



## 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 reformatted 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 to 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

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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.

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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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## 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





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>

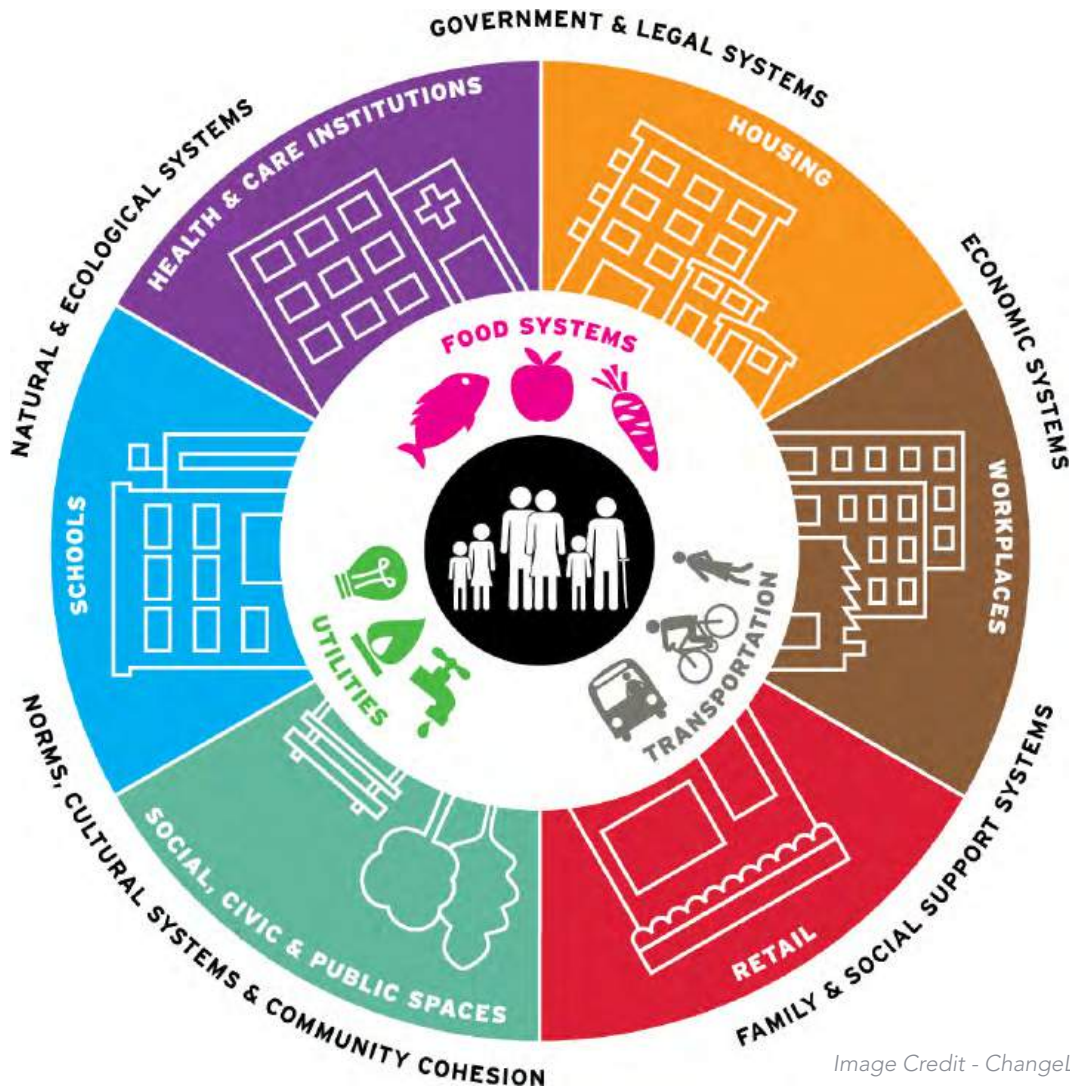


Image Credit - ChangeLab Solutions

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.



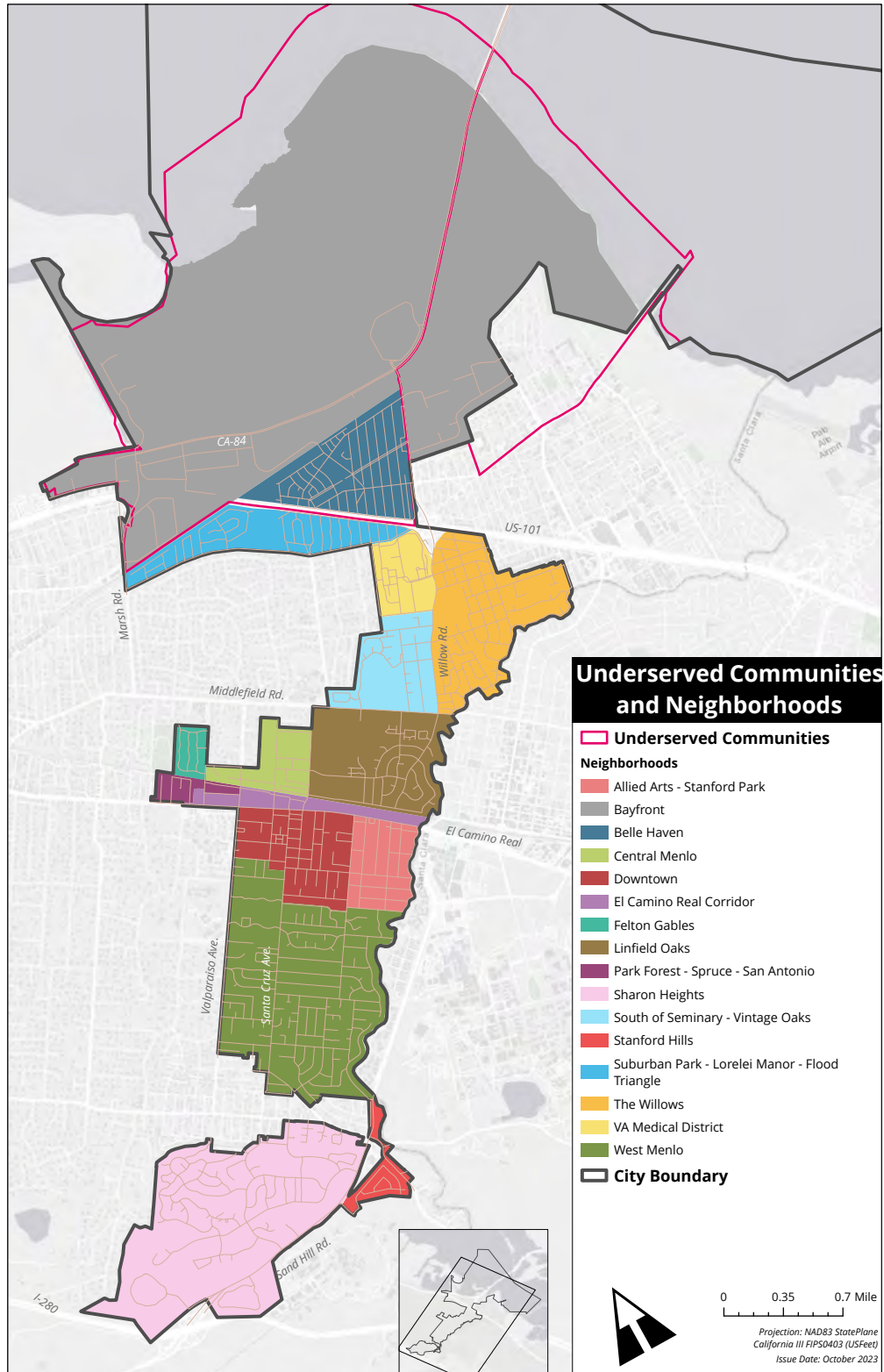
*"The most effective form of outreach was through existing relationships."*

— 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).

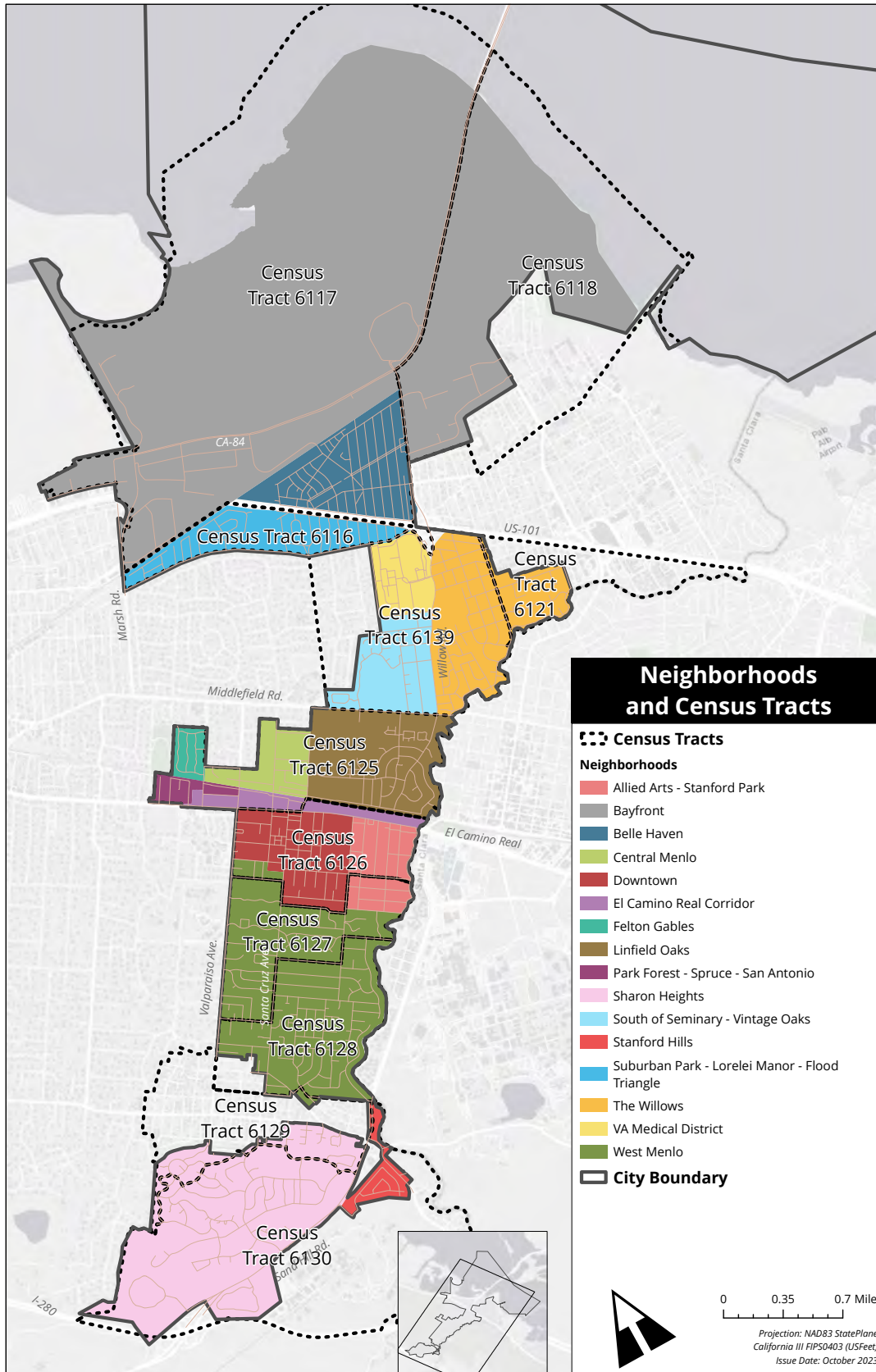
<sup>23</sup> Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county.

<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

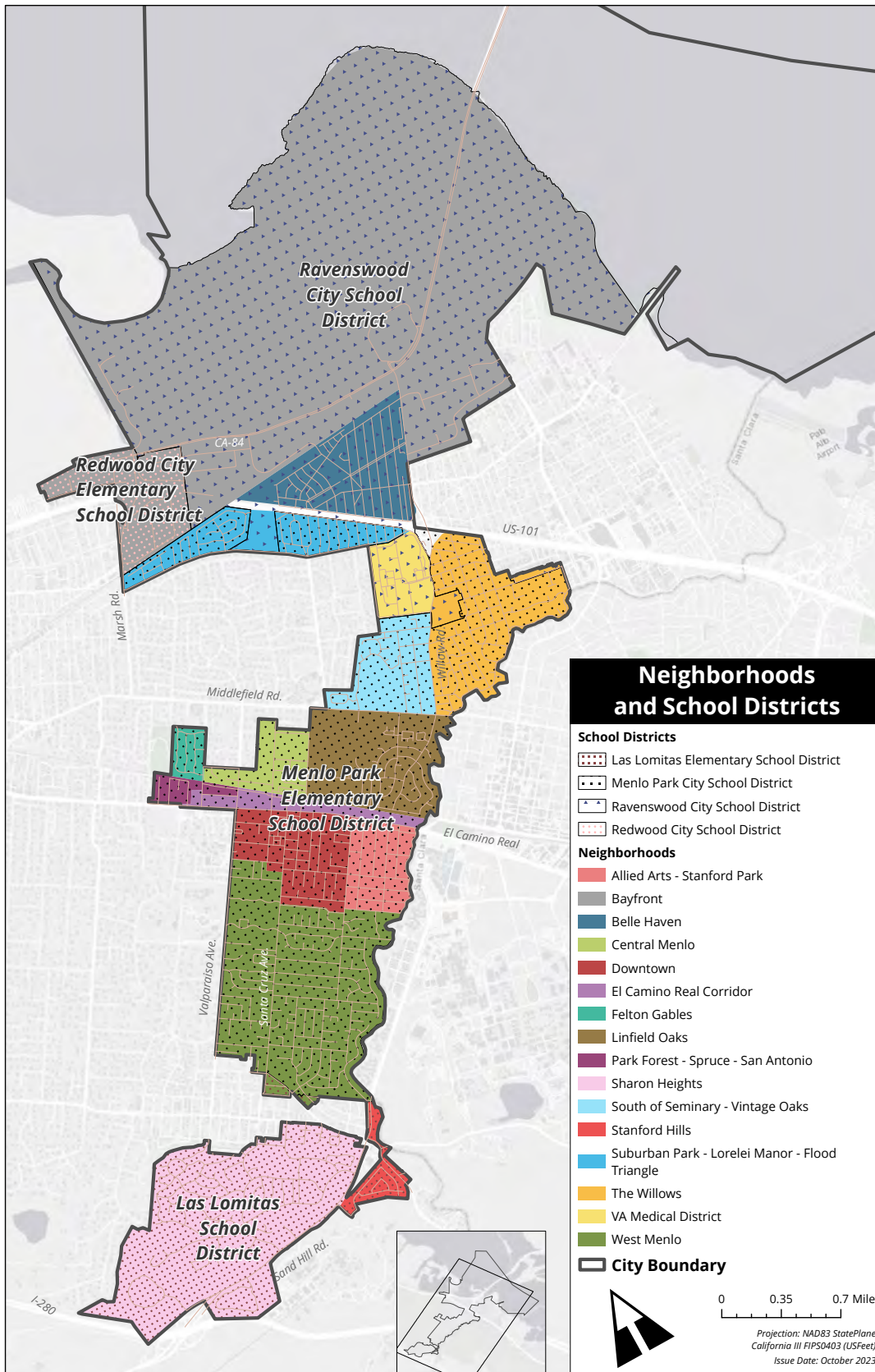
Menlo Park is served by four school districts with elementary and middle schools: Las Lomas Elementary School District, Menlo Park City School District, Ravenswood City School District, and Redwood City School District (see Figure EJ-4).

*"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>



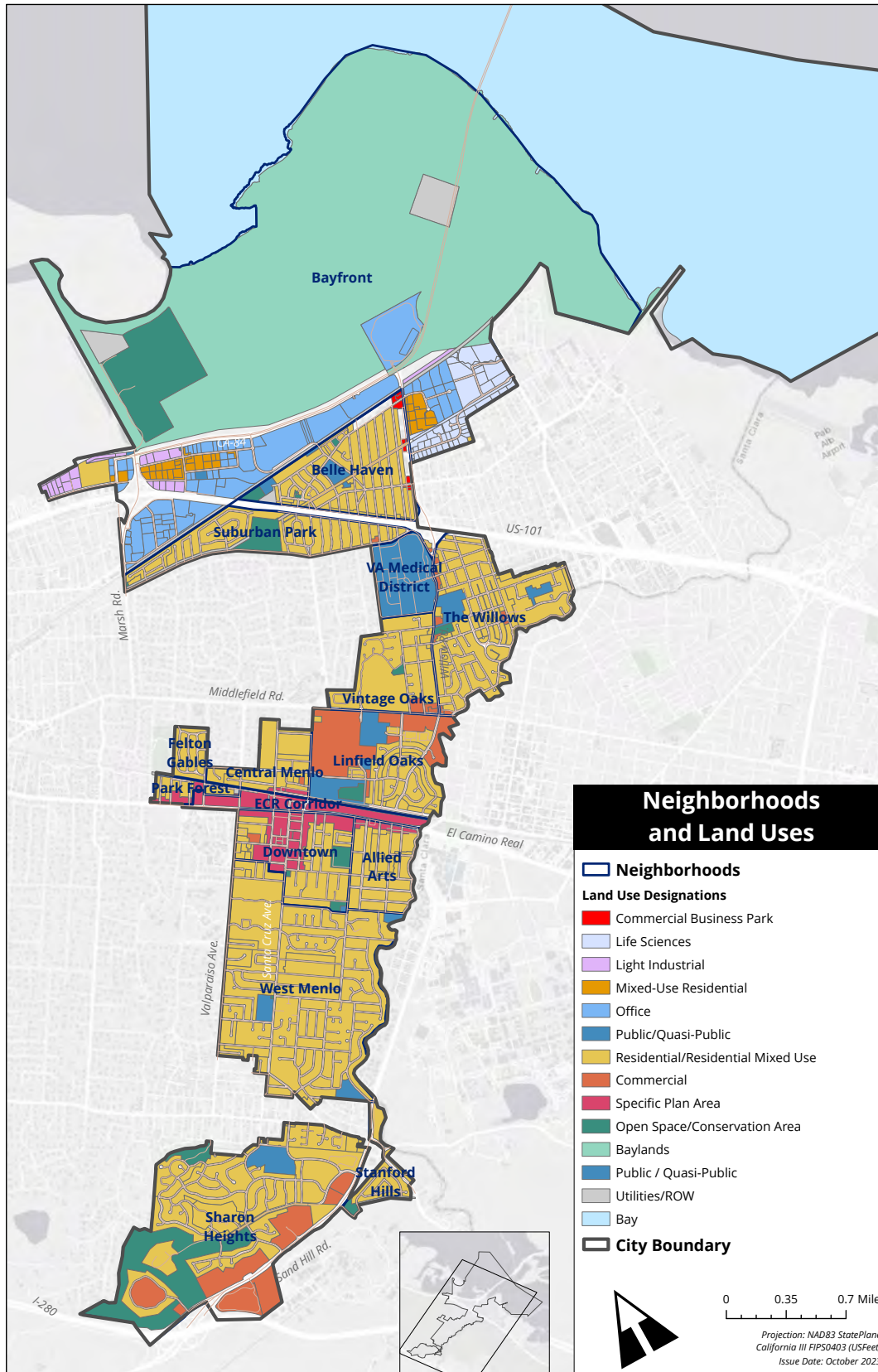
26 Kim-Mai Cutler “East of Palo Alto’s Eden: Race and the Formation of Silicon Valley” (TechCrunch: January 10, 2015) available at <https://techcrunch.com/2015/01/10/east-of-palo-altos-eden/>. Cutler notes that two community “Nairobi Schools” in East Palo Alto were firebombed in 1975.

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)



<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:</b> Address unique and compounded health risks
 <b>Reduce Pollution Exposure</b>	<b>Goal EJ2:</b> Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality
 <b>Improve Access to Public Facilities</b>	<b>Goal EJ3:</b> Equitably provide appropriate public facilities to individuals and communities
 <b>Promote Food Access</b>	<b>Goal EJ4:</b> Promote access to high quality and affordable food
 <b>Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes</b>	<b>Goal EJ5:</b> Provide safe, sanitary, and stable homes
 <b>Promote Physical Activity</b>	<b>Goal EJ6:</b> Encourage physical activity and active transportation
 <b>Promote Civic Engagement</b>	<b>Goal EJ7:</b> Create equitable civic and community engagement

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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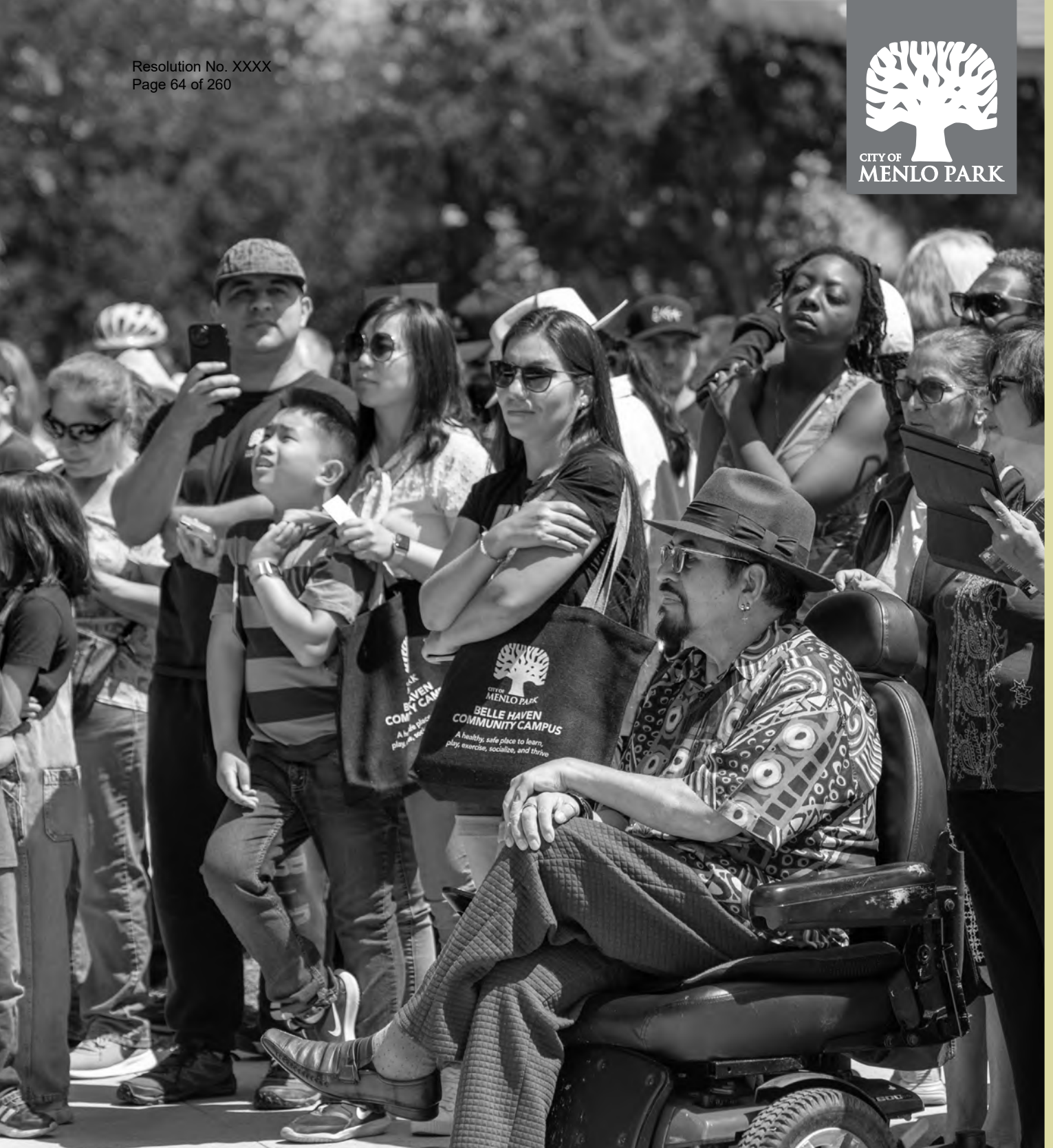






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701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025



# 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.

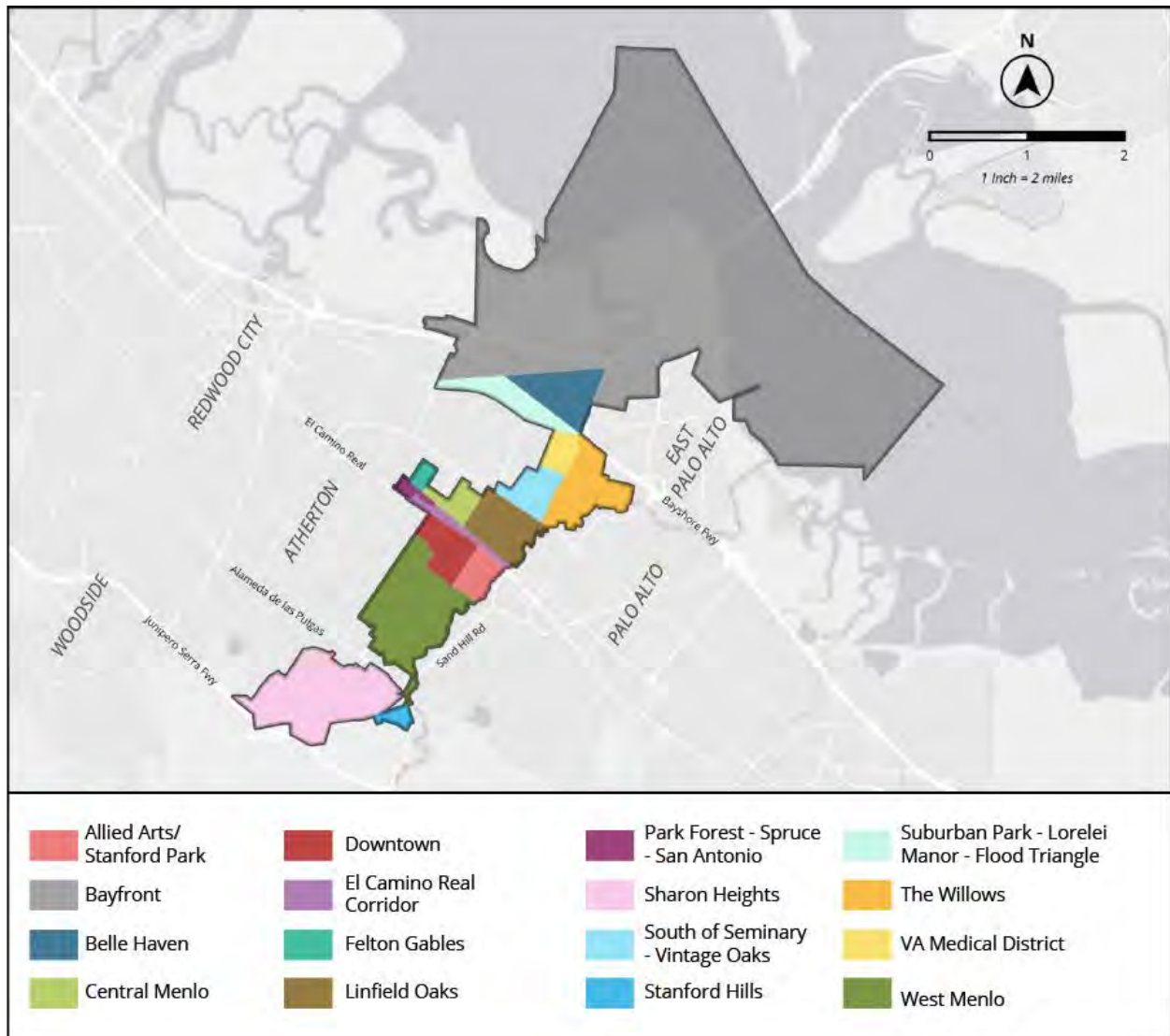
According to State law, a "Disadvantaged Community" is an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code, or, an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that 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

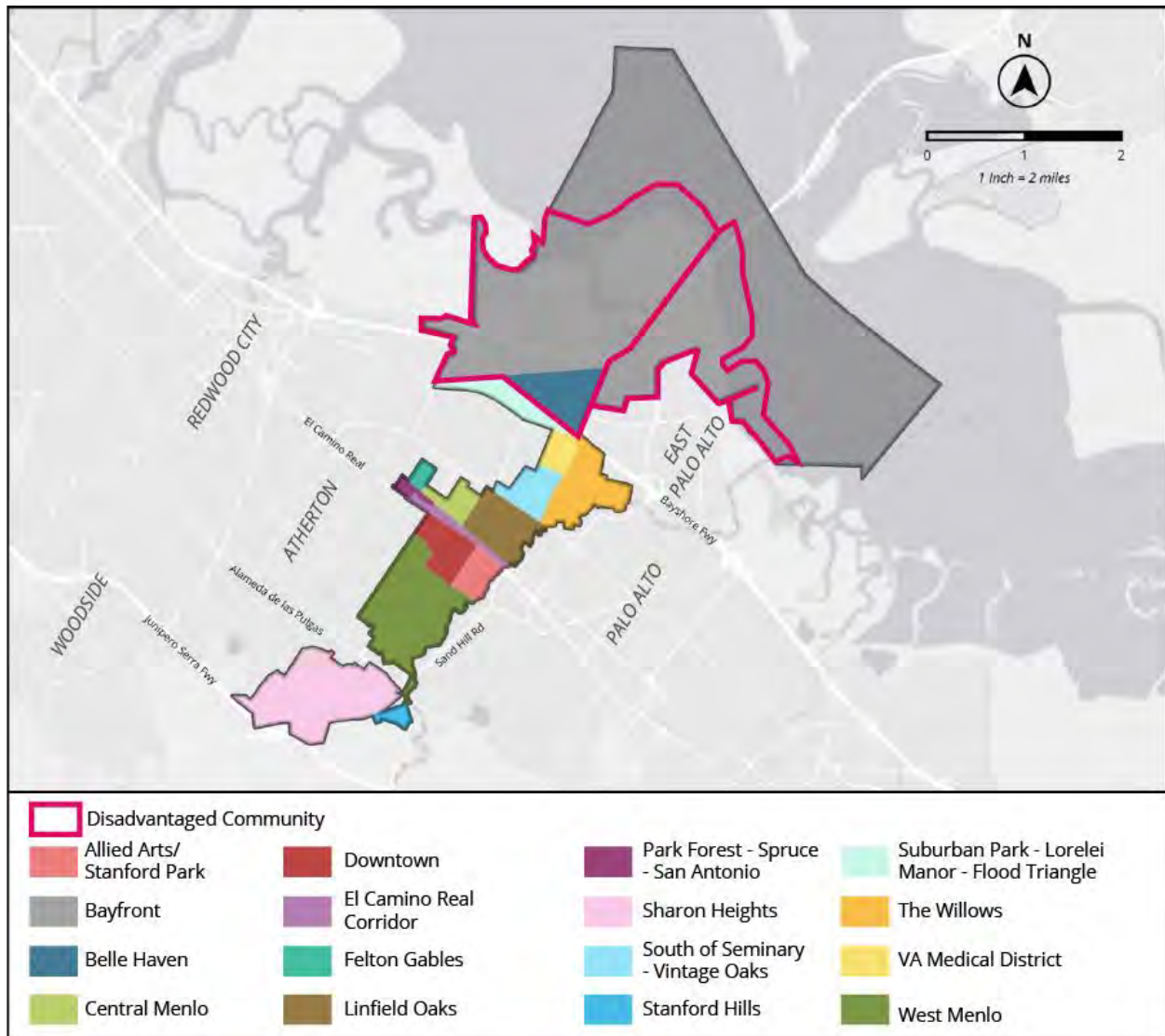


In this document, we look at Menlo Park through the lens of 16 neighborhoods as shown in the above map. The neighborhood boundaries displayed are for reference and informational purposes only, with the intent of contributing to more area-specific analysis of the city as there are differences among the 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

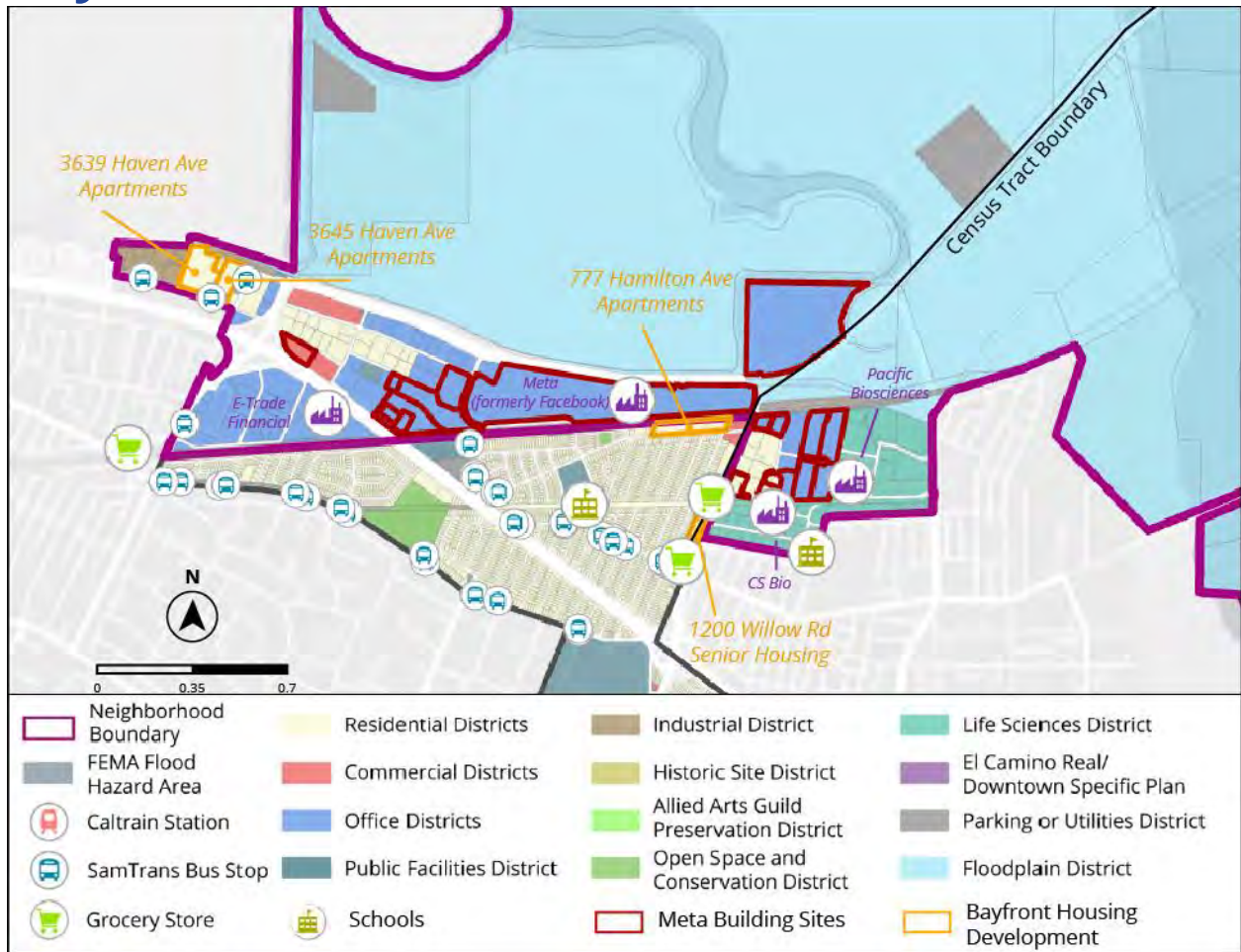
Allied Arts/Stanford Park has overall Population Characteristics scores of 4 (North of University Drive) and 5 (South of University Drive), ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (15 points less than the citywide average) and 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

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

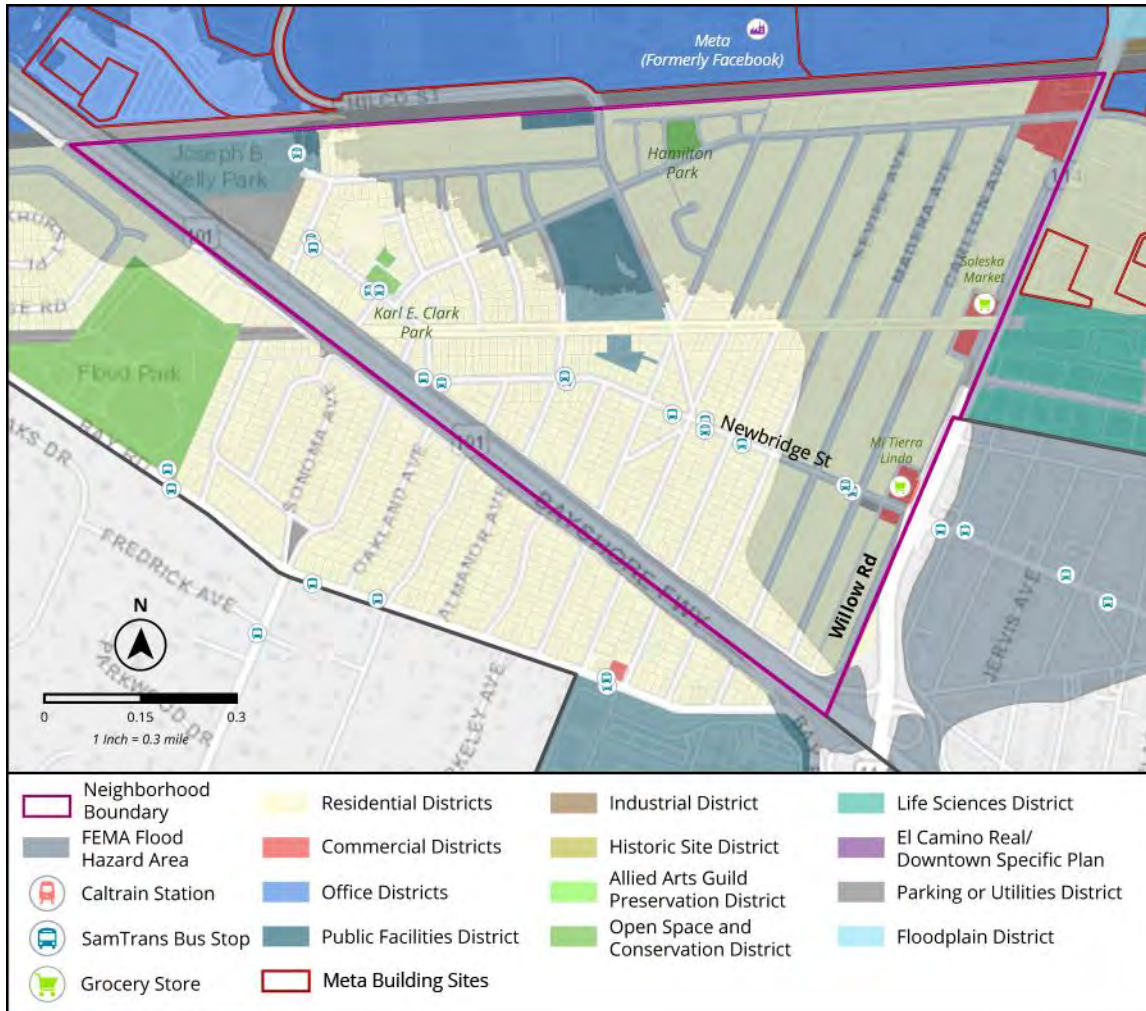
Bayfront has overall Population Characteristics scores of 49 both West and East of Willow/CA-84, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (30 points more than the citywide average).

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

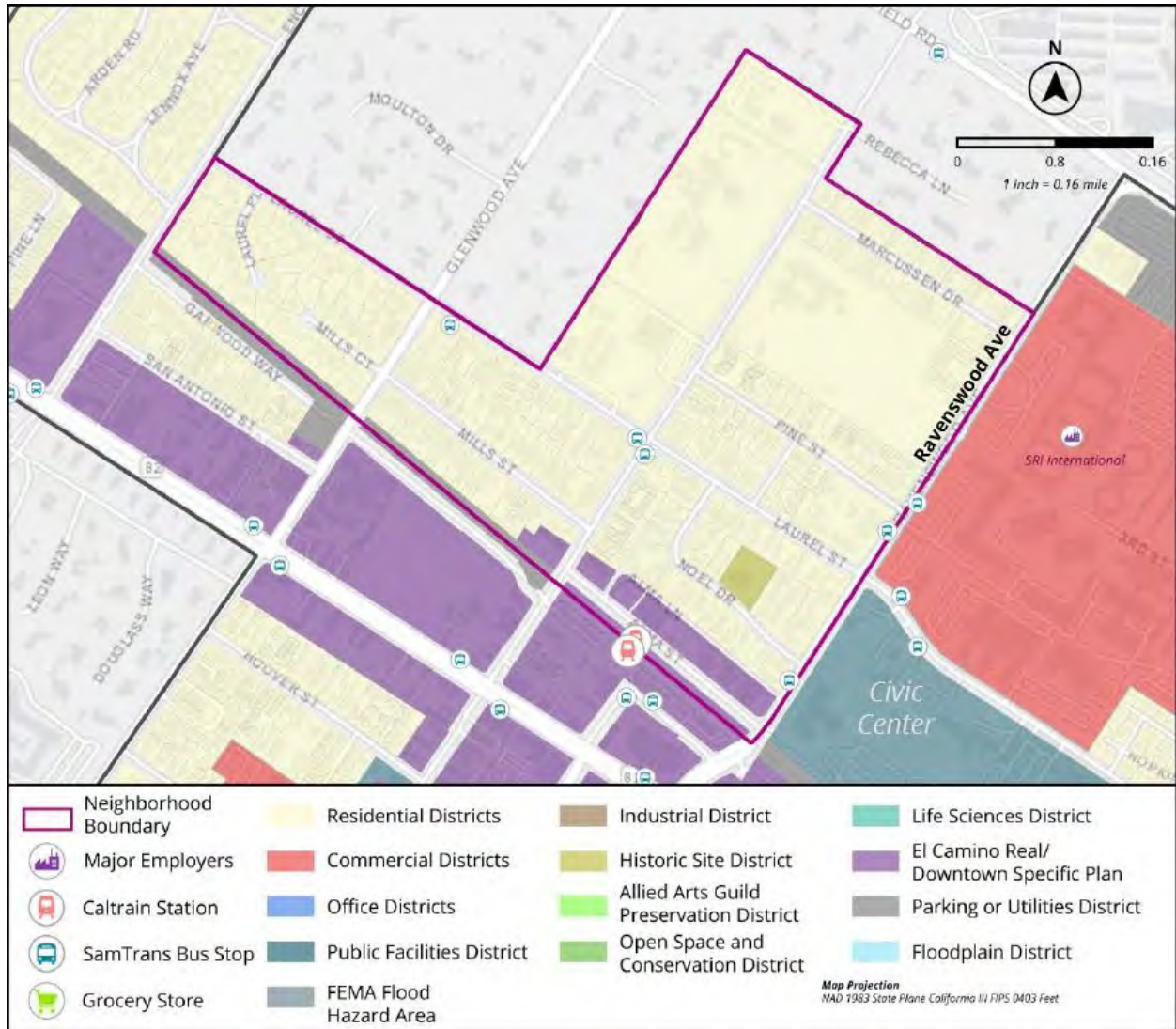
Belle Haven has an overall Population Characteristics score of 49, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (30 points more than the citywide average).

