



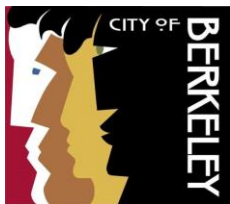
Safety Element and Environmental Justice Element

Summary of Community Engagement

October 2024 - November 2025

The City of Berkeley Planning and Development Department is updating the City's General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element, developing a new Environmental Justice (EJ) Element and creating equitable climate resilience metrics. This document includes summaries of the community engagement conducted between October 2024 through November 2025:

1. Community Advisory Committee (CAC) assets, challenges and priority mapping (October 2024 – February 2025)
2. Community Workshop #1: Assets, Challenges and Environmental Justice mapping and small group discussions (February 1, 2025)
3. Community Survey: Identification of issues and priorities related to the Safety Element and Environmental Justice Element (May – June 2025).
4. Community Pop-Up Exhibits: Preliminary Goals and Policies for the Safety Element, Environmental Justice Element and Climate and Resilience Metrics (October 27 – November 7, 2025).



Prepared, Safe and Healthy Berkeley Community Workshop #1: Summary Report

Saturday, February 1, 2025. 10am - 12:30pm.

Location: South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley CA

Project & Workshop Background

The City of Berkeley Planning and Development Department is leading an effort to update the City's General Plan's **Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element**, develop a new **Environmental Justice (EJ) Element**, and create equitable climate resilience metrics.

This project aims to ensure that all Berkeley residents—especially those most affected by environmental and climate-related challenges—live in a safe, healthy, and resilient community. The City is working in partnership with the Ecology Center to engage residents through workshops, focus groups, and surveys, ensuring that community voices shape the planning process. Supported by a grant from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, this initiative will guide Berkeley's approach to disaster preparedness, environmental justice, and climate resilience, with draft plans expected in 2026. *For more information about the project, visit: [Prepared, Safe, and Healthy Berkeley](#).*

Community Workshop #1, held on **Saturday, February 1, 2025** at the *South Berkeley Senior Center*, provided an opportunity for community members to learn about the project and share their experience of environmental justice and community environmental health and safety issues through mapping exercises and group discussions. See the full Agenda and Presentation in Appendix A.

The following is a **summary of community input** gathered from this workshop. In total, nineteen (19) community members attended this workshop.



Image 1: Project Overview Presentation

Key Takeaways

Activity #1: Part 1 - Mapping Assets and Challenges

The first activity provided a way for participants to identify areas where they live, work and play where historical systems of injustice still affect health and quality of life, as well as the assets to support resilience. Participants explored five stations with large maps focused on **air quality, housing, fresh food access, public facilities, and physical activity**. Each station included lists of pre-identified assets and challenges (see Definitions of Indicators in Appendix B). Participants mapped assets with **blue** dots and challenges with **red** dots, and also added comments on sticky notes. A summary of community mapping input is summarized in the sections below.



Image 2 : Activity1, Part 1 - Mapping Assets & Challenge

Air Quality & Pollution

- **Green infrastructure improves air quality.** Ocean breezes, tree corridors, and parks like **San Pablo Park, Acton Street, and Berkeley Hills** help filter pollution and cool urban areas.
- **Traffic and industrial emissions are key pollution sources.** High-traffic corridors (**San Pablo, University, Ashby, Telegraph**) and truck routes along **Ashby** contribute to poor air quality, while industrial sites like **Pacific Casting** release harmful emissions.
- **Litter and water pollution affect environmental health.** Trash buildup along major streets and illegal dumping in vacant lots impact stormwater quality, while **Codornices Creek** faces significant contamination from industrial runoff.
- **Tree cover disparities contribute to urban heat.** Some neighborhoods lack **shade and green space**, leaving them hotter and more exposed to air pollution, emphasizing the need for **expanded tree planting and urban greening efforts**.

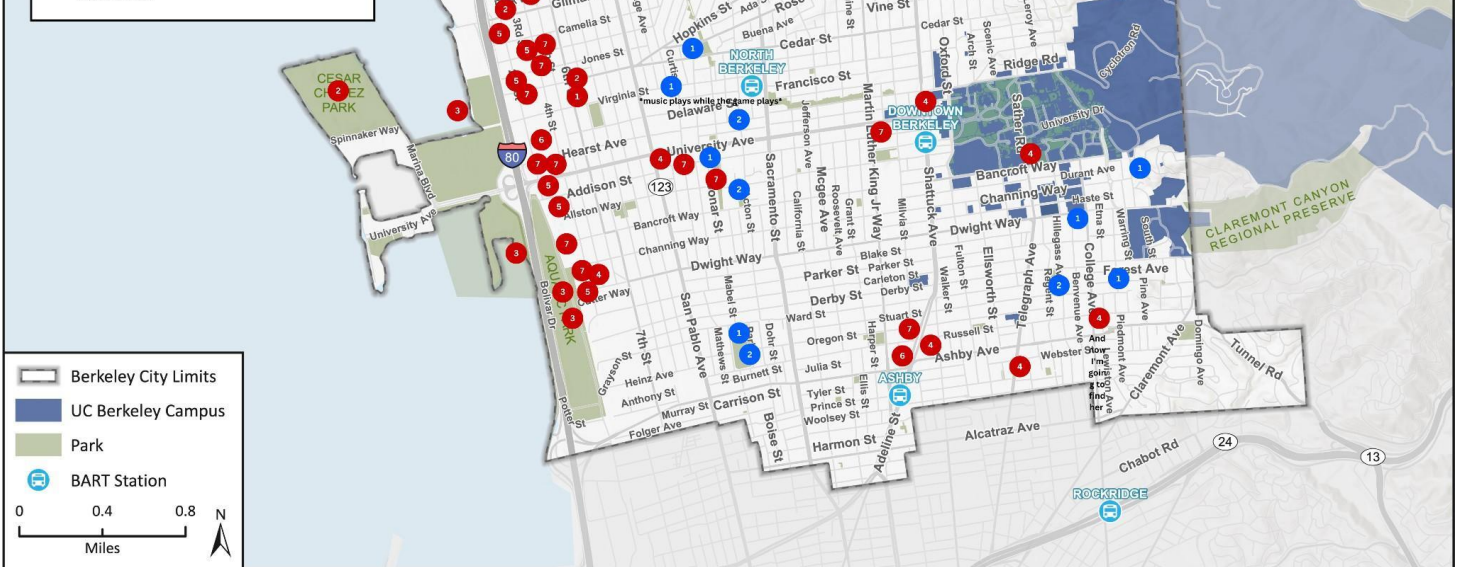
Air Quality & Pollution

Assets

1. Areas with clean, fresh air
2. Areas with shade from street trees

Challenges

1. Areas that contain smells (fumes, chemicals)
2. Areas that you notice are polluted
3. Areas with poor water quality
4. Areas with a lot of vehicle traffic
5. Areas near industrial businesses
6. Areas with a lot of truck traffic
7. Areas with trash in the streets, on vacant lots

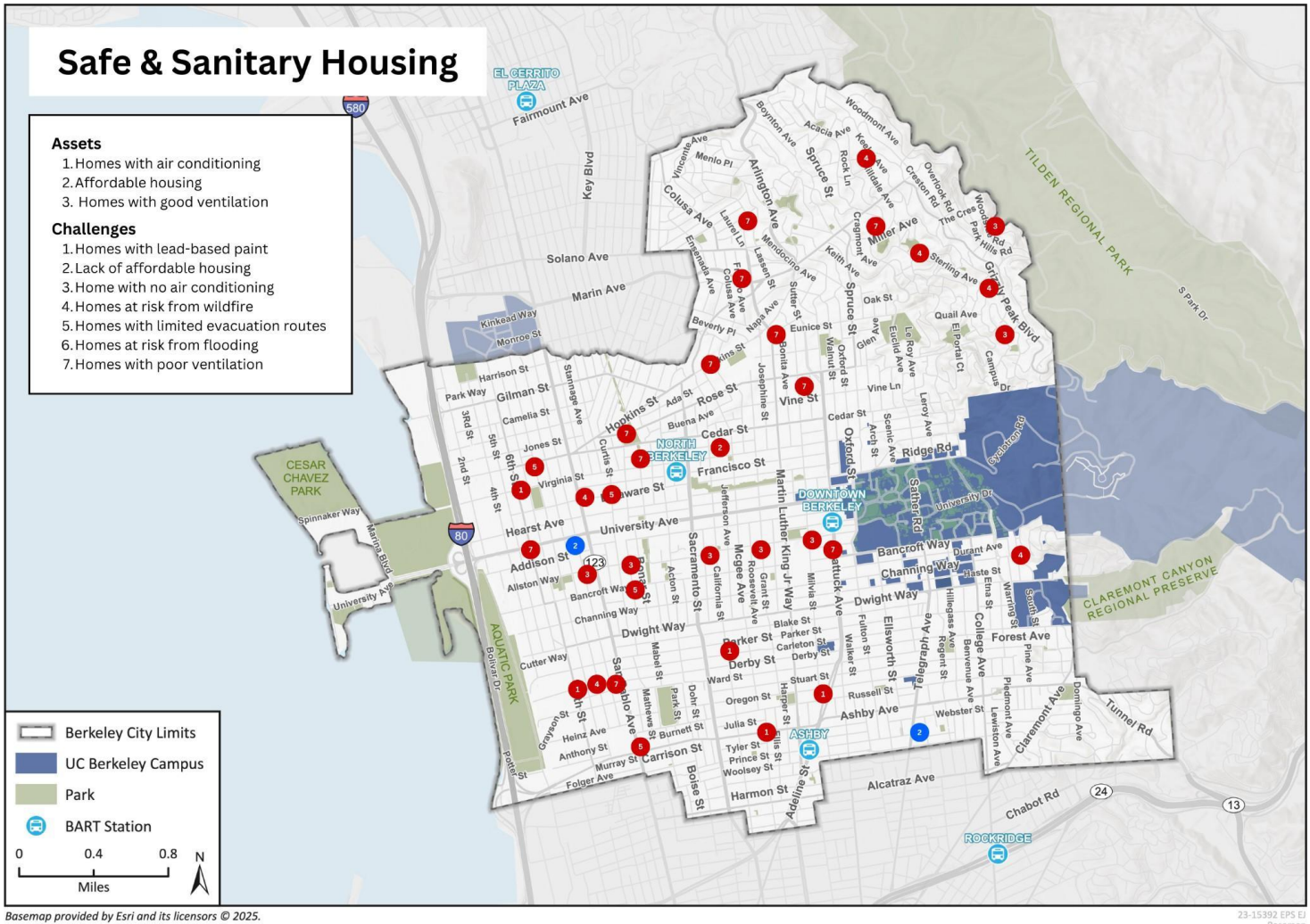


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23-15392 EPS EJ
Basemap

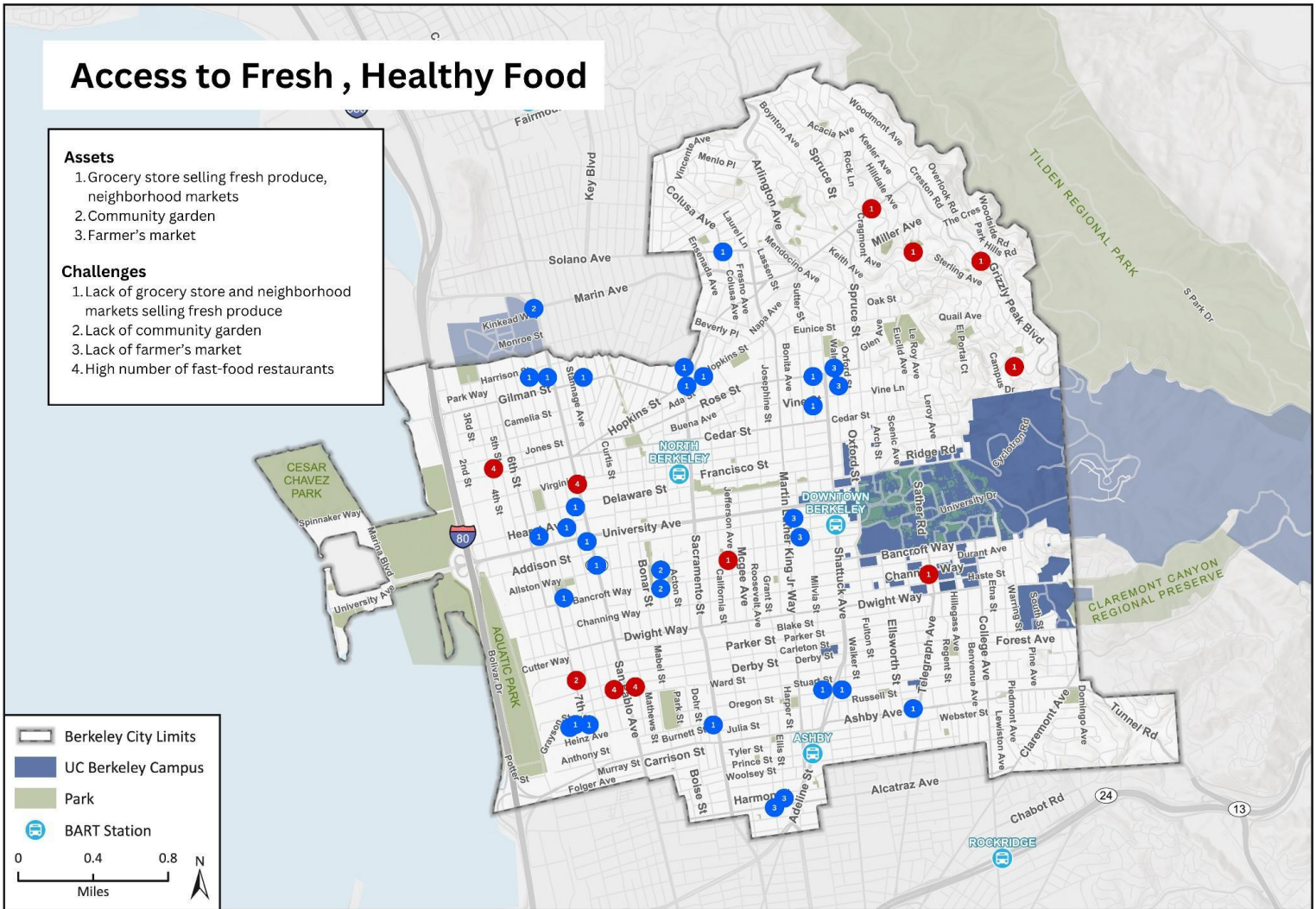
Safe and Sanitary Housing

- **Affordable housing is a top priority.** Mixed-use developments with density bonuses and projects near transit and community hubs, like People's Park, were highlighted as key assets.
- **Energy efficiency and ventilation improvements are needed.** Participants emphasized heat pumps, better insulation, and electrification as critical upgrades for healthier homes.
- **Flooding and wildfire risks threaten housing stability.** Basement flooding, groundwater rise, and wildfire-prone areas, especially near Tilden Park, require stronger mitigation efforts.
- **Evacuation routes and housing safety need attention.** Narrow streets, limited escape options, soft-story buildings, and unpermitted renovations pose safety risks for residents.



Access to Fresh, Healthy Food

- **West Berkeley and the Hills need more fresh food options.** There are fewer grocery stores, farmers' markets, and community gardens in these areas, making access difficult.
- **Affordability remains a challenge.** Farmers' market prices are high, and food assistance programs need better outreach.
- **More community-driven food spaces are needed.** Expanding community gardens, pop-up markets, and volunteering opportunities could improve food access.
- **Fast food outnumbers fresh food options in some neighborhoods.** Addressing this imbalance could help promote healthier eating choices.



Access to Public Facilities

- **Pedestrian and cycling infrastructure need improvement.** Uneven sidewalks, dangerous bike lanes, and lack of pedestrian safety measures were frequent concerns.
- **Transit access is uneven across the city.** Some areas, especially **North and Southwest Berkeley**, have limited bus and BART access.
- **More community facilities are needed.** **Cooling centers, resilient hubs, and public gathering spaces** are lacking in parts of **West Berkeley**.
- **Public services should be more accessible.** **Medical and mental health facilities**, as well as senior services, need better outreach and support.

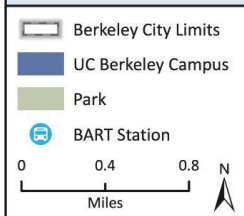
Access to Public Facilities

Assets

1. Good sidewalks, crosswalks and safety for people who walk and use mobility devices
2. Bicycle lanes and safety for people who use bicycles to get around
3. Transit (bus or BART) stop for people who use public transit to get around
4. Medical facilities
5. Mental health facilities
6. Senior care facilities
7. Community centers
8. Cooling centers
9. Library
10. School

Challenges

1. Lack of sidewalks, crosswalks, and safety for people who walk and use mobility devices
2. Lack of bicycle lanes and safety for people who use bicycles to get around
3. Lack of transit (bus or BART) stop for people who use public transit to get around

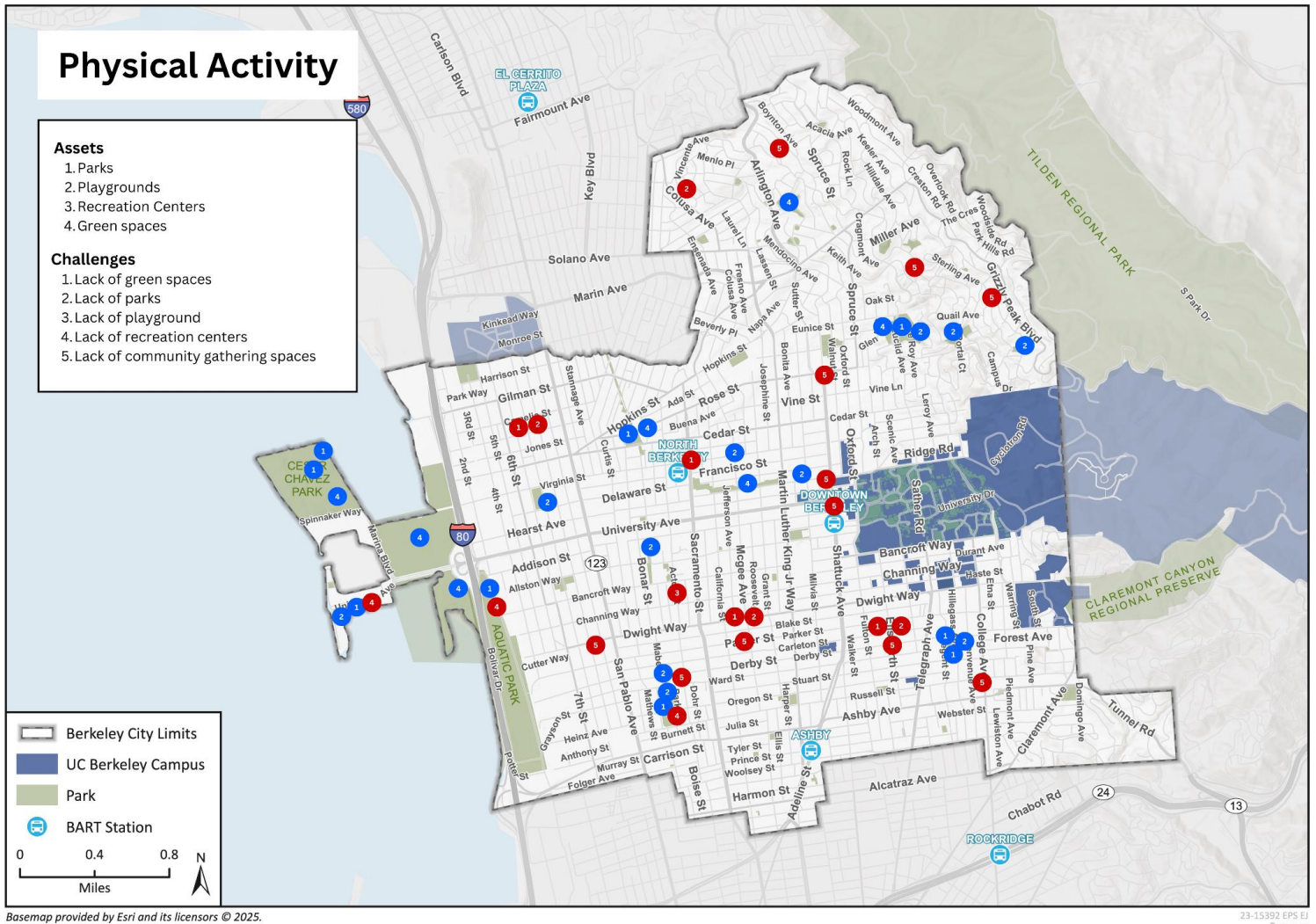


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Basemap

Physical Activity

- Parks and green spaces need improvements. **San Pablo Park, Cesar Chavez Park, and Aquatic Park** require upgrades to better serve the community.
- **More recreational spaces are needed for older youth.** High schoolers and teens lack dedicated playgrounds and facilities.
- **Downtown lacks welcoming public spaces.** Investing in outdoor gathering areas, placemaking, and event spaces would improve accessibility.
- **Underutilized spaces could be transformed.** Opportunities exist to revitalize **Cesar Chavez Park**, old train tracks at **San Pablo & Gilman**, and vacant lots for new parks and recreation areas.



Activity #1: Part 2 - Small Group Discussions of Assets and Challenges

After the mapping activity, City staff from each mapping station summarized the key takeaways from each map. Participants were then invited to sit in small groups to reflect together on what they had learned from their fellow community members about environmental justice, climate vulnerability, and community environmental health. Facilitators at each table walked the group through the following prompts:

1. What does this data tell us about environmental justice?
2. What does this data tell us about community environmental health?
3. Is there anything missing?



Image 3: Activity 1, Part 2 - Discussing Assets & Challenges

1. **Strengthening Local Resilience & Community Networks:** Support neighborhood-based resilience hubs to provide cooling centers, food security, and disaster training. Expand mutual aid programs modeled after COVID-era community support networks.
2. **Improving Mapping & Data Transparency:** Develop real-time, GIS-based hazard mapping that integrates wildfire risk, flooding, and pollution exposure. Create a digital public platform to connect residents with emergency services, food assistance, and shelter locations.
3. **Advancing Equitable Urban Planning:** Expand tree cover, parks, and green spaces in under-resourced neighborhoods. Ensure planning decisions address both immediate and long-term resilience needs. Integrate affordable energy and housing solutions into climate action planning.
4. **Enhancing Emergency Preparedness & Outreach:** Strengthen CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) programs and increase multilingual outreach. Involve renters, youth, and historically marginalized communities in disaster planning.

