September.
- Coordinated with Habitat for Humanity to include information about Home Upgrade in their program outreach including canvassing, community presentations and application materials.
- Coordinated with GRID Alternatives (GRID) to identify outreach channels and opportunities to provide no-cost solar to residents to avoid increased utility bills, as a complementary offering to Home Upgrade Services.

#### Upcoming outreach activities

- Continue bi-weekly calls with Habitat for Humanity and GRID to coordinate on outreach and to evaluate projects in each organization's pipeline of projects for opportunities to layer programs. GRID has capacity to serve the 40 to 60 homes that will participate in this first round of Home Upgrade.
- Develop a frequently asked questions document to provide information on eligibility, process and requirements.
- Launch the City's social media campaign.
- Create multiple announcements in the City's Weekly Digest.
- Advertise on the Belle Haven Community Campus video monitors.
- Partner with the City's Housing team to connect with applicant list for Habitat for Humanity's Belle Haven Homeowner Preservation Program.
- Support development of an outreach contract between PCE and CRC; PCE expects to execute an agreement with CRC in October.
- Commence outreach led by PCE to begin October 2024.
- Continue direct outreach in English and Spanish by phone to Belle Haven residents as PCE releases additional in-home assessment appointments.
- Host information table at the Belle Haven Community Campus Open House Oct. 10.
- Host information table at the Flyway Trail opening at Bedwell Bayfront Park Oct. 19.

#### Program metrics

The program's launch has resulted in the following:

- Number of home assessments scheduled: 4
- Number of home assessment completed: 1

- Remaining number of homeowners on interest list: 34

As Home Upgrade projects are completed, staff will share the following program metrics monthly with City Council:

- Number of homeowners with active projects
- Number of completed projects
- Total dollar amount invested into projects (aggregated)
- Total estimated greenhouse gas emission reductions (aggregated)

### **Impact on City Resources**

Staff expect to spend down the \$2,210,000 contract with PCE by June 2025. Staff will present recommendations for spending the second half of the funding in spring 2025. The expenditure deadline for the full CEC grant of \$4.5 million is June 2026

### **Environmental Review**

This action is not a project within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §§15378 and 15061(b)(3) as it will not result in any direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

### **Public Notice**

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with the agenda items being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

### **Attachments**

- A. Hyperlink – April 2 Staff Report #24-059-CC: [menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/agendas-and-minutes/city-council/2024-meetings/agendas/20240402/I1-20240402-cc-pce-electrification-program-and-funds.pdf](https://menlopark.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/agendas-and-minutes/city-council/2024-meetings/agendas/20240402/I1-20240402-cc-pce-electrification-program-and-funds.pdf)
- B. Bilingual Home Upgrade Assessment email notification

Report prepared by:  
Liz Tapia, Management Analyst II

Report reviewed by:  
Rachael Londer, Sustainability Manager





Dear [\[\[FIRST\\_NAME\]\]](#),

Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) Home Upgrade Services are now available for income-qualified homeowners who joined our waitlist. You may now schedule your home assessment by filling out the form on our website here: [Schedule your home assessment](#).

PCE has partnered with Franklin Energy to deliver full-service support in the transition from gas to efficient electric appliances. Their team of trusted experts is here to provide comprehensive assistance at no cost to you, ensuring you get exactly what you need, when you need it.

If you prefer to schedule your home assessment over the phone, please contact us at (650) 314-4796.

We look forward to supporting you through your home upgrade journey!

The Peninsula Clean Energy Home Upgrade Team

[peninsulacleanenergy.com/homeupgrade](https://peninsulacleanenergy.com/homeupgrade)

(650) 449-6525

[homeupgrade@pce.franklinenergy.com](mailto:homeupgrade@pce.franklinenergy.com)

[Schedule your home assessment](#)

#### Versión en Español

Estimado/a [\[\[FIRST\\_NAME\]\]](#),

Los Servicios de Renovaciones del Hogar de Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) ya están disponibles para los propietarios de viviendas que califican por ingresos y que se unieron a nuestra lista de espera. Ahora puede programar su evaluación en el hogar completando el formulario en nuestro sitio web aquí: [Programe su evaluación en el hogar](#).

PCE se ha asociado con Franklin Energy para ofrecer un servicio completo en la transición de electrodomésticos de gas a electrodomésticos eléctricos eficientes. Su equipo de expertos de confianza está aquí para brindar asistencia integral sin costo alguno para usted, asegurándose de que reciba exactamente lo que necesita, cuando lo necesita.

Si prefiere programar su evaluación en el hogar por teléfono, contáctenos al (650) 314-4796.

¡Esperamos poder apoyarlo/a en su camino hacia la mejora de su hogar!

El Equipo de Renovaciones del Hogar de Peninsula Clean Energy

[peninsulacleanenergy.com/homeupgrade](https://peninsulacleanenergy.com/homeupgrade)

(650) 449-6525

[homeupgrade@pce.franklinenergy.com](mailto:homeupgrade@pce.franklinenergy.com)

[Programe su evaluación en el hogar](#)



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