

Draft Amendments: Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles

A Health, Wellness, and Equity Element of the General Plan

Adopted March 2015, Amended date TBD
CPC-2014-371-GPA, CPC-2021-5499-GPA

Summary of Proposed Amendments

The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles was adopted in March 2015, one year before California adopted Senate Bill (SB) 1000 which requires jurisdictions with “disadvantaged communities” to include an environmental justice element, or related goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements, in the general plan.

Targeted amendments to the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles are proposed to clarify that the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles and the Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles meet the requirements of the State law. Edits to the Plan are intended to update maps and include updated references.

Only the sections with proposed changes are included in this Summary of Proposed Amendments document. The full text of the adopted Plan for a Health Los Angeles can be found at: <https://planning.lacity.org/plan-healthy-los-angeles>.

Proposed text of the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles is as follows:

Chapter: Introduction

Introduction

[Amend Paragraph 1 to be:]

The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles lays the foundation to create healthier communities for all Angelenos. As an Element of the General Plan, it provides high-level policy vision, along with measurable objectives and implementation programs, to elevate health as a priority for the City's future growth and development. It is also the primary location of environmental justice goals, policies, and implementation programs in the General Plan. Through a new focus on public health from the perspective of the built environment and City services, the City of Los Angeles will strive to achieve better health and social equity through its programs, policies, plans, budgeting, and community engagement.

Background: Health and Planning

[Amend Paragraphs 2-3 to be:]

Public health and planning experts are increasingly focused on the importance of neighborhoods in addressing the nation's most chronic health conditions. Conventional planning practices that separate housing from other land uses are rooted in early 20th century efforts to address public health concerns over noxious industrial uses, and unsanitary and crowded housing conditions. These land use and zoning practices often resulted in sprawled, low-density communities that require a private vehicle for transportation.

Simultaneously, in some communities these separations between housing and industry were not created, not adequately maintained, or have proved insufficient over time. The resulting exposure to pollution is not distributed equally across the city, but disproportionately affects low-income communities and communities of color.

Now, public health research is pointing to both of these scenarios as contributing factors to the health problems of the 21st century, emphasizing the importance of planners' consideration of health and social wellbeing.

Health Outcomes in Los Angeles

[Amend Paragraph 2 to be:]

The development of a Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles provided a data-driven backbone summarizing key health issues and outcomes in Los Angeles. The Health Atlas was used to inform the policies and goals in the Plan and helped direct the project's outreach efforts to the communities facing the most adverse health outcomes. Data referenced throughout the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles is from the Health Atlas created in 2013. Updates to the Health Atlas using new data will be published periodically as described in the General Plan section of this chapter, below.

General Plan for the City of Los Angeles

[Amend this section and its subsections to be:]

As an Element of the General Plan, the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles builds on and complements current policies in the General Plan. Many topics that residents raised during the outreach process, such as access to open space, healthy housing, active transportation, public safety and clean air, are addressed in existing policies throughout the General Plan. To avoid creating internal redundancies between distinct General Plan Elements, the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles will focus on topic areas not previously included in the General Plan. Existing policies were reviewed to identify and highlight those that contribute to the City's health goals. The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles creates new policies and programs to address policy gaps, particularly in instances where existing policies don't include health-driven goals or created unintended health inequities. In particular, the Plan provides new policy direction on emerging areas of urban health, including food access, workforce development, equity, environmental justice, and climate change, among others.

What is the General Plan?

California State Law requires that cities prepare and adopt a comprehensive, integrated, long-term General Plan to direct future growth and development. The General Plan is a fundamental policy document. It defines how the City should use and manage its physical and economic resources over time. Decisions over land use, infrastructure, building and open space design, the provision and conservation of housing, support for public and human services, and emergency preparedness must all be consistent with policies that are outlined in the General Plan. The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles provides a framework for health to be a more deliberate consideration in City decision-making. State law requires eight topics, or "Elements" to be addressed by the General Plan: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, safety, and

environmental justice. The City has additional Elements that influence health, such as the Air Quality and Framework Elements, which provide further guidance on important development issues.

The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles was originally adopted in 2015, prior to Senate Bill (SB) 1000 in 2016 introducing the State requirement for cities and counties with disadvantaged communities to address environmental justice in their general plans. However, the Plan is well-aligned with the intent of SB 1000 and satisfies the State requirements to address environmental justice in the General Plan. The Plan includes the policies and maps required for compliance with Environmental Justice legislation, including: identifying disadvantaged communities (alternatively referred to as vulnerable communities), air and water quality, public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, physical activity, health risks, civic engagement, and prioritizing disadvantaged communities. The Plan also includes a Health Atlas, composed of 115 maps that display social and demographic factors, food and transportation access, and a hardship index among other data sets. The Health Atlas also includes specific information about communities considered vulnerable or disadvantaged. A detailed summary of how the City's existing General Plan addresses environmental justice consistent with State law requirements and tailored to meet the needs of the local community and local context is included in Appendix 3.

