

# EQUITY RESOURCES FOR ACTION TOOLBOX

ADOPTED  
APRIL 4, 2024



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## VISION

Southern California's Catalyst for a Brighter Future

## MISSION

To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.



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## EQUITY RESOURCES FOR ACTION TOOLBOX

The **Equity Resources for Action (ERA) Toolbox** compiles best practices and existing policies and strategies from local agencies and organizations. It includes recommended practices and approaches to address existing and potentially inequitable outcomes for communities and census tracts with high concentrations of low-income populations and people of color. The toolbox intends to help local jurisdictions and community members advocate for and apply equitable methods in policies, projects and program development and implementation. Resources, case studies and examples are provided to contextualize some of the strategies. Strategies will vary for each local jurisdiction and community to fit their needs in addressing racial, socioeconomic and health disparities.

The ERA Toolbox draws from many sources, such as the Governor's Office of Planning and Research [General Plan Guidelines](#), the [SB 1000 Implementation Toolkit](#) developed by California Environmental Justice Alliance and PlaceWorks and staff research on local and community-based efforts. This compilation gathers a range of case studies and examples from various agencies and organizations that have demonstrated effectiveness in addressing and responding to various forms of inequities. The toolbox is a dynamic document that continues to grow and incorporate feedback from local jurisdictions, community-based organizations and stakeholders.

Signed into law in 2016 and effective in 2018, [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1000](#) seeks to promote equity and environmental justice (EJ) across California's diverse communities through a mandate for local governments to incorporate EJ into general plans by creating a new EJ element or integrating EJ policies, objectives and initiatives. This legislation applies to local jurisdictions with one or more [SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities](#) when revising two or more general plan elements. The ERA Toolbox provides resources and examples for local jurisdictions to explore while developing EJ goals and policies to address SB 1000 requirements.

This toolbox is organized by the four [Connect SoCal 2024](#) pillars: mobility, community, environment and economy. Each goal includes several recommended practices and approaches with resources and examples at the end of each topic area. The ERA Toolbox continues to include general plan element icons to aid local jurisdictions in developing their EJ elements, goals and policies per requirements from SB 1000.

**All recommendations are optional and up to the discretion of the user.** Recommendations incorporating or referring to compliance with existing regulations are for informational purposes only and do not supersede existing regulations. If you would like to provide feedback or contribute an idea to the toolbox, please send an email to [environmentaljustice@scag.ca.gov](mailto:environmentaljustice@scag.ca.gov).

## 1. MOBILITY

### Relevant General Plan Elements

● *Circulation*
● *Land Use*
● *Conservation*
● *Safety*
● *Noise*

Historically, patterns of racial segregation, gentrification and displacement have limited accessibility to essential services and overall mobility for underserved populations like low-income households and communities of color. Therefore, it is important for local jurisdictions to seek out and develop policies and strategies that will help the region become more connected and accessible for everyone, regardless of race/ethnicity, age, gender, disability, income, etc. The Mobility section of this report provides recommended practices and approaches to address inequities caused by transportation-related impacts, focusing around developing transit-oriented districts, designing and promoting complete, safe and active streets, and providing quality, safe, reliable and affordable transportation options. These example strategies can start discussions on what impacted communities need and uplift communities disproportionately impacted by transportation impacts.

### 1.1 TRANSIT ORIENTED DISTRICTS (TOD)

- Update zoning and land use policies to facilitate compact mixed-use development.
- Prioritize projects with pedestrian-friendly streetscape enhancements to encourage walkability.
- Consider the local context and existing neighborhood characteristics in TOD planning, with particular attention to ensuring residents continue to receive the benefits of the improvements through supportive policies, including rent stabilization measures.

Resources and Examples:

1. [Federal Transit Administration, Transit Oriented Development](#)
2. [Los Angeles County, Transit Oriented District \(TOD\) Design Guidelines \(2019\)](#)
3. [Los Angeles County, Transit Oriented District \(TOD\) Toolkit: A Case Study involving the Atlantic/Whittier Station \(2021\)](#)
4. [LA Metro, Transit Oriented Communities](#)
5. [Riverside County Transportation Commission, Transit-Oriented Communities Strategic Plan](#)

### 1.2. COMPLETE STREETS AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

- Adopt and implement complete street policies supporting jurisdictions design of streets that are planned, designed, built, operated and maintained to support safety, comfort and mobility for all road users.
- Include traffic-calming measures and reallocate street space to people walking, bicycling and using mobility devices when designing complete streets.
- Adopt and institutionalize complete pedestrian and bicycle network plans that allow for safe and low-stress travel between all areas and destinations in a community. Invest in new and updated infrastructure improvements, including sidewalks, bicycle lanes or paths, dedicated bus lanes, transit/rail stops or stations, crossing opportunities, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, commercial delivery zones, curb extensions, landscape treatments, cool pavements and other urban heat mitigation aspects, all with the goal of increasing access to essential services, especially via non-auto modes.
- Engage with local and private industries to strengthen public-private partnerships, like shared micromobility (e.g., bike and scooter) programs, to broaden access to mobility options.

- Integrate artwork such as murals in transportation infrastructure, crosswalks, underpasses and the public-right-of-way to encourage safe driving and activity among pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Engage communities throughout a project to ensure local needs inform investments, street design improvements and assessment of project success. See Section 10.2 Communities for more recommendations on community engagement.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [UC Berkeley, California Active Transportation Safety Information Pages: Complete Streets](#)
2. [Smart Growth America, National Complete Streets Coalition Policy Atlas](#)
3. [LA Metro, Complete Streets Policy \(2014\)](#)
4. [Orange County Council of Governments, Complete Street Initiatives](#)
5. [City of Los Angeles Planning, Complete Streets Design Guide](#)
6. [San Bernardino Associated Governments, Complete Street Strategy \(2015\)](#)
7. [Western Riverside Council of Governments, Active Transportation Plan](#)
8. [City of Long Beach, Bike Share Program](#)
9. [Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition](#)
10. [LA Metro, Bike Share](#)
11. [Complete Streets Ahead, Millburn \(New Jersey\) Complete Streets Project, Before and After Gallery](#)
12. [San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, Better Market Street](#)
13. [California Walks](#)
14. [Caltrans Transportation Art Program, Highway Art Provides Community Canvas](#)
15. [Butte County Association of Governments, SR 162 Corridor Plan](#)
16. [UC Berkeley SafeTREC, Community Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program, Focus Regions Program](#)
17. [Walk Score](#)

### 1.3. SAFE ROUTES AND STREETS

- Use wayfinding and public education campaigns to increase awareness of accessibility and proximity to major destinations using walking, biking, and transit or rail routes and lines
- Adopt and implement [Vision Zero](#) or [Toward Zero Death](#) policies to create safer streets for all users (see resources #11 and #12).
- Conduct safe routes to school and walk audits that include EJ hazard checklists, such as an analysis of canopy, urban heat island threat, air quality, flood drainage, etc.
- Develop High Injury Networks or complete hot spot analyses to encourage data-driven decision-making (see resource #9 and #10).
- Consider a transit to parks program that provides free transportation for children, older adults and disabled persons to recreational sites such as trails, parks, and beaches (see resource #5).
- Create a safe routes for seniors program or plan to eliminate crashes that lead to serious injuries and fatalities to older adults by educating community members about risks for older adults, increasing the number of trips by walking and bicycling for older adults, uplifting the voices of older adults regarding transportation needs and safety and targeting neighborhoods with large populations of older adults who have a lack of access to transportation (see resource #4).

