



**Monrovia Focused General
Plan Update**

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

ADOPTED NOVEMBER 1, 2022

(RESOLUTION No. 2022-52)

Table of Contents

I. Introduction 1

- A. Legal Requirements 1
- B. Scope and Content of the Environmental Justice Element 1
- C. Relationship to Other General Plan Elements 2
- D. Public Participation 2
 - i. Online Survey 2
 - ii. Community Workshops 3

II. Environmental Justice Background 4

- A. Environmental Justice Communities 4

III. Environmental Justice Issues in Monrovia 8

- A. Ethnicity/Race 8
- B. Population Characteristics 8
- C. Pollution Burden 10
- D. Health and Wellness 13
- E. Food Access 15
- F. Physical Activity and Park Access 17

IV. Goals, Policies, and Programs 19

List of Figures

Figure 1: City of Monrovia and Sphere of Influence Census Tracts 6

Figure 2: Environmental Justice Communities 7

Figure 3: Healthy Food Access Map 16

Figure 4: Park Access Map 18

List of Tables

Table 1: CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Analysis 5

Table 2: Housing and Population Proximity to Industrial Uses and Freeways 12

Table 3: Healthy Places Index Indicators Percentile Scores 14

Table 4: Healthy Places Index Score for Surrounding Cities 15

I. Introduction

Environmental justice is defined as 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 regulations and policies implemented by local agencies. Fair treatment means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, and commercial operations and policies.

Equity is grounded in principles of justice and fairness, focused on creating a society in which everyone can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. Equitable outcomes come about when smart, intentional strategies are put in place to ensure that everyone can participate in and benefit from decisions that shape their neighborhoods and regions.

A. Legal Requirements

In 2016, Senate Bill 1000 amended Government Code Section 63502 to require that both cities and counties that have disadvantaged communities, incorporate environmental justice (EJ) policies into their general plans – a long-term document that sets out how the community will grow and develop over time. These environmental justice policies and components could be integrated into several sections of the General Plan or created on its own as a chapter in the General Plan, the City of Monrovia has decided to create a chapter dedicated to addressing the goals, policies, and objectives for addressing environmental justice in the community.

B. Scope and Content of the Environmental Justice Element

The Environmental Justice Element contains a comprehensive set of goals and policies aimed to increase the role and influence of historically marginalized the populations and reducing their exposure to environmental and health hazards. This element is structured as follows:

- a. **Background:** A discussion of environmental justice principles and methodology for identifying Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) known in this element as the Environmental Justice Communities. Monrovia has one identified Environmental Justice Community: Census Tract 4311.
- b. **Environmental Issues:** An evaluation of baseline (2021) environmental issues within the Environmental Justice Community and surrounding communities, including pollution burden, employment and educational attainment, health and wellness, food insecurity, and park access.
- c. **Goals, Policies and Programs:** The goals, policies, and programs describe how the City of Monrovia will incorporate environmental justice into decision making and support positive outcomes for affected residents.

C. Relationship to Other General Plan Elements

State law requires that the General Plan and all individual elements collectively form an “integrated, comprehensive set of goals and policies aimed at internally consistent, and compatible statement of policies.” The goals, policies, and programs of this Environmental Justice Element are consistent with and build upon the goals, policies, and programs contained in other elements of the Monrovia General Plan.

D. Public Participation

i. Online Survey

The Environmental Justice Element survey was promoted extensively through the City’s online and “live” communication channels including email communications to stakeholders, a mass mailing of a postcard to residents and businesses within the identified Environmental Justice Community, social media alerts, City’s website, a video advertisement aired during the Monrovia Area Partnership annual Neighborhood Conference, and oral announcements made during Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Commission meetings. The survey was the second of two public surveys that the city administered, the first relating to the Housing and Safety Element. Information about the survey was distributed by mail to each business and residence in the Environmental Justice neighborhood and through emails and other social media networks for the city as a whole. The survey was provided in both English and Spanish. The survey had 21 questions, related to pollution and socioeconomic burdens that the community faces. The survey period ran from April 15, 2021 through May 6, 2021. In total, 149 participants submitted surveys – 100 responded to all 21 survey questions, and 49 responded to one or more questions but not all.

When asked about the environment, the survey respondents indicated the following concerns:

- Air pollution from vehicles and trucks
- Access to quality jobs and liable wages
- Access to health care
- Difficulty finding safe housing

The survey respondents also identified the following suggestions or concerns:

Suggestions

- Increase housing density for near public transportation
- Improving public transportation infrastructure
- More electric vehicle charging stations
- Housing assistance programs
- Homeless services

Concerns

- Condition of local parks and amenities
- Air pollution from businesses and industry
- Unsafe drinking water and need for more frequent testing
- Linguistic isolation/barriers
- Lack of access to quality jobs and livable wages

ii. Community Workshops

On April 29, 2021, two community workshops were held to discuss the City of Monrovia's new Environmental Justice Element. The workshops were advertised through presentations to local community groups and local decision makers, direct mailing to each residence and business in the Environmental Justice Community, mailings to interested organizations and individuals, and social media blasts. The workshops' design and content were identical; one workshop was conducted in English and the second was to be conducted in Spanish. The workshops' purpose was to gather input regarding environmental and health issues within the community. The workshop provided an overview of the Environmental Justice Element and the environmental and health issues that impact Monrovia, particularly the Environmental Justice Community (also known as a Disadvantaged Community). Monrovia's Environmental Justice Community is Census Tract 4311. The workshop sought participant input regarding challenges and solutions facing the community. Given restrictions on public gatherings imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, both workshops were conducted using Zoom, the workshop presentation and participants' comments were recorded and are made available on the City's website.

The workshops provided residents with contextual information regarding the Environmental Justice element requirements, environmental justice technical analyses, and a brief overview on the concurrent updates to the Housing and Safety elements. The workshops asked participants, through a series of interactive polling questions, about five strategy categories:

- Climate Resiliency
- Park Access and Active Living
- Access to Healthy Foods
- Community Services
- Civic Engagement

Topics mentioned during the workshop include:

- Air pollution from vehicles and trucks
- Prioritizing installation of green infrastructure
- Linguistic isolation/barriers
- Housing assistance programs
- Healthy foods campaigns
- Park amenities and conditions
- Partnerships with community organizations
- Bike amenities
- Community gardens

II. Environmental Justice Background

Environmental Justice relates to the fair treatment of all people with respect to environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Environmental Justice has also been described as the right for people to live, work, and play in a community free of environmental hazards, that pose great risks to their health and wellness. The State of California 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 laws, regulations, and policies,” California Government Code section 65040. 12(e).

