

Oakland's Environmental Justice Element Focus Group #1



OAKLAND 2045
GENERAL PLAN

July 7th, 2022

Agenda

- **Background** **3:10-3:25**
 - Oakland's General Plan
 - Oakland's EJ Element
 - EJ Requirements
- **Discussion & Report Out** **3:25-3:55**
- **Miro Activity** **3:55-4:25**
- **Close** **4:25-4:30**



Phase 1: Elements required to be updated by early 2023



HOUSING

Adopted 2014

Addresses housing needs, at all income levels (2023-2031)

- Protect tenants and keep people in their homes
- Preserve existing stock of affordable housing
- Produce more affordable housing – lower-income
- Where housing should go



SAFETY

Adopted 2004
(*Last amended 2021*)

- Identifies natural and human-made hazards (wildfire, earthquake, flooding, etc.) and ways to reduce impacts



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

New Requirement

- Addresses needs of most impacted and vulnerable communities
- Includes air quality and pollution; safe and sanitary housing; healthy food access; physical activity; investment prioritization; civic engagement



INDUSTRIAL LANDS Study

- Evaluate feasibility of various industrial sectors, including longevity of the Port of Oakland, and quality of life and environmental justice considerations.

General Plan Update Phase 2 Elements



OPEN SPACE,
CONSERVATION
& RECREATION
(OSCAR)



NOISE



LAND USE
&
TRANSPORTATION



INFRASTRUCTURE
& FACILITIES
New Element

The General Plan Elements developed and adopted in the second phase of this process are an opportunity to refine and add detail to environmental justice policies. For example, by focusing on:

Parks for underserved communities

Grocery stores and community gardens in neighborhoods lacking access to fresh, affordable food.

Prioritizing capital projects using equity criteria



**Environmental
Justice Element**

EJ and Safety Element Timeline

SPRING 2022	SUMMER 2022	FALL 2022	WINTER 2022 AND SPRING 2023
LAYING THE GROUNDWORK	CO-CREATION	REVIEW	REFINEMENT AND ADOPTION
<p>Collect and uplift known issues, key data, proposed solutions, goals and policies from current and past community-led planning initiatives and plans adopted by the City.</p> <p>HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES (2017) EAST OAKLAND NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE (2019) WEST OAKLAND COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN (2019) 2030 EQUITABLE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (2020)</p>	<p>Review existing EJ goals and policies: What is working well? Where are there gaps? Where is improvement needed?</p>	<p>Develop Draft EJ Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Programs</p> <p>Assess Impacts and Tradeoffs</p>	 <p>Public Draft Release in January 2023</p>
FOCUSED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: FOCUS GROUPS, NEIGHBORHOOD WORKSHOPS, CULTURAL EVENTS, POP-UPS			
<p>Upcoming Community Engagement Events:</p> <p>EJ Focus Group #2: Date TBD</p> <p>All Community Events and Public Meetings:</p> <p>oaklandca.gov/topics/meetings-and-events</p>			
ONGOING GENERAL PLAN UPDATE ENGAGEMENT			

Racial Equity Framework and Racial Equity Impact Assessment

Racial Equity Framework:

Presents an overall equity goal and guidelines for equitable policy development.

Racial Equity Impact Assessment:

A tool to implement the Racial Equity Framework and assess how City policies can achieve equitable outcomes, tracked by measuring Indicators of Success.