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [Imperial County, Safe Routes to School Regional Master Plan](#)
2. [Orange County Transportation Authority, Safe Routes to School](#)
3. [City of Los Angeles, Safe Routes to School](#)
4. [Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Safe Routes for Seniors](#)
5. [LA Metro, Transit to Parks Strategic Plan \(2019\)](#)

6. [Safe Routes to School National Partnership, Safe Routes to Healthy Food: Strategies for Local Governments \(2017\)](#)
7. [San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, Regional Safe Routes to School Plan Phase II Volume I \(2019\)](#)
8. [Federal Highway Administration, Zero Deaths and Safe System](#)
9. [SCAG, Recommendations for California Statewide Guidance: High Injury Networks \(2021\)](#)
10. [SCAG, Regional High Injury Network](#)
11. [Toward Zero Deaths](#)
12. [Vision Zero Network](#)
13. [Los Angeles County, Vision Zero Action Plan: A Plan for Safer Roadways \(2019\)](#)
14. [City of Long Beach, Go Active LB](#)

#### 1.4. AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION

- Increase wheelchair accessible vehicles services and infrastructure by coordinating with local and state transportation agencies.
- Provide resources and improve customer service and information for transit rail passengers with physical, neurological, mobility and learning disabilities.
- Promote innovative solutions to provide first/last mile connections to transit and rail services.
- Invest and promote partnerships with transportation network companies (TNCs) and other mobility providers, especially in communities with limited access to transit/rail.
- Ensure customer service options are available for app-based transportation services.
- Provide language translation services through customer call centers and in transit-oriented developments and public transportation stops to assist people with disabilities and individuals who primarily speak a language other than English.
- Translate all information resources whether electronic or physical into multiple languages and ensure all materials are accessible according to standards established by the Americans with Disabilities Act, especially for specific transportation-related images.
- Conduct research and a needs assessment on transit fares for riders of color and low-income riders.
- Conduct community engagement with historically marginalized or underserved communities to gather input on how to assess needs and provide affordable transit fares.
- Research and create dedicated funding sources to support accessible and new transportation programs.
- Collaborate with transit agencies to provide reduced and free transit for riders who are low-income, unhoused, unemployed, older adults, youth populations and disabled persons.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [Federal Transit Administration, Accelerating Innovative Mobility](#)
2. [Federal Transit Administration, Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#)
3. [California Public Utilities Commission, TNC: Access for Persons with Disabilities Program \(SB 1376, Hill\)](#)
4. [California Department of Rehabilitation, Resources Transportation Issues](#)
5. [Access, Paratransit Eligibility](#)
6. [OmniTrans, Mobility Services](#)
7. [City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Bilingual Glossary of Transportation Terms](#)
8. [City of Long Beach, Disability Community Resource Guide \(2018\)](#)
9. [LA Metro, Accessibility Advisory Committee](#)
10. [LA Metro, Equity Information Hub](#)
11. [Seamless Bay Area, Vision for Integrated Transit Fares](#)

12. [City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Universal Basic Mobility](#)
13. [Metrolink, Accessibility and Affordability Study \(2021\)](#)
14. [LA Metro, Low-Income Fare is Easy \(LIFE\)](#)
15. [LA Metro, Understanding How Women Travel \(2019\)](#)
16. [Urban Institute, Access to Opportunity through Equitable Transportation: Lessons from Four Metropolitan Regions \(2020\)](#)

## 2. COMMUNITIES

### Relevant General Plan Elements

● *Land Use*   ● *Safety*   ● *Housing*

Connect SoCal 2024 strives to develop, connect and sustain communities that are livable, equitable and thriving. Lack of community engagement during the planning process, unaffordable and unattainable housing and lack of healthy food choices are a few of the features of unsustainable communities. Therefore, it is crucial to consider equitable practices and approaches to break down barriers and ensure communities in the SCAG region can thrive. The Communities section of this toolbox provides recommended practices and approaches for equitable engagement, especially with specialized populations; affordable, safe, secure and protected housing; and healthy food access to address inequities impacting vulnerable populations and underserved communities. The examples include best practices in the region to empower residents and local jurisdictions.

### 2.1. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#### DEVELOP EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Build relationships with residents through community-based organizations, health departments, schools, libraries and other groups that directly interface with the community.
- Measure and assess community engagement approaches to reach all impacted residents.
- Anticipate any barriers to effective communication and participation with all community members when developing an effective public outreach plan by looking at the demographics in the area (e.g., primary language, age, internet access and educational attainment).
- Consider how to build trust within the community, including facilitating conversations through non-governmental organizations, contractual trust, communication trust, competency trust and caring (see resource #5).
- Host art-centered events and activities, such as art galleries, murals, festivals and public art pieces, to increase engagement with community members.
- Bring information and opportunities for input to community events and facilities, such as high schools, local markets and community group meetings.
- Provide information through non-digital formats, like local magazines and water bills.

Resources and Examples:

1. [Institute for Local Government, Technology, Tools, and Techniques to Improve Public Engagement](#)
2. [Homelessness Policy Research Institute, Homeless Outreach: The Los Angeles County Context \(2022\)](#)
3. [City of Rancho Cucamonga, General Plan Progress Report \(2022\)](#)
4. [Stanford Social Innovation Review, Building Trust with Communities of Color \(2015\)](#)
5. [University of Minnesota, Building Trust in Communities \(2022\)](#)

#### EMPOWER COMMUNITIES TO MAKE DECISIONS

- Build capacity within communities that are historically underrepresented in the decision-making process by providing relevant and effective training and workshops that empower participation in the local decision-making process.
- Maintain communication with community groups throughout the entire project development and implementation process.