Framework Element

The General Plan's guiding document is the Framework Element, which provides a strategy for long-range growth and development focused around the following guiding principles: economic opportunity, equity, environmental quality, strategic investment, clear and consistent rules, and effective implementation. These principles provide direction around topics such as Land Use, Housing, Economic Development and Transportation, among others, that are further developed in related Elements in the General Plan. The Framework Element establishes the big-picture goals and policies that are then further refined in other planning documents such as community plans and implemented by the zoning code.

The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, a Health, Wellness, and Equity Element

The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles is an Element of the General Plan, first adopted in 2015, that elevates health as a priority and complements existing General Plan policies. The City has several health-oriented policies throughout the General Plan; please see Appendix 2 for further details. For example, the 2021-2029 Housing Element and the Mobility Element (Mobility Plan 2035) each have a strong public health focus centered

around promoting sustainability and increasing access to active transportation and healthy housing. The Framework Element establishes several health-promoting principles, such as equity and environmental justice, offering a vision for health that provides a policy foundation for the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles.

The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles elevates health as a priority in the city's future growth and development by recognizing existing health-driven policies and charting a roadmap to respond to urban health issues that were previously missing from the General Plan. The Plan provides a platform for the City to consider the effects of future decisions on growth and development, as well as encourage departments to prioritize health in decisions about funding and services. The Plan offers an opportunity to focus attention on efforts that increase access to good health.

Implementing the Plan's policies requires collaboration beyond City government. Community organizations and residents have played a key role in the development of the Plan's goals and policies, and their participation will be instrumental as funding becomes available to implement the Plan. The Plan includes aspirational policies that are supportive of the innovative work that is already happening across communities in Los Angeles, making it possible for both the City and community groups to apply for funding to support implementation. The stated commitment to health and wellness also increases opportunities for funding from outside government agencies and philanthropic groups that want to support innovative programs.

Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles

The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles includes the Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles, which was first created in 2013 to provide a data-driven snapshot of health issues and outcomes in Los Angeles. The Health Atlas was used to inform the policies and goals in the Plan and helped direct the project's outreach efforts to the communities facing the most adverse health outcomes.

The 2013 Health Atlas contains 115 maps covering regional context, demographic and social characteristics, economic conditions, education, health conditions, land use, transportation, food systems, crime, housing, and environmental health. In addition to displaying Census Bureau, City, County, and additional data, the Health Atlas contains a number of indices to facilitate comparisons across the city on a number of subjects including environmental hazards (Map 113: Pollution Burden Index), transportation quality (Map 84, Transportation Index), and economic conditions (Map 19: Hardship Index). The Health Atlas culminates in a Community Health and Equity Index (Maps 114

and 115) which combines many of the above variables into a single index to compare health conditions across the City of Los Angeles. The Community Health and Equity Index can be used to understand the areas of the City with the highest vulnerabilities and cumulative burdens as compared to other portions of the City.

The Health Atlas is an informational and analytical tool, and an important supporting document of the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles. The Health Atlas is also an important tool for tracking progress over time. However, the Health Atlas maps are not designatory or regulatory. The Plan recognizes the Health Atlas is most useful when updated regularly, and therefore the Health Atlas does not require a General Plan amendment in order to be updated or modified.

The Plan's Implementation Program P59: Healthy City Data Tracking directs the Department of City Planning to "prepare an updated Health Atlas Report in five and ten years from Plan adoption to evaluate community health and wellbeing." In 2021, City Planning completed the five-year update, identified as the Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles, Volume II.

Environmental Justice

[Amend Paragraph 1 to be:]

Environmental justice is defined in State law as the "fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." The principle of environmental justice ensures equal and equitable protection from environmental and health hazards, while giving people fair and equal access to the planning and decision-making process.¹

[Amend Paragraph 4 to be:]

Equity and environmental justice are important themes in the Framework Element, and will continue to be prominent themes in the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, in alignment with the State requirements to address environmental justice in the City's General Plan.

¹ The full definition of "environmental justice" in California State Law is found in California Government Code §65040.12, subd. (e). The Federal EPA defines environmental justice similarly; the full definition can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/>

Housing and Community Stability

[Amend references to the Housing Element to reflect the content of the draft 2021-2029 Housing Element.]

Mobility

[Amend references to the draft Mobility Plan to reflect the content of the final Mobility Plan 2035 (adopted 2015, amended 2016).]