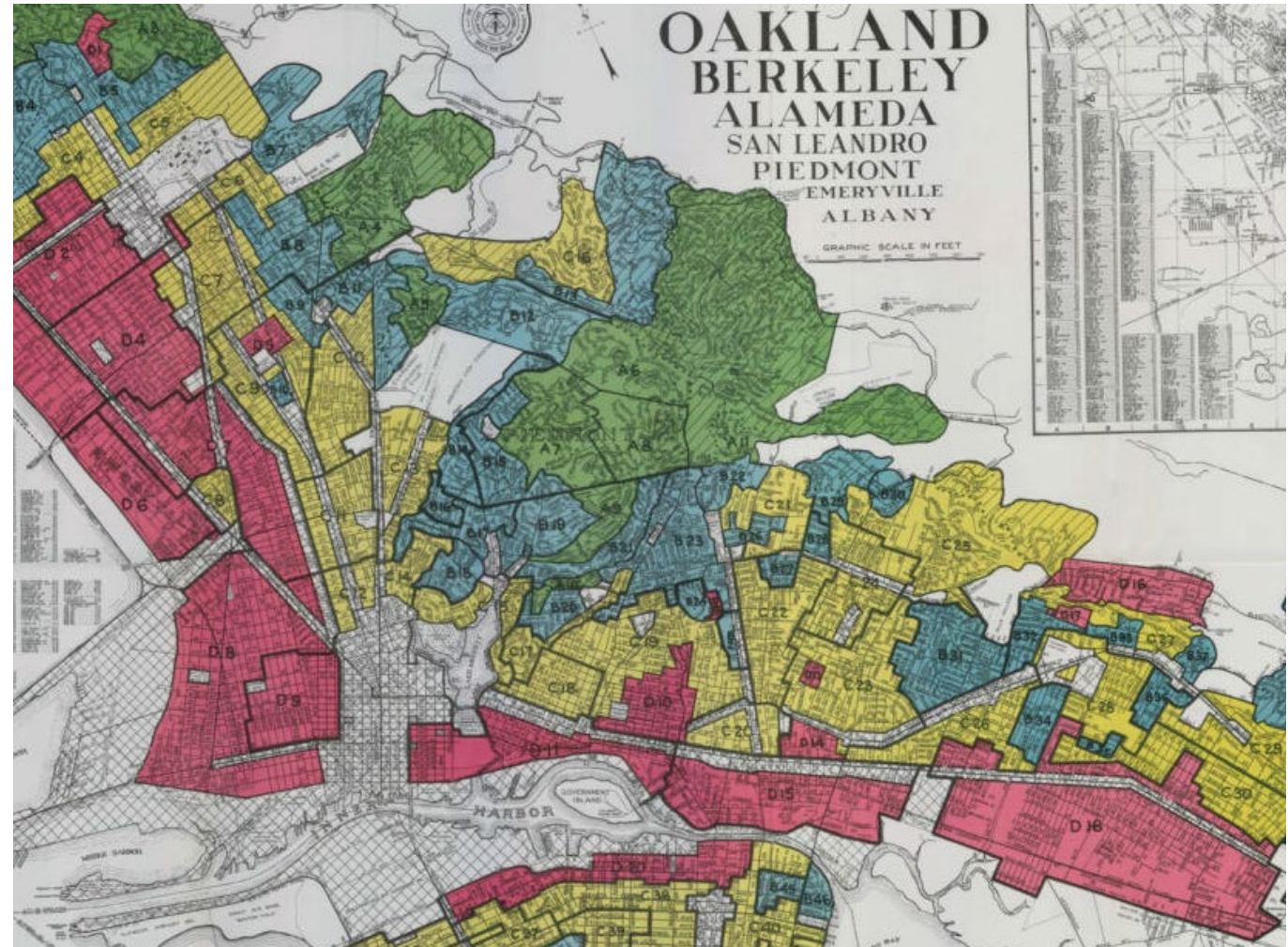


Oakland's EJ Element

We must start here...

Acknowledging and documenting the legacy of **racism and redlining**, and the long-lasting impacts of the **discriminatory and exclusionary zoning and land use policies** on Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color.

Historically redlined census tracts in California have significantly **higher rates of emergency department visits due to asthma** than non-redline census tracts.



1937 Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) "redlining" map



Planning for Healthy Communities Act (SB 1000)

- Adopted in 2016, SB 1000 requires Cities and Counties to adopt an **Environmental Justice Element**, or other related goals, policies, and objectives if there are "disadvantaged communities" within their jurisdiction.
- Oakland refers to these communities as Environmental Justice ("EJ") communities.
- Oakland will have a standalone EJ Element in addition to EJ goals, policies and objectives woven throughout the other elements.



CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE ALLIANCE



THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT, GOALS, POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES MUST:

1. Reduce health risks in EJ communities;
2. Promote community engagement in the public decision-making process;
3. Prioritize improvements and programs that meet the needs of EJ communities.



Air Quality and Pollution

MOBILE SOURCES OF POLLUTION



Develop innovative solutions to the transport of goods in diesel-trucks.

INDUSTRIAL LANDS ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION



Identify the pollution impacts of industrial activities and develop policies to reduce impacts, such as buffers, overlay zones, and performance standards.

EQUITABLE GRANTING OF EXCEPTIONS, VARIANCES, AND CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS (CUPS).

Identify which areas have more incompatible uses due to discretionary use of variances, exceptions, and conditional use permits.



REDUCING POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND IMPROVING AIR QUALITY

Reducing and mitigating pollution from industrial uses in West and East Oakland/freeway traffic

Residential and Industrial land use conflicts/ sensitive uses

Preventing development of new sources of pollution in overburdened areas
Cleaning up existing pollution