- Uplift and amplify opinions and priorities of community members during workshops and community meetings.
- Provide a safe space for community members to take charge of discussions and practice active listening if conflicts arise.
- Conduct interviews to uplift personal and shared narratives.
- Develop surveys to be delivered and responded to in group settings to enhance discussion.
- Foster a network of neighborhood associations.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [U.S. DOT, Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making \(2022\)](#)
2. [Greenlining Institute, Mobility Equity Framework: How to Make Transportation Work for People \(2018\)](#)
3. [City of Santa Ana, Neighborhood Initiatives and Environmental Services Program](#)

### **IMPLEMENT PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING COMMITTEES AND PROGRAMS**

- Create a PB Committee consisting of community members, stakeholders, public officials, and local decision-makers to advocate for democratizing the city budgeting process
- Research and locate discretionary funding sources by speaking with experienced participatory budgeting practitioners, contacting key officials who control funding and attending participatory budgeting information sessions (see resource #5).
- Recruit community members who can act as budget delegates, form relationships and represent the interests of the residents.
- Collect and share data on voting results to ensure transparency with community members.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [Institute for Local Government, Participatory Budgeting](#)
2. [City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Reforms for Equity and Public Acknowledgement of Institutional Racism Participatory Budgeting](#)
3. [Investing in Place, Demystifying the Transportation Budgeting Process in the City of Los Angeles \(2020\)](#)
4. [Long Beach Forward, The People's Budget](#)
5. [People Powered, Impacts of Participatory Budgeting \(2022\)](#)

### **CONDUCT ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

- Ensure public meetings and workshops are accessible and convenient for residents by holding events in public venues and during various times in the day to accommodate work schedules, providing child-care and food and distributing meeting materials in advance to allow residents time to review and comment.
- Use different methods of education and engagement, such as community-based participatory research, community benefits agreements, community events, design charrettes, door-to-door canvassing, focus groups, interactive workshops, mobile engagement, open houses and surveys.
- Host meetings in a hybrid setting, offer free device rentals for virtual attendees and distribute a list of locations with free broadband services so that individuals can attend online meetings
- Practice language support services in community and public meetings, which includes translating information materials in multiple languages, providing interpreter services at meetings and providing visual and auditory resources for public meetings,
- Consult with cultural community representatives to ensure meetings are conducted in a culturally sensitive manner.

- Provide free tours for stakeholders, affected populations and concerned individuals on project sites and project-specific areas as part of community meetings and workshops
- Increase transit accessibility by providing free transit fares for attendees and host community and public meetings located near bus stops or transit corridors.
- Utilize popular education, universal design learning and active learning techniques to engage and build knowledge and information.

Resources and Examples:

1. [SCAG, Public Participation Plan \(2022\)](#)
2. [City of Tustin, Community Engagement Plan \(2020\)](#)

## 2.2 LANGUAGE ACCESS PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

- Provide requested language access resources and translation equipment, including visuals and audio equipment based on language needs survey results for public and community meetings hosted by local jurisdictions and community organizations
- Use the registration process for meetings and events as an outreach opportunity to determine the language needs of participants or attendees in conjunction with using the registration process. Consider surveying community organizations before an event, or periodically, to determine which languages are spoken most often by community members.
- Conduct a needs assessment for translators and language accessibility resources within communities, including regular surveys of needs through community-based organizations.
- Provide requested language access resources and translation equipment, including visuals and audio equipment, based on feedback from language needs surveys, for public and community meetings hosted by local jurisdictions and community organizations.
- Translate outreach materials to multiple languages, specifically languages spoken and used within the community.
- Contract with local translators who are community members to coordinate translation services for large group settings such as public meetings
- Ensure more than one interpreter is present during public meetings and events to accommodate for multiple languages and to allow interpreters to take breaks by rotating with another interpreter.
- Assemble internal translation groups and teams by including a multilingual criterion when hiring and ensure they are compensated fairly.
- Provide accessible multilingual training for individuals seeking to learn new languages.

Resources and Examples:

1. [Welcoming America, Bridging Language and Work \(2022\)](#)
2. [Migration Policy Institute, Language Access: Translation and Interpretation Policies and Practices](#)
3. [City of Long Beach, Health and Human Services: Language Access](#)
4. [Communities Creating Healthy Environments, Language Justice Toolkit](#)

## 2.3 TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT

- Research, locate and initiate contact with tribal leads, such as a tribal advisor and inter-agency tribal organizations.
- Conduct outreach with tribal communities at a local level by inviting members to public meetings, community engagement events and workshops.
- If permitted by the tribal members, consider visiting tribal land to engage with tribal community members.

- Coordinate multi-tribe gathering events and meetings for all tribal members to attend so that different tribes can provide various viewpoints and feedback.
- Be considerate of tribal differences and be open to modifying approaches to different tribes.
- Welcome and support tribal members into leadership and decision-maker positions.
- Consult with tribal governments at early stages of the planning process when changing general plans, such as amending policies to ensure long range plans do not affect sacred, historical or cultural sites of indigenous and tribal communities.
- Develop land use agreements with local tribes.
- Facilitate engagement with tribes through non-governmental organizations.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [FirstNet Authority, Guidance for States and Localities to Outreach to Tribal Governments](#)
2. [California Department of Water Resources, Sustainable Groundwater Management Program: Guidance Document for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater, Engagement with Tribal Members \(2018\)](#)
3. [Census 2020, Outreach to Tribal Nations and Native Communities Final Report \(2021\)](#)
4. [San Diego Association of Governments, Tribal Consultations](#)
5. [City of Long Beach, Willow Spring Restoration and Environmental Stewardship](#)
6. [City of Oakland, Sogorea Te' Land Trust and City of Oakland Plan to Return Land to Indigenous Stewardship \(2022\)](#)
7. [City of West Hollywood, Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Outreach: How did WeHo Climate Action engage the local indigenous population?](#)
8. [National League of Cities, Roadmap to Repair \(2022\)](#)

## 2.4. IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

- Create an Office of Immigrant Resources and Support to provide guidance and resources for the integration of immigrants within communities and neighborhoods.
- Initiate dialogues with community members, including individuals with lived experiences to build relationships and better understand how to plan for the needs of the community.
- Incorporate metrics to evaluate and improve policies and practices centered on immigration integration.
- Expand civic participation among migrants and immigrant communities through language accessibility and cultural and community representatives.
- Encourage multicultural curriculum for workplaces and educational facilities and increase supportive services for new workers and students.
- Provide free and accessible transportation for immigrant communities.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [Welcoming America, Receiving Communities Toolkit \(2011\)](#)
2. [Welcoming San Diego, Strategic Plan on Immigrant and Refugee Integration 2019-2024](#)

## 2.5. AFFORDABLE AND SECURE HOUSING

- Support communal land ownership and expand housing affordability.
- Establish partnerships and collaborations with community land trusts on how to preserve local land ownerships.
- Create a local housing trust fund that leverages developer fees and other fees to fund new affordable housing projects.
- Seek grant funding that includes the ability to partner or co-apply with nonprofit organizations and local or community-oriented businesses.