Activity #2 - Draft Environmental Justice Map Discussion

After the City gave a presentation about the data inputs and process for creating the Draft Environmental Justice Map (see Appendix C), facilitators led small groups through a discussion of the following prompts:

1. Are there areas that feel underrepresented in these maps?
2. Are there areas that feel overrepresented?
3. Do these maps represent your experience in Berkeley? Why or why not?



Image 4: Activity 2 - Discussing Draft Environmental Justice Map

1. **Turning Mapping Insights into Action** – Participants emphasized that environmental justice mapping should drive tangible community action. They called for investments in resilience hubs, youth engagement, and decentralized, community-led solutions rather than relying solely on city-led efforts.
2. **Balancing Top-Down and Neighborhood-Level Solutions** – There is a need for stronger collaboration between the city and communities. While long-term strategies are important, participants stressed the value of acting on immediate, lower-cost opportunities to build resilience.
3. **Expanding the Scope of Environmental Justice Mapping** – The current map does not fully capture the breadth of environmental and social vulnerabilities. Participants recommended integrating data on wildfire, flooding, landslides, and historical injustices such as redlining and industrial pollution.

4. **Addressing Geographic Discrepancies in Risk Designations** – Sharp contrasts in vulnerability ratings across short distances raised concerns about the accuracy and methodology of risk assessments. Participants particularly questioned inconsistencies in West Berkeley and other areas with known environmental hazards.
5. **Recognizing Broader Regional Impacts** – Beyond localized risks, participants highlighted the need for an approach that accounts for regional threats like wildfire smoke, traffic-related air pollution, and broader environmental stressors that extend beyond city boundaries.

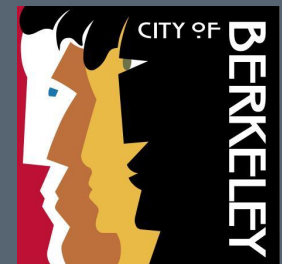
Appendices

- A. Workshop Agenda & Presentation
- B. Definitions of Indicators for Mapping Assets & Challenges
- C. Draft Environmental Justice Map

An aerial photograph of Berkeley, California, taken from a high vantage point. The city's dense urban landscape is visible in the foreground, with various buildings and green spaces. In the background, the city gives way to a wide expanse of water, likely the San Francisco Bay, with a bridge visible in the distance. The sky is a vibrant orange and yellow, indicating a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

General Plan Update **Prepared, Safe, Healthy Berkeley**

February 1, 2025
Community Workshop #1



Welcome!

Indigenous People, Place and Culture Acknowledgement

Acknowledging our Ancestors, the Cultures that preceded us that respected land and life, the Native and Indigenous Peoples who owned and stewarded this land that we currently live, work and play on, and those people and communities who continue to do so.

<https://native-land.ca/>

Meeting Objectives

Provide an overview of the project

Get community input about assets and challenges related to environmental justice, climate vulnerability, and environmental health



Today's Agenda

Shaping a safer, more just, and resilient Berkeley together. Thank you for being a part of this journey!

Welcome: 10:00 – 10:15

Project Overview: 10:15 - 10:30

Assets & Challenges Mapping Activity: 10:30 – 11:35

Break: 11:35 - 11:45

Draft Environmental Justice Mapping Activity: 11:45 – 12:25

Next Steps: 12:25 – 12:30



Project Team



- City Planning and Development Department
 - Land Use Planning &
 - Office of Sustainable Development
- Ecology Center



- Rincon
- Civic Makers
- Equity First
- Fehr & Peers
- Safety Training Consultants



Funding Support –
Adaptation Planning
Grant Program

Project Overview

What are the goals of this project?

- 1 Update the General Plan
 - Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element
 - Environmental Justice Element
- 2 Create Community-Driven Climate and Resilience Metrics



Berkeley's General Plan

The Berkeley General Plan contains the following “Elements”:

1. Land Use
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Disaster Preparedness and Safety ← *Updating*
5. Open Space and Recreation
6. Environmental Management
7. Economic Development and Employment
8. Urban Design and Preservation
9. Citizen Participation
10. Environmental Justice ← *NEW*



Community-Driven Climate & Resilience Metrics



How could this project affect you?

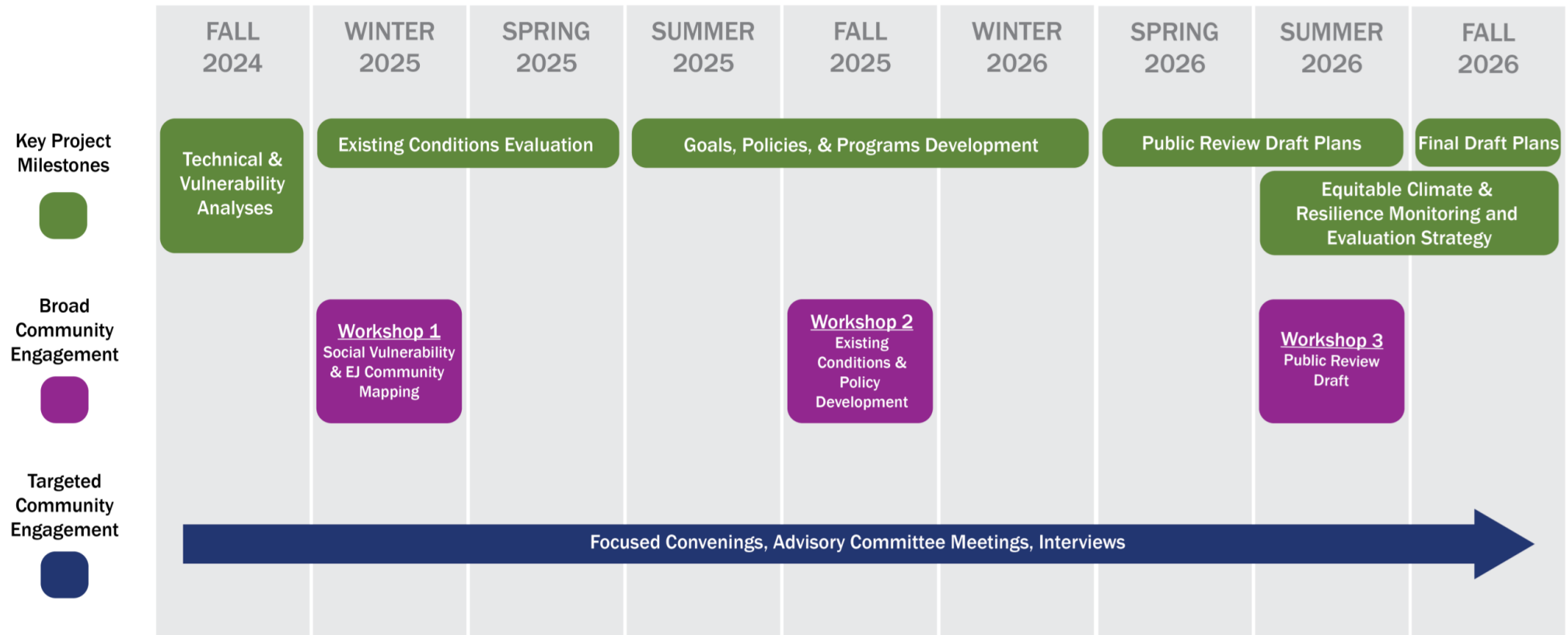
September 9, 2020 – Berkeley Marina



Salgu Wissmath/San Francisco Chronicle via AP

Community Engagement

Project Timeline



Outreach & Engagement Strategy

Build Authentic Community Relationships
Increase Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusivity
Build Community Power



Community Advisory Committee



The challenge of being of service to the community.

The cross sector collaboration that will hopefully make changes in our city.



The ability to influence how equity is created in Berkeley for communities that have historically been marginalized.

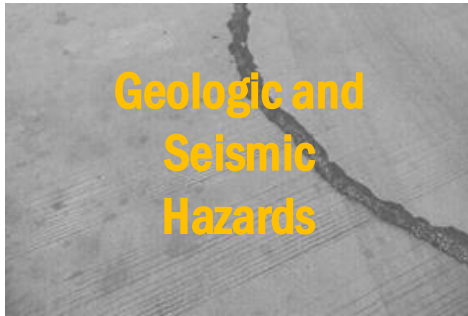
Safety Element

Safety Element Objectives

- Reduce risk from natural and human-made hazards
- Support mitigation, emergency preparedness, disaster response, and recovery efforts.
- Address climate change adaptation and resilience
- Prioritize vulnerable communities most impacted by climate change



Natural & Human-Caused Hazards



Climate Change Hazards



Environmental Justice Element

What is Environmental Justice?

- “Promote social equity, align with public health, and involve affected communities in the decisions that impact their lives.”
(Planning for Healthy Communities Act (SB 1000, 2016))
- “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.”
(Government Code § 65040.12(c)).



Camila Leão for OBI x Fine Acts

Environmental Justice Element Objectives



Reduce Pollution Exposure



Promote Transparency &
Engagement in Public Decision-
Making



Promote Physical Activity



Prioritize Improvements and
Programs that Address the Needs
of Disadvantaged Communities

Promote Equitable Access to:



Healthy Food



Safe & Sanitary Homes



Public Facilities

Environmental Justice Community Indicators

State Definition:

Areas that are lower income ***and*** disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution and hazards.

Race and Income

- People of Color
- Income

Pollution Burden

- Air Quality
- Water
- Hazardous Materials
- Climate Change

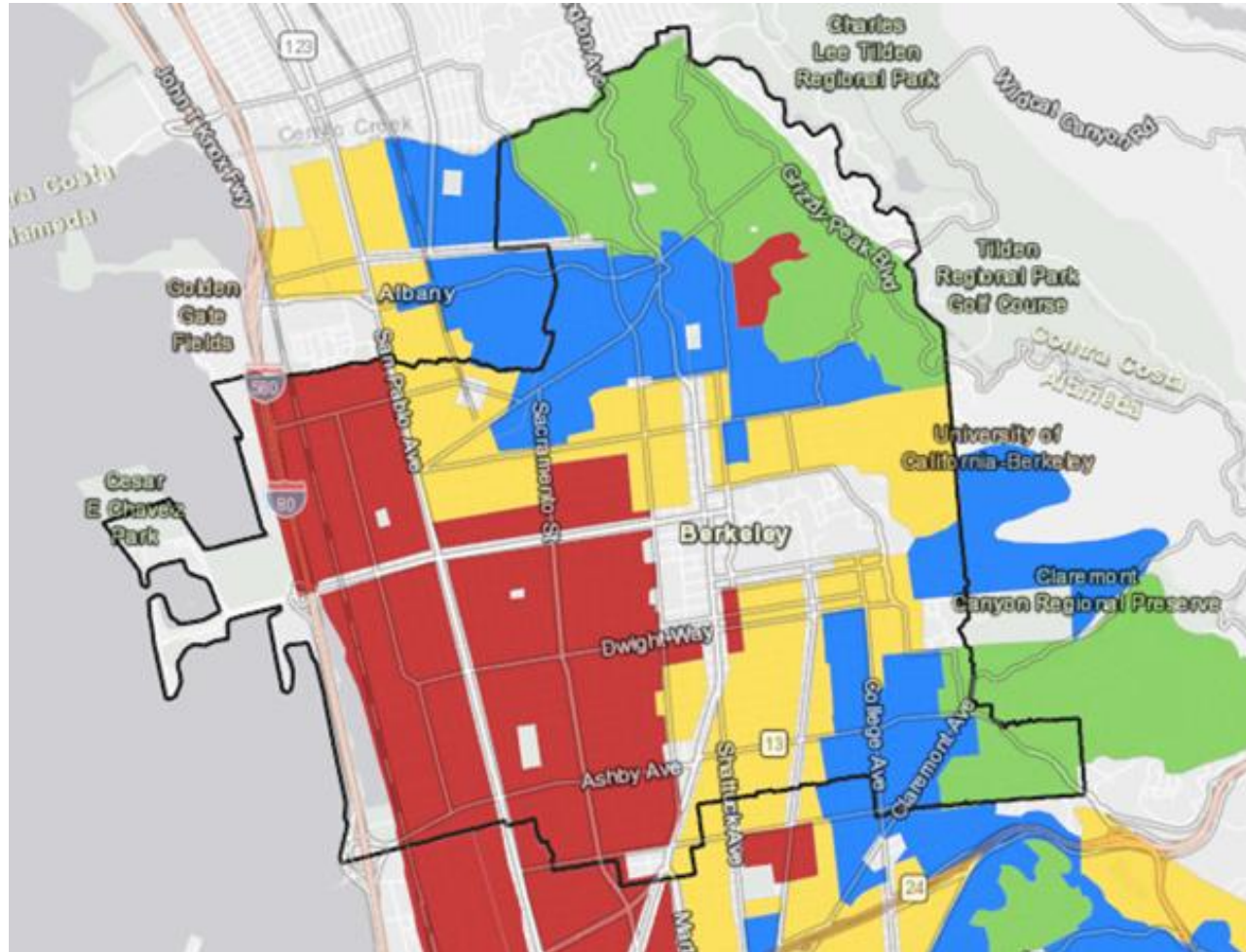
Social Vulnerability

- Health
- Socioeconomic

Built Environment

- Transportation
- Food
- Housing
- Neighborhood

Historical Context



Homeowner's Loan Corporation Redlining Grade (1937)

- A (Best)
- B (Still Desirable)
- C (Declining)
- D (Hazardous)

Ongoing Impacts

Racial and
Economic
Segregation

Inequality

Environment
and Health

Climate
Change

Engagement Activities

Community Agreements

- Share Honestly
- Respect Difference
- Listen Actively
- Help us Keep on Time



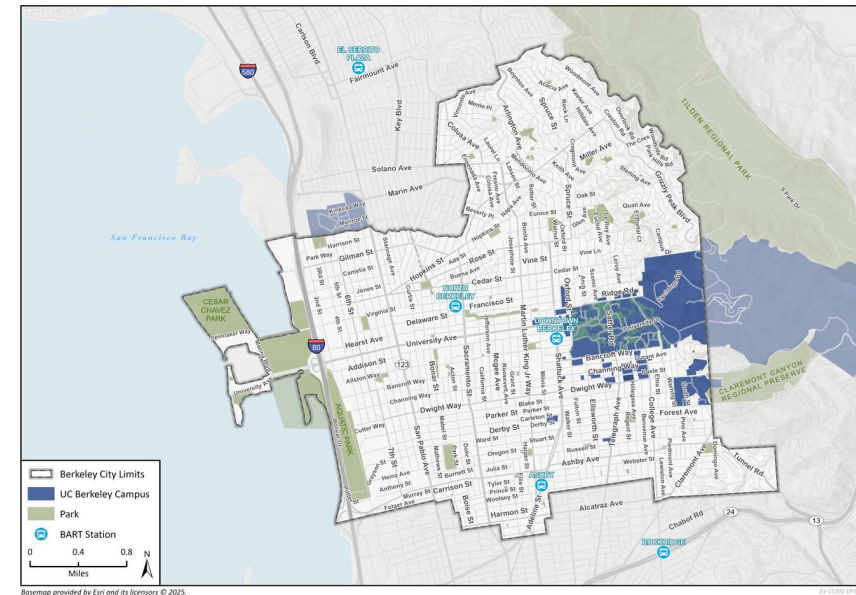
Activity 1, Part 1 Overview

Objective:

Participatory mapping to identify environmental **challenges** (red dots) and community **assets** (blue dots) in Berkeley neighborhoods.

There are 5 mapping stations.

- **Participatory Mapping (25 mins)**
 - Identify challenges and assets at map stations
- **Group Share Out (10 mins)**
 - Facilitators summarize and share key themes with the group



Station 1 – Air Quality and Pollution

Assets

1. Areas with clean, fresh air
2. Areas with shade from street trees

Challenges

1. Areas that contain smells (fumes, chemicals)
2. Areas that you notice are polluted
3. Areas with poor water quality
4. Areas with a lot of vehicle traffic
5. Areas near industrial businesses
6. Areas with a lot of truck traffic
7. Areas with trash in the streets, on vacant lots



Station 2 – Safe & Sanitary Housing

Assets

1. Homes with air conditioning
2. Affordable housing
3. Homes with good ventilation

Challenges

1. Homes with lead-based paint
2. Lack of affordable housing
3. Home with no air conditioning
4. Homes at risk from wildfire
5. Homes with limited evacuation routes
6. Homes at risk from flooding
7. Homes with poor ventilation



Station 3 – Access to Fresh, Healthy Food

Assets

1. Grocery store selling fresh produce, neighborhood markets
2. Community garden
3. Farmer's market

Challenges

1. Lack of grocery store and neighborhood markets selling fresh produce
2. Lack of community garden
3. Lack of farmer's market
4. High number of fast-food restaurants



Station 4 – Access to Public Facilities

Assets

1. Good sidewalks, crosswalks and safety for people who walk and use mobility devices
2. Bicycle lanes and safety for people who use bicycles to get around
3. Transit (bus or BART) stop for people who use public transit to get around
4. Medical facilities
5. Mental health facilities
6. Senior care facilities
7. Community centers
8. Cooling centers
9. Library
10. School

Challenges

1. Lack of sidewalks, crosswalks, and safety for people who walk and use mobility devices
2. Lack of bicycle lanes and safety for people who use bicycles to get around
3. Lack of transit (bus or BART) stop for people who use public transit to get around



Station 5 – Physical Activity

Assets

1. Parks
2. Playgrounds
3. Recreation Centers
4. Green spaces

Challenges

1. Lack of green spaces
2. Lack of parks
3. Lack of playground
4. Lack of recreation centers
5. Lack of community gathering spaces



Activity 1, Part 1 Mapping Instructions

Instructions

1. Visit as many **map stations** as you want (5 total)
2. Use **red dots** to mark challenges (**what's a problem?**)
3. Use **blue dots** to mark assets (**what's working?**)
4. **Add comments** on the space provided (be as specific as possible)

*** If you need help, a facilitator will be available to assist*

Activity 1, Part 2 Instructions

1. Please sit at the nearest round table.
2. Each map facilitator shares a few themes from their mapping station.
3. Small group reflection:
 - *What does this data tell us about environmental justice?*
 - *What does this data tell us about community environmental health?*
 - *Is there anything missing?*

10 Minute Break

Activity 2: Draft Environmental Justice Map

- **Objective:** Refine draft map and ensure it reflects the realities of environmental justice in Berkeley.
- **Presentation of Draft Map (10 mins)**
- **Small Group Discussion (20 mins)**
- **Group Share Out (10 mins)**

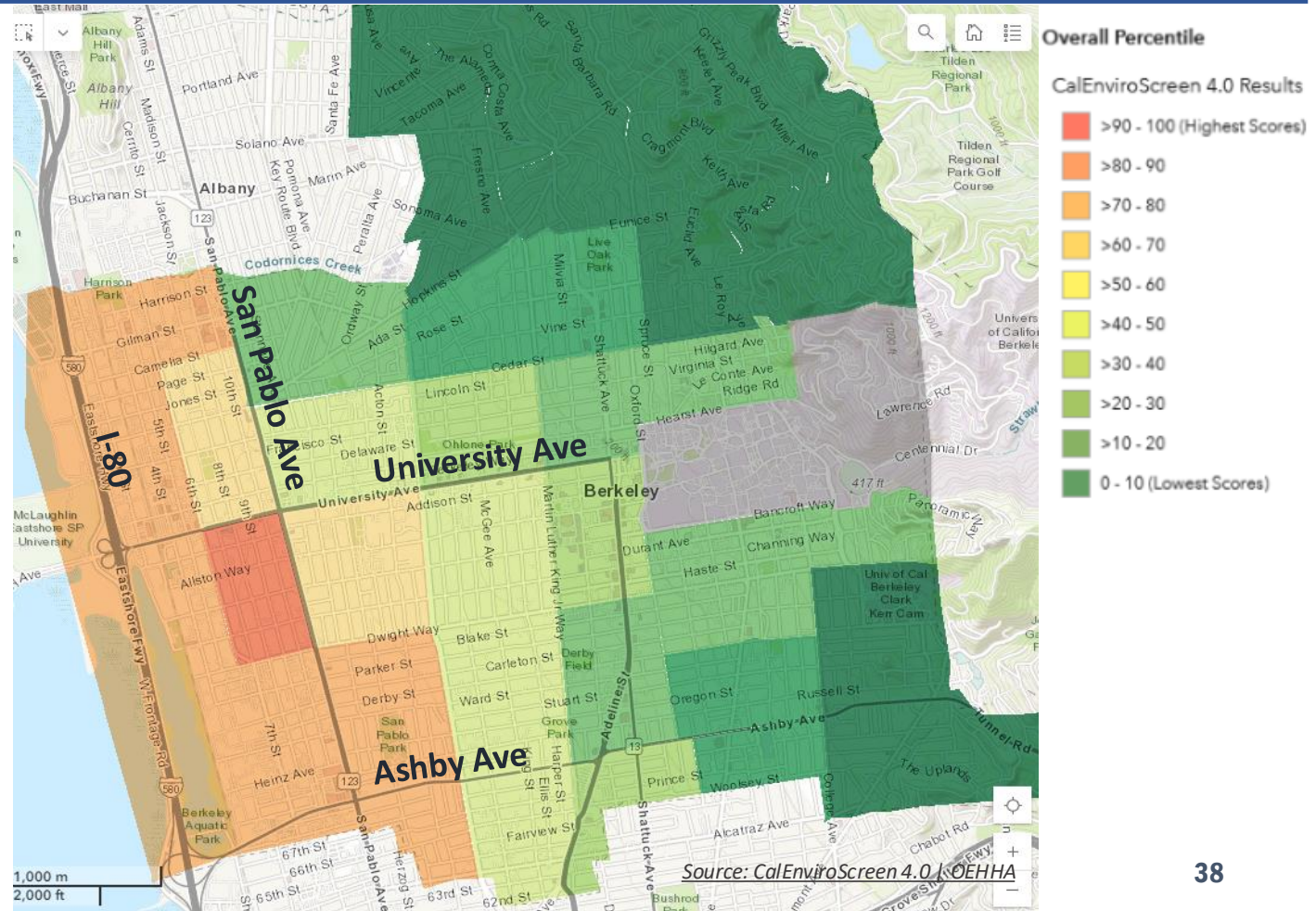
CalEnviroScreen Map

Pollution
Exposure



CalEnviro
Screen
Score

Population
Characteristics





- Household income
- Areas of social vulnerability
- Air pollution exposure

Why is the Environmental Justice map important?