Green jobs



Air Quality and Pollution

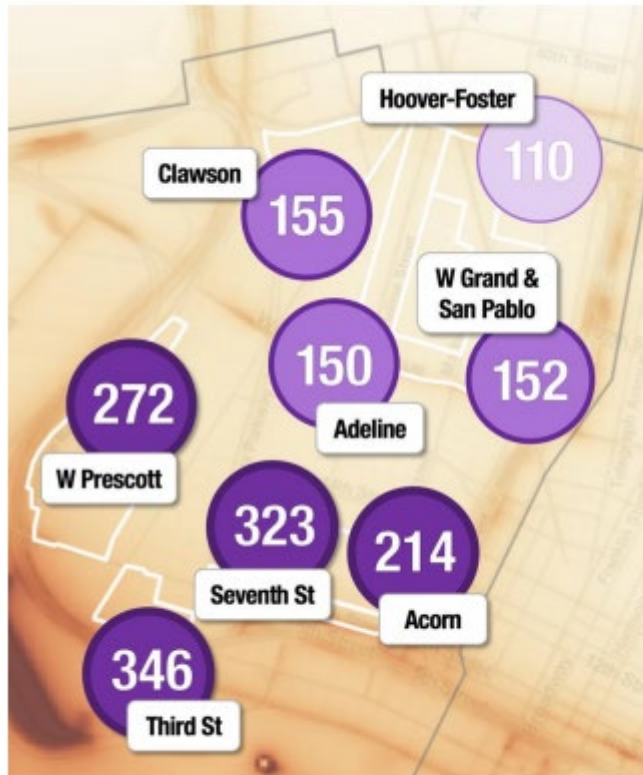


Figure 4-3. West Oakland Neighborhoods with Different Local Cancer Risks

Highest impacts found at community-designated

Impact Zones

W Prescott
46% Port, 29% Rail, 23% Truck

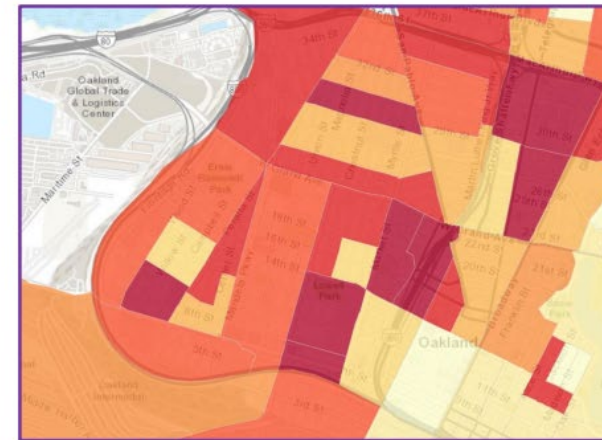
Third St
41% Port, 36% Rail, 20% Truck

Seventh St
34% Port, 16% Rail, 46% Truck

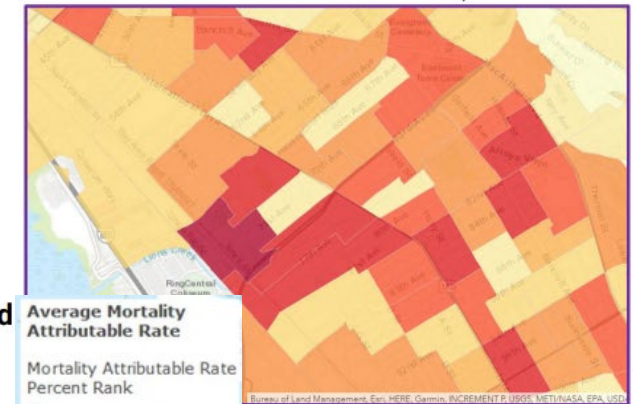
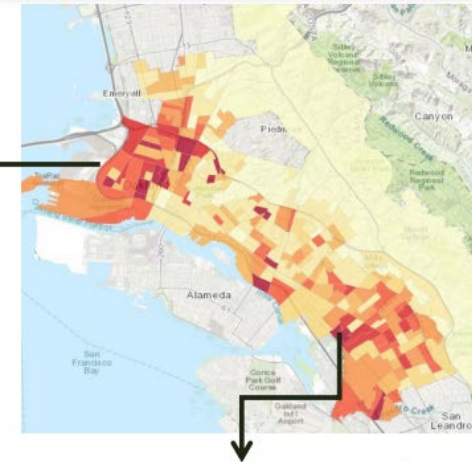
Acorn
41% Port, 17% Rail, 33% Truck

* construction in West Oakland not included

Average Death Rates Due to Air Pollution



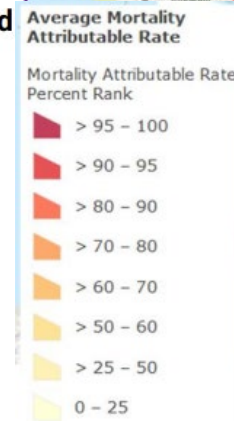
West Oakland



East Oakland

Source: [Environmental Defense Fund](#) and George Washington University.. Southerland et al. 2021.

The Census Block Groups with a darker red color have a higher estimated mortality rate due to higher levels of nitrogen dioxide exposure and underlying “baseline disease rates.”



Safe and Sanitary Homes

PROMOTE SAFE AND SANITARY HOMES



Housing quality and habitability

Unsafe/unsanitary conditions (mold, asbestos, lead)

Overcrowding

Location

Housing stability
Affordability

Addressing Displacement

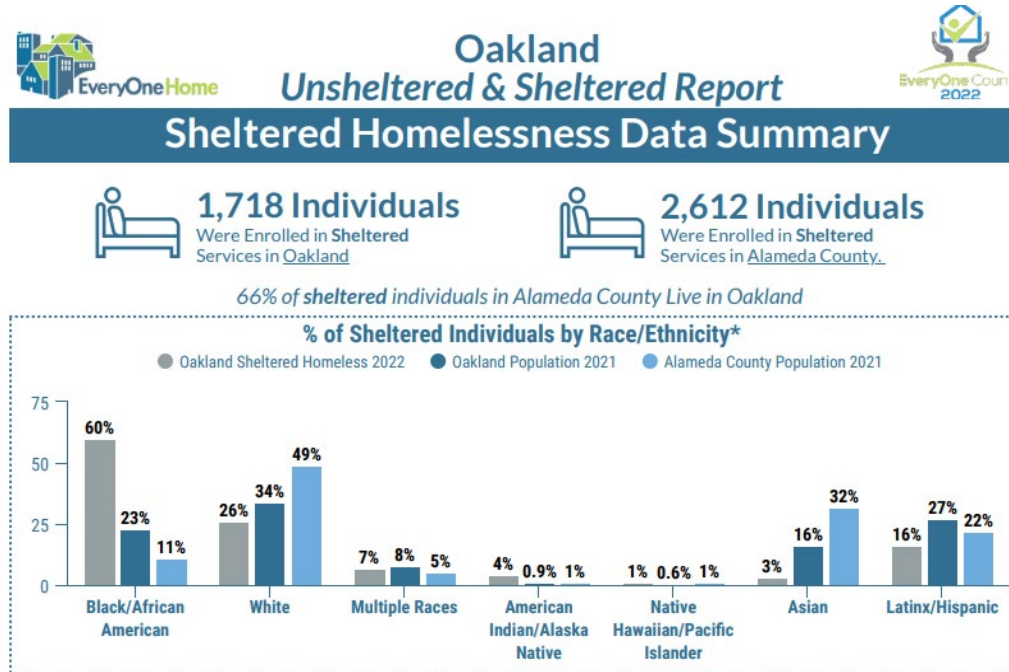
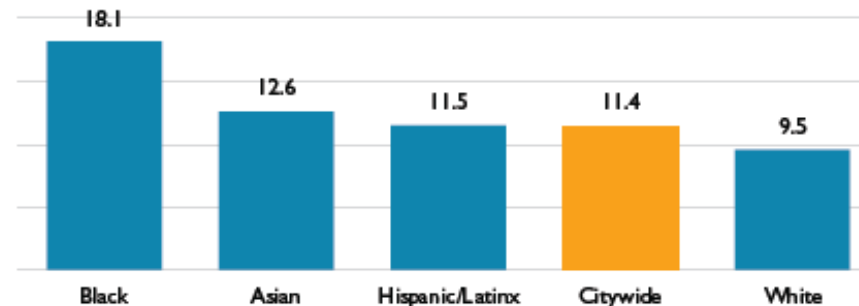


Chart 4-2: Code Enforcement Complaints by Census Tract Racial Majority, 2020



Includes code enforcement complaints received by the Planning & Building Department regarding blight (activity/facility), housing habitability, or zoning of rental housing during 2020.
Sources: City of Oakland, 2021; ACS 2015-2019; Dyall & Bhatia, 2022.