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-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

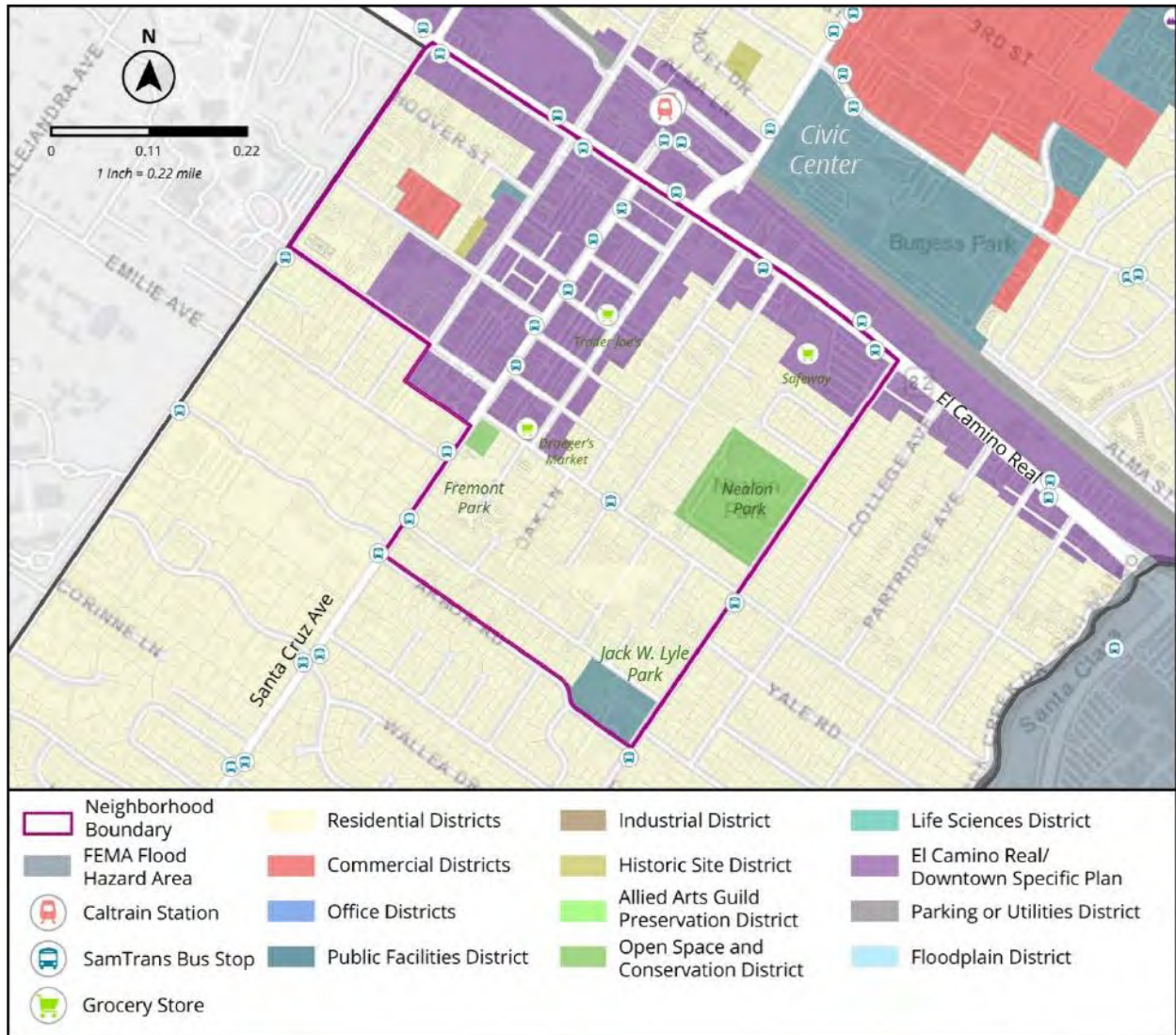
Central Menlo has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

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 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

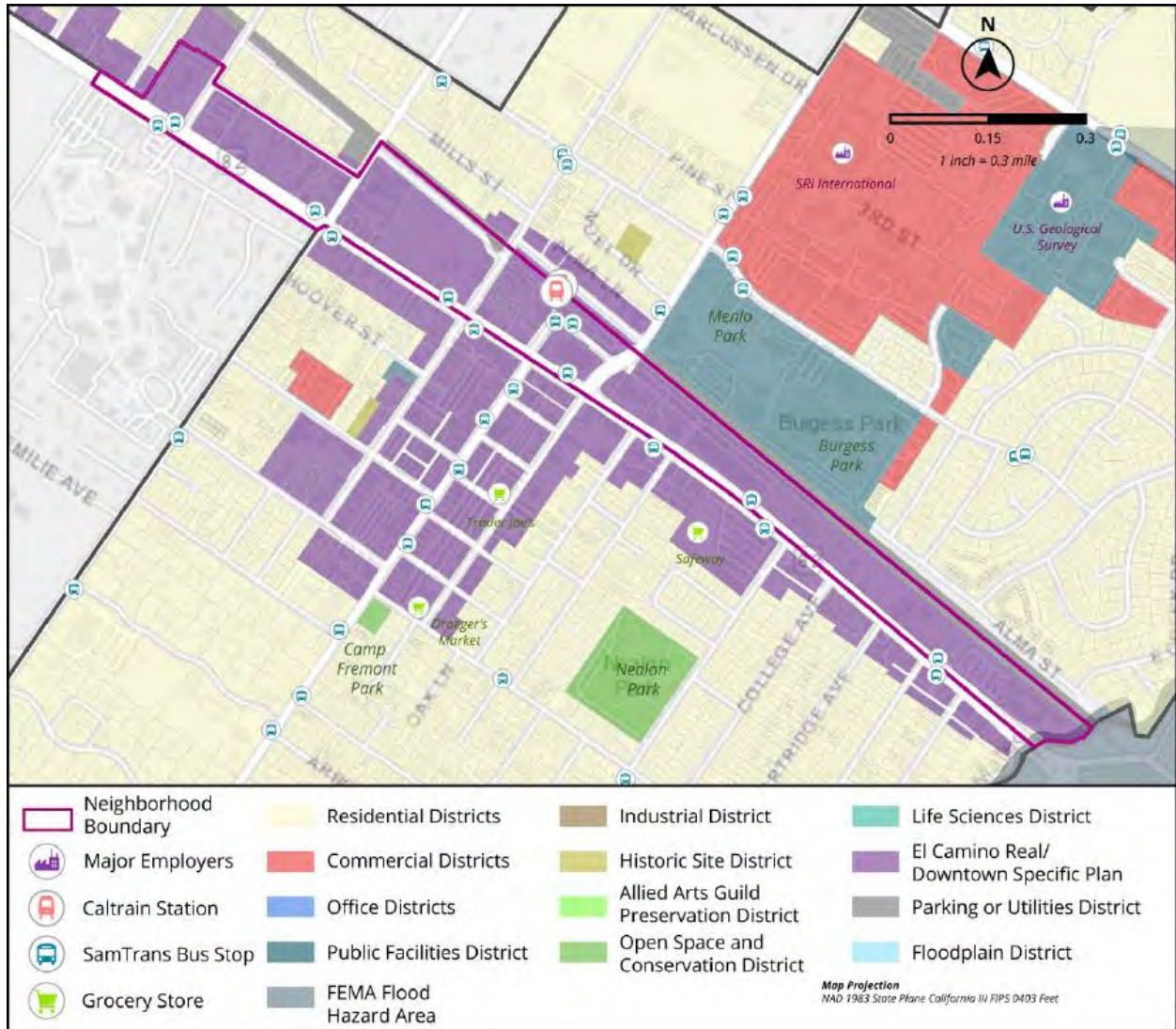
Downtown has an overall Population Characteristics score of 4, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (15 points less than the citywide average).

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

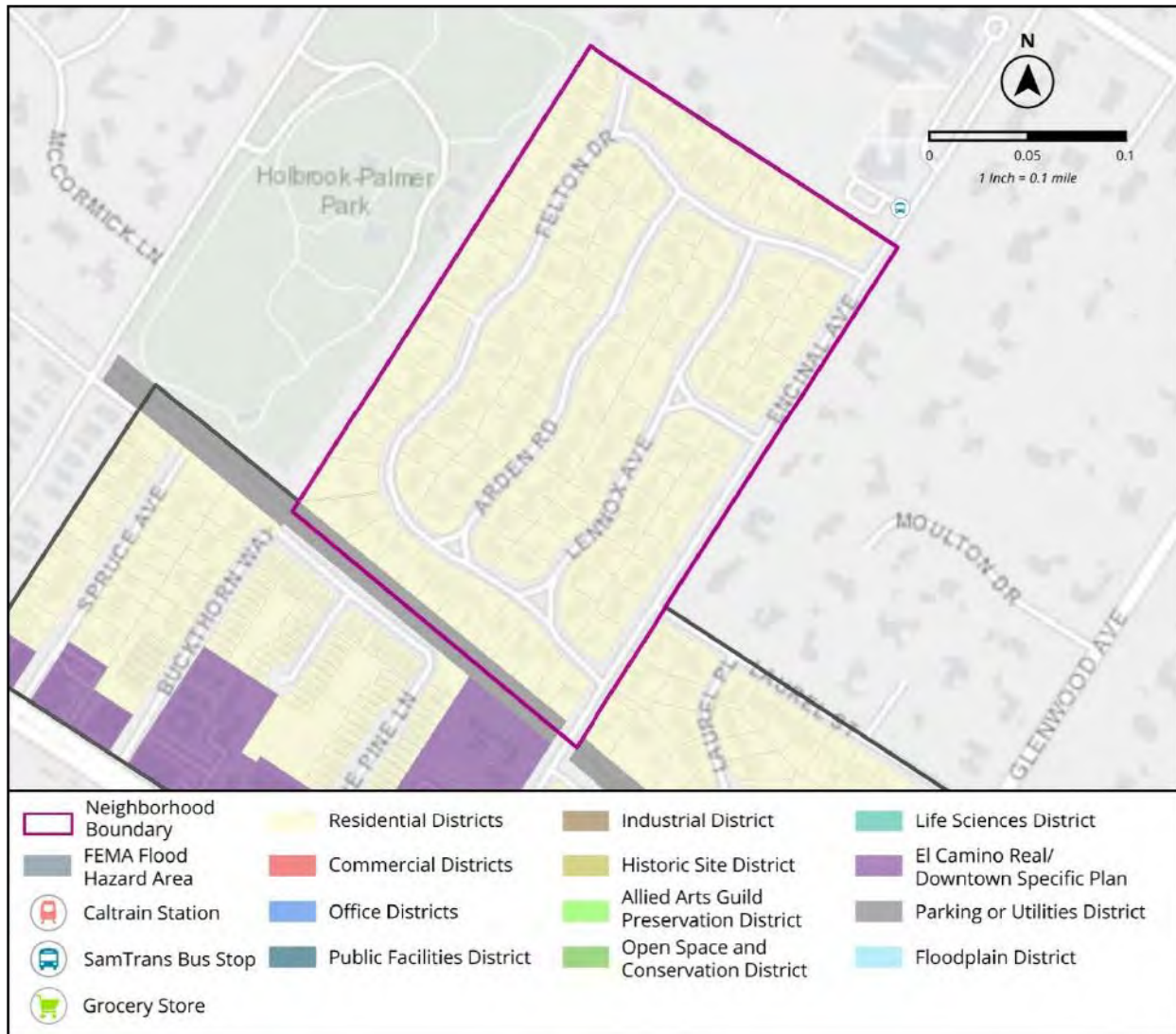
El Camino Real Corridor has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

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

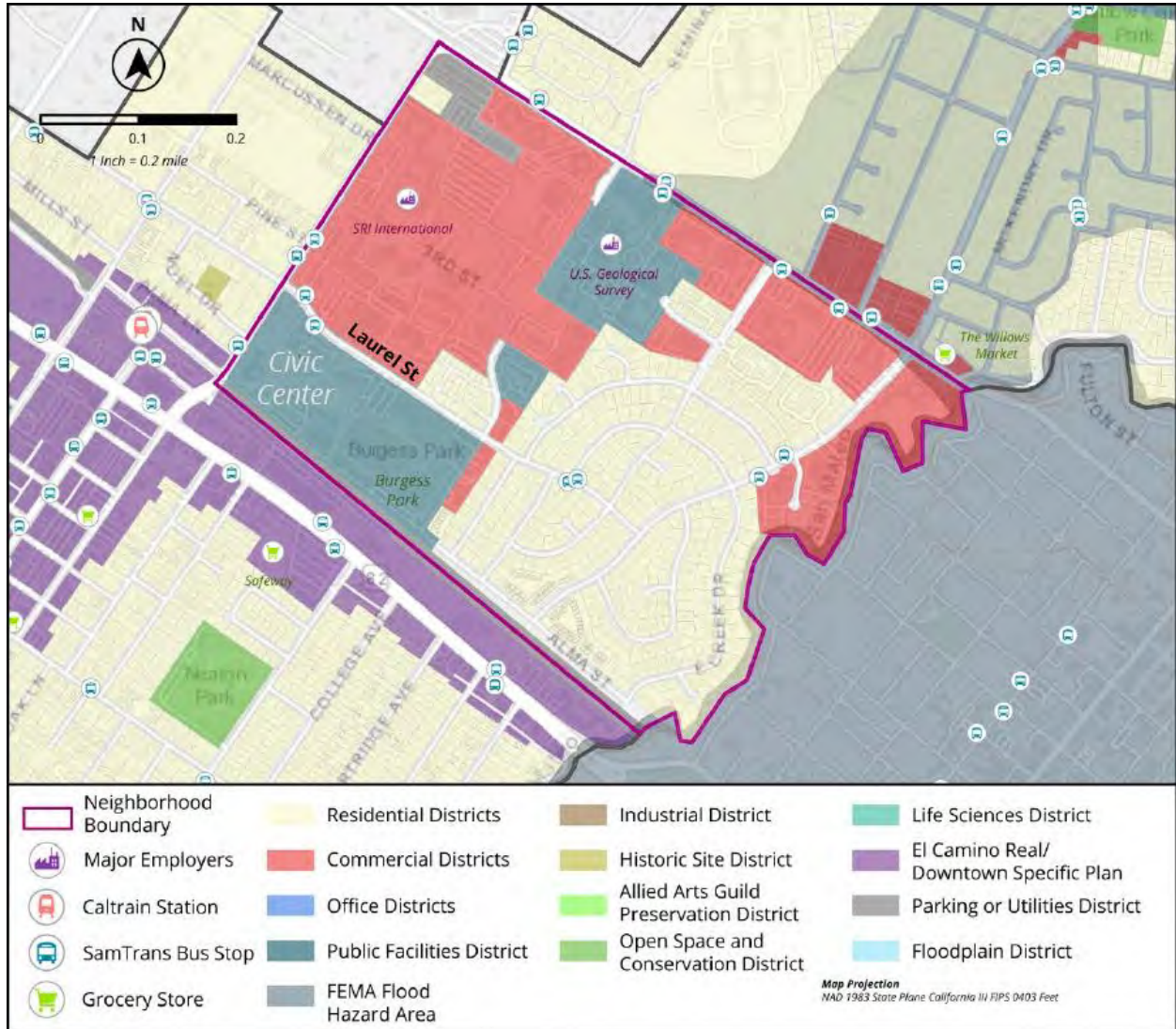
Felton Gables has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

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

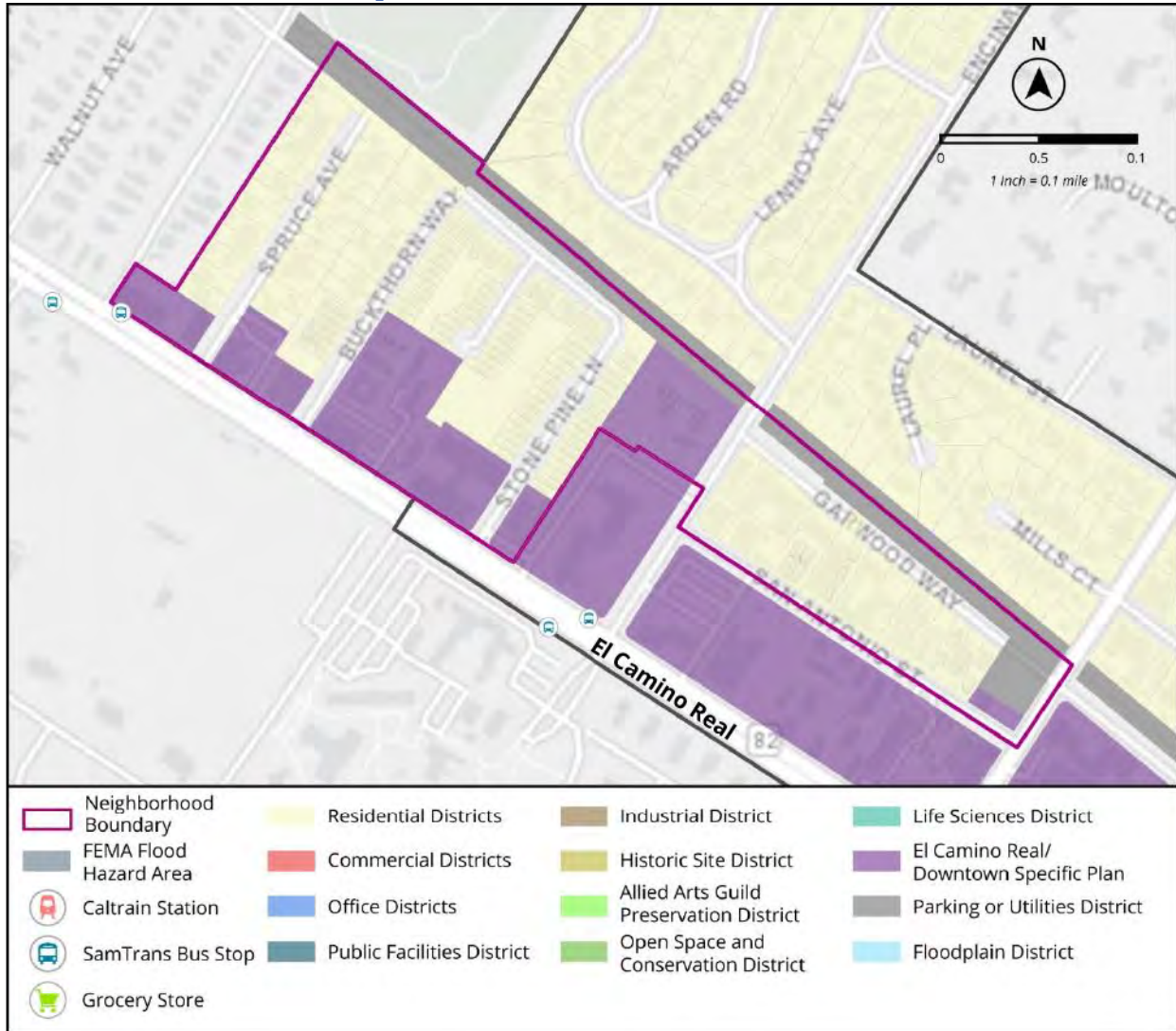
Linfield Oaks has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

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

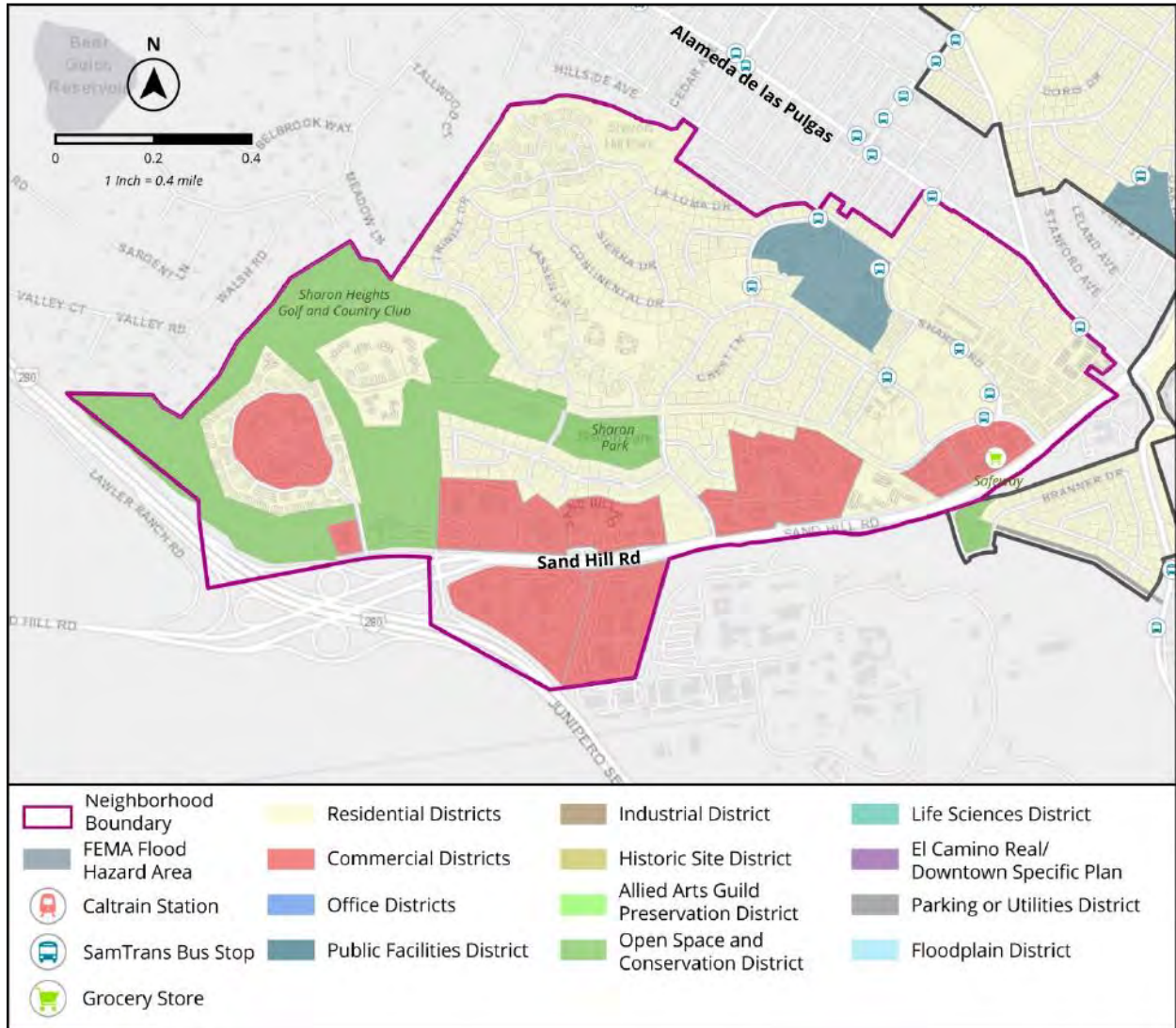
Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

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

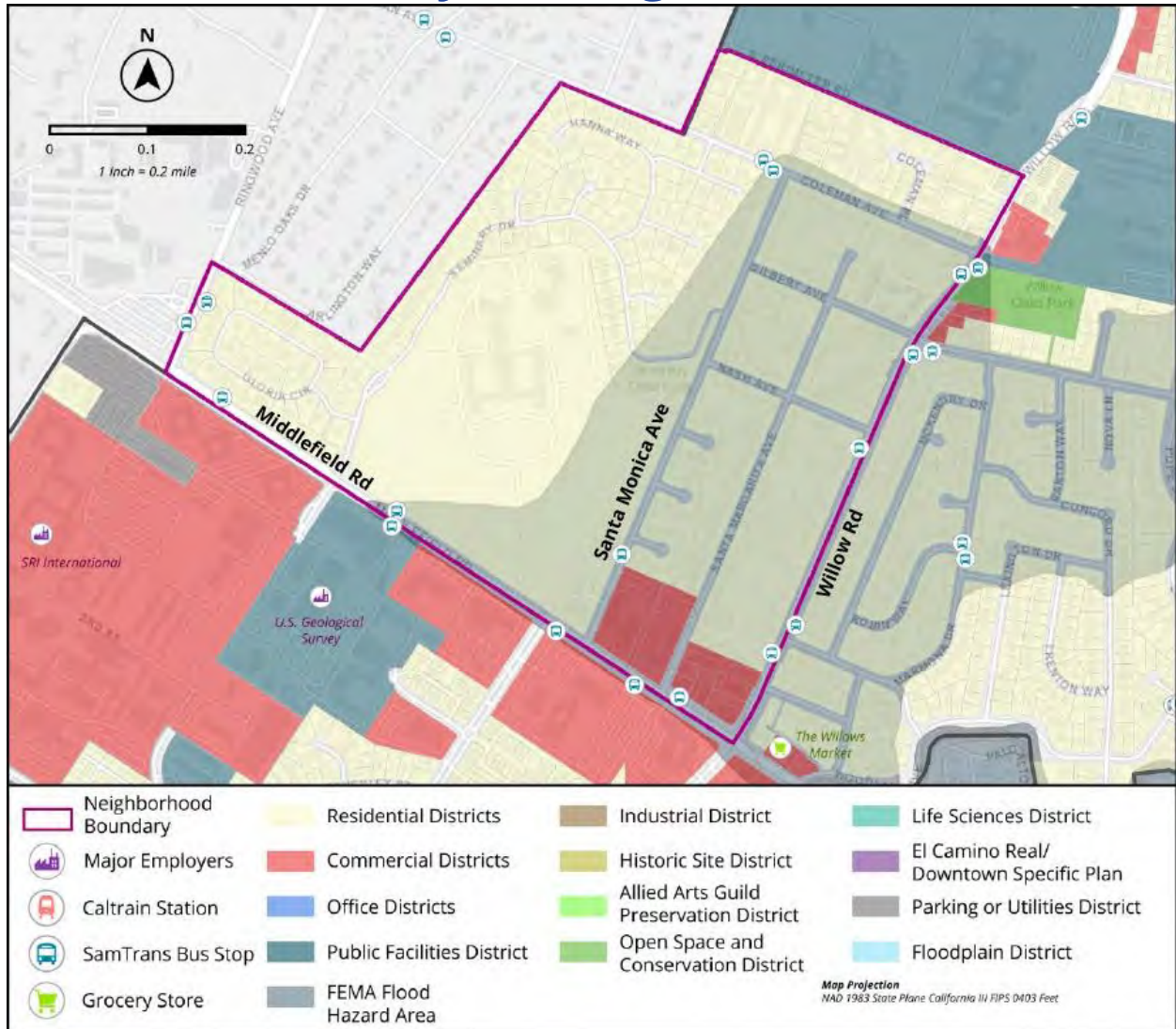
Sharon Heights has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (8 points less than the citywide average).

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

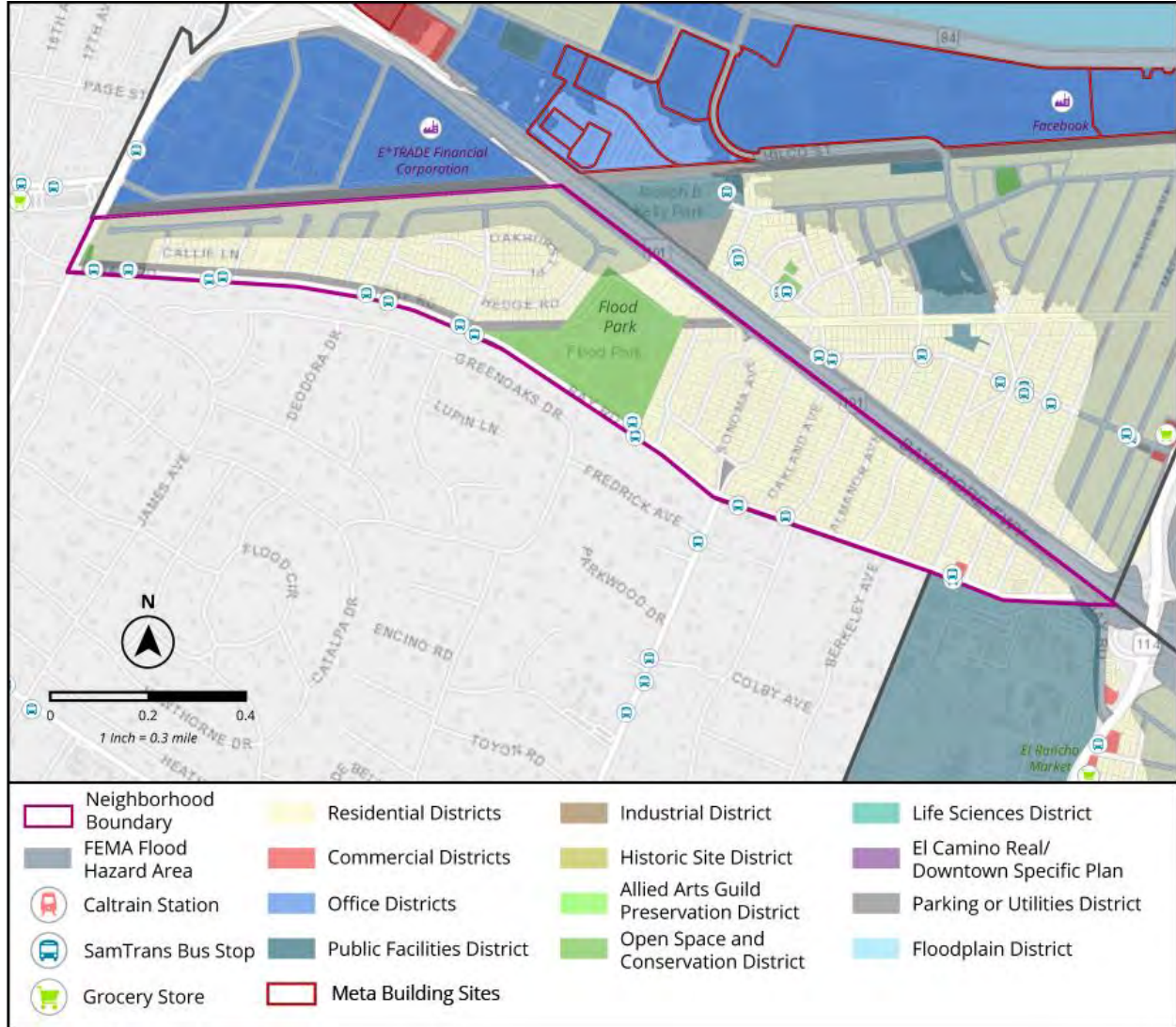
Stanford Hills has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (8 points less than the citywide average).

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

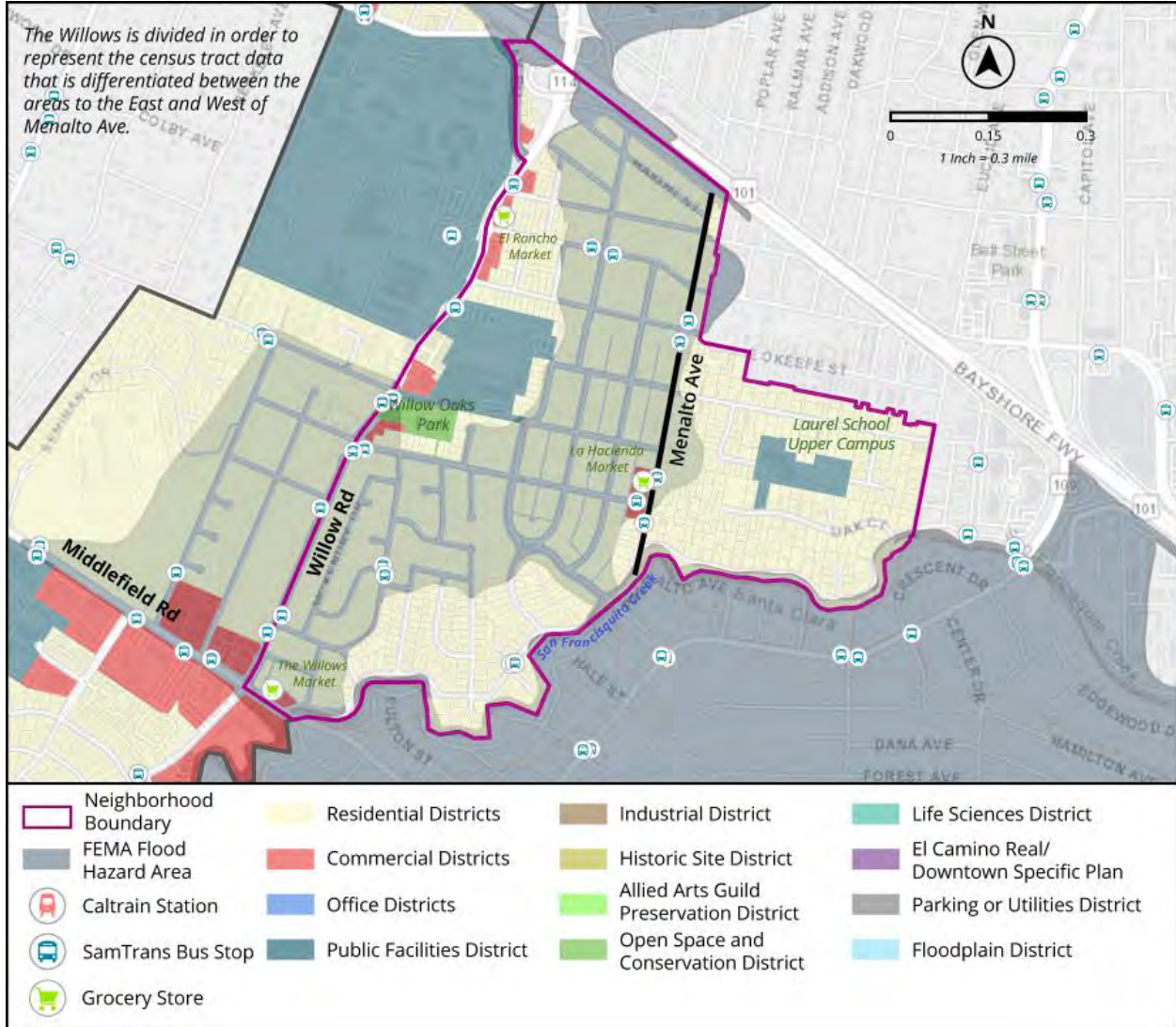
Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

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

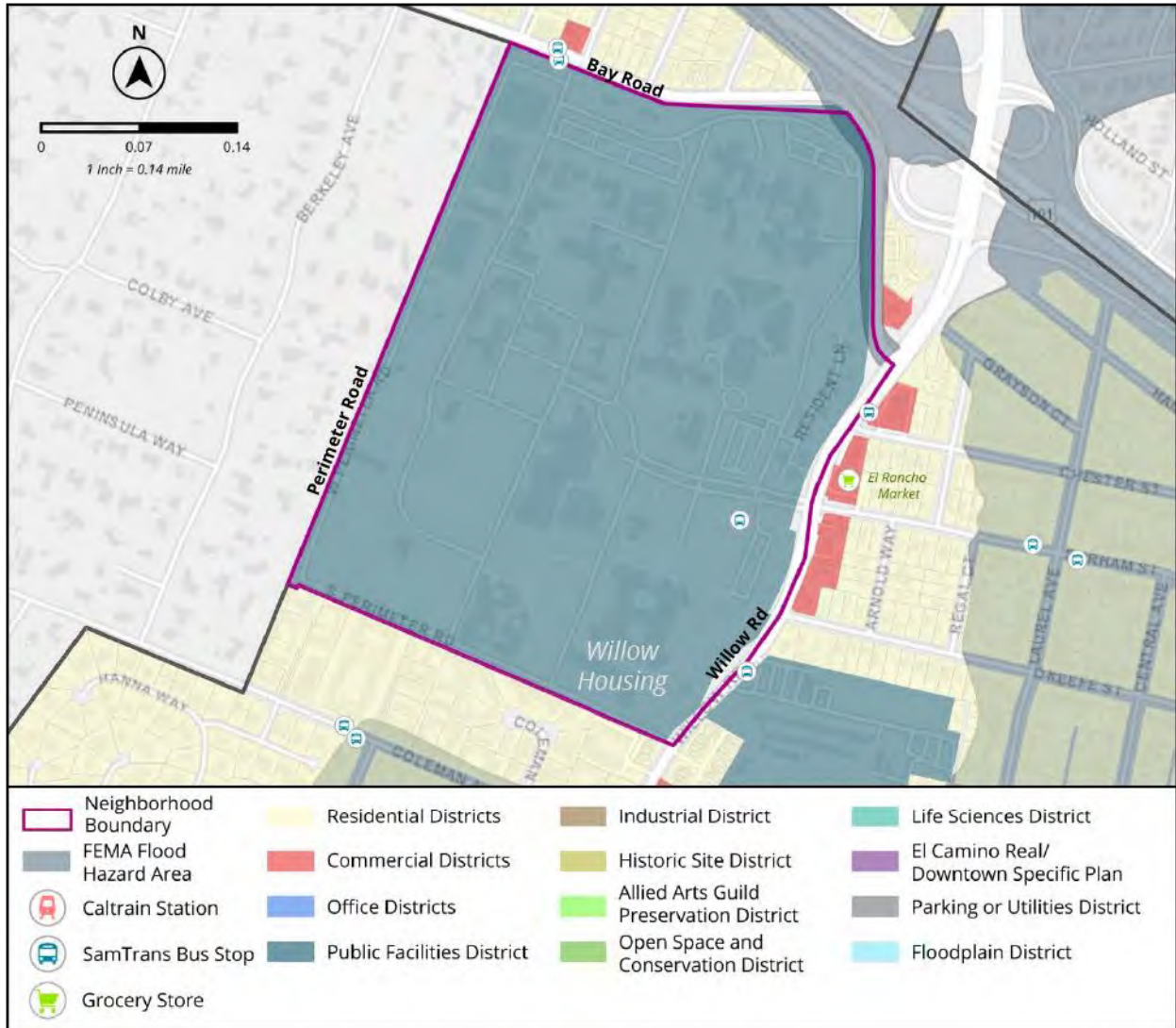
The Willows has overall Population Characteristics scores of 5 (West of Menalto Avenue) and 58 (East of Menalto Avenue), ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average) and 7<sup>th</sup> (39 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

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

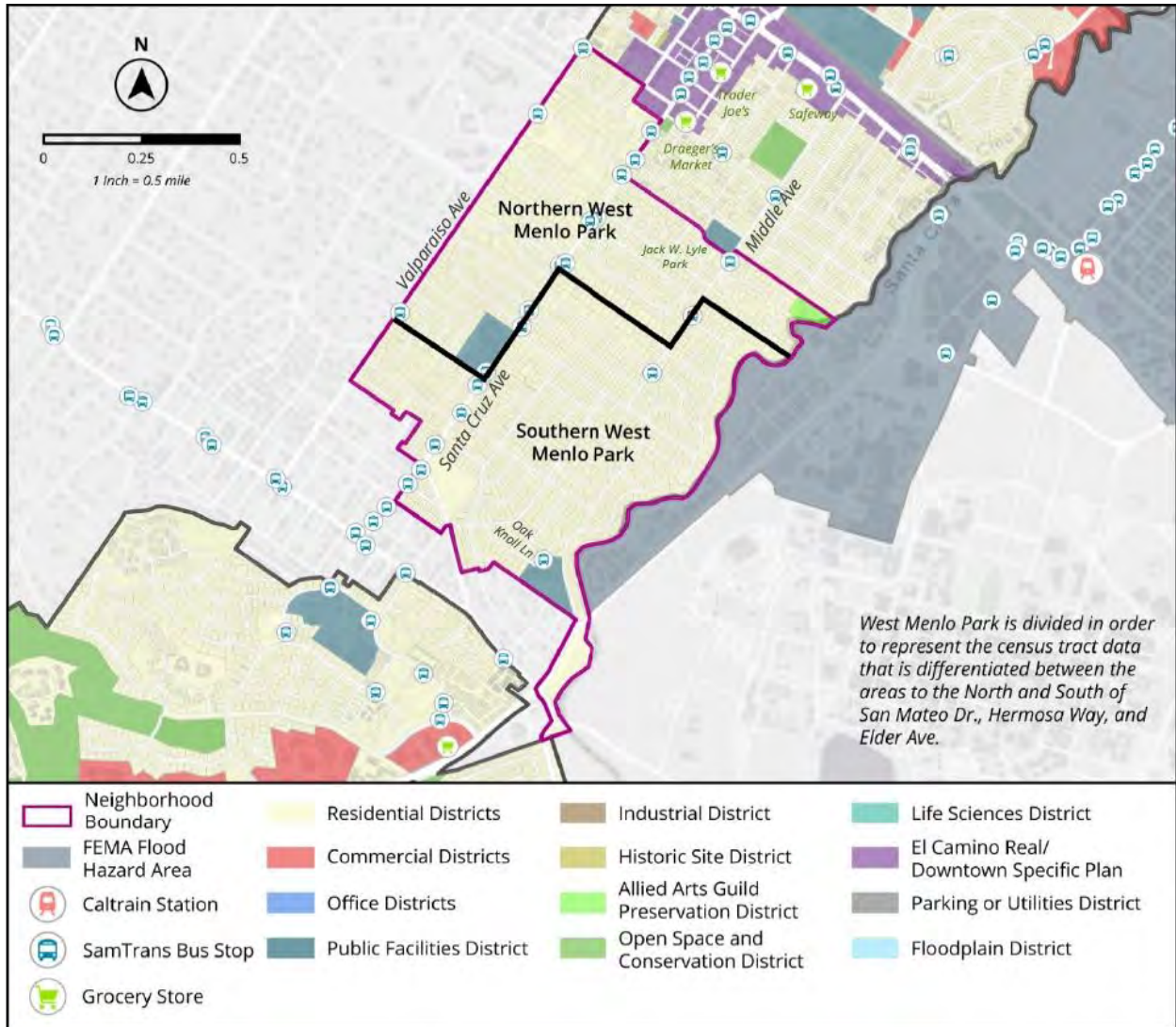
VA Medical District has an overall Population Characteristics score of 5, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average).

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)

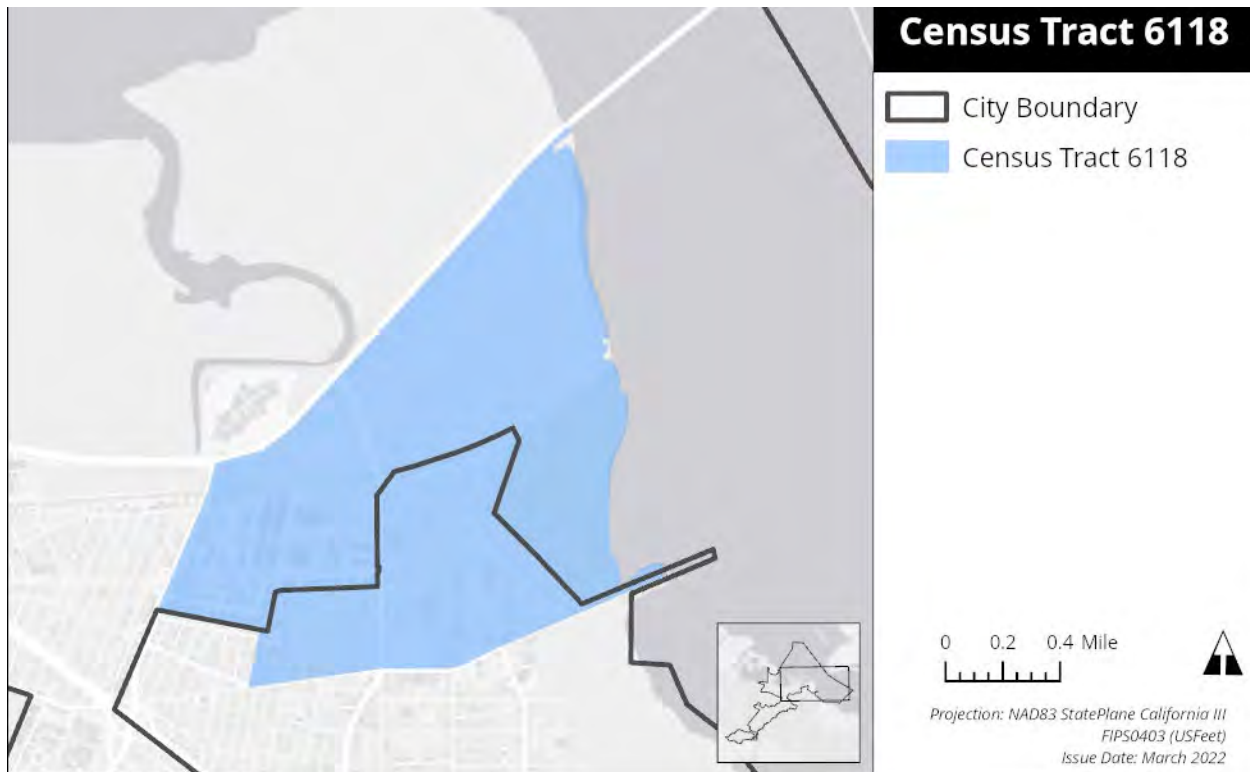
Census Tract 6117 has a clear history of different treatment and has a clear geographic distinction from the rest of Menlo Park. Census Tract 6118 shares this distinction, but Census Tract 6121 does not. Therefore, Census Tract 6118, containing Bayfront as well as portions of neighboring East Palo Alto, 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**



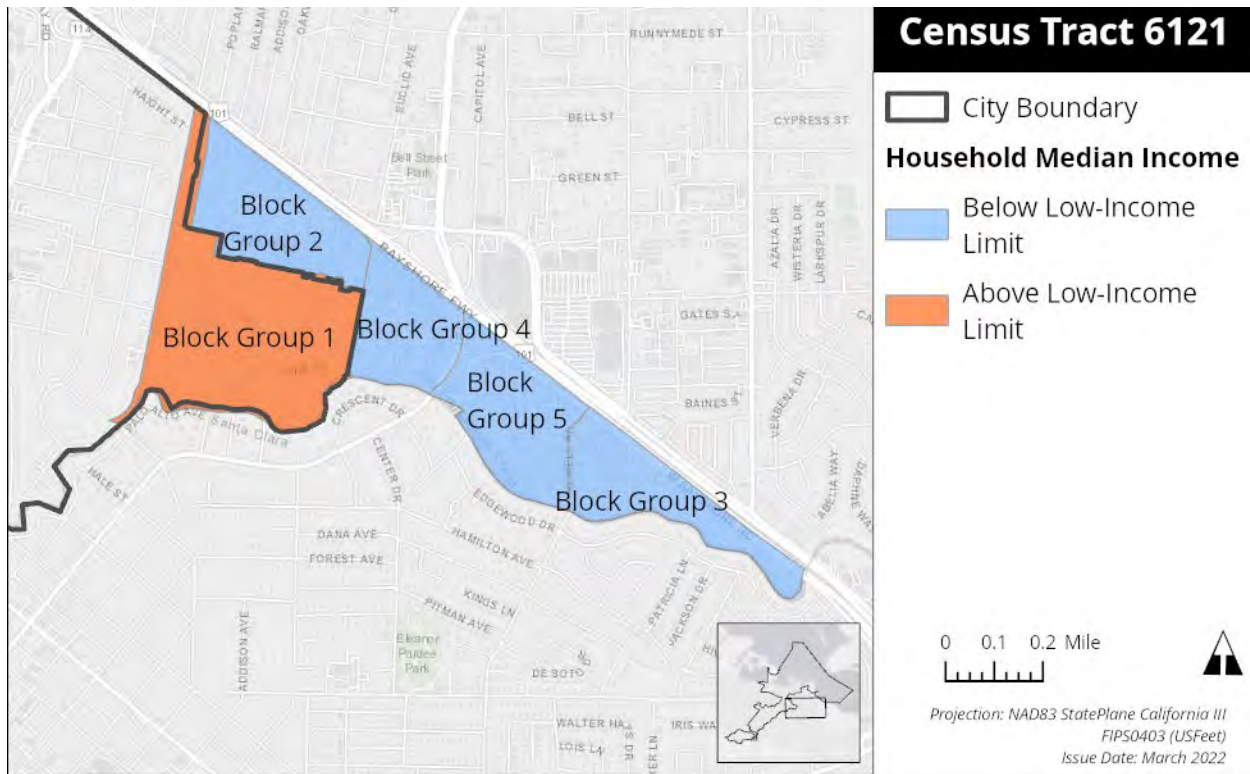
Even though there are currently no residential units in the Menlo Park portion of Census Tract 6118, the neighborhood qualifies as a Underserved Community because the tract-wide median income is below state income limits (see Figure EJ-B-2). The Environmental Justice Element will treat the area as a 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:**

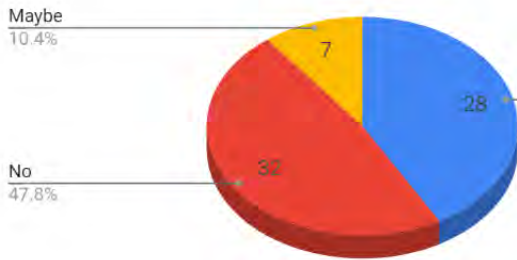
- The extreme chemical sewage smell that flows from Marsh Road and the Belle Haven community in the evening & 2:30 am from Facebook area
- Bad sewage smell and taste of drinking water
- Need speed bumps on streets to stop vehicle racing (1)
- Drainage outside have lots of rodents and insects that come 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.

