CITY OF GARDENA

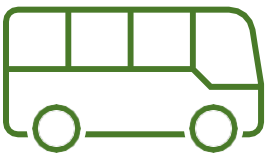
Environmental Justice White Paper

April 2021

DE NOVO PLANNING GROUP

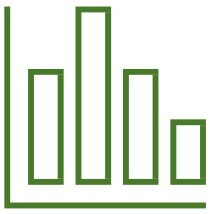
This page is intentionally left blank.

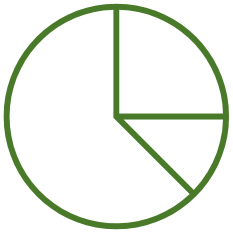
Table of Contents

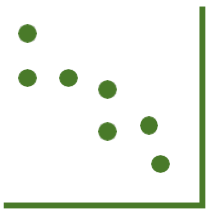


Tables

Figures







A. BACKGROUND & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

BACKGROUND

The negative effects of environmental degradation and pollution are well-documented and include severe impacts to human health and longevity, depending on the level of exposure. Within the United States, certain communities have historically been disproportionately affected by environmental threats and the negative health impacts of environmental degradation. These communities include, but are not limited to, low-income communities, communities of color, communities comprising members of tribal nations, and immigrant communities. Increased exposure to environmental pollutants, unsafe drinking water, and contaminated facilities/structures have contributed to poorer health outcomes for these communities. Structural inequalities that disadvantage certain individuals and groups, local and regional policies, zoning, code enforcement deficiencies, and lack of community engagement and advocacy are related to disproportionate environmental and social effects. The field of environmental justice is focused on addressing these disproportionate impacts and improving the wellness of all communities by bolstering community planning efforts, considering exposure to adverse environmental effects, increasing access to amenities and services, and promoting the fair treatment of all people regardless of their race, ethnicity, national origin, or income.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

STATE

SENATE BILL 1000

In 2016, the Senate passed Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), also known as The Planning for Healthy Communities Act, amending Section 65302 of the Government Code. SB 1000 requires local California jurisdictions with disadvantaged communities to prepare and maintain an Environmental Justice element or environmental justice-related goals, policies, and implementation programs in their General Plan's other elements. SB 1000 outlines the approach to identifying disadvantaged communities (DACs), strategies to promote the protection of sensitive land uses within the state and simultaneously mandates that local jurisdictions address the needs of DACs. Through this bill, environmental justice is a mandated consideration in all local jurisdictions' land-use planning policies, regulations, and activities.

SB 1000 specifies seven topics that must be integrated into a stand-alone Environmental Justice Element or through integrated Environmental Justice goals:

1. Pollution Exposure and Air Quality
2. Public Facilities
3. Food Access
4. Safe and Sanitary Homes
5. Physical Activity
6. Community Engagement
7. Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities

The key findings within the City of Gardena for each of these topics are summarized in section C of this report and more detailed existing conditions are included in section D.

Senate Bill 535

In 2012, the Legislature passed SB 535, adding Sections 39711, 39713, 39715, 39721, and 39723 to the Health and Safety Code. SB 535 directs 25% of the proceeds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) (established by the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 AB 52's cap and trade program) to projects that provide a benefit to DACs.

Assembly Bill 1550

In 2016, the Legislature passed AB 1550, amending Section 39713 of the Health and Safety Code. AB 1550 amended SB 535 to require all GGRF investments that benefit DACs to also be located within those communities. The law also requires that an additional 10% of the funds be dedicated to low-income households and communities, of which 5% is reserved for low-income households and communities living within a half-mile of a designated DAC.

Senate Bill 673

In 2015, the Senate passed SB 673, adding Sections 25200.21 and 25200.23 to the Health and Safety Code. SB 673 directs the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to include criteria such as cumulative impact and neighborhood vulnerability when issuing or renewing hazardous waste facility permits. The law provides the DTSC with an opportunity to use tools such as CalEnviroScreen (CES), an Internet-based mapping tool described below that helps jurisdictions identify DACs, when making decisions on hazardous waste permitting.

Assembly Bill 523

In 2017, the Legislature passed AB 523, amending Section 25711.5 of, and to add and repeal Section 25711.6 of, the Public Resources Code. AB 523 allocates at least 25% of the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) funds administered by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to support technology demonstration and deployment projects located in and benefiting "disadvantaged communities," and dedicates at least 10% of the funds to activities located in and benefiting "low-income" communities as defined by AB 1550.

Senate Bill 43

In 2013, the Senate passed SB 43, adding Chapter 7.6 (commencing with Section 2831) of Part 2 of Division 1 of the Public Utilities Code. SB 43 establishes the Green Tariff Shared Renewables program, administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), which enables utility customers to meet their energy generation needs through offsite generation of renewable energy projects. The program requires 100 MW of renewableenergy projects to be sited in the top 20% of CES scores based on each investor-owned utility (IOU) service territory.

Assembly Bill 2722

In 2016, legislature passed AB 2722, adding Part 4 (commencing with Section 75240) to Division 44 of the Public Resources Code. AB 2722 requires the California Strategic Growth Council to award competitive grants to specified eligible entities for the development and implementation of neighborhood-level transformative climate community plans that include greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects that provide local economic, environmental, and health benefits to DACs. AB 2722 created the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) program administered through the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC). The TCC is a GGRF-funded program that supports innovative, comprehensive, and community-led plans

that reduce pollution and achieve multiple co-benefits at the neighborhood level.

California Department of Transportation's Active Transportation Program (ATP)

The California Department of Transportation's (CalTrans) Active Transportation Program (ATP) aims to enhance public health and advance California's climate goals by increasing safety and mobility for non-motorized active transportation such as biking and walking. ATP projects in "disadvantaged communities" (defined as census tracts within the top 25% of CES scores along with several other options) are allocated 25% of program funds, while an additional 2% is set aside to fund active transportation planning in DACs.

Local

City Of Gardena General Plan

A variety of policies contained in the existing City of Gardena General Plan support DACs and environmental justice issues through citywide improvements that provide equitable access to facilities and services, transportation network improvements, parks, and recreation opportunities, and promoting air and water quality.

Specific goals included within the General Plan that are most related to the topics of environmental justice and DACs include:

Land Use plan

- POLICY LU 1.1: Promote sound housing and attractive and safe residential neighborhoods.
- POLICY LU 1.2: Protect existing sound residential neighborhoods from incompatible uses and development.
- POLICY LU 1.5: Provide adequate residential amenities such as open space, recreation, off-street parking and pedestrian features in multifamily residential developments.
- POLICY LU 2.4: Provide neighborhood commercial centers with convenient and safe pedestrian access.
- POLICY LU 3.4: Attract commercial and industrial uses that minimize adverse impacts on surrounding land uses and are economically beneficial to the City in terms of revenue generation and employment opportunities.
- POLICY LU 3.6: New commercial and industrial developments shall meet or exceed local and state requirements pertaining to noise, air, water, seismic safety and any otherapplicable environmental regulations.
- POLICY LU 3.7: Require the mitigation or remediation of potential hazardous conditions in the City.
- POLICY LU 4.3: Design public improvements to encourage pedestrian activity and access and to provide safe and convenient pedestrian circulation.
- POLICY LU 4.7: Provide adequate public facilities and services for the convenience and safety of each neighborhood.

Economic Development Plan

- POLICY ED 1.4: Encourage high quality mixed-use development in underutilized commercial and industrial areas where it will improve the City's tax base and image.
- POLICY ED 1.7: Encourage diversification of businesses to support the local economy and provide a stable revenue stream.
- POLICY ED 2.3: Support business revitalization funding programs to help areas experiencing blighted conditions.

- POLICY ED 2.6: Support programs that tailor services and resources to small businesses.

COMMUNITY DESIGN PLAN

- POLICY DS 2.4: Strengthen the important elements of residential streets that unify and enhance the character of the neighborhood, including pedestrian amenities, parkways, mature street trees, compatible setbacks, and unified architectural detailing and building.
- POLICY DS 2.6: Encourage rehabilitation or upgrade of aging residential neighborhoods.
- POLICY DS 2.10: Provide landscape treatments (trees, shrubs, groundcover, and grass areas) within multi-family development projects in order to create a "greener" environment for residents and those viewing from public areas.
- POLICY DS 2.11: Incorporate quality residential amenities such as private and communal open spaces into multi-unit development projects in order to improve the quality of the project and to create more attractive and livable spaces for residents to enjoy.
- POLICY DS 2.15: Promote innovative development and design techniques, new material and construction methods to stimulate residential development that protects the environment.
- POLICY DS 3.4: Support mixed-use developments that include adequate open space areas and a full range of site amenities.
- POLICY DS 4.6: Promote pedestrian-friendly corridors by improving traffic and pedestrian safety and by providing pedestrian amenities such as benches and outdoor seating, potted plants, decorative paving, and detailed lighting elements along the street frontage.

CIRCULATION PLAN

- POLICY CI 1.1: Prioritize long-term sustainability for the City of Gardena, in alignment with regional and state goals, by promoting infill development, reduced reliance on single- occupancy vehicle trips, and improved multi-modal transportation networks, with the goal of reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, thereby improving the health and quality of life for residents.
- POLICY CI Goal 3: Develop Complete Streets to promote alternative modes of transportation that are safe and efficient for commuters, and available to persons of all income levels and disabilities.
- POLICY CI Goal 4: Provide adequate public facilities and infrastructure that support the needs of City residents and businesses.

HOUSING ELEMENT

- POLICY 1.3: Preserve the affordability of assisted rental projects located in the City.
- POLICY 1.4: Encourage room additions in the existing housing stock to alleviate overcrowding.
- GOAL 2.0: Provide opportunity for increasing the supply of affordable housing within the City, with special emphasis on housing for special needs groups.
- GOAL 3.0: Minimize the impact of governmental constraints on housing construction and cost.
- GOAL 4.0: Provide adequate residential sites through appropriate land use and zoning to accommodate the City's share of regional housing needs.
- GOAL 5.0: Promote equal opportunity for all residents to reside in the housing of their choice.

OPEN SPACE PLAN

- GOAL OS 1: Maintain and upgrade the existing parks and recreation facilities to meet the needs of all residents.
- GOAL OS 2: Increase the City's supply and quality of parkland, open space, and recreational programs.

CONSERVATION PLAN

- GOAL CN 2: Conserve and protect groundwater supply and water resources.
- GOAL CN 3: Reduce the amount of solid waste produced in Gardena.
- GOAL CN 4: Conserve energy resources through the use of technology and conservation methods.
- GOAL CN 5: Protect the City's cultural resources.

PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN

- GOAL PS 1: Maintain a high level of fire and police protection for residents, businesses and visitors.
- GOAL PS 2: Protect the community from dangers associated with geologic instability, seismic hazards and other natural hazards.
- GOAL PS 3: Protect public health, safety and the environment from exposure to hazardous materials and other dangers.
- GOAL PS 4: Increase public awareness of crime and fire prevention, and emergency preparedness and procedures.

NOISE PLAN

- GOAL N 1: Use noise control measures to reduce the impact from transportation noise sources.
- POLICY N 1.8: Encourage walking, biking, carpooling, use of public transit and other alternative modes of transportation to minimize vehicular use and associated traffic noise.
- GOAL N 2: Incorporate noise considerations into land use planning decisions.
- GOAL N 3: Develop measures to control non-transportation noise impacts.

B. DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

The term 'disadvantaged community' is a broad designation that includes any community disproportionally affected by environmental, health, and other burdens or low-income areas disproportionally affected by environmental pollution and other hazards. In relation to environmental justice, DACs are typically those communities thatdisproportionately face the burdens of environmental hazards. Government Code Section 65302, as amended by SB 1000, defines a DAC as follows:

"…an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code or an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation."

In February 2017, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), on behalf of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), released Version 3.0 of the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CES). CalEnviroScreen identifies communities that are disproportionately affected by environmental hazards. It is a science-based tool that uses existing environmental, health, andsocioeconomic data to rank all census tracts in California with a CES score. CalEPA designates the tracts with a CES score in the top 25 percentile as DACs. In June 2018, OEHHA updated CalEnviroScreen 3.0 to address a minor flaw in the software program algorithm used to calculate overall census tract scores. Additionally, on February 22, 2021, OEHHA released the draft CalEnviroScreen 4.0 for public comment. Since it is still in draft form, the results of Version 3.0 are used in this analysis.

Although the scores and DAC status of specific census tracts may change over time (for example, as CalEnviroScreen is periodically updated), the goals, policies, and programs identified in the Environmental Justice element generally apply citywide. Therefore, while certain census tracts may shift in their identification as a DAC, the City's commitment to promoting environmental justice throughout the community remains.

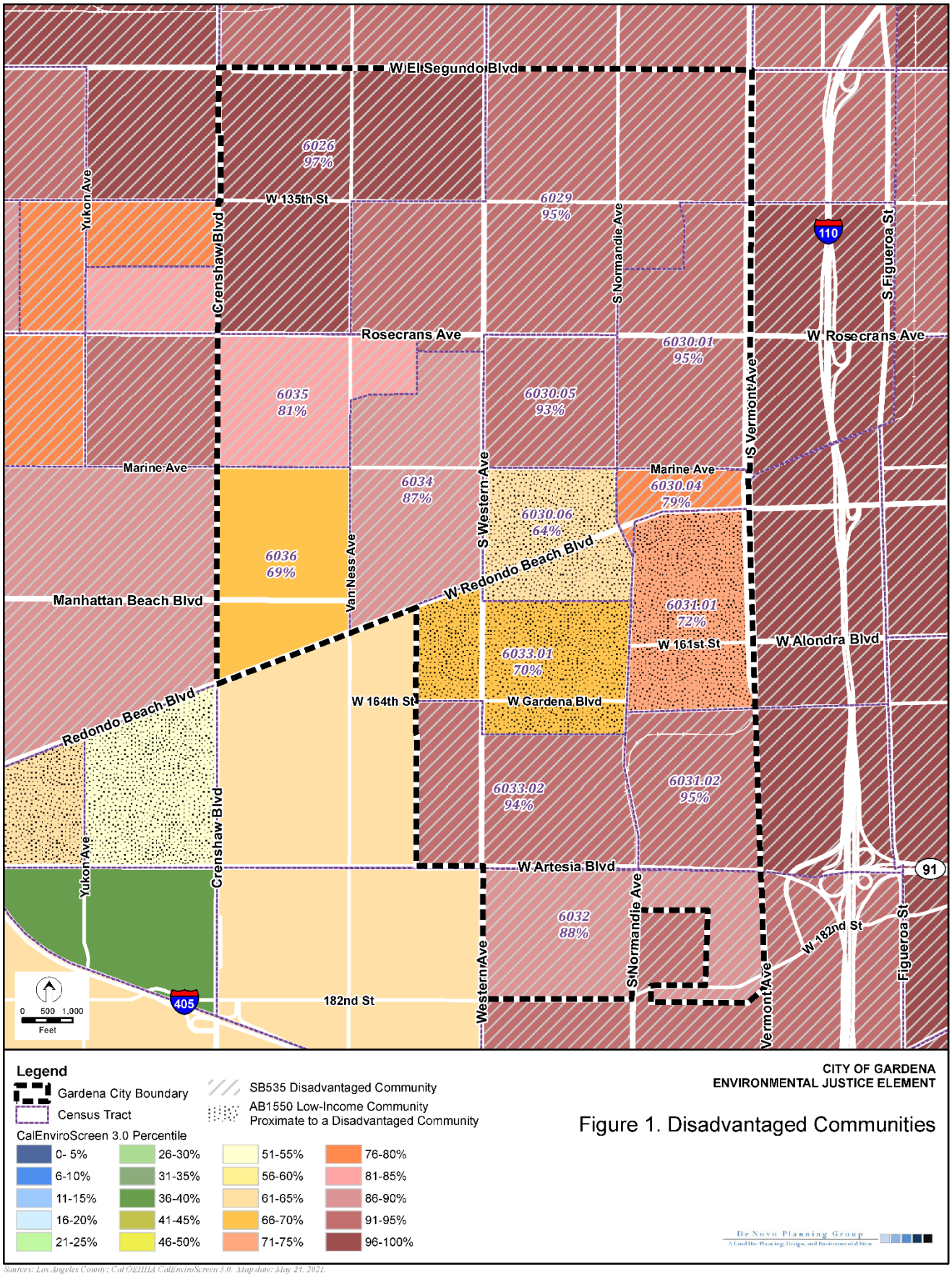
Based on CalEnviroScreen 3.0, 10 out of 14 census tracts within the City have a CES score in the top 25 percentile, as illustrated in Figure 1, qualifying them as a DAC. Low-income communities disproportionately affected by environmental concerns are also considered an "environmental justice community". These communities can be identified using the CaliforniaAir Resources Board (CARB) Priority Populations Mapping Tool, which identifies low-income communities located within ½ mile of a CalEPA-identified disadvantaged community. Based on this assessment, three more census tracts (beyond the 10 identified via CalEnviroScreen 3.0) can be considered disadvantaged and are also shown in Figure 1.