Displacement

Direct displacement: Residents can no longer afford to remain in their homes due to rising housing costs or other actions like lease non-renewals, evictions, landlords not maintaining homes, etc.

Indirect displacement: Units being vacated by low-income residents are no longer affordable to other low-income households (also known as 'exclusionary displacement')

Cultural displacement: Changes in the aspects of a neighborhood that have provided long-time residents with a sense of belonging and allowed residents to live their lives in familiar ways.

Source: the Uprooted Project, accessed at <https://sites.utexas.edu/gentrificationproject/gentrification-and-displacement-in-austin/>

"How do you balance being invested in my Oakland community when they may not be invested in me."

-Oakland resident, interviewed at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center Cultural Hub Event on February 6, 2022

Healthy Food Access

PROMOTE HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS



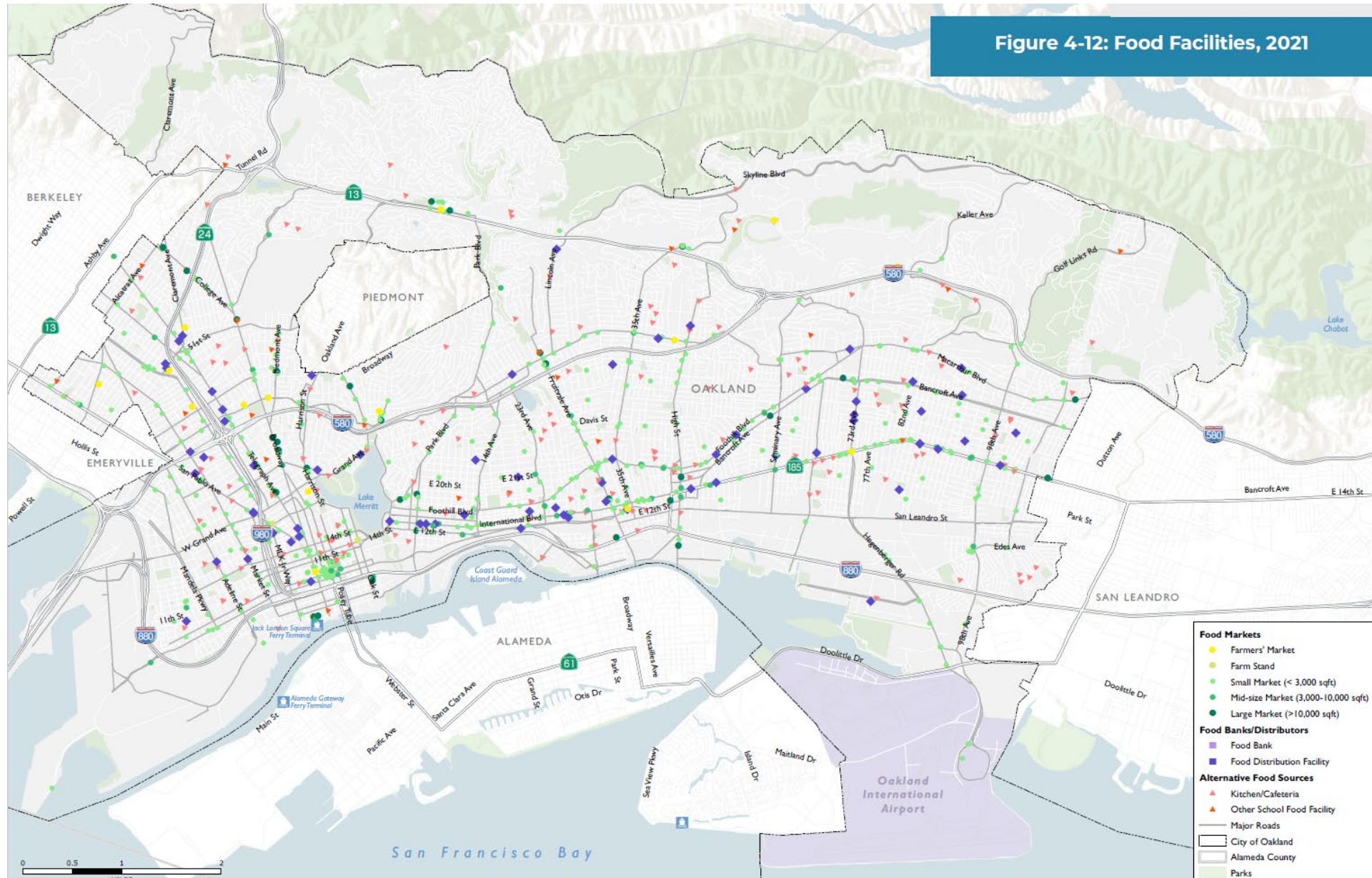
Addressing geographic gaps in food access