Prioritizing equitable outcomes

Prioritizing areas of change within the city



Activity 2: Draft Environmental Justice Maps

- Small Group Discussion (20 mins)
 - *Are there areas that feel underrepresented in these maps?*
 - *Are there areas that feel overrepresented?*
 - *Do these maps represent your experience in Berkeley? Why or why not?*
- Group Share Out (10 mins)

Next Steps

Stay involved!

- Tell us what you thought of this workshop: bit.ly/BEJSWS1
- Attend workshop #2, anticipated this Fall



<https://berkeleyca.gov/prepared-safe-healthy>



PreparedSafeHealthy@berkeleyca.gov

Air Quality & Pollution

Instructions

Use **blue dots** to mark **ASSETS** on the map (*what's working?*). Select the numbered sticker to match the category:

- 1 Areas with **clean, fresh air**
- 2 Shade from street **trees**

Use **red dots** to mark **CHALLENGES** on the map (*what's a problem?*). Select the numbered sticker to match the category:

- 1 Contain **smells** (*fumes, chemicals*)
- 2 **Polluted**
- 3 Poor **water** quality
- 4 Vehicle **traffic**
- 5 **Industrial** businesses
- 6 **Truck** traffic
- 7 **Trash** on vacant lots

Add Your Comments!

Add comments on sticky notes to the **comment sheets** on either side of the map. **Include the corresponding category number.** Be as specific as possible (e.g. neighborhood, intersection, descriptions).

Access to Fresh, Healthy Food

Instructions

Use **blue dots** to mark **ASSETS** on the map (*what's working?*). Select the numbered sticker to match the category:

- 1** Grocery store selling **fresh produce**, neighborhood markets
- 2** **Community garden**
- 3** **Farmer's market**

Use **red dots** to mark **CHALLENGES** on the map (*what's a problem?*). Select the numbered sticker to match the category:

- 1** Lack of **grocery store** and neighborhood markets selling fresh produce
- 2** Lack of **community garden**
- 3** Lack of **farmer's market**
- 4** Lots of **fast-food restaurants**

Add Your Comments!

Add comments on sticky notes to the **comment sheets** on either side of the map. **Include the corresponding category number.** Be as specific as possible (e.g. neighborhood, intersection, descriptions).

Safe & Sanitary Housing

Instructions

Use **blue dots** to mark **ASSETS** on the map (*what's working?*). Select the numbered sticker to match the category:

- 1 Homes with **air conditioning**
- 2 **Affordable housing**
- 3 Homes with **good ventilation**

Use **red dots** to mark **CHALLENGES** on the map (*what's a problem?*). Select the numbered sticker to match the category:

- 1 Homes with **lead-based paint**
- 2 No **air conditioning**
- 3 Homes at risk from **wildfire**
- 4 Limited **evacuation** routes
- 5 Homes at risk from **flooding**
- 6 Homes with poor **ventilation**
- 7 Lack of **affordable housing**

Add Your Comments!

Add comments on sticky notes to the **comment sheets** on either side of the map. **Include the corresponding category number.** Be as specific as possible (e.g. neighborhood, intersection, descriptions).

Physical Activity

Instructions

Use **blue dots** to mark **ASSETS** on the map (*what's working?*). Select the numbered sticker to match the category:

- 1 Parks
- 2 Playground
- 3 Recreation centers
- 4 Green spaces

Use **red dots** to mark **CHALLENGES** on the map (*what's a problem?*). Select the numbered sticker to match the category:

- 1 Lack of **green spaces**
- 2 Lack of **parks**
- 3 Lack of **playground**
- 4 Lack of **recreation centers**
- 5 Lack of **gathering spaces**

Add Your Comments!

Add comments on sticky notes to the **comment sheets** on either side of the map. **Include the corresponding category number.** Be as specific as possible (e.g. neighborhood, intersection, descriptions).

Access to Public Facilities

Instructions

Use **blue dots** to mark **ASSETS** on the map (*what's working?*). Select the numbered sticker to match the category:

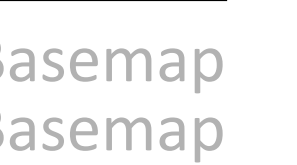
- 1 **Good sidewalks**, crosswalks and safety for all people
- 2 **Bicycle lanes** and safety for bicyclists
- 3 **Transit stops** (bus or BART)
- 4 **Medical** facilities
- 5 **Mental health** facilities
- 6 **Senior care** facilities
- 7 **Community centers**
- 8 **Cooling centers**
- 9 **Library**
- 10 **School**

Use **red dots** to mark **CHALLENGES** on the map (*what's a problem?*). Select the numbered sticker to match the category:

- 1 Lack of **sidewalks**, crosswalks and safety for all people
- 2 Lack of **bicycle lanes** and safety for bicyclists
- 3 Lack of **transit stops** (bus or BART)

Add Your Comments!

Add comments on sticky notes to the **comment sheets** on either side of the map. **Include the corresponding category number.** Be as specific as possible (e.g. neighborhood, intersection, descriptions).



Community Advisory Committee (CAC) – Mapping Engagement Activity

This project includes a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) facilitated by the Ecology Center, a nonprofit organization located in Berkeley, California that focuses on improving the health and the environmental impacts of urban residents. The CAC plays a crucial role in ensuring that urban planning processes are inclusive and representative of historically under-represented communities. The CAC is composed of community-based organizations (CBOs) that advocate for and represent diverse groups, including Black, African American, Latino/a/x, Indigenous, Hispanic, Native American, Asian, and other non-white racial/ethnic groups as defined by themselves. Additionally, the committee includes representatives of people with low or no incomes, people living with disabilities, elders, young children, people experiencing homelessness, and other marginalized community groups.

As part of the preliminary phase of the effort to update the General Plan Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element and create a new Environmental Justice Element and climate resilience metrics, the Ecology Center worked closely with members of the CAC to identify **issues and resiliencies**¹ related to Environmental Justice Policy areas: Race and Poverty, Pollution Burden, Sensitive Populations, and Built Environment (see Figure 1), as well as **build a shared language**, prioritize indicators of **Social Vulnerability** which inform the Safety Element and Environmental Justice Element, **provide feedback on the draft Environmental Justice Map**, and identify **what Berkeley could use more of**.

Eight CAC membership organizations and others participated in this engagement activity:

1. Healthy Black Families
2. Multicultural Institute
3. Youth-Oriented Organizations (e.g. Waterside Workshop, Berkeley Youth Alternatives, Youth Environmental Academy)
4. Gray Panthers
5. Center for Independent Living
6. Berkeley Food Network
7. The Pacific ADA Center

¹ In an effort to be more community-focused, the Community Advisory Committee decided to use the term “resiliencies” in place of the term “city assets”.

8. Latinos Unidos

This mapping exercise was conducted both in-person, via zoom, and/or online via a Google Survey between October 2024 and February 2025.

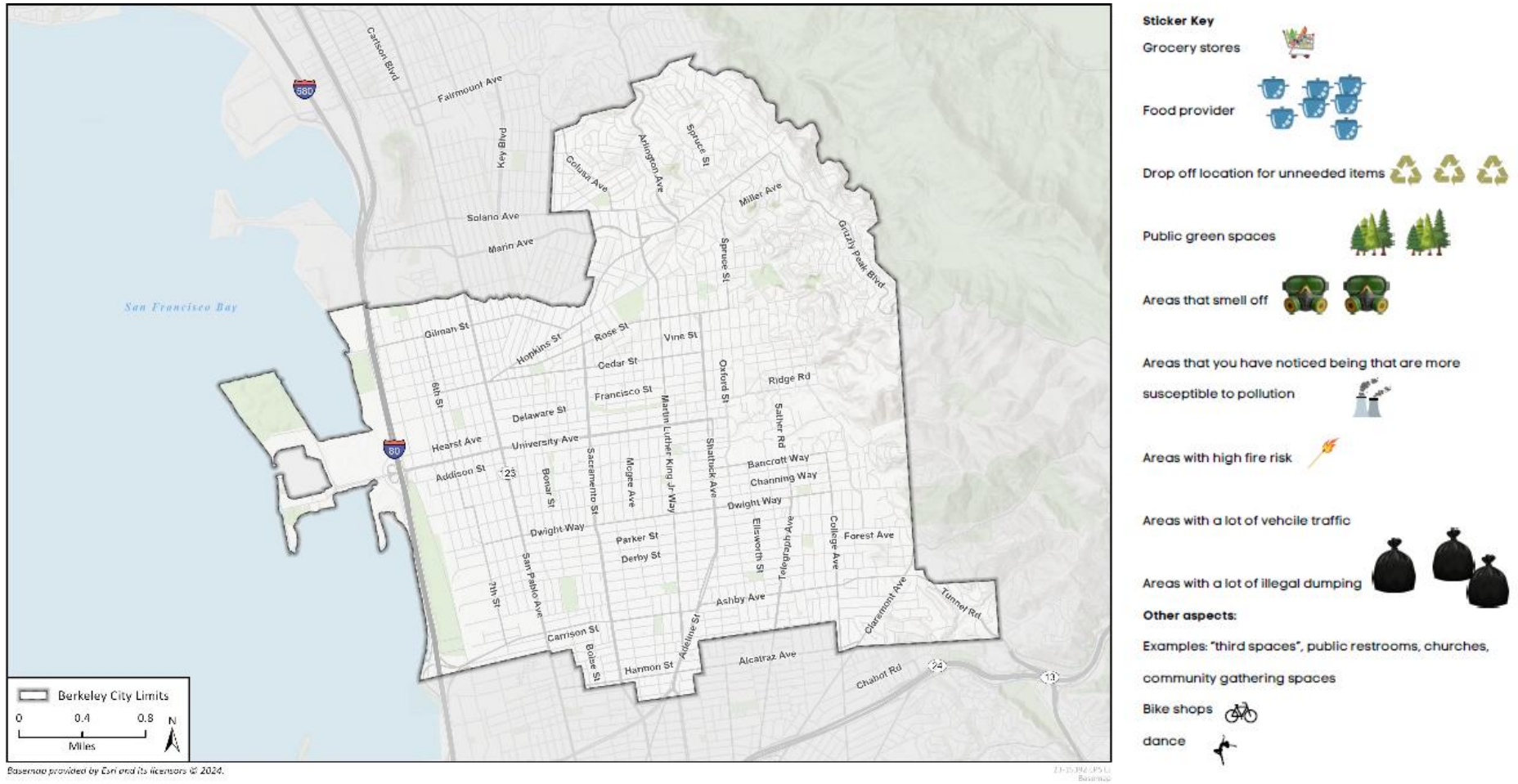
1. Issues & Resiliencies Mapping

Activity

To identify issues and resiliencies within the City of Berkeley, the Ecology Center met with representatives of different CAC organizations and other members of the community selected by CAC members in one-on-one and small group settings. Participants were provided with blank maps of Berkeley (see Figure 1) and asked to place stickers or markers where they identified issues and resiliencies. A list of issues and resiliencies were provided, but participants were encouraged to add additional ones.

A total of 31 maps were collected from representatives of Healthy Black Families (3), the Gray Panthers (4), the Multicultural Institute (9), Latinos Unidos (1), YEA (4), Waterside Workshops (1), Ecology Center (3), The Pacific Center (1), Pacific ADA (1), Berkeley Youth Alternatives (1) and the Center for Independent Living (3). Some maps represented one individual, others represented multiple individuals.

Figure 1: Example of a map provided at in-person mapping activity.



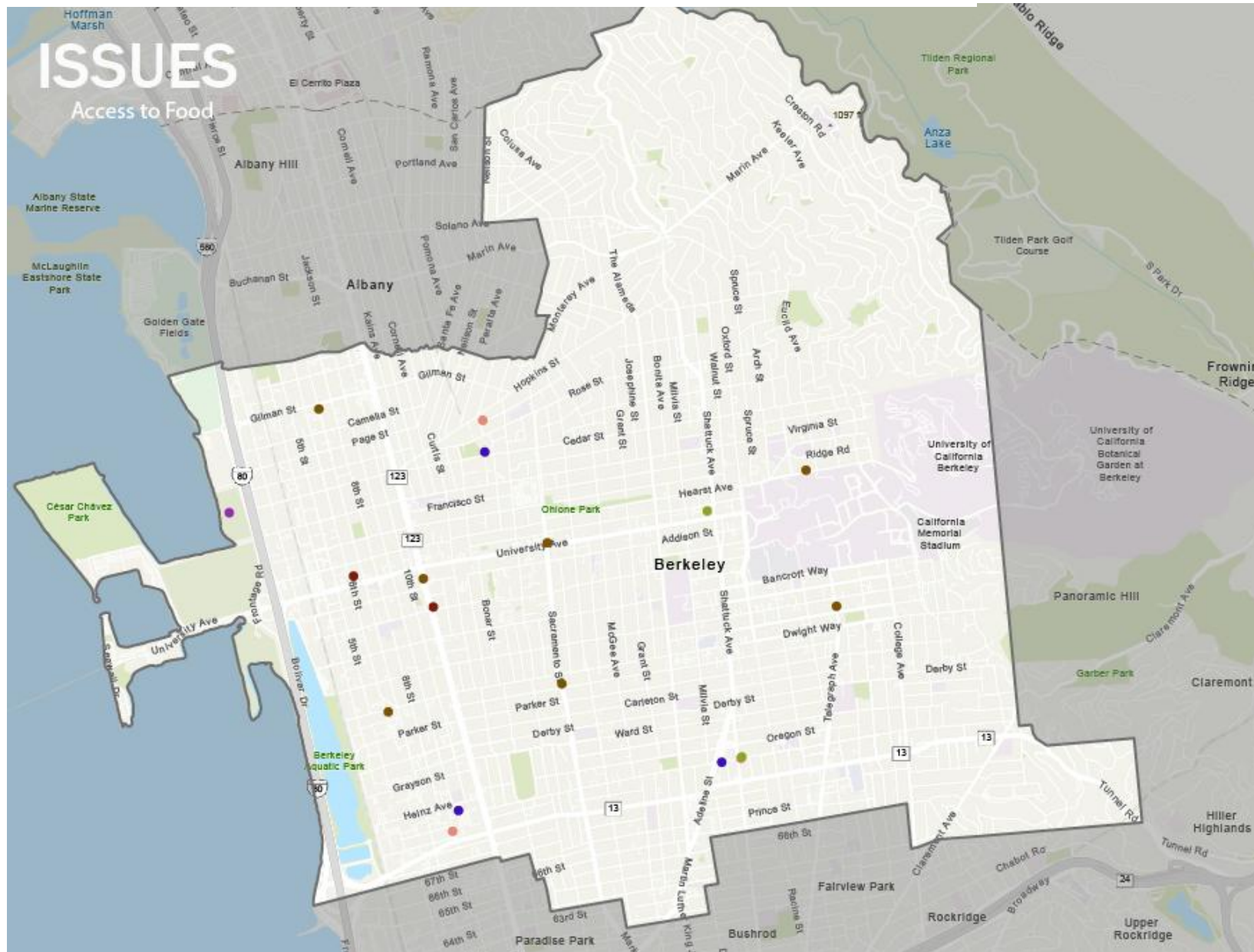
Takeaways – Issues & Resiliencies

Issues

In response to the questions “What are the challenges your community is confronted with?”, “What contributes most to these challenges?”, and “Are there examples of resources addressing these problems?”, participants focused largely on issues with the **Built Environment** and issues related to **Sensitive Populations**, and often the intersection between the two. Sensitive Populations most frequently raised included: the **unhoused**, **people with disability**, **people with limited English-speaking abilities**, **seniors**, and **the LGBTQ population**. The issues highlighted most frequently included:

- 1. Access to Public Bathrooms.** One of the most frequently mentioned issues within the community was the lack of access to public bathrooms, with respondents highlighting this being particularly challenging for people experiencing houselessness, as well as seniors.
- 2. Access to Food.** A number of respondents highlighted food insecurity, healthy food access and affordability, and food education as challenges the community faces. Respondents also mapped accessibility of food retailers, such as narrow aisles, small parking lots, and crowded stores

Figure 2: Issues – Access to Food



Access to Housing. Another frequently mentioned challenge was housing, and the need to make it more available, affordable, and accessible. Respondents also mentioned the unhoused and the lack of shelter and available resources.

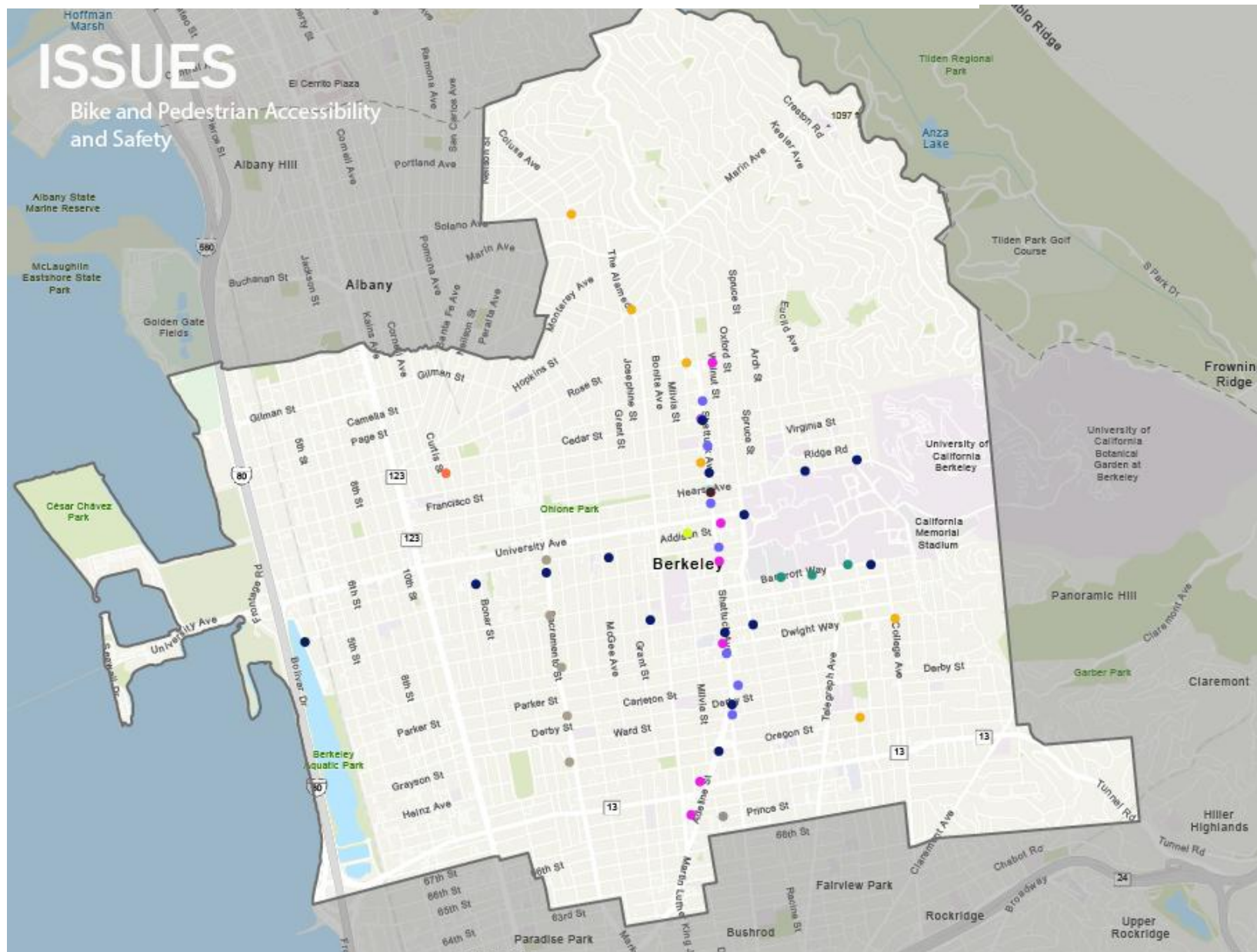
- 3. Bike and Pedestrian Accessibility and Safety.** One respondent raised issues with trash in bike lanes, safety concerns for disabled bikers, a lack of disabled bike parking, and issues with bike lane width for three-wheeled bikes. Another respondent highlighted the need for building community knowledge regarding bikers with disabilities. Another highlighted the danger at interchanges between bike lanes and on-street parking.

Respondents noted that road safety challenges appear to be caused by construction and rental scooters.

The inaccessibility of sidewalks and ramps were noted as not being great, and when asked about whether or not pedestrian accessibility was an important indicator of social vulnerability, 100% of respondents (16) responded that it was an important indicator.

The map indicated most of the concerns were concentrated along Shattuck.