- Consider community-based ownership for , such as co-ops, to encourage ownership for opportunities in areas with low homeownership rates.
- Encourage community-led development through a tripartite board made of equal representation of lease holders of community land trust residents from surrounding areas and community leaders, nonprofit representatives, public officials and other interested people.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [National Association of Housing Cooperatives](#)
2. [California Center for Cooperative Development](#)
3. [PolicyLink, Invest in Neighborhoods: Community Benefits Agreement Toolkit](#)
4. [Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, Project Updates \(2022\)](#)
5. [Irvine Community Land Trust](#)
6. [THRIVE Santa Ana Community Land Trust](#)

## 2.6. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROTECTION

- Create policies that incentivize the creation of affordable and efficient housing.
- Prioritize affordable housing locations near amenities in conjunction with market-rate development in disadvantaged communities.
- Enact policies that protect and preserve mobile homes and mobile home parks because they are often the primary housing option in many low-income, underserved and rural communities.
- Include rent control or rent stabilization policies in disadvantaged or underserved communities to protect housing affordability and availability.
- Continuously review inclusionary or affordable housing policies, procedures or requirements to adapt to changing needs of the community.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [Institute of Local Governments, Meeting California's Housing Needs: Best Practices for Inclusionary Housing \(2018\)](#)
2. [County of Los Angeles, Rent Stabilization Program](#)
3. [City of Los Angeles, Housing Element 2021-2029](#)

## 2.7. HOUSING RIGHTS PROTECTION

- Establish protections for low-income renters, including requiring 60-day notice for rent increases, provide economic displacement assistance, fund tenant protections through fees paid by landlords, regulate and track tenant buyout agreements, fund assistance programs for low-income landlords, support tenant and landlord outreach programs, and create "Know Your Rights" materials.
- Implement tenant protection measures, such as right to counsel and rent escrow to avoid displacement impacts from housing repairs and improvements, including repairs that are made to meet sustainable design guidelines, correct code violations or address habitability issues.
- Enforce substantive resident protection measures to avoid displacement impacts from community investments, including rent control, just cause eviction and "right-to-return" ordinance.
- Fund programs that focus on outreach, information and enforcement of tenant protections laws; If housing protections already exist, consider revising protections as needed to meet community needs and continue to safeguard vulnerable populations.
- Provide public education and materials to educate residents on potential hazards that can lead to unhealthy housing conditions and encourage residents to take action.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Tenant Rights, Laws and Protections: California](#)
2. [California Civil Rights Department](#)
3. [National Alliance of HUD Tenants, Resources](#)
4. [County of Los Angeles, Consumer and Business Affairs: Housing and Tenants Protections](#)

## 2.8. PREVENT DISPLACEMENT

- Set up a no net loss of affordable housing within a half-mile of public investments.
- Create homeowner assistance programs to assist low-income families to purchase homes or prevent foreclosures.
- Implement affordable housing linkage fees within zoning codes to require a certain percentage from real estate developments fund affordable rental and homeownership housing programs.
- Provide foreclosure assistance programs to provide guidance and counseling for residents experiencing foreclosure.
- Review housing policies at local and state levels to ensure they do not result in displacement for people of color.

### Resources and Examples:

1. [California Strategic Growth Council, Anti-Displacement Assessment \(2024\)](#)
2. [City of Sacramento, Anti-Displacement/Gentrification \(2018\)](#)
3. [UC Berkeley, Developing a New Methodology for Analyzing Potential Displacement \(2017\)](#)
4. [UC Berkeley, Urban Displacement Project](#)
5. [Anti-Eviction Mapping Project](#)

## 2.9. SUPPORT UNHOUSED/HOUSING INSECURE INDIVIDUALS OR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

- Define “homelessness” and create a homelessness response plan to provide details on policies and practices to support those who are experiencing homelessness or are unhoused.
- Design a transitional housing program by consulting with homeless outreach centers and community organizations supporting the unhoused on how to appropriately address the needs of people experiencing homelessness.
- Apply for state and federal grants to fund programs for transitional housing, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, housing voucher waitlist, state-funded trailers and single-room occupancy housing.
- Incentivize multi-family housing, motels, hotels and inns to participate in transitional housing and single-room occupancy programs so that individuals can stay within these locations until permanent or reliable housing options arise.
- Develop a street and encampment response to provide safe and sanitary conditions for individuals living in encampments, such as providing food, porta-potties, handwashing stations, garbage pick-ups and designated RV parking.
- Consider joining local continuums of care to help identify other organizations working to end homelessness.

### Resources and Examples:

1. [California Department of Social Services Housing and Homelessness Programs](#)
2. [City of Oakland Homelessness Response](#)
3. [HUD Exchange, Continuum of Care](#)
4. [County of Los Angeles Homeless Initiative, Approved Strategies to Combat Homelessness \(2016\)](#)
5. [Los Angeles County Homelessness Emergency Response](#)

6. [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: HUD Exchange-Resource Library](#)
7. [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: Continuum of Care Program](#)

## 2.10. COMMUNITY-BASED INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLACEKEEPING

- Create and maintain existing linear parks that connect to neighborhoods and communities.
- Conduct an open and green spaces assessment on existing areas that can provide space for residents and community members. Perform a separate evaluation to identify locations with a lack of green and open spaces.
- Create a community-informed cultural asset map to document and build on the strengths of a neighborhood, such as the one created by [Promise Zone Arts](#) in Los Angeles (see resource #8).
- Construct more open and green spaces within urban centers, community hubs and near essential facilities such as hospitals, schools, daycares and nursing homes.
- Provide and support spaces for artists and community members to engage and participate in ephemeral and performing arts such as live art performances, street art and public galleries.
- Test out pop-up placekeeping and safety features to inform future investments. Examples could include murals, artistic crosswalks, festivals. Temporary placekeeping can become long-term improvements and uplift public interest for uses.
- Limit siting of new sensitive uses, such as playgrounds, daycare centers, schools, residences and medical facilities, within 1,000 feet of warehouses, industrial zones, heavy volume of traffic and freeways. Projects that will introduce sensitive receptors within 500 feet of freeways and other sources should consider installing high efficiency of enhanced filtration units and other measures as appropriate and feasible.
- Encourage community gatherings and safety for all community members by removing any hostile designs, which are intended to harm or exclude individuals from public spaces and prevent community gatherings.

### Resources and Examples:

1. [Urban Institute, Creative Placemaking and Community Safety](#)
2. [Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize, Creative Place Making Medellin Cable Car Pylon](#)
3. [Nurture Development, Asset Based Community Development](#)
4. [Roberto Bedoya, Placemaking and the Politics of Belonging and Dis-belonging](#)
5. [Project for Public Spaces, What makes a successful place?](#)
6. [City of San Francisco, General Plan, Arts Element](#)
7. [Americans for the Arts, Cultural Placekeeping Guide: How to Create a Network for Local Emergency Action \(2017\)](#)
8. [Promise Zone Arts, Los Angeles](#)
9. [Robert Rosenberger, On hostile design: Theoretical and empirical prospects \(2019\)](#)

## 2.11. FOOD ACCESS, SUPPLIES AND SYSTEMS

- Prioritize healthy food supplies in economic development efforts, especially in areas where a healthy food supply, farmer's market or community garden is not located within a walkable distance (i.e., half- to a quarter-mile away).
- Partner with or support local government or nonprofit organizations that offer food pantry delivery services to those who might not be able to travel to available supermarkets, pantries or community gardens.
- Support developments near public transportation that allow for direct access to supermarkets, pantries or community gardens.
- Set up school-or-community-based programs that integrate gardening and nutrition, and make the connection between healthy food choices and locally grown fresh produce.