Based on the methodology outlined above, as of mid-2021 the City of Gardena includes **13 census tracts (out of 14) that are considered disadvantaged communities**. These areas represent approximately 93.9% of the City acreage, 92.9% of the City's population, and 93.4% of the City's households.

To understand the existing health and socioeconomic conditions of each DAC, Table 1 lists the percentiles for sensitive population and socioeconomic factor indicators in the City by census tract. The 13 DAC census tracts are outlined with bold lines. The sensitive population indicators reflect the communities' health and the socioeconomic factor indicators describe educational attainment, income level, employment, and housing conditions and burden. For each indicator, scores of 75% or higher represent a high burden on the population. All 13 DAC tracts are highly burdened in at least two indicators and have medium or high burdens in six or more of the eight indicators.

This page is intentionally left blank.

FIGURE 1: DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES



Sources: Los Angeles County; Cal OEHHA CalEnviroScreen 3.0. Map date: May 24, 2021.

This page is intentionally left blank.

TABLE 1: POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS BY SENSITIVE POPULATION AND SOCIOECONOMIC FACTOR INDICATORS

INDICATOR (%)	CENSUS TRACTS													
	6026	6029	6030.01	6030.04	6030.05	6030.06	6031.01	6031.02	6032	6033.01	6033.02	6034	6035	6036
SENSITIVE POPULATION INDICATORS														
Asthma	88	74	85	85	81	85	85	73	77	80	76	81	91	85
Low Birth Weight	95	35	73	71	90	32	46	81	66	35	83	88	67	58
Cardiovascular Disease	78	49	75	75	67	75	75	54	77	66	57	63	85	72
SOCIOECONOMIC FACTOR INDICATORS														
Education	47	77	72	53	69	44	47	56	58	35	65	54	66	52
Linguistic Isolation	16	88	77	90	72	60	61	87	86	88	81	54	79	62
Poverty	55	79	73	58	71	65	59	68	26	53	71	61	35	44
Unemployment	76	74	55	13	58	65	40	57	19	16	84	57	4	43
Housing Burden	70	58	90	61	96	66	76	74	6	78	72	50	18	34
Total Population Characteristics Score	**95**	**99**	**92**	**74**	**88**	**68**	**69**	**78**	**59**	**60**	**85**	**75**	**66**	**64**
CES 3.0 Score	**97**	**95**	**95**	**79**	**93**	**64**	**72**	**95**	**88**	**70**	**94**	**87**	**81**	**69**

Color Key		High Burden: 75.0 – 100.0%		Medium Burden: 25.0 – 74.9%		Low Burden: 0.0 – 24.9%

Source: California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, CalEnviroScreen 3.0
Note: DAC census tracts are outlined in bold

This page is intentionally left blank.

C. KEY FINDINGS & RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

The key findings for the seven required Environmental Justice topics are summarized below with recommended next steps. More detail on existing conditions is included in section D of this report.

1. Pollution Exposure and Air Quality

Key Findings:

The various forms and sources of air and water pollution and hazardous waste often disproportionately affect DACs. This is typically due to the existence and relative concentration of pollution-emitting sources close to the communities. There are 12 CESpollution indicators. All census tracts (regardless of their status as a DAC or not) have mediumor high burdens in at least seven out of the 12 indicators, including high burdens in particulatematter 2.5 and toxic releases and medium or high burdens in ozone, diesel particulate matter,traffic, and drinking water.

There are 38 hazardous waste sites in Gardena that are generally clustered in the northern portion of the City, predominately occupying locations within one DAC tract. This DAC is home to more than half of the City's hazardous waste sites, and all 38 sites are within DACs.

Next Steps:

- Evaluate sources of pollution with medium and high burdens, especially in DACs.
- Recognize that more than half of the City's hazardous waste sites are primarily within one DAC and create policies to address unique issues related to these sites.

2. Public Facilities

Key Findings:

Access and availability of public facilities is an aspect of the built environment that may disproportionately limit the opportunities of DACs. The City has two fire stations, one police station, and five medical centers within its boundaries. The police station and both fire stations are located within DACs. Most of the medical centers are located near the City center and are all within DACs. Several bus lines provide citywide service. Two Metro stations are just outside of the City's eastern boundary in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

City Hall is in a DAC within the southcentral portion of the City on W. 162nd St. just east of S. Western Ave. There is one library (the Mayme Dear Library) within City boundaries next to City Hall and one more just outside of the western border on Crenshaw Blvd. in unincorporated Los Angeles County. Seven out of the City's 11 parks and recreation facilities are evenly distributed in DACs throughout the community, though there are six DACs notably void of parks and other community facilities. Daycares are distributed mostly throughout the southern portion of the City although there is one north of Rosecrans Ave.

Next Steps:

- Evaluate opportunities to address areas of the City, especially DACs, which have limited access to park or open space facilities.

3. Food Access

Key Findings:

Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, has released a report entitled *Map the Meal Gap* for ten consecutive years to offer insights on how food insecurity and food costs vary at the county and congressional district level. Most census tracts in Gardena (11) are within are within the 43rd Congressional District and three census tracts are within the 44th Congressional District. The food insecurity rate in the 43rd District is 11.6%, which is generally consistent with County (11.4%), State (10.8%), and national (11.5%) rates. The food insecurity rate in the 44th District is 12.9%, which is notably higher than the 43rd District, County, and State.

Five supermarkets, 18 specialty food stores, and nine convenience stores lie within City boundaries. There are no supermarkets within City boundaries north of Marine Ave. The specialty food stores, and convenience stores are fairly well distributed throughout the City, however, there are more in the southern half.

The lack of proximate grocery stores has the greatest affect in locations where residences do not own vehicles or have sufficient access to transit. All census tracts have at least some households without access to a vehicle. Five census tracts have a higher rate of "no vehicle access" than the citywide rate of 6.8%. Three DAC tracts (located in the northeastern portion of the City) have double or nearly double the rate of no vehicle access as the City overall.

Next Steps:

- Explore ways to expand healthy eating options in the northern portion of the City.
- Expand walkable/bikeable healthy food options in census tracts, especially DACs, with higher rates of "no vehicle access" or limited vehicle access.

4. Safe and Sanitary Homes

Key Findings:

The condition of the housing stock in a DAC may have negative impacts on the well-being of its residents. Housing conditions are considered "substandard" when conditions are found to be below the minimum standard of living conditions defined in the California Health and Safety Code. In addition to structural deficiencies and standards, the lack of infrastructure andutilities often serves as an indicator for substandard conditions. While most homes have access to basic facilities like bathrooms and kitchens, 0.7% of the occupied housing units in Gardena lack complete plumbing facilities, and 2.5% lack complete kitchen facilities. About 1.4% of the units have no telephone service available.

Overcrowding within a housing unit is a primary cause of unsafe housing conditions. The City has a lower overcrowding rate (9.7%) than the County (11.3%). Seven DAC census tracts experienced overcrowding at a higher rate than at the citywide rate. Two DAC tracts on the east side have the highest overcrowding rates.

The City has a slightly lower rate of renter-occupied housing units (52.1%) than the County (54.2%). The City has a slightly higher percentage of renter-occupied cost burdened households (58.8%) than the County (57.6%). Four DAC census tracts experienced rental cost

burden at a higher rate than at the citywide rate. Two DAC tracts, one in the northwest area and the other in the central area, have the highest rental cost burden. It is also notable that more than half of renters within six DAC census tracts spend 35% of more of their income on housing. A higher percentage of renter-occupied units are in the low to extremely low-income levels (72.2% combined) compared to owner-occupied units (44.7% combined), demonstrating a higher housing cost burden for renters.

The City has a higher percentage of owner-occupied cost burdened households (69.8%) than the County (43.5%). No individual census tracts experienced ownership cost burden at a higher rate than at the citywide rate. More than half of homeowners in one DAC census tract in the eastern area spend 35% of more of their income on housing.

Next Steps:

- Prioritize the safety and sanitation of housing stock to create proper living conditions for all residents, especially those living in DACs.
- Explore policies to alleviate substandard and overcrowding conditions in identified DACs.
- Consider programs to expand homeownership and help reduce the number of cost burdened households.

5. Physical Activity

Key Findings:

Residents of DACs are often more likely to experience negative health outcomes. The built environment in DACs can often be limited by land use planning and lack of investment, leaving less opportunities for formal and informal physical activity. Data about active transportation use during daily commutes is one indicator of physical activity levels. Active transportation modes include walking and biking, while powered transportation modes include driving alone, carpooling, public transit, and taxicab, motorcycle, or other means.

Overall, the City of Gardena uses active transportation modes slightly less (3.1%) than the County (3.5%). Only 2.6% of Gardena commuters reported walking to work and 0.5% reported riding a bike to work. Most Gardena commuters drove to work alone (83.4%). Six DAC tracts have higher rates of commuters who walk and/or bike to work than both the City and County overall. These tracts have a mixture of rates for households with no vehicle access.

As previously mentioned, seven out of the City's 11 parks and recreation facilities are evenly distributed in DACs throughout the community, though there are six DACs notably void of parks and other community facilities. All census tracts in Gardena are within the ¼-mile or ½- mile buffer areas of multiple parks located either within or adjacent to the City.

Next Steps:

- Prioritize increasing opportunities for physical activity within DACs.
- Explore the reasons why some DAC tracts have higher rates of commuters who walk and/or bike to work and if there are actions that can be implemented in other DACs to increase their rates.
- Look into opportunities to increase the number of parks within DACs that do not have any.

6. Community Engagement

Key Findings:

An important aspect of planning for environmental justice is the development of effective policies and programs that enable all residents to participate in local decision making. DACs can often be excluded from decision-making when officials and policies do not focus on involving these communities in a strategic manner. Section D of this report outlines the recommended approach to community engagement in development of the Environmental Justice Element.

It is important to start with a baseline analysis of a community's existing level of civic engagement to estimate how likely residents are to participate. The primary means of measuring a community's level of civic engagement is the assessment of voter participation. Both the voter registration rate and voter turnout rate for Gardena were lower than the County for the 2020 presidential election. Certain demographic categories can also help predict a community's likely level of civic engagement.

Age distribution can help predict the likelihood of a community participating in civic activities and identify constraints associated with engaging different members of the community. Gardena's residents are somewhat older than the County as a whole. Only two DAC tracts are younger than the County as a whole, while the remaining DAC tracts are older than the County as a whole. The City's only tract that does not qualify as a DAC is older compared to the County.

Language is a critical signifier of a population's likely participation in civic activities. Non- native English speakers, and especially those individuals with limited English fluency, are less likely to participate in civic activities. The majority of households in Gardena speak a languageother than English. More than half of households in 12 census tracts speak a language other than English, and the most common language spoken is Spanish, followed by various Asian and Pacific Islander languages.

Educational attainment is a strong signifier of a population's likely participation in civic activities. Higher educational attainment generally correlates with increased civic participation. More of Gardena's residents and the census tracts' populations have a high school diploma or equivalent and at least some college or an Associate's degree than on the countywide level. Only three census tracts have a higher percentage of residents with a Bachelor's degree or higher than the County, however. Within DACs, residents who did not complete high school or only obtained a high school degree are of greatest concern. There is one DAC in the northwestern portion of the City where the highest percentage of residents have less than a high school education.

Race and ethnicity are important predictors of civic engagement, and numerous studies have shown that whites are more likely to be civically engaged than other groups. Additionally, it is essential to consider the racial make-up of a community when evaluating environmental justice because race is known to correlate with disproportionate environmental burdens. The majority race in the City of Gardena is almost evenly split between Asian and White. The Asian population is higher in the City than the County, while the White population is lower in the City than the County. A smaller percentage of the City is Hispanic or Latino than the County,

although one DAC tract in the northwestern portion of the City has a notably higher percentage than both the City and County overall. There is a larger Black or African American population in the City than in the County, and two DACs (one in the northwest area and onein the east) are majority Black or African American. Two DACs are majority some other race.

Next Steps:

- Prioritize engaging DACs in the development of environmental justice plans and programs.
- Focus on methods to effectively engage older residents.
- Identify ways to engage members of the community who do not speak English.
- Tailor activities and the venues where they take place to accommodate the cultural preferences of different racial/ethnic groups.

7. Address the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities

Key Findings:

An integral component of Environmental Justice planning is proactively prioritizing projects and investments that directly benefit DACs. These communities may have specific needs that are distinct from those of the greater community, which may require taking special actions to help improve existing conditions in DACs.

The UC Davis Center for Regional Change and Rabobank, N.A. partnered to develop the Regional Opportunity Index (ROI) intended to help understand social and economic opportunity in California's communities. The goal of the ROI is to help target resources and policies toward people and places with the greatest need to foster thriving communities. The tool analyzes different indicators within six topics including civic life, health/environment, mobility/transportation, housing, economy, and education. There are two types of indicators: people-based and place-based. The specific indicators are discussed in more detail in Section D of this report.

The tool ranks each census tract in terms of highest opportunity to lowest opportunity levels. Highest opportunity tracts indicate that conditions are good across the indicators, while lowest opportunity tracts indicate that improvements need to be made. Gardena has mostly lower- or average-opportunity census tracts throughout the City, with people-based opportunities generally scoring better than placed-based opportunities. It will be important for the City to consider the lower opportunity ROI topics and indicators within DAC census tracts when reviewing and establishing policies and programs and directing investments.