A. Environmental Justice Communities

The state of California defines “disadvantaged communities” (or “environmental justice communities”), as those communities that are disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution and with population characteristics that make them more sensitive to pollution. As a result, they are more likely to suffer from a lower quality of life and increased health problems than more affluent areas.

To identify disadvantaged communities within a city, the California Environmental Protection Agency encourages the use of the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 model. CalEnviroScreen 3.0: Criteria for environmental conditions in the case of pollution burden indicators, as well as health and vulnerability factors for characteristic population indicators. Each Census Tract in the state gets a combined score indicating the cumulative impact of pollution burdens and population characteristics that demonstrate their vulnerabilities:

- a. Pollution Burden: Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation; and
- b. Population Characteristics: Areas with concentrations of people with low incomes, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, low levels of educational attainment, and/or are sensitive populations (e.g., disabled individuals, seniors, and emancipated foster youth).

Table 1 summarizes the indicators used in the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 analysis. Figure 1 illustrates the City of Monrovia and its Sphere of Influence Census Tracts. Figure 2 illustrates the Environmental Justice Communities (Disadvantaged Communities).

Table 1: CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Analysis

Pollution Burdens	
<p>Exposure Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ozone concentrations in air ▪ PM 2.5 concentrations in air ▪ Diesel particulate matter emissions ▪ Drinking water contaminants ▪ Use of certain high-hazard, high volatility pesticides ▪ Toxic releases from facilities ▪ Traffic density 	<p>Environmental Effect Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Toxic cleanup sites ▪ Groundwater threats from leaking underground storage sites and cleanups ▪ Hazardous waste facilities and generators ▪ Impaired water bodies ▪ Solid waste sites and facilities
Population Characteristics	
<p>Sensitive Population Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Asthma emergency department visits ▪ Cardiovascular disease (emergency department visits for heart attacks) ▪ Low birth weight infants 	<p>Socioeconomic Factor Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educational attainment ▪ Housing burdened low-income households ▪ Linguistic isolation ▪ Poverty ▪ Unemployment

Source: California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen 3.0), Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), 2017.

Figure 1: City of Monrovia and Sphere of Influence Census Tracts

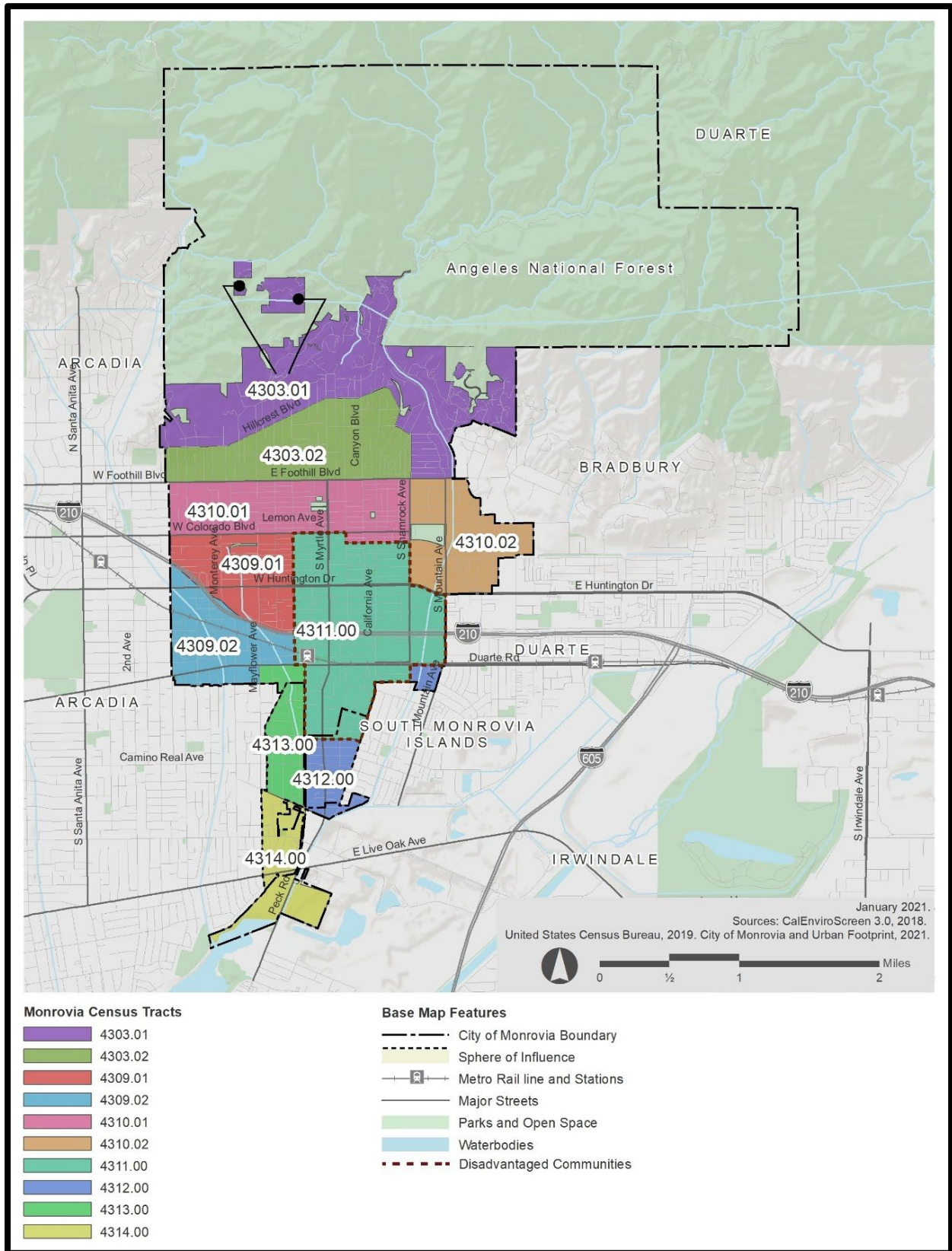
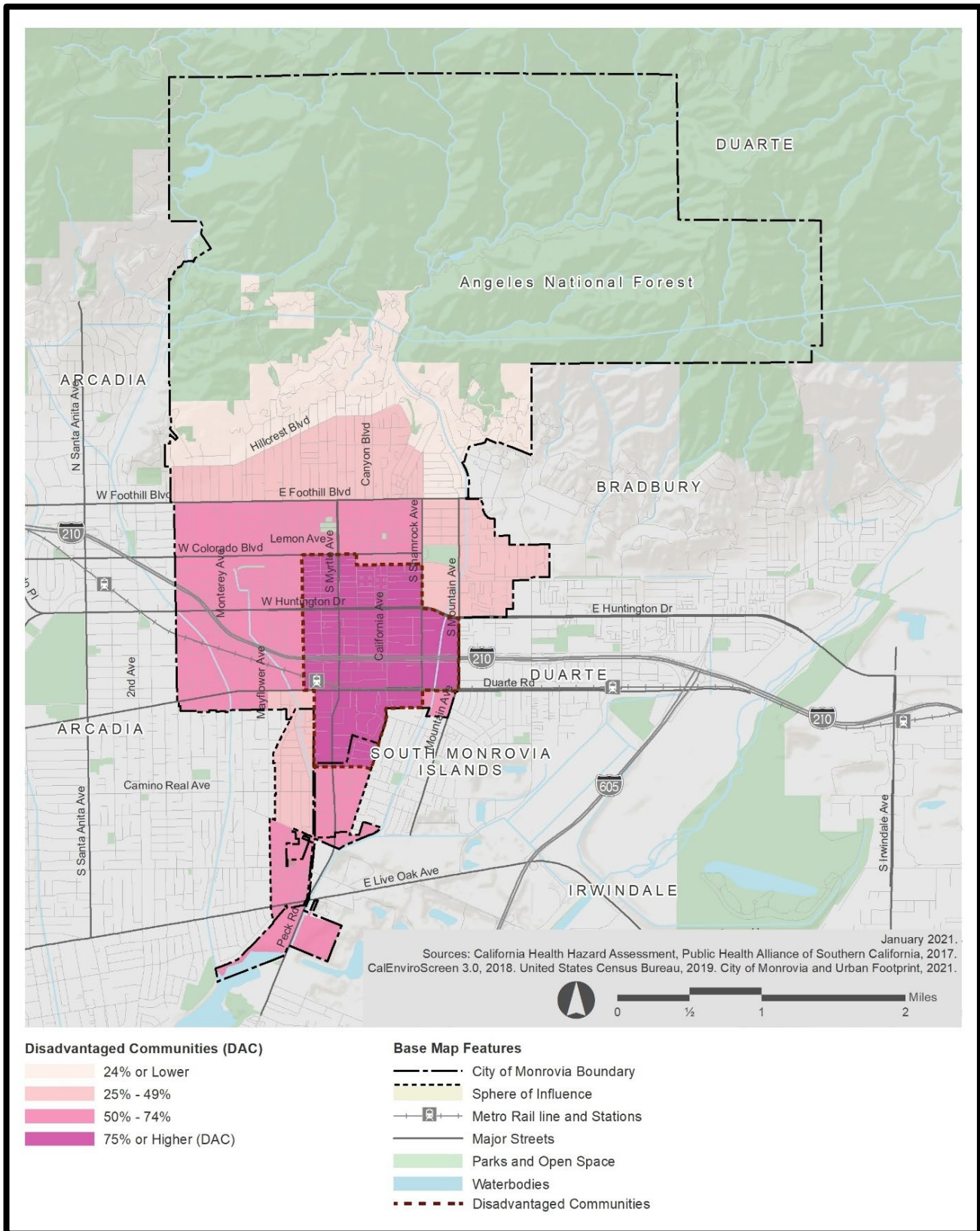