Figure 3: Issues – Bike and Pedestrian Accessibility and Safety

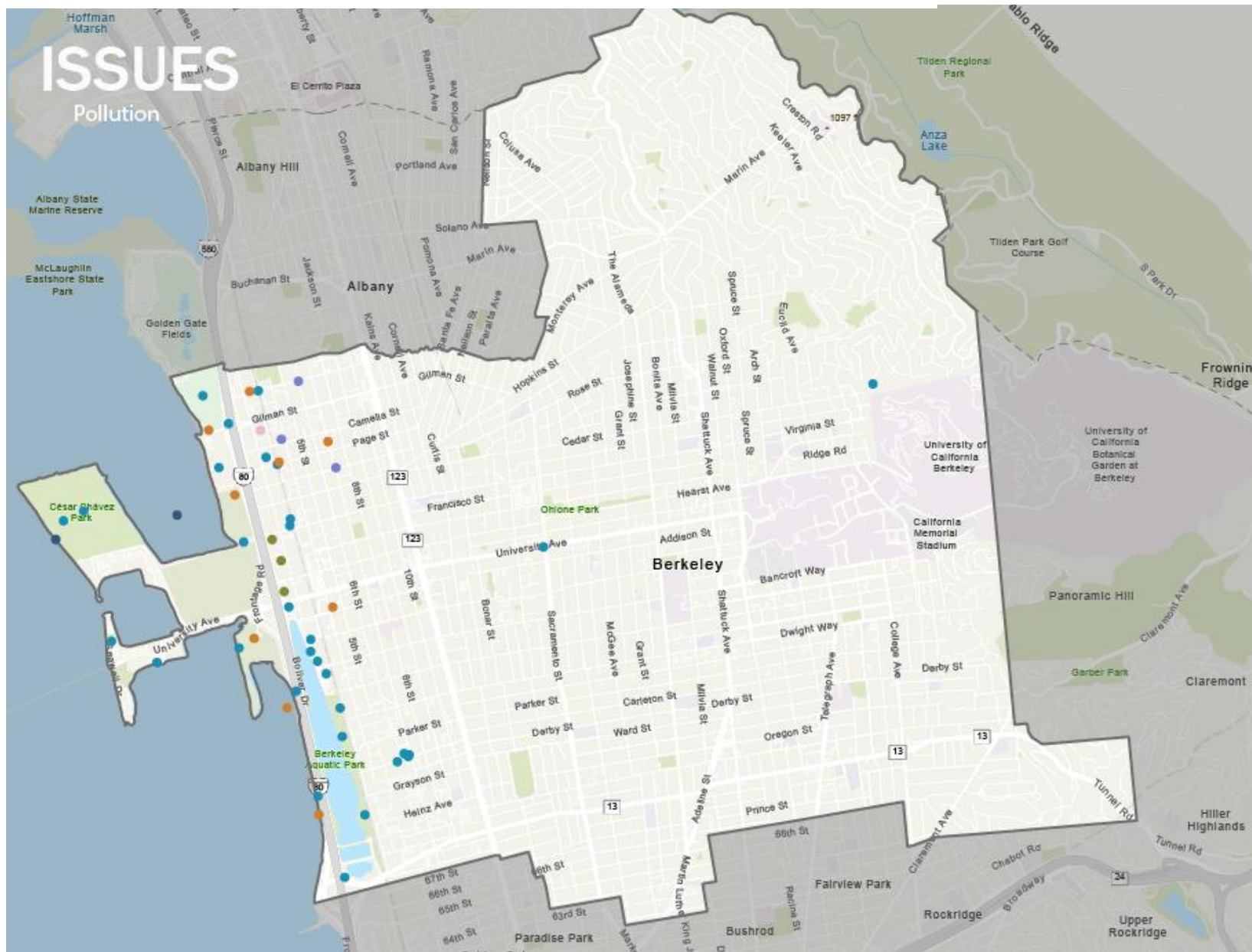


- 4. Public Transportation.** In addition to mentioning bike and pedestrian accessibility and safety, respondents highlighted poor transit options, the high cost associated with transit, safety concerns, sanitation concerns, and limited accessible parking.
- 5. Aging Infrastructure and Pedestrian Safety.** Respondents listed concerns with aging infrastructure, including roads, sewers, parks, urban trees, and train tracks. Additionally, safety concerns about the breaking down of sidewalks and streets were raised, as were safety concerns as a result of outdated audible street crossing.
- 6. Sanitation.** While a few individuals noted trash and sanitation issues more broadly, others focused on clean air, as well as bad and unpleasant odors. Trash in the streets, dirty bus and BART stops, and illegal dumping were also mentioned. Respondents also mapped rats and vermin, excrement, and needles.
- 7. Community Engagement and Education.** Respondents raised challenges around engaging in the community, due to:
 - Lack of accessibility for those living with a disability and for those with limited English-speaking ability
 - Lack of funding to compensate community members for their time and expertise, reaching
 - Lack of community organizations to support the Latino community, individual neighborhoods, and neighborhood disaster planning/preparation
 - Tokenistic inclusion of sensitive populations in planning processes, if any inclusion at all

Other commonly highlighted challenges included: fire risk in the Hills, mental health/lack services in support of mental health; water access; unemployment/lack of employment opportunity; language access (ASL and Spanish), and a broader lack of access to resources/support.

The map itself largely reflected the comments, however, there were a few notable categories added, including (1) pollution concentrated in West Berkeley – including noise pollution, railroad pollution, landfill, and poor soil quality - and (2) a citywide lack of access to green space.

Figure 4: Issues – Pollution

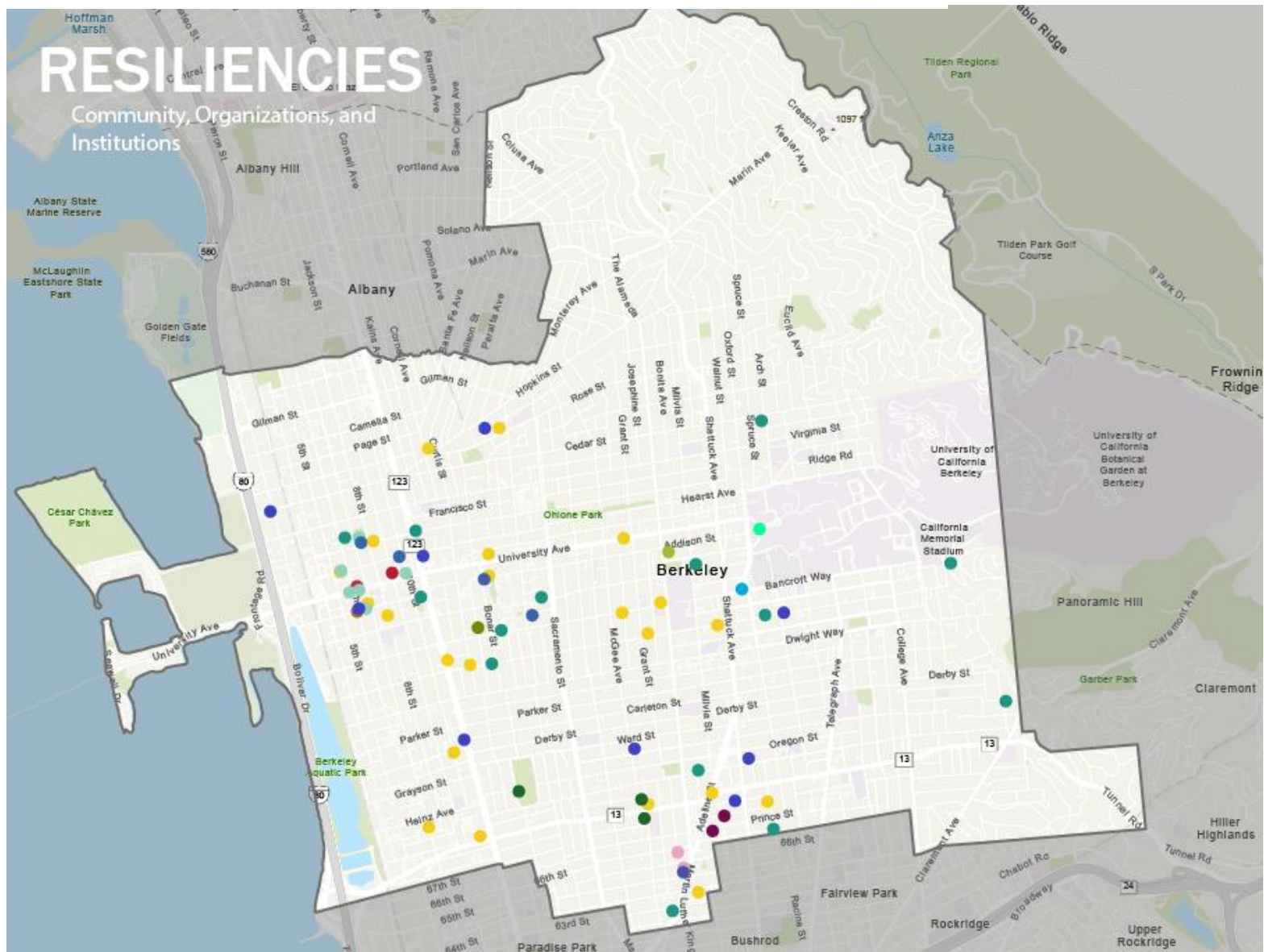


Resiliencies

In response to the question “What places in Berkeley do you serve and feel served by? Can you list their characteristics?”, participants identified several key resiliencies in the City of Berkeley, including (1) **community support systems** (organizations and institutions, events and programming) (2) **local businesses**, (3) **neighborhoods**, (4) **local government** (departments, facilities and services), and (5) **green space**.

1. **Community Support Systems.** Almost every respondent named one or more **community organizations or institutions** as resiliencies. In addition to mentioning the organizations that respondents are associated with, respondents primarily named nonprofit organizations and institutions supporting **homeless services, cultural centers, religious institutions, disability support, and youth support**. Other groups mentioned support on **safe streets, neighborhoods, food access, and education**. The maps showed a concentration of community and local organizations and institutions in West and South Berkeley.

Figure 5: Resiliencies – Community, Organizations and Institutions



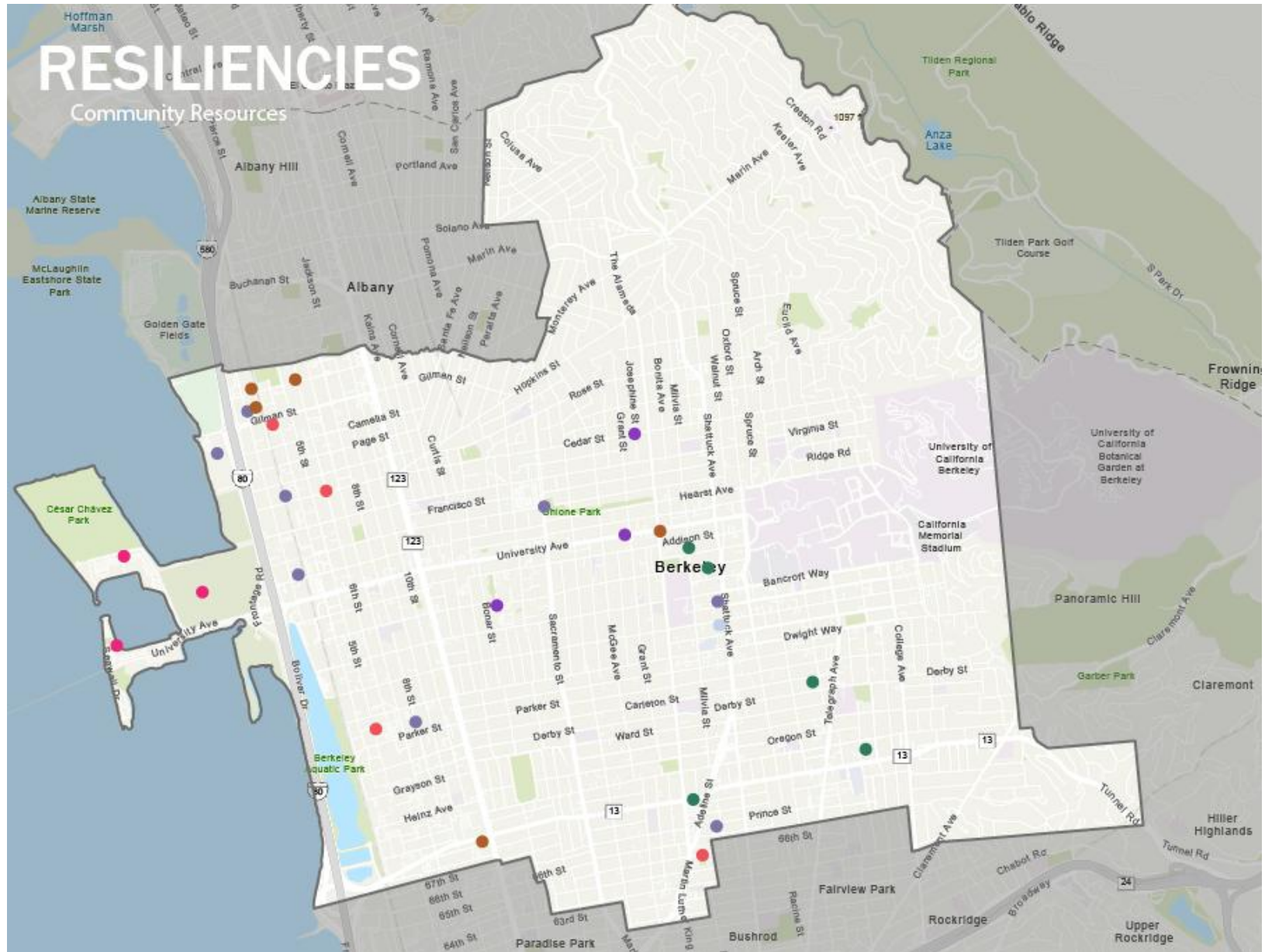
2. **Businesses.** In addition to mentioning organizations, almost every respondent mentioned businesses. Responses primarily focused on **restaurants**² and **grocery stores/farmer's markets**³. Other types of businesses were also mentioned, including community banks, pharmacies, clothing stores, childcare, gyms, dance studios, barber shops, gas stations, privately-owned sports facilities, and pet stores.
3. **Neighborhoods.** Some respondents identified which neighborhoods they felt most served by. **West Berkeley** was the neighborhood highlighted by respondents the most, followed by **Downtown Berkeley**. Other neighborhoods mentioned include Northwest Berkeley, Southwest Berkeley, the Berkeley Marina, Upper Hearst and Panoramic Hill.
4. **Local Government Departments, Facilities, and Services.** The Public Works Department and ADA Compliance Officer were mentioned, as were the City's Senior Centers, City Council Chambers, the public libraries, the West Berkeley Family Wellness Center, BUSD and the Office of Family Engagement and Equity, and a few specific schools.
5. **Parks and Green Space.** Many respondents provided names of the parks that they felt supported by.⁴

² Participants named: Platanos, Tiny Cafe on Shattuck, Cafe Buenos Aires, Juan's Place, La Mission Taqueria, La Burrita, and La Tapense, Casa Latina, Mi Tierra, Mi Rancho, Milyar Café, Share Tea, Farlowes Tea, Heyma Yemeni Coffee, Gioia Pizzeria, Berkeley Bagel, and Zing Cafe.

³ Participants named: Farmer's Market on Center Street, Safeway on Shattuck, Andronico's, Market Hall at 4th Street (now closed), Berkeley Bowl, and Whole Foods.

⁴ MLK Track, Ohlone Park, Tilden Park, Halcyon Commons Park, UC Botanical Garden. Indian Rock, San Pablo Park Strawberry Creek Park, Rose Garden, Aquatic Park

Figure 5: Resiliencies – Community Resources



This map also largely reflected the comments, however, it also highlighted other community resources, such as shelter, parking, bathrooms, and support for the unhoused. Additionally, food access resources were mapped – including grocery stores, restaurants, affordable food, and food access in general.

2. Building Shared Language

In the online survey, which was filled out by 9 individuals. Participants were asked to respond to questions about building a shared language.

Within this section, the phrase “Vulnerable Communities” was defined by the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (formerly the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research), as was the phrase “Environmental Justice Communities” as defined by the City of Oakland. Three questions followed these definitions:

1. When you think about this term Social Vulnerability, what does it mean to you? Is it language that resonates when talking about climate impacts and if not, what would you prefer?
2. What does the term Environmental Justice communities mean to you?
3. How do you feel about the term “EJ communities”? Is there another term that our team should use for this project?

Takeaways

- **Social Vulnerability.** There were mixed responses about whether the term “Social Vulnerability” resonates with people, particularly when talking about climate impacts. While some indicated that they felt that the term “Social Vulnerability” is **too broad and general** than just relating to climate impacts, **most felt it to be an appropriate term.** All respondents agreed that “Social Vulnerability” speaks to socioeconomic conditions and conditions related to marginalized/vulnerable groups (examples provided included low income people, BIPOC, children, elderly, disabled, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, those practicing nonstandard religious or social beliefs), and many respondents highlighted the tendency for these groups to have limited/no access to resources leaving them at higher risk to climate impacts.

A few respondents offered up **alternative terms** to “Social Vulnerability,” in the context of environmental justice and crafting resilience measures including “Climate Vulnerability” and “Community Vulnerability.”

- **Environmental Justice Communities.** There was confusion and a lack of clarity around the term “Environmental Justice Communities.” Some felt it seemed to speak to communities **in need of** environmental justice, such as communities

disproportionately affected by environmental hazards. Others felt that it refers to communities **already operating under guidelines** that combat/prevent environmental injustices or environmental racism. And some stated it represented **communities/organizations/groups of people** working in opposition to racially driven division, or who focus on or care about environmental justice.

Most respondents felt like the term was sufficient. However, one respondent offered up two **alternatives**: "Vulnerable Communities" or "Environmentally Vulnerable Communities."

Another respondent indicated **interest in workshopping the term and concept** to appropriately describe the community poised to be most impacted by climate change, as there are people their organization serves that don't live in the geographies that might be most likely to be seen as EJ communities. This individual recommended that time should be spent determining if "community" means a geographic area or a "people" that is dwelling throughout a community/municipality, and noted that all communities will be impacted by climate change to some degree, so environmental justice needs to happen at a scale much larger than communities/neighborhoods.

3. Social Vulnerability Indicators

Sixteen participants representing two organizations were provided with a list of social vulnerability indicators and asked to note whether they were "Priority Data to Understand Community" or "Data Not Needed to Understand Community."

It was challenging to draw takeaways from this information as the number of respondents were unevenly split between the two groups, and because there was a relatively small number of respondents. This presented issues in summarizing the data, as while collectively it might appear that a high percentage of people might have rated an indicator a priority, it could be that only one group found that indicator to be a priority, thus skewing the responses in favor of the group with the larger number of participants. Gray Panthers also provided the Ecology Center with a list of indicators/resiliencies and additional questions.

Takeaways

All 16 respondents agreed that **low-income** and **severely low-income** data was critical to collect, as well as data related to **access to pedestrian facilities**.

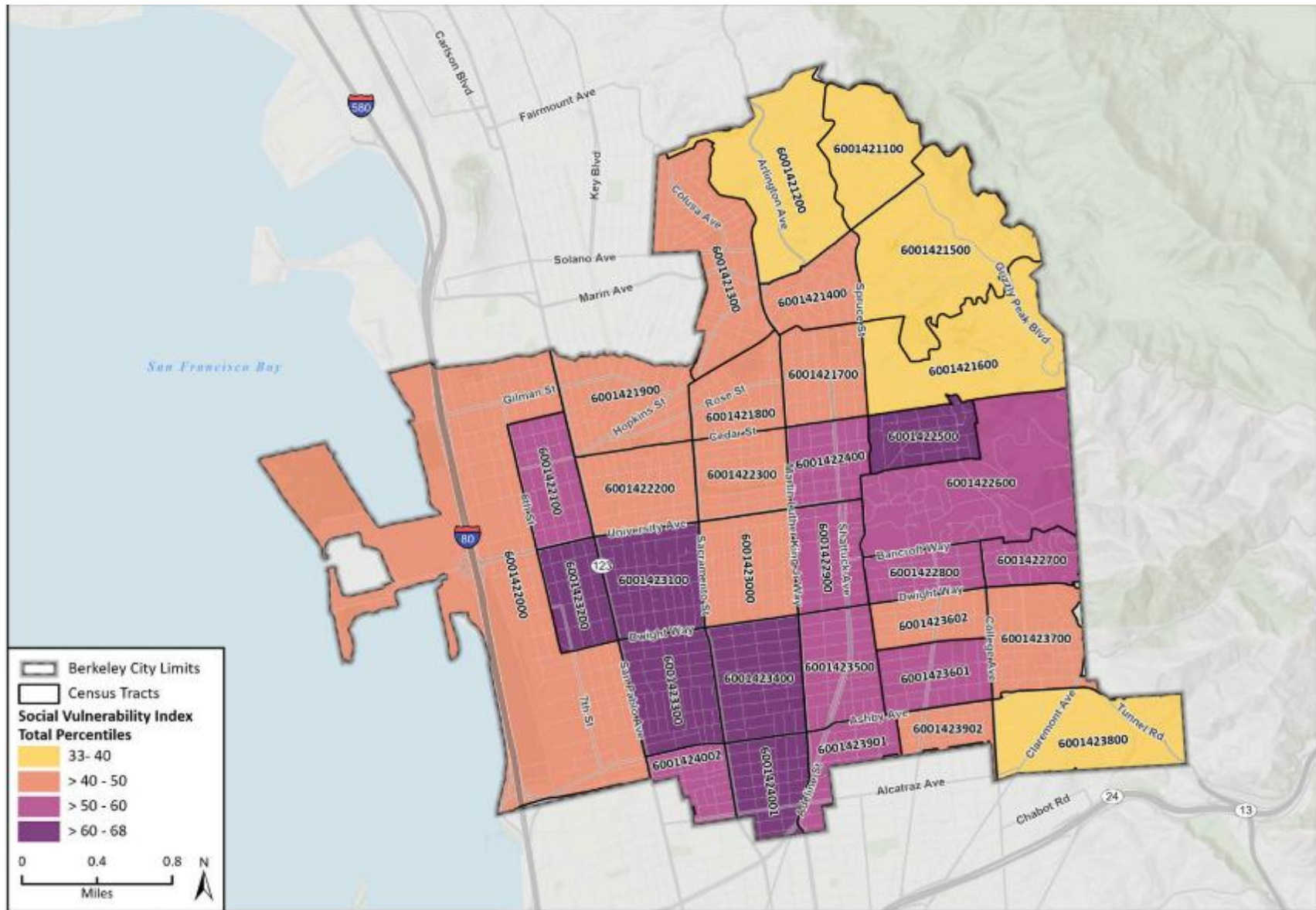
4. Draft EJ Map Feedback

Survey participants were asked to look at the following map⁵ (Figure 6) and answer three final questions:

1. What are the areas that feel underrepresented in these maps?
2. What are the areas that feel overrepresented in these maps?
3. Do these maps fairly represent your experience in Berkeley? Why or why not?

⁵ This map was an early version of the Social Vulnerability Map and was used as a tool to spark conversation. The map has since been refined, pulling in additional indicators as a result of further research and engagement.

Figure 6: Draft Environmental Justice Map



Takeaways

- The majority of individuals felt that **for the most part this map does match their experience** in Berkeley, with the **exception of West Berkeley**, which seems to be overlooked, with some positing this is because of 4th Street businesses and proximity to the marina. Another noted that the social vulnerability levels displayed near campus was surprising.
- Another individual flagged that this map oversimplifies social vulnerability, which can be different from block to block.