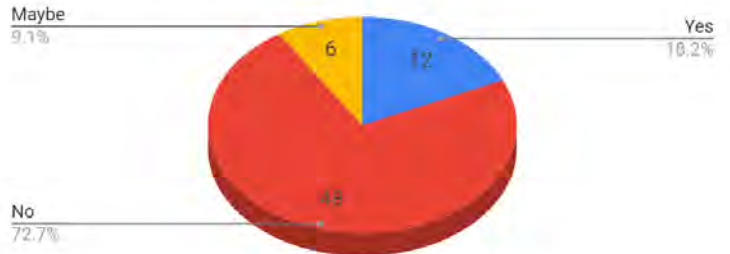
## Before you came to this discussion, did you know much about Belle Haven's history?

(count = 67)



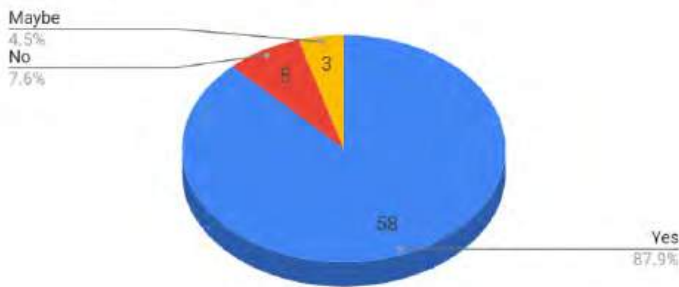
## Before you came, did you know much about the Environmental Justice Element?

(count = 66)



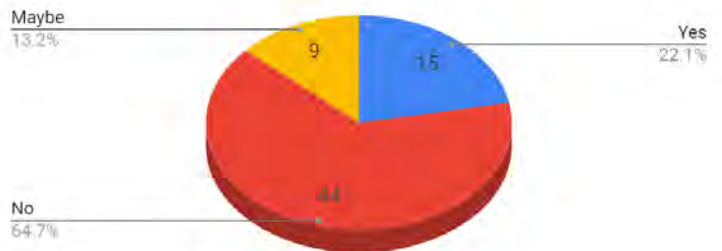
## Are the topics discussed important to you?

(count = 66)



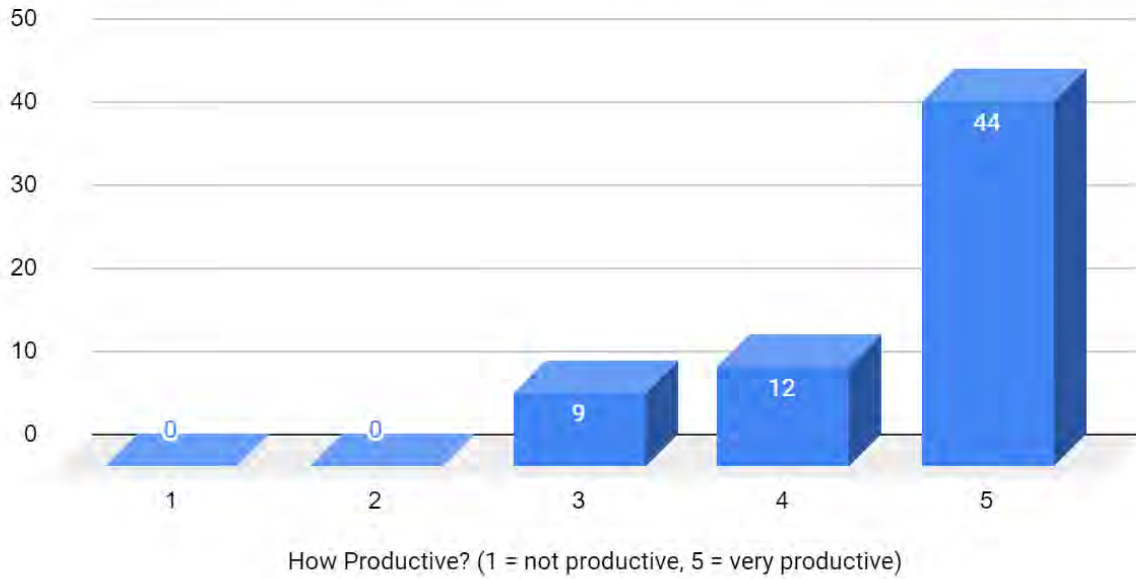
## Before you came, did you know much about the Safety Element?

(count = 68)



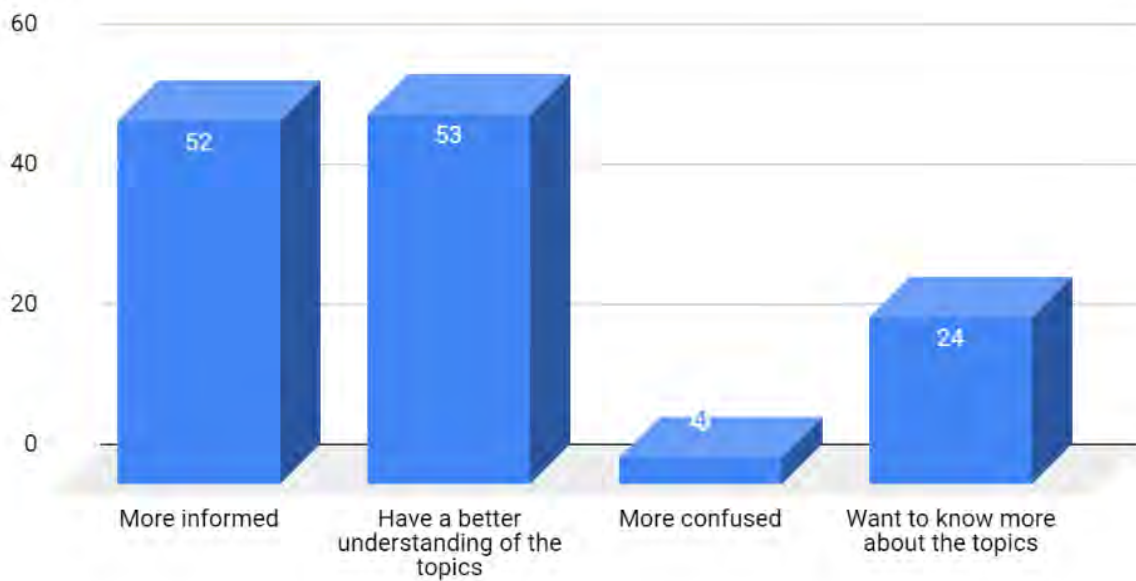
### Did you find the breakout activities productive?

(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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<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

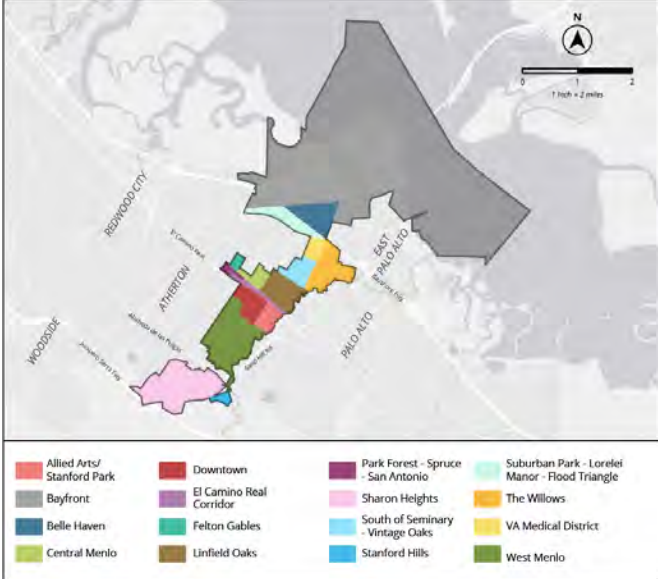
## Environmental Justice and Safety Survey

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      <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic congestion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Poor soil quality      <input type="checkbox"/> Poor tap water 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> </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      <input type="checkbox"/> Heat stroke</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cancer      <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Obesity      <input type="checkbox"/> High blood pressure or cholesterol</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19      <input type="checkbox"/> Reproductive/birth challenges</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Migraines      <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>	<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		
<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										
<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> </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"/> 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"/> Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio										

	<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.

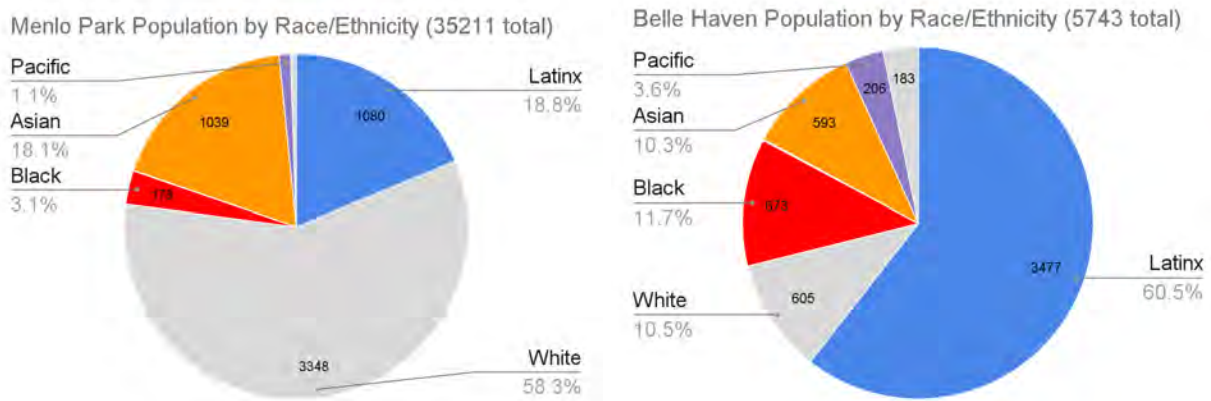


Figure 1. Menlo Park and Belle Haven population by race and ethnicity, 2020 Decennial Census.

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.



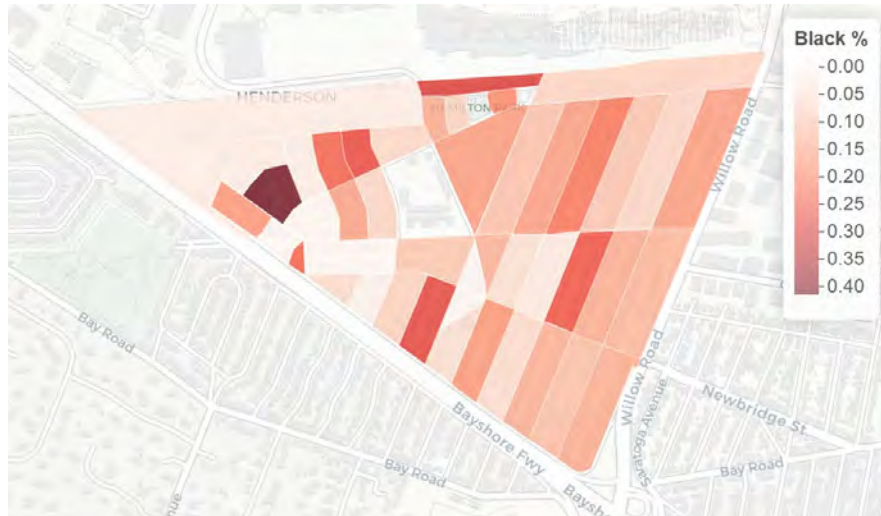


Figure 2. Belle Haven total population, % Latinx, and % Black by block, 2020 Decennial Census.

## 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

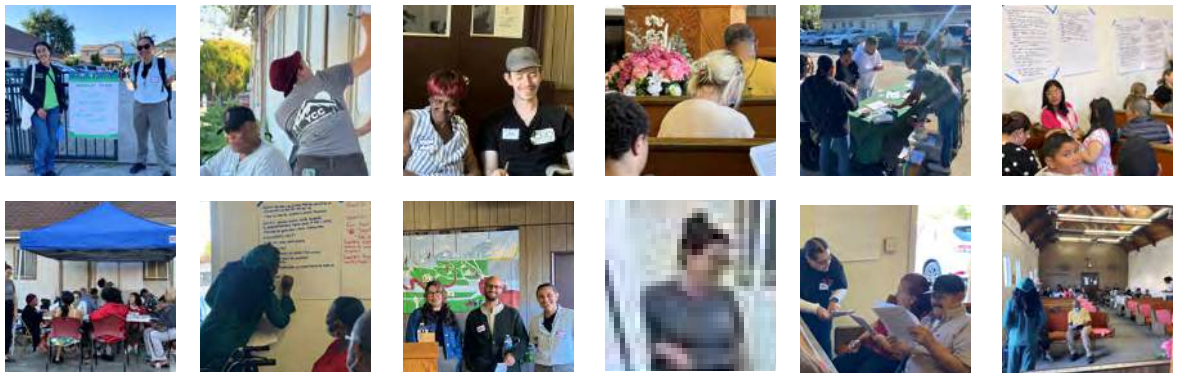
Other responses included:

- 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

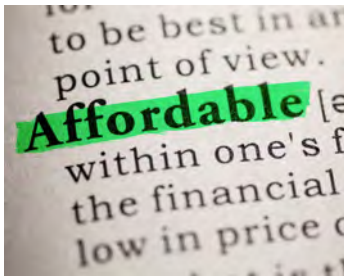
- The May 2 Spanish workshop was attended by 33 individuals.
- The May 9 English workshop was attended by 48 individuals.
- Nearly all participants were members of the Belle Haven Community.
- Cumulative participants engaged throughout the EJ Element process totals approximately 1,800 residents, which 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."

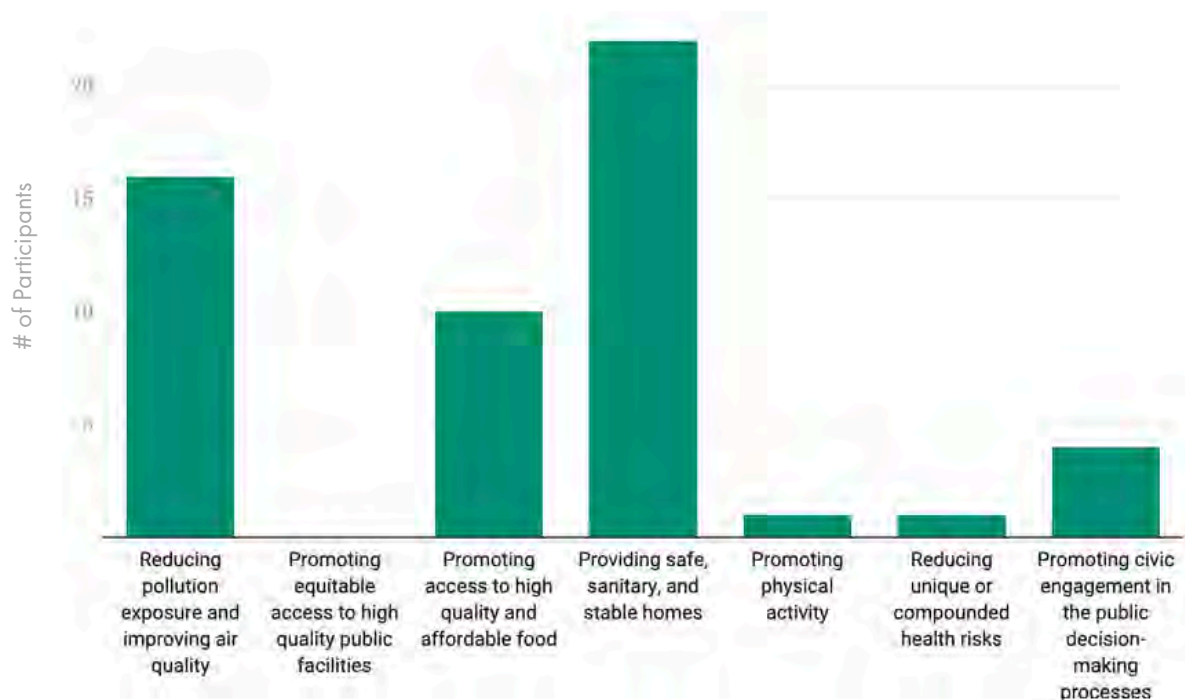
Summary of Worksheet Exercise

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 barriers
- 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	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

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

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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

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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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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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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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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

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>	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>	-	-	-	-	-	-

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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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- 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>

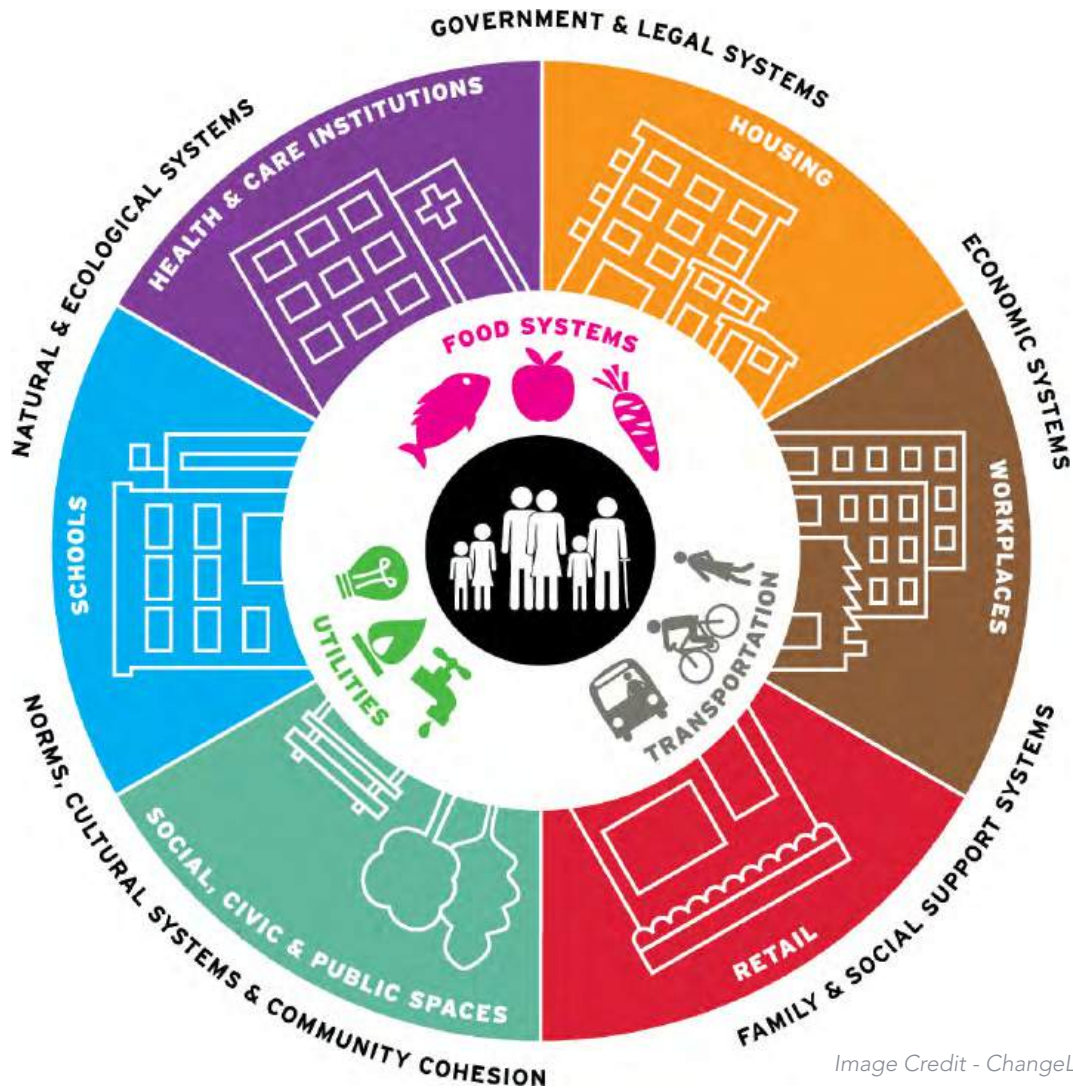


Image Credit - ChangeLab Solutions

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.



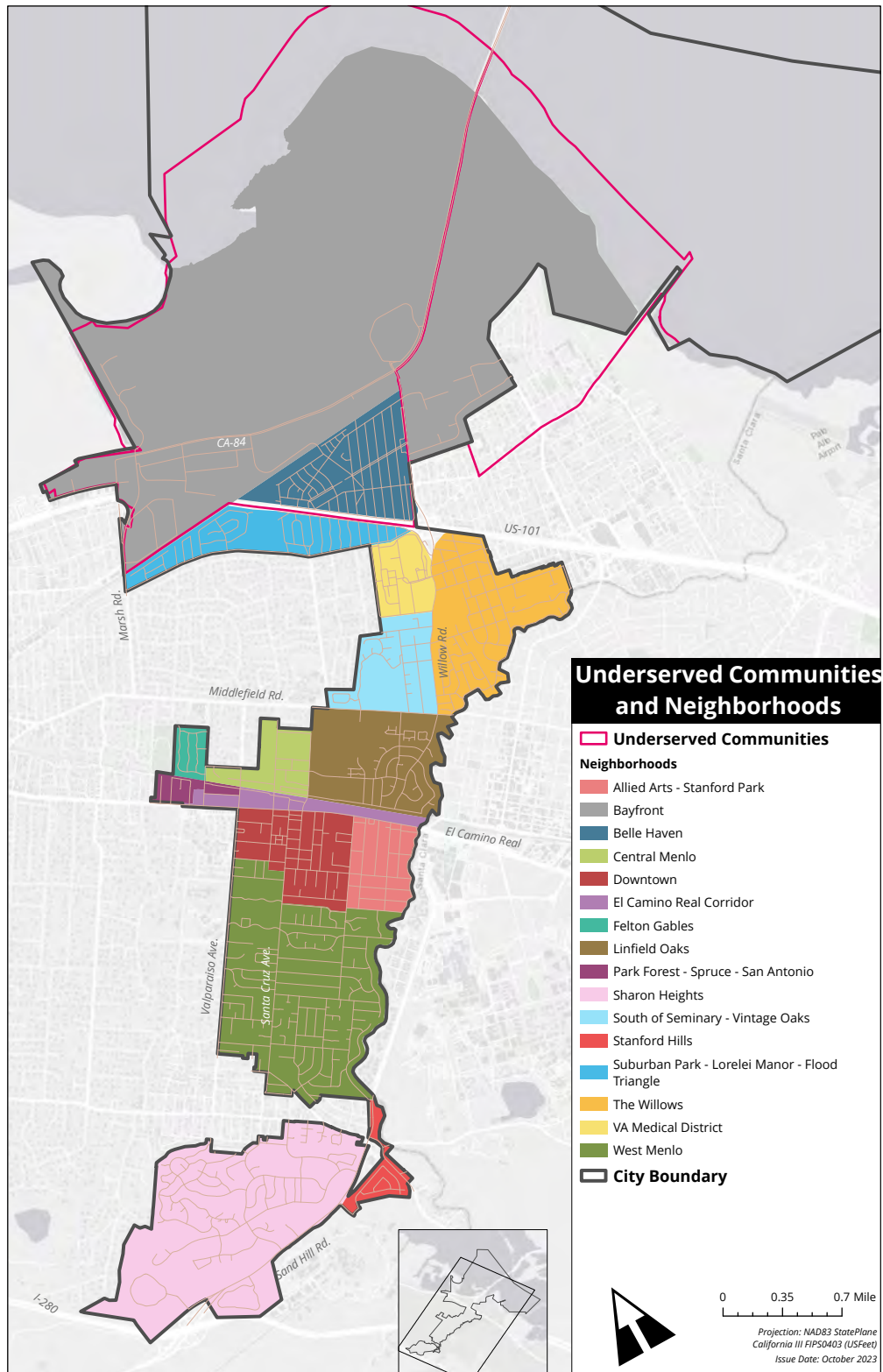
*"The most effective form of outreach was through existing relationships."*

— 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).

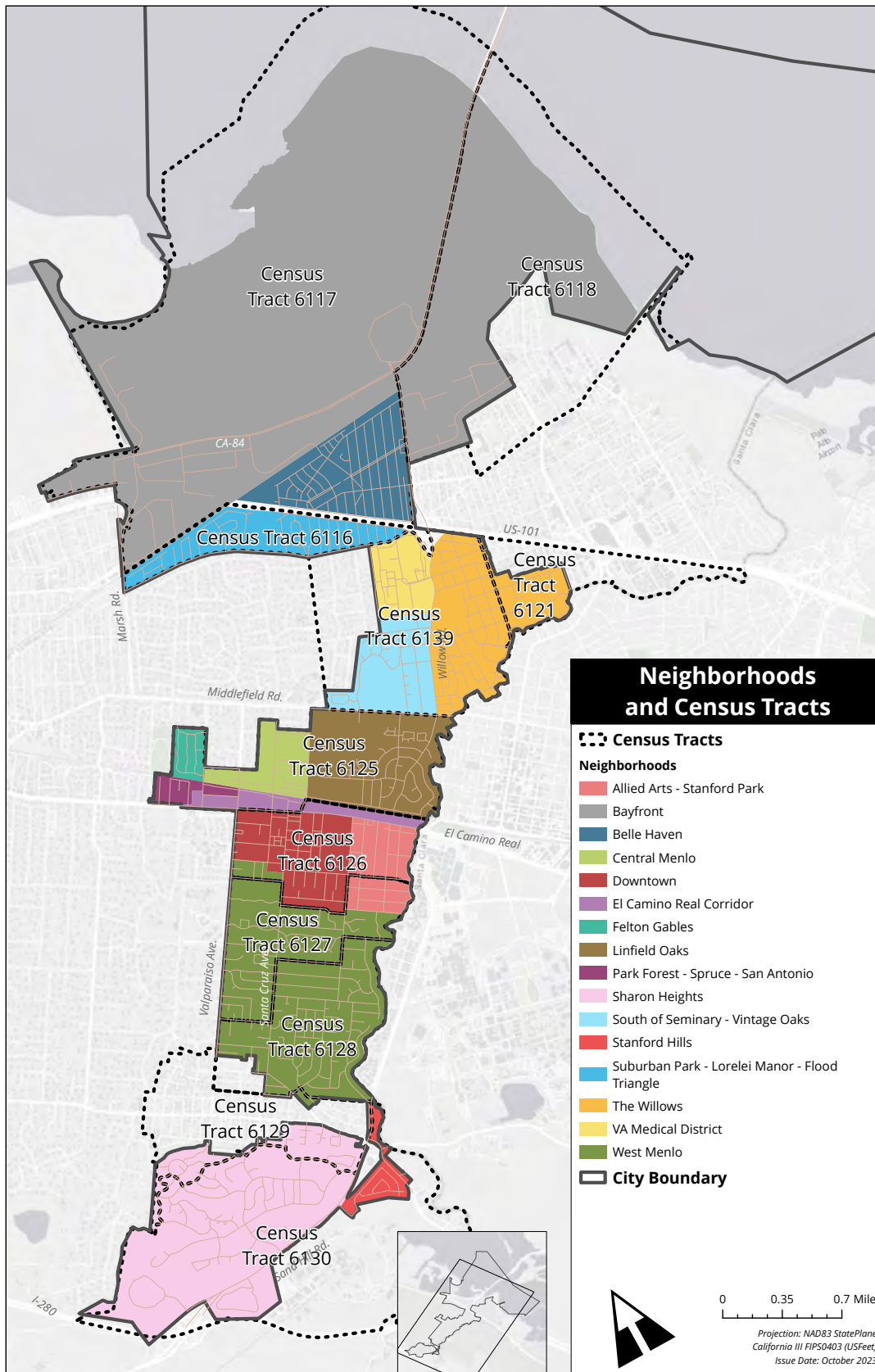
<sup>23</sup> Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county.

<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

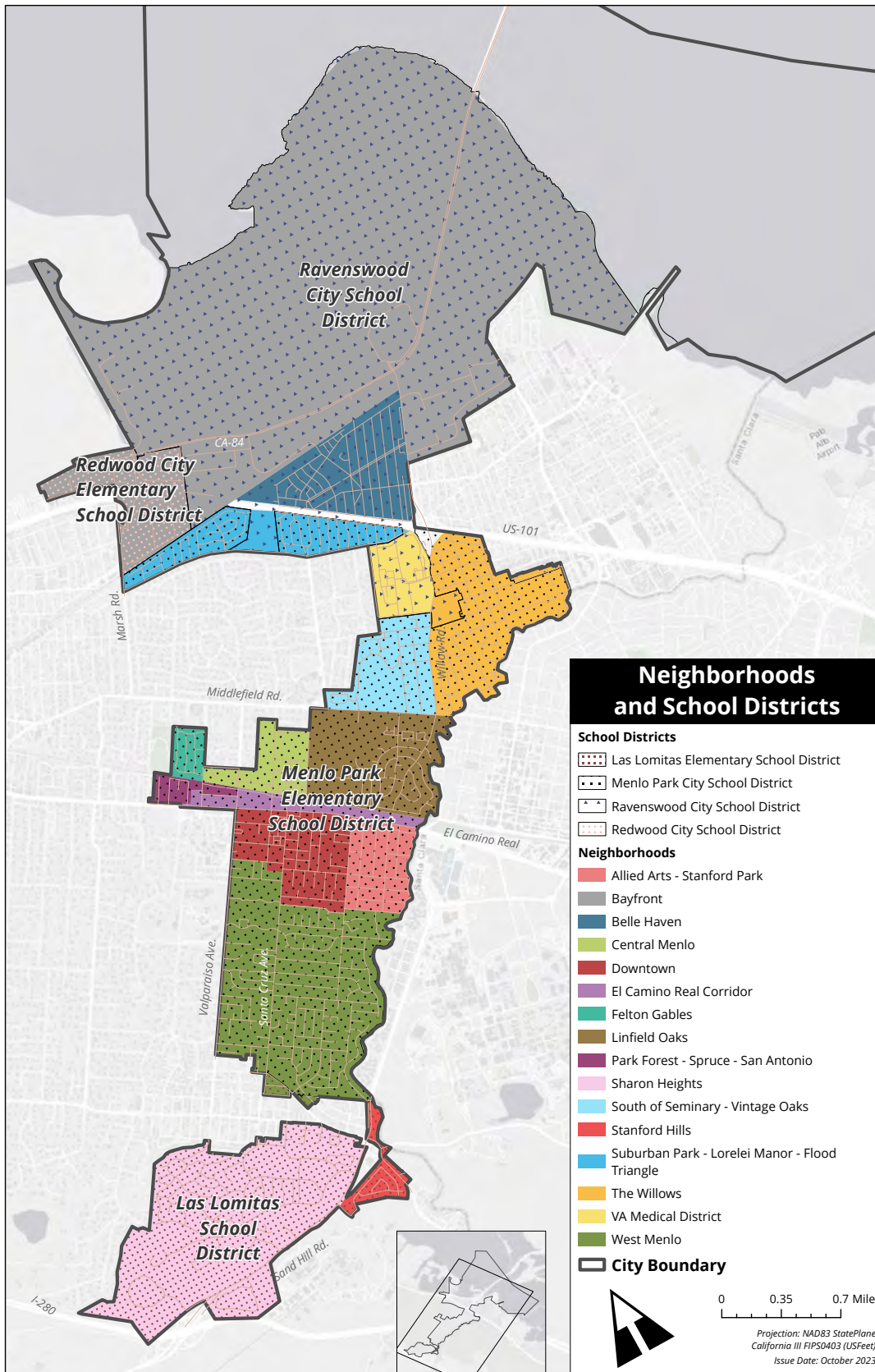
Menlo Park is served by four school districts with elementary and middle schools: Las Lomas Elementary School District, Menlo Park City School District, Ravenswood City School District, and Redwood City School District (see Figure EJ-4).

*"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.

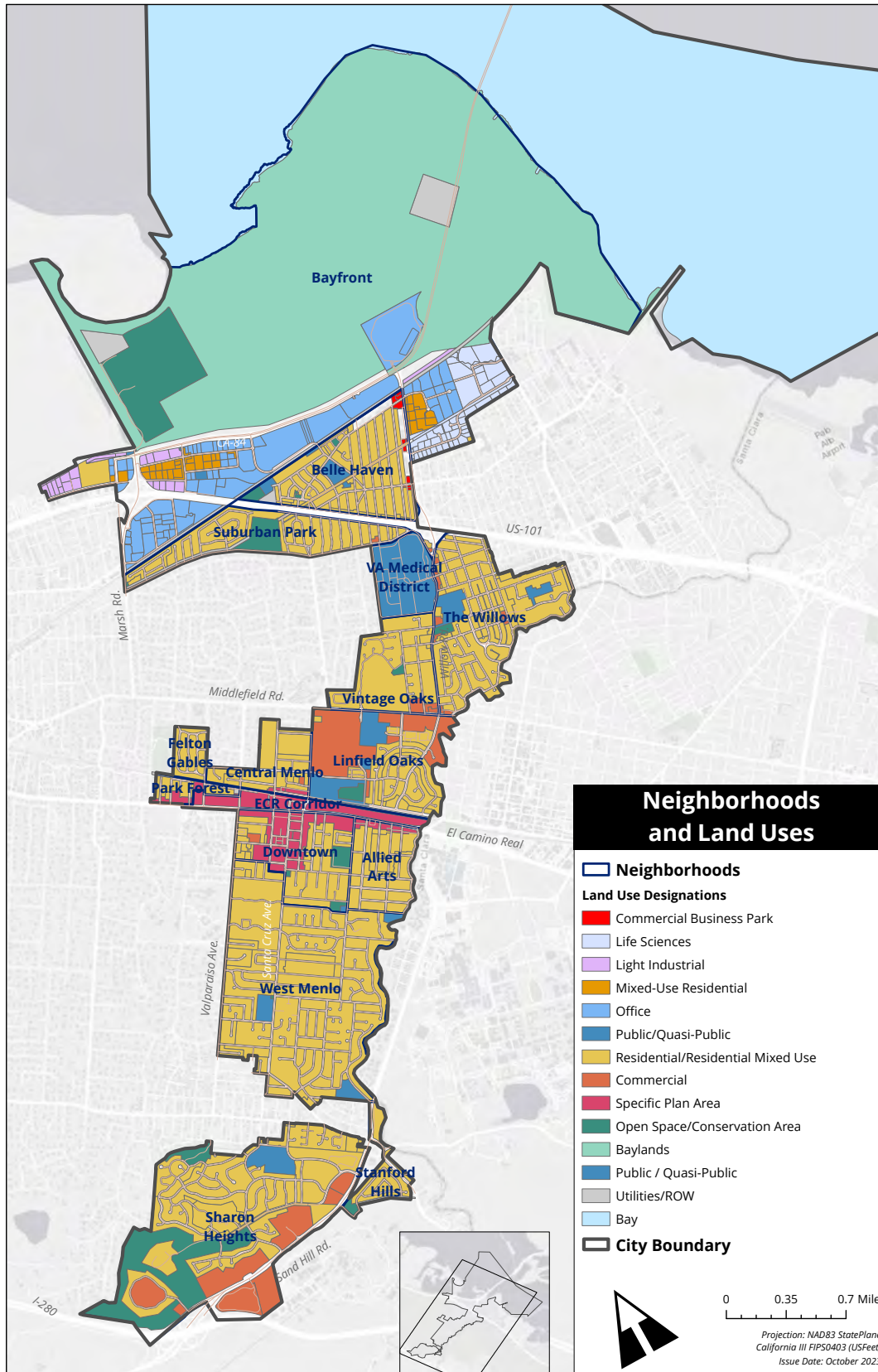
27 Data via California Department of Education, 2019

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)



<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

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## 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



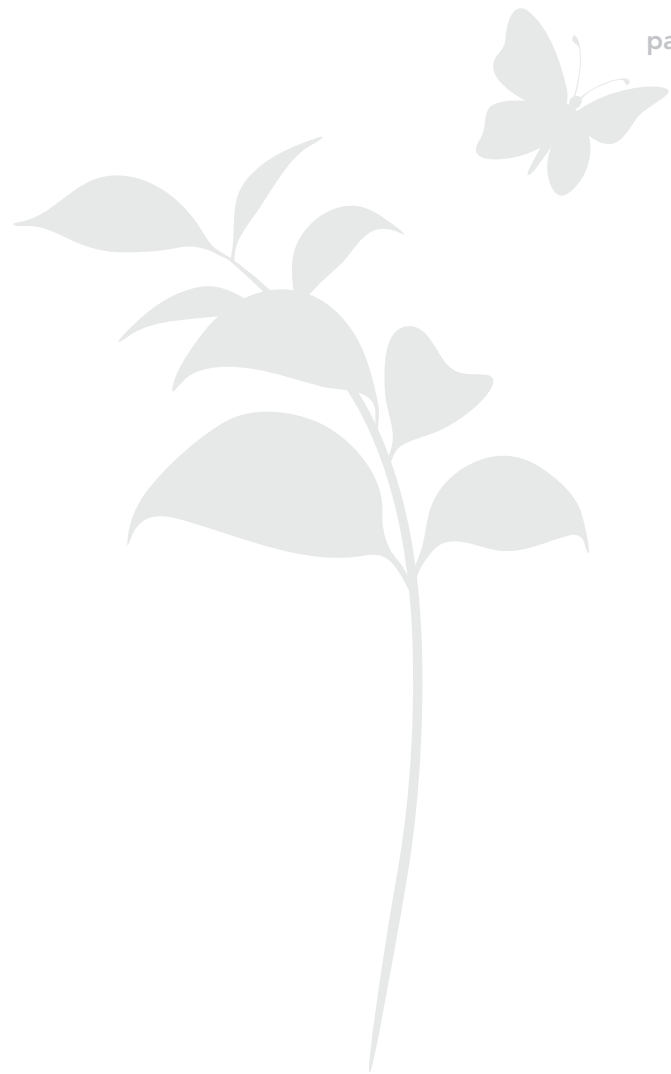
Photo Credit - Michaela Schulz

## APPENDICES

- 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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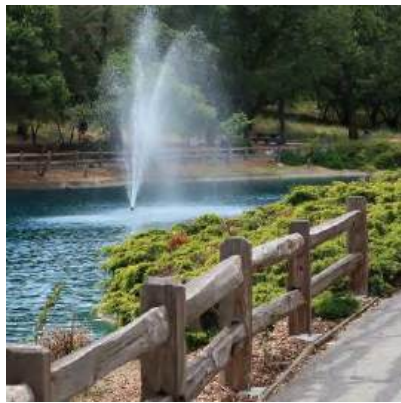
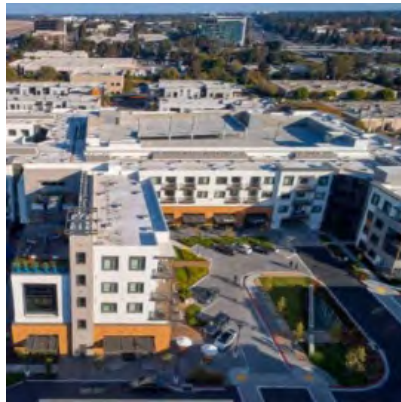
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025



# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT APPENDICES

# City of Menlo Park

## Neighborhood Profiles of Environmental Justice Considerations



Published October 2022  
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# 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).