Self sufficiency/urban agriculture/community gardens

Grocery attraction/other ownership models

Food insecurity

Figure 4-12: Food Facilities, 2021



Public Facilities

PROMOTING PUBLIC FACILITIES



Promoting Public Facilities
Equitable distribution of facilities

Access to safe, reliable
transportation options

Childcare

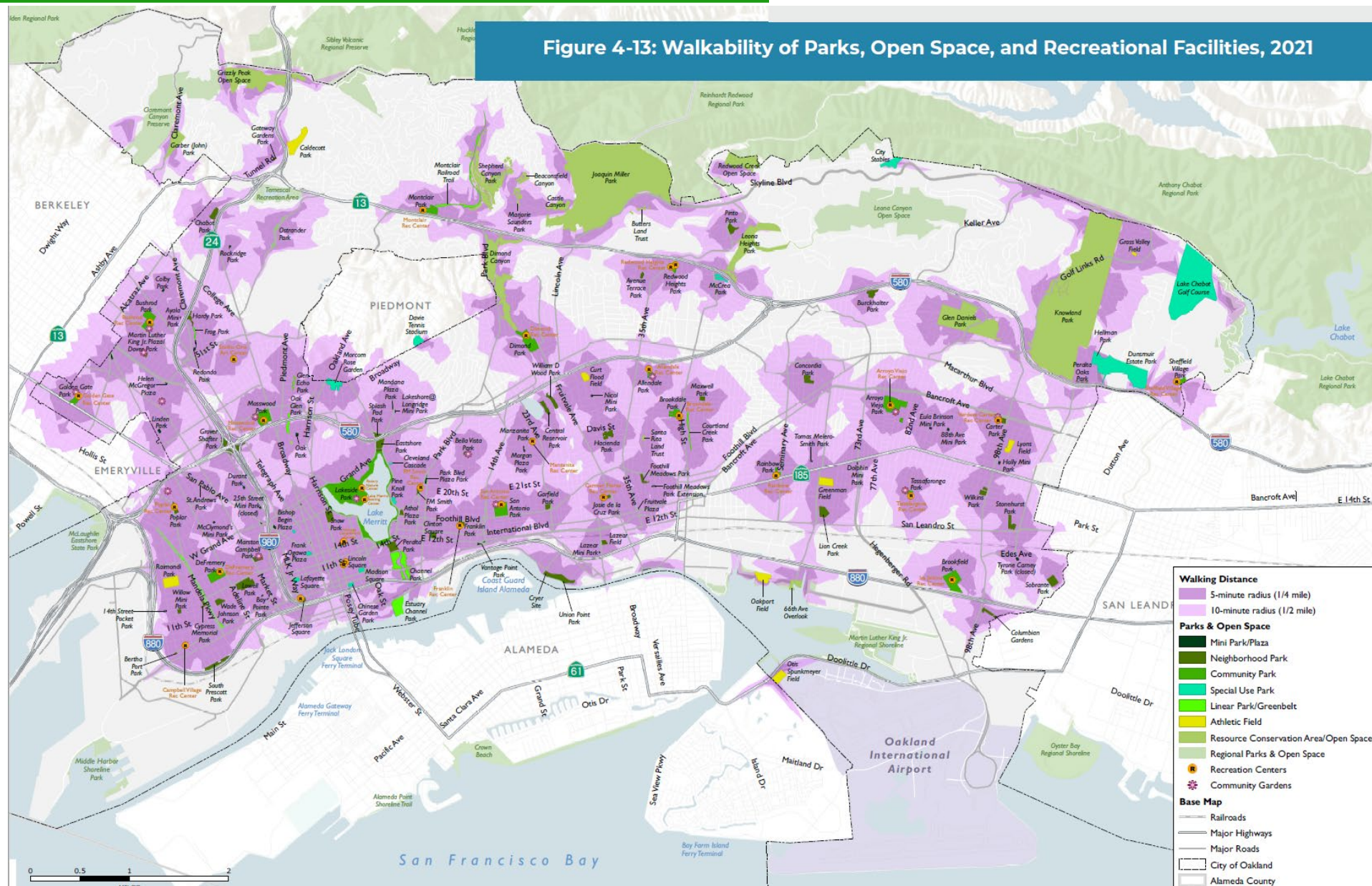
Libraries

Art, Murals, &
Culture-Keeping

Park maintenance and
distribution

Public land stewardship

Figure 4-13: Walkability of Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities, 2021