- Revise the zoning code to restrict the amount of national fast-food chain restaurants, drive-thrus and other food retailers that promote low-nutrient dense-foods near sensitive land uses.
- Encourage the development of healthy food establishments in areas with a high-density of establishments selling high-calorie fast food and junk food relative to healthier food options.
- Permit more community gardens and food pantries by decreasing restrictions on development within the land use section of the zoning code.
- Integrate community gardens and food pantries into all land use designations, such as industrial zones.
- Create an Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone (UAIZ) program by setting up an application process and provide information sessions for potential landowners to develop vacant land for agricultural purposes (see resources #3 and #4).
- Support local farmers and urban agriculture entrepreneurs in adopting regenerative agricultural practices, including those that sequester carbon, by offering training, technical assistance and financing and adopting local policies that support regenerative agriculture.
- Expand the number of low-income community-supported agricultural models to increase fresh food access in low-income areas while fairly compensating farmers for their products.
- Permit the use of certain fruit trees in public right of way and public open spaces.
- Implement a good food purchasing policy or other model policies that promote local, fair and sustainable production of agricultural products and seafood, prioritizing vendors with certifications for sustainable agricultural practices related to water, public health, energy use pesticides and workers' rights.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [American Planning Association, Planning for Food Access and Community-based Food Systems \(2012\)](#)
2. [California FreshWorks Food Access Report \(2016\)](#)
3. [Assembly Bill No. 551 Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones \(2013\)](#)
4. [City of Los Angeles City Planning: Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone \(UAIZ\) Program Factsheet](#)
5. [Los Angeles Community Garden Council](#)
6. [Kristen Cooksey-Stowers, Marlene B. Schwartz, and Kelly D. Brownell, Food Swamps Predict Obesity Rates Better Than Food Deserts in the United States \(2017\)](#)
7. [Let's Get Healthy California](#)

## 2.12. REDUCE FOOD WASTE

- Conduct a food waste and loss assessment to measure and evaluate the amount of food waste and loss and to determine sources of food waste.
- Integrate food waste reduction practices through wastewater treatment plants, compost hubs, food recycling centers and food banks.
- Collaborate with locally owned supermarkets, grocery stores, restaurants and farms to donate all uneaten or intact food to community food banks and pantries.
- Provide educational resources and community workshops to inform community members of the impact of food waste and loss and how to reduce food oversupply and food waste.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [U.S. EPA, Sustainable Management of Food Basics](#)
2. [U.S. EPA, Preventing Waste Food At Home](#)
3. [Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Food Waste Prevention](#)
4. [Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, Food Waste Recycling](#)
5. [Los Angeles County Fight Food Waste](#)

### 3. ENVIRONMENT

#### Relevant General Plan Elements

● *Land Use*   ● *Conservation*   ● *Open Space*

Historically, people of color have less protection from poor environmental conditions and are more likely to be exposed to pollution because they live closer to highways, highly traveled roads, industrial plants and other sources of pollutants. Impacts from climate change like wildfires, extreme heat drought and extreme weather exacerbate environmental quality and affect residents' health. In addition, pollution continues to be a major public health concern in the region, as pollutants exacerbate chronic conditions and disproportionately affect vulnerable populations (children, pregnant women, older adults, outdoor workers and people with disabilities). The Environment section of this toolkit provides recommended practices and approaches focused on climate resilience, air quality, land stewardships and noise impacts, to create healthier and more resilient communities and help those who are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change, air quality and other stressors.

#### 3.1. CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

##### **ADOPT CLIMATE RESILIENCY STRATEGIES AND RESPONSE PLANS**

- Define resilience in climate action plans and climate resilience-centered policies to inform residents and community members of local capacities to respond and anticipate to the effects of climate change.
- Prioritize and recognize the most vulnerable populations and communities disproportionately burdened by climate hazards, which could include identifying communities vulnerable to climate effects and hazards, assessing vulnerability hazards and mapping disadvantaged communities.
- Identify populations with limited access to emergency communication lines to assist planning for climate-related emergency events and to address access challenges during nonemergency times to build community adaptive capacities (e.g., improved transportation access and communication lines to underserved areas).
- Equitably distribute resources to and build capacity (e.g., education, relationships) of vulnerable communities so that communities can respond to shocks and stressors.
- Build strong partnerships that involves coordinating across multiple sectors, scales and stakeholders to ensure access to socioeconomic and health benefits of natural and built systems.
- Provide resiliency preparedness and recovery education, trainings and resources for all community members and residents.
- Collaborate with industry sectors and areas of expertise to support research on solutions and response development.
- Interview stakeholders to understand who is most exposed to the assessed risks.
- Apply ecosystem-based approaches by preserving ecosystems services, practicing sustainable resource management and enhancing preservations and protections of natural and working lands.
- Support the use of systems-based risk-management methods and implementation tools.
- Increase weather proofing for public infrastructure and transit-oriented developments to protect residents and passengers and withstand extreme heat, flooding and storms.
- Maximize mutual benefits that support resilience and conservation.
- Continuously update climate resilience policies and programs to provide effective and current response methods to the growing effects of climate change.

- Host meetings and roundtables for climate vulnerable communities to provide feedback on climate resilient policies and projects. Make sure to promote active listening and cultural responsibility when engaging and interacting with the community during these forums.
- Create a timeline of local hazards and natural disasters through community storytelling.
- Using participatory asset mapping for community input on vulnerability assessments. This can be accomplished through posters or allowing public access to GIS maps.
- Co-develop equity metrics (or planning to implement pre-existing metrics) and conduct equity assessments of policy proposals and climate adaptation plans.
- Conduct a climate vulnerability assessment on public infrastructure, parks, open spaces, schools, libraries, community centers, transit routes and bus stops to determine the areas most susceptible to the effects of climate change.
- Integrate natural vegetation such as trees, shrubs and grassland into public infrastructure and transit-oriented developments to provide passive cooling techniques and stormwater resilience.
- Require capital improvement projects and city plans to identify how they will support or address climate adaptation goals.
- Limit new development in hazardous areas such as the wildland-urban interface or landslide hazard areas to reduce community's exposure to climate disasters.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [California Environmental Justice Alliance, SB 1000 Implementation Toolkit: 5.9 Reduce Impacts of Climate Change \(2018\)](#)
2. [C40 Knowledge, Reducing climate change impacts on walking and cycling \(2020\)](#)
3. [California Department of Public Health, California Building Against Resilience Against Climate Effects \(CalBRACE\) Initiative](#)
4. [Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, Policy Options for Climate-Resilient Infrastructure \(2018\)](#)
5. [U.S. EPA, Green Infrastructure for Climate Resiliency](#)
6. [SCAG Climate Equity Compendium \(2023\)](#)
7. [City of Los Angeles, LA Sanitation: Residential Solutions](#)
8. [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Environment Policy Paper No. 14: Climate-Resilient Infrastructure \(2018\)](#)
9. [County of San Bernardino, Resiliency Strategy \(2019\)](#)

### **ADOPT EXTREME HEAT RESILIENCY AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES**

- Conduct priority planting site analyses to identify potential areas for tree planting to combat soil degradation and erosion.
- Encourage planting large-stature trees with wide canopies to produce larger amounts of shade.
- Encourage more urban greening and forestry to increase tree and vegetation cover.
- When building new structures or remodeling old structures, promote cool and green roofs, reduce impervious surfaces and use new and innovative cooling technology, like solar reflective pavements (see resource #6).
- Preserve native vegetation in wildland areas and constructed landscapes to reduce vulnerability to extreme heat and wildlife associated with climate change.
- Encourage diverse tree species to develop greater resiliency and develop pest resistance
- Provide cooling centers with reliable power sources in areas with vulnerable communities. Use community hubs such as libraries, schools, faith-based locations, parks and recreation sites, and public buildings and consider providing free public transportation for vulnerable communities to access cooling centers
- Consider cool roofs and cool pavements for new buildings and development.