In terms of **people-based** assets, there are eight DAC census tracts, mostly located east of S. Western Ave., with lower levels of opportunity. Civic life (comprised of English speakers and voting rates) and housing (comprised of housing cost burden and homeownership) are the two most common recurring topics among lower-opportunity tracts.

In terms of **place-based** assets, there are four DAC census tracts, mostly located north of Marine Ave., with lower levels of opportunity. Housing (comprised of housing affordability

and housing adequacy) and economy (comprised of bank accessibility, job quality, job growth, and job availability) are two most common recurring topics among lower-opportunitytracts.

Next Steps:

- Consider the ROI topics and indicators within identified DAC census tracts when reviewing and establishing policies and programs.
- Prioritize identified DACs for public investments, public services, and/or increased environmental protections.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES

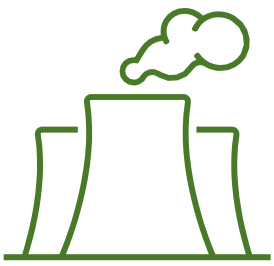
This section includes baseline conditions for the seven topics required to be addressed within the City's General Plan in accordance with Senate Bill 1000.

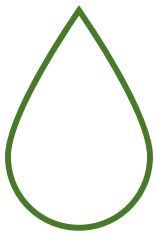
1. Pollution Exposure and Air Quality

The various forms and sources of air and water pollution and hazardous waste often disproportionately affect DACs. This is typically due to the existence and relative concentration of pollution-emitting sources within close proximity to the communities. Disproportionate exposure to pollutants is linked to variety of negative health impacts, including but not limited to, asthma, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and other potentially fatal conditions. There are 12 CES pollution indicators, and the percentile of pollution burden for each census tract are listed in Table 2.

Scores of 75% or higher represent a high pollution burden. All census tracts (regardless of their status as a DAC or not) have medium or high burdens in at least seven out of the 12 indicators, including high burdens in particulate matter 2.5 and toxic releases and medium or high burdens in ozone, diesel particulate matter, traffic, and drinking water.

Several census tracts have values of zero (0) for some of the exposure and environmental effects indicators. This typically implies that monitoring or reporting was conducted, but no impacts were present. For many exposure and environmental effects indicators, this means that no facilities or sites were located within 1000 meters of a populated area of the tract. Values of zero are not included in the percentile calculation, which would give the false impression that an impact is present.





This page is intentionally left blank.

TABLE 2: POPULATION EXPOSURE AND AIR QUALITY

INDICATOR (%)	CENSUS TRACTS													
	6026	6029	6030.01	6030.04	6030.05	6030.06	6031.01	6031.02	6032	6033.01	6033.02	6034	6035	6036
EXPOSURE INDICATORS														
Ozone	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	32	40	40	40	40	40
Particulate Matter 2.5	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82
Diesel Particulate Matter	72	76	81	81	72	70	81	81	75	69	69	70	72	69
Pesticides	51	64	59	0	22	0	0	33	10	0	0	0	11	0
Toxic Releases	80	81	84	87	85	88	89	92	95	90	94	86	82	87
Traffic	59	62	48	58	72	71	52	63	57	69	62	65	64	68
Drinking Water	38	31	31	26	26	26	26	49	52	31	30	26	26	30
ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS INDICATORS														
Cleanup Sites	97	94	54	42	42	2	50	78	91	42	96	42	42	0
Groundwater Threats	99	95	78	52	75	32	45	75	92	15	82	80	89	43
Hazardous Waste	91	88	70	50	66	19	19	47	82	43	18	70	67	51
Impaired Waters	72	72	0	0	0	0	0	98	98	72	98	72	72	72
Solid Waste	86	95	93	74	85	24	62	58	83	24	70	59	33	0
Total Population Characteristics Score	**99**	**99**	**92**	**73**	**85**	**47**	**64**	**97**	**98**	**71**	**92**	**86**	**85**	**64**
CES 3.0 Score	**97**	**95**	**95**	**79**	**93**	**64**	**72**	**95**	**88**	**70**	**94**	**87**	**81**	**69**

Color Key		High Burden: 75.0 – 100.0%		Medium Burden: 25.0 – 74.9%		Low Burden: 0.0 – 24.9%

Source: California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, CalEnviroScreen 3.0
Note: DAC census tracts are outlined in bold

This page is intentionally left blank.

Hazardous Materials and Toxics

There are 38 hazardous waste sites in the City of Gardena that are currently under evaluation or amid cleanup, as detailed in Table 3. These sites are generally clustered in the northern portion of the City, predominately occupying locations within DAC tract 6029. This DAC is home to more than half of the City's hazardous waste sites (20 sites). This portion of the City is predominately industrial, and 18 sites are within industrial land use areas. All 38 sites are within DACs and predominately industrial areas, as illustrated in Figure 2.

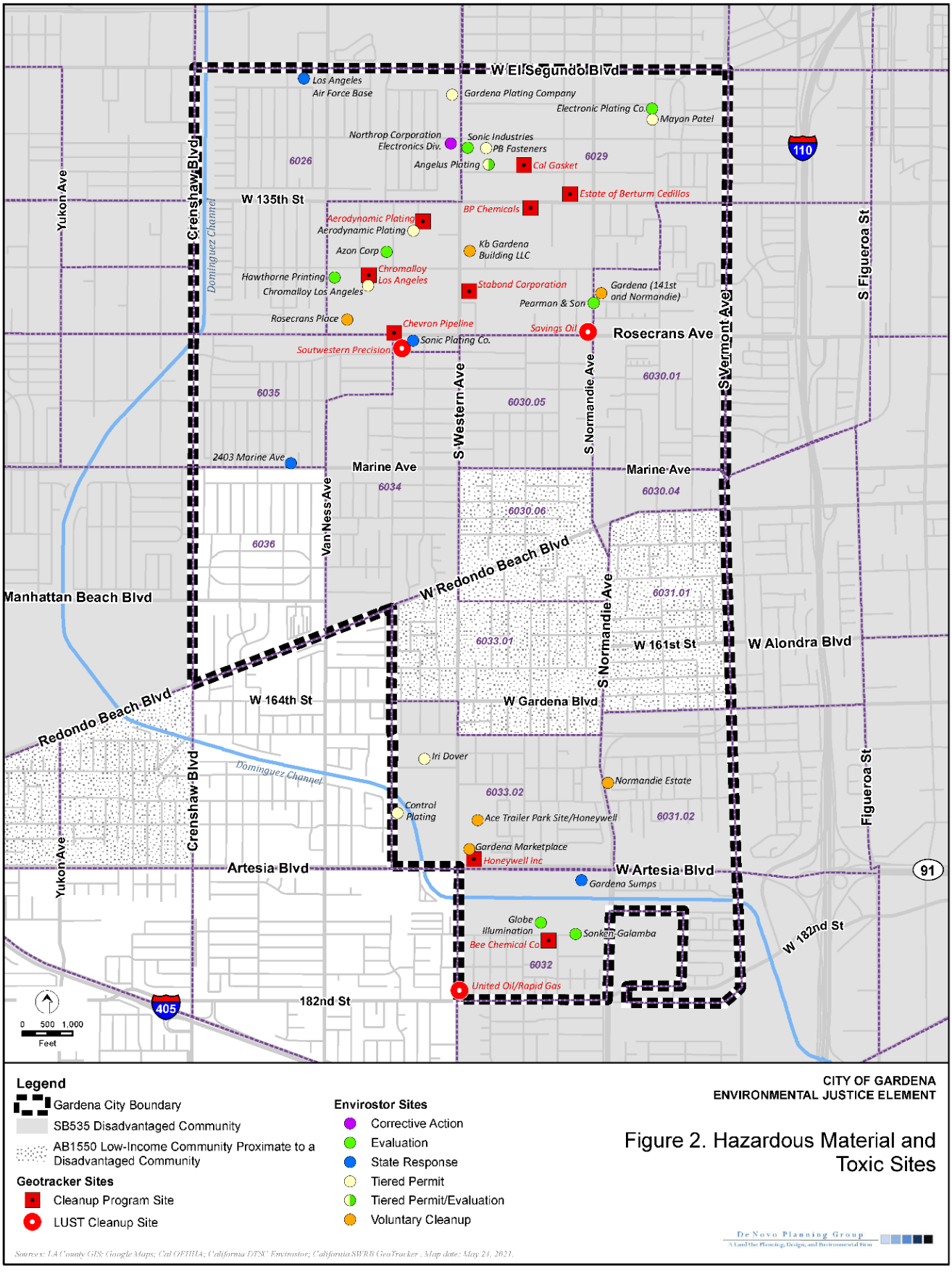
Table 3: Hazardous Materials and Toxics Sites

Name	Project Type/ Activity	Address	Census Tract
EnviroStor Sites[1]			
Gardena Plating Co., Inc.	Tiered Permit	12901 S. Western Avenue	**6026**
Los Angeles Air Force Base	State Response	2400 El Segundo Boulevard	**6026**
Northrop Corporation Electronics Div.	Corrective Action	13215 S. Western Avenue	**6026**
Aerodynamic Plating Co., Inc. #3	Tiered Permit	13629 Saint Andrews Place	**6029**
Angelus Plating	Tiered Permit/ Evaluation	1713 W. 134th Street	**6029**
Azon Corp.	Evaluation	13771 S. Gramercy Place	**6029**
Chromalloy Los Angeles	Tiered Permit	2100 W. 139th Street	**6029**
Electronic Plating Company	Evaluation	13021 S. Budlong Avenue	**6029**
Hawthorne Printing	Evaluation	2140 1/2 139th Street	**6029**
Kb Gardena Building LLC	Voluntary Cleanup	13720 S. Western Avenue	**6029**
Mayan Patel (Connector Service Corp.)	Tiered Permit	13021 Budlong Avenue	**6029**
PB Fasteners, Division Of Paul R. Briles, Inc.	Tiered Permit	1700 W. 132nd Street	**6029**
Rosecrans Place	Voluntary Cleanup	2101 And 2129 W. Rosecrans Avenue	**6029**
Sonic Industries (Former)	Evaluation	13200 S. Western Avenue	**6029**
Sonic Plating Co., Inc. - Gardena	State Response	1930 W. Rosecrans Avenue	**6029**
Gardena (141st & Normandie)	Voluntary Cleanup	1335 - 1343 W. 141st Street	**6030.01**
Pearman & Son Ready Concrete Mix	Evaluation	14100 S. Normandie Avenue	**6030.01**
Normandie Estate	Voluntary Cleanup	16908 S. Normandie Avenue	**6031.02**
Gardena Sumps	State Response	1450 W. Artesia Boulevard	**6032**
Globe Illumination Company (Former)	Evaluation	1515 W. 178th Street	**6032**
Sonken-Galamba Corp	Evaluation	1439 W. 178th Street	**6032**
Ace Trailer Park Site/Honeywell	Voluntary Cleanup	17024 S. Western Avenue	**6033.02**
Gardena Marketplace	Voluntary Cleanup	1735, 1711, 1741 1701 And 1691 W. Artesia Boulevard	**6033.02**
Iri Dover	Tiered Permit	1859 W. 169 Street	**6033.02**
Control Plating Co., Inc.	Tiered Permit	17014 Gramercy Place	**6034**
2403 Marine Avenue	State Response	2403 Marine Avenue	**6035**

Name	Project Type/ Activity	Address	Census Tract
GeoTracker Cleanup Program Sites[2]			
Aerodynamic Plating Company	Site Assessment	13620-13629 S. Saint Andrews Place	**6029**
BP Chemicals (Hitco)	Remediation	1600 W. 135th Street	**6029**
Cal Gasket	Open - Inactive	1601-1613 W. 134th Street	**6029**
Chevron Pipeline	Site Assessment	2001 W. Rosecrans Avenue	**6029**
Chromalloy Los Angeles	Verification Monitoring - Land Use Restrictions	2100 139th St W	**6029**
Estate of Bertrum Cedillos	Open - Inactive	13438 Halldale Avenue	**6029**
Stabond Corporation	Open - Inactive	14010 Western Avenue	**6029**
Bee Chemical Co (Former)	Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	1500 178th St W	**6032**
Honeywell Inc.	Remediation	17300 Western Avenue	**6032**
LUST Cleanup Sites[2]			
Savings Oil Co.	Site Assessment	1401 Rosecrans W	**6029**
United Oil #44/Rapid Gas #44	Remediation	18130 Western Avenue S	**6032**
Southwestern Precision Co.	Assessment & Interim Remedial Action	1939 144th Street	**6035**

1: Source: California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Envirostor Database, 2021.
2: Source: California Water Resources Control Board Geotracker Database, 2021.
Note: DACs are in bold text.

FIGURE 2: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND TOXIC SITES



This page is intentionally left blank.

2. PUBLIC FACILITIES

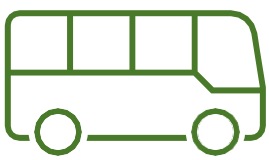
Access and availability of public facilities is an aspect of the built environment that may disproportionately limit the opportunities of DACs. If DACs have unequal access to public facilities, or if a city does not provide adequate facilities for public use, DACs may be limited in their ability to access necessary key resources. Limited access to resources as a result of inadequate public facilities can lead to reduced lifespan, poorer health outcomes, and diminished mental well-being. The adequate planning of parks and transportation infrastructure can help provide equal access to resources for all communities within a city. The location of public services and community facilities within and adjacent to the City of Gardena and with relationship to DACs are illustrated in Figures 3 and 4, respectively. The distribution of these facilities is summarized below.

PUBLIC SERVICES

The location of transit stations and routes, medical centers, and emergency services and public safety facilities are shown in Figure 3. The City has two fire stations, one police station, and five medical centers within its boundaries. Fire station 159 is within DAC tract 6029. The police station and fire station 158 are located in the southcentral portion of the City within DAC tract 6033.01. Most of the medical centers are located near the City center and are all within DACs. Several bus lines provide citywide service. Two Metro stations are just outside of the City's eastern boundaryin unincorporated Los Angeles County.