Figure 2: Environmental Justice Communities



III. Environmental Justice Issues in Monrovia

The City of Monrovia is confronted with a variety of environmental, socioeconomic, and health issues, that significantly impact the environmental justice communities. Figure 1 illustrates the CalEnviroScreen scores for each of the City of Monrovia and its Sphere of Influence Census Tracts. A “disadvantaged community” or an environmental justice community is one that scores in the 75th percentile or higher. CalEnviroScreen identifies one Census Tract, 4311, as scoring in the 75th percentile or higher.

Disadvantaged Communities. There are several Census Tracts within the City of Monrovia that rank in the higher percentile of the various pollution indicators, but overall, only one Census Tract (Tract 4311.00) has an aggregate amount of pollution burdens that designate it as a disadvantaged community.

Census Tract 4311.00 is traversed by Myrtle Avenue, Huntington Drive, Interstate 210, and the L Line tracks. Within the Census Tract is “Old Town Monrovia”, City Hall and Public Library, Station Square Transit Village, and Monrovia’s L Line Station. Residential units, local retail, and office spaces are concentrated in the northernmost area of the Census Tract while some homes, a variety of manufacturing facilities, retail spaces, and a rail yard are in the southern portion. In 2010, the Census Tract’s population was 6,520 with an estimated of 2,049 residential units.

A. Ethnicity/Race

In 2020, the City of Monrovia had a population of 37,935. The city is predominantly Hispanic and White, with Hispanic and Latino residents making up 41% of the population, while White residents made up 34% of the population. Monrovia has become more racially and ethnically diverse over the years. When compared with Los Angeles County at large, Monrovia has proportionately fewer Hispanic residents (41 percent compared to 48 percent) and more White residents (34 percent compared to 26 percent). Since 2010, the Hispanic population in Monrovia has increased by four percentage points, while the White population has decreased by eight percentage points. Monrovia’s increase in residents (from 11 percent to 16 percent) identifying as Asian/Pacific Islander is consistent with the growing Asian population throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

B. Population Characteristics

The State of California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) identifies population characteristics, such as health conditions, community characteristics, and socioeconomic conditions, as measures to identify environmental justice communities. These characteristics are used because they may increase communities’ vulnerability to certain environmental pollution burdens resulting in health impacts such as asthma, low-birth weight, cardiovascular disease.

CalEnviroScreen measures the following indicators: asthma, low-birth weight, cardiovascular disease, education, linguistic isolation, poverty, unemployment, and housing burden. The following discussion presents those indicators which exceeded the 75th percentile in one or more Monrovia Census Tracts.