Increase Physical Activity

PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



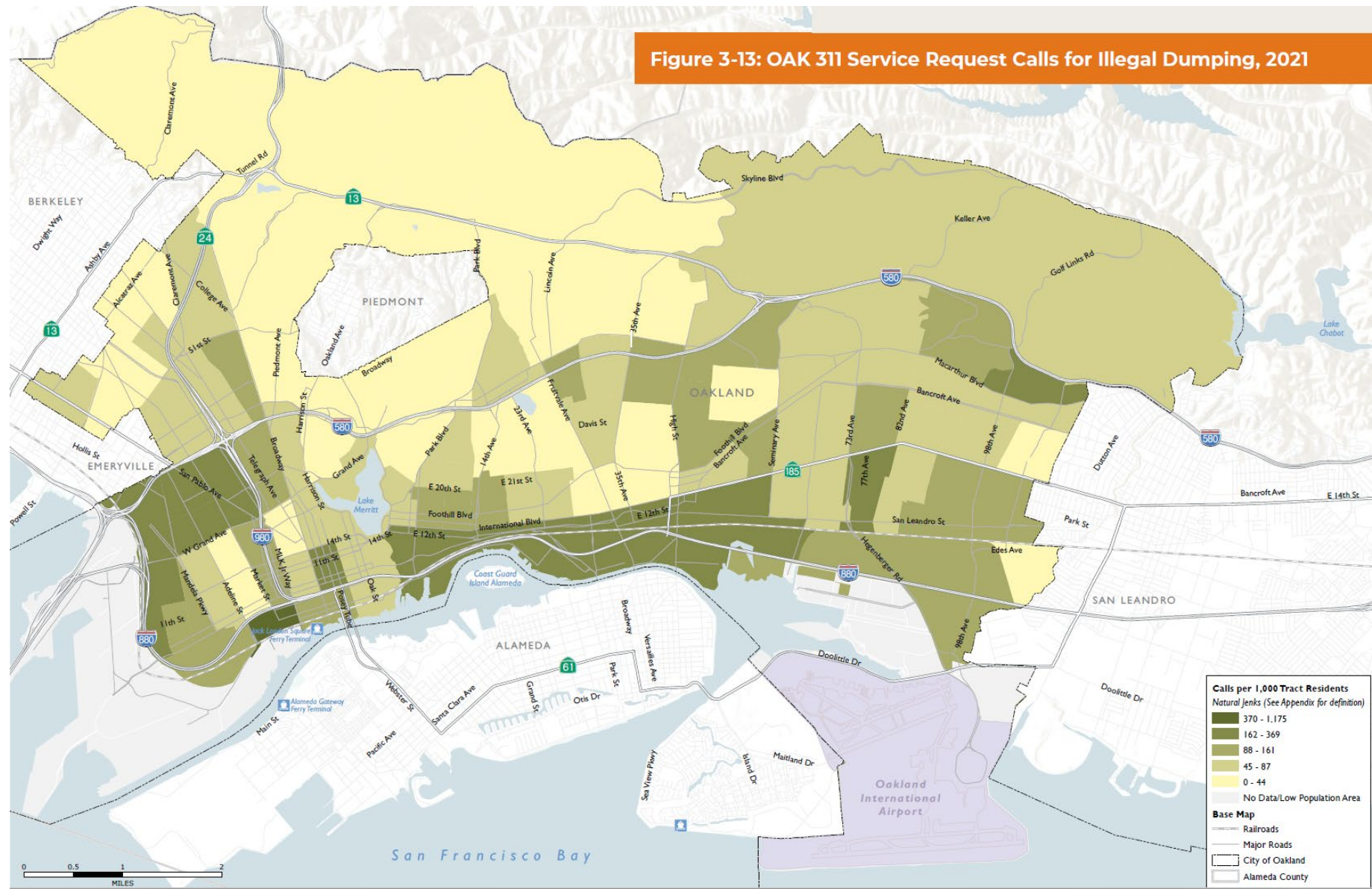
Bike/ped infrastructure and safety

Illegal dumping/streetscape improvements

Accessing Oakland's existing parks and shorelines

Tree canopy

Figure 3-13: OAK 311 Service Request Calls for Illegal Dumping, 2021



Civic Participation

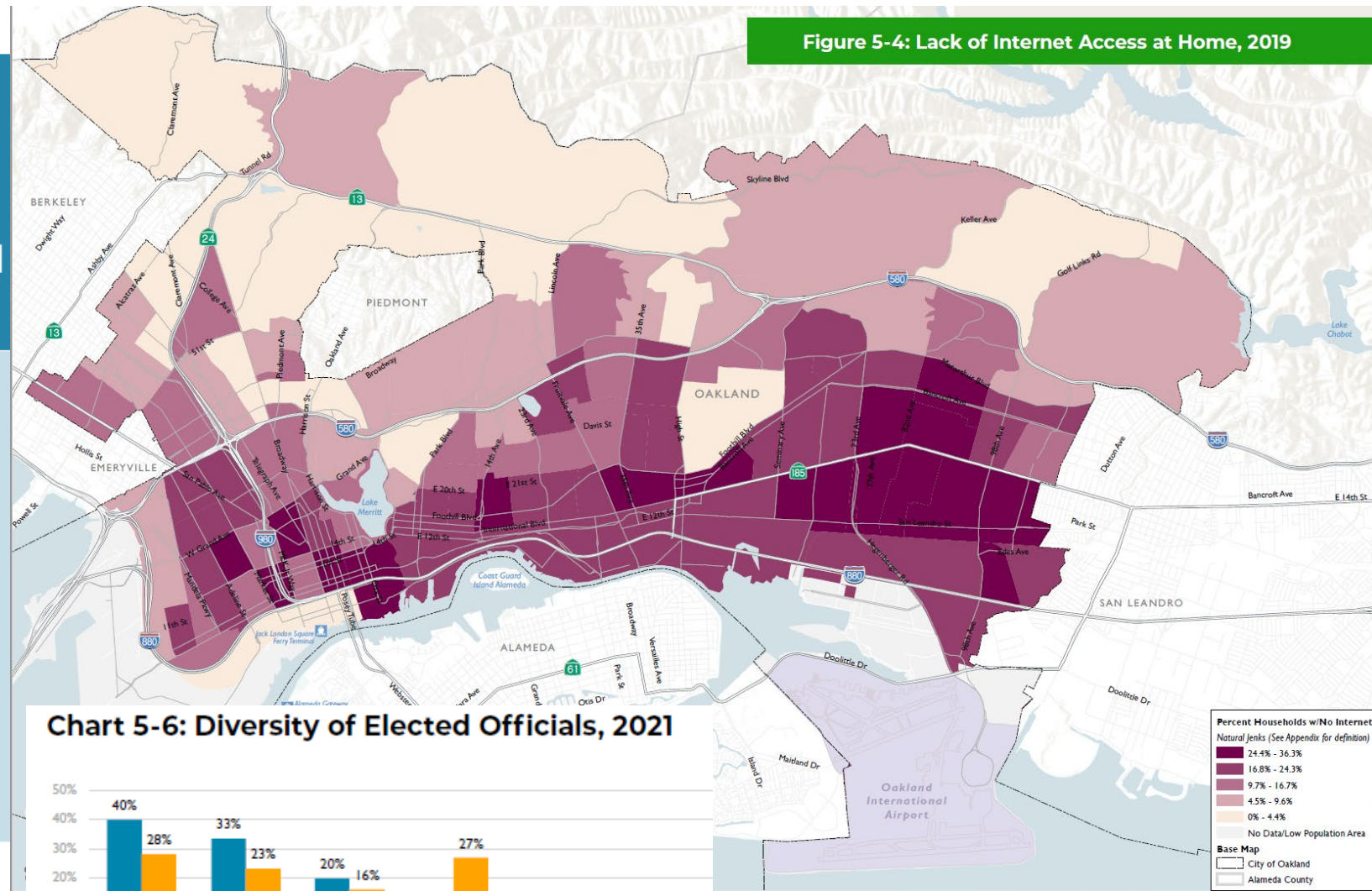
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT/REDUCING BARRIERS TO INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