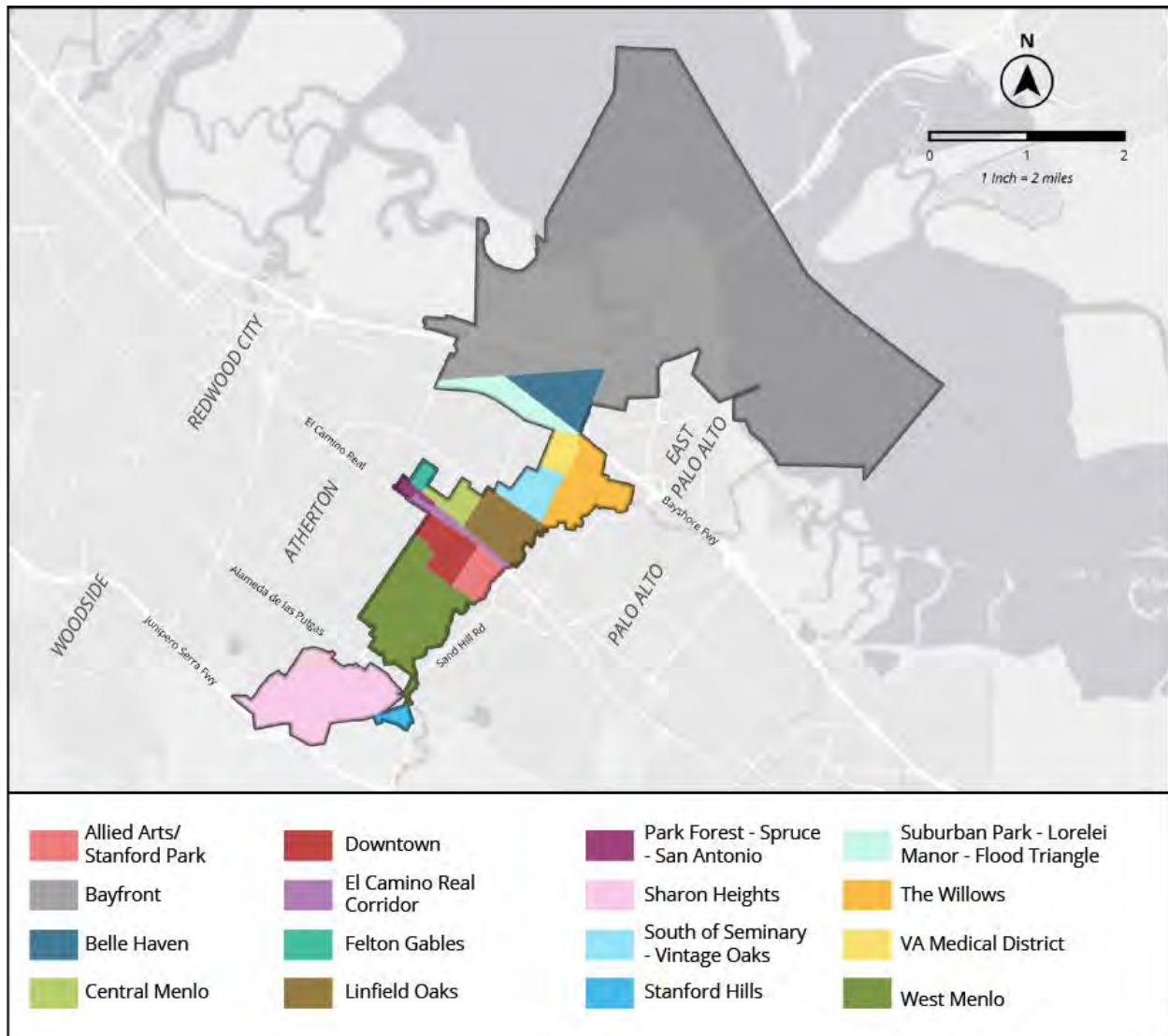
There are areas within Menlo Park that meet the State-defined criteria for “Disadvantaged Communities.”<sup>2</sup> Throughout this appendix, “Underserved Communities” will be used and is understood to be analogous to the state-defined term “Disadvantaged Communities,” which is only used when quoting 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

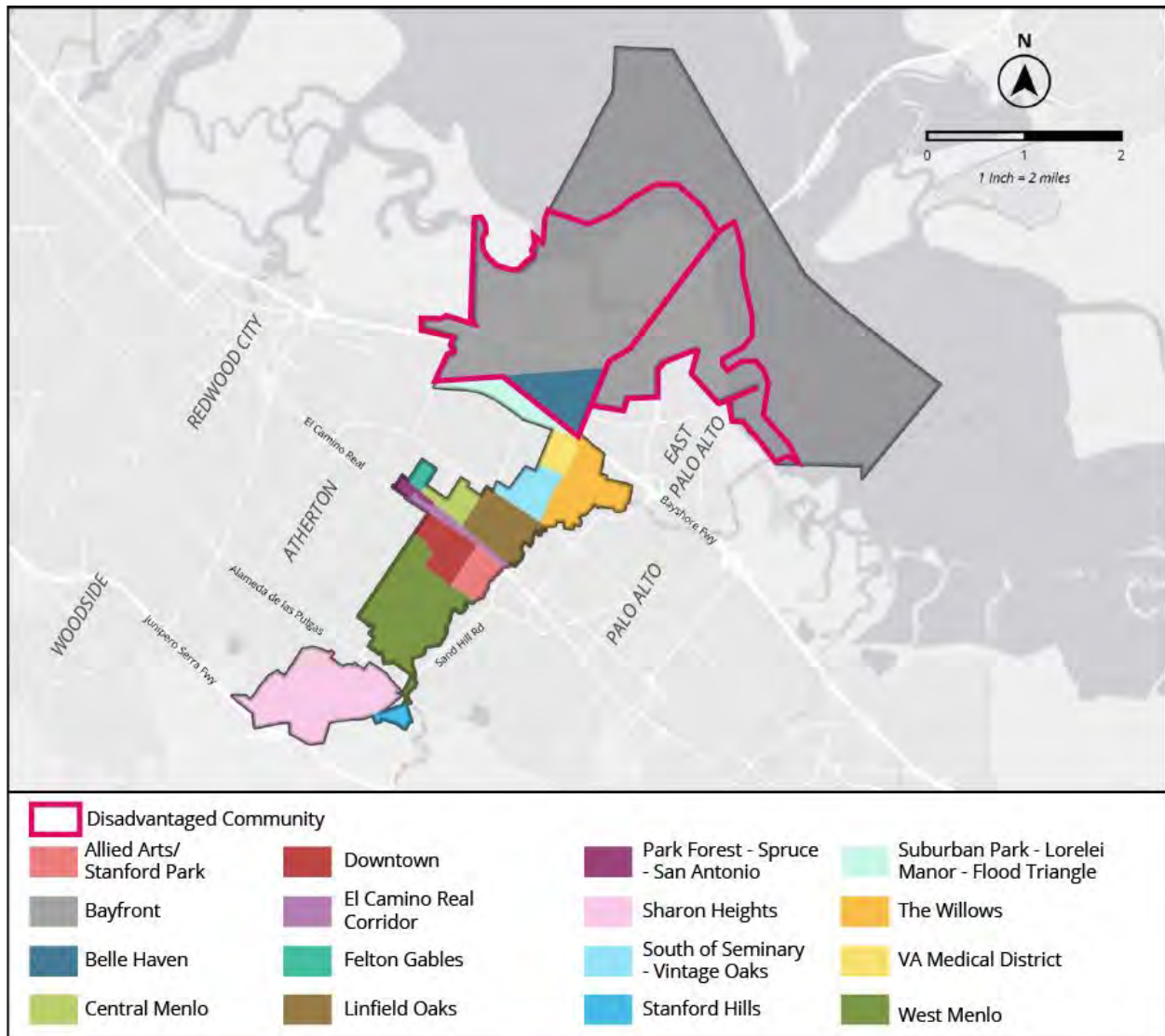


In this document, we look at Menlo Park through the lens of 16 neighborhoods as shown in the above map. The neighborhood boundaries displayed are for reference and informational purposes only, with the intent of contributing to more area-specific analysis of the city as there are differences among the 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

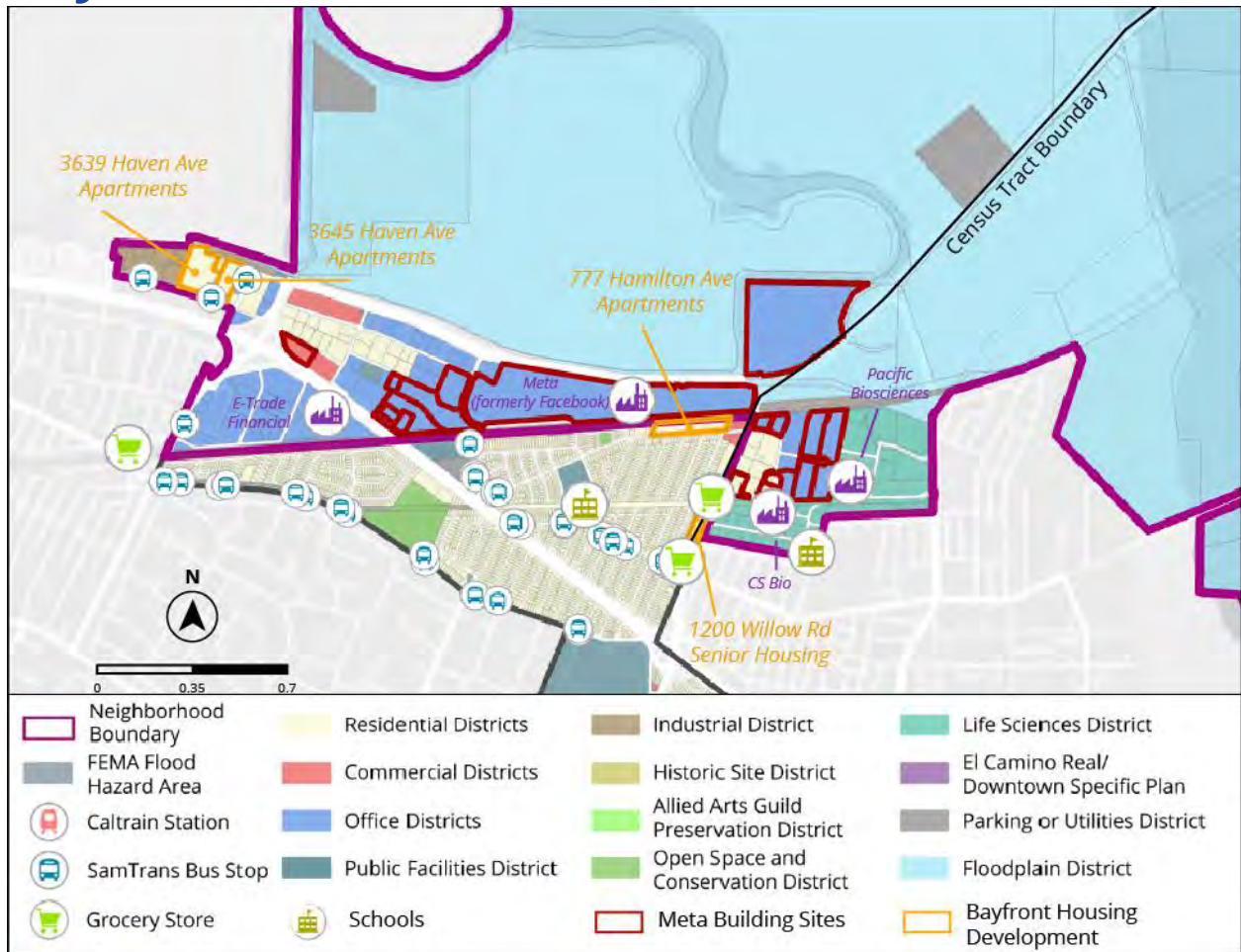
Allied Arts/Stanford Park has overall Population Characteristics scores of 4 (North of University Drive) and 5 (South of University Drive), ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (15 points less than the citywide average) and 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average), respectively.

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

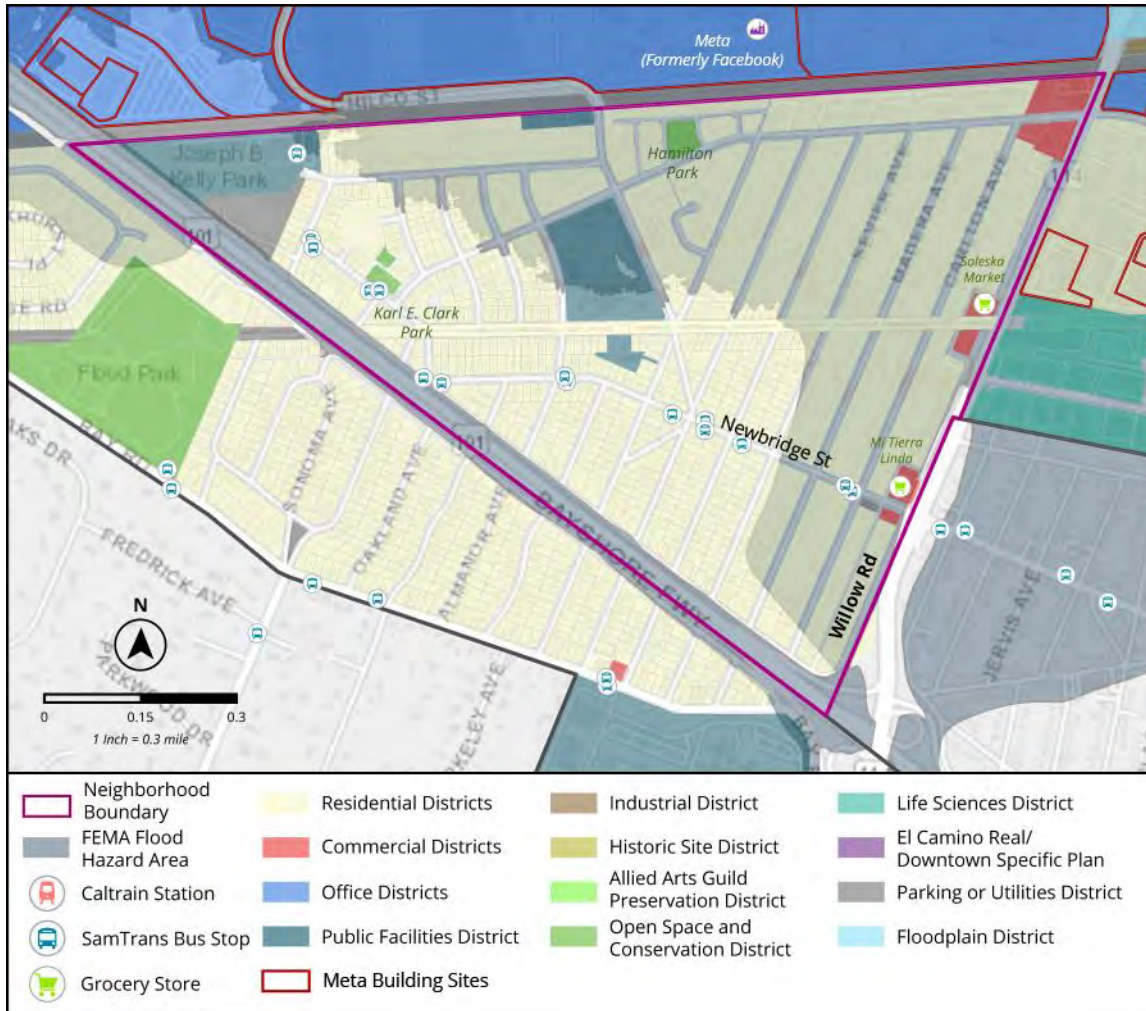
Bayfront has overall Population Characteristics scores of 49 both West and East of Willow/CA-84, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (30 points more than the citywide average).

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

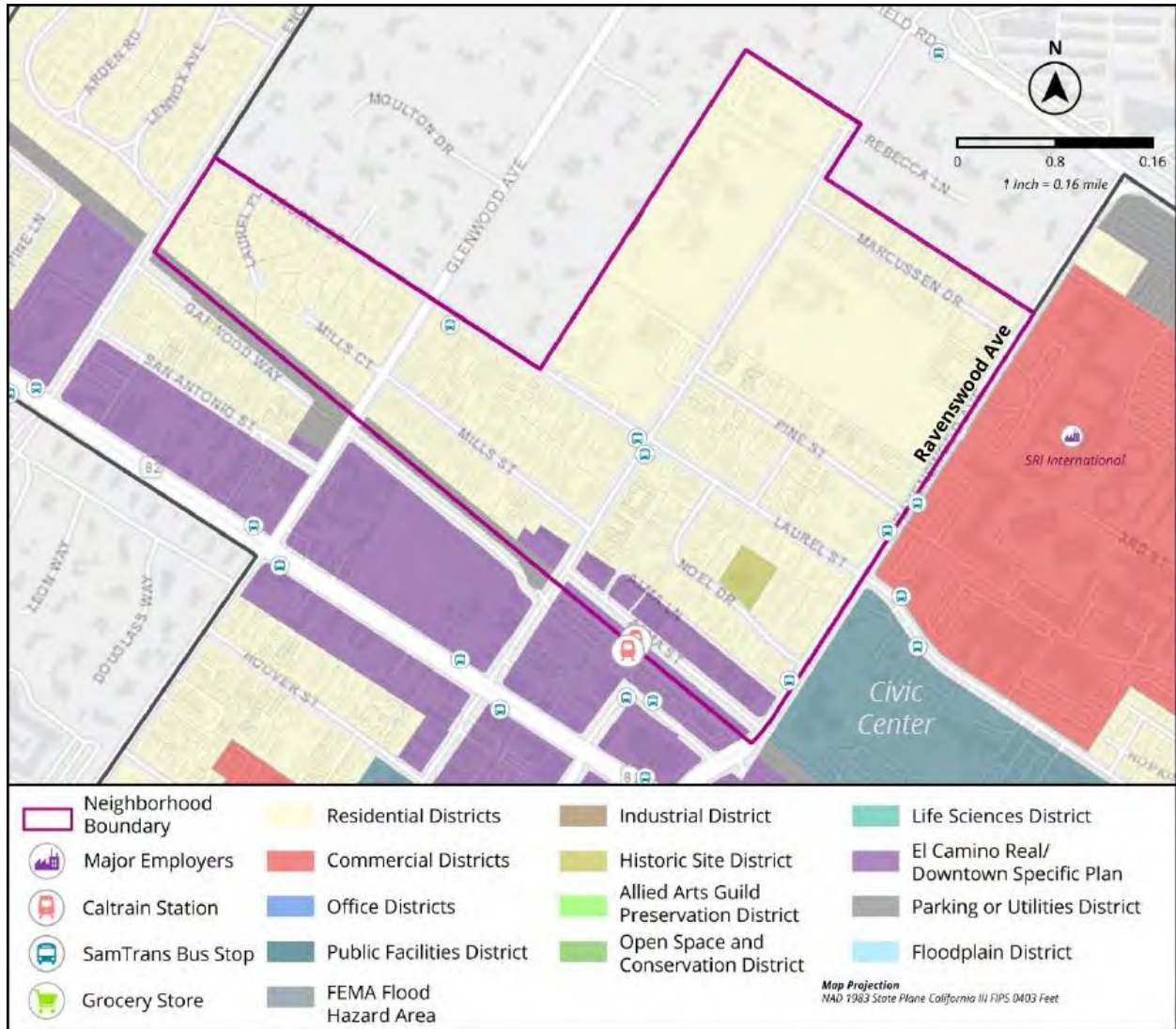
Belle Haven has an overall Population Characteristics score of 49, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> (30 points more than the citywide average).

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

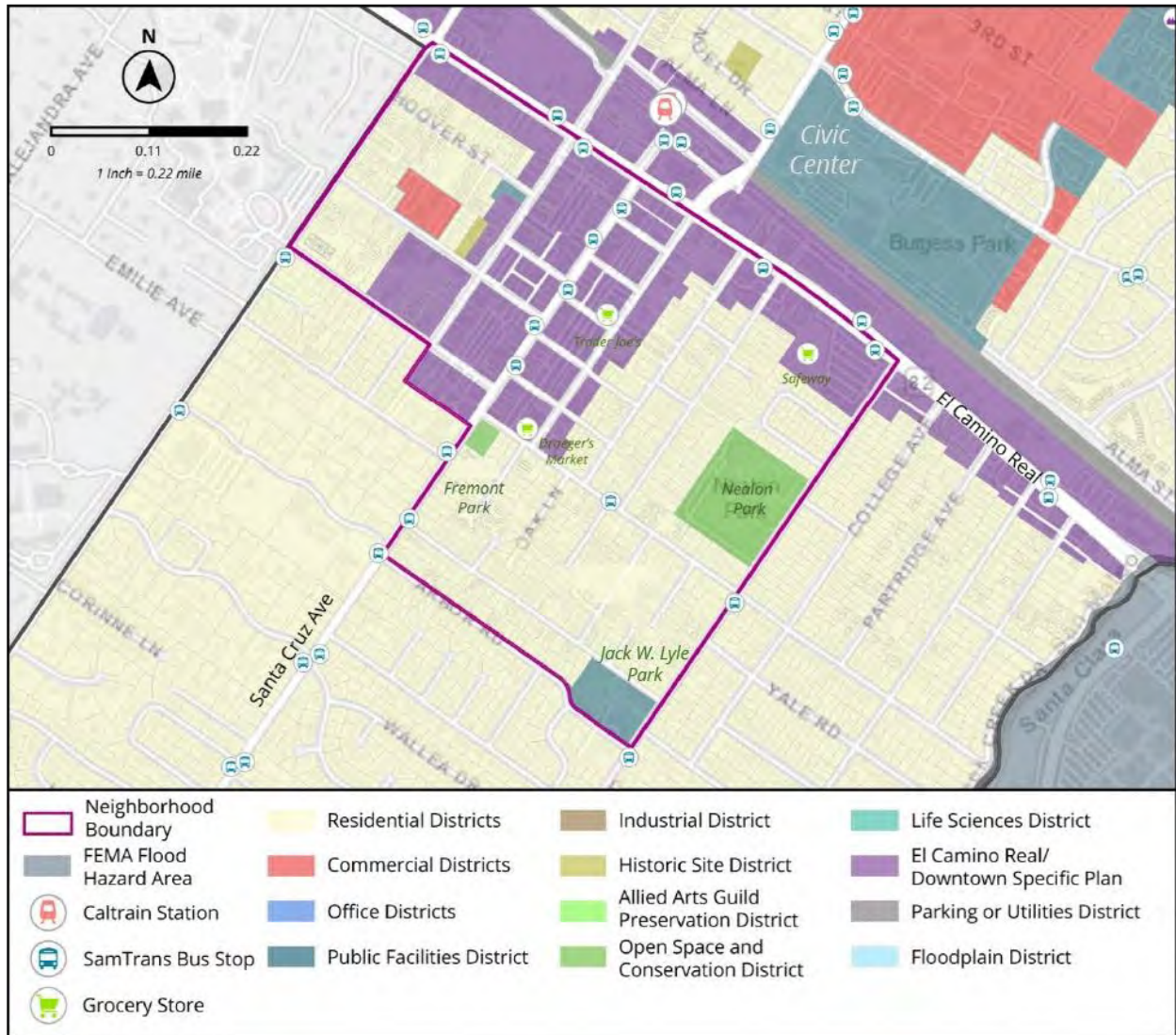
Central Menlo has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

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

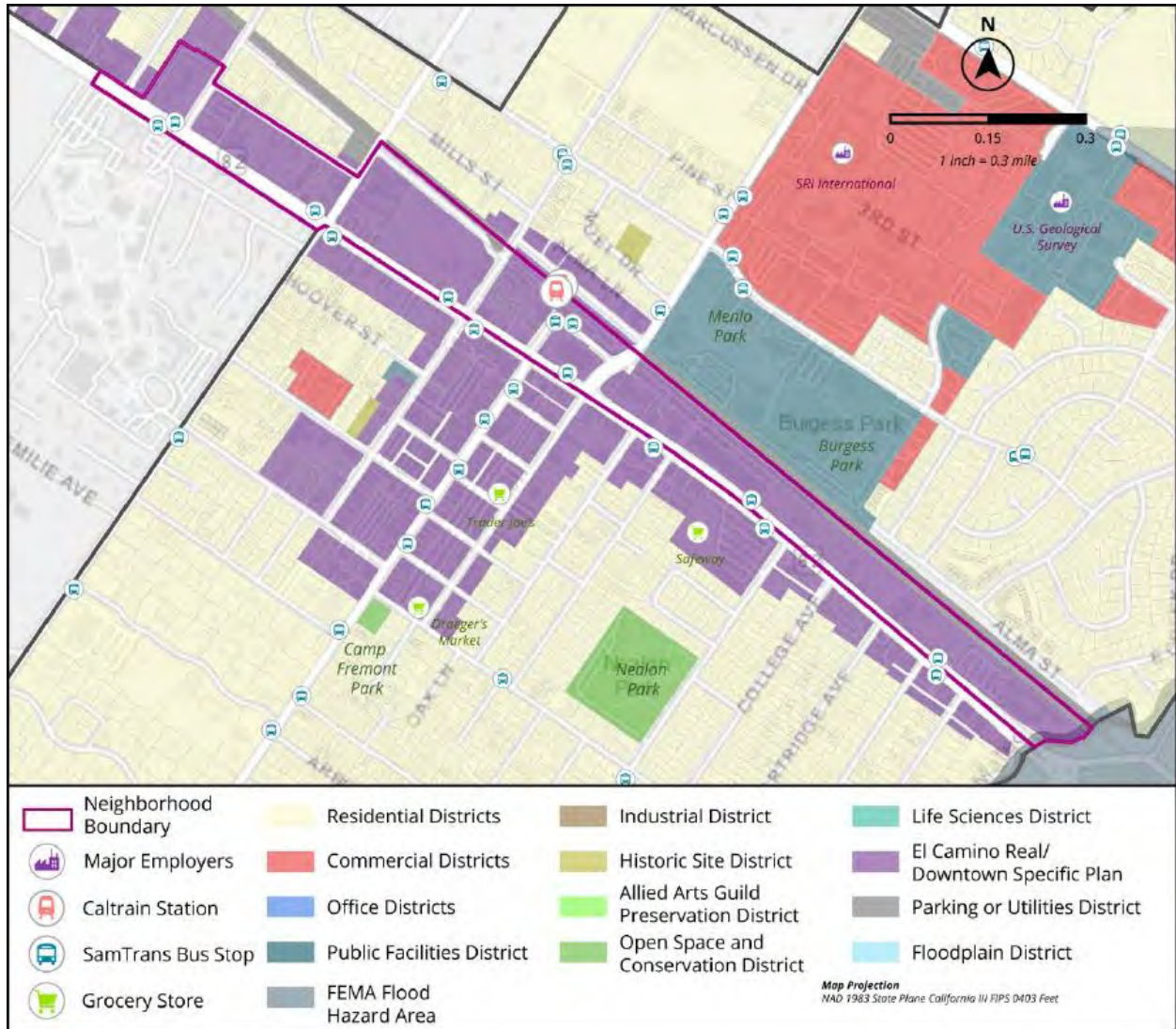
Downtown has an overall Population Characteristics score of 4, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> (15 points less than the citywide average).

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

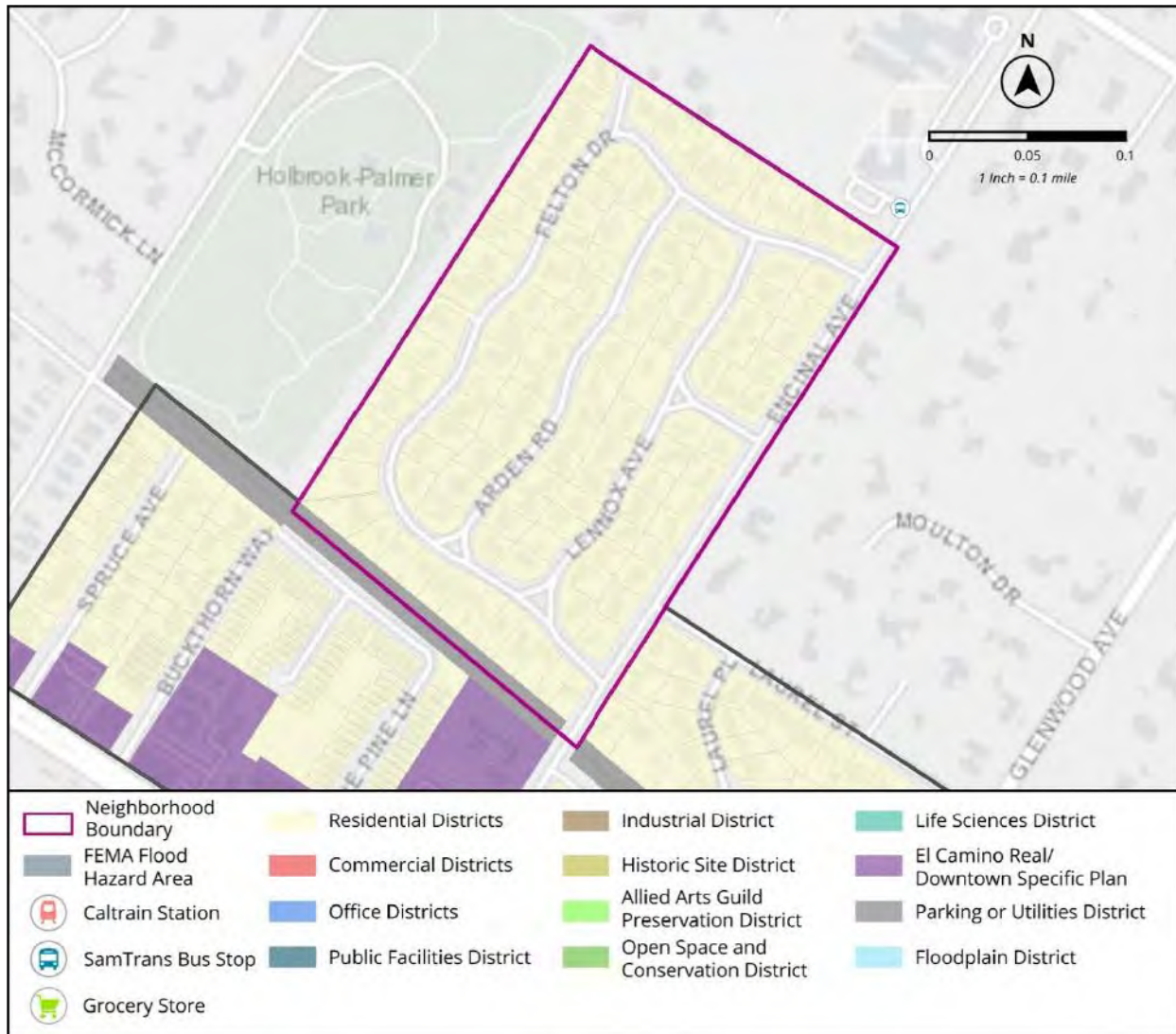
El Camino Real Corridor has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

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

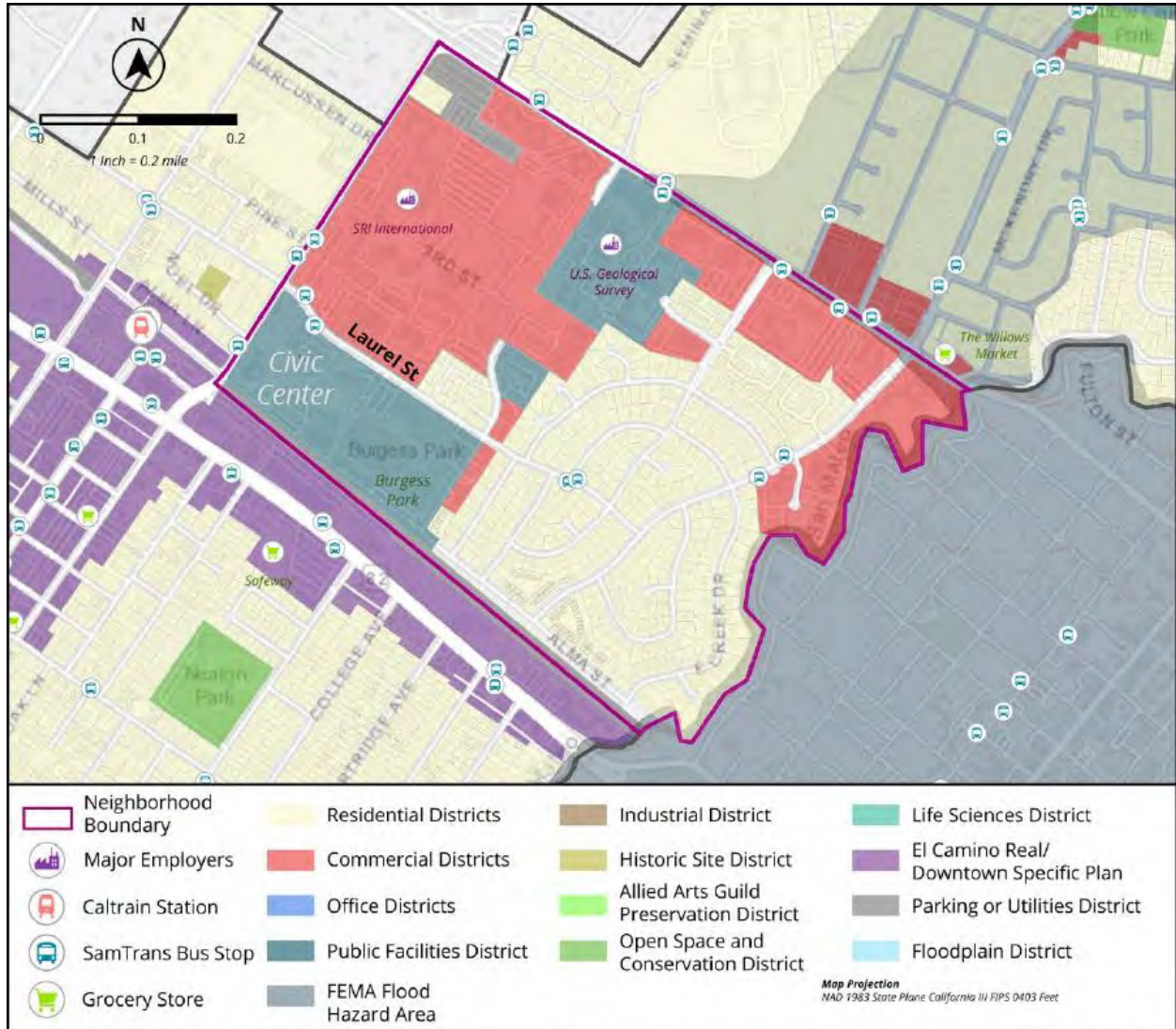
Felton Gables has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

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

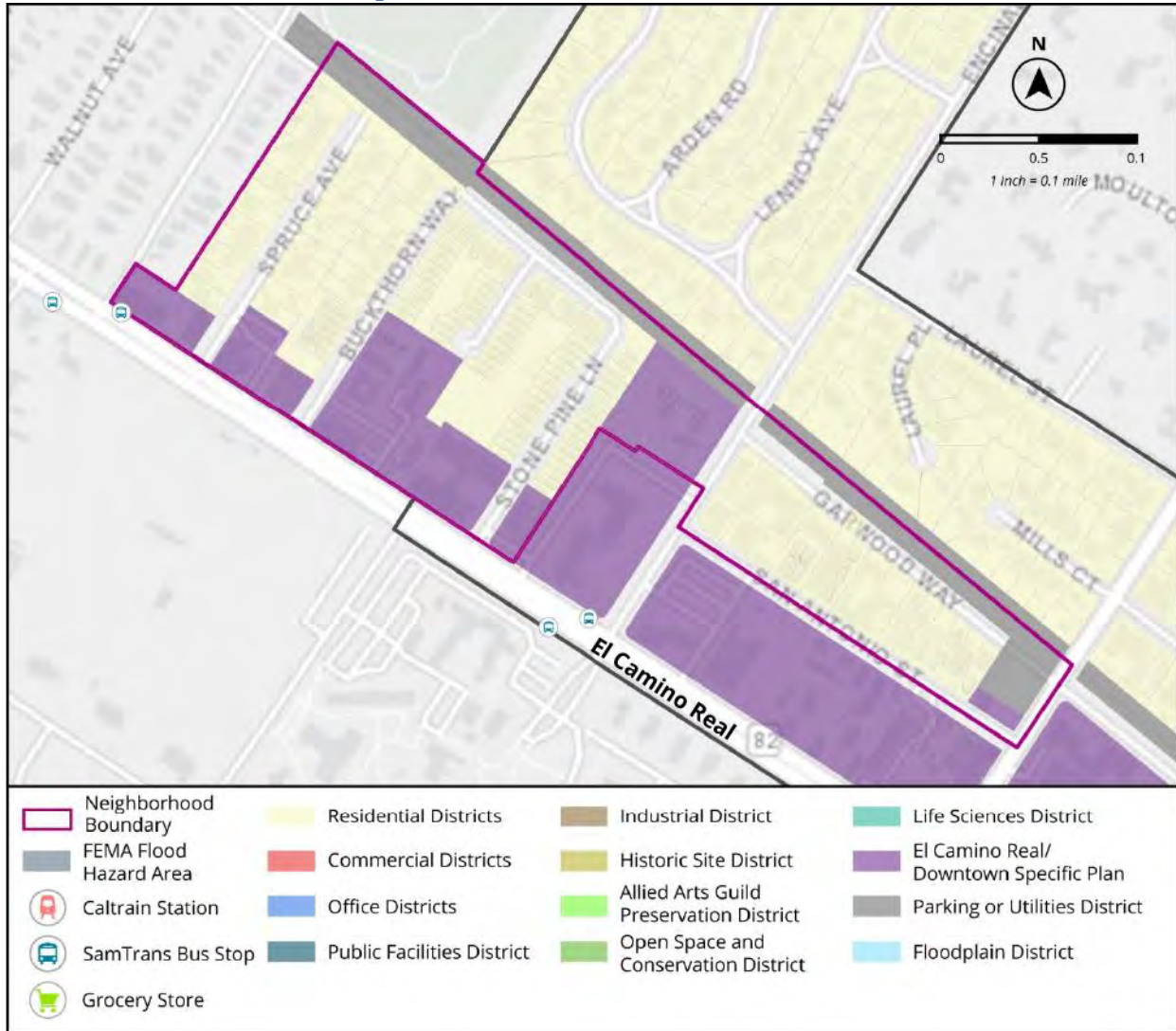
Linfield Oaks has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

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

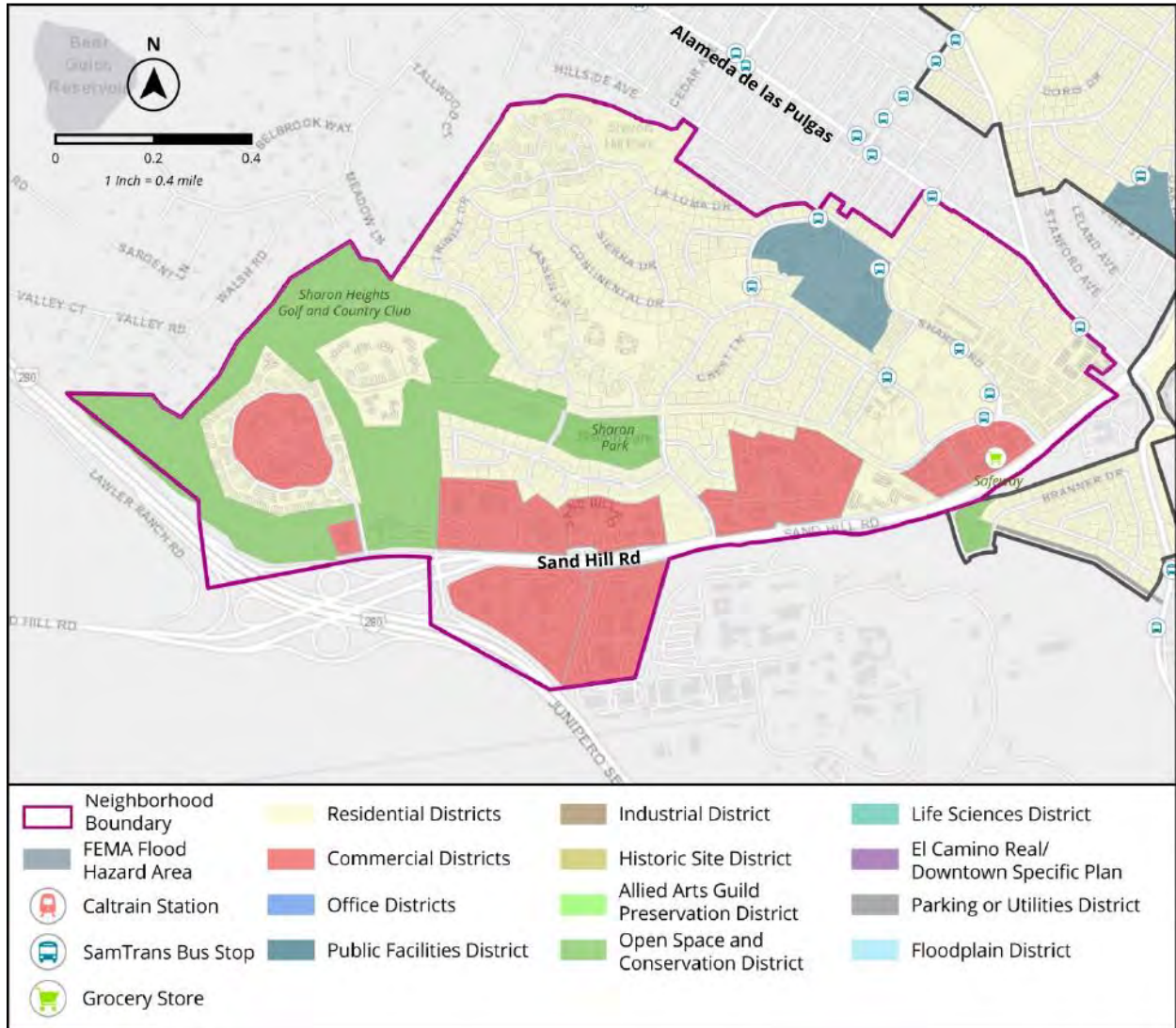
Park Forest – Spruce – San Antonio has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

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

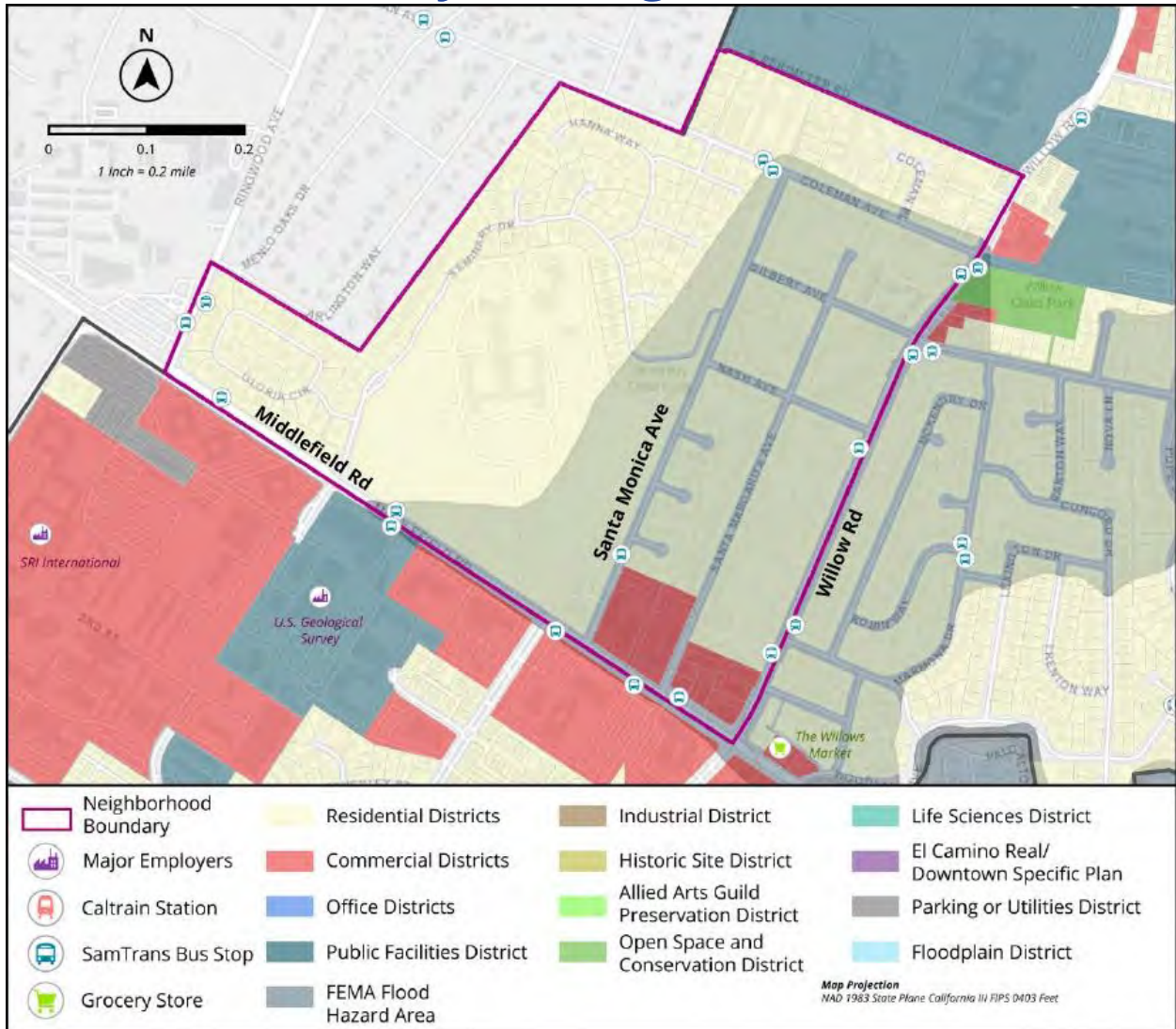
Sharon Heights has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (8 points less than the citywide average).

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

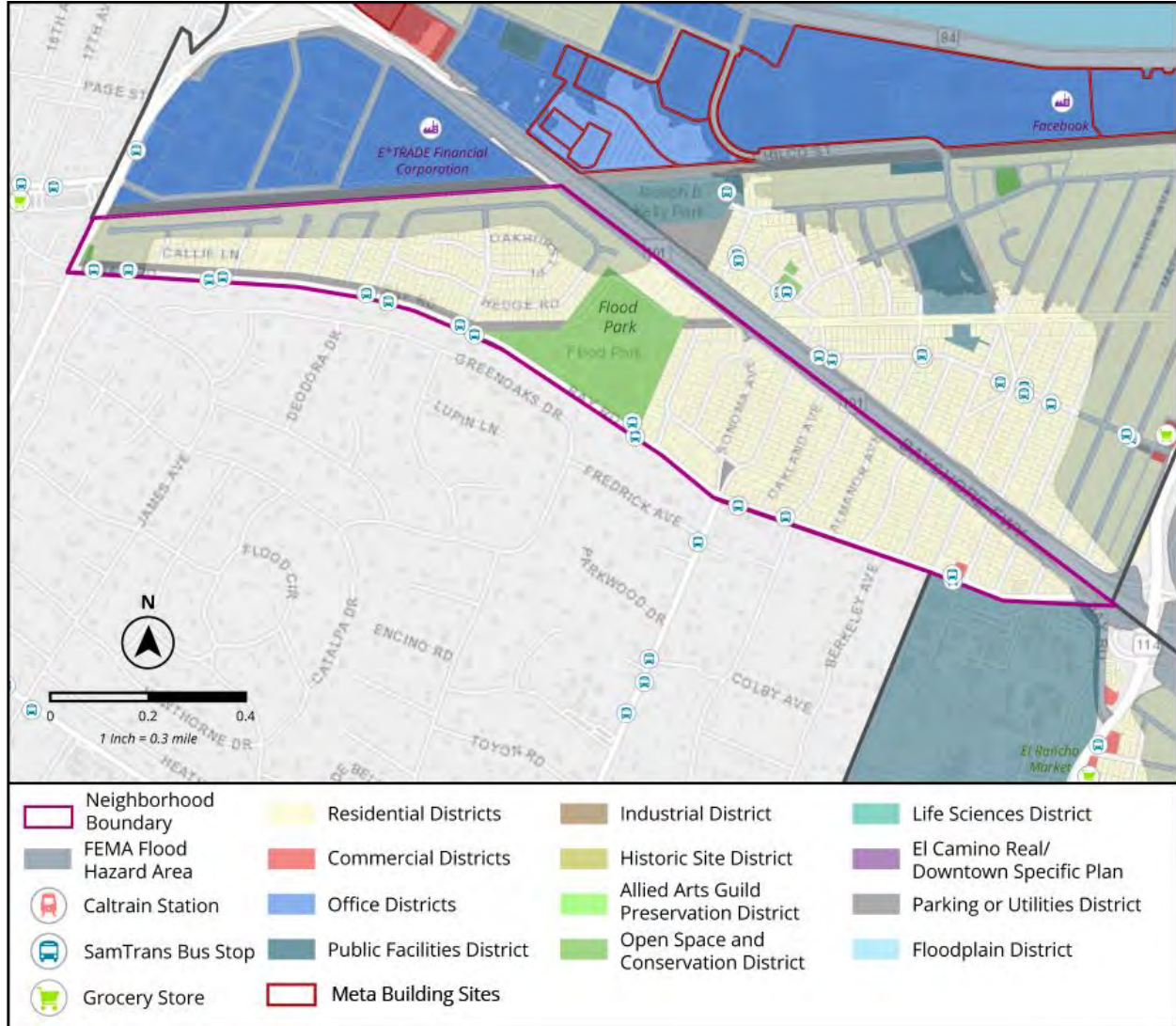
Stanford Hills has an overall Population Characteristics score of 11, ranking 5<sup>th</sup> (8 points less than the citywide average).