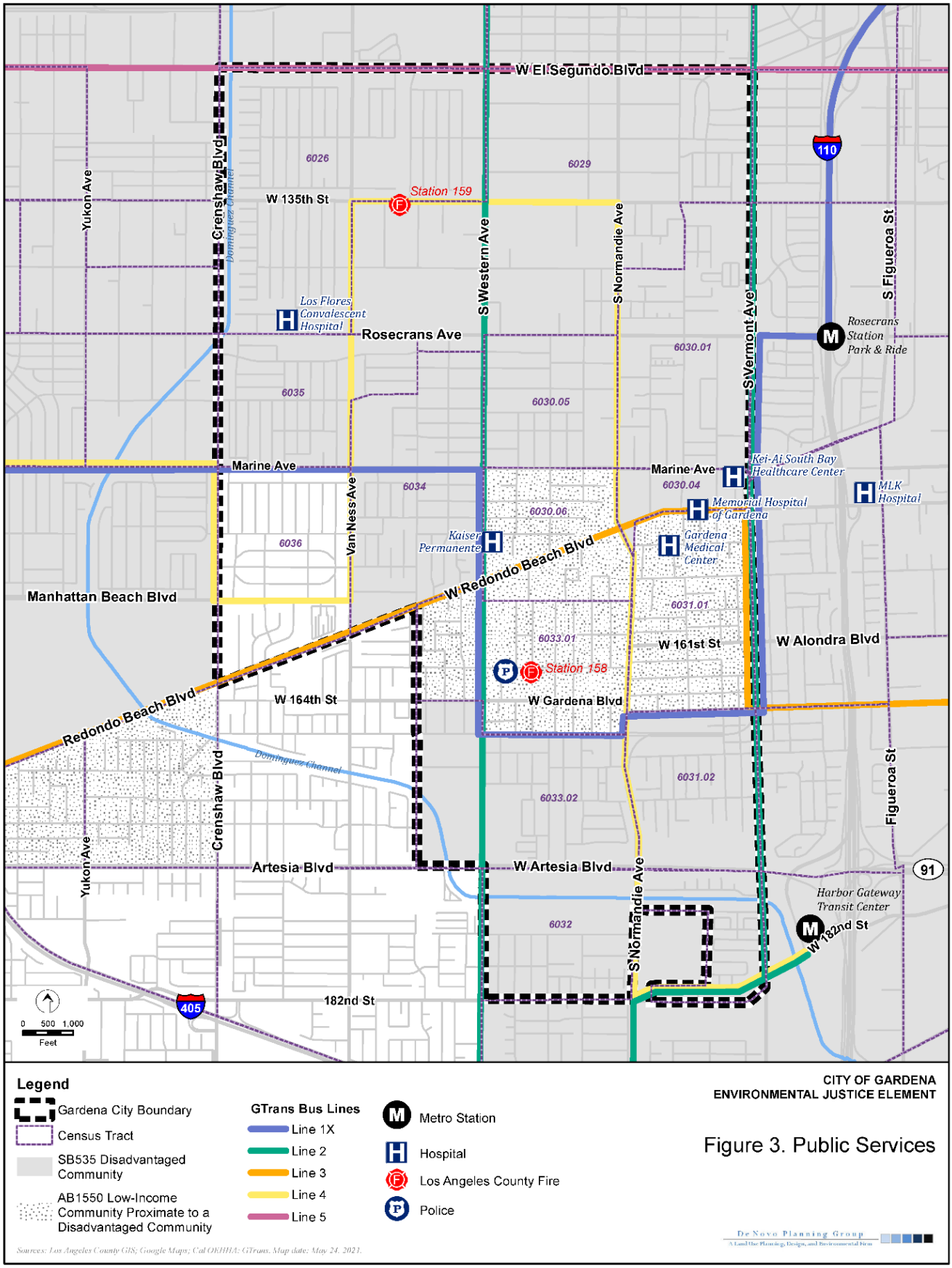
COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The location of City and County government buildings, parks, daycare centers, and libraries are shown in Figure 4. City Hall is located in the southcentral portion of the City in DAC tract 6033.01 at 1700 W. 162nd St., just east of Western Ave. Seven out of the City's 10 parks and recreation facilities are distributed in DACs throughout the community, though there are six DACs notably void of parks and other community facilities, including tracts 6029, 6030.01, 6030.04, 6033.02, 6032, and 6031.01. There is one County library (the Mayme Dear Library) within City boundaries next to City Hall in DAC tract 6033.01 and one more just outside of the western border on Crenshaw Blvd. in unincorporated Los Angeles County. Daycares are fairly evenly distributed mostly throughout the southern portion of the City although there is one northof Rosecrans Ave.



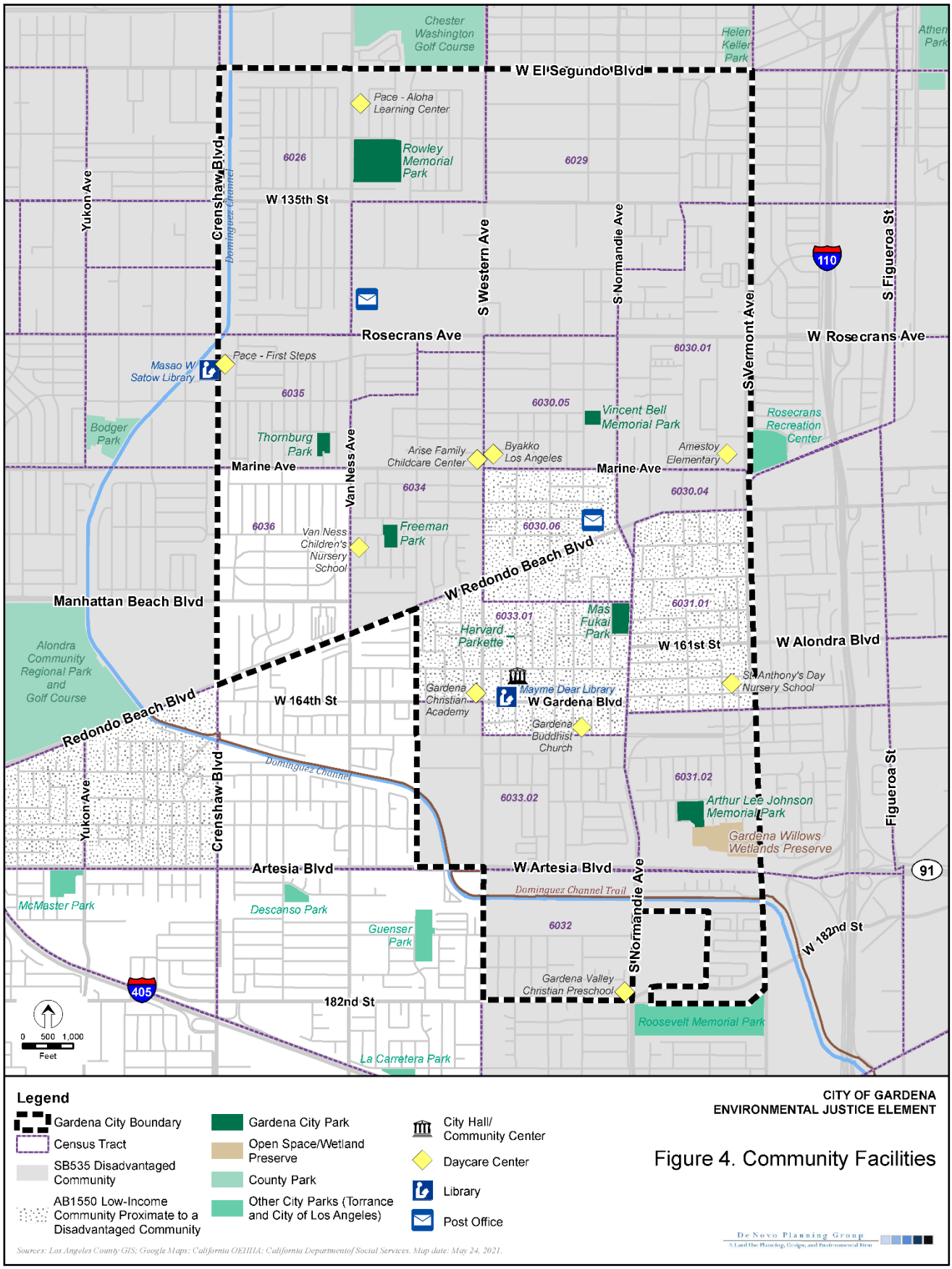
This page is intentionally left blank.

FIGURE 3: PUBLIC SERVICES



This page is intentionally left blank.

FIGURE 4: COMMUNITY FACILITIES



This page is intentionally left blank.

3. Food Access

Food access encompasses the following three interrelated topics:

- Nutritionally adequate, culturally appropriate, and affordable food;
- Income sufficient to purchase healthy food; and
- Proximity and ability to travel to a food source that offers affordable, nutritionally adequate, and culturally appropriate food.

Ensuring adequate food access is challenging in many communities. Many communities, and especially low-income areas, lack retailers with a sufficient selection of healthy foods. Consequently, many residents lack access to nutritional foods, known as "food insecurity", resulting in public health challenges and poor health outcomes. Affected populations cope with food insecurity by consuming nutrient-poor, but calorie-rich foods. This may result in malnutrition, obesity, cognitive, behavioral, and mental health problems in children, and physical and mental health problems and birth complications among pregnant women. Children and communities of color are often disproportionally affected by food insecurity.

Food Insecurity and Cost

No data about existing conditions on food insecurity and costs currently exists at the city level. As the best possible alternative, Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, has released a report entitled *Map the Meal Gap* for the past ten consecutive years to offer insights on how food insecurity and food costs vary at the county and congressional district level. The latest *Map the Meal Gap* report, which uses the most recent data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Census Bureau, was released in 2020 and is based on data from 2018.

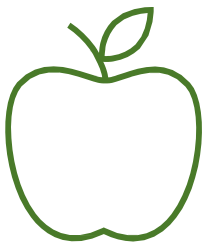
In response to COVID-19, Feeding America also released a companion study entitled *The Impact of the Coronavirus on Local Food Insecurity*, and an interactive map that used the *Mapthe Meal Gap* model to predict changes to food insecurity rates for the overall population andchildren in response to projected changes to poverty and unemployment in the wake of the pandemic. To better assess the current and future state of local food insecurity and develop effective strategies to reach people at risk of hunger, it is critical to understand historical variations prior to the pandemic.

Most census tracts in Gardena (11) are within are within the 43rd Congressional District. Census tract 6032 is within the 44th Congressional District, as well as a portion of tracts 6033.02 and 6031.02. Below is a summary of key findings from the 43rd and 44th Congressional Districts, as well as for Los Angeles County, the State of California, and the entire country for comparison.

- 43rd Congressional District food insecurity rate: 11.6%
- 44th Congressional District food insecurity rate: 12.9%
- Los Angeles County food insecurity rate: 11.4%
- State of California food insecurity rate: 10.8%
- National food insecurity rate: 11.5%

The *Map the Meal Gap* report shows that after nearly ten years, food insecurity levels for most communities across the country had reached their lowest levels in 2018. However, due to the impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, Feeding America projects that progress made to food insecurity in the U.S. this past decade will likely be wiped out and food insecurityrates will climb higher than the peak of the Great Recession of 50 million people, potentially going from more than 37 million people facing hunger in 2018 up to more than 54 million in 2020.

Data on the total number of food insecure people, the food insecurity rate, and the estimated nutrition program eligibility among food insecure people is displayed in Table 4. Additionally, information about the average meal cost and annual food budget shortfall is shown for the County, State, and nation.



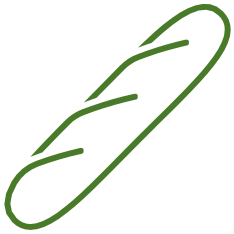


TABLE 4: FOOD INSECURITY

LOCATION	FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE[1]	FOOD INSECURITY RATE[2]	ESTIMATED PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AMONG FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE			AVERAGE MEAL COST[3]	ANNUAL FOOD BUDGET SHORTFALL[4]
			ABOVE OTHER NUTRITION PROGRAM THRESHOLD OF 185% POVERTY	BETWEEN 130%-185% POVERTY	BELOW SNAP THRESHOLD 130% POVERTY		
United States	37,227,000	11.5%	32%	19%	49%	$3.09	$19.5B
California	4,291,830	10.8%	24%	0%	76%	$3.28	$2.4B
Los Angeles County	1,146,290	11.4%	13%	0%	87%	$3.46	$672M
43rd Congressional District	87,200	11.6%	15%	0%	85%	Data not available	Data not available
44th Congressional District	93,230	12.9%	0%	0%	100%	Data not available	Data not available

Source: Feeding America – Map the Meal Gap report, 2020.

[1] Nutrition program eligibility is defined as the percentage of the estimated food-insecure population by income category, according to the eligibility thresholds of the major federal nutrition assistance programs, including SNAP (at or below 130% of the federal poverty line or the state-specific threshold, when it is a higher multiple) and other programs such as WIC (185% of poverty or the state-specific threshold).

[2] Nutrition program eligibility is defined as the percentage of the estimated food-insecure population by income category, according to the eligibility thresholds of the major federal nutrition assistance programs, including SNAP (at or below 130% of the federal poverty line or the state-specific threshold, when it is a higher multiple) and other programs such as WIC (185% of poverty or the state-specific threshold).

[3] The average weekly dollar amount food-secure individuals report spending on food, as estimated in the Current Population Survey, divided by 21 (assuming three meals a day, seven days a week). This amount has been adjusted to reflect local food prices and relevant taxes.

[4] The total annualized additional dollar amount that food-insecure individuals report needing, on average, to purchase just enough food to meet their food needs. This amount is based on responses in the Current Population Survey and the USDA assumption that individuals in households that are food insecure experience food insecurity, on average, seven months out of the year. This amount has been adjusted to reflect local food prices and relevant taxes.

Access to Food Retailers

The location of supermarkets, food stores and convenience stores as well as census tracts that qualify as food deserts within the City are illustrated in Figure 5. Major supermarkets are defined as larger food retailers that serve the community, small family-owned markets or specialty food stores as the range of smaller food retailers that serve individual neighborhoods or cater to specific groups, and convenience stores as small neighborhood stores that sell some food and produce. Food deserts are defined as census tracts in which at least 500 people or 33% of the population live farther then ½ mile from the nearest supermarket.

Five supermarkets, 18 specialty food stores, and nine convenience stores lie within City boundaries. There are no supermarkets within City boundaries north of Marine Ave. The specialty food stores, and convenience stores are fairly well distributed throughout the City, however, there are more in the southern half.