Underrepresented on the map

- People generally agreed with **the dark purple areas** being the most socially vulnerable.
- Some noted that the **lighter purple and orange areas** seemed underrepresented, with respondents citing the day laborers and unsheltered people in West Berkeley, extending all the way to the waterfront, and particularly focusing on Southwest Berkeley and the area south of Dwight, as well as other historic African American spaces in the city. One applicant noted that there are areas in West Berkeley that are very mixed in the demographics with specific blocks or communities that are incredibly underserved.
- The **primarily orange area north of University Ave.** was also highlighted as underrepresented.

Overrepresented on the map

- The greatest number of people felt that **UC Berkeley** is overrepresented in these maps. One respondent indicated that students have ample resources and are supported by an institution that should be held accountable to fill gaps.
- **Downtown** was also mentioned as being overrepresented, as were **areas that have non-black spaces**.

Some respondents noted overrepresentation *in Berkeley engagement*, as opposed to overrepresentation *on the map*, pointing out that the **yellow areas/the Hills** are overrepresented in Berkeley engagement, with one noting that these communities are financially equipped to handle environmental vulnerability and should be deprioritized. Others, however, flagged that there are many elders in this community who may not have cash availability and are still vulnerable.

5. Looking Forward – What Berkeley Could Use More Of

Lastly, a number of youth participants provided feedback on what Berkeley could use more of and what could change.

Responses were categorized into four different themes:

- 1. Different business types, specifically activities/games** (yoga studios, arcades, splash parks, paintball, bowling)
- 2. More public space/community space** (community gardens, parks, spaces for teens and adults, and using empty spaces, roller-skating parks, public rock-climbing facility, space for music events, community graffiti site, public art)
- 3. More community programming** (season events, night markets, neighborhood recreational sports)
- 4. Improved public facilities** (public restrooms and utilities, more protected flashing crosswalks, more seating spaces, secluded trash)

Attachment 1: Resiliencies - List of Supportive Organizations provided by Respondents

Organization	About	Weblink (if available)	Focus Area
Streets of Equality	Advocacy project intending to address accessibility issues when it comes to Berkeley public spaces		Disability support
Safe Streets Coalition	The SAFE STREETS Citizen Oversight Committee’s (SSCOC) mission is to review expenditures and progress reports from the City Manager and City Auditor to ensure compliance with the intent of Measure FF (passed by voters on November 5, 2024), evaluate the impacts and outcomes of tax expenditures on stated goals, and prepare public reports on the Committee’s findings.	https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/boards-commissions/safe-streets-citizen-oversight-committee	Safe streets
Friends of Adeline	A diverse group of caring South Berkeley residents working in partnership with local businesses, nonprofits, and others to affect change so that our neighborhood is an inclusive and just place for all people	https://www.friendsofadeline.org/	Neighborhood group
Consider the Homeless	Group of neighbors and friends who seek to alleviate the suffering of Berkeley’s homeless	https://www.considerthehomeless.org/	Homeless support
Where Do We Go Berkeley	A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 2019 by a movement of people experiencing homelessness along the I-80 freeway in Berkeley CA	https://www.wdwg.org/	Homeless support
Berkeley Homeless Union	The Berkeley Homeless Union to be the voice of the homeless, to fight for the human and civil right of the disenfranchised and neglected segments of society and to eradicate the conditions which cause homelessness. We are not a service agency or charity, instead we are a mutual aid community seeking to empower the homeless.		Homeless support
Sacred Rest Daytime Drop-In Center	a community-led center that provides services for unhoused people in Berkeley, California. It's located on the property of the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, which is close to People's Park.		Homeless support
Women’s Drop in Center	Berkeley's first daytime program for homeless women and children. The Women's Daytime Drop-In Center provide a safe space, warm meals, counseling, and support to identify housing to any homeless woman and her children during the day, when shelters are closed.	https://www.womensdropin.org/	Women/Homeless support
Western Service Workers Association	WSWA is a 100% volunteer-run organizing drive of low-income service, part-time and seasonal workers and their families	https://www.wswaoakland.org/about	Low-income
Berkeley Copwatch	an all-volunteer organization dedicated to monitoring police actions and non-violently asserting our rights.	https://www.berkeleycopwatch.org/	
The Village of Love	The Village of Love aims to enrich the community by developing creative solutions to build bridges across the disparities between residents, businesses, mental health and unsheltered communities.	https://thevillageoflove.org/	Community/Homeless support
BAHIA	BAHIA provides families with a nurturing, dual language, and learning community where children emerge as engaged contributors to a global society.	https://www.bahiainc.com/	Cultural - Latinx
La Pena	central site for Latinx, Caribbean, and Indigenous diasporic communities of the Bay Area to preserve and celebrate cultural traditions, present new interdisciplinary creative works, and to nurture grassroots social justice movements with artists, activists, and allies	https://lapena.org/	Cultural - Latinx
Latino Center on Campus	Latinx Student Resource Center a campus space dedicated to the academic, social, emotional, cultural, and professional development of Latinx-identifying students at UC Berkeley. The LSRC provides a physical space with programming that builds community, celebrates the Latinx diaspora, and prepares students for graduation and beyond.	https://cejce.berkeley.edu/clsd/latinx-student-resource-center	Cultural - Latinx
Brazilian Centro Cultural (BrasArte)	Established in 2000, BrasArte has four major goals: 1 To preserve the traditional dances and music of Brazil. 2 To preserve the historical roots of Brazil’s vibrant culture by helping to support and care for its aging artists and mentors. 3 To nurture new and emerging artistic talent. 4 To provide cultural exchange between Brazil and the United States.	https://brasarte.com/about/	Cultural

Attachment 1: Resiliencies - List of Supportive Organizations provided by Respondents (continued)

Organization	About	Weblink (if available)	Focus Area
Berkeley Youth Alternatives	A community-based organization. Our vision is to provide a secure and nurturing environment for all the children, youth, and families of our community. We desire to promote, to their fullest potential, the freedom to develop individual skills and visions of the world.	https://www.byaonline.org/about-us/our-mission/our-mission	Youth
BORP Adaptive Cycling and Kayaking Center	BORP empowers youth and adults with mobility and vision disabilities through sports, fitness, and recreational programs that foster independence, health, community, and belonging	https://www.borp.org/about-us/#amission	Disability support
Berkeley Food Network	The Berkeley Food Network seeks to end hunger and poor nutrition by using innovative, community-centered solutions to build a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable food system.	https://www.berkeleyfoodnetwork.org/who-we-are/about/	Food access
Waterside Workshop	Waterside Workshops engages youth and the community through hands-on learning in bicycle mechanics, wooden boatbuilding, and outdoor education. Waterside is a safe place for youth to feel heard, gain confidence, develop work skills, and access the tools and resources needed to lead healthy, sustainable lives.	https://watersideworkshops.org/about/	Youth
Thai Temple (Wat Mongkolratanaram)	Served the local Thai and Thai-American community, including students at nearby University of California, Berkeley, by offering religious services, as well as open-to-the-public cultural events, language classes, and a festive <i>Songkran</i> (Thai New Year) celebration each April. But it's best known for its longstanding weekly fundraiser: a tasty and affordable brunch.		Cultural - Thai
Lawrence Hall of Science	For over 50 years, The Lawrence Hall of Science has been at the forefront of science education. As part of the University of California, Berkeley, we work with scientists, engineers, and educators to design the most effective learning experiences. We strive to transform the world of STEM, infusing these fields with diverse perspectives and innovative minds.	https://lawrencehallofscience.org/	Education - UC
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)	The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UC Berkeley is a learning community of more than 2,200 inquisitive adults, ages 50 and above, with a passion for intellectual exploration, engagement and connection.	https://olli.berkeley.edu/	Older residents
Lighthouse for the Blind	LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired provides education, training, advocacy, and community for blind individuals in California and around the world.	info@lighthouse-sf.org	Sensitive populations (affiliated with Cal)
Bonita House	Private, non-profit mental health agency offering a wide range of services to persons living with psychiatric disabilities, and specializing in treatment for individuals with a dual diagnosis of mental health and substance use disorders.	https://bonitahouse.org/about-us/	Mental health

Attachment 2: Results of Social Vulnerability Indicators Sorting

Data prioritized from most to least important (**Bolded + Green Indicators – SB 1000**)

Collective, % of people voted as important	Indicators	
100% voted as important:	- Low-income - Severely-low income - Access to pedestrian facilities	
94% voted as important:	• BIPOC • Seniors living alone • SNAP food assistance • Access to community facilities	
88% voted as important:	- Poverty - Drinking water contaminants - Less than high school education - People with disability - Transit access - People experiencing houselessness	
81% voted as important	- Traffic volume - Lead exposure - Solid waste sites and facilities - Extreme heat - Adult asthma - Cardiovascular disease - No health insurance - Renters - Unemployment rate - Households without a computer - Households without broadband - Households without vehicle access - Housing habitability/substandard housing - Redlining	-
75% voted as important	- Toxic releases from facilities - Air toxics cancer risk - Wastewater discharge - Stormwater flooding - Infants born prematurely - Low birth weight infants - Childhood obesity - Illegal dumping	-

69% voted as important	- Native Americans - Air Quality: PM2.5 - Diesel Particulate Matter - Air toxics respiratory hazard index - Impaired water bodies - Cleanup sites proximity - Hazardous waste generators and facilities - UST and LUST - Pesticide use - Landslides - Cancer - Day laborers - Young children - Low food access/food desert - Park access	Air Quality PM2.5, Diesel Particulate, Air Toxics, Hazardous waste, young children, food access were all almost or entirely voted to prioritize by one group and received 2 or 3/7 votes for the other
63% voted as important	- Groundwater threats - RMP facility proximity - Wildfires - Sea level rise - Coronary heart disease - Limited English speaking - Single parent household - Individuals who live in areas of high violent crime	Same with groundwater threats.
56% voted as important:	- Ozone - Groundwater rise - Hypertension - Outdoor workers - Foreign-born individuals - Mobile home households - Energy burden	
50% voted as important:	• Age of housing - Access to bicycle facilities	
44% voted as important:	• Military veterans	

There were a couple of indicators that only one group was provided with:

- **Overcrowding** was an indicator included on the survey for one group, and 7/9 prioritized it.
- **Housing burden** was an indicator on the survey for one group and 5/7 prioritized it.
- **Severely housing-burdened households** was an indicator on the survey for one group and 9/9 prioritized

Prepared, Safe and Healthy Berkeley Community Survey

Executive Summary

Contents:

1. Survey Overview and objective
2. Distribution and Response
3. Demographic Snapshot
4. Environmental Justice Response Summary
5. Safety Response Summary
6. Key Takeaways and Summary of Results

Survey Overview and Objective

The City of Berkeley Planning Department distributed a survey to help inform the development of two General Plan Elements - an update to the Safety Element and a new Environmental Justice (EJ) Element. The survey asked respondents to prioritize issues related to the Elements' topic areas – natural and climate change related hazards, disaster preparedness, pollution reduction, affordable housing and civic engagement as well as access to public facilities, healthy food, and physical activity. The survey also asked respondents to identify barriers to progress in those areas.

The objective of the survey is to assess community priorities relating to the Safety and Environmental Justice Element topic areas to inform the development of goals and policies for the Elements.

Distribution and Response

The survey was distributed through the City's online survey platform, Berkeley Considers, in English. It was translated into Spanish and Simplified Chinese through Google forms. In addition to the online version, the Spanish translation of the survey was also distributed on paper at the Multicultural Institute where 23 people responded. The survey opened on June 2nd and closed on June 30th, 2025. The Berkeley Considers platform collected 492 responses in English and the Google form got 1 response in Spanish. In total, there were 516 responses.

Outreach for the survey was done in partnership with the Ecology Center and the project Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The project team and partners distributed the survey through flyers and QR codes (translated into Spanish and Chinese) and tabling at several events citywide. The CAC members also shared the survey with their community organizations.

Demographic Snapshot

Respondents were asked a series of optional, demographic questions about their connection to Berkeley, neighborhood of residence, race and identity, age, and language preference. Not all respondents answered the "about you" questions. Based on responses to select questions, participation for the demographic question section could be as high as 499 or 96% (based on total respondents to question 17, "How old are you? (Select one)"). Because the demographic questions are personally identifying and response to them was optional, it is important to note that the demographic information

may not be representative of all responders or most responders – just those who elected to participate for certain questions.

Based on the demographic information collected, the survey responses primarily reflect the perspectives of homeowners and residents, with less input from renters and students. About 31 percent of responders work in Berkeley but do not live there. Responses were concentrated in a few neighborhoods, most notably Berkeley Hills (64 responders), North Berkeley (59 Responders), Central Berkeley (46 Responders), and Elmwood (38 responders). In contrast, renter- and student-heavy areas were underrepresented including Southwest Berkeley (26 responders), Northside (12 responders) and Southside (10 responders).

The demographic makeup of survey respondents skewed toward older, White residents. Over 50% of respondents were 65 or older, while only about 10% were under 35. In terms of racial and ethnic identity, 67% identified as White, with significantly lower participation from communities of color: 4% identified as Black or of African descent, 9% as Hispanic/Latino, and 5% as East, South, or Southeast Asian. Multiracial residents made up 7%, while all other groups—including Middle Eastern/North African, Native American, and Pacific Islander—each represented 2% or less.

Despite this imbalance, the survey was supported by a robust and intentional community outreach effort. The City’s project partner, the Ecology Center, distributed the survey at nine events and meetings across Berkeley — engaging with community groups including the Food, Faith and Justice Ambassadors, the Gray Panthers, and Waterside Workshop Youth Interns. The survey was also distributed at the Berkeley Food Network, UC Berkeley’s Latinos and the Environment course, and at the Multicultural Institute Pantry. Through this outreach, the Ecology Center and staff directly engaged over 249 Berkeley community members, 42 of whom completed the survey on site. These efforts were essential for expanding awareness and participation among underrepresented groups and laid important groundwork for future engagement. Staff noted process improvements and updated best practices for future engagement efforts to reach more diverse communities.

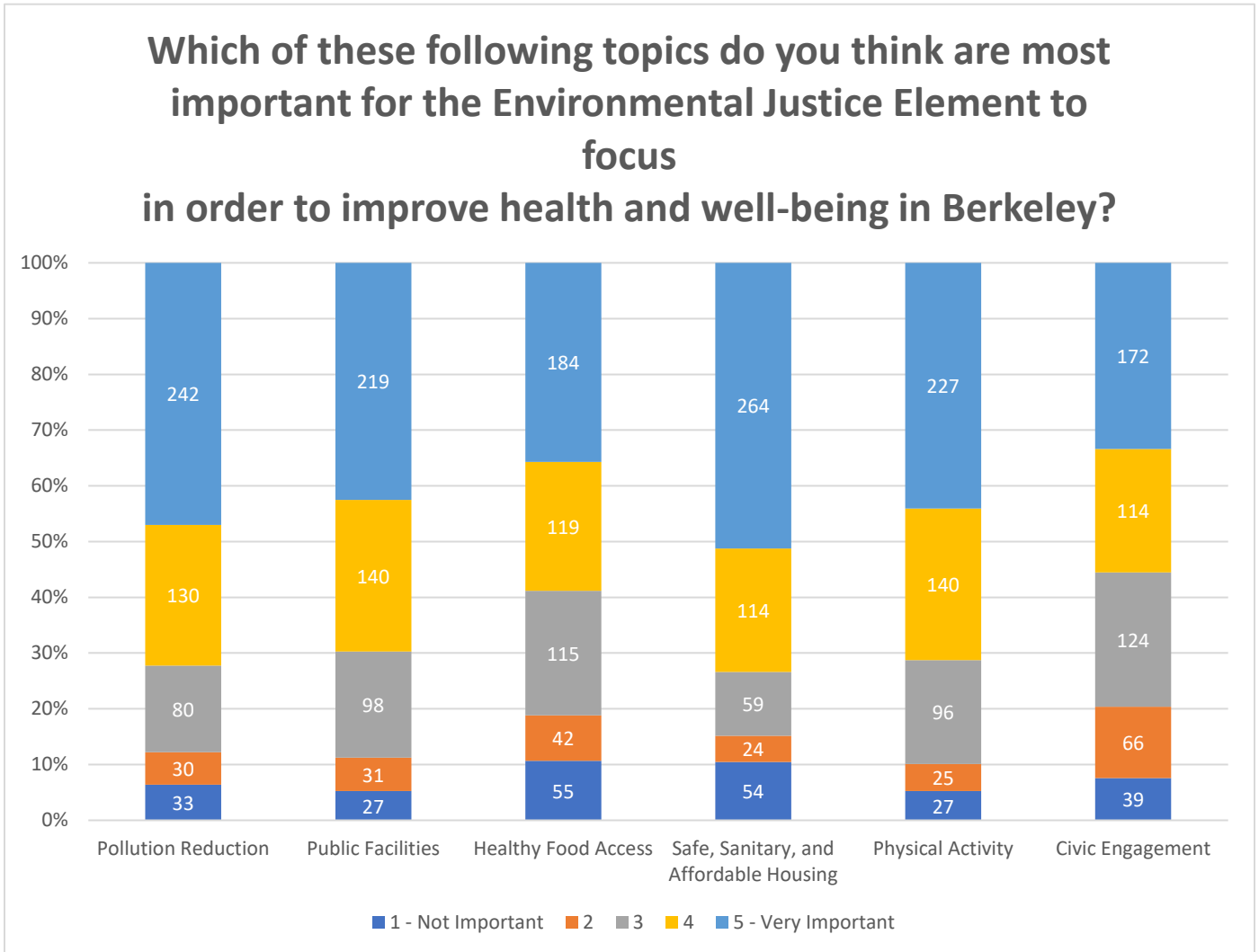
Environmental Justice

Response Summary:

Question 1:

- A. Question 1 asked responders to use a scale from 1-5, 5 being very important and 1 being not important. The topics include pollution reduction, access to public facilities, access to healthy foods, safe sanitary and affordable housing, physical activity and civic engagement.
 - a. Safe, Sanitary, and Affordable Housing received the highest number of “Very Important” responses (264), making it the top community priority.
 - b. Pollution Reduction and Physical Activity were also prioritized, with 242 and 227 “Very Important” votes respectively.
 - c. All topics were considered important. All six topics received most responses in the “4 – Important” and “5 – Very Important” categories.
 - d. Even the lowest-ranked topic, Civic Engagement, had 172 “Very Important” votes indicating that all the topic areas are important to respondents.

- e. Healthy food access had a more evenly distributed response compared to other topics while civic engagement had the highest number of “2” and “3” responses (66 and 124), suggesting that while still valued, it is perceived as relatively less important than physical needs like housing or pollution.



Question 2: Respondents were also able to write in other ideas relating to environmental justice that were important to them.

B. Write in responses addressed each topic.

a. Pollution Burden:

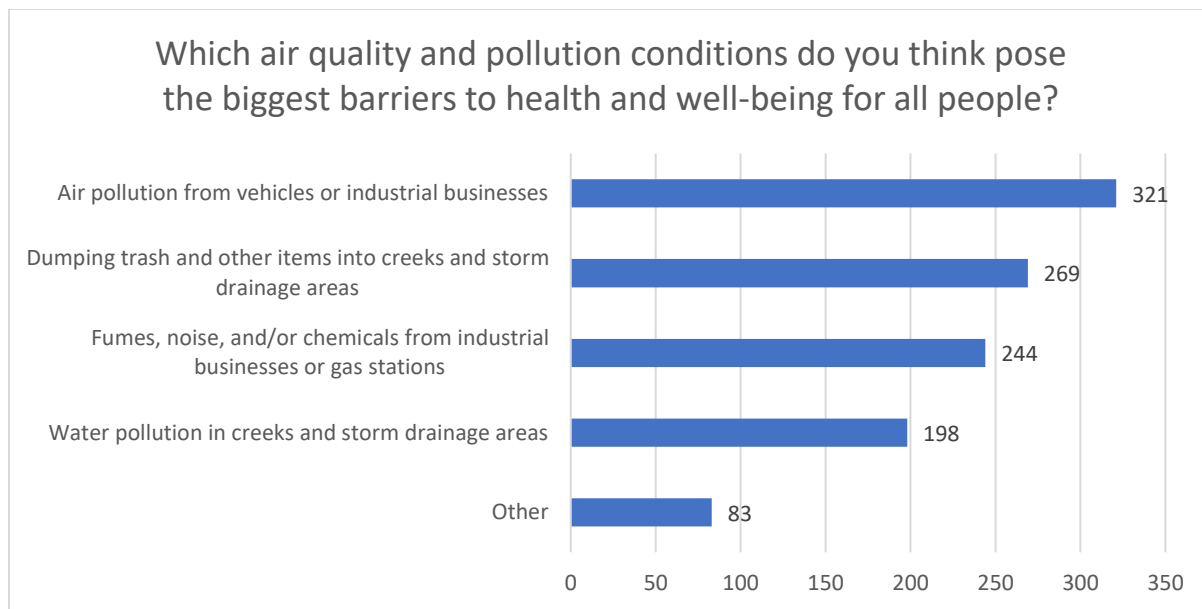
- i. The most frequently mentioned topics are pollution caused by increased housing density and related vehicle traffic, homelessness and unclean streets, noise pollution, trash, support for electrification, and pollution mitigation measures to prevent air and water pollution.

- b. Public Facilities:
 - i. Themes relating to public facilities include: Schools and education, accessibility for the disability community, access to healthcare, clean public restrooms, clean public spaces free from hazards and encampments, programming for art, education and training opportunities at public facilities and seniors' access to public facilities.
- c. Food Accessibility:
 - i. Few responses to question 2 mentioned food. Of the responses that did, two themes emerged: Healthy school food and food education and integrating fresh food access into public spaces (unused public spaces and North Berkeley BART were specifically mentioned).
- d. Safe, Sanitary, Affordable Housing:
 - i. Themes relating to safe, sanitary and affordable housing include: housing affordability, addressing homelessness, supportive housing services for the homeless individuals, preservation of housing to prevent homelessness, low-income housing, and caring for the homeless' mental health.
- e. Physical Activity/Physical Health:
 - i. Themes relating to physical health include: Pedestrian safety and accessibility, accessibility of the public right of way for the disability community and seniors, the need for more open space, improved public transit (especially in emergencies), non-car transportation alternatives (bikes, walking), safety and quality of roads, clean parks and streets, clean public restrooms, safe bike lanes and more trees.
- f. Civic Engagement:
 - i. Themes relating to civic engagement include: Youth engagement (art, music, finance, life skills), addressing racial biases in environmental decisions and criticism of the survey and its format.
- g. Other:
 - i. Respondents also mentioned issues and concerns that related to multiple topics or other topics not included in the EJ element such as: Support for new businesses, beautification of the city, concern about taxes on homeowners, criticism of City government and crime reduction.