- a. **Low Birth Weight.** Babies who weigh less than 5½ pounds at birth (full term) are considered to have a low birth weight. Poor nutrition, lack of prenatal care, stress, and maternal smoking are known to increase the risk of having a low birth weight baby. Studies suggest that pollution could also be a factor. The California Department of Public Health collects information on where low birth weight infants are born in California. The indicator is the percentage of low weight births, averaged over the 2006-2012 period. Census Tract 4314.00 has a score of 84 in low birth weight, despite the Tract being primarily comprised of residential properties and not being near any industrial sites or freeways, that can create a higher pollution exposure.
- b. **Housing Burden.** Households with lower incomes may spend a larger proportion of their income on housing and may suffer from housing-induced poverty, which can lead to adverse health effects. The housing burden indicator measures the percent of households in a Census Tract that are both low income (making less than 80% of the county median family income) and severely burdened by housing costs (paying greater than 50% of their income to housing costs) during the 2009-2013 period. Low-income households paying more than 50% of their income on housing in the region are on the rise. Additional information on housing burden is available from the State of California Legislative Analyst's Office. Monrovia Census Tract 4310.02 is the only Tract to exceed the 75th percentile for housing burden with a score of 76.
- c. **Unemployment.** The U.S. Census Bureau considers people over 16 years old who are out of work, able to work, and looking for work as being unemployed. Unemployed figures do not include students, active-duty military, the retired, and people who have stopped looking for work. Stress from long-term unemployment can lead to chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, and can shorten a person's life. Residents in Census Tracts 4310.01 and 4310.02 face unemployment at a higher rate than the rest of the State for the 2011-2015 period. Additional information about unemployment and health is available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Health Policy Snapshot. Two Monrovia Census Tracts exceed a 75th percentile score; they are Tract 4310.01 (81st percentile) and 4310.02 (86th percentile).
- d. **Education.** Educational attainment measures the highest level of education that an individual has completed and is an important independent predictor of health. As a component of socioeconomic status, education is also related to the degree of indoor and outdoor pollution exposure. Studies have demonstrated that the likeliness of exposure to environmental pollutants was associated with educational attainment. Low educational attainment increases the likeliness of experiencing economic hardship, stress, and lack of social support and reduced access to medical care, which can significantly affect health.

In the City of Monrovia 89.7% of the population are 25 years of age or older and have a high school diploma or equivalent. A total of 37.4% have a bachelor's degree or higher (ACS 2019, 5-year estimate). Monrovia's population has a higher level of education, however, the CalEnviroScreen identified one Monrovia Census Tract, 4312.00, as exceeding the 75th percentile with a score of 81st percentile. This means that Census Tract 4312's education level is lower than 81 percent of all California Census Tracts.

- e. **Linguistic Isolation.** The inability to speak English well can have impacts on an individual's communication with service providers and their ability to perform daily social activities. People with limited English are less likely to have regular medical care and are more likely to report difficulty getting medical information or advice. Linguistic isolation is also an indicator of one's ability to participate in local politics and decision-making, as there is a disconnect between government and residents who are not well versed in English writing or speaking. In Monrovia, 43.3% of all residents speak a language other than English at home, according to the 2019 American Community Survey. CalEnviroScreen identifies one Census Tract, 4314.00, as exceeding the 75th percentile with a score of 81st percentile.

C. Pollution Burden

The pollution burden for each Census Tract is calculated by measuring the average of exposure and environmental effects to various pollutants. CalEnviroScreen evaluates the following topics: cleanup sites, hazardous waste, groundwater threats, solid waste facilities, toxic release inventory, Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5), traffic, diesel particulate matter, drinking water, ozone, impaired water bodies, and pesticides. The following discussion presents those indicators which exceeded the 75th percentile in one or more Monrovia Census Tracts.

- a. **Hazardous Waste.** Hazardous waste is potentially dangerous or harmful to human health and the environment. Potential health effects associated with living in proximity to hazardous waste processing and disposal sites include diabetes and cardiovascular disease. This indicator sums the number of permitted hazardous waste facilities and hazardous waste generators in each Census Tracts. The score also is based on how close a generator is to residential uses. Census Tracts 4310.01 (91st percentile), 4310.02 (94th percentile), and 4311.00 (94th percentile) score above the 75th percentile for this indicator
- b. **Groundwater Threats.** Hazardous chemicals can be stored in containers on land or in underground storage tanks. Common soil and groundwater pollutants include gasoline and diesel fuel, solvents, heavy metals, and pesticides. Leaks from containers and tanks can contaminate soil and pollute groundwater. This indicator is calculated by considering the number of groundwater cleanup sites as identified by the California Water Resources Board's Site Cleanup Program. Two Census Tracts have a percentage higher than the 75% threshold specified by CalEnviroScreen 3.0. These Tracts are 4310.02 (78th percentile) and 4311 (82nd percentile).

- c. **Solid Waste Sites and Facilities.** Solid waste sites and facilities are places where household garbage and similar kinds of waste are collected, processed, or stored. These include landfills and composting or recycling facilities. Solid waste disposal can release waste gases such as methane and carbon dioxide and may do so for decades after site closure. Exposure to landfill leachate, which is a liquid that has dissolved or entrained environmentally harmful substances into the environment, can have adverse impacts on reproductive and respiratory systems. Composting, recycling, and waste treatment facilities may produce odors, attract pests, and increase local truck traffic. CalEnviroScreen identified four Monrovia Census Tracts exceeding the 75th percentile. They are 4311(88th percentile), 4312 (93rd percentile), 4313 (83rd percentile), and 4314 (91st percentile). CalEnviroScreen identifies two sites contributing to solid waste pollution burdens in Census Tract 4311, Caltrans Monrovia Maintenance Limited Volume Transfer Operation and the Monrovia Recycling Allan Company. Census Tract 4312, 4313, and 4314 are all picking up pollution burdens from the nearby Irwindale Quarry.
- d. **Toxic Release Inventory.** Facilities that make or use toxic chemicals can release these chemicals into the air. Toxic Release Inventory is toxicity-weighted concentrations of modeled chemical releases to air from facility emissions and off-site incinerations as reported by industrial and federal facilities. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has additional information regarding toxic releases from facilities. All Monrovia Census Tracts are in proximity to facilities that handle toxic chemicals. The percentiles range from 76th (4303.01) to 89th (4312).
- e. **Traffic Density.** Heavy traffic is common in major cities, traffic density is used to represent the number of vehicles on the road in a specific area, resulting in human exposures to chemicals released into the air by the exhaust of vehicles. Major roadways have several effects on communities, including noise, vibration, and injuries. Exhaust fumes contain toxic chemicals that can damage DNA, cause cancer, make breathing difficult, and cause low weight and premature births. Children who live or go to schools near busy roads can have higher rates of asthma and other lung diseases. Table 2 demonstrates the proximity of residences to pollution sources such as freeways and industrial facilities. Three Tracts exceed the 75th percentile; they are 4309.01 (98th percentile), 4309.02 (98th percentile), and 4311 (84th percentile).