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

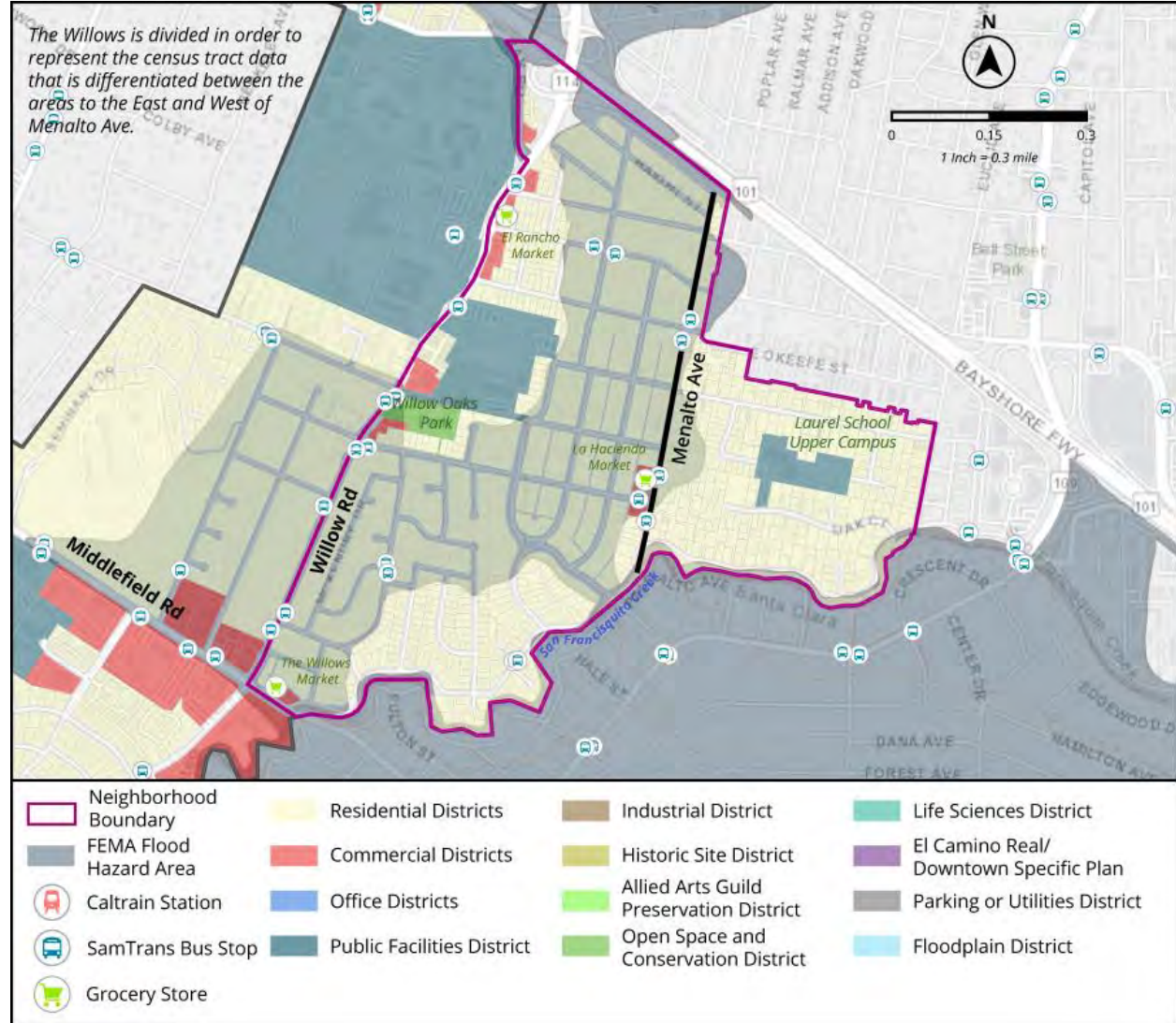
Suburban Park – Lorelei Manor – Flood Triangle has an overall Population Characteristics score of 2, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> (17 points less than the citywide average).

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

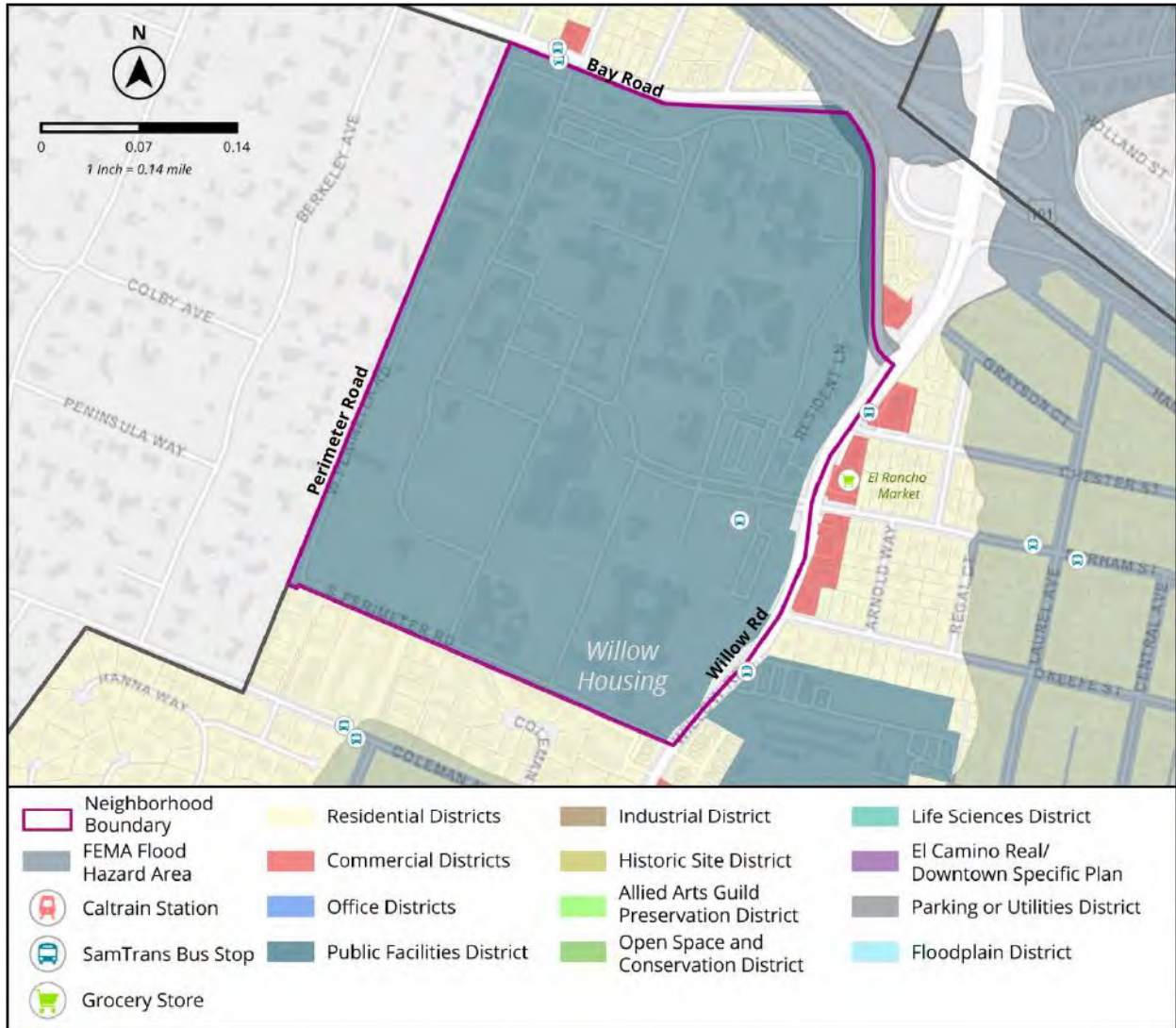
The Willows has overall Population Characteristics scores of 5 (West of Menalto Avenue) and 58 (East of Menalto Avenue), ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average) and 7<sup>th</sup> (39 points more than the citywide average), respectively.

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	21	-3.9	48	+23.1	24.9
Low Birth Weight Infants	21	-6.8	69	+41.2	27.8
Cardiovascular Disease	8	-0.7	14	+5.3	8.7
Education	22	-7.0	85	+56.0	29
Linguistic Isolation	9	-22.5	75	+43.5	31.5
Poverty	20	-8.4	79	+50.6	28.4
Unemployment	27	+1.3	11	-14.7	25.7
Housing-Burdened Low-Income Households	2	-39.2	80	+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

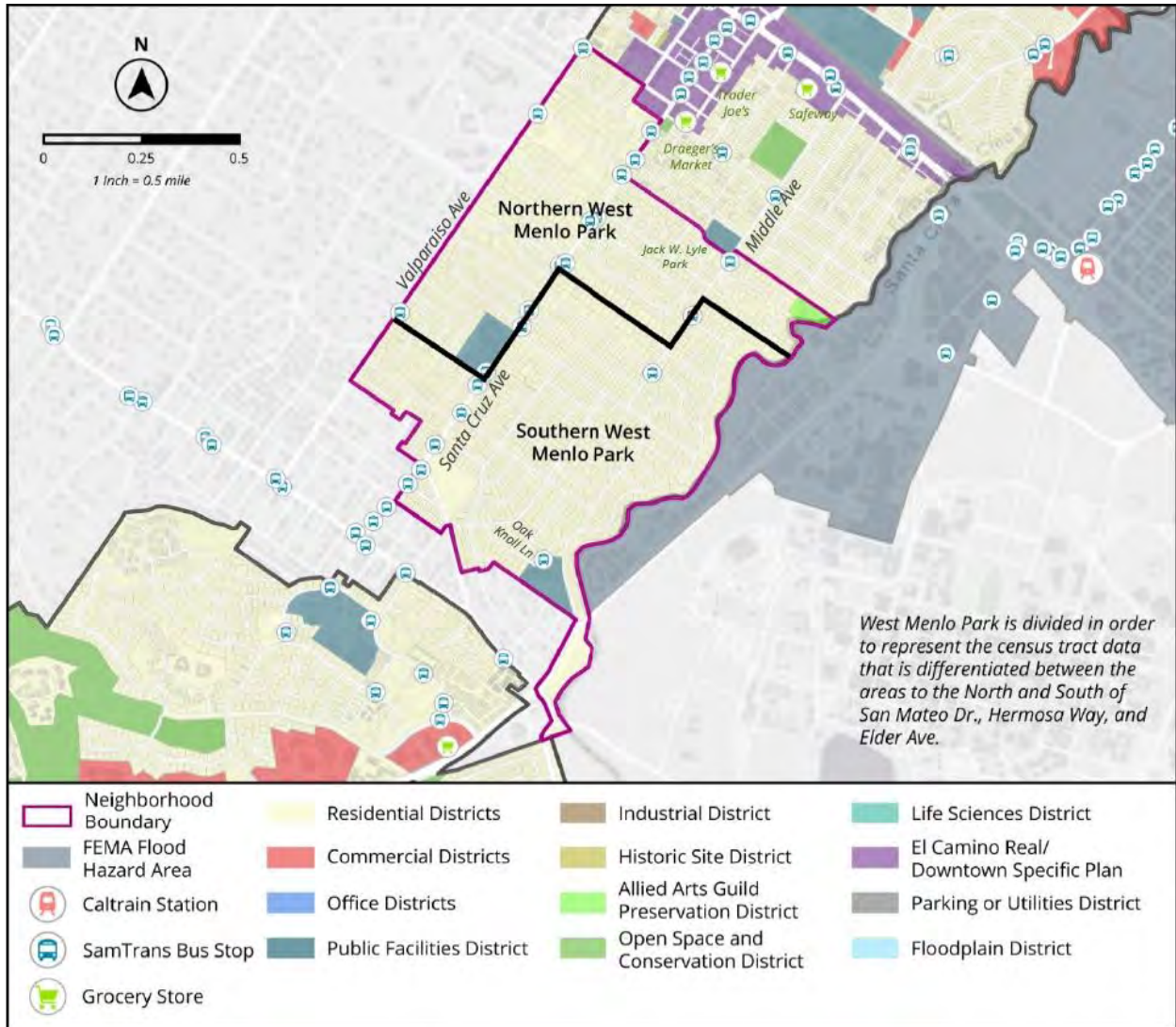
VA Medical District has an overall Population Characteristics score of 5, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> (14 points less than the citywide average).

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)

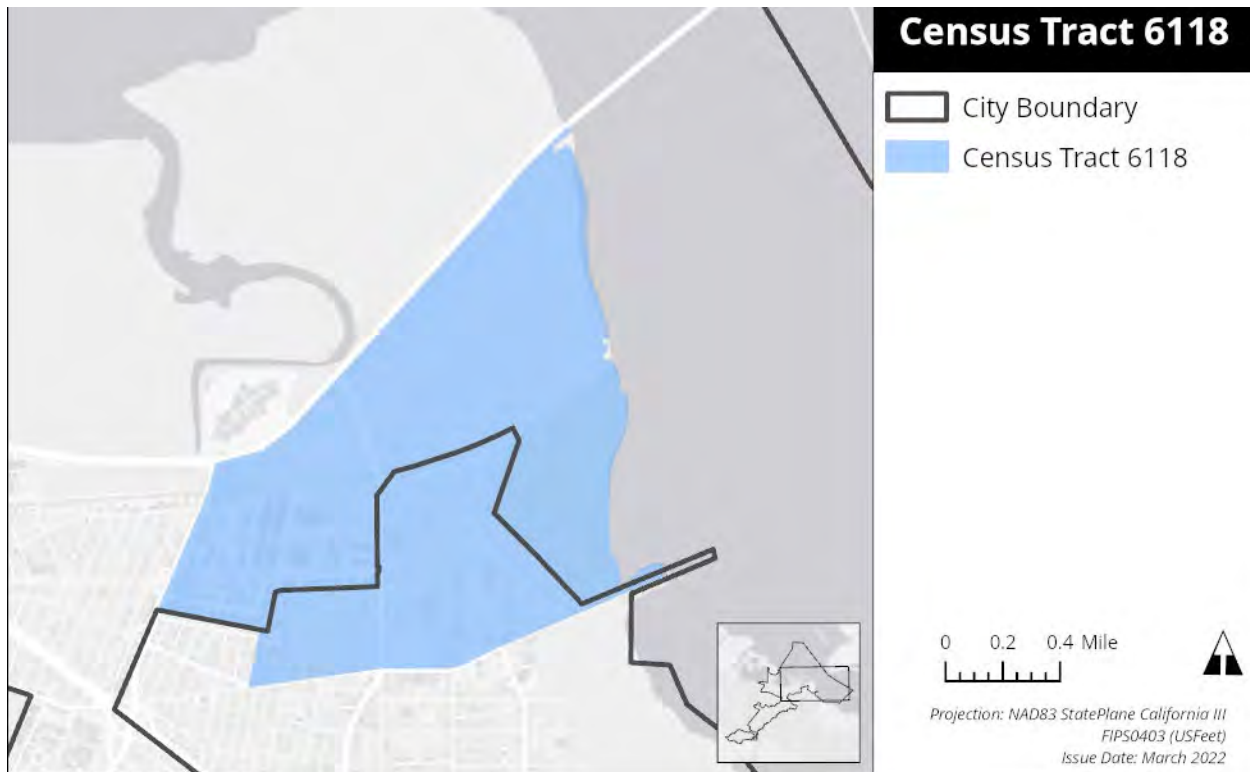
Census Tract 6117 has a clear history of different treatment and has a clear geographic distinction from the rest of Menlo Park. Census Tract 6118 shares this distinction, but Census Tract 6121 does not. Therefore, Census Tract 6118, containing Bayfront as well as portions of neighboring East Palo Alto, 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**



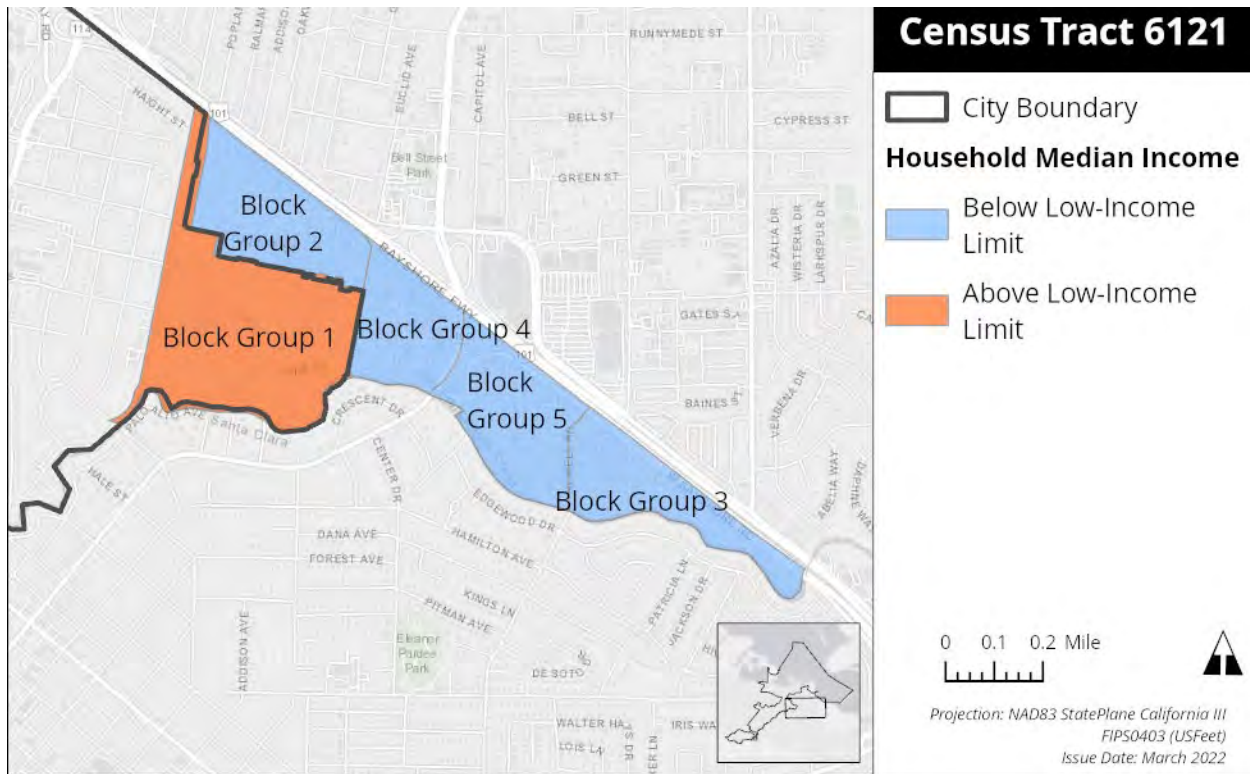
Even though there are currently no residential units in the Menlo Park portion of Census Tract 6118, the neighborhood qualifies as a Underserved Community because the tract-wide median income is below state income limits (see Figure EJ-B-2). The Environmental Justice Element will treat the area as a 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:**

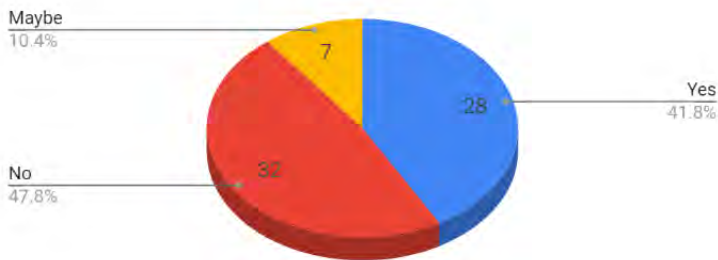
- The extreme chemical sewage smell that flows from Marsh Road and the Belle Haven community in the evening & 2:30 am from Facebook area
- Bad sewage smell and taste of drinking water
- Need speed bumps on streets to stop vehicle racing (1)
- Drainage outside have lots of rodents and insects that come 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.

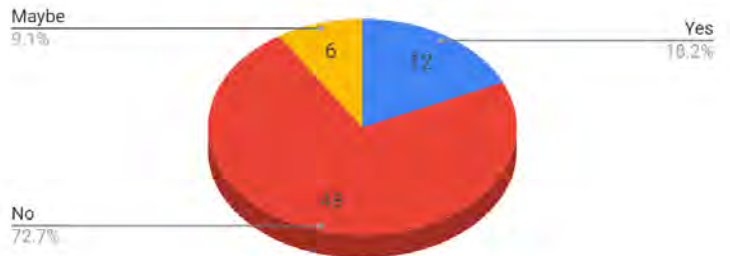
## Before you came to this discussion, did you know much about Belle Haven's history?

(count = 67)



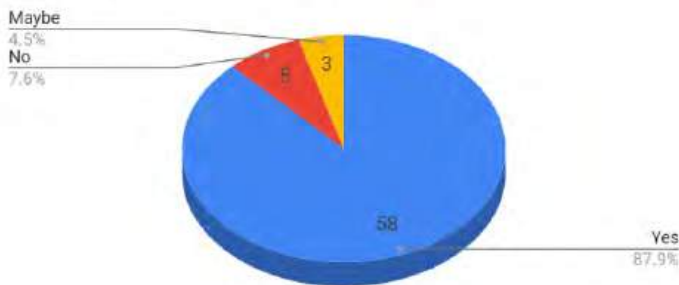
## Before you came, did you know much about the Environmental Justice Element?

(count = 66)



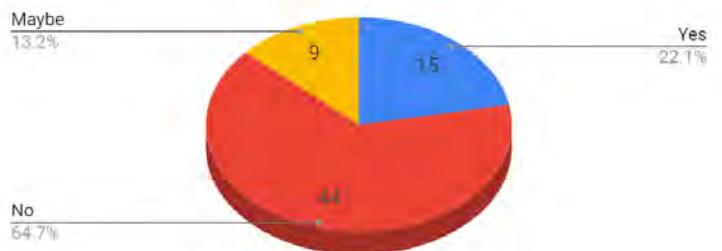
## Are the topics discussed important to you?

(count = 66)



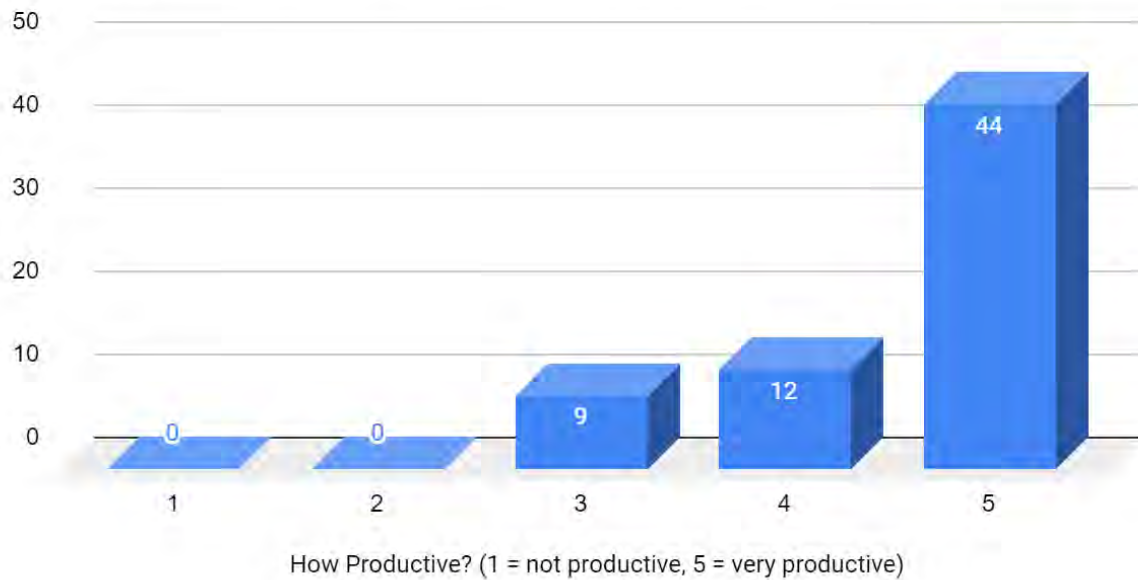
## Before you came, did you know much about the Safety Element?

(count = 68)



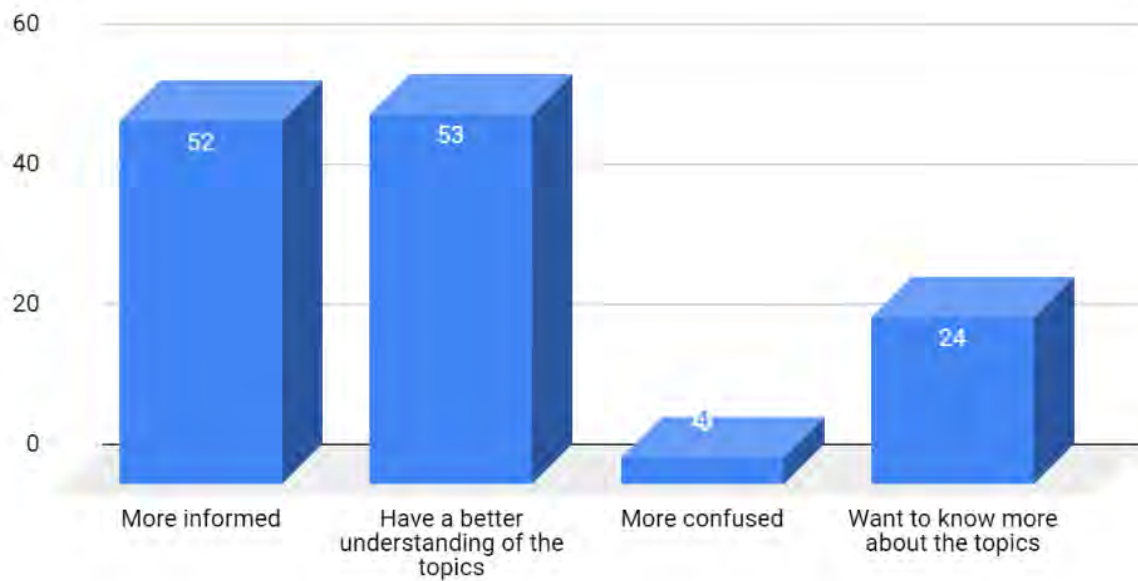
### Did you find the breakout activities productive?

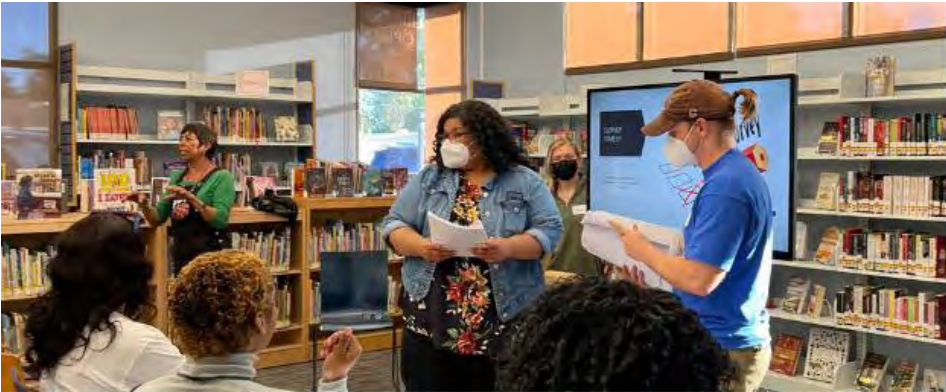
(count = 65)



### 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

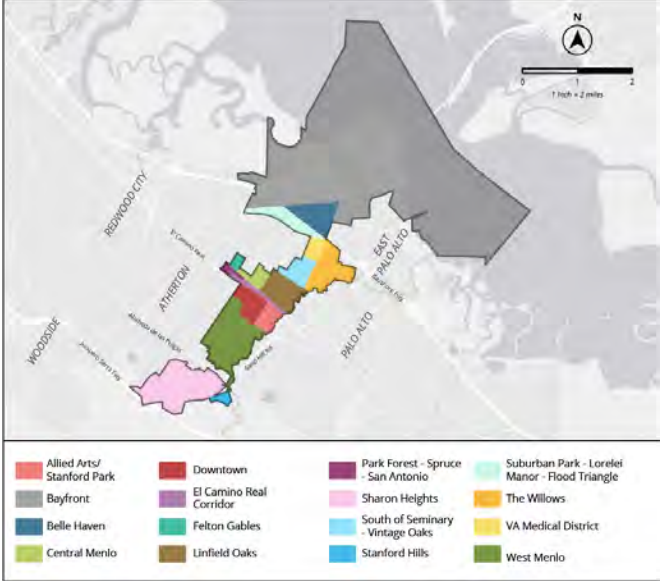
## Environmental Justice and Safety Survey

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? 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		
<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										
<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> </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"/> 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"/> Bayfront										
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<input type="checkbox"/> Felton Gables										
<input type="checkbox"/> Linfield Oaks										
<input type="checkbox"/> Park Forest - Spruce - San Antonio										

	<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.

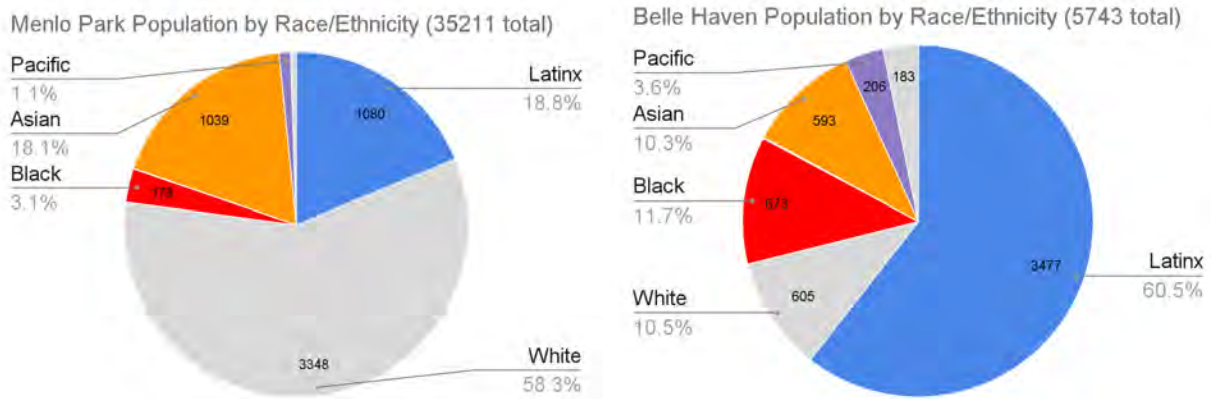


Figure 1. Menlo Park and Belle Haven population by race and ethnicity, 2020 Decennial Census.

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.





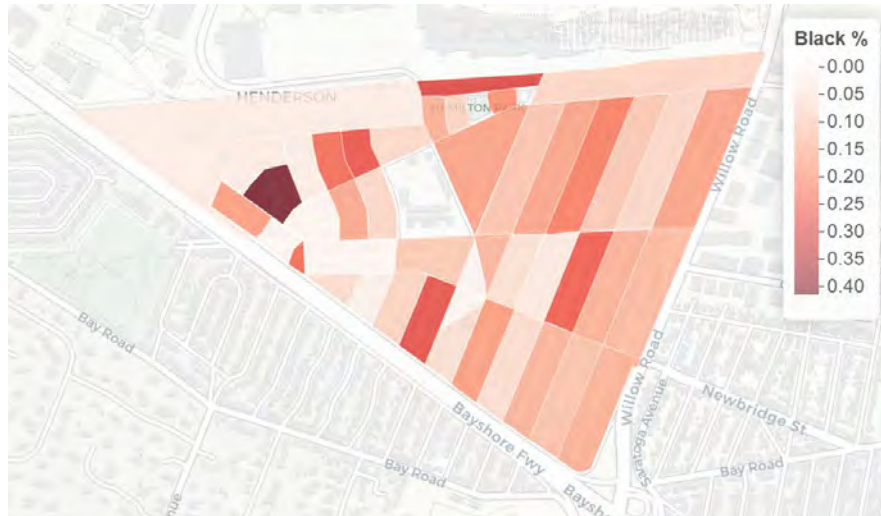


Figure 2. Belle Haven total population, % Latinx, and % Black by block, 2020 Decennial Census.

## 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

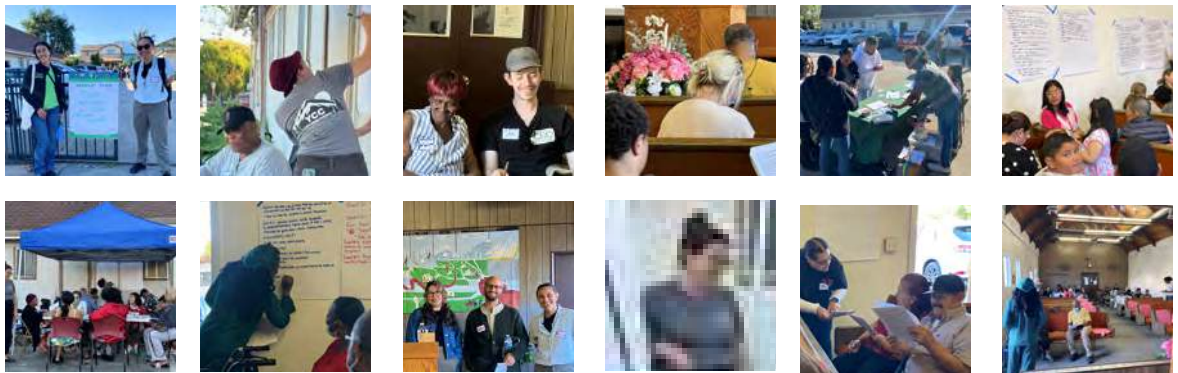
Other responses included:

- 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.

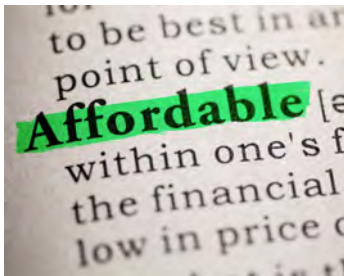
### Key Take-Aways

- 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."

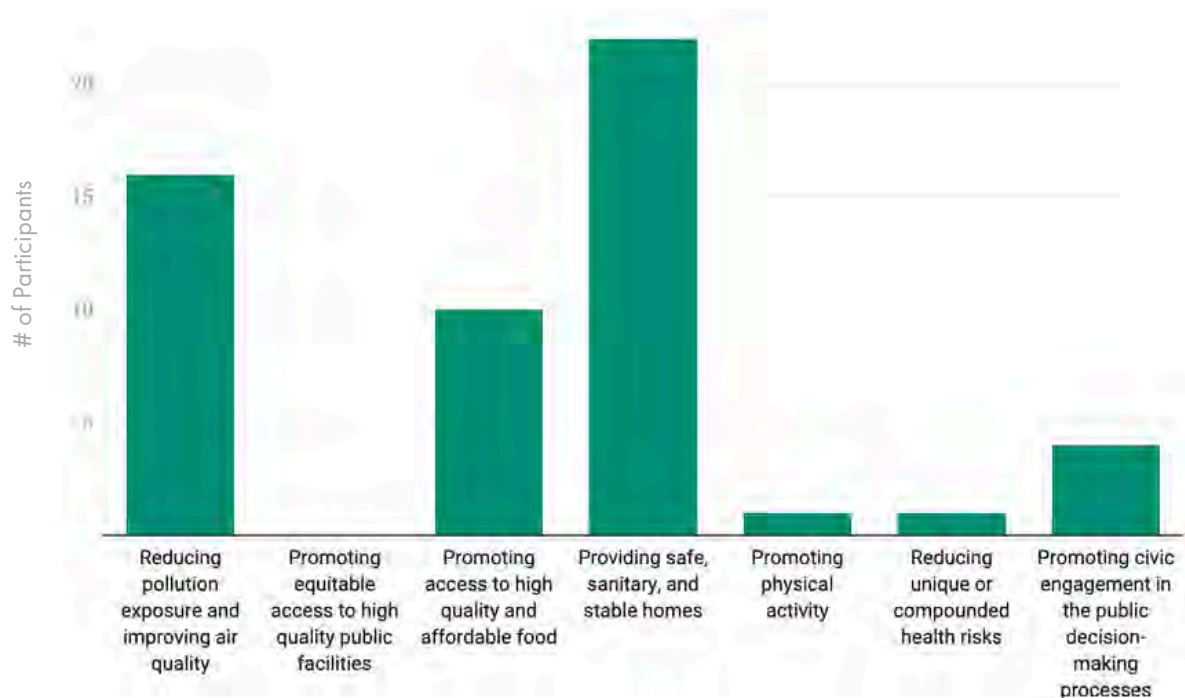
Summary of Worksheet Exercise

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

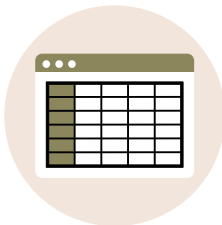
## Attachments (all included as separate documents):



**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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**Program Director**  
**Climate Resilient Communities**  
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Palo Alto, CA, 94303

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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	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

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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

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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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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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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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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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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	
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.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	
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.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	
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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  
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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## 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

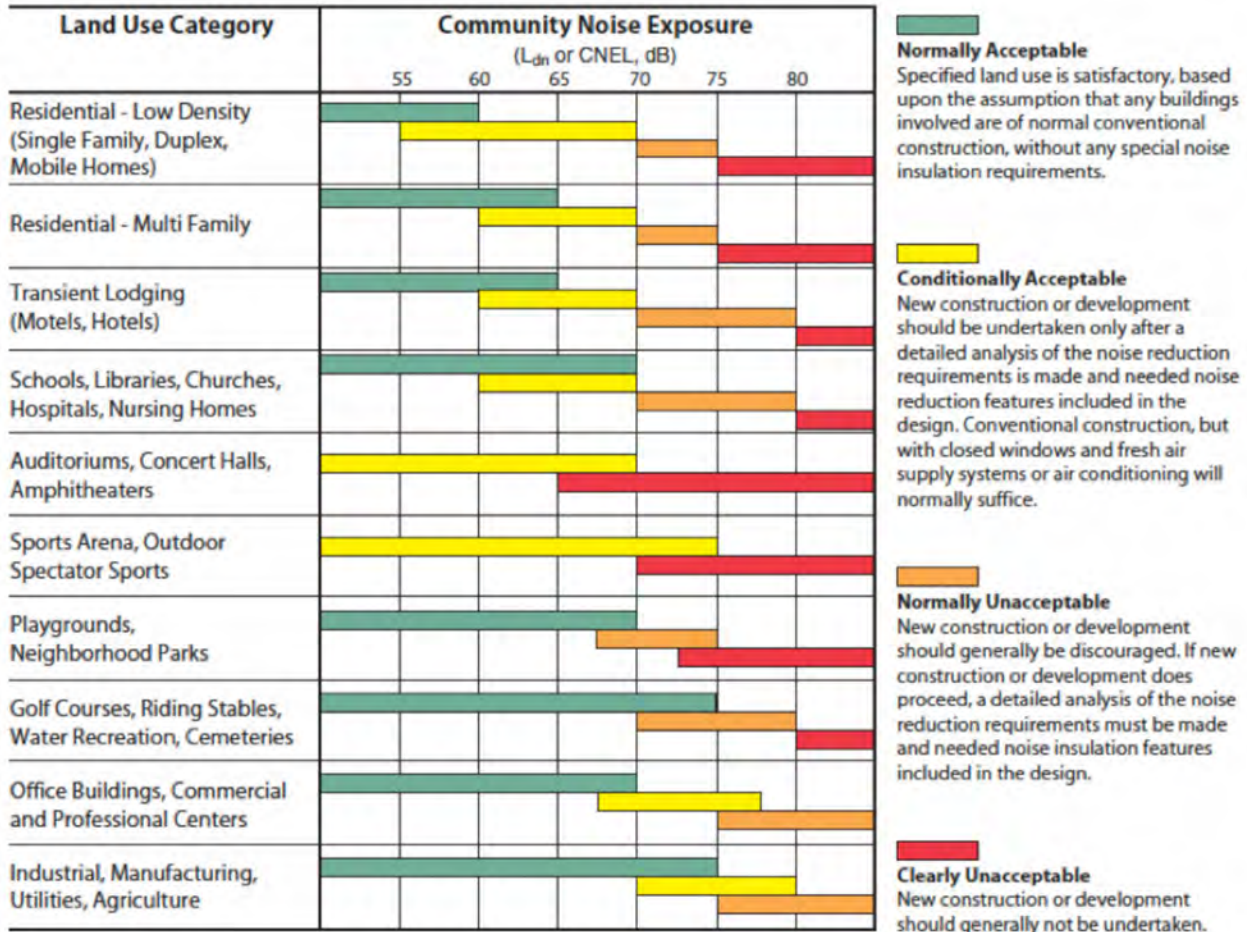
### ACHIEVE ACCEPTABLE NOISE LEVELS

#### **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

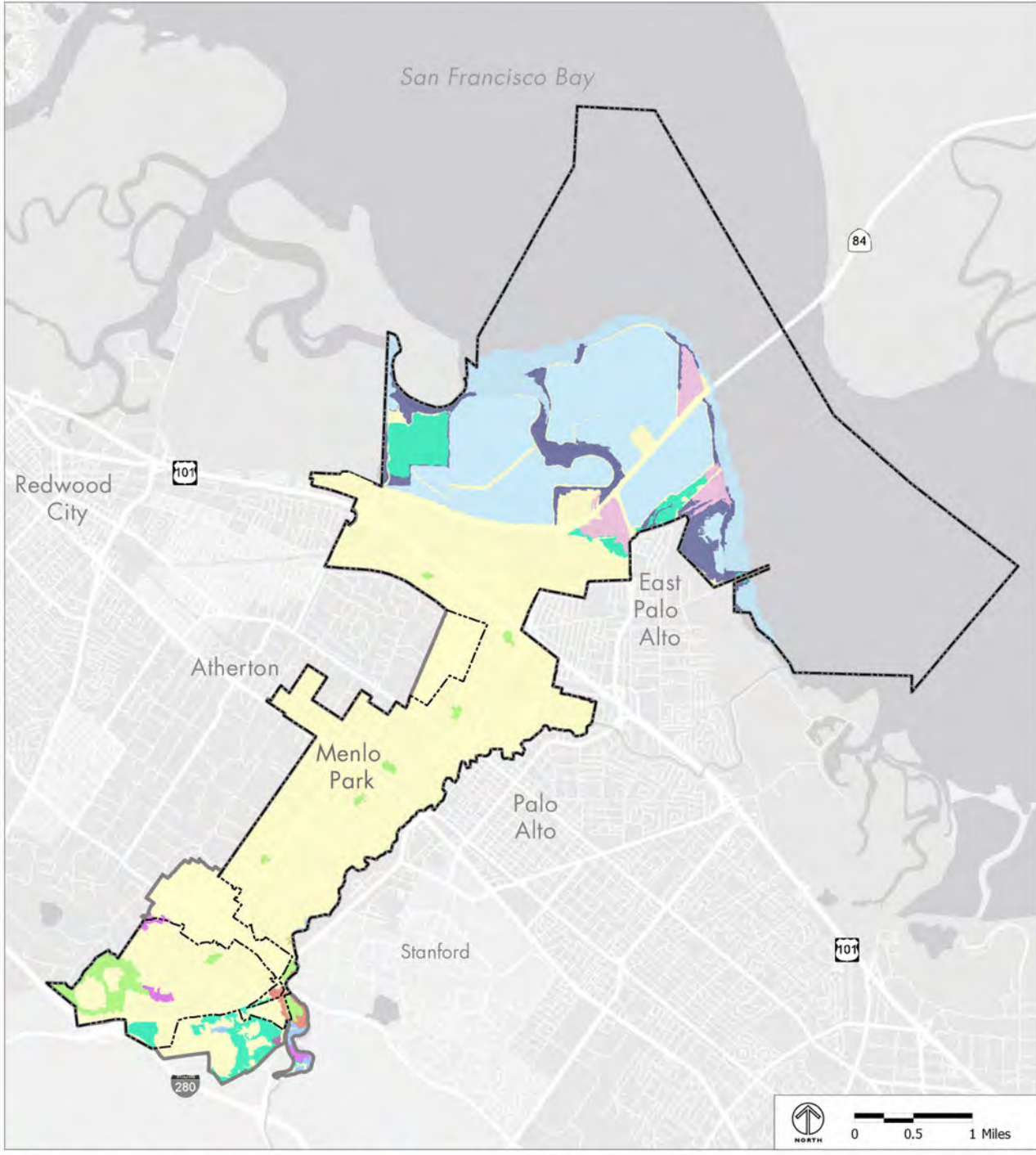
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### **A** Natural Resources

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**

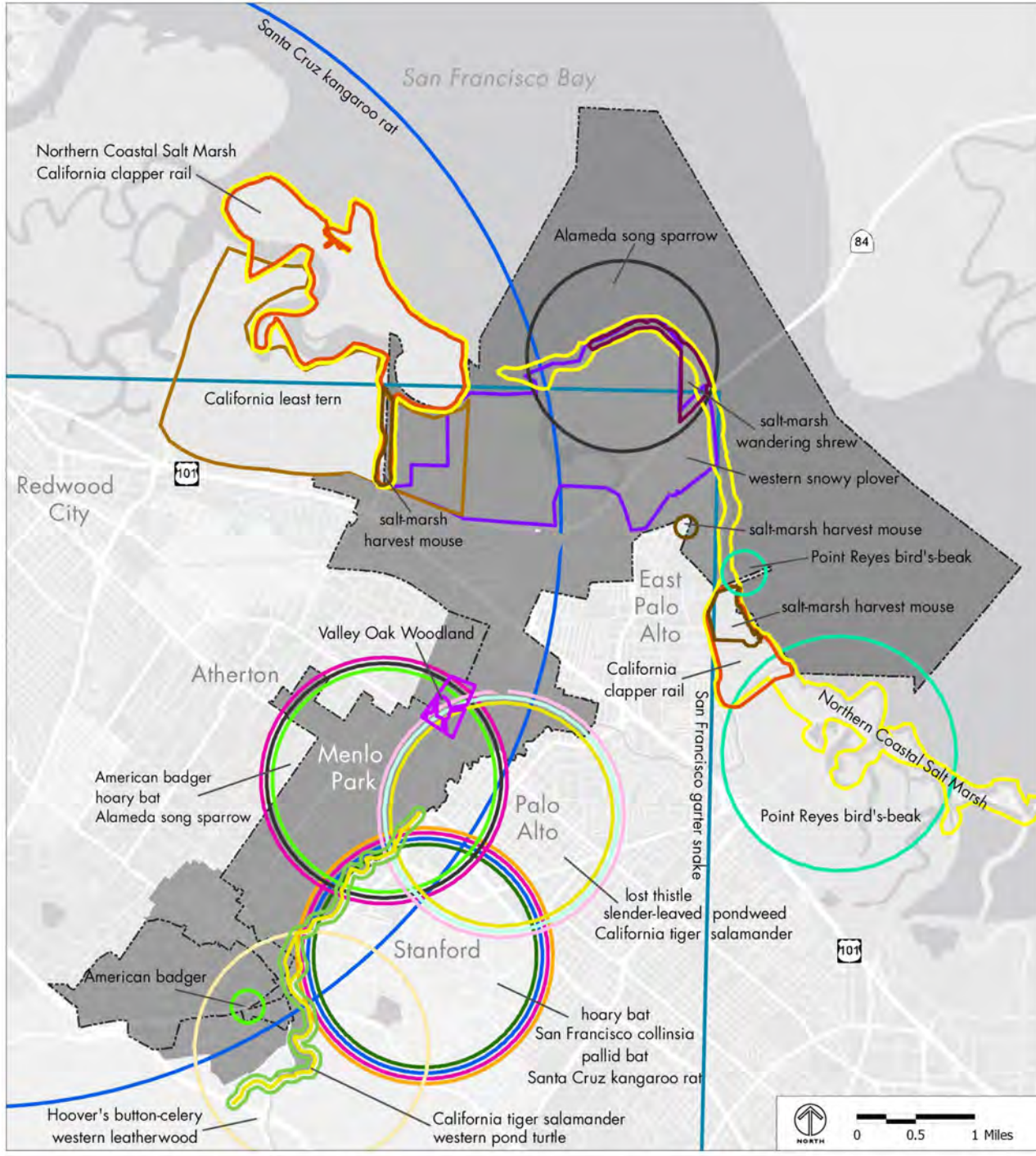
Developed sites in eastern Menlo Park along the bayshore have been built on diked and filled coastal marshes. These marshes were converted in the 1960s to create more land for development. In the process, these marshes have been cut off from tidal influence and filled with materials to raise their surface 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.