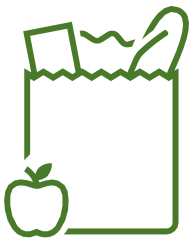
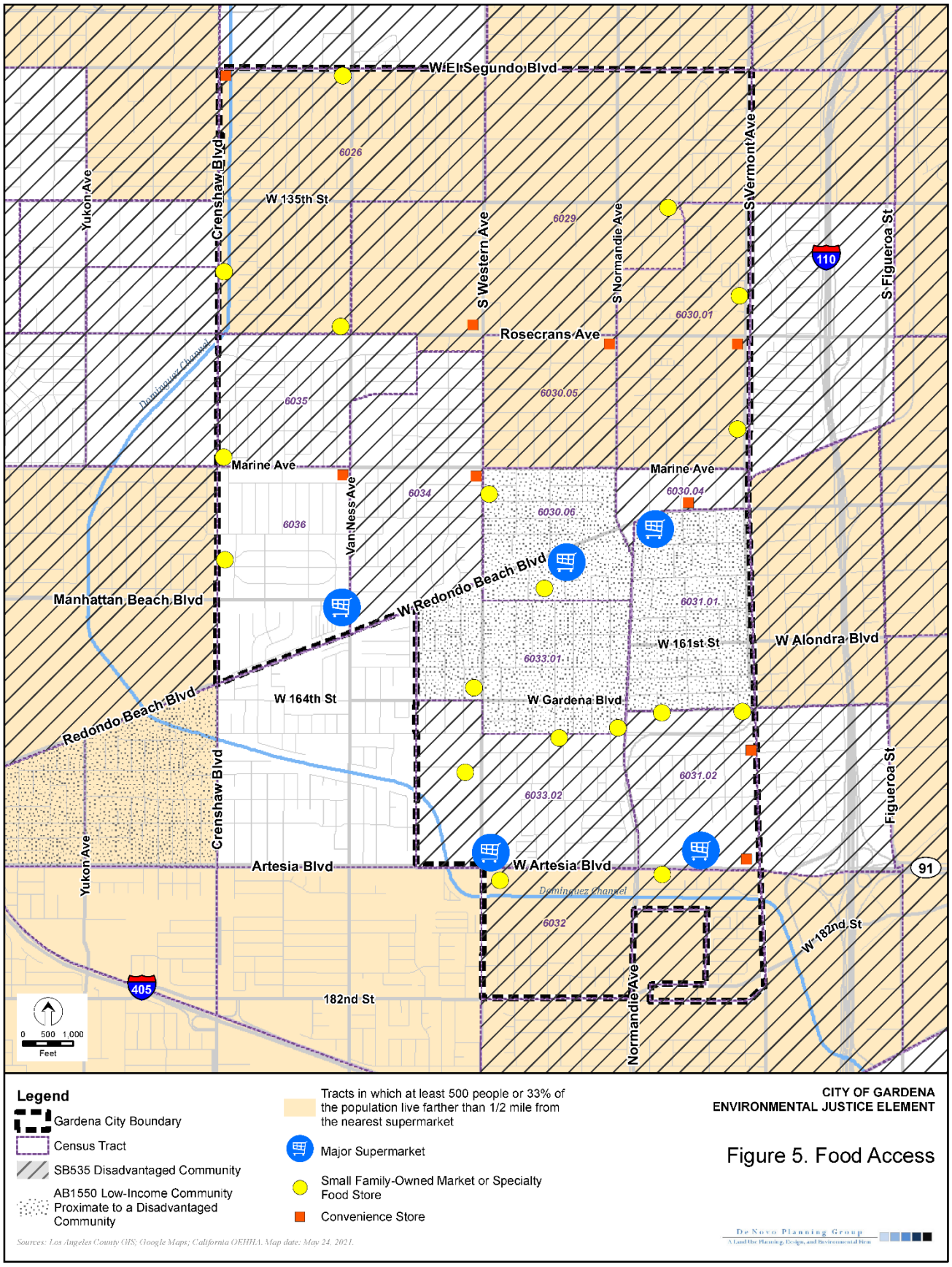


Figure 5: Food Access



This page is intentionally left blank.

The lack of proximate grocery stores has the greatest affect in locations where residences do not own vehicles or have sufficient access to transit. As shown in Table 5, all census tracts have at least some households without access to a vehicle. Five census tracts (outlined in bold) have a higher rate of "no vehicle access" than the citywide rate of 6.8%. DAC tracts 6029, 6030.01, and 6030.04 have double or nearly double the rate of no vehicle access as the City overall.

TABLE 5: CAR OWNERSHIP

LOCATION	# OF HOUSEHOLDS	# OF HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT VEHICLES	% OF HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT VEHICLES
United States	120,756,048	10,395,713	8.6%
California	13,044,266	927,957	7.1%
Los Angeles County	3,316,795	292,463	8.8%
City of Gardena	20,612	1,395	6.8%
6026	2,881	237	8.2%
6029	1,316	155	11.8%
6030.01	2,421	293	12.1%
6030.04	634	74	11.7%
6030.05	1,872	119	6.4%
6030.06	810	73	9.0%
6031.01	1,481	90	6.1%
6031.02	1,318	68	5.2%
6032	1,163	54	4.6%
6033.01	1,418	64	4.5%
6033.02	1,630	93	5.7%
6034	1,421	27	1.9%
6035	883	18	2.0%
6036	1,364	30	2.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP04
Note: DACs are in bold text.

4. Safe and Sanitary Homes

The condition of the housing stock in a DAC may have negative impacts on the well-being of its residents. These health impacts stem from issues such as poor indoor air quality, toxic building materials, exposure to climate variation such as excess heat or cold, improper ventilation, and structural insecurity. Unsafe housing conditions can be a result of the age of the dwelling structure, which increases the likelihood of incorporation of dangerous materialslike lead and asbestos that have significant negative health impacts. DACs often have a larger number of older units within their housing stock and therefore residents of these communitiesare more likely to be exposed to the harmful health impacts that are associated with older housing. Other factors that can contribute to unsafe housing conditions include improper regulation and overcrowding. Prioritizing the safety and sanitation of housing stock within a community helps create proper living conditions for all residents, including those living in DACs.

This section summarizes the existing housing conditions and cost of housing throughout the City. While the conditions apply on a citywide level, they can reasonably be extrapolated to understand housing conditions in the DACs, given that nearly the entire City is considered a disadvantaged community.

Housing Stock Conditions

Housing conditions are considered "substandard" when conditions are found to be below the minimum standard of living conditions defined in the California Health and Safety Code. Households living in substandard conditions are more likely to be in need of housing assistance, even if they are not seeking alternative housing arrangements, due to the threatto health and safety.

In addition to structural deficiencies and standards, the lack of infrastructure and utilities often serves as an indicator for substandard conditions. According to the 2019 American Community Survey[5], 144 (0.7%) of the 20,612 occupied housing units in Gardena lack complete plumbing facilities, and 515 (2.5%) lack complete kitchen facilities. About 288 (1.4%) of the units have no telephone service available.

Overcrowding

Overcrowding within a housing unit is a primary cause of unsafe housing conditions. The World Health Organization notes that overcrowding is a potential health risk as it contributes to the transmission of disease by creating unsanitary conditions.[6] A housing unit is considered overcrowded if there is more than one person per room (which can be any room, not just limited to bedrooms) and severely overcrowded if there

[5] Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP04

[6] World Health Organization (WHO). Accessed on March 8, 2021. Water Sanitation and Hygiene. What are the health risks related to overcrowding?". Available at: http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/emergencies/qa/emergencies_qa9/en/

are more than 1.5 persons per room. Overcrowding conditions in the City based upon data obtained from the U.S. Census 2019 American Community Survey are depicted in Table 6.

The City has a lower overcrowding rate (9.7%) than the County (11.3%). Seven DAC census tracts (outlined in bold) experienced overcrowding at a higher rate than at the citywide rate.

DAC tract 6030.04 (on the east side) has the highest rate of overcrowding in the City at 18.3%, followed closely by DAC tract 6030.01 (also on the east side) at 16.7%.

TABLE 6: OVERCROWDING BY TENURE

LOCATION	PERSONS PER ROOM						TOTAL UNITS	OVERCROWDING CONDITION	
	1.00 OR LESS		1.01 TO 1.50		1.51 OR MORE				
	#	%	#	%	#	%		#	%
Los Angeles County	2,940,883	88.7%	218,863	6.6%	157,049	4.7%	3,316,795	375,912	11.3%
City of Gardena	18,613	90.3%	1,175	5.7%	824	4.0%	20,612	1,999	9.7%
6026	2,750	95.5%	82	2.8%	49	1.7%	2,881	131	4.5%
6029	1,164	88.4%	138	10.5%	14	1.1%	1,316	152	11.6%
6030.01	2,015	83.2%	146	6.0%	260	10.7%	2,421	406	16.7%
6030.04	518	81.7%	38	6.0%	78	12.3%	634	116	18.3%
6030.05	1,606	85.8%	139	7.4%	127	6.8%	1,872	266	14.2%
6030.06	718	88.6%	69	8.5%	23	2.8%	810	92	11.3%
6031.01	1,428	96.4%	44	3.0%	9	0.6%	1,481	53	3.6%
6031.02	1,185	89.9%	101	7.7%	32	2.4%	1,318	133	10.1%
6032	1,095	94.2%	29	2.5%	39	3.4%	1,163	68	5.9%
6033.01	1,293	91.2%	73	5.1%	52	3.7%	1,418	125	8.8%
6033.02	1,504	92.3%	85	5.2%	41	2.5%	1,630	126	7.7%
6034	1,274	89.7%	83	5.8%	64	4.5%	1,421	147	10.3%
6035	799	90.5%	64	7.2%	20	2.3%	883	84	9.5%
6036	1,258	92.2%	84	6.2%	22	1.6%	1,364	106	7.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP04
Note: DACs are in bold text. Outlines indicate overcrowding at a higher rate than at the citywide rate.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

As what is typically the most expensive component of a household's budget, housing cost (rent or mortgage, utilities, homeowner or renter insurance, and property taxes for homeowners only) is a preeminent factor in determining if the household is "cost burdened" or negatively impacted by its expenses. This consideration takes on even greater importance in Southern California where housing costs far exceed the national average.

As shown in Table 7, the City has a slightly lower rate of renter-occupied housing units (52.1%) than the County (54.2%). Renters tend to have lower income and spend a higher percentage of their income on housing than homeowners. Renters do not have control over rent increases, which have markedly accelerated over the past decade. The upfront costs of purchasing a

home, including down payments and closing costs, are commonly cited by renters as a primary obstacle to homeownership. Additionally, home prices have rebounded strongly since the depths of the Great Recession, thereby increasing the wealth of homeowners while making it more difficult for renters to make the transition into ownership.

TABLE 7: OWNER OCCUPIED VS. RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS

LOCATION	TOTAL OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS	# OF OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS	% OF OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS	# OF RENTER-OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS	% OF RENTER-OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS
Los Angeles County	3,316,795	1,519,516	45.8%	1,797,279	54.2%
City of Gardena	20,612	9,877	47.9%	10,735	52.1%
6026	2,881	1,789	62.1%	1,092	37.9%
6029	1,316	690	52.4%	626	47.6%
6030.01	2,421	791	32.7%	1,630	67.3%
6030.04	634	163	25.7%	471	74.3%
6030.05	1,872	542	29.0%	1,330	71.0%
6030.06	810	312	38.5%	498	61.5%
6031.01	1,481	582	39.3%	899	60.7%
6031.02	1,318	416	31.6%	902	68.4%
6032	1,163	836	71.9%	327	28.1%
6033.01	1,418	407	28.7%	1,011	71.3%
6033.02	1,630	836	51.3%	794	48.7%
6034	1,421	823	57.9%	598	42.1%
6035	883	743	84.1%	140	15.9%
6036	1,364	947	69.4%	471	34.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP04

Traditionally, housing affordability has been assessed by the "maximum rent standard." According to this standard, households that spend more than 30% of income on housing costs may be "cost burdened". Gross rent as a percentage of household income is shown in Table 8 and monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income are shown in Table 9. Taken together, these tables demonstrate the total percentage of cost burdened households in the City of Gardena.

The City has a slightly higher percentage of renter-occupied cost burdened households (58.8%) than the County (57.6%). As shown in Table 8, four DAC census tracts (outlined in bold) experienced rental cost burden at a higher rate than at the citywide rate. DAC tract 6026(in the northwest area) has the highest rental cost burden in the City at 72%, followed closely by DAC tract 6030.05 (in the central area) at 71%. It is also notable that more than half of renters within six DAC census tracts spend 35% of more of their income on housing (also outlined in bold).

TABLE 8: GROSS RENT AS PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME

LOCATION	30.0 TO 34.9 %		35.0 % OR MORE		TOTAL OCCUPIED UNITS PAYING RENT	COST BURDENED	
	#	%	#	%		#	%
Los Angeles County	163,104	9.5%	822,780	48.1%	1,711,020	985,884	57.6%
City of Gardena	929	9.2%	5,031	49.6%	10,136	5,960	58.8%
6026	142	14.0%	586	58.0%	1,011	728	72.0%
6029	56	8.9%	361	57.7%	626	417	66.6%
6030.01	134	8.9%	665	44.2%	1,506	799	53.1%
6030.04	25	5.4%	201	43.2%	465	226	48.6%
6030.05	114	9.1%	779	61.9%	1,258	893	71.0%
6030.06	38	7.9%	193	40.2%	480	231	48.1%
6031.01	25	2.9%	463	53.6%	864	488	56.5%
6031.02	104	11.7%	302	34.1%	886	406	45.8%
6032	28	8.8%	135	42.3%	319	163	51.1%
6033.01	31	3.4%	504	55.1%	915	535	58.5%
6033.02	93	12.8%	389	53.5%	727	482	66.3%
6034	129	22.7%	227	40.0%	568	356	62.7%
6035	10	8.3%	59	49.2%	120	69	57.5%
6036	0	0.0%	167	42.7%	391	167	42.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP04
Note: DACs are in bold text. Outlines indicate higher rates than the citywide rate.

The City has a higher percentage of owner-occupied cost burdened households (69.8%) than the County (43.5%). As shown in Table 9, no individual census tract experienced ownership cost burden at a higher rate than at the citywide rate. More than half of homeowners in DAC census tract 6030.01 (in the eastern area) spend 35% of more of their income on housing (outlined in bold).

TABLE 9: MONTHLY OWNER COSTS AS PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME

LOCATION	30.0 TO 34.9 %		35.0 % OR MORE		TOTAL HOUSING UNITS WITH MORTGAGE	COST BURDENED	
	#	%	#	%		#	%
Los Angeles County	98,346	9.1%	371,735	34.4%	1,081,179	470,081	43.5%
City of Gardena	2,159	34.9%	2,159	34.9%	6,182	4,318	69.8%
6026	118	10.0%	439	37.2%	1,179	557	47.2%
6029	66	16.6%	91	22.9%	397	157	39.5%
6030.01	10	2.2%	251	55.5%	452	261	57.7%
6030.04	0	0.0%	21	30.9%	68	21	30.9%
6030.05	42	9.9%	187	43.9%	426	229	53.8%
6030.06	0	0.0%	36	22.8%	158	36	22.8%
6031.01	32	7.6%	118	28.0%	422	150	35.5%
6031.02	16	6.4%	54	21.7%	249	70	28.1%
6032	17	3.8%	149	33.0%	452	166	36.7%
6033.01	12	6.0%	68	34.0%	200	80	40.0%
6033.02	16	4.2%	149	38.9%	383	165	43.1%
6034	45	8.3%	168	30.9%	543	213	39.2%
6035	41	7.7%	172	32.2%	534	213	39.9%
6036	106	14.7%	256	35.6%	719	362	50.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP04
Note: DACs are in bold text. Outline indicates where more than half of homeowners spend 35% of more of their income on housing.

Another way to look at the cost burden for the City's extremely low to low- -income residents is to analyze data taken from the most recent U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS), which is an aggregation of ACS data. The income levels of owner-occupied units to renter-occupied units are compared in Table 10. A higher percentage of renter-occupied units are in the low to extremely low-income levels (72.2% combined, outlined in bold) compared to owner- occupied units (44.7% combined, outlined in bold), demonstrating a higher housing cost burden for renters.