Table 2: Housing and Population Proximity to Industrial Uses and Freeways

Housing and Population Proximity to Industrial Uses and Freeways	City		Disadvantaged Communities (Census Tract 4311.00)	
	Housing Units	Population	Housing Units	Population
Proximity to Industrial Uses				
Located on the same site as an industrial use	106	327	42	141
Within 500 feet	3,150	9,060	1,670	4,935
Toxic Release Inventory				
Within 500 Feet	173	564	157	518
Within 1,000 Feet	953	2,981	603	1,928
Proximity to Freeways				
Within 500 Feet	1,132	3,073	540	1,427
Within 1,000 Feet	2,143	5,996	789	2,230

Source: City of Monrovia, Los Angeles County, MIG, Urban Footprint, 2020.

- f. **Drinking Water Contaminants.** Californians receive their water from a variety of sources and distribution systems. As such, drinking water varies with location, water sources, and treatment methods. Lower income and rural communities are disproportionately exposed to contaminants in their drinking water. Contaminants are introduced into water sources through natural occurrences, industrial releases, accidental contaminant spills, and runoff from agricultural or industrial facilities. This indicator is calculated using average contaminant concentrations over one compliance cycle; CalEnviroScreen 3.0 uses the period between 2005 and 2013. Therefore, those average drinking concentrations may not be representative of current concentrations in treated drinking water. Additionally, Census Tracts can encompass multiple public drinking water systems, so scores may represent a combination of water contaminant data from several public drinking water systems and groundwater sources. In Monrovia, seven Census Tracts exceed the 75th percentile. They are 4303.01 (85th percentile), 4303.02 (84th percentile), 4309.01 (84th percentile), 4309.02 (84th percentile), 4310.01 (84th percentile), 4313 (90th percentile), and (4314 (90th percentile).
- g. **Impaired Water Bodies.** Stream, 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 waterbody. The indicator combines the number of pollutants in all water bodies designated as impaired in each

Census Tract. Census Tract 4314.00 (76th percentile) is the only Census Tract experiencing 75th percentile or above water body impairments.

D. Health and Wellness

A goal of most jurisdictions is its ability to keep residents healthy and safe. Residents' health and wellness is influenced by a variety of factors such as housing, education, the economy, and other social factors. This section uses the California Healthy Places Index (HPI) database which evaluates eight indicators representing 24 community characteristics with weighted scoring to create a single indexed Health Places Index. In contrast to the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 data, where higher percentiles equate to worse conditions, lower HPI percentiles equate to worse conditions. The HPI scores evaluate only at the City of Monrovia and look at the community as a whole as compared to other communities in California.

Table 3: Healthy Places Index Indicators Percentile Scores

Healthy Places Index Indicators and Community Characteristics	Monrovia Percentile
Economic (32% of HPI Score)	74.7
Above Poverty	64.6
Employed	83.8
Median Household Income	72
Education (19% of HPI Score)	76.7
Pre-School Enrollment	72.8
High School Enrollment	99.4
Bachelor’s Degree Attainment	69.9
Transportation (16% of HPI Score)	66.2
Active (Healthy) Commuting	55.8
Automobile Access	64.6
Social (10% of HPI Score)	37.4
Two-parent Household	47
Voting	30.3
Neighborhood (8% of HPI Score)	66
Retail Density	85.4
Supermarket Access	87.7
Park Access	77.1
Tree Canopy	52.4
Alcohol Establishments Availability	15.5
Healthcare Access (5% of HPI Score)	45.4
Insured Adults	45.4
Housing (5% of HPI Score)	42.3
Severe Housing Costs Burden	43.6
Homeownership	19.7
Housing Habitability	39.5
Uncrowded Housing	44.8
Clean Environment (5% of HPI Score)	25.8
Clean Air - Diesel PM	33.4
Clean Air - Ozone	33.4
Clean Air - PM _{2.5}	32.3
Safe Drinking Water – Contaminants	27.8
HPI Score for City of Monrovia	68.1

Source: The California Healthy Places Index (HPI), Public Health Alliance of Southern California, 2020.

Note: Lower percentiles equate to worse conditions when compared to the rest of the State.

The City of Monrovia’s HPI score of 68.1 means that Monrovia has healthier community conditions than roughly 68% of other California cities. Monrovia scores better than 50% of California cities in factors such as Economic, Education, Transportation, and Neighborhood Characteristics. Monrovia received a lower score than 50% of California cities in Social, Healthcare Access, Housing, and Clean Environment. The individual scores can be found in Appendix B. On a subregional basis, Monrovia fairs better than most surrounding cities and Los Angeles County.

Table 4: Healthy Places Index Score for Surrounding Cities

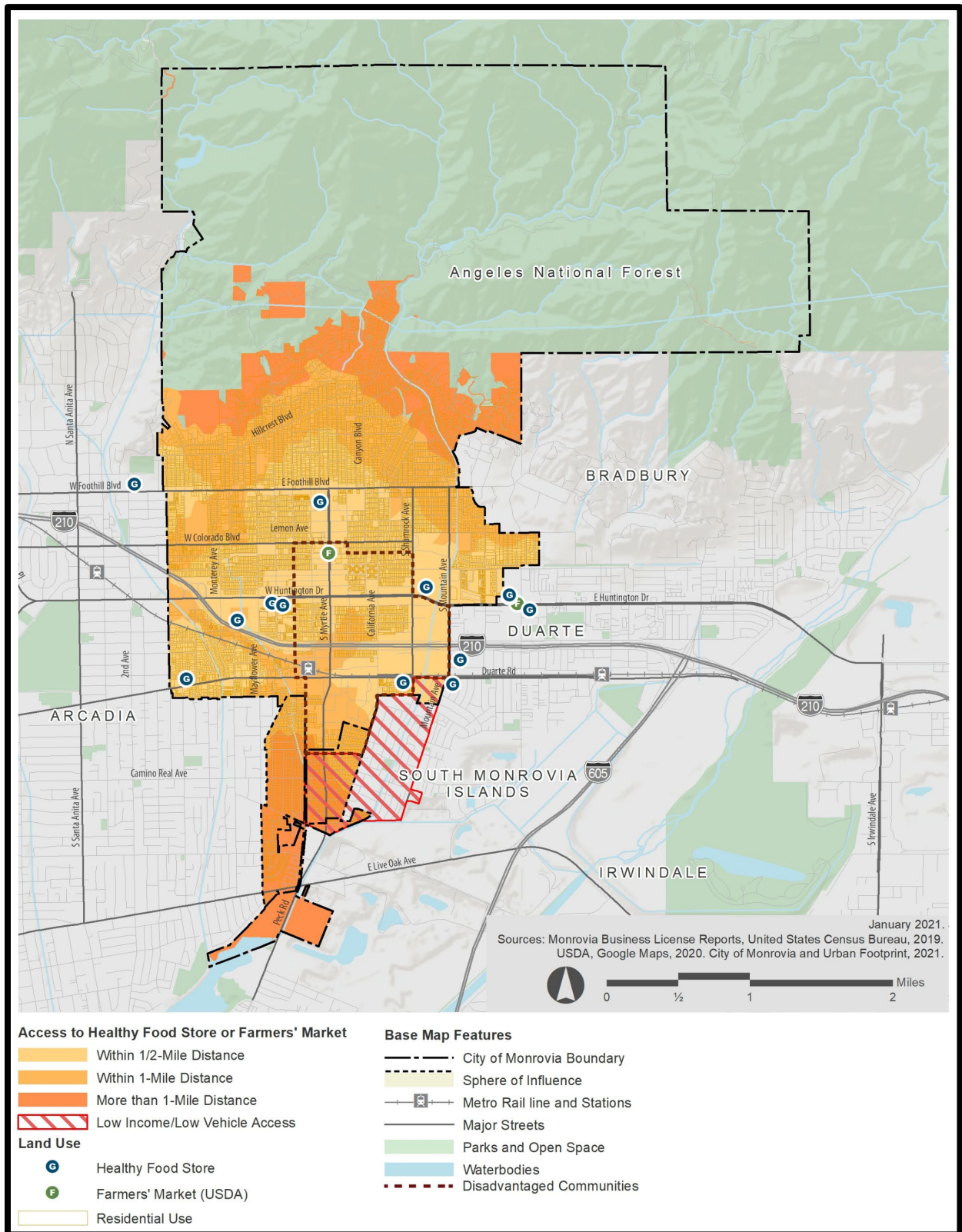
City or County	Healthy Places Index Score
Sierra Madre	89.6
Arcadia	72.9
Monrovia	68.1
Bradbury	63.2
Duarte	55.3
Los Angeles County	50
Irwindale	37.2
Azusa	34.1