- Construct public facilities such as public parks, public pools, playgrounds and walking/biking infrastructure, using materials that lower the urban heat island effect.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [County of Ventura, Tree Permits and Tree Protection Ordinance](#)
2. [City of Sacramento, Urban Tree Canopy Assessment \(2018\)](#)
3. [City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica's Urban Forest Master Plan \(2017\)](#)
4. [City of Long Beach, Long Beach Tree Planting Program](#)
5. [Tree People and Loyola Marymount University Center for Urban Resilience, Los Angeles County Tree Canopy Coverage](#)
6. [Ariane Middel, V. Kelly Turner, Florian A. Schneider, Yujia Zhang, and Matthew Stiller, Solar reflective pavements – A policy panacea to heat mitigation? \(2020\)](#)
7. [City of Riverside, Heat Response Plan](#)
8. [U.S. EPA, Cool Pavements to Reduce Heat Islands](#)
9. [County of San Bernardino, Heat Wave Plan/Procedures \(2007\)](#)
10. [Tree Equity Score](#)

### **ADOPT COASTAL RESILIENCY STRATEGIES**

- Conduct a vulnerability assessment for coastal communities to better understand climate change impacts and develop adequate climate resiliency and adaptation plans.
- Create a sea level rise adaptation plan to protect communities and resources and ensure that plans are regularly updated to monitor any environmental and social changes.
- Conduct dune restoration and adaptation to maintain natural lines of defense against sea level rise.
- Rebuild natural infrastructure ,such as the integration of barrier islands, oyster, coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass and salt marshes, to prevent coastal flooding.
- Protect communities near tidelines by elevating existing residential areas and relocating parking lots and pedestrian and bike paths away from tidelines.
- Protect living shorelines from stormwater runoff.
- Require new developments in and near flood-prone areas to use permeable paving, rain gardens and other low-impact development strategies to slow down floodwaters and promote groundwater infiltration, especially in vulnerable communities with fewer economic resources to move out of flood-prone areas.
- Prioritize hazardous material cleanup along the coast and in high flood risk areas to reduce contamination due to flooding.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [UC Santa Barbara, California Coastal Adaptation Planning Inventory Storymap \(2022\)](#)
2. [California Coastal Dune Science Network](#)
3. [SCAG Climate Equity Compendium \(2023\)](#)
4. [Sea Level Rise Organization](#)
5. [UC Santa Barbara, Ocean and Coastal Policy Center: Climate Change and Coastal Resilience](#)

### **ADOPT WILDFIRE RESILIENCY STRATEGIES**

- Create a needs assessment for areas that do not have an established evacuation route, wildfire resiliency strategies, wildfire response strategies, and lack of fire safety infrastructure
- Design fire-safe roadways and evacuation routes for communities, neighborhoods, and urban areas especially in areas with vulnerable populations

- Distribute information and alerts through social media by ensuring that residents have access to the local jurisdiction's page and post timely updates during wildfires or about wildfire preparedness
- Provide residents, especially those with mobility needs or with limited access to mobility services, with various modes of emergency transportation services in the event of an evacuation.
- Provide residents emergency preparedness education and resources such as first-aid kits, radios, flashlights, emergency blankets and rations, especially for vulnerable communities.
- Host education sessions in community hubs at libraries, schools and faith-based locations.
- Develop defensible spaces by using vegetation such as grass, trees and shrubs as buffers between residential areas and buildings.
- Research and install fuel breaks as a wildfire suppression method (installed fuel breaks are designated areas with a reduced fuel load that create a barrier to prevent fire spread).
- Conduct prescribed burning in wildfire hazard areas and routinely clear fallen trees.
- Restore previously burned land to ensure that dried and burnt areas do not contribute to potential wildfires.
- Create a wildfire home-hardening program to retrofit homes with fire-resistant materials, especially in low-income communities and communities of color that with limited access to such programs or funding.
- Develop sustainable microgrids to operate during and after wildfire-caused power outages to ensure emergency facilities and neighborhoods can still operate.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [Forest Management Task Force, California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan \(2021\)](#)
2. [City of San Diego, Climate Resilient SD Plan](#)

### **ADOPT SEISMIC RESILIENCY STRATEGIES**

- Conduct a seismic risk of city assets and management programs to identify infrastructure in need of retrofitting, replacements, and improvements
- Consider mandatory retrofits for all housing and additional building typologies built pre-1980s.
- Develop new occupancy building codes for new buildings so residents can reoccupy buildings more quickly following an earthquake.
- Explore funding opportunities to offset the cost of seismic retrofitting, structural reinforcements and bolting for existing buildings.
- Fortify water pipe systems by working with engineering, sanitation, gas companies and other agencies to plan for resilient and updated pipeline infrastructure in the event of an earthquake.
- Protect water storage by ensuring dams are safely maintained and conducting regular evaluations of seismic safety for dams, inundation maps and reservoirs.
- Use social media, publications and community events to educate vulnerable communities, specifically those who live near or on fault lines, about the importance of preparing for an earthquake.. Consider distributing educational resources and hosting informational sessions at community hubs such as schools, libraries, and faith-based locations.
- Incorporate the use of social media to alert residents of seismic activities and locations of emergency shelters.
- Provide funding for reconstruction and rebuilding infrastructure especially for housing after an earthquake.
- Establish support services such as telecommunications, first aid, temporary shelter, food supplies, search parties, insurance inquiries and hygiene necessities for individuals displaced due to earthquake damage.

## Resources and Examples:

1. [State of California Seismic Safety Commission, Guide to Identify and Manage Seismic Risks of Buildings for Local Governments \(2020\)](#)
2. [California Earthquake Authority Strategic Plan \(2017-2018\)](#)
3. [City of Los Angeles, Resilient Los Angeles \(2018\)](#)

### 3.2. AIR POLLUTION IMPACTS

#### ADDRESS AIR QUALITY AND AIR POLLUTION EXPOSURE IMPACTS

- Identify and assess existing air quality conditions for vulnerable communities and exposure risks by using tools, such as the California Air Resources Board's Pollution Mapping Tool, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Toxic Release Inventory and CalEnviroScreen, to develop appropriate strategies to combat adverse impacts from air pollution.
- Adopt policies that reduce air pollution exposure and create monitoring systems or requirements to ensure residents are aware of pollution exposure, specifically in vulnerable communities.
- Partner with local air districts, community organizations, local governments, housing organizations, legal services centers, lead poisoning prevention and environmental justice organizations to conduct outreach to residents and gather input to establish mitigation monitoring programs. Consider hosting information sessions for vulnerable communities to provide education on the effects of air pollution such as high asthma rates, respiratory diseases and cardiovascular diseases
- Adopt ordinances that ameliorate or remove existing sources of pollution from communities (e.g., an amortization ordinance). Such ordinances can authorize a process for public agencies to remove polluting land uses from a community.
- Partner with co-regulators to enhance lead paint enforcement in areas with vulnerable communities so that these partnerships can improve the potential for state or tribal authorization of lead activities and renovation, repair, or painting rules and for building capacity of local jurisdictions to reduce lead exposures (see resource #5).
- Prioritize investigations and inspection of tips and complaints of violations in vulnerable communities and toxic dwellings. Make sure to prioritize investigations of authorities most applicable to rental properties and to include local health departments and code enforcement authorities in the investigation processes.
- Create and participate in lead paint hazard abatement projects in vulnerable communities (see resource #6).