TABLE 10: HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

INCOME LEVEL	OWNER-OCCUPIED		RENTER-OCCUPIED		TOTAL OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS	
	UNITS	%	UNITS	%	UNITS	%
Extremely Low (30% or less AMI)	1,530	14.9%	2,730	26.3%	4,260	20.6%
Very Low (30-50% AMI)	1,310	12.8%	2,485	23.9%	3,795	18.4%
Low (50-80% AMI)	1,740	17.0%	2,285	22.0%	4,025	19.5%
Moderate (80-100% AMI)	1,160	11.3%	1,105	10.6%	2,265	11.0%
High (100% or more AMI)	4,530	44.1%	1,775	17.1%	6,305	30.5%
Total	**10,265**	**100%**	**10,385**	**100%**	**20,650**	**100%**

Source: HUD CHAS data, 2013-2017
Note: Outlines indicate low to extremely low-income levels.

5. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Residents of DACs are often more likely to experience negative health outcomes. Increased physical activity levels are associated with a decreased risk for numerous health conditions and chronic illnesses. The built environment in DACs can often be limited by land use planning and lack of investment, leaving less opportunities for formal and informal physical activity. Increasing the opportunity for physical activity within a community can work to positively impact the physical health of residents living in DACs.

This section summarizes the use of active transportation modes and the state and distribution of pedestrian and bicycle facilities and facilities conducive to physical activity in the City's DACs.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION USE

Data from the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) about commuting transportation modes for each of Gardena's census tracts compared to the City and County overall is provided in Table 11. Active transportation modes include walking and biking, while powered transportation modes include driving alone, carpooling, public transit, and taxicab, motorcycle, or other means. Data about active transportation use during daily commutes is one indicator of physical activity levels. Increasing opportunities for active transportation within a city can yield several positive health benefits, including mortality risk reduction, disease prevention, cardiorespiratory fitness, and metabolic health, and can also help improve the overall health outcomes of DACs.

This page is intentionally left blank.

TABLE 11: COMMUTING TRANSPORTATION MODES

	Los Angeles County	City of Gardena	6026	6029	6030.01	6030.04	6030.05	6030.06	6031.01	6031.02	6032	6033.01	6033.02	6034	6035	6036
Active Transportation Modes																
Walked	2.7%	2.6%	1.8%	1.3%	4.7%	16.7%	0.5%	3.7%	4.2%	3.6%	2.2%	1.4%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%
Bicycled	0.8%	0.5%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	1.1%	0.0%	2.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.3%	0.6%	0.0%
Total	**3.5%**	**3.1%**	**1.8%**	**2.2%**	**4.7%**	**16.7%**	**0.5%**	**5.7%**	**5.3%**	**3.6%**	**4.7%**	**1.9%**	**2.6%**	**0.3%**	**0.6%**	**2.4%**
Powered Transportation Modes																
Drove Alone	74.0%	77.1%	83.4%	77.4%	61.9%	58.4%	77.0%	80.6%	76.6%	85.5%	85.7%	76.7%	78.1%	78.3%	79.4%	81.6%
Carpooled	9.5%	11.0%	7.1%	8.7%	20.9%	20.7%	12.4%	3.2%	7.4%	4.3%	3.8%	13.4%	13.1%	11.9%	11.5%	11.1%
Public Transit	5.8%	3.5%	2.6%	6.9%	5.7%	2.2%	5.1%	6.0%	0.6%	2.7%	2.8%	0.7%	3.6%	5.7%	1.4%	1.1%
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or Other Means	1.6%	1.8%	1.8%	1.4%	4.0%	0.6%	4.3%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	0.6%	1.3%	2.9%	0.4%
Total	**90.9%**	**93.4%**	**94.9%**	**94.4%**	**92.5%**	**81.9%**	**98.8%**	**92.1%**	**84.6%**	**92.5%**	**92.3%**	**93.5%**	**95.4%**	**97.2%**	**95.2%**	**94.2%**

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: S0801
Note: Statistics on residents who work from home are not included. DAC census tracts are outlined in bold.

This page is intentionally left blank.

Overall, the City of Gardena uses active transportation modes slightly less (3.1%) than the County (3.5%). Only 2.6% of Gardena commuters reported walking to work and 0.5% reported riding a bike to work. Most Gardena commuters drove to work alone (83.4%).

Six DAC tracts have higher rates of commuters who walk and/or bike to work than both the City and County overall. DAC tract 6030.04, located in the central eastern area of the City, has a notably higher percentage of commuters who walk to work (16.7%). This census tract also has a high rate of households without access to a vehicle. DAC tract 6030.06, located in the central area, has the second highest percentage at 5.6%, and also has a high rate of households without access to a vehicle. DAC tract 6030.01, located in the central eastern area, has the highest rate of households without access to a vehicle, and is tied with DAC tract6032, located in the southernmost area, for the third highest percentage of commuters who walk and/or bike to work at 4.7%. Interestingly, tract 6032 has a lower percentage of households without access to a vehicle than the City.

Facilities Conducive to Physical Activity

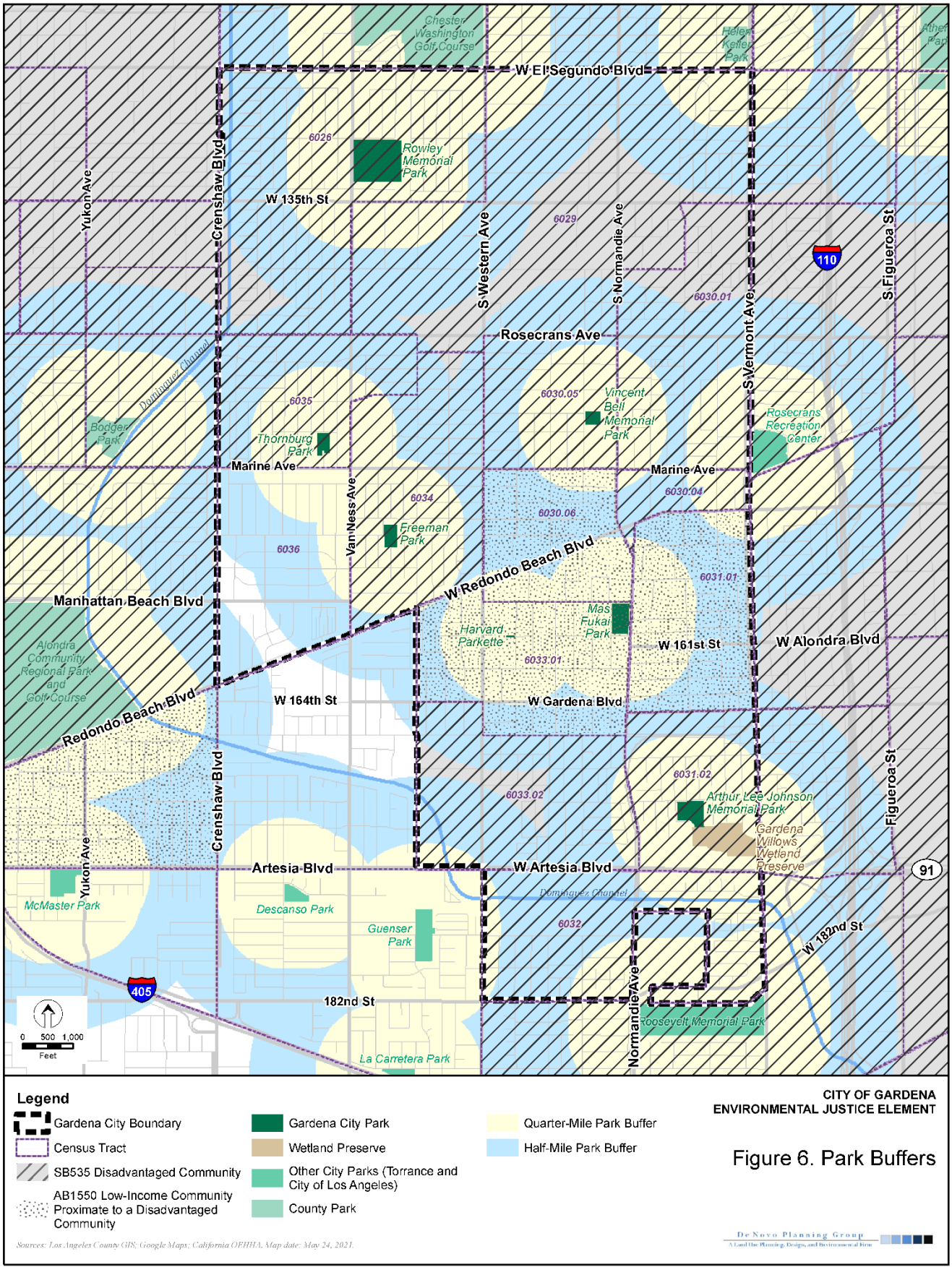
The City is home to 11 parks and recreation facilities. A list of the parks and their amenities, including facilities for physical activity, and whether the parks are in a DAC is included in Table 12. As previously mentioned, seven out of the City's 10 parks and recreation facilities are evenly distributed in DACs throughout the community, though there are six DACs notably void of parks and other community facilities, including tracts 6029, 6030.01, 6030.04, 6033.02, 6032, and 6031.01. All census tracts in Gardena are within the ¼-mile or ½-mile buffer areas of multiple parks located either within or adjacent to the City as shown in Figure 6.

TABLE 12: CITY OF GARDENA PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

PARK	ADDRESS	AMENITIES	CENSUS TRACT
Arthur Lee Johnson Memorial Park	1200 West 170th Street	Picnic shelter, basketball court, tennis court, skate park, playground, multi-use turf, restrooms	**6031.02**
Vincent Bell Memorial Park	14708 South Halldale Ave.	Picnic shelter, softball/baseball diamond, playground, soccer court, multi-use turf, restrooms	**6030.05**
Freeman Park	2100 West 154th Place	Picnic shelter, softball/baseball diamond, basketball court, tennis court, playground, multi-use turf, restrooms	**6034**
Gardena Willows Wetland Preserve	1202 W. 170th St.	Walking trail, overlook deck, ZigZag bridge, restrooms	**6031.02**
Mas Fukai Park	15800 South Brighton Ave.	Picnic shelter, softball/baseball diamonds, basketball courts, playground, multi-use turf, community center, restrooms	**6033.01**
Nakaoka Community Center	1670 West 162nd Street	Auditorium, restrooms	**6033.01**
Rowley Park & Gymnasium	13220 S. Van Ness Ave.	Picnic shelter, softball/baseball diamond, basketball courts, tennis courts, playground, multi-use turf, walking loops, skate park, multi-sport gymnasium, restrooms	**6026**
Rush Gymnasium	1651 West 162nd Street	Multi-sport gymnasium	**6033.01**
Thornburg Park	2320 West 149th Street	Picnic shelter, softball/baseball diamond, playground, basketball courts, handball court, multi-use turf, community center, restrooms	**6035**
Harvard Parkette	160th St./Harvard Blvd.	Playground and multi-use turf	**6033.01**

Source: https://www.cityofgardena.org/gardena-facilities-2/
Note: DACs are in bold text.

FIGURE 6: PARK BUFFERS



This page is intentionally left blank.

6. Community Engagement

An important aspect of planning for environmental justice is the development of effective policies and programs that enable all residents to participate in local decision making. DACs can often be excluded from decision-making when officials and policies do not focus on involving these communities in a strategic manner. SB 1000 emphasizes that community engagement must be promoted in a local jurisdiction through the development of objectives and policies that seek to specifically involve residents of DACs. By engaging DACs in decision-making processes, policymakers can effectively meet the needs of these community members. DACs often have culturally specific needs, distinct from those of the general population, that must be made a priority within local policy to achieve community success. The US EPA Environmental Justice Policy requires the "… meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." The establishment of appropriate opportunities for those who are low-income, minorities, and linguistically isolated to engage in local decision making will help identify and resolve environmental justice issues. In addition, community programs that address the needs of DACs are critical to achieving environmental justice for these communities within a city.

The following section outlines the recommended approach to community engagement in development of the Environmental Justice Element.

Recommended Community Engagement Approach

Stakeholder Outreach

- Identify and reach out to key stakeholders such as community groups and leaders who are focused on environmental justice issues within DACs to see how they would like to participate.

Information Sharing

- Share project information on the City's existing website.
- Post project milestones on existing social media platforms, including the City's Nextdoor, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter pages.

Opportunities for Input

- **Environmental Justice Focus Group**
  - Forming a focus group specifically related to environmental justice will allow the project team and the City to engage in more specific discussions than could occur at public workshops and open houses. The group will discuss key environmental justice and community health and wellness issues facing Gardena. Members can include key stakeholders identified above as well as regional agencies and nonprofit representatives, representative from the City, school district, and other local and regional stakeholders. Group meetings can take place in-person or digitally.
- **Community Workshop**
  - Host a workshop to gather community feedback on environmental justice priorities. This workshop may be virtual.
  - Summarize the results in a brief report and policy documents as appropriate.

- **Online Survey**
  - Host an online survey in multiple languages to gather community feedback on environmental justice priorities.
- **In-Person Community Open House**
  - After stakeholder input from the Environmental Justice Focus Group, workshop, and online survey have been incorporated into a Draft Environmental Justice Element, make it available online for public review.
  - As pandemic conditions allow, supplement the virtual community workshop with an in-person open house where attendees can learn about the Draft Environmental Justice Element.
  - The public can provide comments on the draft document which will be summarized and shared with the Planning Commission and City Council.

The following sections summarize the levels of civic engagement as measured by voter registration and turnout, and demographics that may influence community and civic engagement in Gardena's DACs. This information may help inform the community engagement process described above.

Levels of Civic Engagement

It is important to start with a baseline analysis of a community's existing level of civic engagement to estimate how likely residents are to participate. The primary means of measuring a community's level of civic engagement is the assessment of voter participation. This includes the percentage of voting age residents registered to vote and the percentage of registered voters who cast ballots. A summary of both metrics for Gardena and Los Angeles County is included below. Both the voter registration rate and voter turnout rate for Gardena are lower than the County.

Voter Registration and turnout for 2020 Presidential Election

Los Angeles County[7]

- Eligible to vote: 6.1 million
- Registered: 5.8 million
- Voter registration rate: **95.1%**
- Votes cast in 2020 presidential election: 4.3 million
- Voter turnout rate: **74.1%**

City of Gardena

- Eligible to vote[8]: 38,525
- Registered[9]: 36,501
- Voter registration rate: **94.7%**
- Votes cast in 2020 presidential election[10]: 26,099
- Voter turnout rate[11]: **71.5%**

[7] Source: http://www.laalmanac.com/election/el02.php
[8] Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP05
[9],[10],[11]Source: https://lavote.net/docs/rrcc/svc/4193_Community.pdf?v=5

Demographics That May Influence Civic Engagement

Certain demographic categories can help predict a community's likely level of civic engagement. This section assesses four demographic categories: resident age, language spoken at home, educational attainment, and race/ethnicity. The assessments are basedupon tables that compare the demographic categories at the County, City, and DAC tract levels.