Questions 3-8 asked respondents to identify conditions relating to each environmental justice topic that pose barriers to health and well-being.

Question 3: Which **air quality and pollution** conditions do you think pose the biggest barriers to health and well-being for all people?

- A. Respondents identified that air pollution from vehicles or industrial businesses, dumping trash and other items into creeks and storm drainage areas, and fumes noise, and/or chemicals from industrial businesses and gas stations were the conditions of most concern.

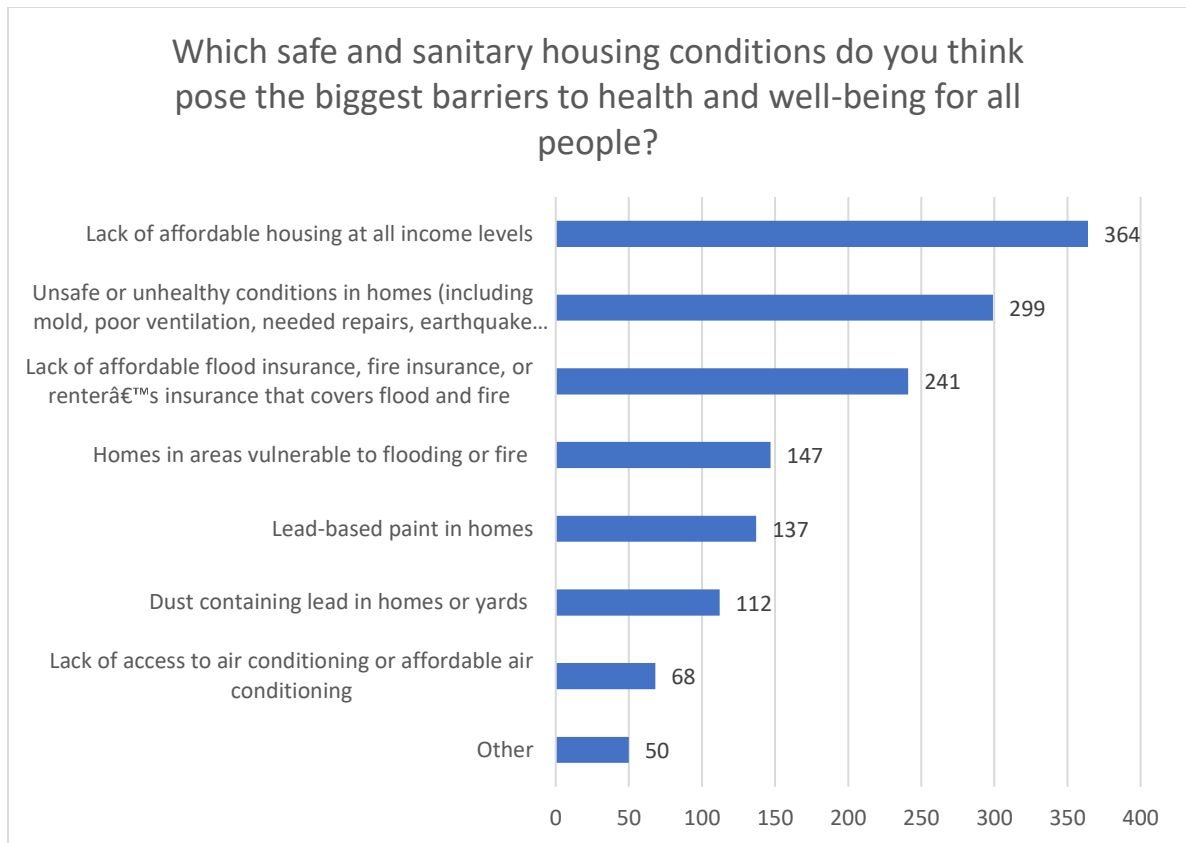


B. Respondents were also able to write in responses to the question to identify other areas of concern:

- a. Write in responses emphasized dumping (12 mentions), trash (15 mentions), homelessness (12 mentions) and smoke from wildfires, fireplaces and tobacco smoking (14 mentions).

Question 4: Which **safe and sanitary housing** conditions do you think pose the biggest barriers to health and well-being for all people?

- A. Respondents identified that lack of affordable housing at all income levels, unsafe or healthy conditions in homes and lack of affordable flood insurance, fire insurance, or rental insurance that covers flood or fire were the conditions of most concern.

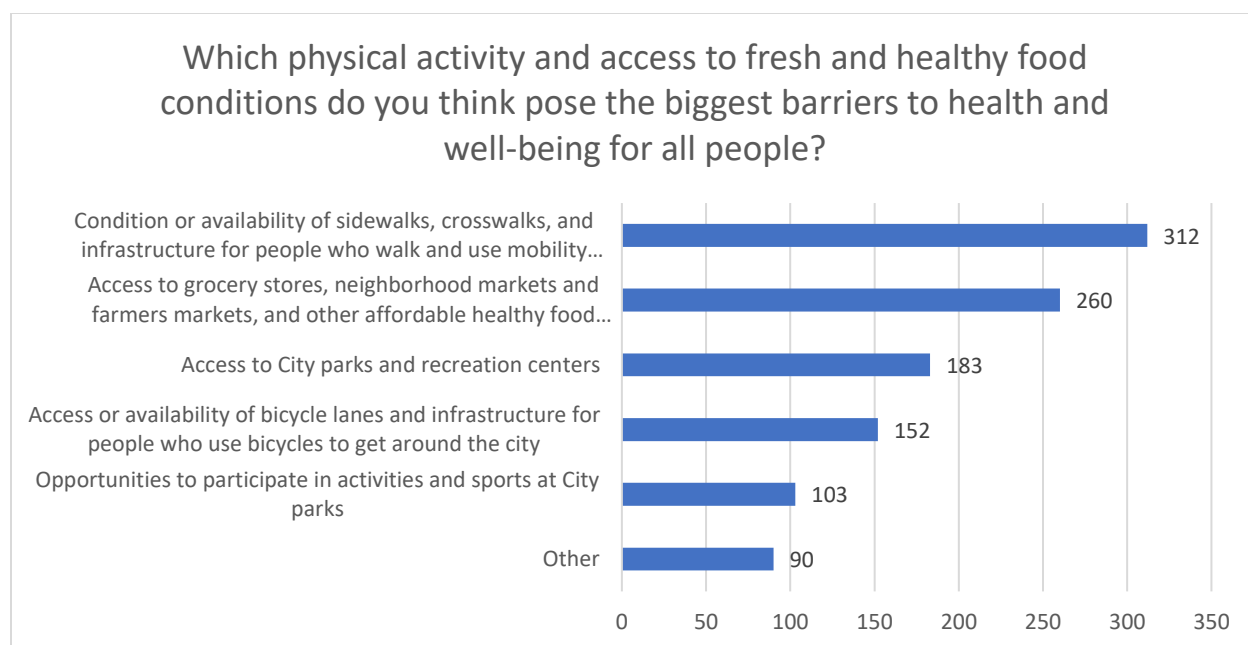


B. Respondents were also able to write in responses to the question to identify other areas of concern:

- a. Homelessness (11 mentions), City government programs and process (6 mentions), and substandard housing conditions (6 mentions).

Question 5: Which **physical activity and access to fresh and healthy food** conditions do you think pose the biggest barriers to health and well-being for all people?

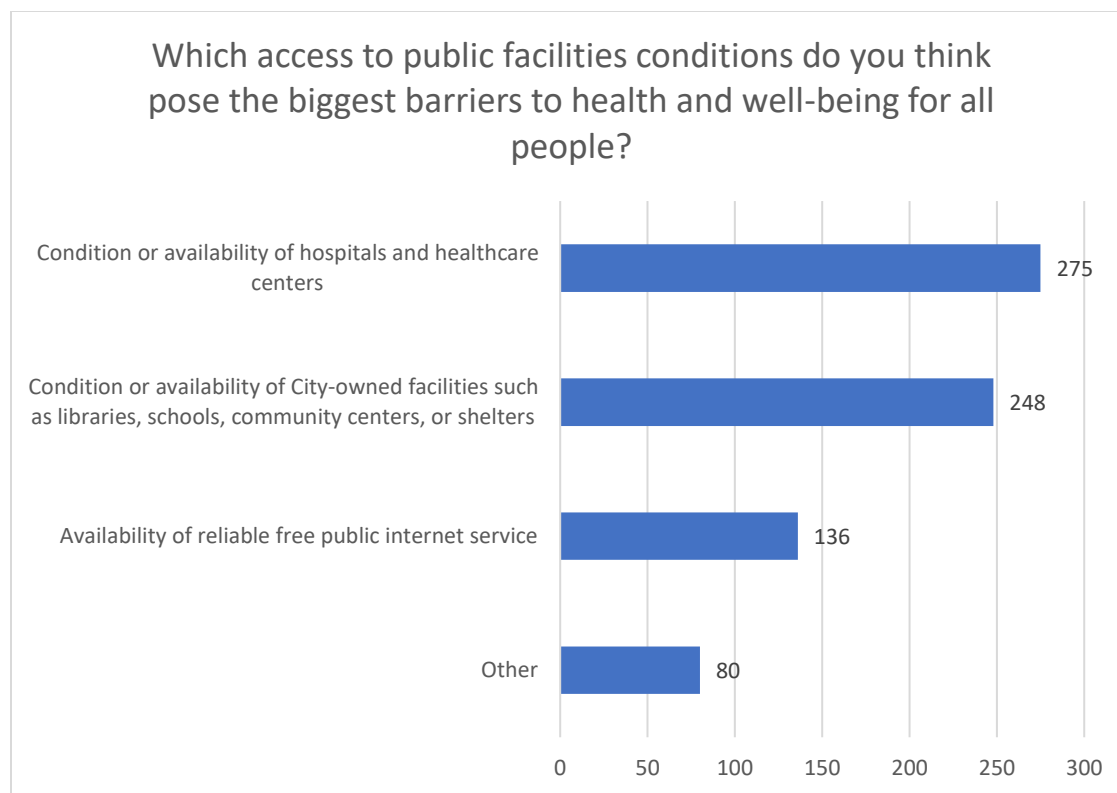
- A. Respondents identified that the condition or availability of sidewalks, crosswalks, and infrastructure for people who walk and use mobility devices, access to grocery stores, availability of neighborhood markets and farmers markets and other affordable healthy food options and access to city parks and recreation centers were the conditions of most concern.



- B. Respondents were also able to write in responses to the question to identify other areas of concern. The write in responses reiterated the importance of street safety for pedestrians, the need for street repairs and bike safety (25 mentions), safe bike lanes (16 mentions) and access to green space, community spaces and the need for more trees (13 mentions). Access to public transportation (11 mentions) and accessibility were also frequently mentioned.

Question 6: Which **access to public facilities** conditions do you think pose the biggest barriers to health and well-being for all people?

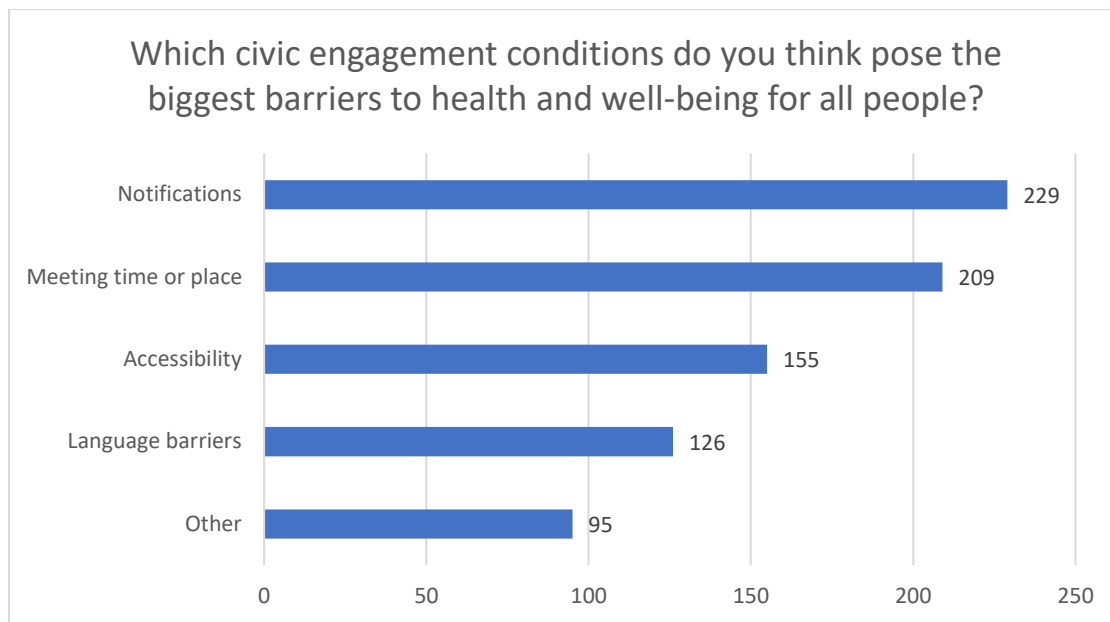
- A. Respondents identified that the condition or availability of hospitals and healthcare centers, the condition or availability of City-owned facilities such as libraries, schools, community centers or shelters and the availability of reliable free public internet service were the conditions of most concern.



- B. Respondents were also able to write in responses to the question to identify other areas of concern. The write-in responses reiterated the importance of the condition and cleanliness of parks and the need for public restrooms citywide (16 mentions), increased availability of healthcare centers and providers (8 mentions) and the safety and condition of our streets and sidewalks (7 mentions).

Question 7: Which **civic engagement** conditions do you think pose the biggest barriers to health and well-being for all people?

- A. Respondents identified that notifications for public meetings and events, meeting times and location, and accessibility to meetings were the conditions of most concern.



- B. Respondents were also able to write in responses to the question to identify other areas of concern. The write in responses expressed frustration with city government and public officials (14 mentions), concerns about the value of engagement (apathy, concerns about being heard, lack of understanding, and overrepresentation of certain groups) (29 mentions) and accessibility of engagement opportunities (location, time, access to child care, availability of hybrid meetings) (18 mentions).

Question 8: What conditions, if not listed above, do you think pose the biggest barriers to health and well-being for all people?

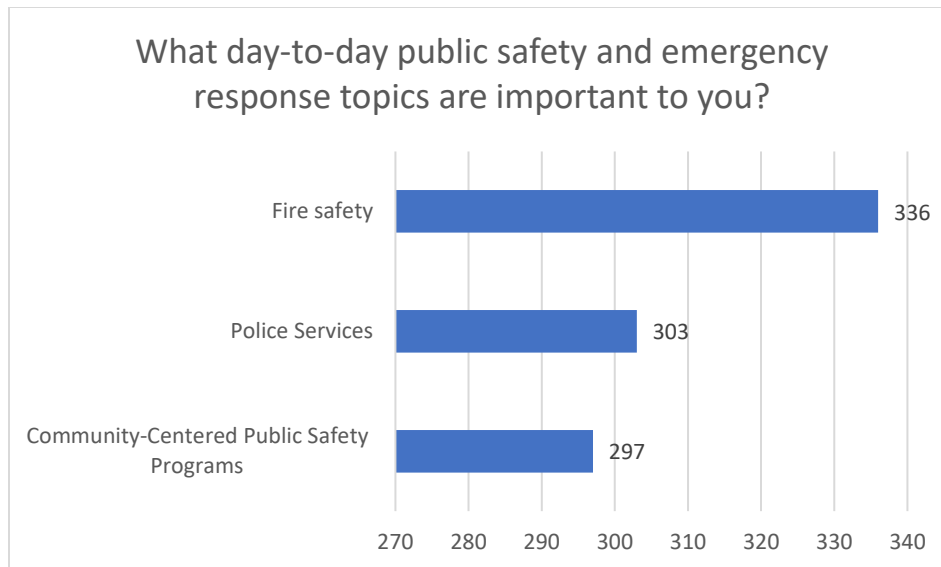
- A. Respondents to question 8 highlighted the following conditions as the biggest barriers to health and well-being most frequently: Homelessness, encampments, safety and cleanliness of streets (33 mentions), the cost of living, housing affordability, income disparity and poverty (26 mentions) and frustration with government at the local, state and federal level (21 mentions).

Safety

Response Summary:

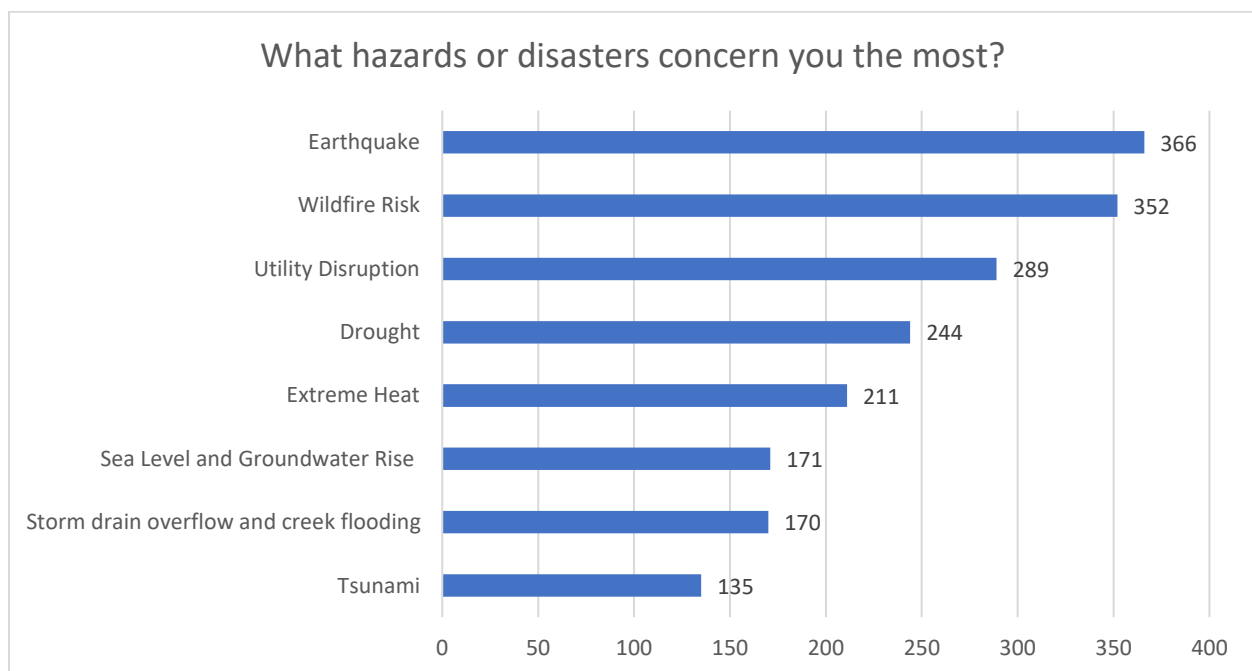
Question 9: Respondents were asked to rank three topics.

- A. Fire Safety (336 ranked #1), Police services (303 ranked #1) and community-centered public safety programs (297 ranked #1).



Question 10: Respondents were asked to select one hazard or disaster that concerns them the most.

- A. Respondents selected Earthquake (366 #1 Rankings), Wildfire Risk (352 #1 rankings) and Utility Disruption (289 #1 rankings) as the top 3 hazards or disasters of most concern. Drought (244 #1 rankings) and Extreme Heat (211 #1 rankings) were the next two highest ranked hazards.



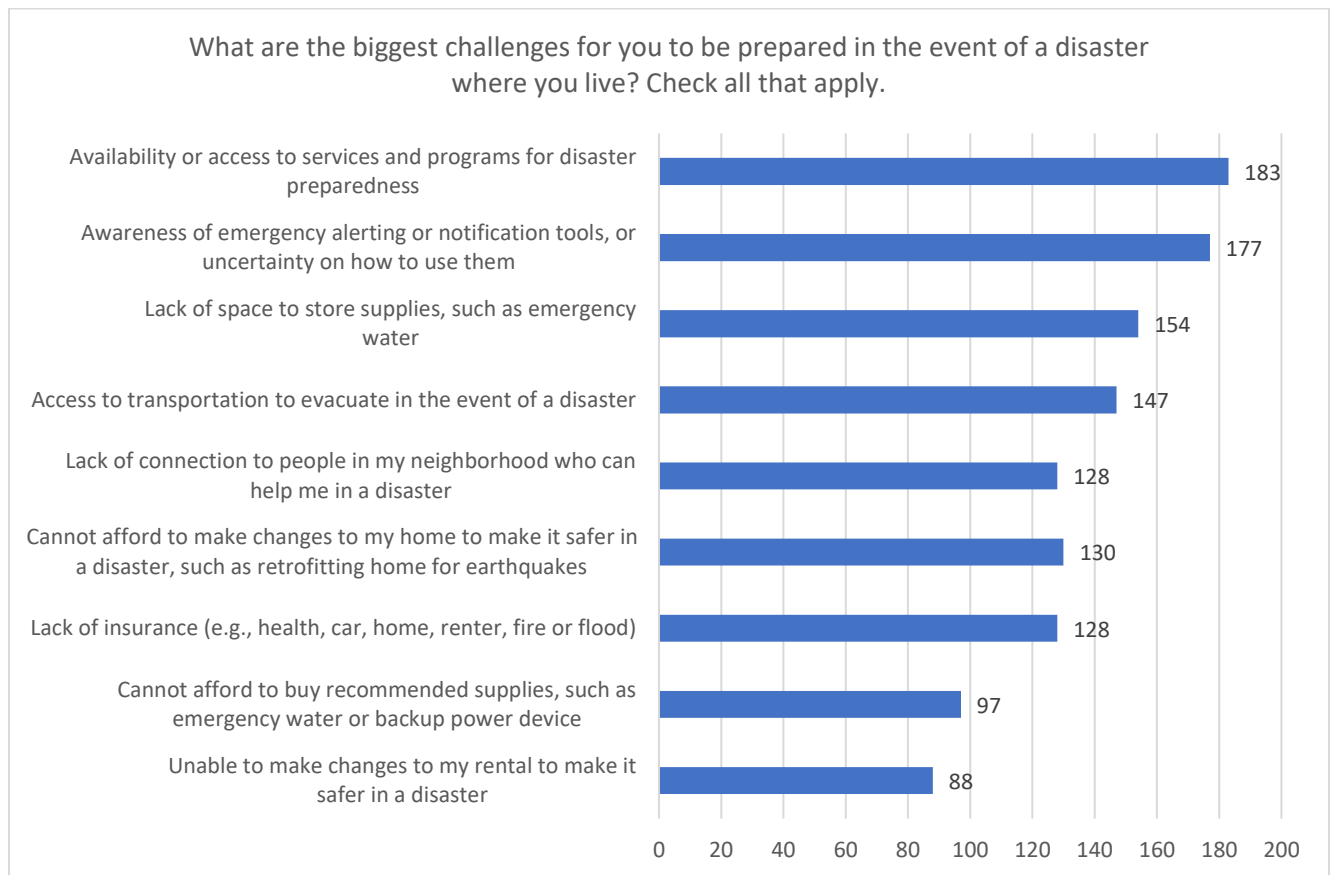
Question 11: Please share other ideas regarding Berkeley's hazards, public safety, and disaster readiness services, that the City can address.