<b>Common Name (CNDDDB)</b>	Hoover's button-celery	Valley Oak Woodland	slender-leaved pondweed	City Limit
Alameda song sparrow	Northern Coastal Salt Marsh	hoary bat	western leatherwood	
American badger	Point Reyes bird's-beak	lost thistle	western pond turtle	
California clapper rail	San Francisco collinsia	pallid bat	western snowy plover	
California least tern	San Francisco garter snake	salt-marsh harvest mouse		
California tiger salamander	Santa Cruz kangaroo rat	salt-marsh wandering shrew		

**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 maritimum</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>cirsiums</i> .
<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 cunicularia</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	Pickleweed is primary habitat. Do not burrow, build loosely organized nests. Require higher areas for flood escape.
<i>Sorex vagrans halicoetes</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 Salicornia.
<i>Spinus lawrencii</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>			
BedwellBayfront 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.

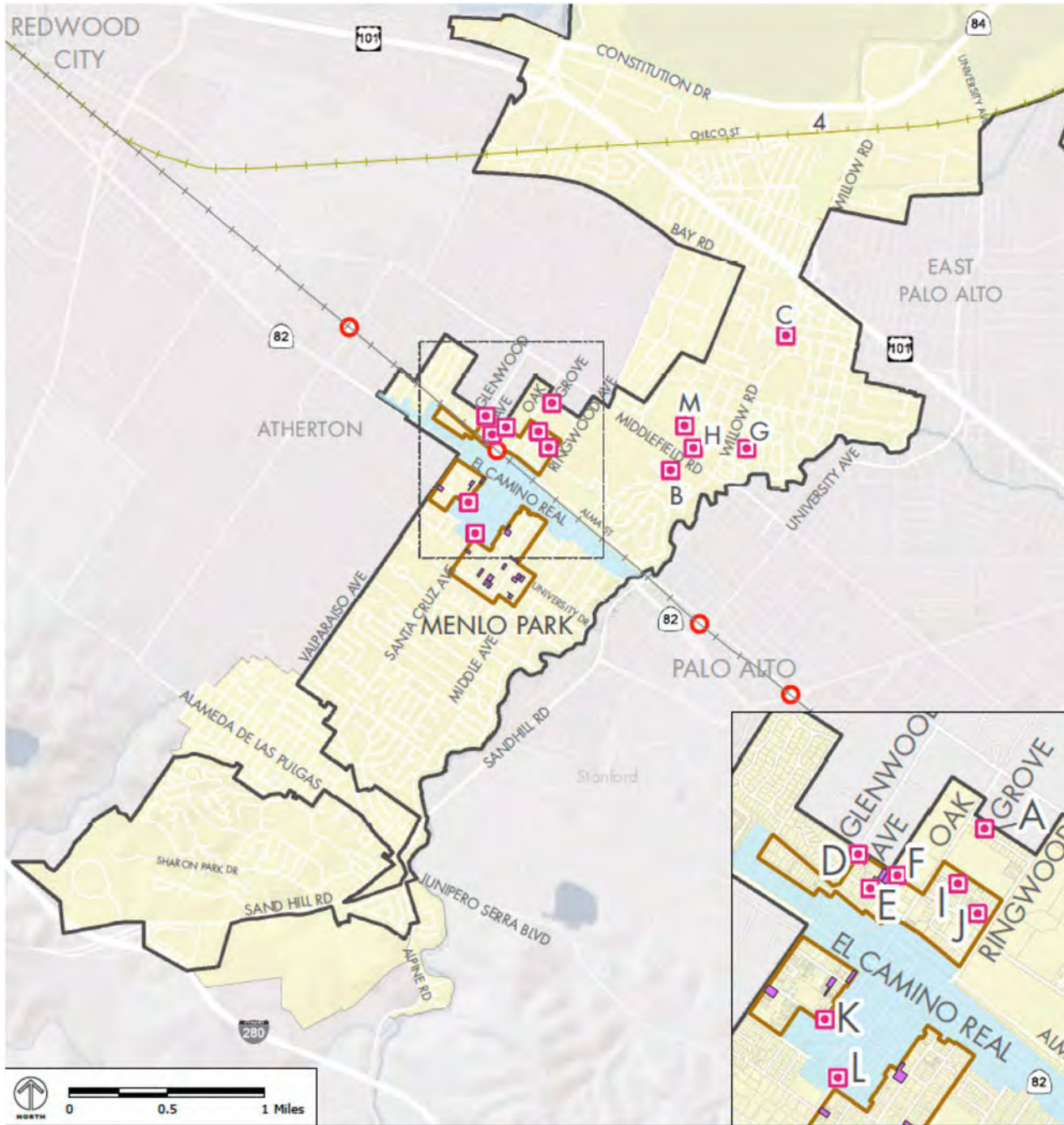
In 1769 Spanish rule was introduced to the area when the exploration party led by Don Gaspar de Portola camped near "El Palo Alto" after their momentous discovery of San Francisco Bay. The colonizing of the Peninsula began after the expedition of Juan Bautista DeAnza passed through Menlo Park on its 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
- El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan
- City Limits
- Sphere of Influence

**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 dewatering 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**

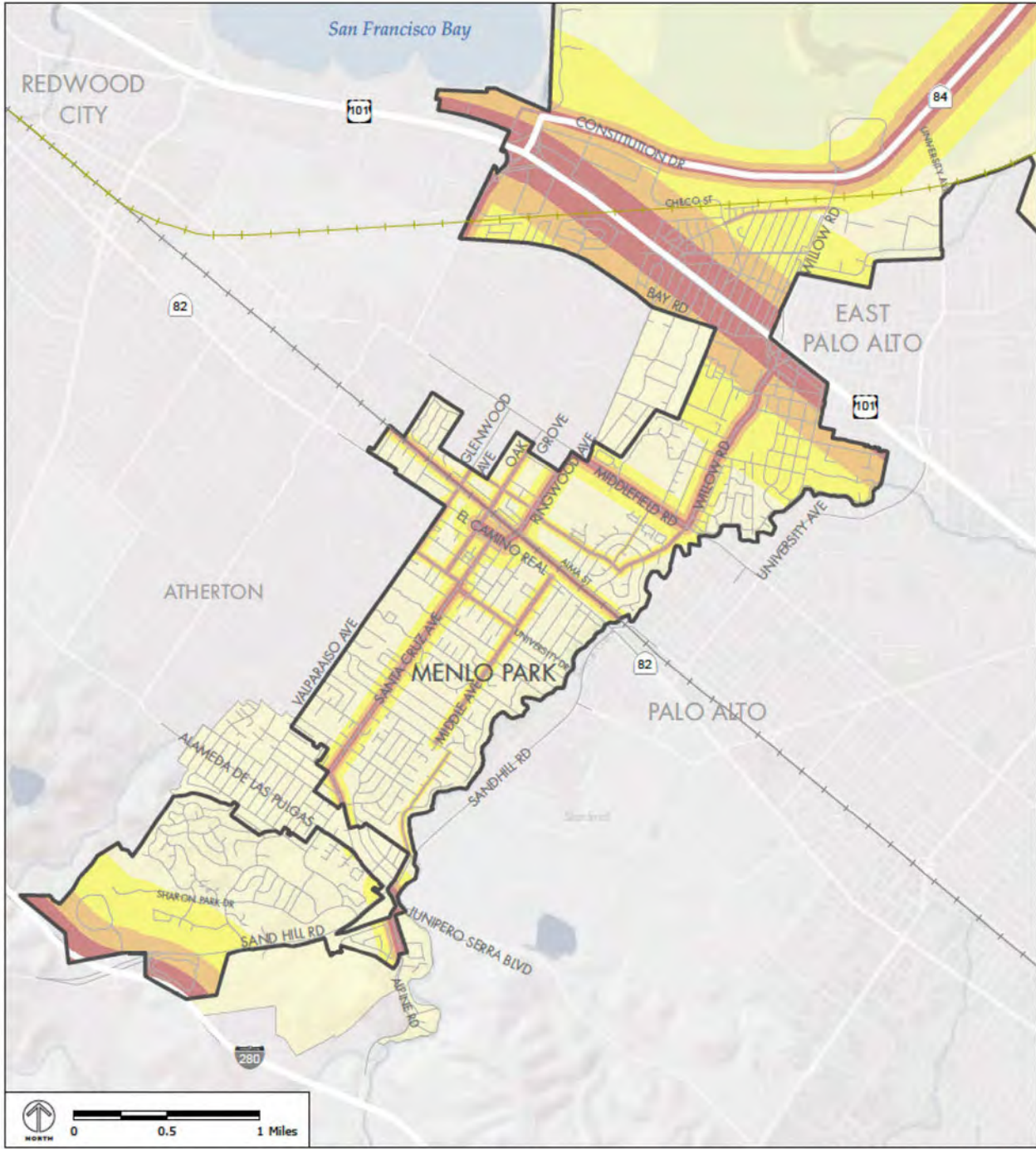
## Roadways

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)**

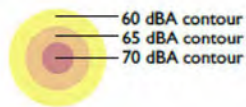
<b>Roadway</b>	<b>Segment</b>	<b>Existing</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Haven Ave	City Limits-Bayfront Expwy/Marsh Rd	62.6	64.5	1.9
Marsh Rd	Bay Rd-Bohannon Dr/Florence St	70.4	72.6	2.2
Marsh Rd	Bohannon Dr/Florence St-Scott Dr	71.2	73.3	2.1
Hamilton Ave	Chilco St-Willow Rd	59.8	62	2.1
Willow Rd	Laurel 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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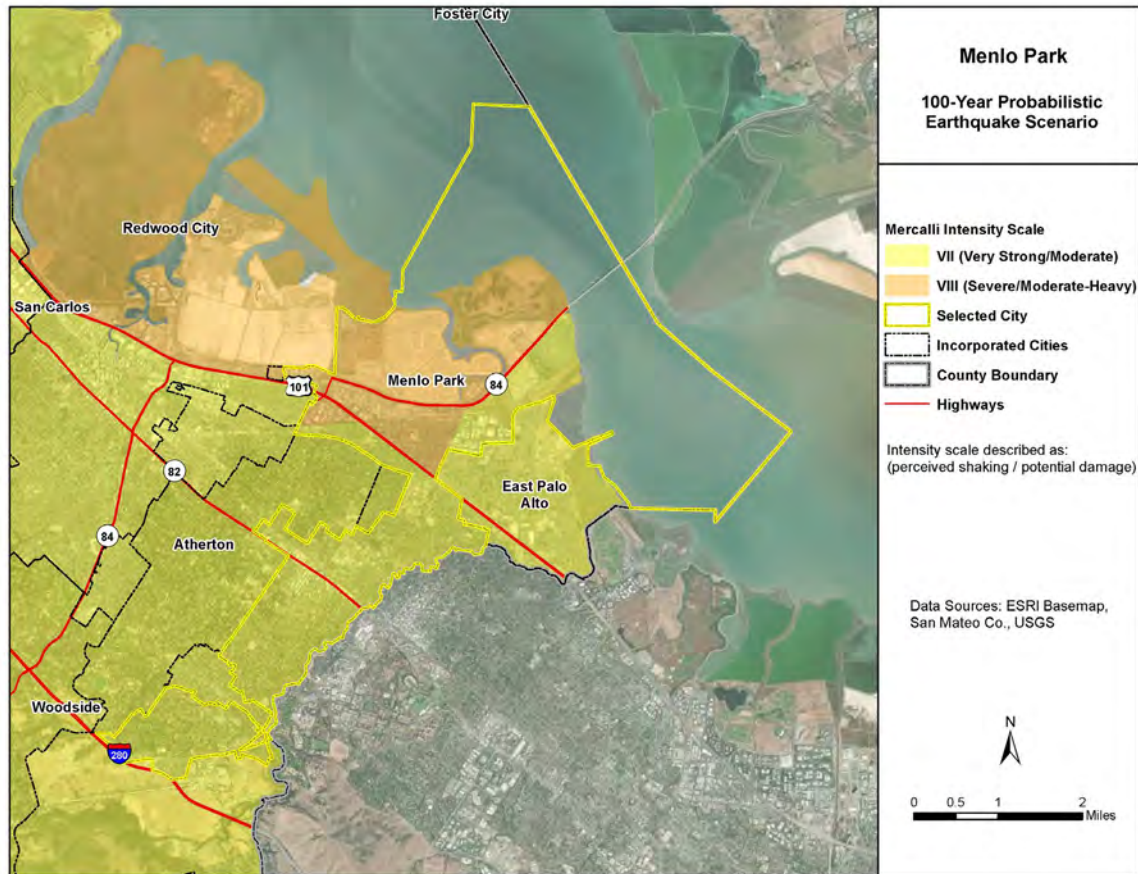
<sup>6</sup> “Soft-story residential buildings are those that have open parking or commercial space on the first floor and housing on higher floors. In an earthquake, ground shaking causes such structures to sway and sometimes to collapse.”; “Soft Story Resources (Policy)” (ABAG), available at <https://abag.ca.gov/soft-story-resources-policy>

<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.

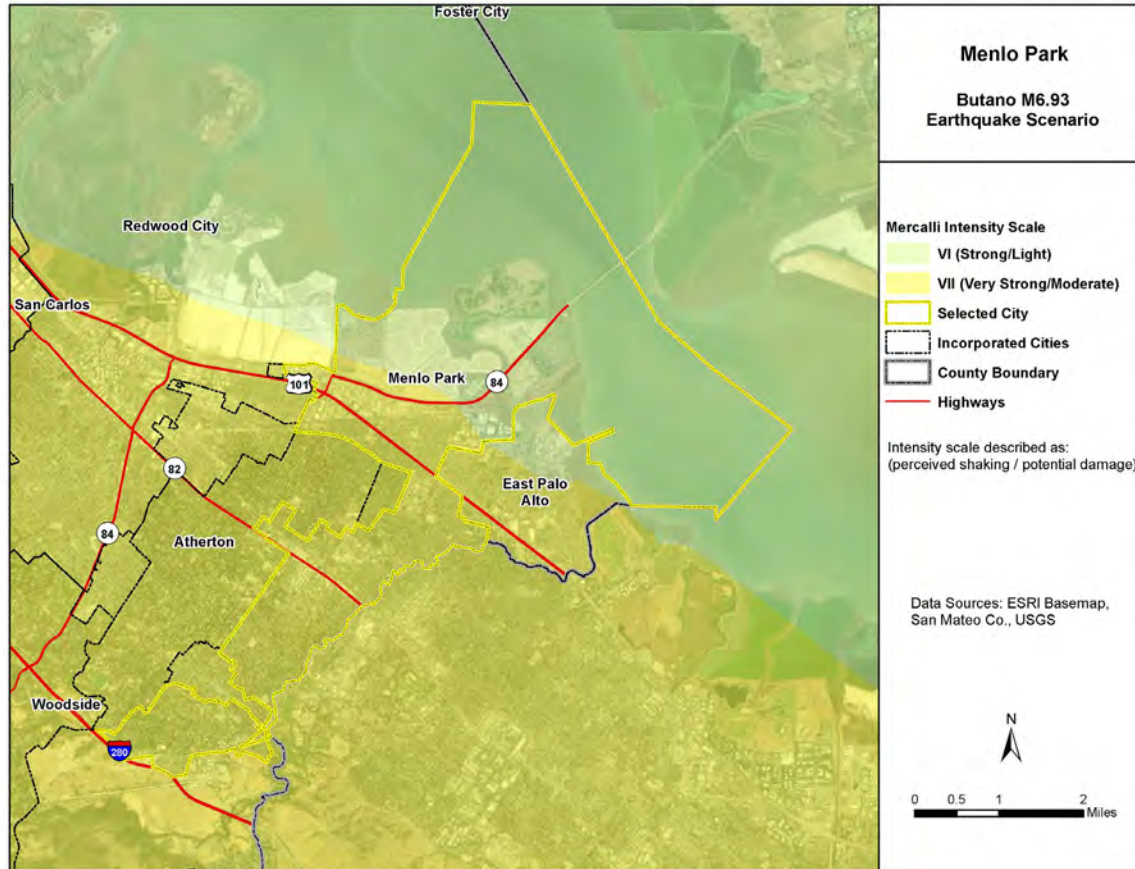
**Figure S-1. 100-year Probabilistic Earthquake Scenario**



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.

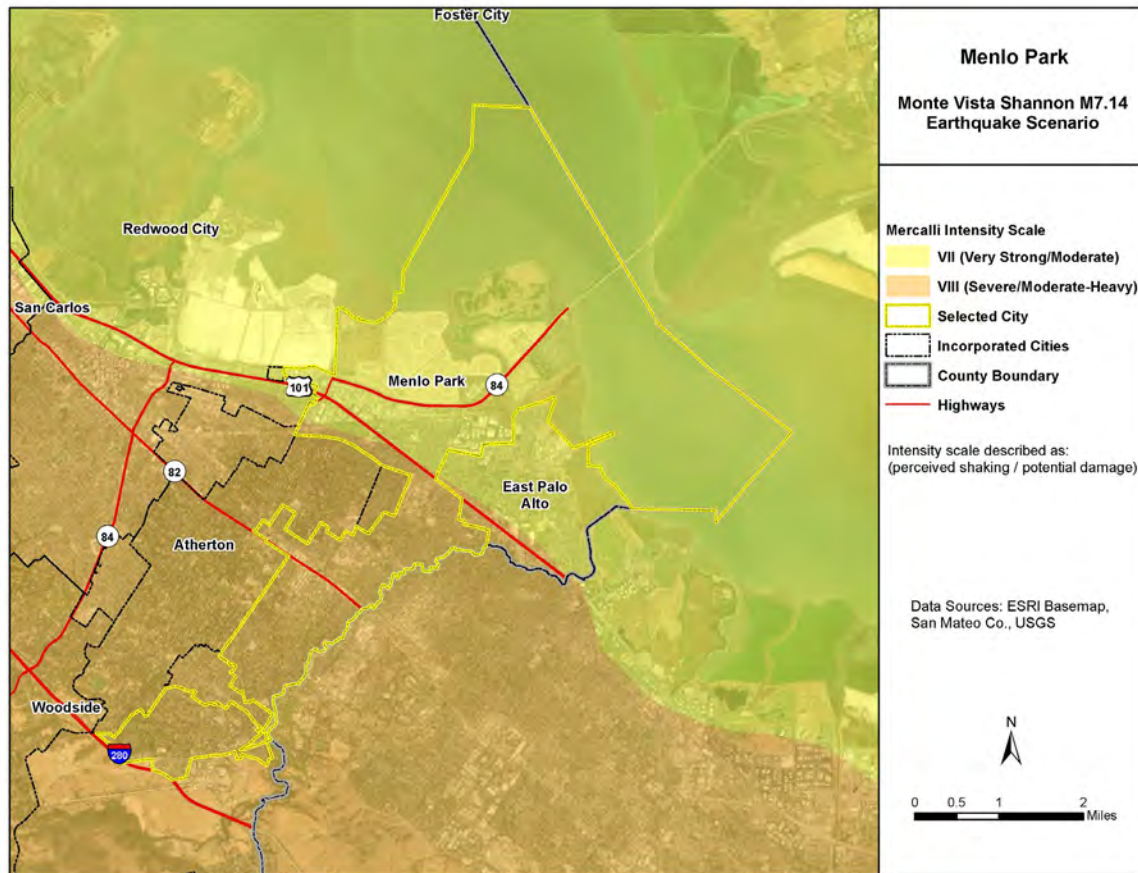
**Figure S-2. Butano Earthquake Scenario**



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.

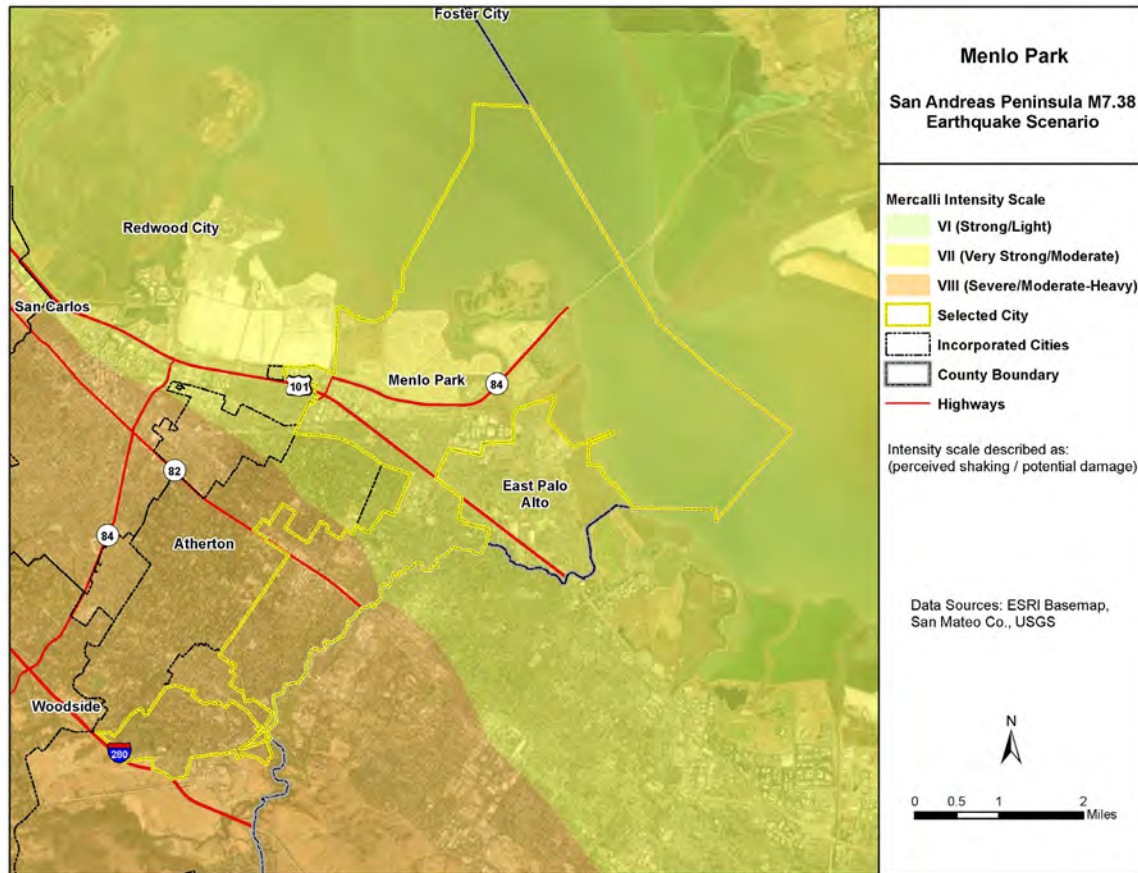
**Figure S-3. Monte Vista Shannon Earthquake Scenario**



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.

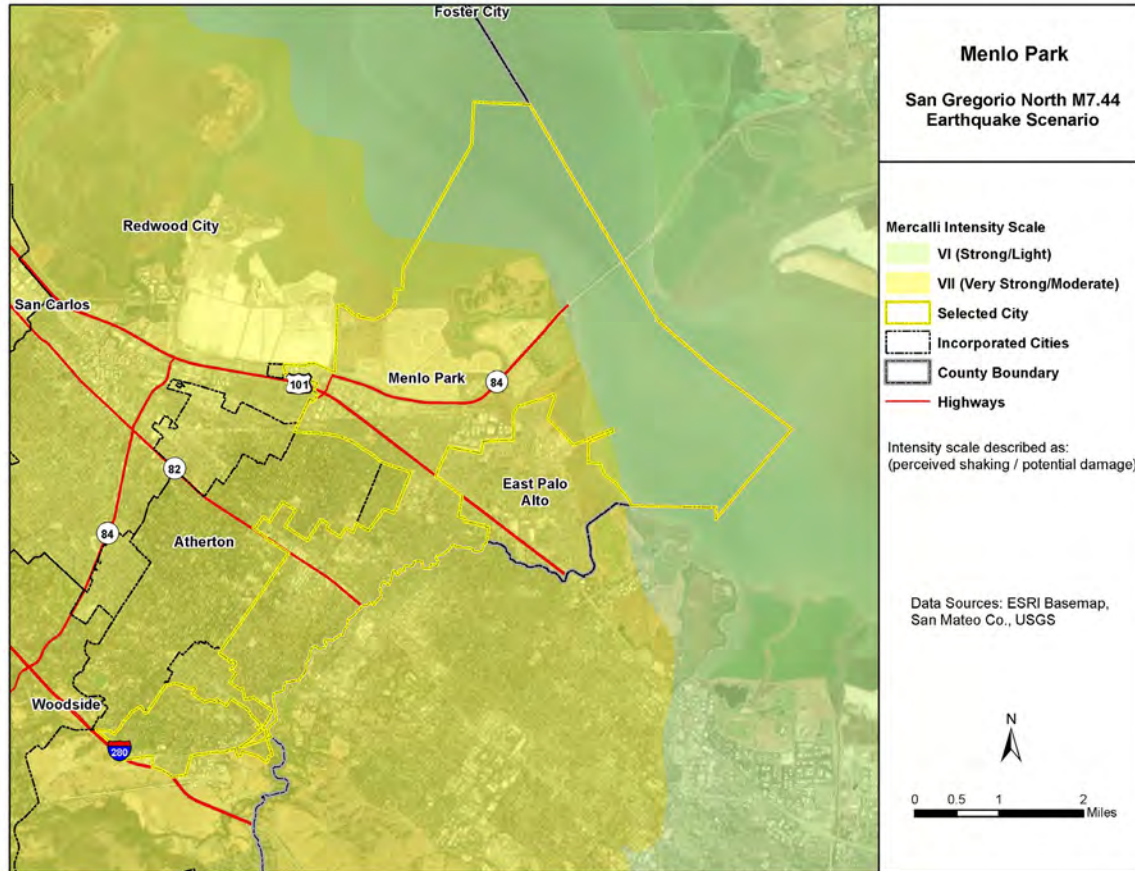
**Figure S-4. San Andreas Peninsula Earthquake Scenario**



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.

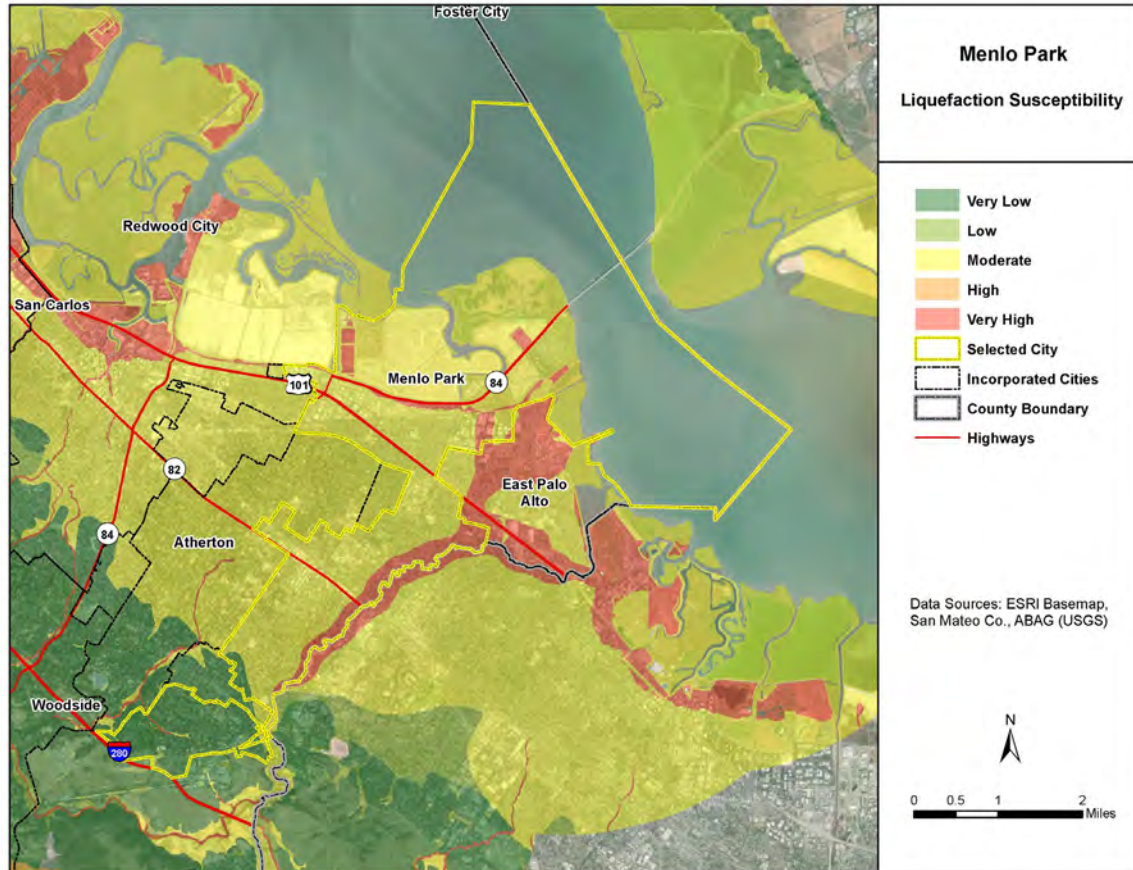
**Figure S-5. San Gregorio North Earthquake Scenario**



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).

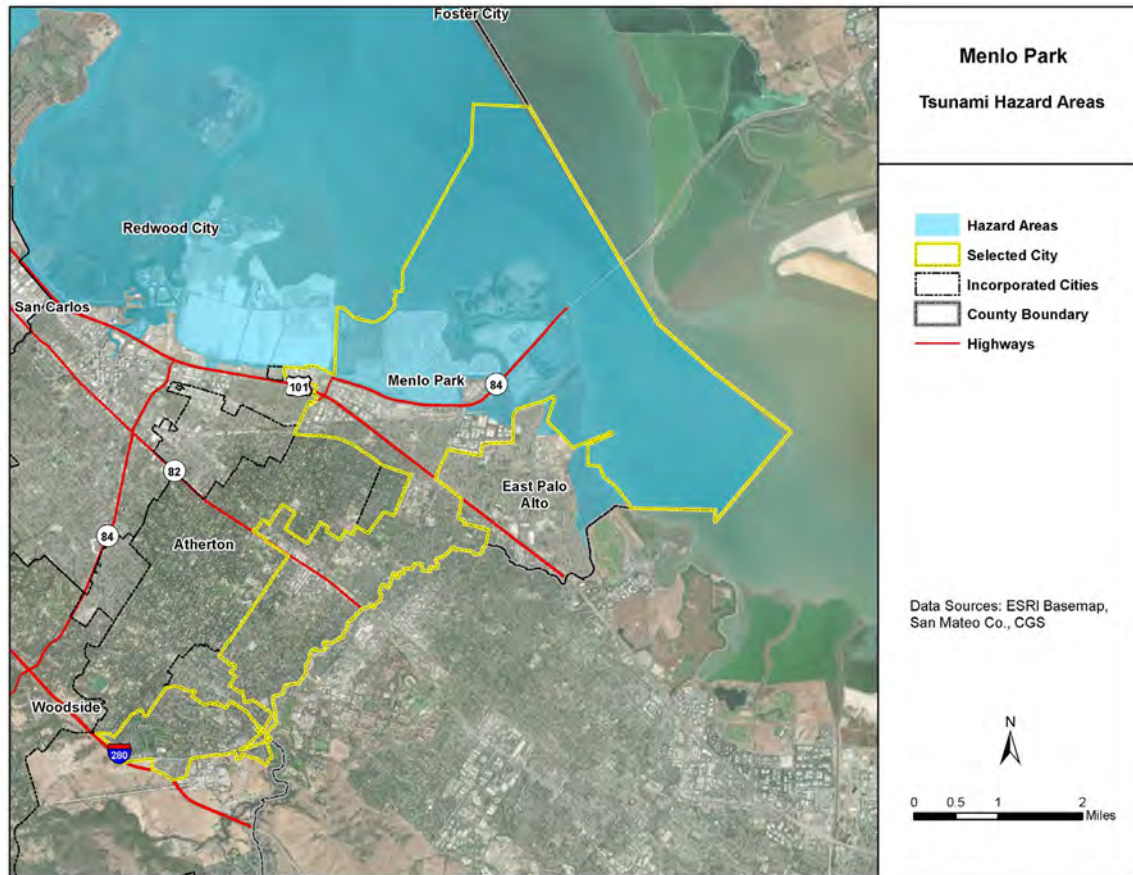
**Figure S-6. Liquefaction Susceptibility**



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:

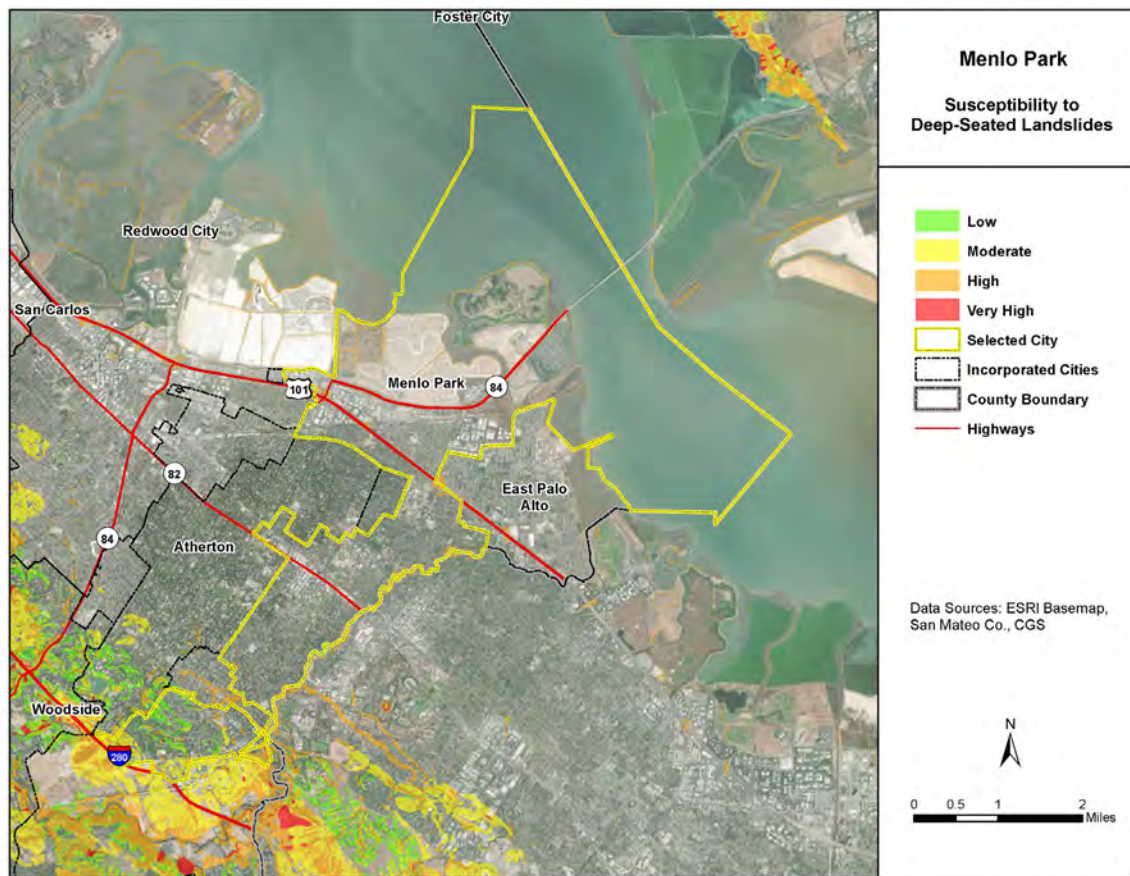
- (1) **Slope Material:** Loose, unconsolidated soils and soft, weak rocks are more hazardous than are firm, consolidated soils or hard bedrock.
- (2) **Slope Steepness:** Most landslides occur on moderate to steep slopes.
- (3) **Structure and Physical Properties of Materials:** This includes the orientation 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**

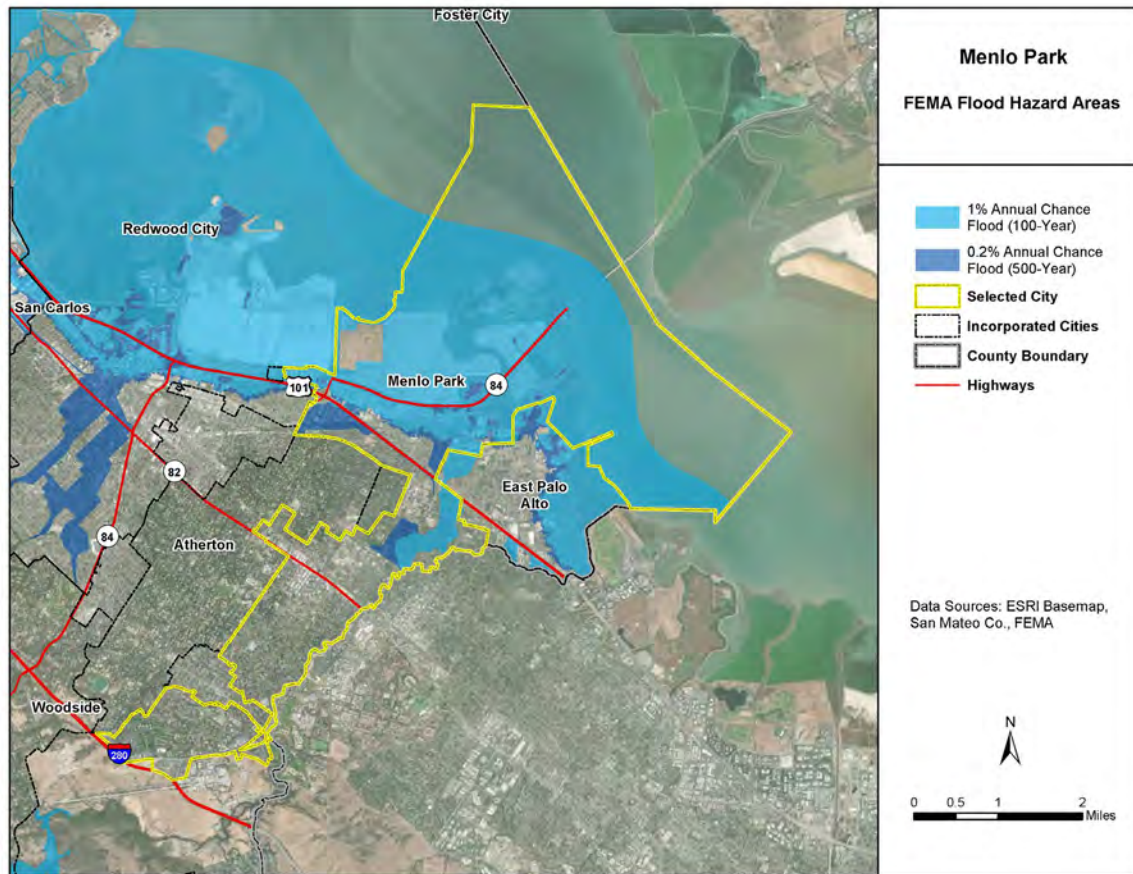
FEMA prepares maps of the 100-year flood hazard area of U.S. communities. Areas within the 100-year flood hazard area have a one percent risk of flooding in any given year. Maps are also available for 500-year floods, which mean that in any given year, the risk of flooding in the designated area is 0.2 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**

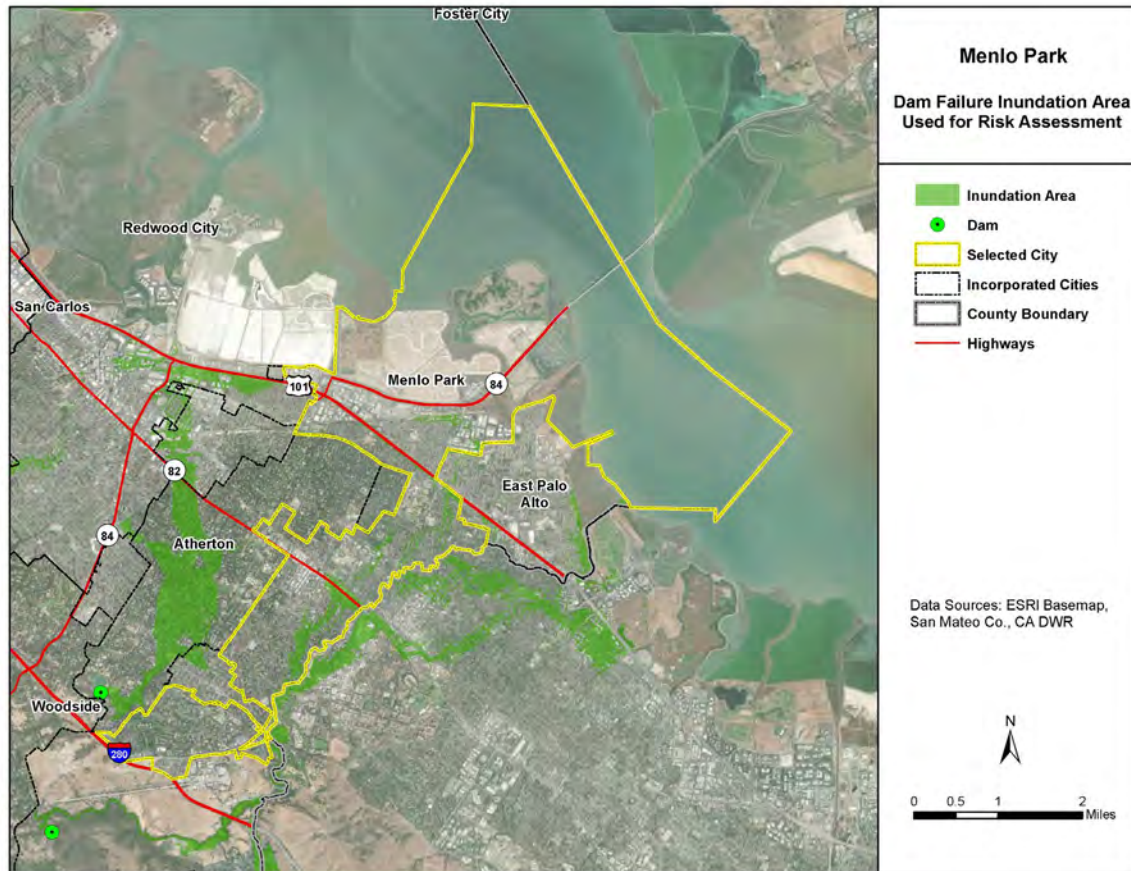


Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

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.