Participatory Budgeting

Language accessibility/ accessing services
(transparency and removing barriers between communities and services)

Representation in government

Community partnerships



Investments in EJ Communities

PRIORITIZING IMPROVEMENTS/PROGRAMS IN EJ COMMUNITIES



Prioritizing Improvements/Programs in EJ Communities

Priority zones for improvements

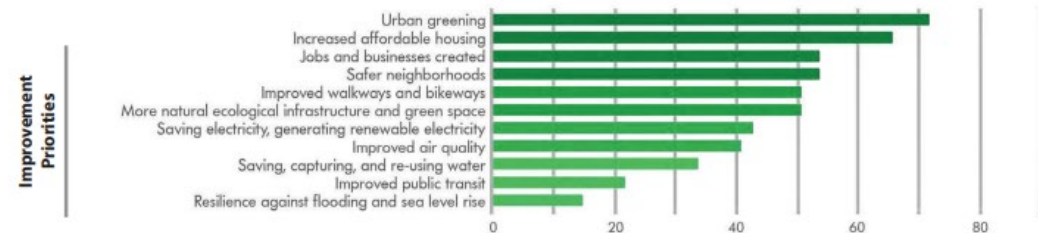
Projects identified in specific plans/neighborhood plans

Prioritization of public funding applications in EJ communities

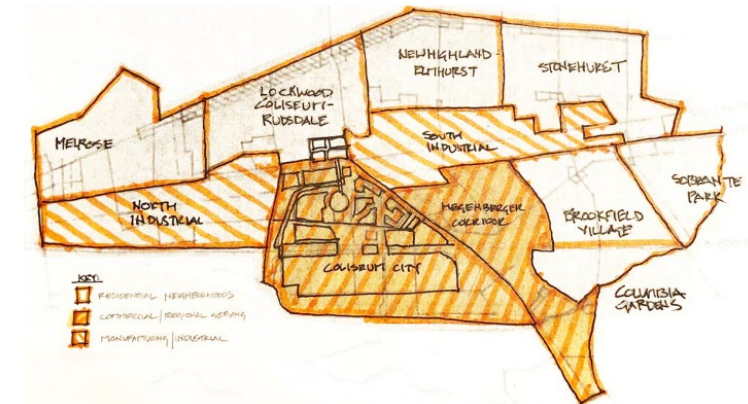
As another channel for input, surveys of participants were carried out at community meetings. The following chart shows the primary concerns expressed by EONI meeting attendees.



Neglected community centers are pre-eminent, as is limited employment, lack of public transportation and other climate hazards. EONI meeting attendees expressed the following improvement priorities.



Urban greening and affordable housing lead the list of improvement priorities, with public safety, job creation, and walkways/bikeways dominating the top half of the list.



Clean up industry

- Increase frequency of compliance inspections.
- Consult with the community to identify unpermitted sources of air pollution.
- Enhance the Air District's enforcement referral process and update complaint policy.
- Consider amending existing regulations on metal recycling and foundry operations.

Reduce car trips & road dust

- Improve transit service.
- Improve design and safety of local streets for pedestrian and bike trips.
- Increase street sweeping along roads and highways to decrease exposure to road dust.

Stop backyard burning

- Develop community education and outreach materials addressing the impacts of open burning and backyard wood fires.



Move polluting businesses & activities away from residents

- Relocate California Waste Solutions and CASS, Inc. to the former Oakland Army Base.
- Use incentives and subsidies to relocate businesses that do not conform with zoning designations.
- Relocate truck yards and truck routes away from residences.
- Enforce ordinances that restrict truck idling, truck parking, and truck routes.
- Prohibit new truck yards and truck service, repair, and fueling businesses in residential areas in West Oakland.

Move toward a zero-emission port

- Transition to zero-emission drayage truck operations by 2035.
- Amend statewide at-berth regulation requiring more ocean-going vessels to plug in.
- Fund cleaner tugboat engines.

Fund clean trucks

- Offer more incentives to replace diesel trucks with cleaner engines or zero emission engines.



Draft Map of Potential Environmental Justice Communities

EJ Communities Hub

Mapping Environmental Justice Communities in Oakland, CA

Help Us Take the First Step Toward Building an Environmental Justice Element for the Oakland 2045 General Plan Update.

City of Oakland Planning & Building Department

[Introduction](#) [How to Use this Tool](#) [What is Environmental Justice?](#) [Senate Bill 1000 Overview](#) [Why do we need a map?](#) [We Need Your Help](#)

Telling a Complete Story.

Oakland has created this draft **Map of Potential Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities** as a starting place for conversations with communities that disproportionately experience some of the greatest environmental burdens and related health problems. We need your help to supplement the technical information in this map with community knowledge about environmental justice visions, issues, and potential solutions in your neighborhood. Please take our survey by **July 15th** to help us improve and update the map.

bit.ly/OaklandEJHub

Use this tool to explore the draft **Map of Potential Environmental Justice Communities**, share your vision for a healthy neighborhood, and document local environmental justice issues and solutions.

Oakland has created a draft **Map of Potential Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities** as a starting place for conversations with communities that disproportionately experience some of the greatest environmental burdens and related health problems. [Click on "Tour the Draft Map" at the top of this website to see and interact with the map.](#)

We need your help to supplement the technical information in this map with community knowledge about environmental justice visions, issues, and potential solutions in your neighborhood. [Click on "What's Next?" to learn about how you can get involved, and click on the button below to take our survey.](#) Your feedback will be used to help the City improve Oakland's draft **Map of Potential Environmental Justice Communities** and develop environmentally just policies to be included in the [Oakland 2045 General Plan Update](#).