- A. Respondents to question 11 most frequently mentioned traffic safety, sidewalks, bikes, pedestrian safety, parking, and transit (53 mentions), Disaster preparedness, emergency response, education and awareness (31 mentions), community building, education, CERT

training and engagement (30 mentions), homelessness and encampments (28 mentions) and emergency evacuation (21 mentions).

Question 12: What are the biggest challenges for you to be prepared in the event of a disaster where you live? Check all that apply.

- A. Respondents identified that availability or access to services and programs for disaster preparedness (183 selections), awareness of emergency alerting or notification tools, or uncertainty on how to use them (177 selections), lack of space to store supplies, such as emergency water (154 selections) and access to transportation to evacuate in the event of a disaster (147 mentions) were the biggest challenges to be prepared for a disaster.



Key Takeaways: Environmental Justice

Community Priorities:

When asked to prioritize environmental justice issues, respondents most frequently selected these topics as the most important to them:

- Pollution reduction
- Safe, sanitary, and affordable housing
- Opportunities for physical activity

Write-In responses align with community priorities assessed in question 1, adding context to the topics. Most write in responses related to the EJ Element topic areas. Few write-in responses were categorized as other – indicating that the EJ topic areas resonate with survey respondents as key areas of concern.

For each topic area, reoccurring themes emerged. Notably, the safety, quality, accessibility and cleanliness of streets and public spaces were mentioned across several EJ topics and Safety Element topics. Additionally, homelessness and encampments were also frequently mentioned at every write-in opportunity.

Key Takeaways: Safety and Disaster Preparedness

Fire safety and earthquakes are top of mind:

- Fire safety and earthquake risk emerged as the most concerning hazards. This response indicates that these natural hazards are top of mind for residents despite ongoing efforts to increase awareness of these hazards and promote preparedness.
- Wildfire risk and utility disruptions also rank highly, suggesting that residents are also concerned about climate-driven emergencies and infrastructure vulnerabilities that could compound disaster impacts.

Mentions of community building and education reinforce the importance of community centered public safety:

- Existing programs such as the Office of Emergency Services' CERT trainings were repeatedly mentioned and requested with more frequency and outreach.

Gaps in knowledge and awareness/notification are top concerns relating to safety and disaster preparedness:

- Berkeley community members expressed concern about access to services/programs, awareness of emergency alerts, space to store supplies in case of an emergency and lack of access to evacuation transportation.

Write in responses emphasize infrastructure concerns for daily life and emergency evacuation:

- The most frequently written-in topics mention traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle safety and accessibility of sidewalks and safety of streets for people who use mobility devices.
- Emergency evacuation logistics are also a concern, especially for seniors and residents of the hillside who frequently mentioned street parking in the hills and elderly residents.

Homelessness and encampments were mentioned for nearly every write in topic across both element topics.

- Although not directly addressed by the Safety Element, homelessness and encampments were often mentioned in write-in responses for question 11, reiterating the importance of this EJ related issue.

Prepared, Safe and Healthy Berkeley: Pop-Up Exhibits Summary



Contents:

1. Pop-Up Events Overview and Objective
2. Response Summary
3. Key Takeaways

Pop-Up Events Overview and Objective

In partnership with the project Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Ecology Center, the City of Berkeley hosted a series of Pop-Up Exhibits to inform the public and gather feedback on our project to update the General Plan Safety Element, create a new Environmental Justice Element and develop Community Climate and Resilience Metrics.

From October 27th to November 7th the project team planned 16 Pop-Up Exhibits hosted at venues throughout Berkeley. The venues included libraries, Senior Centers, and CAC partner locations including the Ecology Center Store, Waterside Workshops, McGee Baptist Church, the Berkeley Food Network, Healthy Black Families, the UC Berkeley Latinx Resource Center and the Ed Roberts Campus.

Over the two-week period, over 300 participants engaged with the content of the Pop-Up Exhibits and provided feedback on preliminary goals and policies.

The primary goal of this community engagement was to bring information to and get meaningful feedback from as many Berkeleyans as possible. By hosting 16 events in various locations across Berkeley, the project team intended to meet the community in their spaces or shared spaces and provide flexible timeframes and multiple opportunities for participation. The CAC organizations played a critical role in providing space and gathering their members to engage in this work. Through their efforts to publicize the events, open their spaces and engage with the content, the CAC's role in the success of this engagement was invaluable.

The content of the exhibits was offered in several languages including Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Arabic and English. The choice to provide translated materials in these languages was informed by the CAC and the communities they serve. The exhibit materials were also offered online in English and Spanish to allow for virtual participation. Twenty-three people participated online.

At the Pop-Up Exhibits, City staff presented eight boards with preliminary Safety and EJ policies developed with the CAC. While not exhaustive of all the Safety and EJ topics nor the entirety of the CAC's recommendations, the eight poster boards (Attachment 1) included 37 policies under the following topic areas:

Safety:

- Emergency Preparedness & Response
- Equitable Community Resilience
- Air Quality

Environmental Justice:

- Community Connections & Belonging
- Healthy Food Access
- Healthy & Accessible Public Spaces
- Safe & Affordable Housing
- Effective and Inclusive City Government

Participants were asked to read through the policies and provide feedback in two ways. First, participants were given sticky dots and asked to indicate on a scale from 1 to 5 how well the policies resonated with them. Participants were also invited to add their ideas to the boards in response to two questions:

1. Is anything missing from these draft policy themes?
2. How will we know this is successful?

Using sticky notes, participants added their ideas to the boards. Staff were available throughout the exhibition to answer questions and provide clarification.

1

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Safety Element

Draft Policy Themes

The draft policy themes were crafted with input from the first Community Workshop (February 2025) and extensive collaboration with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is a group of community leaders representing historically underserved communities.

A. Create multilingual alerts. Coordinate with the County to find ways to make warning systems (texts and phone alerts) multilingual.

B. Increase hillside fire protections. Evaluate options for managing traffic in hillside neighborhoods during high-risk fire days.

C. Strengthen neighborhood connections. Work with local organizations to build strong neighborhood networks that support each other during disaster emergencies.

D. Disaster planning for vulnerable community members. Identify individuals who may need early evacuation during disaster emergencies and provide them with support in making a plan.

How will we know that this is **successful**?

Write on **sticky notes** possible measures and metrics.

Is **anything missing** from these draft policy themes?

Write your feedback on **sticky notes** in the space below!

How closely do these Policy Themes reflect your needs?

If these apply to you, place a **dot sticker** in the appropriate box.

1 These don't reflect my needs at all

2 These reflect my needs a little

3 These reflect some of my needs

4 These reflect most of my needs

5 These reflect my needs entirely

Figure 1: Poster board used at the Pop-Up Exhibits. Participants used the spaces on the boards to add dots and sticky notes in response to the prompts.

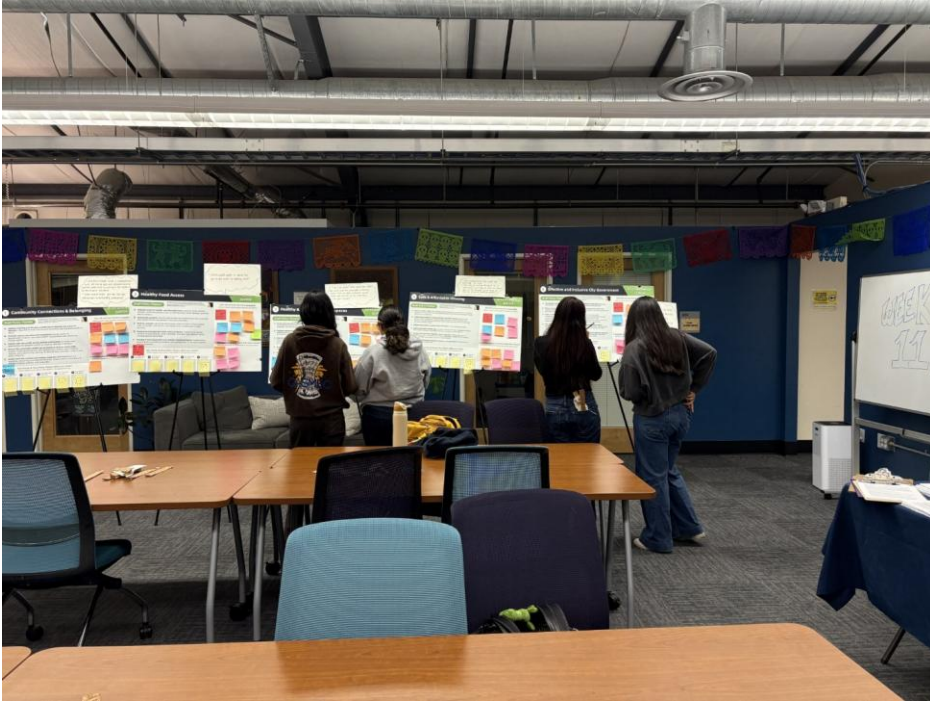


Figure 2: Students view the exhibit boards at the UC Berkeley Latinx Resource Center.

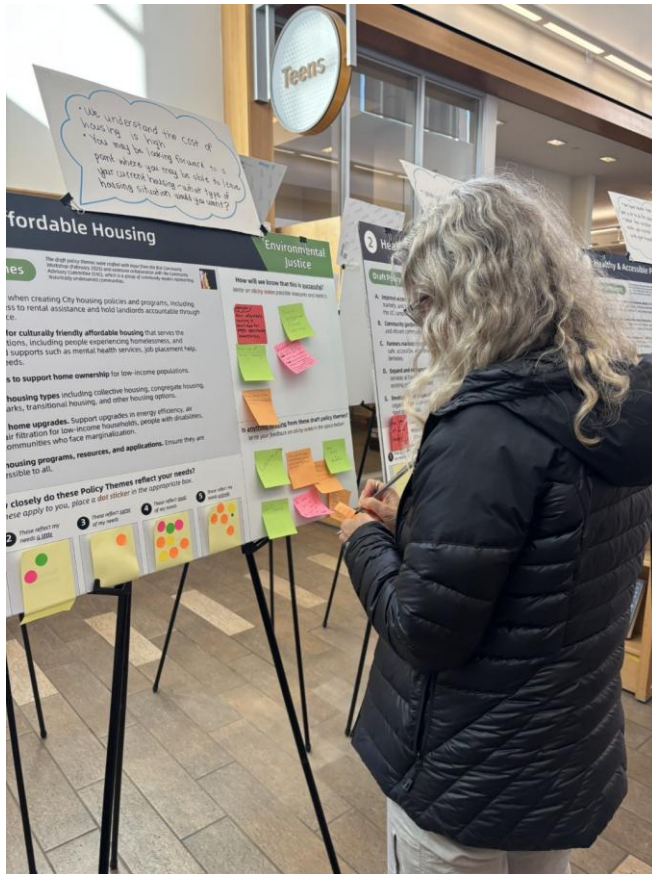


Figure 3: A participant adds notes to the board using a sticky note pad at the Tarea Hall Pitman South Branch Library.

Response Summary

This section summarizes participant responses from the Pop-Up Exhibits and online form for each board. The dot data collected during the Pop-Up exhibits is shown in Figure 4.

The summary also captures participant responses to the two reflection questions. The first question, *“Is anything missing from these draft policy themes?”* invited participants to add their ideas. The responses were analyzed and sorted using keywords that corresponded to major themes identified in the combined dataset of participant responses. The keywords and corresponding themes most commonly mentioned are summarized in a brief paragraph.

The second question, *“How will we know this is successful?”*, prompted participants to identify ways to measure the success of the proposed policies displayed on the boards. This question connects the proposed goals and policies to the Community Climate and Resilience Metrics component of the project. Responses to Question 2 are categorized into themes. These themes reflect reoccurring responses from all 16 events.

Each of the questions' summaries also includes examples of participants statements, which are direct (anonymous) quotes taken from the sticky notes. These quotes represent only fraction of the 900 sticky note responses gathered from the 16 events.

Dot Data: How closely do these Policy Themes reflect your needs?

On each of the boards, participants indicated on a scale from 1 (these don't reflect my need at all) to 5 (these reflect my needs entirely) how well the policy themes reflected their needs. Overwhelmingly, the data indicates that participants' needs were reflected in the policy themes presented. The chart below demonstrates this conclusion. Based on the number of responses, participants felt strongest about the policies proposed on board 5 "Effective and Inclusive City Government."

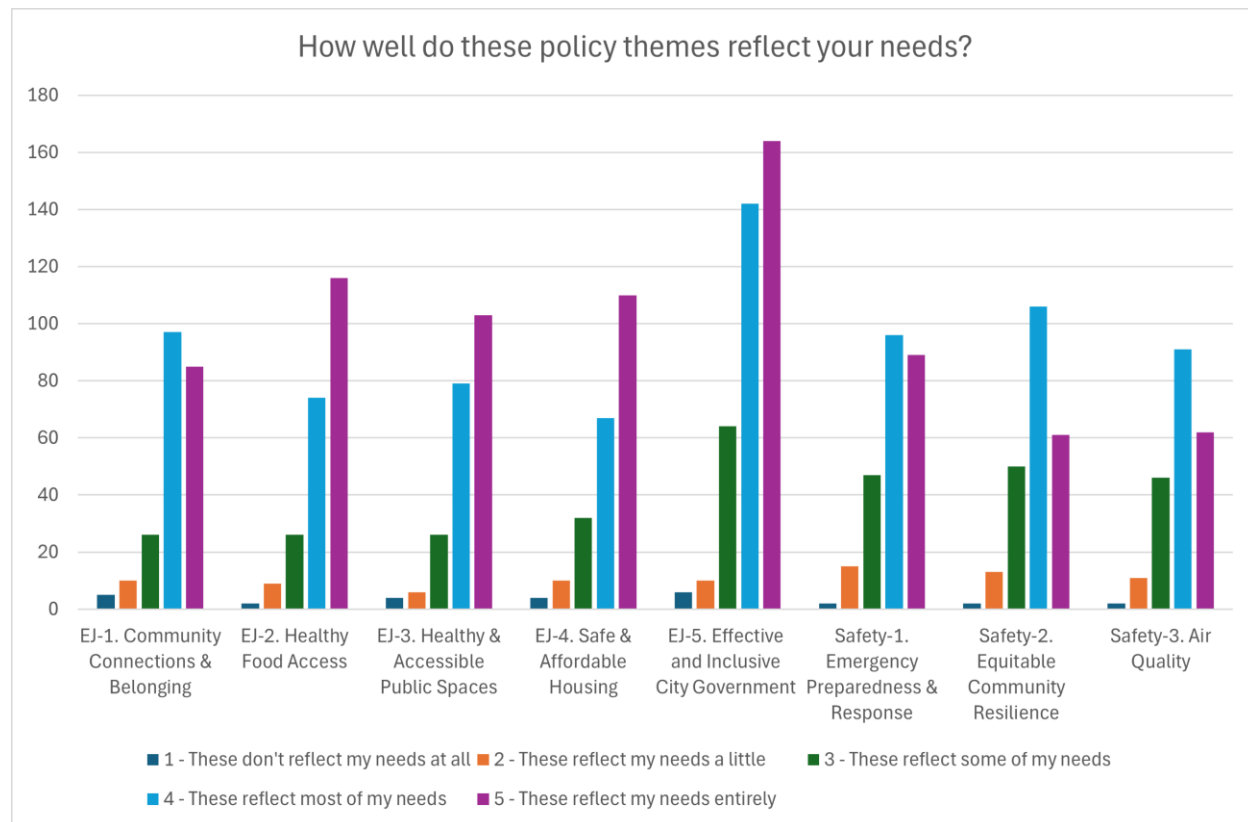


Figure 4: This chart summarizes participant feedback on how well the policy themes reflected their needs.

Safety Element Topics:

S-1 Measures of Success: Emergency Preparedness & Response

Is anything missing from these draft policy themes?

Respondents reiterated many of the ideas presented in the policy themes. Responses repeatedly mentioned the importance of tailored emergency response and preparedness for communities experiencing increased vulnerability including seniors, youth, renters, the disability community and individuals experiencing homelessness. A major reoccurring topic among respondents was emergency evacuation and notification, especially multilingual alerts. Respondents also highlighted the importance of neighborhood connections to better prepare for emergencies. Many respondents also mentioned earthquakes, a topic that is addressed in the Safety Element but was not presented on the Exhibit Boards.

Example Participant Statements:

- “Equip more residents with tools + training for peer-to-peer communications.”
- “As someone with a mother who only speaks Spanish I think this is very important to take into consideration to assure everyone is in the loop.”

How will we know this is successful?

Preparedness Knowledge, Training, and Household Readiness

Residents know what to do before and during emergencies and have the supplies and plans needed to respond. There is disaster readiness at the household and neighborhood level.

- More residents trained in emergency preparedness (e.g., CERT and related trainings)
- Higher rates of household emergency plans and go-bags
- Increased awareness of risks and what actions to take during an event
- Preparedness information reaches people in accessible formats and languages

Example Participant Statements:

- “I think it would be helpful to offer more disaster preparedness and prevention workshops for students, parents and families at all schools in the district. Those meetings should be available for families with language barriers.”
- “Strengthen neighborhood connections.”

Response Capacity, Coordination, and Rapid Deployment

Respondents describe a response system that can mobilize quickly, coordinate across agencies, and support neighborhoods during emergencies.

- Faster, more coordinated emergency response across City departments and partners
- Clear roles and responsibilities during response
- Stronger neighborhood-level response capacity and mutual aid

- Functional shelters, evacuation sites, and response logistics

Example Participant Statements:

- “We will know that this is successful when neighborhoods have emergency plans (created as a union) to feel safe and prepared when in an emergency like a fire that was made known / warned about multiples in multiple languages prior to the disaster.”

S-2 Measures of Success: Equitable Community Resilience

Is anything missing from these draft policy themes?

When asked to share other ideas about community resilience, respondents emphasized the importance of education, community connection and trust building, and resilience hubs most often. These ideas expanded on the policy themes shared at the exhibits. Participants also surfaced challenges for building community resilience including lack of funding, stigmas, and systematic barriers like language access and accessibility. Addressing these challenges through the proposed policies was a reoccurring theme.

Example Participant Statements:

- “Modify outreach sessions to represent underrepresented populations. (i.e. multilingual, differently abled) How will we know this is successful?”
- “Help build citizen aid networks within communities and provide them with the resources they need.”
- “Funding built into the policies. There is generally a lack of awareness and inclusion of the needs of older residents in Districts 5 and 5, who are on average much older than the average age in the other district. Berkeley's equity policies do not adequately discuss or address the specific needs of the significant older population in these districts.”

How will we know this is successful?

Reduced Disproportionate Risk and Harm in Vulnerable Communities

Risk and harm are reduced for communities that experience the greatest vulnerability and cumulative impacts.

- Fewer injuries, deaths, and long-term health impacts from disasters
- Reduced disparities in disaster impacts across race, income, age, and abilities

Example Participant Statements:

- “We need community events and drills to make community aware of hubs and support them.”
- “Being able to know these resources are a must because even I am not aware of where to go.”

Equitable Access to Emergency Resources and Support

Emergency resources are available and accessible to people with different needs, including low-income residents, seniors, and people with disabilities.

- Emergency supplies and services are accessible to those individuals and neighborhoods most in need.
- Targeted outreach and support for seniors, disabled residents, and low-income households
- Emergency response includes culturally and linguistically appropriate supports.

Example Participant Statements:

- “The multilingual alerts are vetted by those communities/their orgs.”
- “Regular check-ins with the orgs (maybe conferences) and have to dos that advance disaster preparedness annually.”

Resilient Infrastructure, Utilities, and Community Facilities

Infrastructure and facilities can withstand hazards and continue operating during emergencies.

- Critical infrastructure and utilities are hardened and maintained.
- Backup power and continuity systems are expanded for essential services.
- Community facilities (schools, libraries, resilience hubs) can support response and recovery.
- Investments prioritize neighborhoods with infrastructure gaps.

Example Participant Statements:

- Report on: “Number of disaster prep education sessions held per year.”
- Report on: “Number of facilities open during heat/air quality events (especially in underserved areas).”

- [We will know this is successful] “If people get the info before they need it. Better internet/ webpage updates.”

Community-Based Resilience Hubs and Local Capacity

Neighborhoods have trusted, local places and networks that can coordinate resources and support during disruptions.

- Resilience hubs are established and functioning in the neighborhoods that need them most.
- Community-based organizations are resourced to lead outreach and preparedness.
- Neighborhood networks and mutual aid are strengthened and sustained.
- Residents know where to go and who to contact during disruptions.

Example Participant Statements:

- “Survey shows folks have an idea where to go in an emergency. Feedback loop exists for improved outcomes (reduced number of injuries/loss etc.) as a result of addressing community feedback.”
- “Provide information on back-up power options for medical devices and safe storage of refrigerated medicine. Encourage neighbors to share resources and support.”

S-3 Measures of Success: Air Quality

Is anything missing from these draft policy themes?

Respondents consistently mentioned a lack of funding for home hardening. Homelessness and resources for unhoused people were also mentioned frequently. Respondents noticed a policy gap that included disaster preparedness education and training for people experiencing homelessness.

Example Participant Statements:

- “Provide environment sheltering facilities where people can get indoors, get AC or heating and get water.”
- “Providing incentives for homeowners to participate in these [home hardening and fire prevention] programs.”

How will we know this is successful?

Health Protection Measures and Clean Air Resources

Practical tools and spaces are available to protect health during smoke and poor air quality events.