Source: *The California Healthy Places Index (HPI)*, Public Health Alliance of Southern California, 2020.

E. Food Access

Ensuring Monrovia residents have access to nutritious and affordable foods is important, as it enables residents to maintain a healthier diet. Expanding the availability of nutritious and affordable food by permitting grocery stores, small food retailers including corner markets, and farmers’ markets in communities with limited access is an important part of creating a healthy community. Figure 3 illustrates areas within Monrovia and its Sphere of Influence are beyond a mile from the nearest healthy food provider (denoted in dark orange). The map also identifies Census Tracts with low accessibility and are low-income with low-vehicle access, thus, making it more difficult for residents to easily access healthy food.

Figure 3: Healthy Food Access Map



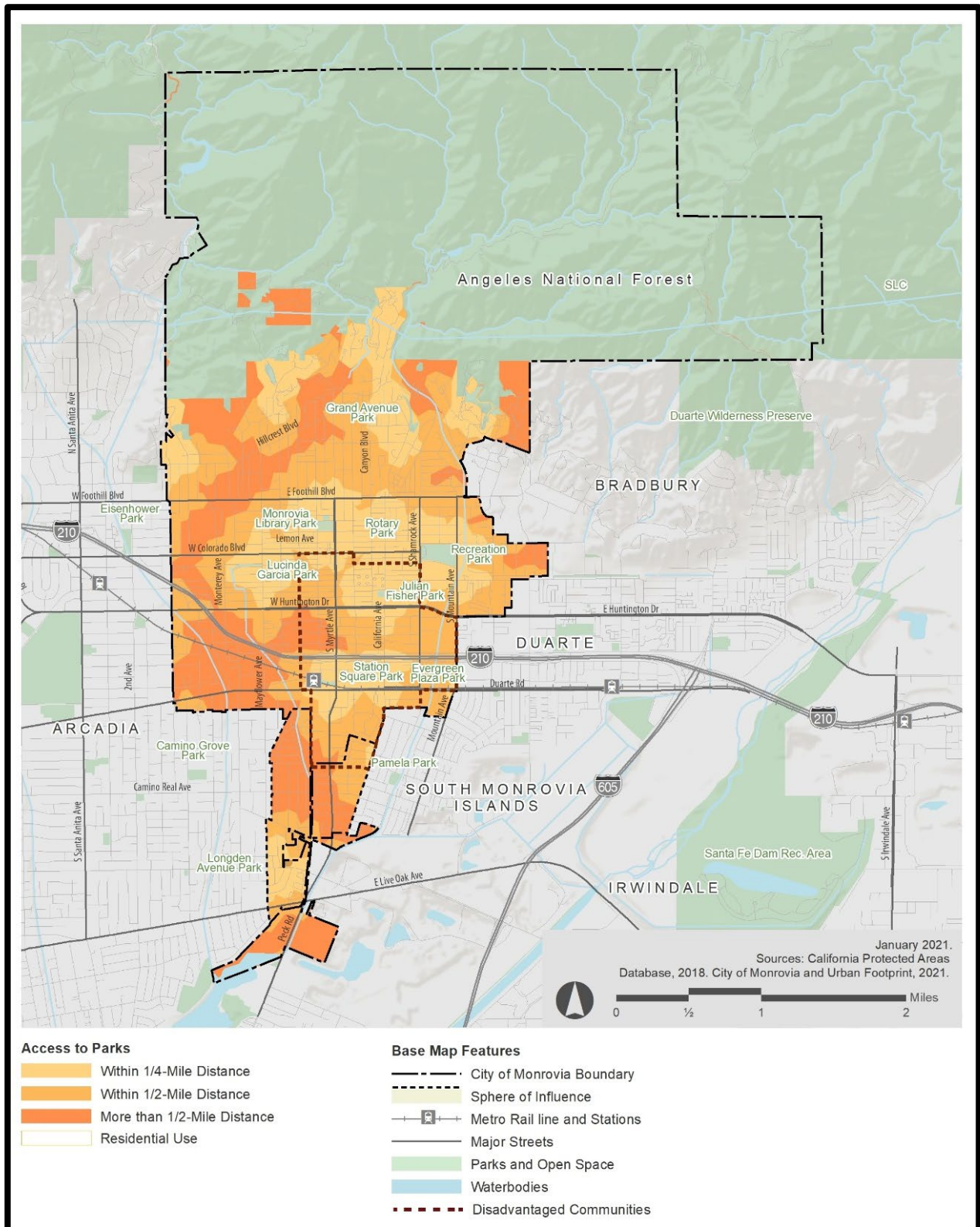
F. Physical Activity and Park Access

Urban green spaces, such as parks, sports fields, and gardens, provide people the space needed to engage in physical activity, relaxation, and space to cool on warm days. Green and open spaces are important resources for the physical activity of residents within a jurisdiction, as they have the potential to reduce chronic illnesses such as obesity and diabetes, as well as other cardiovascular related illnesses. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), only 25% of American adults engage in recommended levels of physical activity, and 29% engage in no leisure-time physical activity at all. This sedentary lifestyle is contributing to an increased incidence of obesity along with obesity-related diseases, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, congestive heart failure, and stroke.