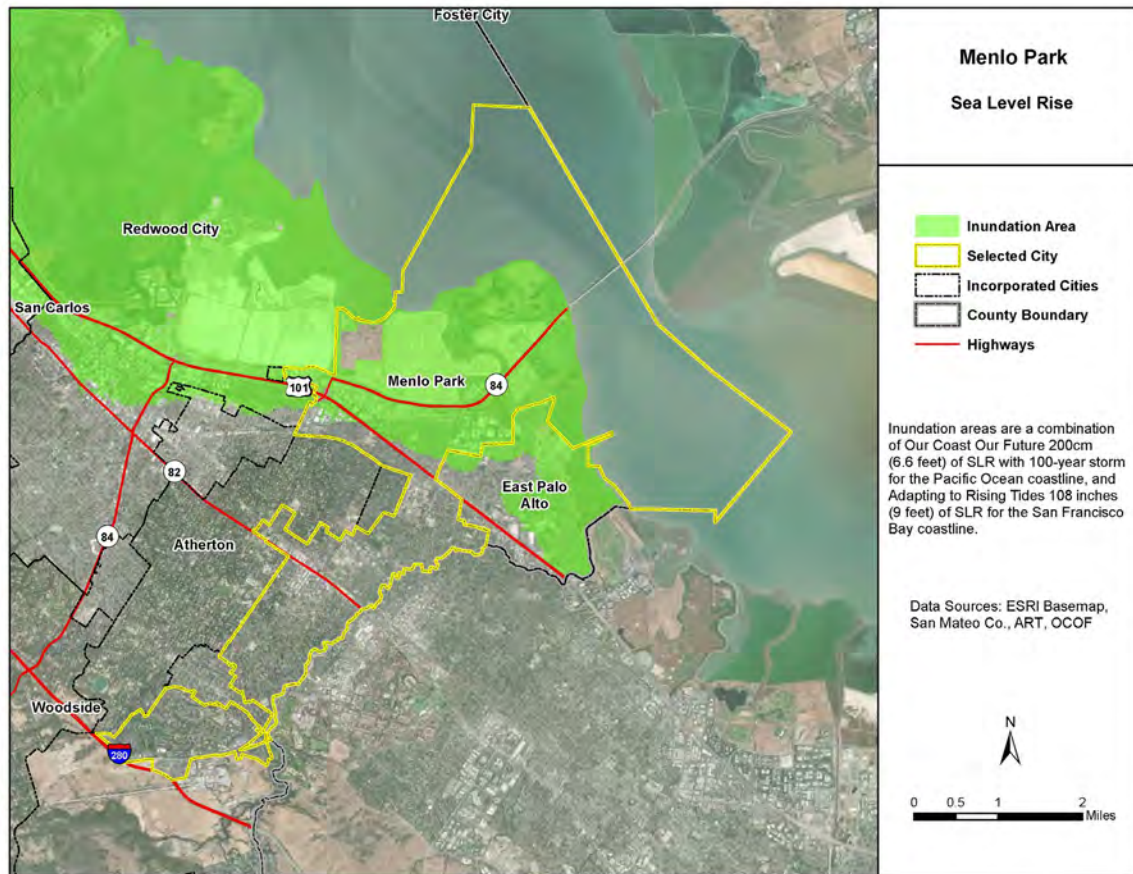
As a result of decades of increasing atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide and methane as a result of fossil fuel consumption, rising temperatures worldwide have warmed the atmosphere and the world's oceans. Sea level rise, in turn reflects both melting glaciers and the expansion of seawater as it warms. 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**

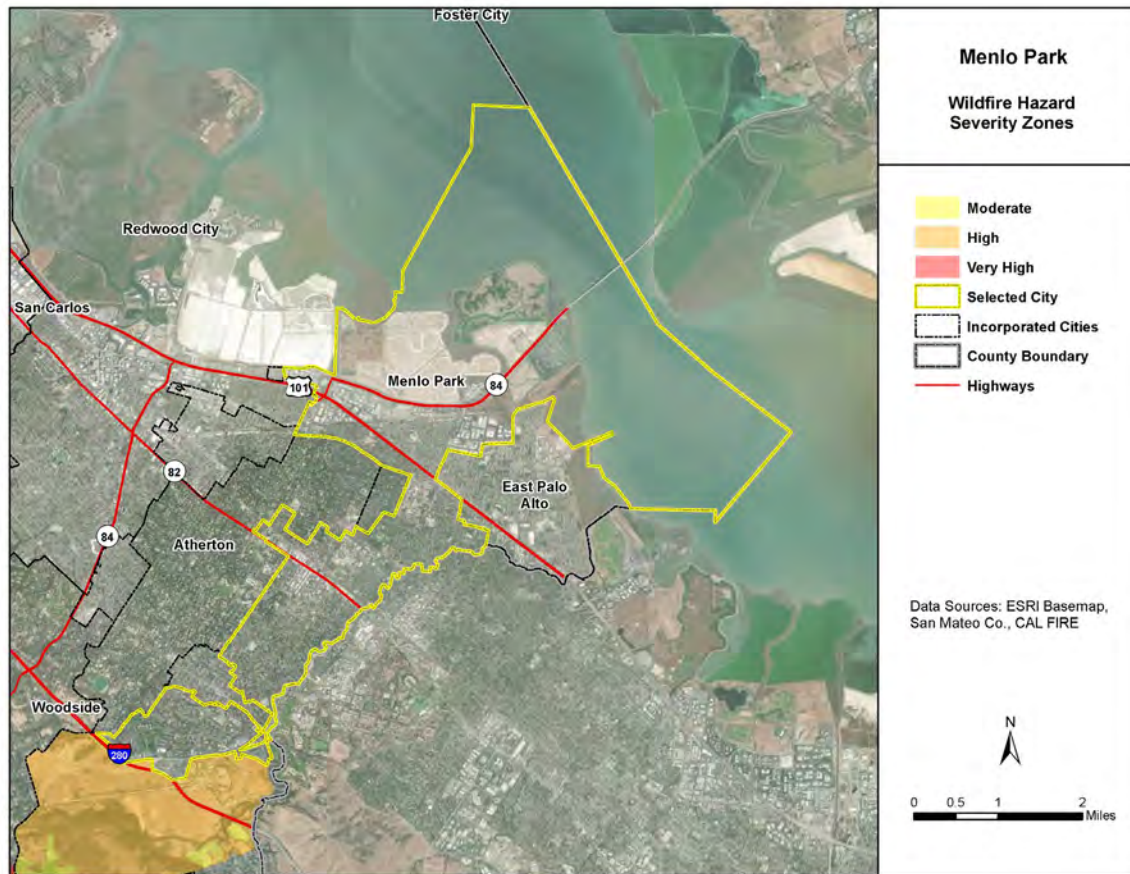


Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

## **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.

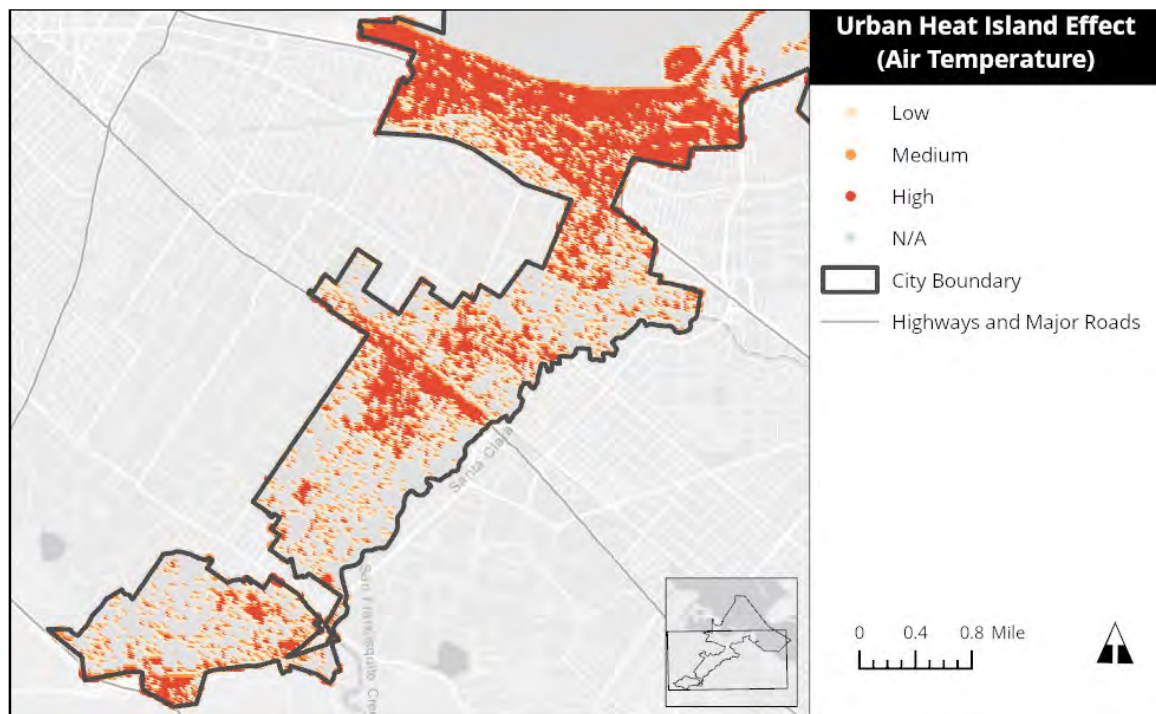
Where climate change increases temperatures, precipitation, and duration of conditions of fire risk, the frequency and intensity of wildfires can also increase. Air quality impacts from smoke carried across the region may impact sensitive local populations.

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>.

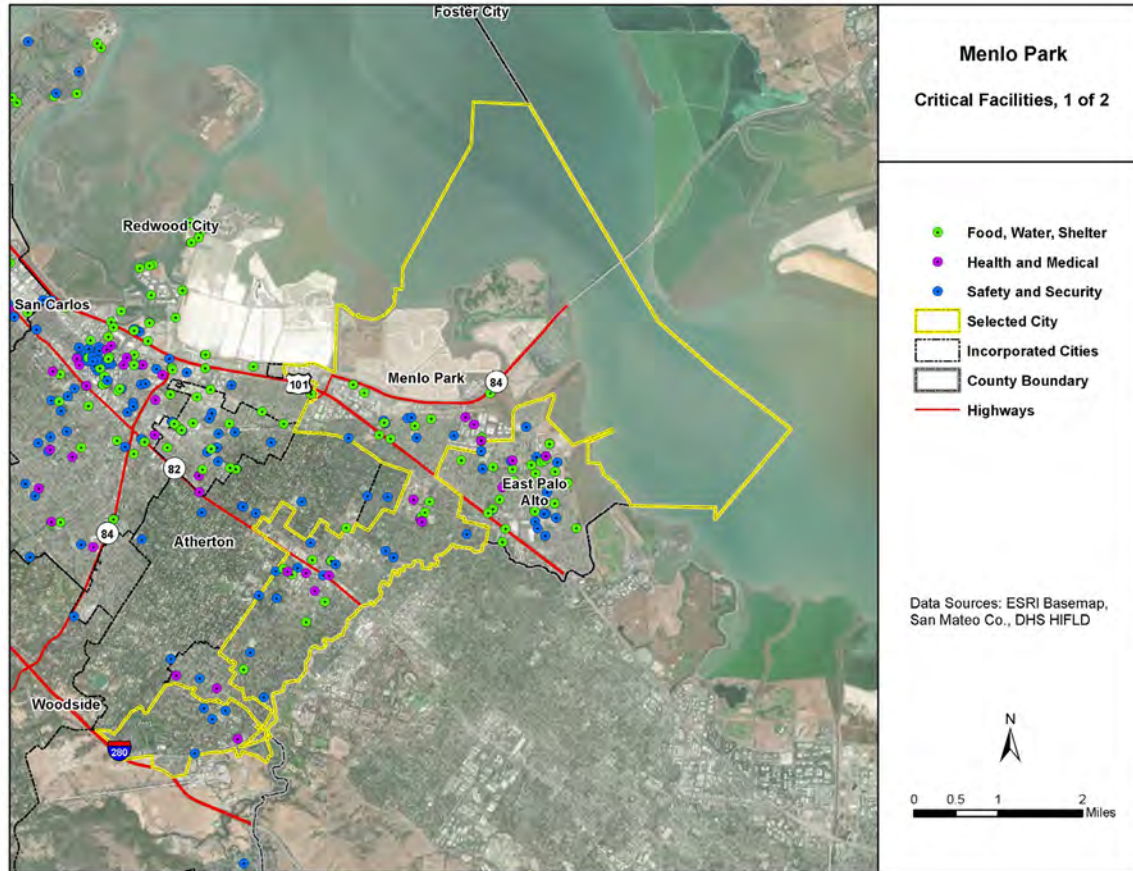
### Vulnerable Facilities

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.

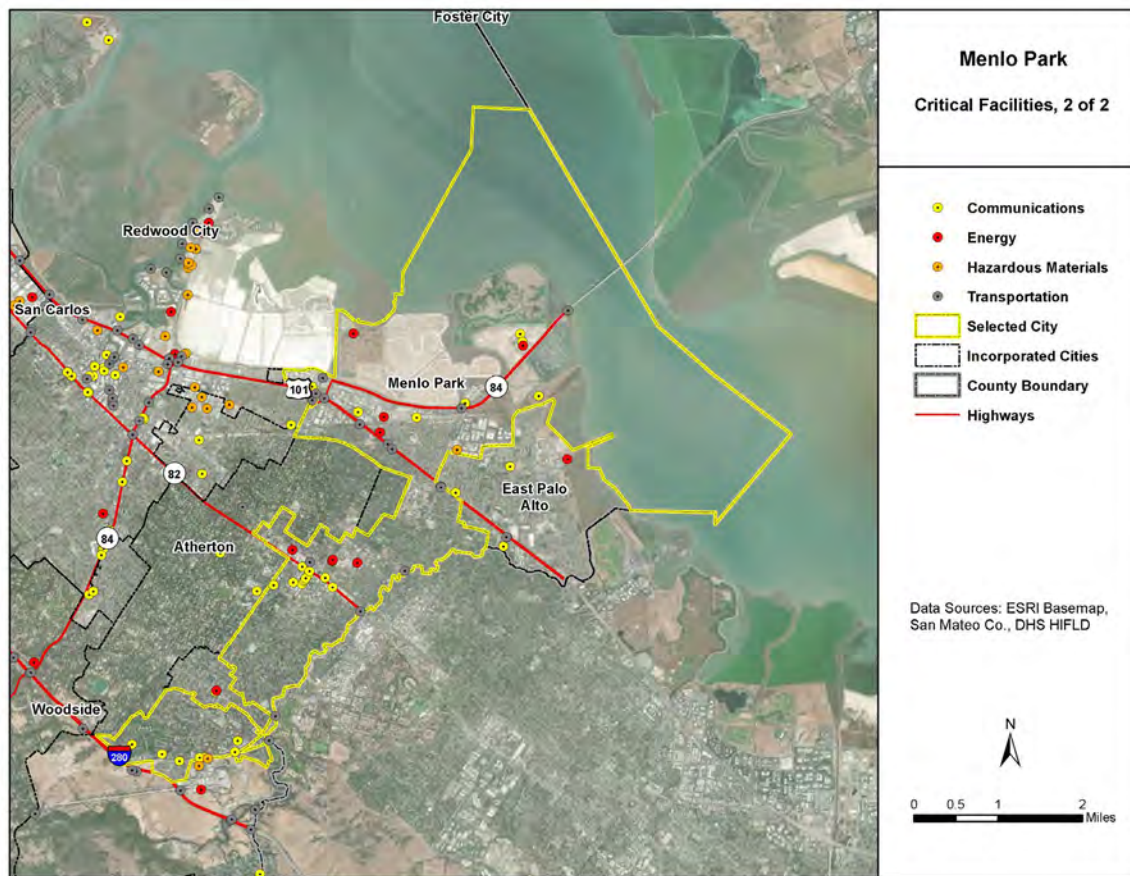
Medical Center, and Nealon Park Little House and Nursery School (see Figure S-14 and Figure S-15).

**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.

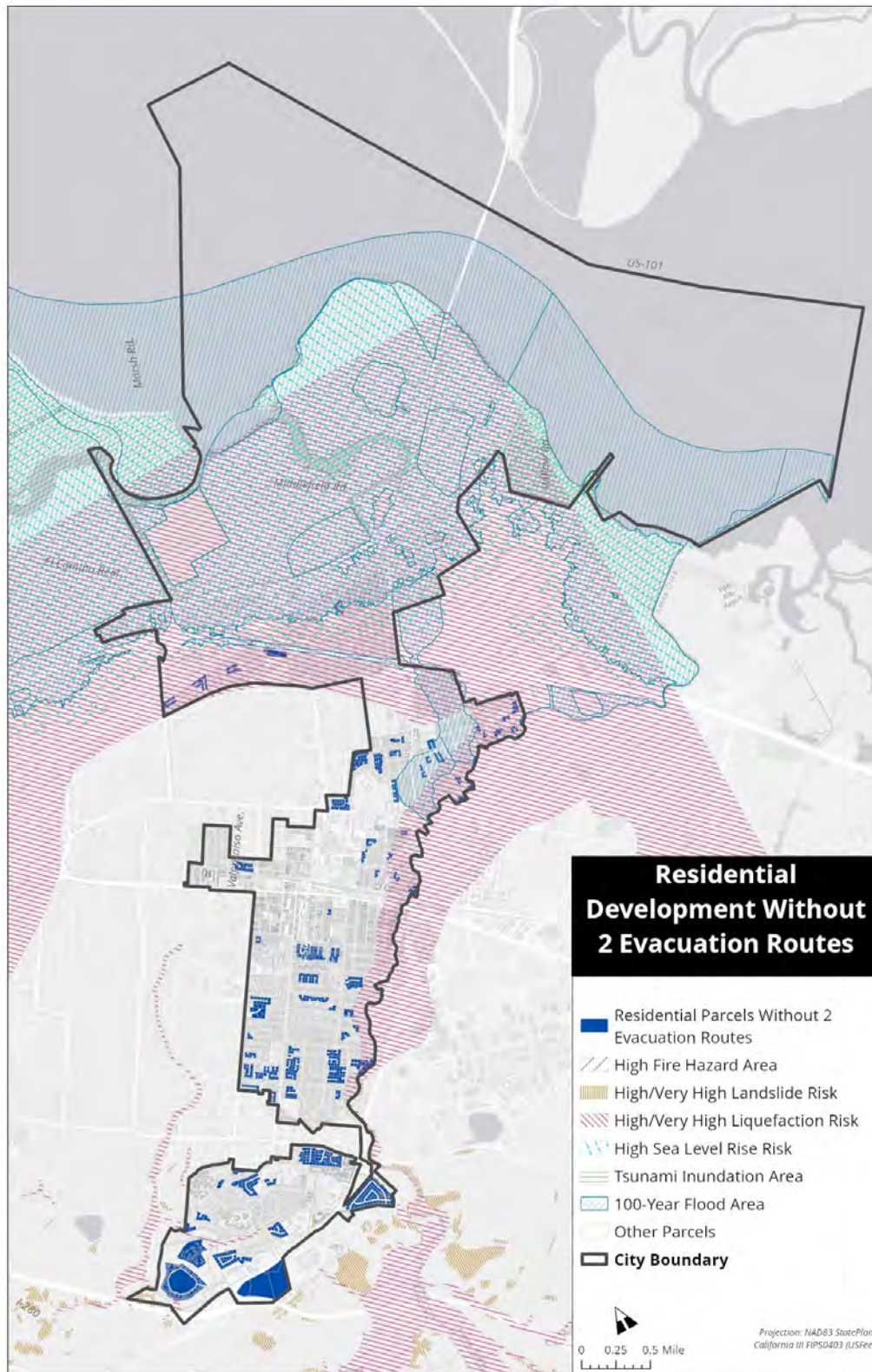
Under Government Code Section 65302(g)(5), upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2020, the Safety Element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to identify residential developments in any hazard area identified in the safety element that do not have at least two emergency 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Acknowledgments

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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
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

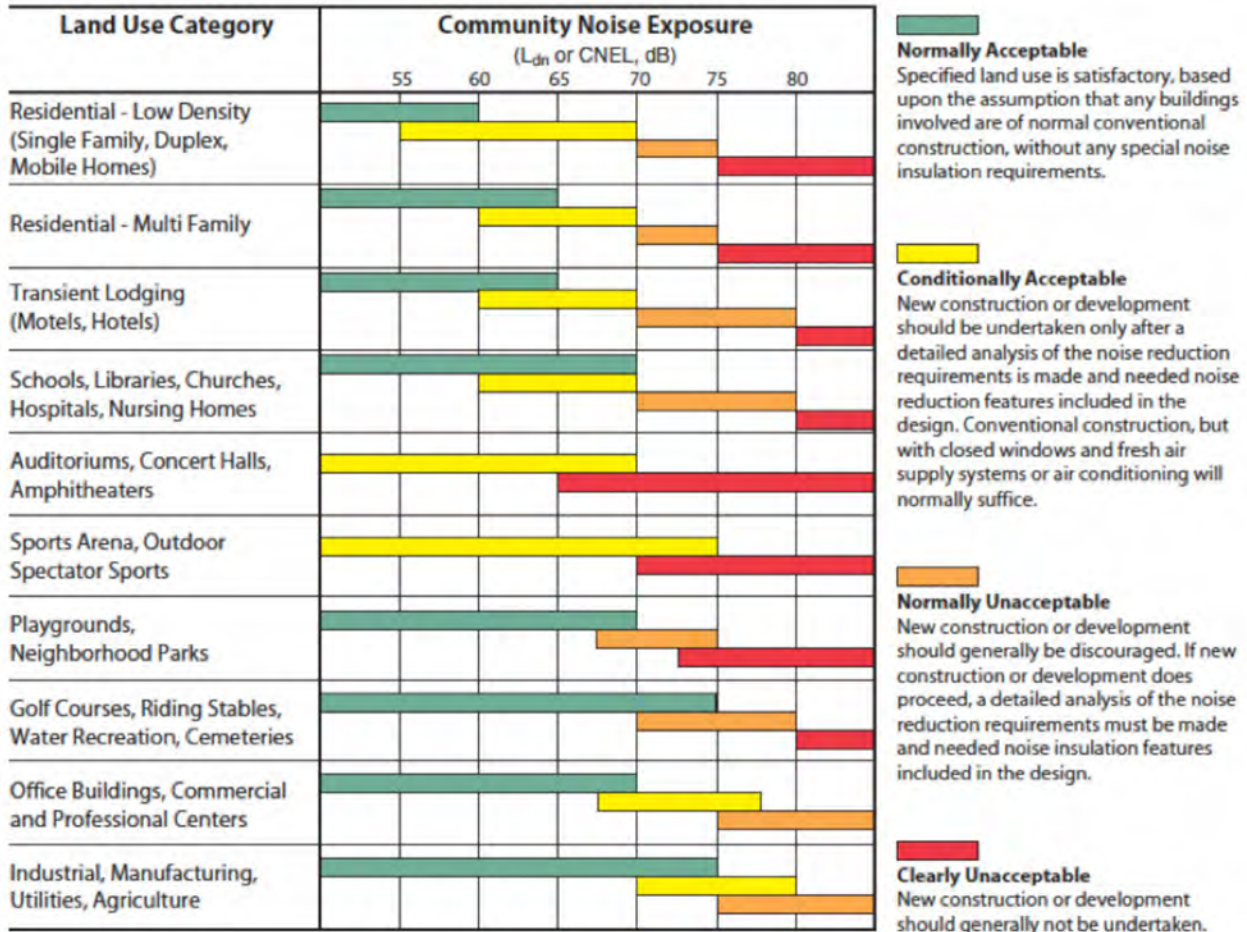
### Goal N1

### 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

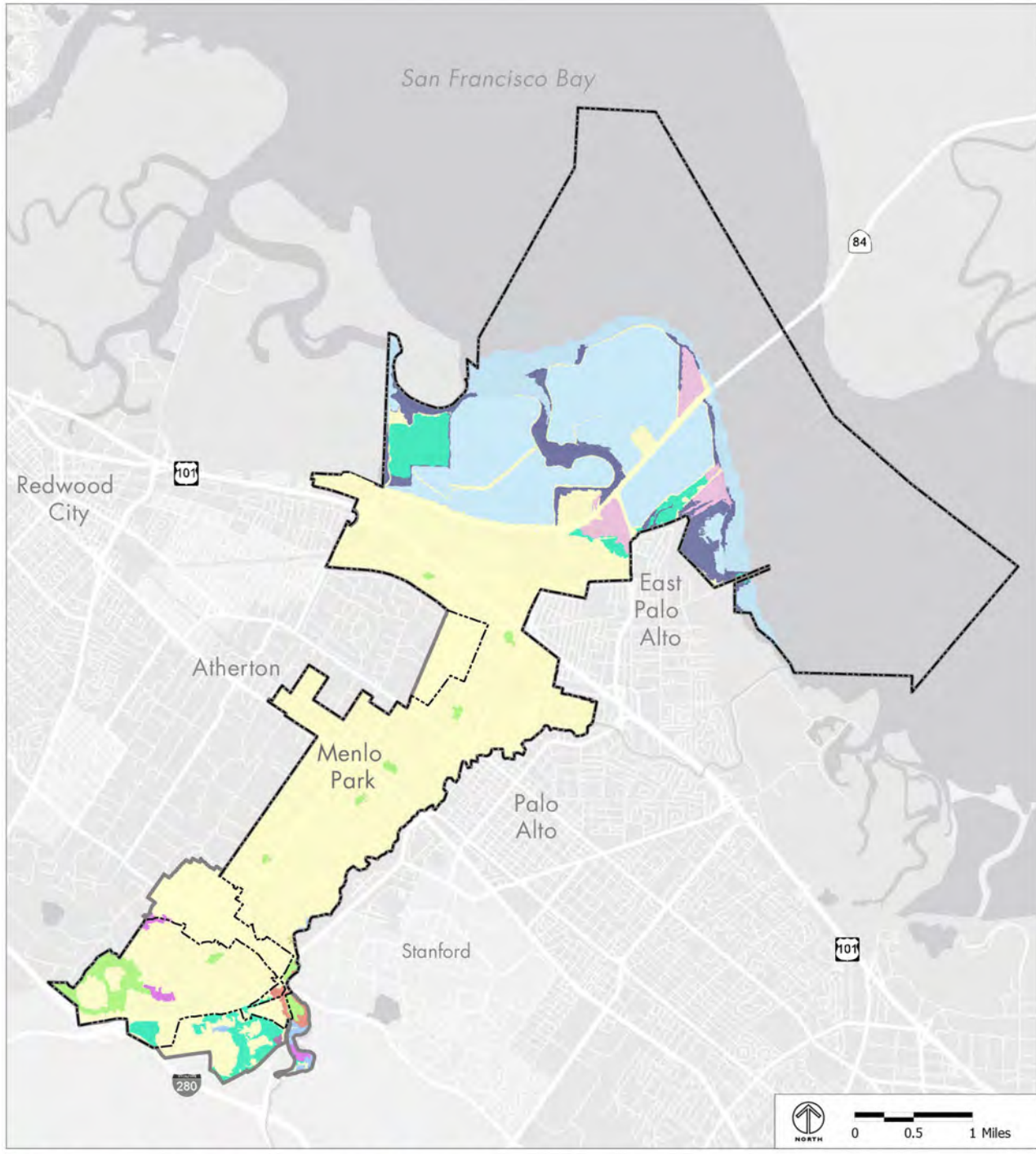
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### **A** Natural Resources

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**

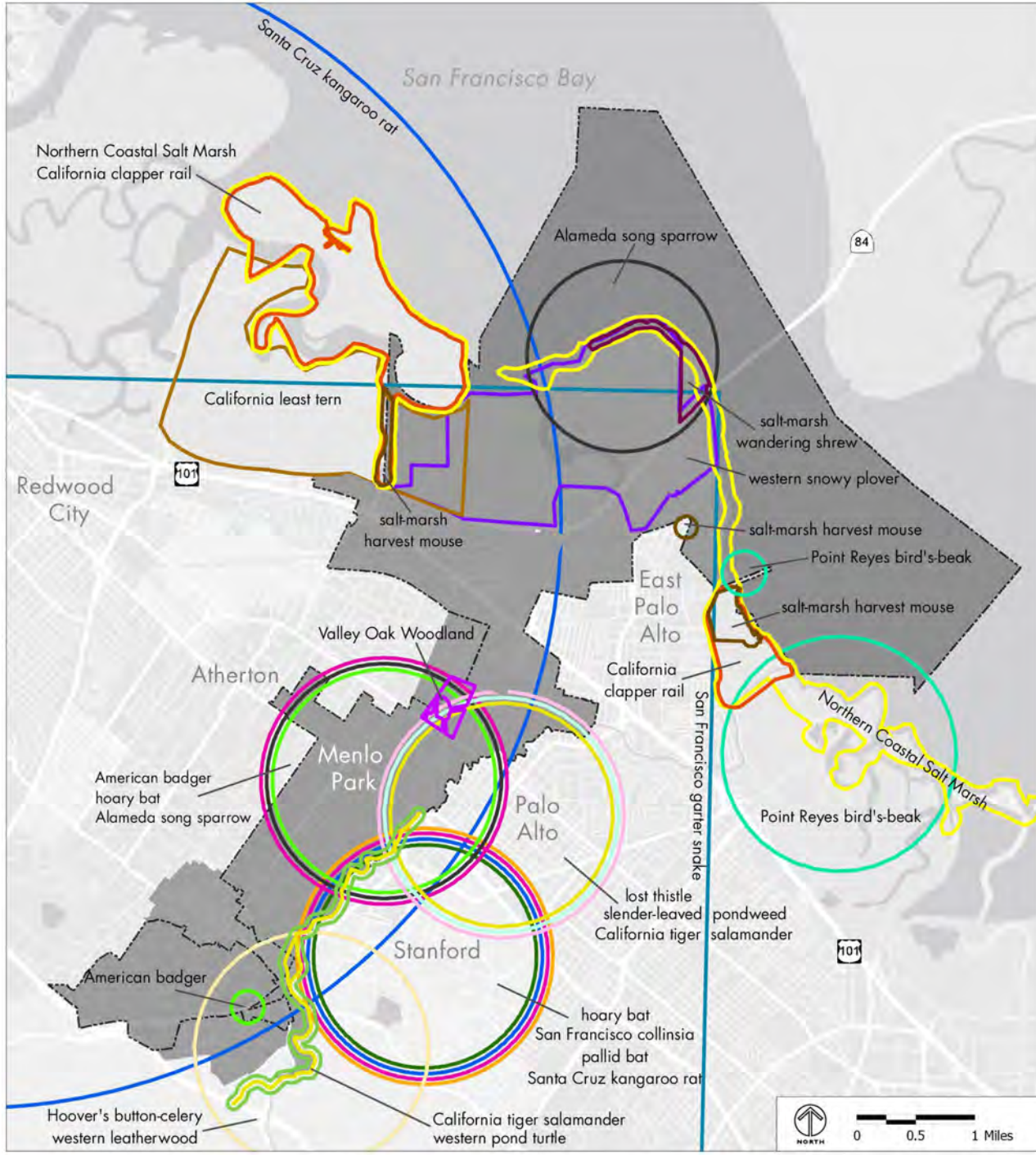
Developed sites in eastern Menlo Park along the bayshore have been built on diked and filled coastal marshes. These marshes were converted in the 1960s to create more land for development. In the process, these marshes have been cut off from tidal influence and filled with materials to raise their surface 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.

<b>Common Name (CNDDDB)</b>	Hoover's button-celery	Valley Oak Woodland	slender-leaved pondweed	City Limit
Alameda song sparrow	Northern Coastal Salt Marsh	hoary bat	western leatherwood	
American badger	Point Reyes bird's-beak	lost thistle	western pond turtle	
California clapper rail	San Francisco collinsia	pallid bat	western snowy plover	
California least tern	San Francisco garter snake	salt-marsh harvest mouse		
California tiger salamander	Santa Cruz kangaroo rat	salt-marsh wandering shrew		

**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 maritimum</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>cirsiums</i> .
<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 cunicularia</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>Lasius 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	Pickleweed is primary habitat. Do not burrow, build loosely organized nests. Require higher areas for flood escape.
<i>Sorex vagrans halicoetes</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 Salicornia.
<i>Spinus lawrencii</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>			
BedwellBayfront 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.

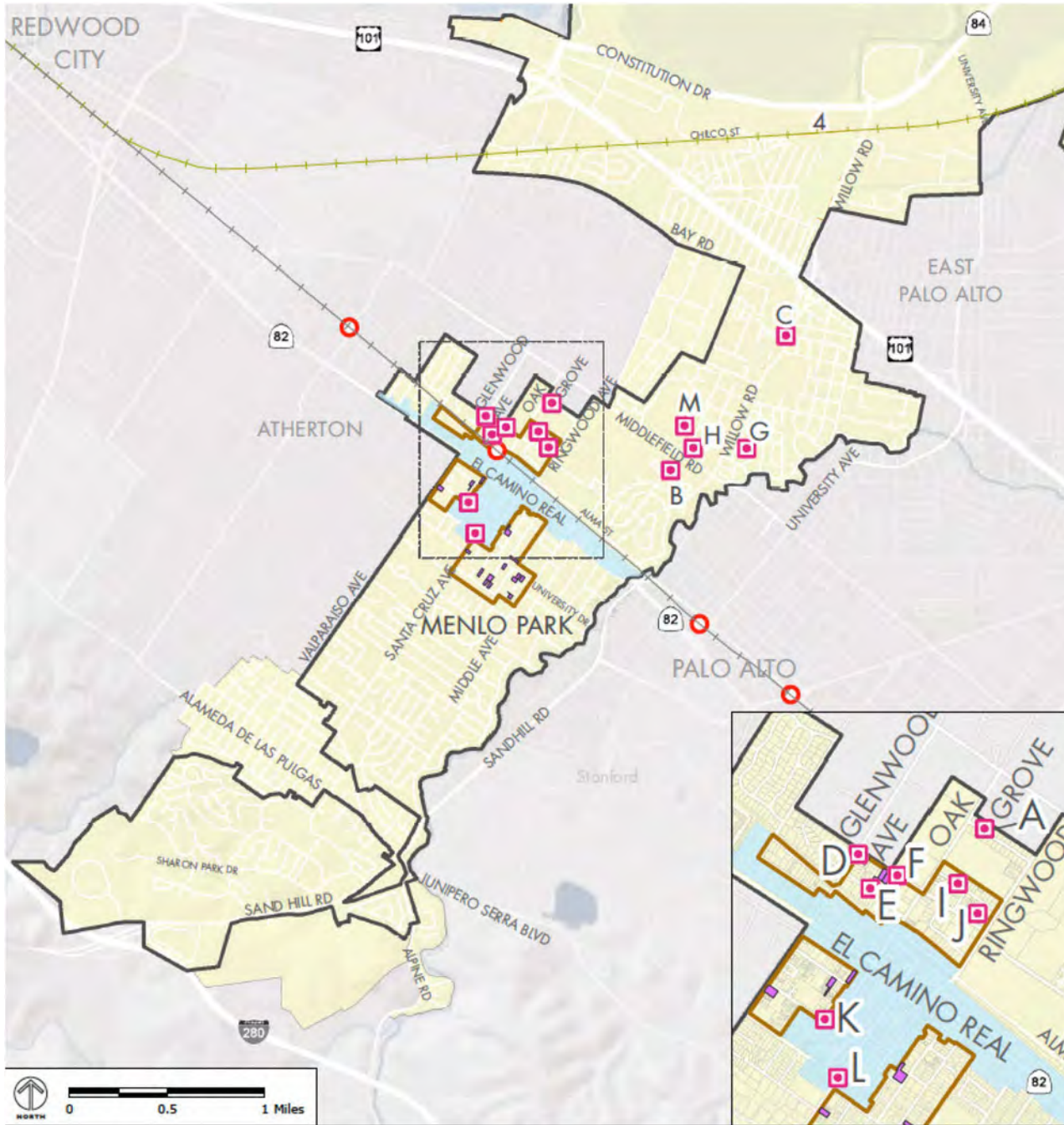
In 1769 Spanish rule was introduced to the area when the exploration party led by Don Gaspar de Portola camped near "El Palo Alto" after their momentous discovery of San Francisco Bay. The colonizing of the Peninsula began after the expedition of Juan Bautista DeAnza passed through Menlo Park on its 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
- El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan
- City Limits
- Sphere of Influence

### 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**

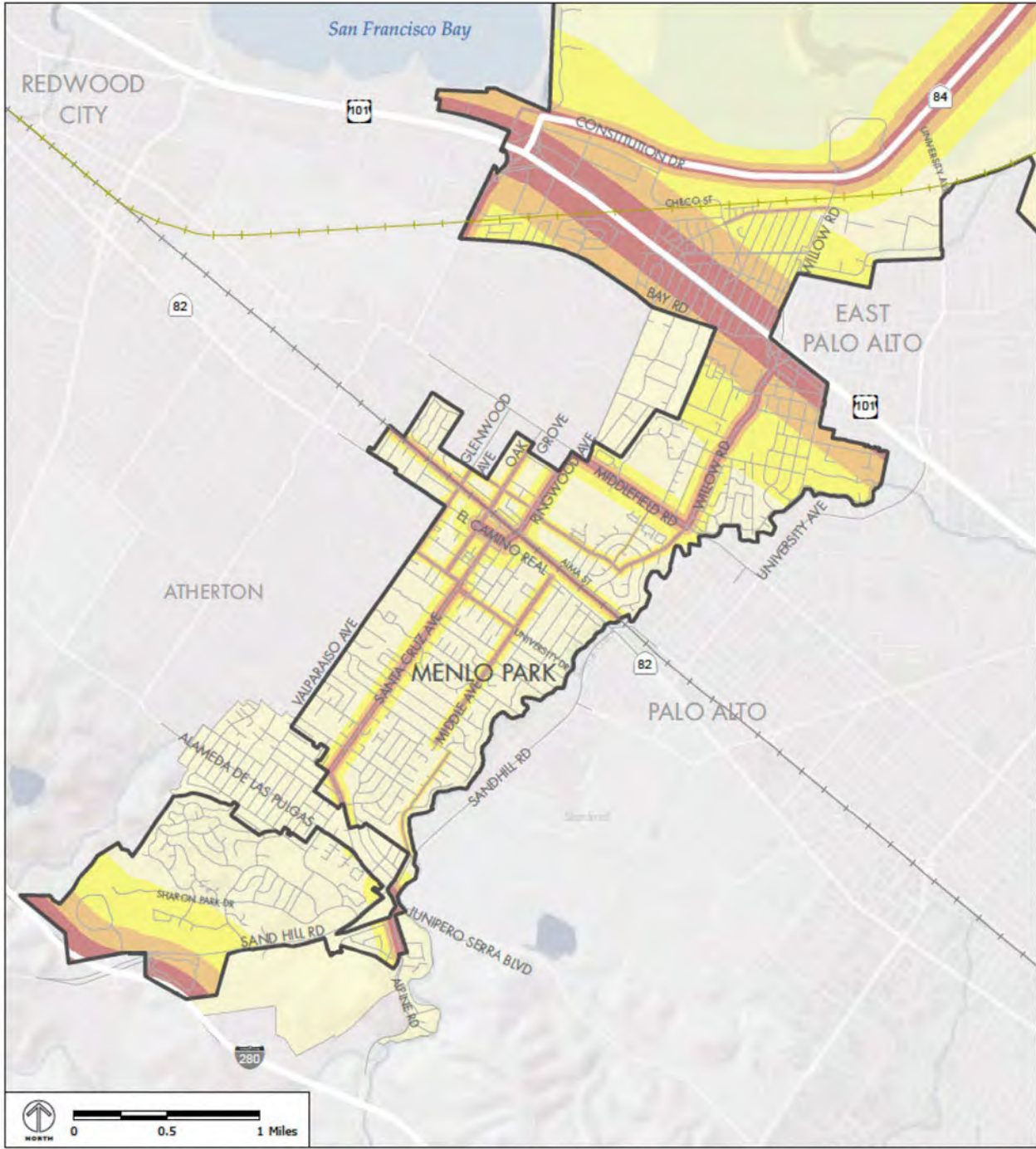
## Roadways

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)**

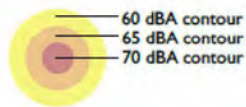
<b>Roadway</b>	<b>Segment</b>	<b>Existing</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Haven Ave	City Limits-Bayfront Expwy/Marsh Rd	62.6	64.5	1.9
Marsh Rd	Bay Rd-Bohannon Dr/Florence St	70.4	72.6	2.2
Marsh Rd	Bohannon Dr/Florence St-Scott Dr	71.2	73.3	2.1
Hamilton Ave	Chilco St-Willow Rd	59.8	62	2.1
Willow Rd	Laurel 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.

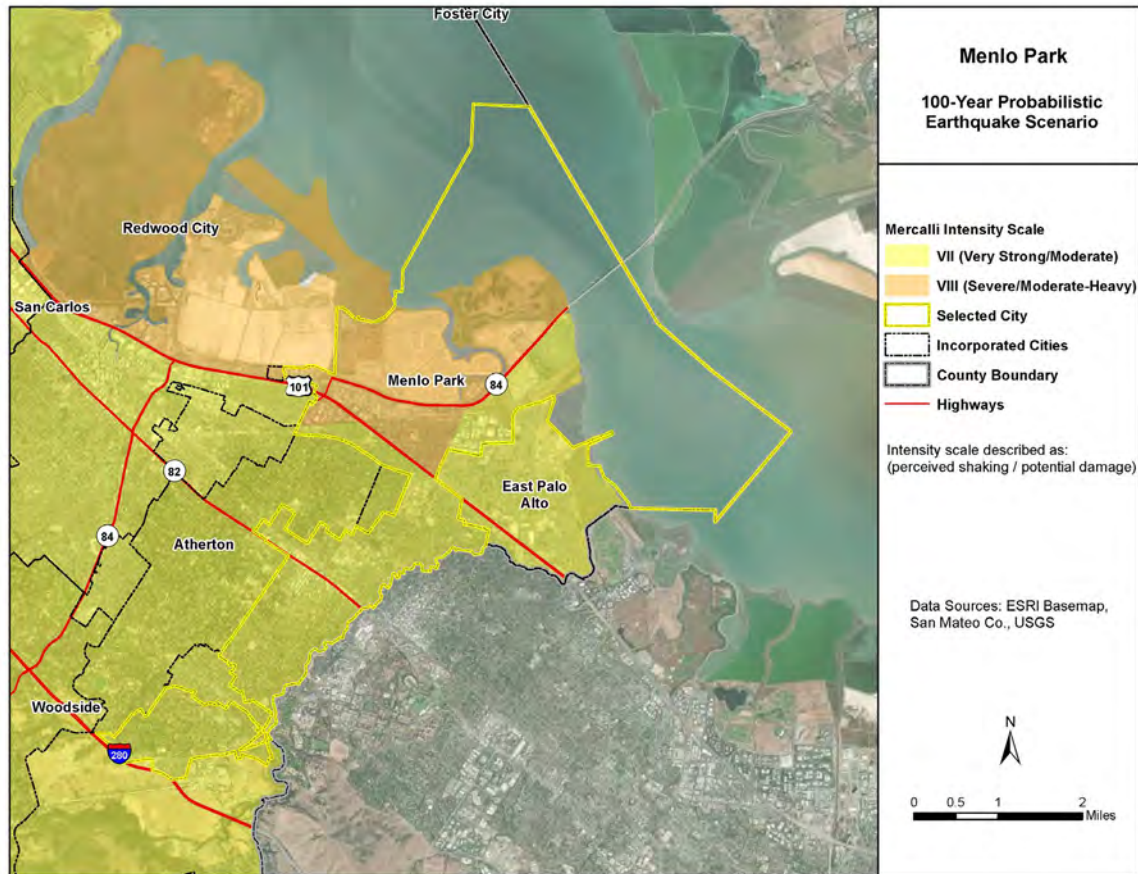
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<sup>6</sup> “Soft-story residential buildings are those that have open parking or commercial space on the first floor and housing on higher floors. In an earthquake, ground shaking causes such structures to sway and sometimes to collapse.”; “Soft 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.

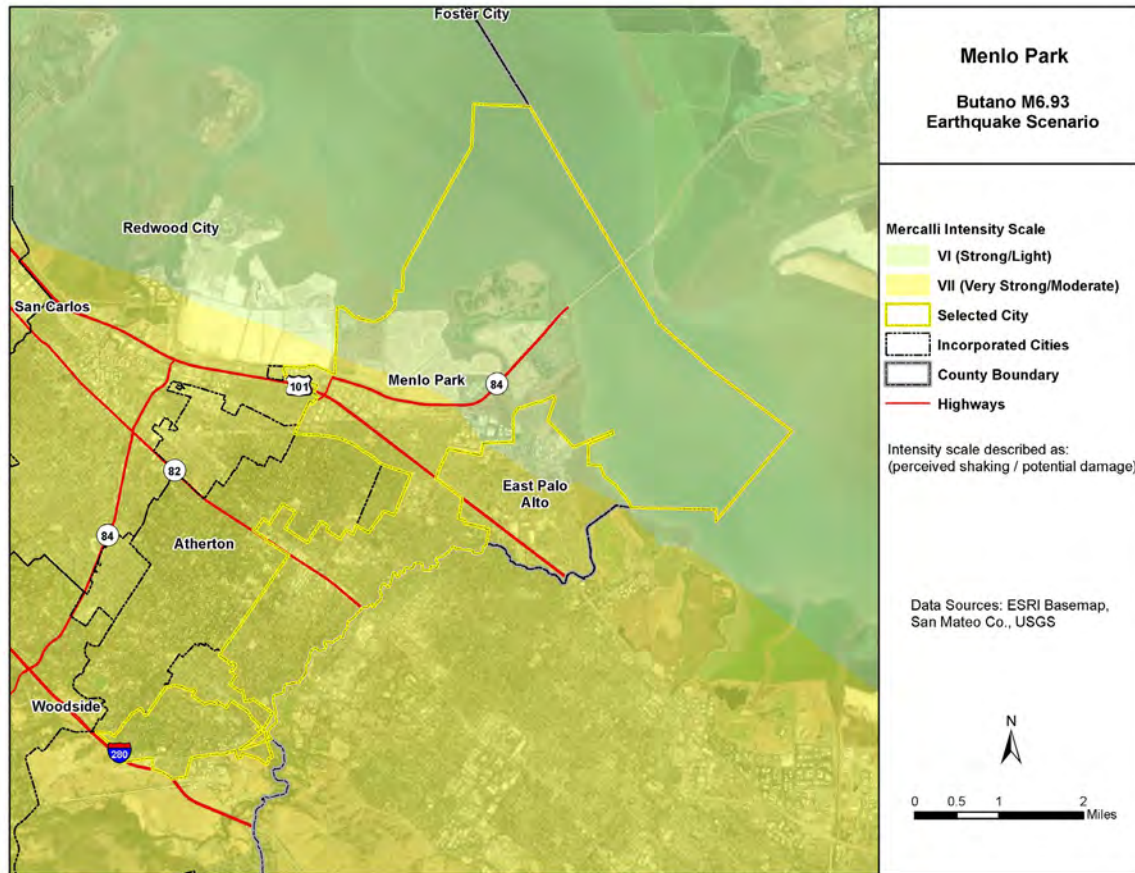
**Figure S-1. 100-year Probabilistic Earthquake Scenario**



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.