Environmental Justice Community Survey

Let's Talk About Your Neighborhood's Future

What is your vision of a healthy neighborhood?

Think about your neighborhood's health. What would it physically look like? What would it feel like? Smell like? Sound like?

I want my neighborhood to be... / Quiero que mi vecindario sea... / 我希望我的社區成為...

926

[Back](#)

[Next](#)

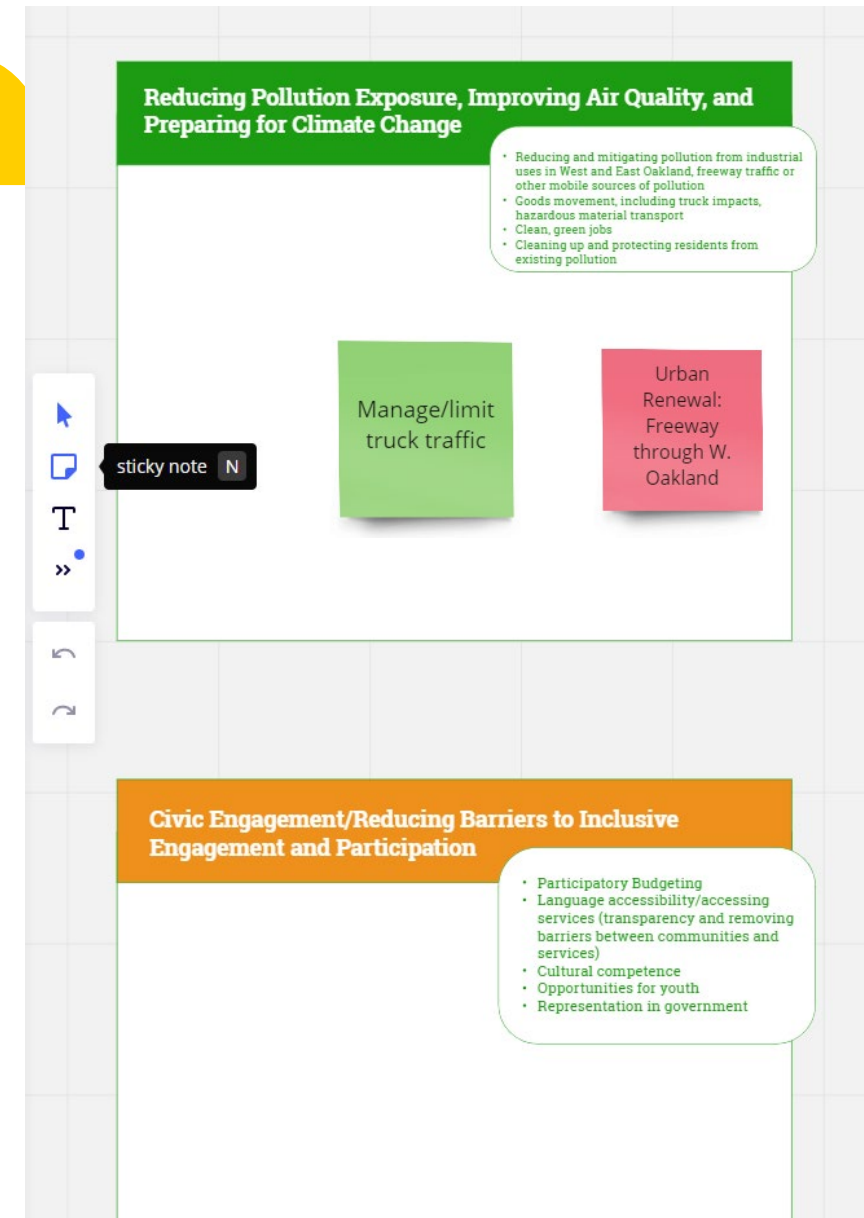
Page 3 of 7

Discussion

- Key Issues. Geographic disparities and key issues have been identified over the years by community leaders in West and East Oakland. What other emerging environmental issues are there, and what solutions should the General Plan consider?
- Current successes. What existing policies and practices do you think are working well as they relate to EJ issues?
- Gaps. Where are policy gaps related to environmental justice issues? What policies or strategies would you recommend the City explore to address these gaps? What are the barriers to new practices?
- Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA). An important piece of the REIA is to engage impacted communities in evaluating the capacity of any given policy, program, or action to either do no harm, or improve outcomes for the most vulnerable. What historical context must we examine to understand the root causes of environmental justice (EJ) issues in Oakland? What policies or practices continue to perpetuate these inequities?

Report Back

- Add policy or topic ideas in **green**
 - Add historic context or example of existing inequity in **red**
 - Examples of topics or suggested policies from community groups found in memo
 - Group can continue to draft and refine
 - If you need assistance, staff will help you!
- Click “sticky note” to add a post-it. Click the sticky to type
 - To move left and right, hold down the right mouse button
 - To zoom in and out, use your mouse wheel, or click in bottom right corner



Next Steps

- **EJ Focus Group #2:** Week of July 18th (Stay tuned for invitation)
- **How would you like to be engaged in policy development and review moving forward? Take our exit poll:** <https://forms.gle/vJ25ycXNWiWhJMt8A>
- Continue adding your thoughts on the Miro https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVOnoLztc=?share_link_id=86978932994
- **Check out the [EJ Community Hub](#)** to explore the draft Map of Potential Environmental Justice Communities, share your vision for a healthy neighborhood, and document local environmental justice issues and solutions.
- **Complete the [Oakland Visioning Survey](#)** to let us know what issues you care about, and what the priorities for Oakland's future should be. The survey will remain open until July 11, 2022.
- **Attend a cultural event or visit us at a pop-up!**
 - All Community Events and Public Meetings: oaklandca.gov/topics/meetings-and-events



Visit the General Plan Update website for more information and to sign-up for regular updates:

bit.ly/OaklandGPU

Thank You!