Green space also provides a means for climate mitigation by reducing heat island effects in cities and reducing air pollution effects. In addition, people seeing open spaces provide benefits to one's mental and physical well-being, it is important that all residents have equal access to these spaces throughout Monrovia. Figure 4 illustrates the distance to parks and recreational facilities. Note that access to parks and recreational facilities exceed 1-mile throughout Monrovia and its Sphere of Influence. However, many of the northernmost areas identified as being beyond 1-mile to a park or recreation facility are within 1-mile of the Angeles National Forest.

Can we add one more program under Climate Resiliency Policy 4.2 regarding EV Charging stations. Here is what I had in mind

Figure 4: Park Access Map



IV. Goals, Policies, and Programs

The following goals, policies, and programs aim to improve to protect the health and wellness of Monrovia and its Sphere of Influence area residents and in particular the residents of the Environmental Justice community (Census Tract 4311.00). This Element focuses on five key strategies:

- Promoting healthy and affordable housing
- Promoting public and recreational facilities
- Promoting healthy food access
- Promoting climate resiliency
- Promoting civic and community engagement and services

Healthy and Affordable Housing

Goal 1: Ensure that all residents have fair and equal access to affordable housing options.

Policy 1.1: Promote and affirmatively further fair housing policies and programs.

Program 1.1.1: Continue to implement the local housing policies and programs in the Housing Element and periodically review to ensure they support and do not pose impediments to furthering fair housing.

Program 1.1.2: Continue to partner with housing rights organizations to disseminate information on landlord responsibilities and tenant rights in a manner that is culturally sensitive and easily accessible.

Policy 1.2: Expand affordable housing along transit corridors.

Program 1.2.1: Consider exploring best practices for innovative housing options such as tiny homes, cooperatives, community land trusts, etc. that prioritize community ownership and support resident efforts to build intergenerational wealth.

Program 1.2.2: Maintain and update information on the City website dashboard that contains resources related to affordable housing, rental assistance, tenant rights, homeownership, homelessness services, and other special needs resources.

Program 1.2.3: Implement and enhance Housing Element goals related to anti-displacement policies to ensure that future improvements in the environmental justice community do not result in a net loss of affordable housing or displacement of existing residents.

Policy 1.3: Support and adopt policies to encourage the development of supportive housing to accommodate seniors and persons with disabilities.

Program 1.3.1: Expand use of senior housing incentives to all special needs housing types, including reduced parking standards and unit sizes, increased height allowances, and maximum lot coverage. Provide additional regulatory incentives and concessions to projects targeted for these special needs groups.

Program 1.3.2: Provide regulatory incentives and concessions to projects targeted for persons with disabilities, including persons with developmental disabilities. Review the permit and processing procedures for group homes for 7+ clients to ensure that these uses are treated objectively and do not discriminate against persons with disabilities.

Park Access and Active Living

Goal 2: Ensure residents of all ages have access to a range of safe and accessible opportunities for recreation and physical activities.

Policy 2.1: Encourage the use of park spaces for community events and activities, hosted by local city businesses and organizations.

Program 2.1.1: Continue to offer and promote Monrovia’s “Populate the Park” program.

Program 2.1.2: Continue to provide and promote City sponsored recreation (physical or art classes) and educational activities (example, book mobile or reading kiosks) at urban public spaces such as the L Line station, the public plazas in the Station Square Transit Village residential neighborhoods, etc.

Policy 2.2: Continue to enhance a park system that provides all residents with access to parks, community centers, sports fields, trails, urban open space, and other amenities.

Program 2.2.1: Continue to implement the community needs identified in the Park Master Plan (PMP) and the Open Space Element. Explore opportunity areas for small parks or open spaces in areas that have been identified as “park poor” in the PMP and target areas in Environmental Justice neighborhoods and south of the Foothill Freeway.

Program 2.2.2: Continue to require multifamily residential development to provide active private open space for residents and their guests to offset the demands on neighborhood parks.

Program 2.2.3: Continue to encourage the establishment of urban open space and recreation opportunities such as plazas and public community gathering spaces provided by both non-residential and residential development.

Program 2.2.4: Continue to establish shared use agreements with schools, private properties with large open spaces, and religious institutions as a method for increasing access to recreational facilities and community gathering facilities, particularly in park poor areas.

Program 2.2.5: Improve Lucinda Garcia Park to include new walking paths/surfaces, fitness and playground equipment, updated signage, and improved lighting.

Program 2.2.6: Assess local parks and sidewalks (including ramps) to assess if physical barriers occur that would block or inhibit people with disabilities from using parks and sidewalks. Prepare an ADA Transition Plan and implement mitigation plans, as necessary.

Policy 2.3: Address park safety concerns through community-based safety interventions.

Program 2.3.1: Continue to implement policies and programs known to improve safety and reduce crime without relying on law enforcement personnel including Populate the Park and the Park Watch Program and other recommendations in the PMP. Continue to engage a diverse group of stakeholders is consulted and involved in developing safety measures and recommendations.

Program 2.3.2: Target homeless outreach services in park areas and connect individuals experiencing homelessness with appropriate resources and case management services to secure rapid housing in a safe and welcoming environment.

Policy 2.4: Ensure that parks and other key destinations (schools, retail, grocery stores, jobs) are accessible via alternative transportation modes.

Program 2.4.1: Work to expand and improve bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to promote walkability and active transportation through the implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan.

Program 2.4.2: Work with local transit agencies to improve access and connectivity to transit as well as enhance transit amenities such as bus shelters, real-time information, etc., including access to the Metro L Line from the south.

Program 2.4.3: Coordinate with local transit agencies to provide more service types/options.

Program 2.4.4: Continue to encourage first/last mile connections between the L Line, grocery stores, City Hall, Library, and parks/recreation sites.

Program 2.4.5: Work with retail and commercial property owners to install bicycle amenities on their property such as bike racks, lockers, or repair stations through the implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan.

Program 2.4.6: Increase the number of pedestrian and bicycle paths shaded by trees for a more comfortable and inviting experience; prioritize implementing enhanced pedestrian and bicycle amenities in the environmental justice community.

Program 2.4.7: Assess sidewalks, ramps, pedestrian signal intersections, and bus stops to determine if physical barriers occur that would block or inhibit people with disabilities from access and use. Prepare and implement mitigation plans, as necessary.