Resident Age

Age distribution can help predict the likelihood of a community participating in civic activities and identify constraints associated with engaging different members of the community. A disproportionately high percentage of residents under the age of 18 suggests the significant presence of families. Parents of minors are generally busy raising their children, making them less likely to participate in civic activities. Encouraging the use of virtual outreach tools, such as social media and online surveying, and outreach approaches at other community events, such as farmers markets, fairs, and sporting events, can help increase participation amongthis group. Conversely, a disproportionately high percentage of seniors, a group that generally has fewer commitments and less time constraints, suggests that the community mayparticipate in conventional civic activities at a higher rate. Because seniors are less familiar with technology than their younger counterparts, the group is less likely to utilize virtual outreach tools. However, patterns of civic participation are changing significantly as a result the COVID-19 pandemic. Populations previously reluctant to use online methods ofcommunication are now more aware and comfortable with these tools, presenting newopportunities to engage all members of the community.

As reflected by Table 13, Gardena's residents are somewhat older than the County as a whole. Only DAC tracts 6029 and 6030.05 are younger than the County as a whole, while theremaining DAC tracts are older than the County as a whole. The City's only tract that does notqualify as a DAC is older compared to the County.

TABLE 13: RESIDENT AGE

LOCATION	TOTAL POPULATION	AGE					
		UNDER 18 YEARS		18 TO 64 YEAR		65 YEARS AND OVER	
		NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%
Los Angeles County	10,081,570	2,217,945	22.0%	1,435,011	64.70%	1,340,849	13.3%
City of Gardena	59,709	11,643	19.5%	7,417	63.70%	10,031	16.8%
CENSUS TRACTS							
6026	8,118	1,469	18.1%	882	60.00%	1,778	21.9%
6029	4,443	1,106	24.9%	732	66.20%	395	8.9%
6030.01	7,498	1,507	20.1%	965	64.00%	1,192	15.9%
6030.04	1,549	222	14.3%	139	62.90%	353	22.8%
6030.05	5,928	1,589	26.8%	1,041	65.50%	456	7.7%
6030.06	1,898	338	17.8%	230	68.10%	268	14.1%
6031.01	4,139	799	19.3%	527	66.00%	608	14.7%
6031.02	3,664	692	18.9%	421	60.80%	744	20.3%
6032	3,394	506	14.9%	312	61.60%	798	23.5%
6033.01	3,617	633	17.5%	401	63.40%	691	19.1%
6033.02	4,048	591	14.6%	378	63.90%	870	21.5%
6034	4,113	835	20.3%	520	62.30%	716	17.4%
6035	3,042	602	19.8%	387	64.30%	484	15.9%
6036	4,258	766	18.0%	503	65.60%	698	16.4%

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: S0101
Note: DACs are in bold text.

LANGUAGE ACCESS

Language is a critical signifier of a population's likely participation in civic activities. Non- native English speakers, and especially those individuals with limited English fluency, are less likely to participate in civic activities. Translation services are critical to reaching and actively communicating with these individuals. In addition, the metric of households who speak languages other than English can help identify the cultural diversity of a community. Civic activities, and the venues where they take place, can be tailored to accommodate the cultural preferences of individual racial, ethnic, and religious groups.

As identified by Table 14, the majority of households in Gardena (54%) speak a language other than English. More than half of households in 12 census tracts speak a language other than English (outlined in bold), and the most common language spoken is Spanish, followed by various Asian and Pacific Islander languages. Nearly 25% of Gardena's population is Asian, with the following breakdown of total population: Asian Indian: 0.5%, Chinese: 1.7%, Filipino: 4.3%, Japanese: 7.7%, Korean: 5.6%, Vietnamese: 3.3%, and Other Asian: 1.8%.[12] Based on these percentages we can infer that Japanese is the most common Asian language spoken, followed by Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

[12] Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP05

TABLE 14: LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LOCATION	POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER	ENGLISH ONLY HOUSEHOLD	OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME	LANGUAGES SPOKEN OTHER THAN ENGLISH			
				SPANISH	OTHER INDO-EUROPEAN	ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER	OTHER
		NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Los Angeles County	9,470,085	4,111,587	5,358,498	3,716,660	503,528	1,032,901	105,409
		43.4%	56.6%	39.2%	5.3%	10.9%	1.1%
City of Gardena	56,381	25,912	30,468	18,792	937	9,809	931
		46.0%	54.0%	33.3%	1.7%	17.4%	1.7%
6026	7,660	5,569	2,091	1,239	224	379	249
		72.7%	27.3%	16.2%	2.9%	4.9%	3.3%
6029	4,157	965	3,192	2,966	2	215	9
		23.2%	76.8%	71.3%	0.0%	5.2%	0.2%
6030.01	7,084	3,082	4,002	2,611	29	1,107	255
		43.5%	56.5%	36.9%	0.4%	15.6%	3.6%
6030.04	1,464	595	869	321	32	494	22
		40.6%	59.4%	21.9%	2.2%	33.7%	1.5%
6030.05	5,550	2,794	2,756	2,076	113	450	117
		50.3%	49.7%	37.4%	2.0%	8.1%	2.1%
6030.06	1,809	875	934	465	0	469	0
		48.4%	51.6%	25.7%	0.0%	25.9%	0.0%
6031.01	3,926	1,852	2,074	1,213	46	803	12
		47.2%	52.8%	30.9%	1.2%	20.5%	0.3%
6031.02	3,442	1,323	2,119	1,349	13	721	36
		38.4%	61.6%	39.2%	0.4%	20.9%	1.0%
6032	3,255	1,402	1,853	1,018	123	712	0
		43.1%	56.9%	31.3%	3.8%	21.9%	0.0%
6033.01	3,415	1,246	2,169	883	36	1,242	8
		36.5%	63.5%	25.9%	1.1%	36.4%	0.2%
6033.02	3,840	1,385	2,455	1,249	0	1,188	18
		36.1%	63.9%	32.5%	0.0%	30.9%	0.5%
6034	3,846	1,757	2,089	1,320	58	623	88
		45.7%	54.3%	34.3%	1.5%	16.2%	2.3%
6035	2,864	1,127	1,737	1,024	47	558	108
		39.4%	60.6%	35.8%	1.6%	19.5%	3.8%
6036	4,069	1,940	2,129	1,058	214	848	9
		47.7%	52.3%	26.0%	5.3%	20.8%	0.2%

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: S1601
Note: DACs are in bold text.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is a strong signifier of a population's likely participation in civic activities. Higher educational attainment generally correlates with increased civic participation. This is reflective of individuals with less educational attainment experiencing underemployment circumstances, such as working for less than a living wage and/or on a part-time basis. This may require individuals to seek out additional employment, reducing thetime that they can commit to civic activities. In addition, individuals with lower educational attainment generally make less money. Those individuals who cannot afford to own or otherwise have limited access to an automobile, may be unable to attend civic events. This may also be reflective of individuals with less educational attainment lacking the sufficient literacy level and/or a formal education in civics and government to feel comfortable participating in civic matters.

As seen in Table 15, more of Gardena's residents and the census tracts' populations have a high school diploma or equivalent and at least some college or an Associate's degree thanon the countywide level. Only three census tracts have a higher percentage of residents with a Bachelor's degree or higher than the County, however (outlined in bold). Within DACs, residents who did not complete high school or only obtained a high school degree are of greatest concern. DAC tract 6029 has the highest percentage of residents (38.5%) with less than a high school education (outlined in bold).

Table 15: Educational Attainment

Location	Total Population (25+ years)	Less Than a High School Graduate		High School Graduate (or Equivalent)		Some College or Associate's Degree		Bachelor's Degree or Higher	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Los Angeles County	6,886,895	1,437059	20.9%	1,419,449	20.6%	1,789,308	26.0%	2,241,079	32.5%
City of Gardena	43,538	7,658	17.6%	10,932	25.1%	13,893	31.9%	11,055	25.4%
6026	6,244	770	12.4%	1,475	23.6%	2,533	40.6%	1,466	23.5%
6029	2,859	1,101	38.5%	867	30.3%	645	22.6%	246	8.6%
6030.01	5,299	1,126	21.3%	1,441	27.2%	1,566	29.6%	1,166	22.0%
6030.04	1,198	197	16.5%	307	25.6%	372	31.1%	322	26.9%
6030.05	3,840	681	17.7%	1,149	29.9%	1,353	35.3%	657	17.1%
6030.06	1,435	71	4.9%	392	27.3%	551	38.4%	421	29.3%
6031.01	2,996	317	10.6%	767	25.6%	991	33.1%	921	30.7%
6031.02	2,797	599	21.4%	732	26.2%	829	29.6%	637	22.8%
6032	2,593	188	7.3%	706	27.2%	630	24.3%	1,069	41.2%
6033.01	2,806	446	15.9%	604	21.5%	937	33.4%	819	29.2%
6033.02	3,106	544	17.5%	741	23.9%	795	25.6%	1,026	33.0%
6034	2,865	517	18.0%	633	22.1%	774	27.0%	941	32.8%
6035	2,200	490	22.3%	504	22.9%	769	35.0%	437	19.9%
6036	3,300	611	18.5%	614	18.6%	1,148	34.8%	927	28.1%

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: S1501
Note: Data is for residents aged 25 years and over. DACs are in bold text.

RACE/ETHNICITY

Numerous studies have shown that race and ethnicity are important predictors of civic engagement, and that whites are more likely to be civically engaged than other groups.[13] Additionally, it is essential to consider the racial make-up of a community when evaluating environmental justice because race is known to correlate with disproportionate environmental burdens. In studies exploring the roles of both race and income, race was determined to be the stronger predictor of exposure to environmental hazards.[14]

The majority race in the County, City, and each census tract, as well as where Hispanic or Latino residents are more than 50% of the population is outlined in bold in Table 16. The majority race in the City of Gardena is almost evenly split between Asian and White. The Asianpopulation is higher in the City (24.9%) than the County (14.6%), while the White populationis lower in the City (24.6%) than the County (51.3%). A smaller percentage of the City (39.3%) is Hispanic or Latino than the County (48.5%), although DAC tract 6029 has a notably higher percentage (76.1%) than both the City and County. There is a larger Black or African Americanpopulation in the City (22.5%) than in the County (8.1%), and DAC census tracts 6026 and 6030.01 are majority Black or African American. DAC census tracts 6029 and 6030.05 are majority some other race.

[13] For example, see Foster-Bey, J. (2008, December). *CIRCLE Working Paper #62: Do Race, Ethnicity, Citizenship and Socio-economic Status Determine Civic-Engagement?* Retrieved from https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED505266.pdf

[14] Luke Cole, director, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Testimony, February Hearing Transcript, p. 16; Luke W. Cole and Shelia R. Foster, *From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement* (New York University Press, 2001), pp. 54–55, 167–83.

This page is intentionally left blank.

TABLE 16: RACE/ETHNICITY

LOCATION	WHITE	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKAN NATIVE	ASIAN	NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	SOME OTHER RACE	TWO OR MORE RACES	HISPANIC OR LATINO (OF ANY RACE)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Los Angeles County	51.3%	8.1%	0.7%	14.6%	0.3%	21.0%	4.0%	48.5%
City of Gardena	24.6%	22.5%	0.6%	24.9%	1.2%	21.3%	4.8%	39.3%
6026	12.3%	62.9%	0.0%	3.4%	5.3%	8.3%	7.8%	17.0%
6029	27.8%	13.8%	0.9%	5.2%	0.0%	48.2%	4.0%	76.1%
6030.01	18.4%	30.2%	1.3%	23.7%	0.0%	24.7%	1.8%	42.6%
6030.04	16.7%	27.4%	0.0%	38.2%	0.0%	17.3%	0.5%	29.6%
6030.05	15.2%	30.5%	0.0%	18.4%	0.0%	32.2%	3.7%	42.5%
6030.06	27.9%	6.0%	1.2%	42.1%	0.0%	19.4%	3.4%	38.6%
6031.01	34.7%	14.3%	0.0%	28.3%	0.4%	14.6%	7.6%	42.0%
6031.02	28.6%	14.5%	0.2%	28.7%	0.0%	23.1%	4.9%	45.9%
6032	22.2%	12.8%	0.0%	36.9%	0.0%	24.7%	3.4%	34.4%
6033.01	19.2%	3.8%	2.6%	47.6%	0.0%	18.8%	8.0%	31.6%
6033.02	26.8%	6.2%	1.5%	43.2%	0.0%	18.5%	3.9%	37.1%
6034	29.7%	11.1%	0.0%	26.1%	6.1%	20.5%	6.5%	40.0%
6035	40.8%	11.5%	0.0%	24.6%	0.3%	17.9%	4.9%	47.1%
6036	45.0%	8.8%	1.6%	31.4%	0.0%	9.2%	4.1%	35.2%

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP05
Note: DACs are in bold text.

This page is intentionally left blank.

7. Improvements and Programs Addressing the Needs of DACs

An integral component of Environmental Justice planning is proactively prioritizing projects and investments that directly benefit DACs. These communities may have specific needs that are distinct from those of the greater community, which may require taking special actions to help improve existing conditions in DACs, such as placing limits on new developments to compensate for already high pollution burdens. These kinds of actions may not be applicable across the entire City but may be needed due to the special circumstances DACs face.

DACs are often overlooked regarding public investments and development of new amenities, and delayed investments and programs can significantly prolong inequalities. PrioritizingDACs for future investment would help community benefits and programs get implementedin timely fashion. Additionally, identifying and prioritizing improvements and programs for DACs may also help the City obtain grants and/or other public funding that is targeted for DACs.

The UC Davis Center for Regional Change and Rabobank, N.A. partnered to develop the Regional Opportunity Index (ROI) intended to help understand social and economic opportunity in California's communities. The goal of the ROI is to help target resources and policies toward people and places with the greatest need to foster thriving communities. The ROI integrates six topics, including civic life, health/environment, mobility/transportation, housing, economy, and education, and maps areas of potential investment by identifying specific areas of urgent need and opportunity. The ROI relies on many of the same data sources already analyzed in this report, such as the American Community Survey (ACS), but also includes additional data sources such as the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES) data, the California Department of Education, and the California Department of Public Health. All data pointsused in the ROI are from 2014.

The tool analyzes different indicators for each of the six topics, as summarized in Table 17 below. There are two types of indicators: **people-based** indicators illustrate the relative measure of **people's** assets in the six topics, while the **place-based** indicators illustrate the relative measure of a **place's** assets in those same topics, minus mobility/transportation.