## Resources and Examples:

1. [Assembly Bill 617](#)
2. [CARB, Community Air Protection Program \(CAPP\)](#)
3. [CARB, Map for Local Air District Websites](#)
4. [EPA, Environmental Justice Toolkit for Lead Paint Enforcement Programs \(2023\)](#)
5. [EPA, Lead-Based Abatement and Evaluation Program Overview](#)
6. [Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods Air Monitoring Network, Imperial County-Community Air Quality Monitors](#)
7. [County of San Diego, Westside Specific Plan](#)
8. [South Coast Air Quality Management District, Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning \(2005\)](#)
9. [Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, Air Monitoring Network Report \(2017\)](#)

## DEVELOP INFRASTRUCTURE TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

- Devise strategies to reduce vehicle emissions such as traffic signal synchronization and speed limit reduction on high-speed roadways.
- Increase and install vegetation such as trees, shrubs and forests for air particulate matter dispersion.
- Adjust building heights to some structures to create differential heights and effective building breadth ratio that will support vehicle emission dispersion and reduce pollution levels (see resource #2).
- Provide effective distances between highly traveled corridors or roadways and sensitive land uses such as sound walls or landscaping.
- Encourage that all new access roads, driveways and parking areas serving new commercial and industrial development be constructed with materials that minimize particulate emissions and are appropriate to the scale and intensity of the use.
- Require construction of new buildings to provide healthier indoor air quality with indoor high-efficiency filtration systems.
- Reduce exposure to air pollution in essential facilities like schools, hospitals, daycares and workplace settings by upgrading filtration systems, locating air intakes away from pollution sources and providing training on indoor air quality ventilation.
- Avoid strenuous activities, such as long periods of physical activity, during peak traffic times.
- Improve site layout, such as by locating classrooms, hospital beds, outside dining areas, playgrounds, open spaces and gardens farther from roadways.
- Install solid or vegetative barriers.

### Resources and Examples:

1. [CARB, Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective \(2005\)](#)
2. [CARB, Strategies to Reduce Air Pollution Exposure Near High-Volume Roadways](#)
3. [California Department of Education, Indoor Air Quality – A Guide for Educators](#)

## INTEGRATE ADOPTABLE MEASURES FROM CARB

- Require clean fuels and reduce fossil-fuel dependency.
- Pursue near-term advanced technology demonstration and deployment.
- Pursue long-term advanced technology measures.
- Conduct corridor-level analysis for proposed projects in areas where air quality impacts may be concentrated among climate vulnerable communities.
- Participate in statewide and regional discussions to balance multiple policy objectives affecting air quality and the siting of transit-oriented development.

### Resources and Examples:

1. [Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, Carl Moyer Grant Program](#)
2. [San Diego County Policy, Reduce Vehicular Trips While Maintaining Community Character \(page 312\)](#)
3. [San Joaquin Valley APCD, Community Engagement and Protection](#)
4. [Chula Vista Policy, Provide Developer Incentives for Air Pollution Reduction \(page 331\)](#)

## 3.3. LAND STEWARDSHIP

- Create and support land stewardship programs to increase agricultural and economic viability and to help local farmers in need of land support and to preserve sacred, cultural, and historical sites significant to Indigenous communities

- Identify existing land uses to determine the feasibility of converting existing land uses to a project-specific use or agricultural land use.
- Develop measures to reduce the impact the land stewardship would have on existing agricultural lands and nearby habitats, prioritizing to appropriate public lands and existing conservation lands.
- Implement good neighbor policies, such as buffer zones; develop compensation funds to protect landowners from endangered species liabilities and manage project lands to avoid impacts.
- Consider designing the project to optimize the use of all contiguous parcels for farming or co-stewardship for Indigenous communities
- Design projects to allow continual farming after project completion and provide alternative access routes, drainage and irrigation if existing access will be affected by project.
- Consult with Indigenous communities and tribal governments before designating land stewardship at the earliest phases of the planning and decision-making to provide an opportunity for tribes to shape the direction of land management activities.
- Ensure Indigenous communities and local farmers are included in the development process of land stewardship programs and establish consultations with existing Indigenous communities and farmers to protect the environmental quality of land.
- Develop land stewardship help centers to provide technical assistance and guidance for applicants on creating a conservation plan and implementing practices and policies.

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [California Department of Water Resources, Agriculture and Land Stewardship Framework and Strategies](#)
2. [California Landscape Stewardship Network](#)
3. [Agriculture and Land Stewardship Framework and Strategies \(2018\)](#)
4. [First Nations Development Institute, Recognition and Support of Indigenous California Land Stewards, Practitioners of Kincentric Ecology Report \(2020\)](#)
5. [Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District, Sustainable Planning and Land Stewardship Efforts](#)
6. [County of San Bernardino, Land Stewardship Special Districts](#)

### 3.4. NOISE IMPACTS

- Conduct project-specific noise evaluation and identify project design features that can reduce noise impacts
- Install sound walls, berms, quieter pavements, walls and fence, thick plantings of trees and shrubs for noise reduction when needed
- Incorporate noise compatibility planning in land uses such as restrictions on developments adjacent to freeways and active streets
- Construct roadways, where appropriate and feasible, so that they are depressed below-grade of the existing sensitive land uses to create an effective barrier between the roadway and sensitive receptors.
- Encourage road diets and other strategies to reduce vehicle speeds on roads to minimize auto noise impacts
- Consider noise reduction measures like increased setbacks as development standards, soundwalls, and landscaped berms along freeways or highly travelled corridors
- Research and apply innovative strategies like quiet pavements to reduce noise pollution

#### Resources and Examples:

1. [U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, The Audible Landscape: A Manual for Highway Noise and Land Use](#)

2. [Caltrans, Quieter Pavement Research Plan](#)
3. [City of Irvine, Noise Evaluation](#)
4. [City of Jurupa Valley General Plan, Minimize Mixed Uses Noise Transfer](#)

## 4. ECONOMY

### Relevant General Plan Elements

● *Land Use*   ● *Economic Development*

Impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, including job losses, business closures and financial strain, highlighted the importance of protecting and improving economic resilience, especially for the disadvantaged and most at-risk residents in the SCAG region. Equity requires new approaches and strategies that address social and environmental factors influencing the economy. The Economy section of this toolkit provides recommended practices and approaches around job training, protecting small businesses and workers, building commercial districts and implementing road pricing, to address economic disparities and inequities brought on by systemic factors, market fluctuations and socioeconomic imbalances that directly impact vulnerable communities.