- Access to N95 masks and other protective supplies
- Distribution of HEPA filters and other indoor air cleaning resources
- Clean air rooms/resilience spaces are available during smoke events (including for unhoused residents).
- Improved respiratory health outcomes (e.g., fewer asthma attacks)

Example Participant Statements:

- “Have indoor resilience spaces with good air quality for unhoused people in fire/smoke condition.”
- “Decreased asthma levels in populations previously vulnerable.”

Home Hardening, Compliance Metrics, and Practical Support

Homes are hardened against fire and supported by clear, measurable compliance and accessible help.

- Percent of homes compliant with new fire regulations reported over time
- More homes are reached through hardening programs and more homes are compliant with new fire regulations over time.
- Financial assistance for fire-resistant upgrades for those who need it
- Clear guidance and dependable contractor resources to complete improvements

Example Participant Statements:

- “Clear guidance for residents *outside* of the high fire risk areas about what is still worth doing to harden home, have defensible space, etc.”
- “Report percent of homes that are compliant with new fire regulations.”

Equitable Protection and Assistance for Vulnerable Residents

Ensure protections and resources reach people most impacted by smoke, poor air quality, and housing vulnerability.

- Programs to address additional indoor health hazards (e.g., mold/lead) where relevant
- Equity-focused policies that do not place additional burdens on already impacted communities

Example Participant Statements:

- “More laws/restrictions placed specifically in low-income areas where lots of factories, freeways etc.”

Environmental Justice Topics

EJ-1: Community Connections and Belonging

Is anything missing from these draft policy themes?

Two main ideas emerged from the responses to this question: Support for community building and increased cultural events, art and storytelling. Respondents noted more, better connected block associations and neighborhood gathering events to promote connection. Many of the recommendations around cultural events, art and storytelling highlighted the importance of involving youth, seniors, the disability community and communities facing marginalization.

Example Participant Statements:

- “Promote more block associations.”
- “Help neighborhoods to organize and connect, hold events and create ongoing communication channels.”
- “People who grew up here have a lot to share/teach about changing times (eg neighbors, black panthers).”
- “Thank you! I feel that all the things in this proposal would be very helpful in improving livability in our city, and would help to bring back the diversity that I love here, have benefited from, and am very proud of.”

How will we know this is Successful?

Access & Inclusion Are Tangible and Measurable

Residents can access information, services, and decision-making.

- Materials and programs are translated and accessible to non-English speakers.
- Participation by historically excluded groups is tracked and increasing.
- Outreach happens in neighborhood-based, trusted locations (libraries, community orgs, housing offices).

Example Participant Statements:

- “How many people are these programs reaching?”
- “Info is translated to ensure all have direct access to supports.”

Community Connection Is Visible in Everyday Life

People describe success as something you can see *and feel* in neighborhoods—not just in reports.

- More community gatherings, cultural events, and shared spaces
- Stronger social ties across age, race, and income groups

Example Participant Statements:

- “Emphasis on more free/low-cost events that promote diverse cultures within the City of Berkeley community. Eg farmers markets and community gathering.”
- “Use cultural education art and storytelling to build cohesive resilience hubs and CERT neighbors.”

Reduced Displacement and Housing Stability

People are able to move to and stay in Berkeley.

- Fewer residents forced out due to housing costs
- Support for first-time homebuyers and renters
- Policies that prevent cultural and economic displacement

Example Participant Statements:

- “It will be a success when more natives return home. We are getting displaced/moving out because we cannot afford it.”
- “More people of color live work thrive here. Home/biz ownership.”

EJ-2: Access to Healthy Foods

Is anything missing from these draft policy themes?

The most commonly mentioned ideas in response to this question included: Food Distribution programs, Food production, gardens and training and healthy and affordable food. Responses also mention building community through food programming like community garden spaces and opportunities for youth and seniors to collaborate with one another on food preparation and distribution.

Example Participant Statements:

- “Develop more public/private partnerships for healthy food access.”
- “Open more community markets that are affordable and help families and communities teach/train the basic healthier food/meal preparing.”
- “A few things I wanted to add is food programs or services for low-income communities by making it easier to apply for programs special families with language barriers that find it challenging to complete the process.”

How will we know this is successful?

Measurable Access to Healthy and Affordable Food

There are measurable improvements in food access and affordability.

- Clear indicators of availability (e.g., grocery access by geography)
- Tracking reach and usage of food access programs

- Changes in diet and food security over time

Example Participant Statements:

- “Number of grocery stores per council district”
- “Share number of people served by food access programs.”

Reliable Distribution Infrastructure and Program Capacity

Food access programs have frequent availability, are predictable, and adequately scaled to meet demand.

- More frequent and reliable food distribution programs
- Trusted distribution sites with consistent availability
- Expanded farmers market frequency and coverage.
- Sufficient capacity so food does not run out quickly

Example Participant Statements:

- “Support local organizations in creating a program that provides low or no-cost prepared food.”
- “We will know this is successful] When school, rec centers have items on-site to give away to families.”

Ease of Access and Removal of Barriers

Respondents measure success by how simple and dignified it is for residents to obtain food support.

- Clear information about where and how to access supports
- Barrier-free access to food (minimal hurdles)
- Affordable options for low-income residents

Example Participant Statements:

- [This will be successful] “When community know how and where to access much needed supports.”
- “It should be easy (no barriers) to getting food.”

EJ-3 Measures of Success: Healthy and Accessible Public Spaces

Is anything missing from these draft policy themes?

Responses included references to increased quantity and quality of public spaces, access to these spaces for youth, and the safety of public spaces, streets and sidewalks. Cleanliness of public spaces was a major theme that recurred throughout responses.

Example Participant Statements:

- “Streets need to be safer for pedestrians and cyclists (especially MLK).”
- “Safe access also means keeping the spaces clean. Public amenities are a gem, and sometimes essential for unhoused people who deserve access to clean facilities.”
- “Expand access to public amenities (like hiking paths and other outdoor spaces) through public transit.”
- “Creating green spaces that youth can participate in. i.e. creating more community gardening. But overall, the ideas on the board excite me, I love to see it!”

How will we know this is successful?

Cleanliness, Maintenance, and Illegal Dumping Prevention

Streets and public spaces are clean, well-maintained, and free of illegal dumping.

- More frequent cleaning and trash pickup in streets, parks, and public spaces
- Prevention and rapid response to illegal dumping (including safe disposal options for bulky items)
- Neighborhood and community cleanup efforts that improve day-to-day conditions
- Clear, location-based reporting to track progress (e.g., by district)

Example Participant Statements:

- “Emphasis on finding ways to prevent illegal dumping. Maybe organizing a quarterly event where individuals can go safely dump their large items.”
- “Create street clearing and neighborhood cleanup projects.”
- “Report number of illegal dumping clean ups by council district.”

Reduced Pollution and Improved Public Health Outcomes

Respondents define success by improvements in environmental health conditions that make outdoor spaces healthier and more enjoyable to use.

- Reduced air pollution in impacted areas and reduced cumulative exposure
- Improved respiratory and cardiovascular health outcomes (e.g., lower asthma rates)
- Cleaner air and streets that support walkability and outdoor activity
- Health benefits realized for communities disproportionately affected by pollution

Example Participant Statements:

- “Cumulative air pollution from industries located in zones in marginalized communities decreases.”
- “Less pollution in streets creating more walkable and enjoyable outside space.”
- “Lower rates of asthma and other health effects, heart and lung disease.”

Community Benefit, Pride of Place, and Accountability

Respondents define success through stronger community ownership and pride of place, along with transparency and follow-through.

- Greater community ownership and stewardship of public spaces
- Increased pride of place and belonging
- Transparency and accountability in implementation and reporting
- Community benefits (including workforce opportunities) tied to public investments

Example Participant Statements:

- “Greater sense of community ownership”
- “Berkeley needs to promote beauty and pride of place.”
- “People report greater city pride and sense of belonging.”

EJ-4 Measures of Success: Safe & Affordable Housing

Is anything missing from these draft policy themes?

Homeownership opportunities, and affordability of housing were the predominant themes that emerged from these responses. Respondents also noted resources for people experiencing homelessness including storage, services and access to housing resources.

Example Participant Statements:

- “Create a pathway to home ownership or stable long-term housing for anyone on the streets in the city. Work with each individual to see what works for them.”
- “Ensuring affordable housing is distributed throughout the city.”
- “More low-income housing, ADA accessible”
- “Consider those with moderate incomes who are still out of the rent market.”

How will we know this is successful?

Increased Affordable Housing Supply and Accessible Applications

More housing is produced and made available at price points that meet community needs with accessible application processes and access to information.

- More affordable rentals (including for students)
- Housing options for households beyond very low-income (including moderate/median-income households)
- Simpler, more navigable application processes for affordable housing
- Housing supports that are accessible to students and other groups facing affordability barriers

Example Participant Statements:

- “Number of very low-income units built annually”
- “This would benefit many low-income students not able to obtain on campus housing. Making access to this information more widely accessible for students would be extremely helpful.”
- “We need housing opportunities for the vast swath of median income people and families for whom Berkeley is unaffordable, not just for low income and homeless people.”
- “Easing out the application process will benefit many low-income families.”

Housing Pathways for Unhoused Residents and Supportive Housing

People can move from homelessness into safe, stable housing with appropriate support.

- Fewer encampments and fewer unhoused residents over time
- Programs scaled to meet needs of people experiencing homelessness and impacted families
- Supportive housing accommodates pets/partners and meets real-life needs

Example Participant Statements:

- “As a homeless person, half of my urgency is towards getting the house. Work should be done to ensure that the process is precise and efficient. We know where the houses are, but we need the foundation: a way to get you in.”
- “Folks have safe spaces to thrive and develop.”
- “We need more homeless action centers and day shelters that can provide wraparound support for all sections and neighborhoods in Berkeley.”

Tenant Protections, Anti-Displacement, and Gentrification Metrics

Keep existing communities in Berkeley and track whether displacement and gentrification are slowing.

- Stronger tenant protections and active tenant organizations
- Tracking displacement and demographic change over time (including impacted communities)

- Using tools like TOPA (Tenant Option to Purchase) and vacancy-related measures to protect renters and preserve housing availability

Example Participant Statements:

- “Number of TOPA (Tenant Option to Purchase) cases!”
- “Measures of gentrification like number/percent of African American housed in Berkeley no longer decreasing year over year”
- “Interview [housing program] beneficiaries to determine their satisfaction level with their experiences.”

EJ-5: Inclusive & Accountable Government

Is anything missing from these policy themes?

Respondents consistently mentioned the importance of engaging with communities facing marginalization, accessibility of government information and events, and the City’s accountability. Some responses also mentioned the need for coordination with other agencies like BUSD, Alameda County and EBMUD. Language access, youth involvement and strategies for involving communities facing marginalization (like a standing board of community organizations) were prominent ideas shares.

Example Participant Statements:

- “Feedback/community meetings could be more accessible i.e. time, meeting location, format, interpreters, child friendly.”
- “Important to get people who are not represented to participate and find people who grew up in Berkeley in the 1960s-70s to share history.”
- “More efficient processing of commission recommendations - tracking systems of commission recommendations online.”

How will we know this is successful?

Accountability + Follow-Through

The City follows through on commitments and can demonstrate compliance, verification, and oversight in practice.

- Compliance and enforcement of adopted commitments
- Verification that issues are being addressed and progress is real
- Audits and oversight mechanisms to ensure integrity and performance

Example Participant Statement:

- “Metrics are needed to see when/if there is any movement towards a (positive) direction.”

Meaningful, Accessible Participation

Respondents describe success as more residents being able to participate, communicate needs, and see that their input had an impact—tracked in measurable ways.

- More people providing input on projects and decisions
- Clear, easy access to meetings, agendas, events, and participation opportunities
- Neighborhood-based points of contact or representatives that residents can reach directly
- Participation tracked by geography and demographics to ensure equitable involvement

Example Participant Statement:

- Track: “Number of people who provide input on projects.”
- “Block and/or neighborhood “representatives” participate and can be contacted directly”
- “Centralized management of outreach lists and resources.”

Representation + Inclusive Services (Language Access + Equity in Government)

Government reflects the community and services and engagement are inclusive in practice across language and accessibility needs.

- Language access and translation support during meetings and engagement
- Inclusion of communities of color and marginalized residents in decision-making

Example Participant Statement:

- “I would like to see more programs and resources to serve families with language barriers. When workshops are offered, each workshop should also be offered in additional languages or a translator should be present at each scheduled meeting.”
- “Having a way for public to directly communicate needs with city gov. A public display of issues most brought up by community members so we can track demand/urgency to keep government accountable (in multiple languages).”

Key Takeaways:

Across the Pop-Up Exhibits and online responses, participants largely affirmed the draft policy themes while consistently adding emphasis on equity-focused implementation

especially for residents facing increased vulnerability such as seniors, youth, renters, people with disabilities, and individuals experiencing homelessness. Many comments highlighted the need for stronger neighborhood level connections, clearer coordination across agencies, and addressing gaps that were not always visible on the boards (most notably earthquake preparedness). Participants also surfaced recurring challenges that limit communities' participation and access to resources such as language access, accessibility barriers, lack of awareness, and insufficient funding.

Respondents consistently described success as tangible and practical outcomes. Key measures for Safety Element topics included: more residents trained and prepared for disasters; clearer and multilingual alerts; increased neighborhood scale resilience and more resilient facilities; a more efficient, reliable response framework; and resources for disaster readiness (like home hardening) for all, especially those facing increased vulnerability. For Environmental Justice topics, key measures included: more opportunities for community connection; cleaner, safer and better programmed public spaces; more resources for people experiencing homelessness; more affordable housing resources that are easy to understand and use; more places to find healthy, affordable food; and increased accountability and accessibility of local government. Overall, the takeaways point to a strong desire for policies that are measurable, inclusive, and visibly improve safety, preparedness, and health outcomes across all neighborhoods.

1 Emergency Preparedness & Response

Safety Element

Draft Policy Themes

The draft policy themes were crafted with input from the first Community Workshop (February 2025) and extensive collaboration with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is a group of community leaders representing historically underserved communities.



- A. Create multilingual alerts.** Coordinate with the County to find ways to make warning systems (texts and phone alerts) multilingual.
- B. Increase hillside fire protections.** Evaluate options for managing traffic in hillside neighborhoods during high-risk fire days.
- C. Strengthen neighborhood connections.** Work with local organizations to build strong neighborhood networks that support each other during disaster emergencies.
- D. Disaster planning for vulnerable community members.** Identify individuals who may need early evacuation during disaster emergencies and provide them with support in making a plan.

How will we know that this is successful?

Write on **sticky notes** possible measures and metrics.

Is anything missing from these draft policy themes?

Write your feedback on **sticky notes** in the space below!

How closely do these Policy Themes reflect your needs?

If these apply to you, place a **dot sticker** in the appropriate box.

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2 Equitable Community Resilience

Safety Element

Draft Policy Themes

The draft policy themes were crafted with input from the first Community Workshop (February 2025) and extensive collaboration with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is a group of community leaders representing historically underserved communities.



- A. Create a network of Community Resilience Hubs.** Establish ADA-accessible hubs that provide backup power, clean air, and safe places to stay cool or warm. These spaces will serve as trusted community gathering spaces before, during and after emergencies.
- B. Help residents prepare for power outages.** Provide information on backup power options for medical devices and safe storage of refrigerated medicines. Encourage neighbors to share resources and support one another.
- C. Improve disaster education and outreach.** Hold recurring community listening sessions and adjust programming based on community feedback.
- D. Provide City staff training on equity, inclusion, and community partnering** to ensure disaster education and programs reflect community needs.

How will we know that this is successful?

Write on *sticky notes* possible measures and metrics.

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3 Wildfire and Air Quality

Safety Element

Draft Policy Themes

The draft policy themes were crafted with input from the first Community Workshop (February 2025) and extensive collaboration with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is a group of community leaders representing historically underserved communities.



- A. Expand fire-deterrent programs in areas of high fire risk.** Expand home hardening programs to increase the number of fire-resistant roofs, vents, and windows.
- B. Maintain defensible space around homes.** Require homeowners to manage vegetation on their properties and support the establishment of community fuel breaks.
- C. Support community safety during poor air quality days** by developing programs that distribute HEPA filters and provide instructions on how to create do-it-yourself clean-air rooms.

How will we know that this is successful?

Write on *sticky notes* possible measures and metrics.

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1 Community Connections & Belonging

Environmental Justice

Draft Policy Themes

The draft policy themes were crafted with input from the first Community Workshop (February 2025) and extensive collaboration with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is a group of community leaders representing historically underserved communities.



- A. Address ongoing gentrification and the loss of diversity and culture in Berkeley.** Value the diversity that remains and encourage displaced people to return.
- B. Promote cultural education and storytelling** through public art, beautification projects, and events held in collaboration with community change agents.
- C. Partner with non-profits serving diverse communities** to create more opportunities for people to return to, move to, and stay in Berkeley.
- D. Ensure City community centers are accessible to diverse communities,** provide multilingual programs and opportunities to learn about different cultures, and expand these offerings to West Berkeley and other underserved areas of the City.
- E. Create more free and low-cost outdoor programs and events** that are engaging, welcoming and celebrate diversity. Ensure events are inclusive of different cultures, abilities, and languages.

How will we know that this is successful?

Write on **sticky notes** possible measures and metrics.

Is anything missing from these draft policy themes?

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2 Healthy Food Access

Environmental Justice

Draft Policy Themes

The draft policy themes were crafted with input from the first Community Workshop (February 2025) and extensive collaboration with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is a group of community leaders representing historically underserved communities.



- A. Improve access to healthy and affordable food** at grocery stores, farmers markets, and food pantries. Focus on West Berkeley, South Berkeley, and near the UC campus.
- B. Community gardens:** Expand opportunities for creating more safe, accessible and vibrant community gardens in the City of Berkeley.
- C. Farmers markets:** Work with the Ecology Center to make farmers markets safe, accessible, and vibrant, and request that a market open in West Berkeley.
- D. Expand and destigmatize food access programs.** Improve and expand services at food pantries, dine-in facilities, and take-away kitchens where existing options are limited.
- E. Develop a food preparation and nutrition training program.** Support local organizations in creating a program that provides low- or no-cost prepared food to the public.

How will we know that this is successful?

Write on *sticky notes* possible measures and metrics.

Is anything missing from these draft policy themes?

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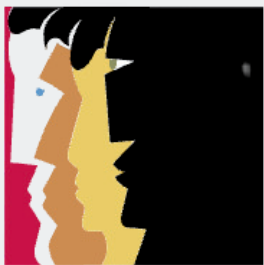
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Healthy & Accessible Public Spaces

Environmental Justice

Draft Policy Themes

The draft policy themes were crafted with input from the first Community Workshop (February 2025) and extensive collaboration with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is a group of community leaders representing historically underserved communities.



- A. Create street cleaning and neighborhood cleanup projects** that focus on areas of the City most impacted by illegal dumping and trash, including West Berkeley, South Berkeley, Downtown, near the railroad tracks and BART, and along major streets and freeways.
- B. Empower neighborhoods and communities most affected by pollution and toxins.** Raise awareness through accessible education and information, and connect people with Community Based Organizations that serve vulnerable populations.
- C. Improve and expand the City’s parks, playgrounds, and community gathering spaces.** Make these spaces safe, welcoming, and easy to use for people of all abilities, ages, income levels, cultures and languages. Provide ample tree cover, include play spaces for children and youth, and add outdoor fitness areas.
- D. Increase safe access to public amenities** such as public restrooms, drinking fountains, barbeque and picnic areas, and shaded places to rest.
- E. Develop policies to further reduce the environmental and neighborhood impacts of construction projects,** including trash, air pollution, water pollution, limited public access, and risks from sea level and groundwater rise.

How will we know that this is successful?

Write on *sticky notes* possible measures and metrics.

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4 Safe & Affordable Housing

Environmental Justice

Draft Policy Themes

The draft policy themes were crafted with input from the first Community Workshop (February 2025) and extensive collaboration with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is a group of community leaders representing historically underserved communities.



- A. Focus on renters’ needs** when creating City housing policies and programs, including those that increase access to rental assistance and hold landlords accountable through incentives for compliance.
- B. Explore opportunities for culturally friendly affordable housing** that serves the lowest-income populations, including people experiencing homelessness, and provides wrap-around supports such as mental health services, job placement help, and other essential needs.
- C. Explore opportunities to support home ownership** for low-income populations.
- D. Support alternative housing types** including collective housing, congregate housing, RVs, mobile home parks, transitional housing, and other housing options.
- E. Provide affordable home upgrades.** Support upgrades in energy efficiency, air conditioning, and air filtration for low-income households, people with disabilities, elders, and other communities who face marginalization.
- F. Evaluate current housing programs, resources, and applications.** Ensure they are effective and accessible to all.

How will we know that this is successful?

Write on *sticky notes* possible measures and metrics.

Is anything missing from these draft policy themes?

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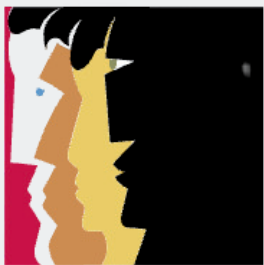
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Effective and Inclusive City Government

Environmental Justice

Draft Policy Themes

The draft policy themes were crafted with input from the first Community Workshop (February 2025) and extensive collaboration with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is a group of community leaders representing historically underserved communities.



- A. Hire staff who reflect Berkeley’s diverse community and train them to work within and across communities,** addressing their unique needs while fostering connection and belonging.
- B. Ensure an honest feedback loop between City government and marginalized communities.** Evaluate existing whistleblower programs and strengthen accountability by providing opportunities for engagement and education.
- C. Create an Office of Engagement and Community Collaboration** to build meaningful relationships with community-based organizations. This Office will compensate partners fairly for their participation and expertise, set equitable engagement standards for all City departments, coordinate cross-departmental outreach to reduce community burden, and ensure programs and policies are effectively communicated to the communities most affected.
- D. Make the needs of marginalized communities a priority in the early planning of public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian projects** to address ableism, accessibility, and safety risks. Focus on engaging the disability community, elderly, youth, low-income residents, and other communities who face marginalization.
- E. Evaluate the accessibility of City outreach materials and City Council and Commission processes.** Make these resources available to people of all abilities and in multiple languages. Work with community to create opportunities to hear diverse voices, including youth voices.

How will we know that this is successful?

Write on *sticky notes* possible measures and metrics.

Is anything missing from these draft policy themes?

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