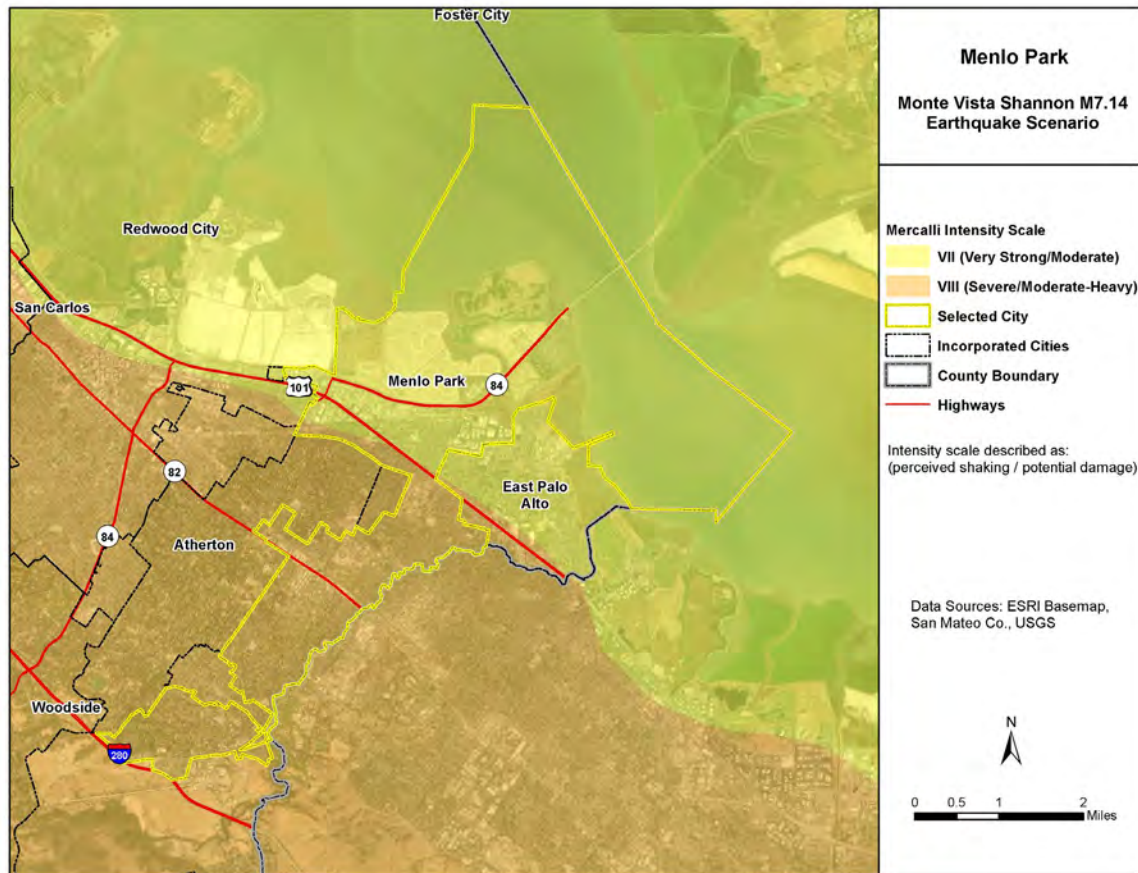
**Figure S-2. Butano Earthquake Scenario**



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.

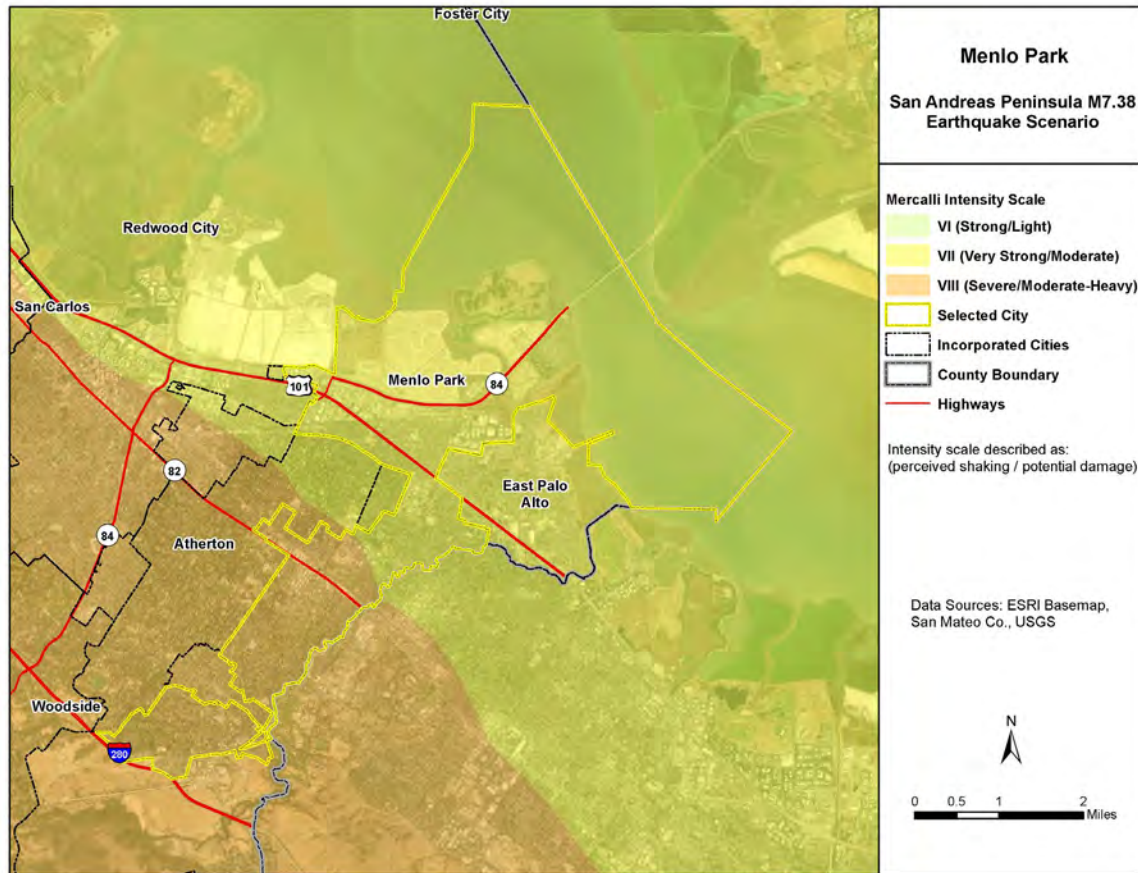
**Figure S-3. Monte Vista Shannon Earthquake Scenario**



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.

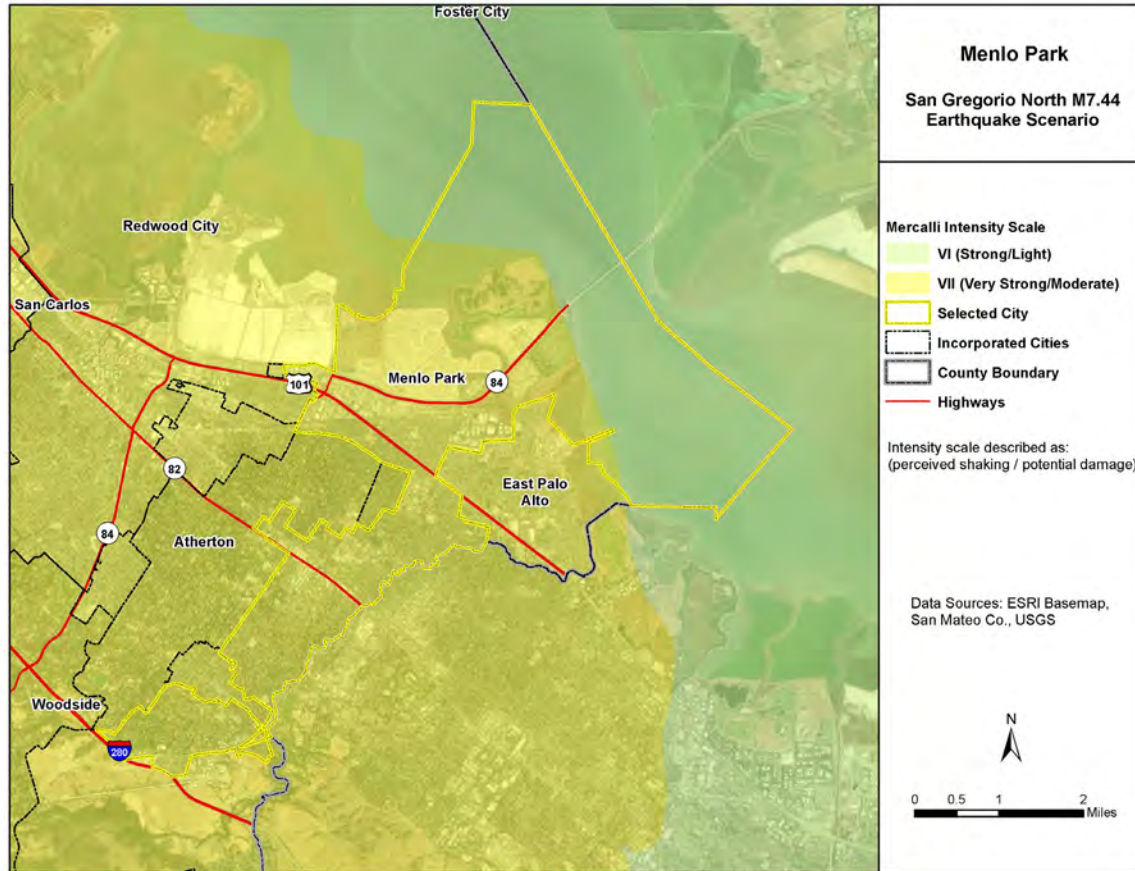
**Figure S-4. San Andreas Peninsula Earthquake Scenario**



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**

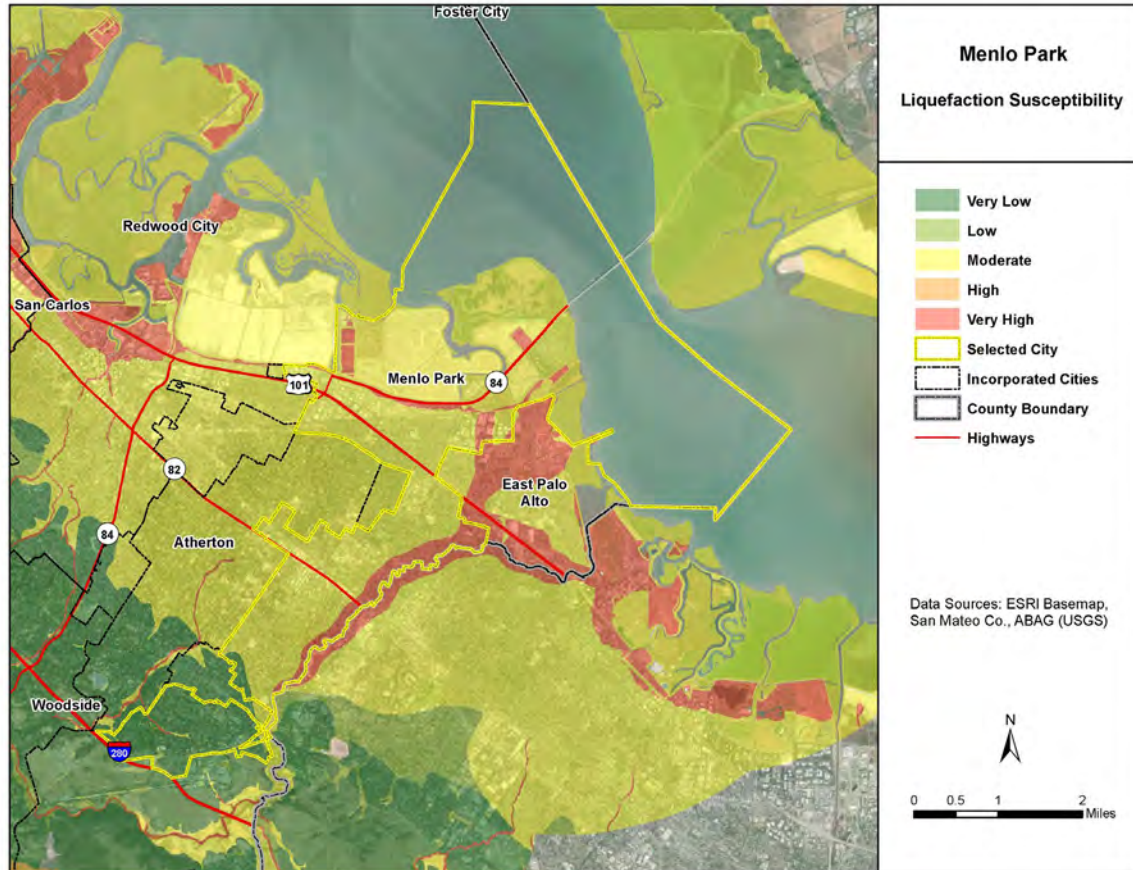


Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes



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).

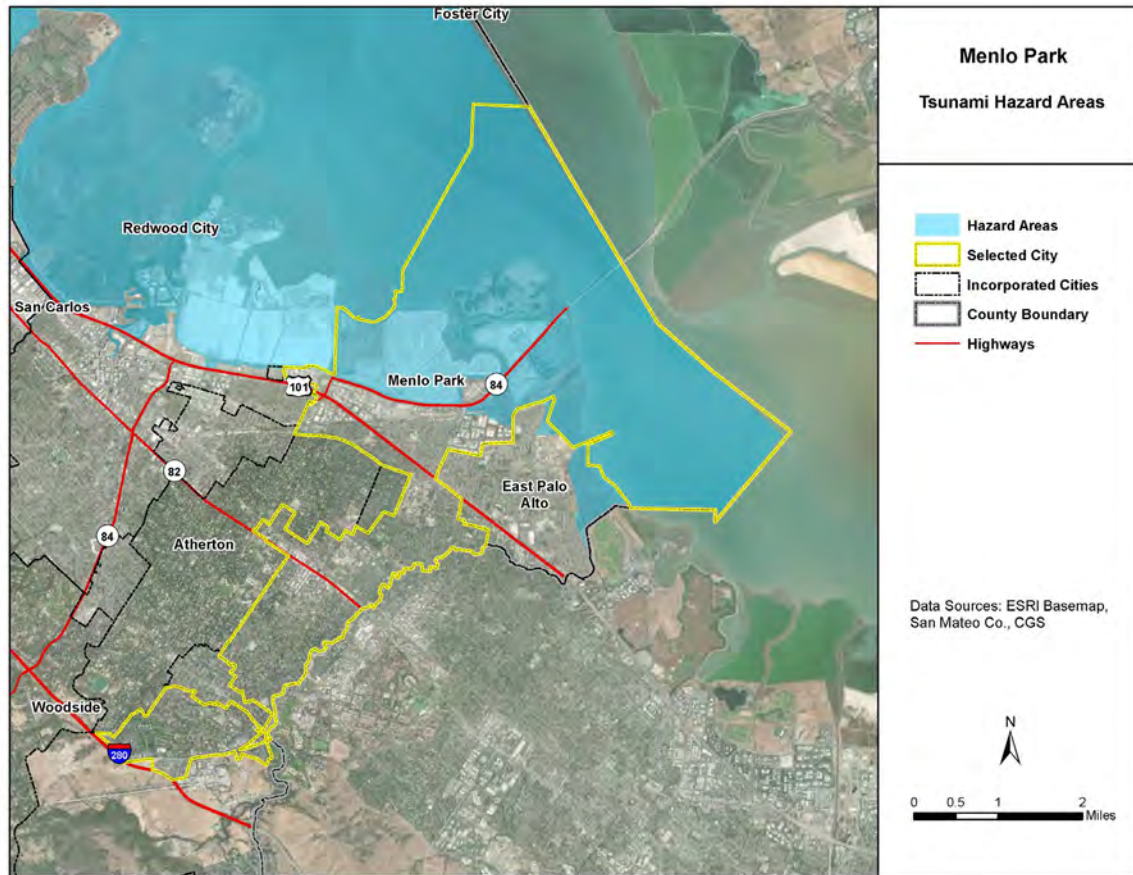
**Figure S-6. Liquefaction Susceptibility**



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

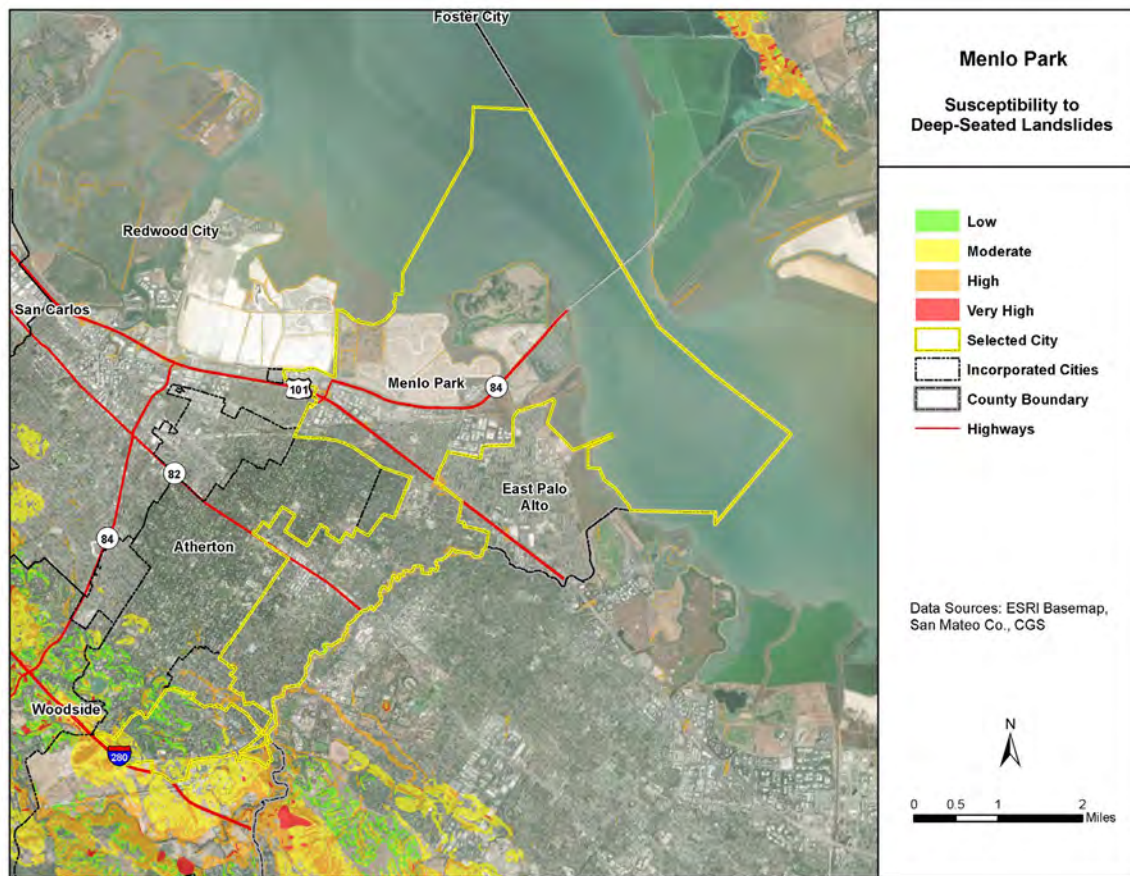
that influence the probability of a landslide and its relative level of risk include the following:

- (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**

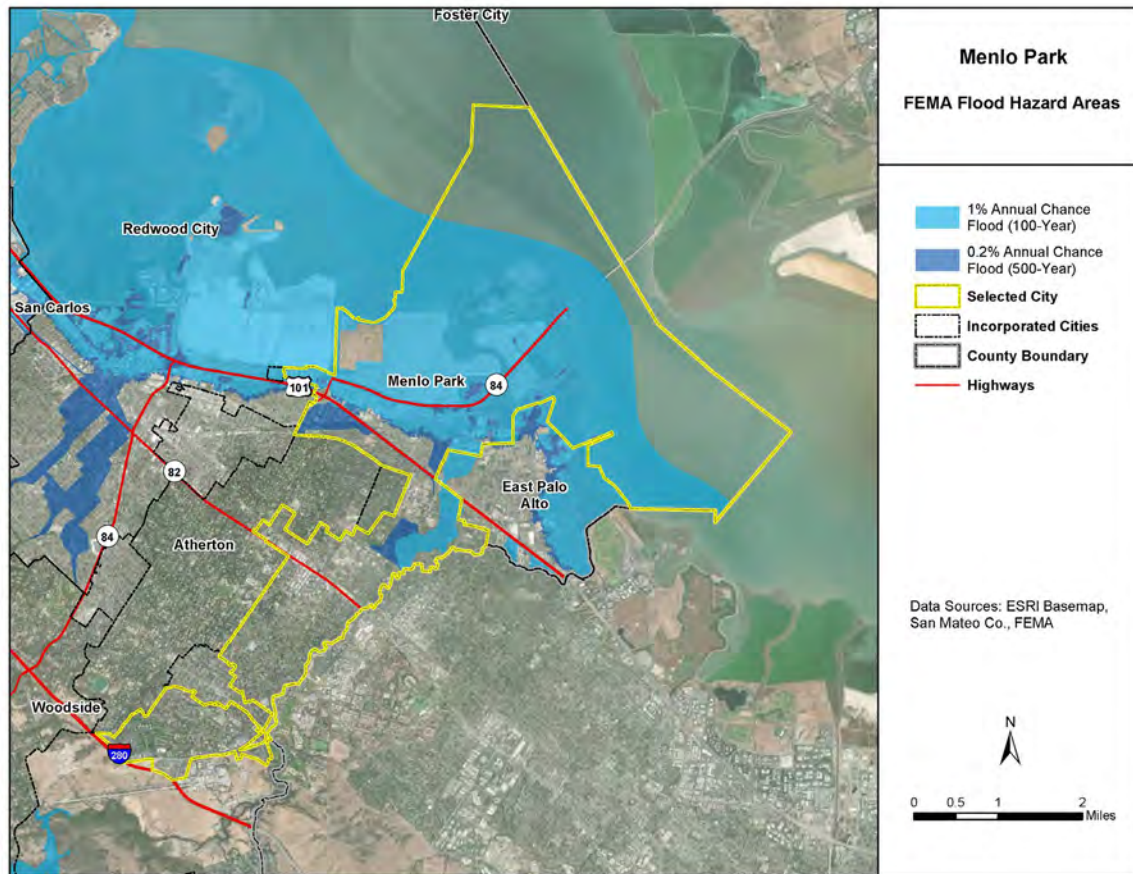
FEMA prepares maps of the 100-year flood hazard area of U.S. communities. Areas within the 100-year flood hazard area have a one percent risk of flooding in any given year. Maps are also available for 500-year floods, which mean that in any given year, the risk of flooding in the designated area is 0.2 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**

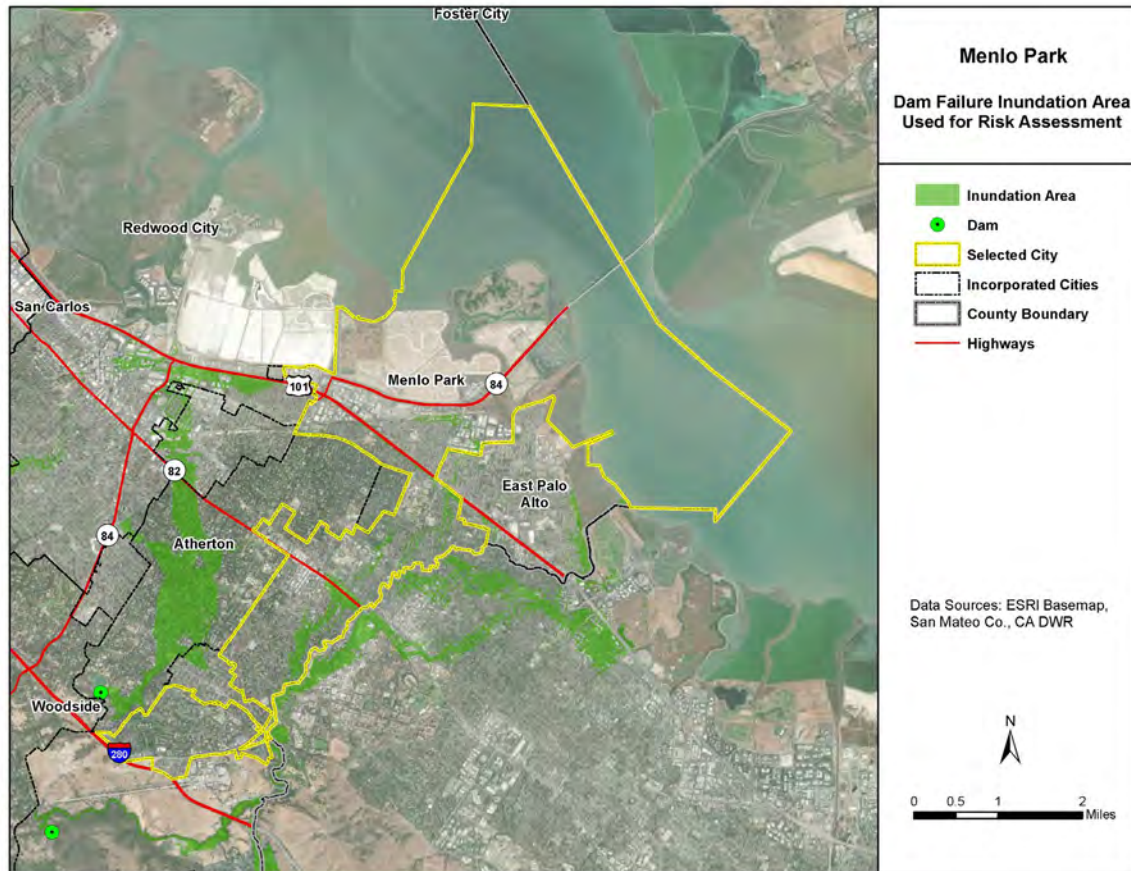


Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

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.

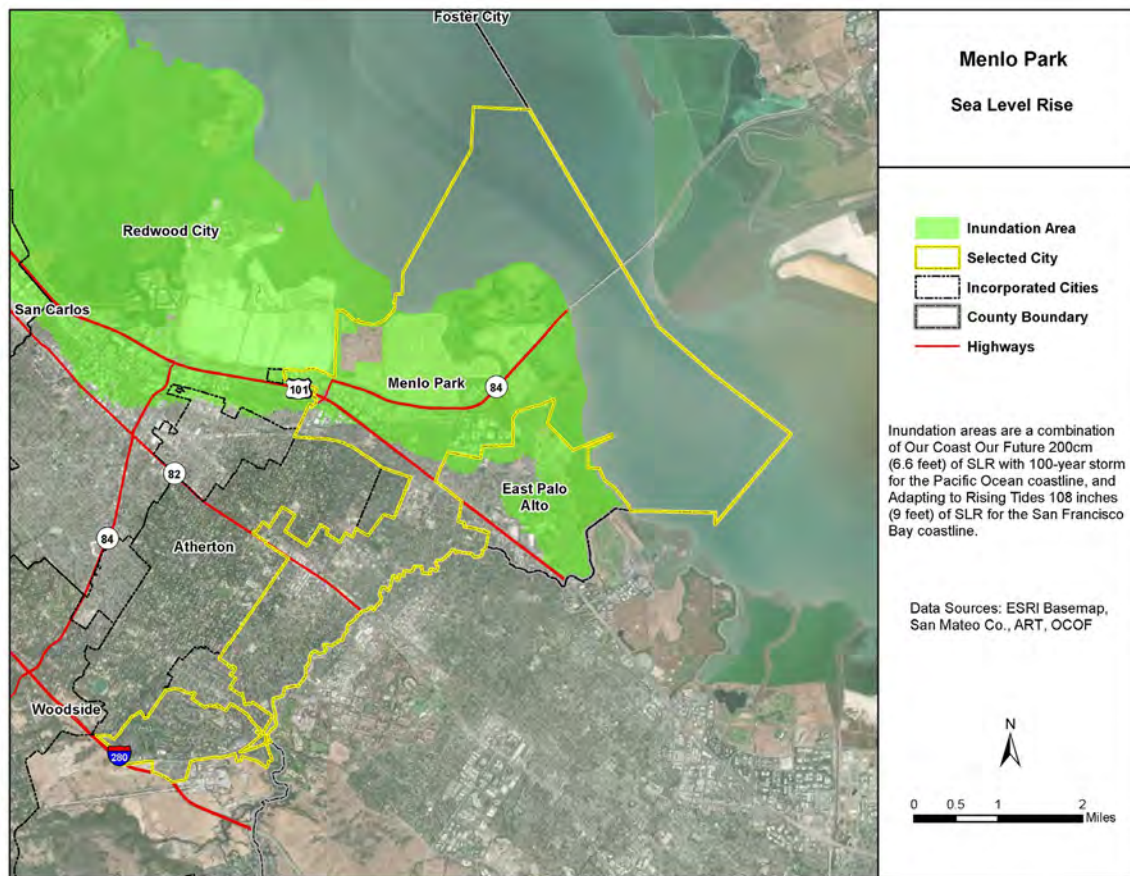
The MJLHMP estimates that Menlo Park currently has 998 structures at risk of inundation due to sea level rise, and 4,576 residents living in areas at risk.<sup>8</sup> The MJLHMP additionally estimates that 38 critical facilities are at risk of inundation in the city due to sea level rise including facilities 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**

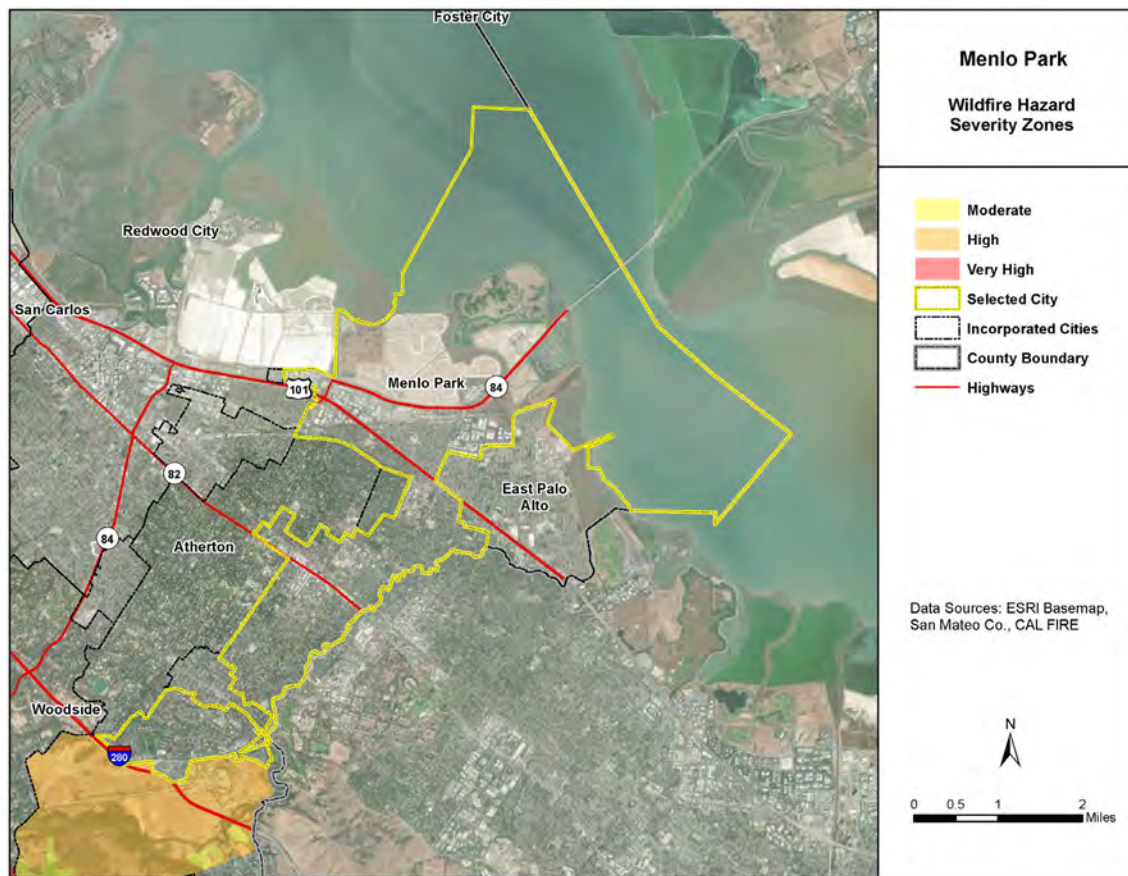


Source: County of San Mateo, 2021 Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Volume 2 Planning Partner Annexes

## **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.

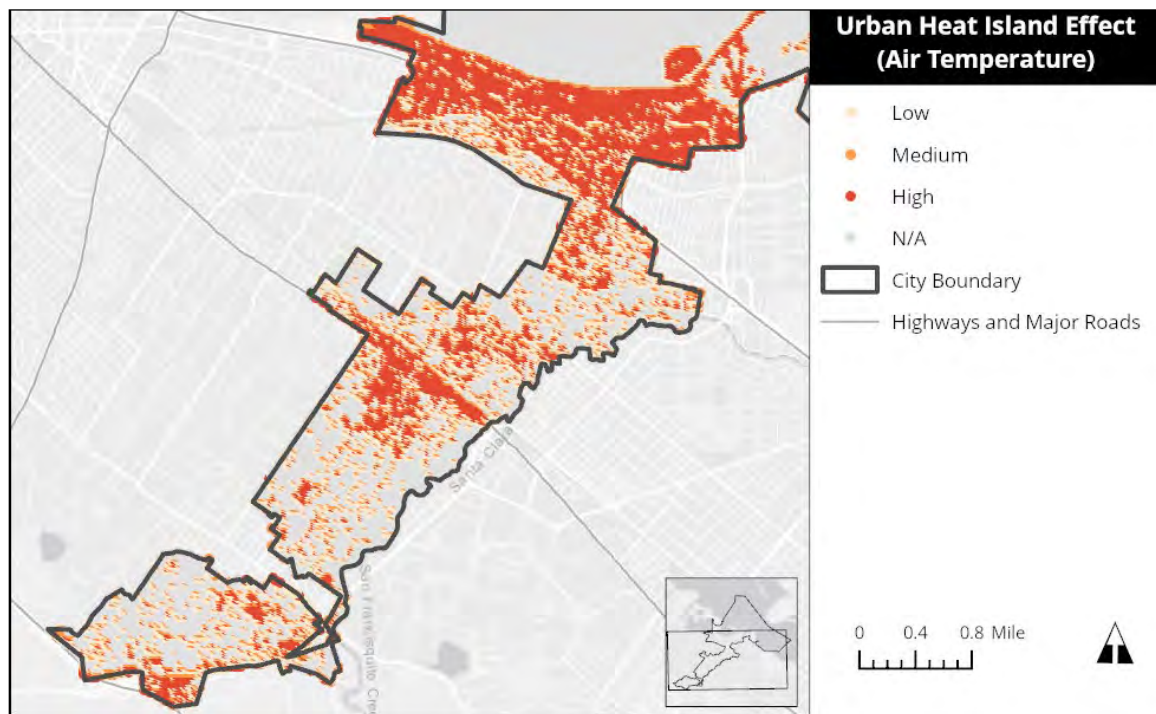
Heat waves can pose increased health risks due to urban heat islands and lack of cooling infrastructure. An urban heat island occurs in urban areas that experience



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>.

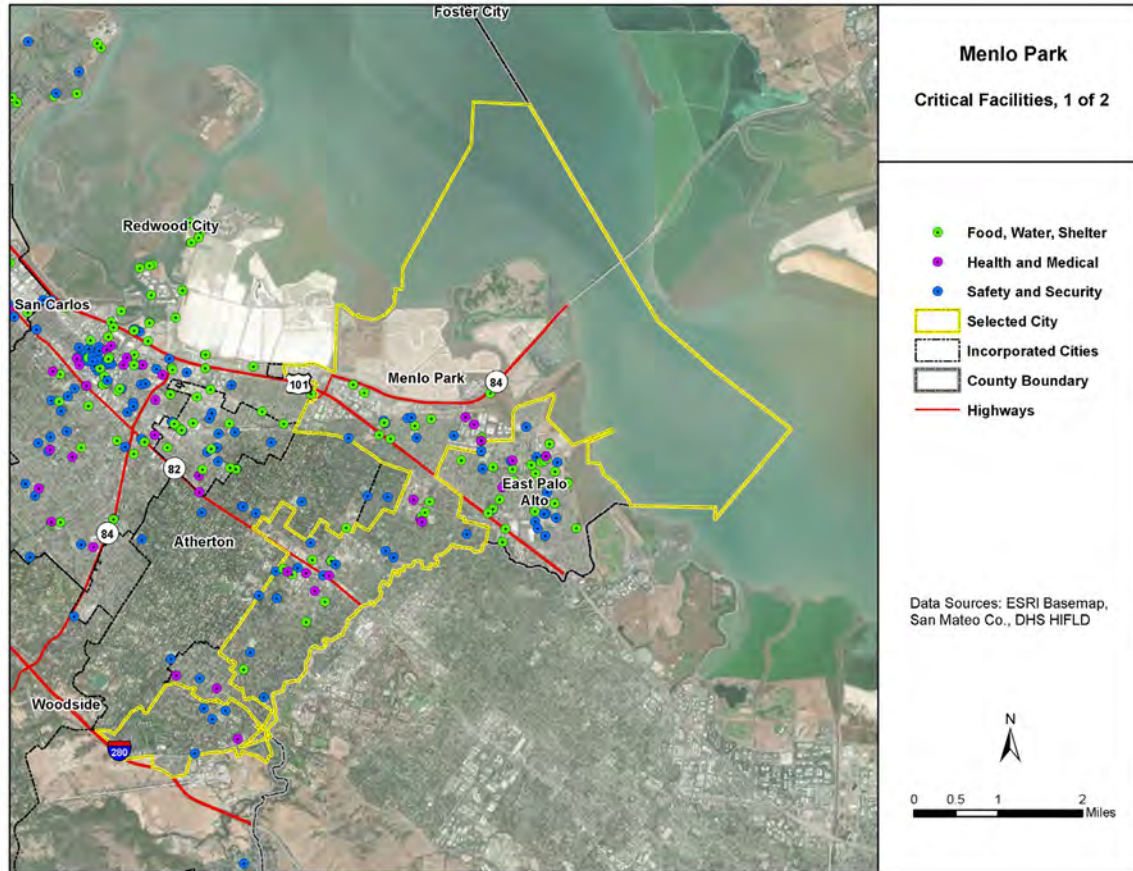
### Vulnerable Facilities

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.

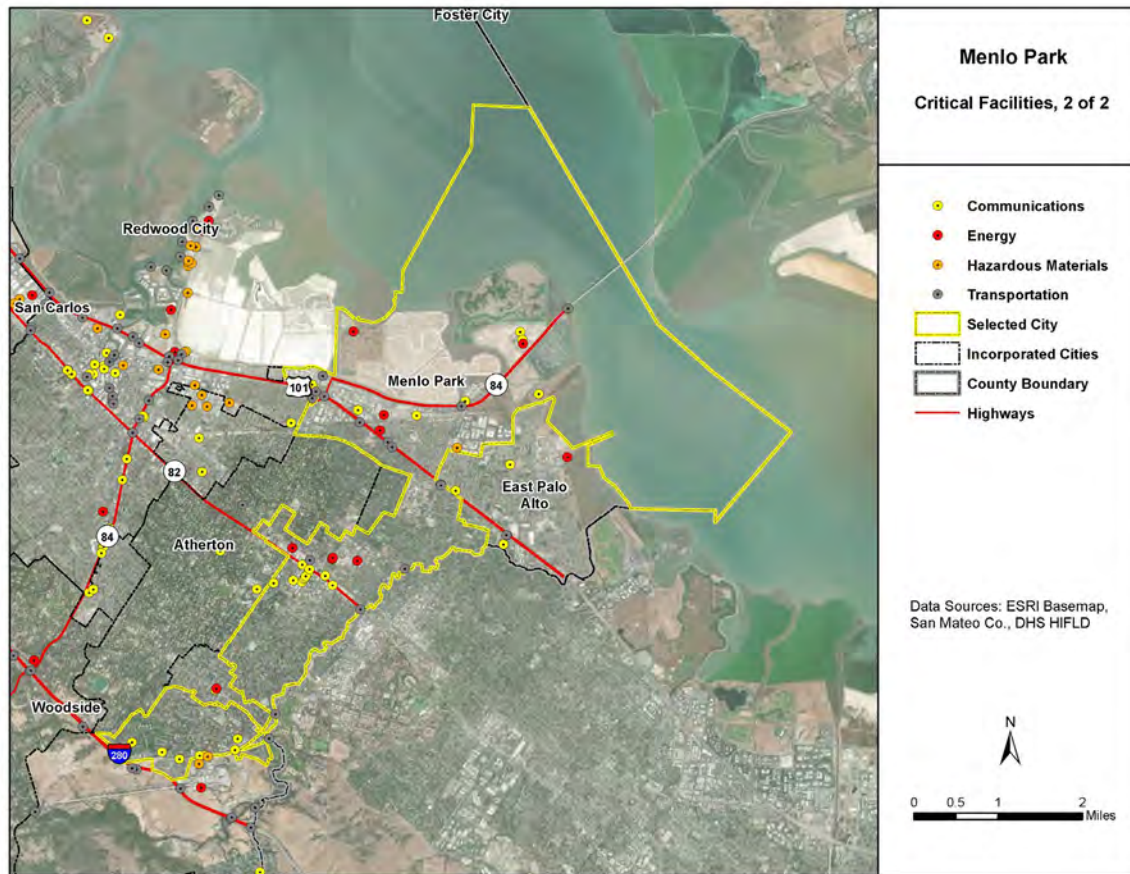
Medical Center, and Nealon Park Little House and Nursery School (see Figure S-14 and Figure S-15).

**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: 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).

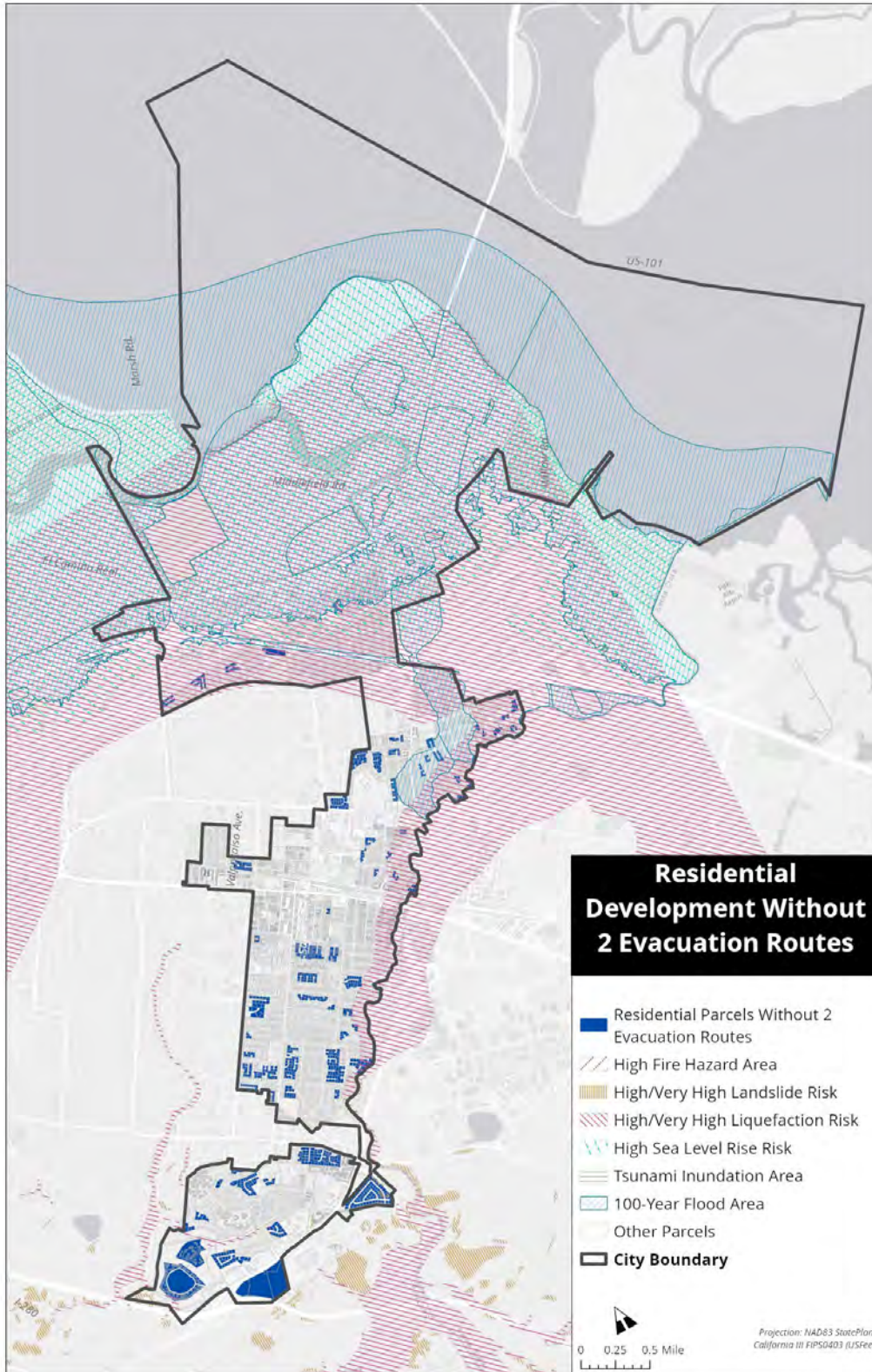
Per Government Code Section 65302.15, amended following the adoption of AB 1409 in 2021, upon the next revision of a local hazard mitigation plan on or

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	Included reference to AB 1628 (2019), which enhanced previous state law on environmental justice.	<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 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 EJ15 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 Area 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

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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>								

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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>								
<i>EJ2.1</i>	<i>Prioritize pollution reduction, air quality (both indoor and outdoor), and water quality programs to reduce inequitable exposure in underserved communities.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>EJ2.2</i>	<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>	<i>Policy</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>EJ2.3</i>	<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>	<i>Policy</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>EJ2.4</i>	<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>	<i>Policy</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>EJ2.5</i>	<i>Work with Caltrans on improvements on State-owned rights of way.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>EJ2.6</i>	<i>When updating or installing transportation infrastructure, consider factors such as stormwater management, Universal Design Principles and attractive green roadway design.</i>	<i>Policy</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>

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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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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

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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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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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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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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>								
<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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<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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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



# 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.