### 4.1. JOB TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Support job training, placement and transitional programs for groups and individuals that face barriers to employment, such as individuals with prior justice system involvement, low-income communities, communities of color, people with disabilities, undocumented workers and youth in foster care systems.
- Establish local hire policies that encourage or require hiring residents and local businesses.
- Host vocational training programs at high schools and community colleges to help people obtain skills to qualify for higher paying jobs.
- Create resources and advanced skills training opportunities for new internships, work programs and jobs that take advantage of changing times and emerging and innovative technologies.
- Provide culturally relevant and diverse training for educational and service industry workers.
- Create a multilingual language access team to provide translation services for workplaces that hire and engage with multilingual employees and consumers and compensate these teams fairly for their services.
- Explore new approaches to workload balance and provide benefits for multilingual employees asked to apply their special skills to tasks beyond their job requirements.
- Host training courses, forums and discussions with staff focused on creating a workplace sensitive and flexible to the needs of employees, particularly people with disabilities.
- Explore options to coordinate community development with workforce development and recruitment in areas with high rates of unemployment, lack of access to education and populations with persons affected by the justice system.
- Research and implement ways to create a safe environment when conducting job fairs, training programs, information sessions and workshops by including community representatives, language interpreters and translators.

Resources and Examples:

1. [Alhambra Unified School District, Early College Program](#)
2. [City of Santa Ana, CaliforniaForAll Youth Employment Program](#)
3. [Orange Regional and Local Plans PY \(2017-2021\) – Two Year Modifications](#)
4. [San Bernardino and Riverside County Workforce Development Boards, New Hope Prison to Employment Service](#)
5. [City of Long Beach, Blueprint for Economic Development: Creating Economic Opportunities for Workers, Investors, and Entrepreneurs](#)

6. [City of Santa Ana, General Plan Economic Development](#)
7. [Seattle 2035: Comprehensive Plan Managing Growth to Become an Equitable and Sustainable City 2015-2035](#)

## 4.2. SMALL BUSINESSES

- Conduct a local business needs assessment to assess workforce needs and requirements and economic and regulatory barriers.
- Implement strategies that expand access to public sector contracts and local supply chains for small businesses and women- and people of color-owned businesses.
- Support local and small businesses by practicing anti-displacement methods such as designating neighborhood service zones, limiting or prohibiting formula businesses and retail chains, encouraging affordable rents and capping lease increases for small businesses.
- Preserve local and small businesses with funding programs and historical nominations to foster cultural identities within the community.
- Expedite small business applications and approvals.
- Host start-up and small business mixers and other programming to help small businesses establish connections in the local community.
- Create small business divisions within local jurisdictions to provide guidance and support for potential and current small business owners.
- Seek federal and state funding specifically for small and local businesses, such as construction disruption or business interruption funds, to support local businesses in communities that are seeing new infrastructure investment (see resources #2 and #3).

### Resources and Examples:

1. [SCAG Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy](#)
2. [SCAG Inclusive Contracting Toolkit](#)
3. [City of San Francisco, Office of Small Business](#)
4. [Small Business Anti-Displacement Network](#)
5. [LA Metro, Business Interruption Fund](#)
6. [Los Angeles County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2020-2025 \(2020\)](#)

## 4.3. VULNERABLE WORKERS PROTECTIONS

- Support policies and provide information on how vulnerable workers, such as migrant, seasonal farmworkers, youth and limited English proficiency workers, can access healthcare and career development services.
- Conduct outreach with community cultural representatives that can provide translations and interpretations on local jurisdictions' policies on street vending, labor unions and migrant/farmworker support services.
- Start a street vending certificates program, collaborate with public health departments to streamline the street vending application and verification process and establish protections for street vendors and designated street-vending friendly locations (see resources #4 through #7).
- Coordinate with labor centers in development of emergency response plans that support immigrant workforce during emergencies because immigrant workers are often frontline responders.

### Resources and Examples:

1. [California Employment Development Department, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Outreach Program](#)
2. [California Department of Industrial Relations, DIR/CHSWC Young Workers' Program](#)

3. [California Street Vendors](#)
4. [County of Los Angeles Department of Economic Opportunity, Helping LA County Sidewalk Vendors Start, Growth, and Thrive!](#)
5. [Inclusive Action for the City California Street Vendor Campaign](#)
6. [City of Los Angeles, Streets LA: City of Los Angeles Sidewalk and Park Vendor Permit Program](#)
7. [Los Angeles Public Library, Be A Successful Street Vendor](#)
8. [Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants](#)
9. [National Day Laborer Organizing Network, Desde Abajo Labor Enforcement \(DALE\) Campaign](#)

#### 4.4. DOWNTOWNS AND COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

- Support downtown areas with clean, safe and walkable environments to attract more business owners and visitors with professional services, retailers, technology companies, cultural, historic, entertainment, tourist and convention hubs.
- Designate and support business improvement districts to create environments ripe for marketing, commerce, retail and economic development.
- Adopt policies that encourage local procurement businesses, such as grocery stores with locally sourced products and personal services within downtown areas.
- Incentivize small and local business owners to operate within downtown areas.
- Consider alternative street and parking schemes in downtown areas to encourage more foot traffic and economic activity and fund infrastructure investment in the immediate area.

##### Resources and Examples:

1. [City of Alhambra, Alhambra Place Specific Plan](#)
2. [City of Glendale, Downtown Specific Plan](#)
3. [City of Ontario, Merrill Commerce Center](#)
4. [City of Pasadena, Central District Plan](#)
5. [City of San Francisco, Vacant to Vibrant Program](#)

#### 4.5. ROAD PRICING PROGRAMS

- Engage and involve diverse parties such as businesses, truck drivers, residents and environmental and community-based organizations when developing and evaluating road pricing programs.
- Incorporate equity considerations across all income groups and communities during the development of road pricing programs.
- Incorporate program design and reinvestment strategies suggested in Part III of the Mobility Innovations and Pricing Report to minimize negative impacts on vulnerable communities (see resource #3).

##### Resources and Examples:

1. [AB 3059, Implementation of Go Zone Demonstration Programs](#)
2. [SCAG, Mobility Go Zone & Pricing Feasibility Study Report](#)
3. [SCAG, Mobility Innovations and Pricing: An Initiative to Elevate Equity in Planning \(2022\)](#)
4. [LA Metro, Traffic Reduction Study](#)
5. [UCLA Institute of Transportation Studies, Congestion Pricing for Climate Capacity, or Communities? Measuring the Environmental Justice Impacts of Congestion Pricing Los Angeles Report \(page 52\)](#)
6. [TransForm, Pricing Roads, Advancing Equity Report \(2019\)](#)



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