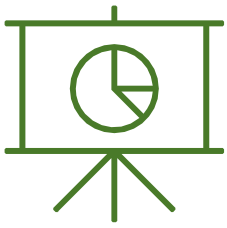


TABLE 17: REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY INDEX (ROI) TOPICS AND INDICATORS

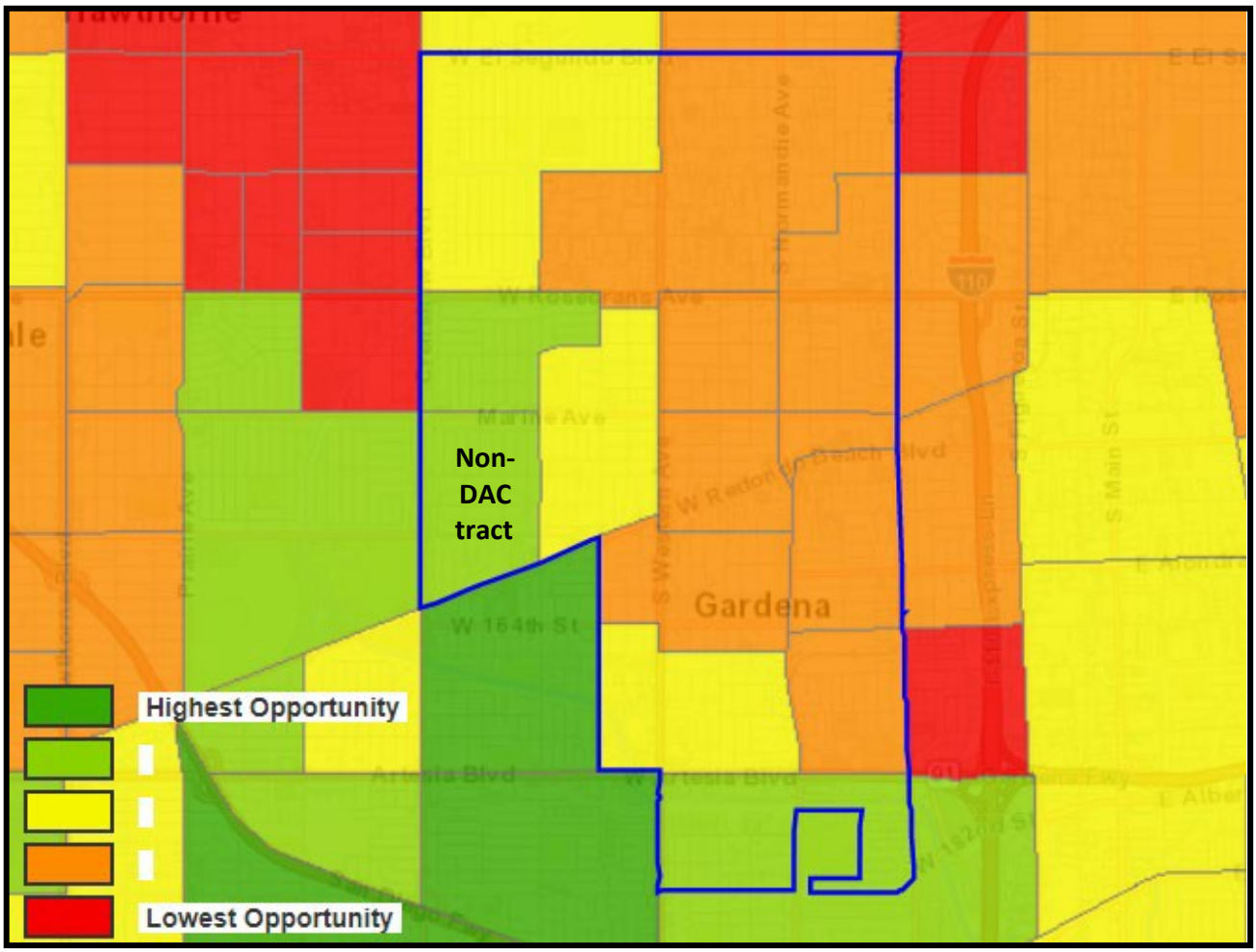
TOPICS	PEOPLE-BASED INDICATORS	PLACE-BASED INDICATORS
Civic Life	• English Speakers • Voting Rates	• Neighborhood Stability • US Citizenship
Health/Environment	• Years of Life Lost • Births to Teens • Infant Health	• Air Quality • Health Care Availability • Access to Supermarket • Prenatal Care
Mobility/Transportation	• Internet Access • Commute Time • Vehicle Availability	• N/A
Housing	• Housing Cost Burden • Homeownership	• Housing Affordability • Housing Adequacy
Economy	• Minimum Basic Income • Employment Rate	• Bank Accessibility • Job Quality • Job Growth • Job Availability
Education	• Elementary School Truancy • English Proficiency • Math Proficiency • College Educated Adults	• High School Discipline rate • Teacher Experience • UC/CSU Eligible • High School Graduation Rate

Source: UC Davis Center for Regional Change, 2020

The tool ranks each census tract in terms of highest opportunity to lowest opportunity levels. Highest opportunity tracts, represented by green in the maps, indicate that conditions are good across the indicators; while lowest opportunity tracts, represented by red in the maps, indicate that improvements need to be made. Gardena has mostly lower- or average- opportunity census tracts throughout the City, with people-based opportunities generally scoring better than placed-based opportunities. The ROI topics and indicators with low levels of opportunity which make them ripe for focused public investments are discussed in further detail below. It will be important for the City to consider the lower opportunity ROI topics andindicators within DAC census tracts when reviewing and establishing policies and programs and directing investments.

In terms of **people-based** assets presented in Figure 7 and Table 18, there are eight DAC census tracts, mostly located east of Western Ave., with lower levels of opportunity (shownin orange). Only two DAC tracts in the City have higher opportunity levels (shown in light green), while the remaining DAC tracts have average opportunities (shown in yellow). Civiclife (comprised of English speakers and voting rates) and housing (comprised of housing cost burden and homeownership) are the two most common recurring topics among orange and yellow tracts.

FIGURE 7: PEOPLE-BASED OPPORTUNITIES



Source: UC Davis Center for Regional Change, 2020 (using 2014 data points)

This page is intentionally left blank.

TABLE 18: PEOPLE-BASED REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY INDEX (ROI) DAC CENSUS TRACTS

DAC CENSUS TRACT	OPPORTUNITY LEVEL	HIGHER OPPORTUNITIES	LOWER OPPORTUNITIES
6026	**(yellow)**	• Civic Life	• Health/Environment • Mobility/Transportation • Housing • Economy • Education
6029	**(orange)**	• Housing	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Mobility/Transportation • Economy • Education
6030.01	**(orange)**	• Mobility/Transportation	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Housing • Economy • Education
6030.04	**(orange)**	• Economy	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Mobility/Transportation • Housing • Education
6030.05	**(orange)**	• None	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Mobility/Transportation • Housing • Economy • Education
6030.06	**(orange)**	• Health/Environment	• Civic Life • Mobility/Transportation • Housing • Economy • Education
6031.01	**(orange)**	• Economy	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Mobility/Transportation • Housing • Education
6031.02	**(orange)**	• Health/Environment	• Civic Life • Mobility/Transportation • Housing • Economy • Education
6032	**(light green)**	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Housing • Economy • Education	• Mobility/Transportation
6033.01	**(orange)**	• Health/Environment • Mobility/Transportation • Economy • Education	• Civic Life • Housing

DAC Census Tract	Opportunity Level	Higher Opportunities	Lower Opportunities
6033.02	**(yellow)**	• Health/Environment • Mobility/Transportation • Housing • Education	• Civic Life • Economy
6034	**(yellow)**	• Mobility/Transportation • Economy • Education	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Housing
6035	**(light green)**	• Health/Environment • Mobility/Transportation • Housing • Economy • Education	• Civic Life

Source: UC Davis Center for Regional Change, 2020 (using 2014 data points)
Note: Non-DAC census tracts are not included

In terms of **place-based** assets presented in Figure 8 and Table 19, there are four DAC census tracts, mostly located north of Marine Ave., with lower levels of opportunity (shown in red and orange). DAC census tracts 6029 and 6030.01 have the lowest levels of opportunity with challenges across all five applicable ROI topics (mobility/transportation is not considered in the place-based analysis). Three DAC tracts in the City have higher opportunity levels (shown in light green and dark green), while the remaining DAC tracts have average opportunities (shown in yellow). Housing (comprised of housing affordability and housing adequacy) and economy (comprised of bank accessibility, job quality, job growth, and job availability) are two most common recurring topics among all orange tracts and yellow tracts.

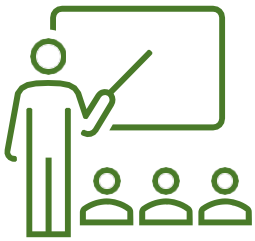
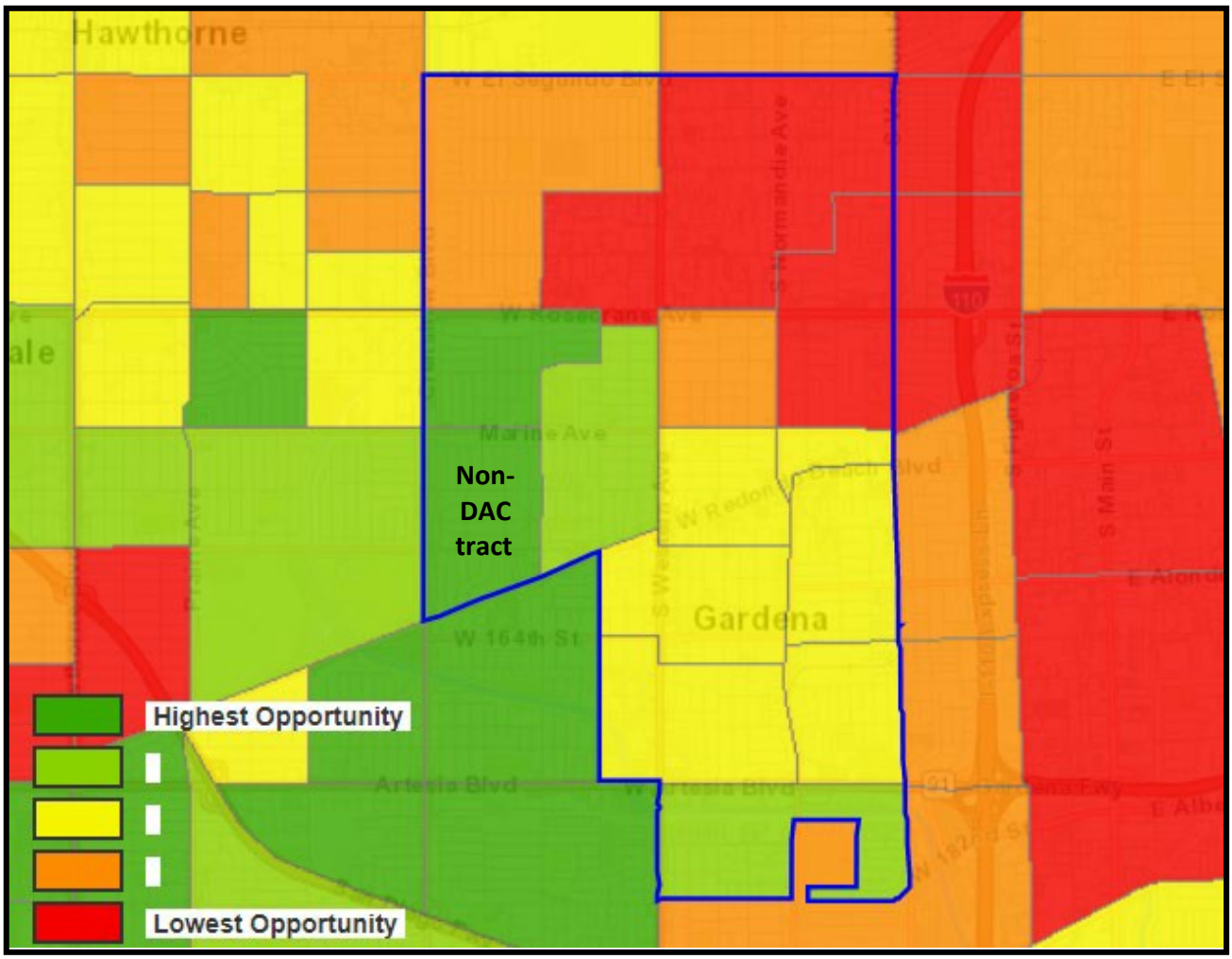


FIGURE 8: PLACE-BASED OPPORTUNITIES



Source: UC Davis Center for Regional Change, 2020 (using 2014 data points)

This page is intentionally left blank.

TABLE 19: PLACE-BASED REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY INDEX (ROI) DAC CENSUS TRACTS

DAC CENSUS TRACT	OPPORTUNITY LEVEL	HIGHER OPPORTUNITIES	LOWER OPPORTUNITIES
6026	**(orange)**	• Civic Life • Education	• Health/Environment • Housing • Economy
6029	**Lowest Opportunity (red)**	• None	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Housing • Economy • Education
6030.01	**Lowest Opportunity (red)**	• None	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Housing • Economy • Education
6030.04	**(yellow)**	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Education	• Housing • Economy
6030.05	**(orange)**	• Education	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Housing • Economy
6030.06	**(yellow)**	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Education	• Housing • Economy
6031.01	**(yellow)**	• Health/Environment • Education	• Civic Life • Housing • Economy
6031.02	**(yellow)**	• Health/Environment • Education	• Civic Life • Housing • Economy
6032	**(light green)**	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Economy • Education	• Housing
6033.01	**(yellow)**	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Education	• Housing • Economy
6033.02	**(yellow)**	• Health/Environment • Education	• Civic Life • Housing • Economy
6034	**(light green)**	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Economy • Education	• Housing
6035	**Highest Opportunity (dark green)**	• Civic Life • Health/Environment • Housing • Economy • Education	• None

Source: UC Davis Center for Regional Change, 2020 (using 2014 data points)
Note: Non-DAC census tracts are not included

This page is intentionally left blank.

REFERENCES

California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Envirostor Database, 2021. Available at: https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/.

California Environmental Justice Alliance, SB 1000 Toolkit, 2017. Available at: https://caleja.org/2017/09/sb-1000-toolkit-release/.

California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) Version 3.0. Available at: https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30

California Water Resources Control Board Geotracker Database, 2021. Available at: https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/.

City of Gardena General Plan. Available at: https://www.cityofgardena.org/general-plan/

City of Gardena Park Facilities. Available at: https://www.cityofgardena.org/gardena-facilities-2/

Feeding America, *Map the Meal Gap* interactive map. Available at: https://map.feedingamerica.org/

Foster-Bey, J., *CIRCLE Working Paper #62: Do Race, Ethnicity, Citizenship and Socio-economic Status Determine Civic-Engagement?*, 2008. Available at: https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED505266.pdf

Los Angeles Almanac, Election Turnout, Los Angeles County, 2020. Available at: http://www.laalmanac.com/election/el02.php

Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, General Election Report, 2020. Available at: https://lavote.net/docs/rrcc/svc/4193_Community.pdf?v=5

Luke Cole, director, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Testimony, February Hearing Transcript, p. 16; Luke W. Cole and Shelia R. Foster, *From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement* (New York University Press, 2001), pp. 54–55, 167–83.

UC Davis Center for Regional Change, Regional Opportunity Index, 2020. Available at: https://interact.regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/roi/

United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year Estimates, 2019, Tables DP04, DP05, S1501, S1601, S0101. Available at: https://data.census.gov/cedsci/

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD User Consolidated Planning/CHAS Data, 2013-2017 Estimates. Available at: https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/cp.html.

World Health Organization (WHO). Accessed on March 8, 2021. Water Sanitation and Hygiene. What are the health risks related to overcrowding?". Available at: http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/emergencies/qa/emergencies_qa9/en/

This page is intentionally left blank.