Access to Healthy Food

Goal 3: Expand access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food and resources to reduce food insecurity.

Policy 3.1: Incentivize and remove any potential barriers in the development of healthy food establishments.

Program 3.1.1: Continue to ensure that adequate zoning opportunities exist throughout Monrovia to encourage new healthy food retail business that meet the needs of the community.

Program 3.1.2: Continue to promote and support Monrovia's farmer's market. If additional markets are determined to be economically viable in the future, work with local community members to identify ideal locations for regularly scheduled farmers' markets south of Interstate 210.

Program 3.1.3: Continue to support community agriculture/food production, such as the City's Pilot community gardens program and cottage food operations, by providing interested individuals with information and resources. Look for opportunities to expand in the future if a need exists.

Policy 3.2: Ensure that residents have the knowledge, skills, and resources that are conducive to healthy eating habits.

Program 3.2.1: Partner with existing active living, nutrition, and school programs, such as Kaiser Permanente's Healthy Balance Program, to provide culturally relevant educational programming on healthy living.

Program 3.2.2: Organize free healthy living events, such as those provided at the Monrovia's pilot program Community Garden, night markets or food fairs, that provide live cooking demonstrations, workshops, food giveaways, taste tests, etc.

Program 3.2.3: Support the expansion of food assistance benefits (e.g., CalFresh, WIC, SNAP) at healthy food establishments, farmers' markets, etc.

Climate Resiliency

Goal 4: Protect human and environmental health by restoring and improving potable water resources and protecting land uses and air quality from future contamination.

Policy 4.1: Protect potable water resources from future contamination.

Program 4.1.1: Enforce existing green strategies and infrastructure to support a sustainable approach to stormwater management, urban runoff, flood management, groundwater recharge and infiltration, and landscaping, such as the Low Impact Development (LID) Ordinance.

Program 4.1.2: Develop a multi-lingual outreach campaign that educates and trains residents and businesses on preserving and maintaining healthy watersheds.

Program 4.1.3: Provide technical and financial assistance to low-income households to implement water conservation measures in their homes.

Program 4.1.4: Coordinate with local and regional agencies to continue and, as needed, expand remediation efforts for contaminated surface water, groundwater, and soils.

Policy 4.2: Improve air quality conditions and minimize air quality impacts on sensitive population groups, by reducing point source emissions (ozone, small particulate matter, diesel particulates), particularly in the environmental justice community.

Program 4.2.1: Collaborate with industrial businesses to improve outdoor air quality through enhanced operations and other pollution reduction measures where possible.

Program 4.2.2: Encourage smoke-free workplaces, multi-family housing, parks, and other outdoor gathering places to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke and coordinate with local advocacy groups to identify more potential smoke-free areas.

Program 4.2.3: Continue to support the efforts of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to identify, monitor, and reduce air pollutants.

Program 4.2.4: Require new sensitive land uses to include feasible measures such as setbacks, landscaping, ventilation systems, and other effective measures to minimize potential impacts from air pollution.

Program 4.2.5: Maintain designated truck routes to avoid residential areas and other sensitive areas, especially in the environmental justice community.

Program 4.2.6: Preserve and enhance natural landscapes and tree canopies in and around the environmental justice community to minimize air pollution impacts and heat exposure. Promote the use of drought tolerant and native species in landscaped areas.

Program 4.2.7: Support programs promoting the installation of electric vehicle charging stations within public parking lots and continue to explore removing barriers for private entity installations.

Policy 4.3: Protect sensitive land uses (e.g., schools, housing, health facilities, childcare facilities, senior centers, parks, etc.) from increased pollution exposure, particularly in the environmental justice community.

Program 4.3.1: Limit the siting and construction of new large-scale hazardous waste producers and facilities on or near sensitive land uses in and around the environmental justice community.

Program 4.3.2: Continue to ensure compatibility between sensitive land uses and heavy industrial uses and other potentially harmful facilities.

Civic Engagement

Goal 5: Support meaningful and inclusive participation in the decision-making process of all community members, particularly those belonging to marginalized groups.

Policy 5.1: Facilitate the involvement of residents, businesses, and organizations in all aspects of the planning process using a variety of community-based strategies.

Program 5.1.1: Develop an equity-focused Community Outreach Plan that outlines strategies and best practices for facilitating community participation and incorporating community input into the decision-making process. Be aware of, and take measures to address, cultural considerations that may impact a person's involvement in the public realm.

Program 5.1.2: Continue to develop and foster relationships and partnerships with community-based organizations, including the Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP).

Program 5.1.3: Continue to utilize a variety of communication techniques and social media tools to convey information to the public and ensure information is available in multiple languages, as needed.

Program 5.1.4: Provide more opportunities for environmental justice community residents to volunteer with the City as a way to further build local relationships.

Program 5.1.5: Continue to promote and utilize the Leadership Academy to engage, educate and empower traditionally underrepresented populations to become involved in the public decision-making process.

Community Programs and Services

Goal 6: Promote and expand job opportunities, community programs, and services throughout the city with a focus on environmental justice communities.

Policy 6.1: Promote equitable economic outcomes by providing and maintaining a range of middle-skill and high-skill jobs as well as attracting diverse employment opportunities.

Program 6.1.1: Diversify employment opportunities by promoting and targeting various industries that offer sustainable living wages.

Program 6.1.2: Continue to facilitate the development of industrial and commercial projects that provide living-wage opportunities. Consider providing financial and technical assistance to facilitate the desired business and industries.

Program 6.1.3: Encourage the Monrovia Unified School District and Citrus College to develop and implement talent development strategies and incentives to maximize opportunities for local employment.

Program 6.1.4: Coordinate partnerships between major employers, higher-education institutions, and Monrovia Unified School District to develop a highly skilled workforce through programs such as Youth Employment Services (YES).

Program 6.1.5: Support innovative opportunities for establishing workforce programs, such as green infrastructure maintenance.

Policy 6.2: Promote health equity and access through policy evaluation and health valuation.

Program 6.2.1: Evaluate and remove local governmental constraints that might hinder the provision of high-quality healthcare services and resources are accessible and near residential neighborhoods, particularly to those in the environmental justice community.

Program 6.2.2: Adopt and apply land use regulations to support a wide range of high-quality, accessible, and affordable healthcare and mental health facilities to meet the needs of all residents and employees.

Program 6.2.3: On a periodic basis, monitor and evaluate local policies that may result in poor health outcomes amongst vulnerable populations, such as persons living in poverty, older adults, children, persons with disabilities, and immigrants.