Chapters 1-7

[In Chapters 1-7, add text references indicating that maps included in the Plan are from the 2013 Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles. Provide references to the 2013 Health Atlas and the 2021 Health Atlas Volume II.]

Chapter 8: Implementation Programs

[Amend Program P60, and add Programs P89 and P90.]

#	ACTION DESCRIPTION	Goal	Time Frame	Responsible Department(s)	Key Partner(s)	Relevant Policies
P60	Measure civic engagement: Increase the variety of stakeholders attending public hearings or otherwise providing consultation in the implementation of the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, with particular attention to participation by historically underserved communities and individuals. In addition, track the number of organizations/entities involved in the implementation of the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles. Use existing networks and meeting spaces, monitor, and leverage institutions to proactively engage communities that score highly on the Health Atlas’s Hardship Index and Community Health and	Leadership	Short-term	Department of City Planning, all City Departments		All

	Equity Index, neighborhood councils, local community groups, and local businesses in the implementation of various initiatives to ensure that local community stakeholders are aware of health programs and can take advantage of them.					
P89	Office of Racial Justice, Equity, and Restorative Planning: Establish an Office of Racial Justice, Equity, and Restorative Planning within City Planning. Develop overarching equity principles, a department-wide mission statement, and messaging that centers racial justice and equity. Ensure City Planning’s internal and external communication reflects principles of racial justice, equity, and restorative planning.	Leadership	Immediate (added 2021)	Department of City Planning		All
P90	Equitable engagement and empowerment: Enhance public participation opportunities for Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) and low-income communities through citywide citizen planner leadership development initiatives. Strengthen the capacity of and empower neighborhood leaders, especially residents from the City’s historically marginalized and disinvested communities, to engage in planning processes and help advance equitable policies that center racial justice.	Leadership	Immediate and ongoing (added 2021)	Department of City Planning		All

Appendix 2: Health-related Policies in the General Plan

[Amend the list of health-related policies found in other General Plan Elements to reflect the City’s current adopted General Plan. Other Elements of the General Plan have been updated since the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles was adopted in 2015, or are in the process of being updated now. Therefore:

- Replace policies from the 2013-2021 Housing Element with relevant policies from the 2021-2029 Housing Element.
- Replace policies from the Transportation Element (adopted 1999) with relevant policies from the Mobility Plan 2035 (adopted 2015, amended 2016).
- Add health-related policies from the Safety Element 2021 Update.]

Appendix 3: Review of Environmental Justice Requirements and City of Los Angeles General Plan

[Add a new Appendix 3, as follows:]

In 2021, Los Angeles City Planning undertook updates to the City’s Housing Element and Safety Element. In accordance with State law, this concurrent update of two General Plan Elements prompted review of the environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives contained in the General Plan for compliance with State law (SB 1000, adopted 2016).²

The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, originally adopted in 2015, is the City’s Health, Wellness, and Equity Element. It serves as the primary location of environmental justice goals, objectives, policies, and implementation programs in the City’s General Plan. Additional environmental justice policies are located in the Framework Element, Housing Element, Mobility Element, Air Quality Element, Open Space Element, as well as

² California Government Code Section 65302(h), commonly referred to as Senate Bill (SB) 1000.

Community Plans. The Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles, which is included in the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, maps indicators and determinants of health, and can be used to understand the areas of the City with the highest vulnerabilities and cumulative burdens as compared to other portions of the City.

In 2021, LA City Planning contracted with a consultant, AECOM, to independently evaluate the environmental justice goals, objectives, policies, and implementation programs contained in the City's General Plan for compliance with SB 1000. AECOM produced the following memo, which provides an overview of how the City's existing General Plan addresses environmental justice consistent with State law requirements and tailored to meet the needs of the local community and local context. Based on recommendations in the memo, targeted updates to the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles were made in 2021. The updates clarify that the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles and the Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles meet the requirements of the State law.

ATTACHED MEMO: Review of SB 1000 Requirements and the Existing City of Los Angeles General Plan, dated May 26, 2021.

To:	Conni Pallini-Tipton and Ari Briski (City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning)	
From:	Matthew Gerken, Susan Ambrosini, and Wendy Copeland (AECOM)	
Date:	May 26, 2021	
Subject:	Review of SB 1000 Requirements and the Existing City of Los Angeles General Plan	

Introduction

AECOM has been retained to assist the City of Los Angeles with an update to the Safety Element, including State law requirements for the Safety Element itself, as well as State law requirements for updating the Safety Element that are triggered by a Housing Element update and triggered by the update to two or more elements simultaneously.

In this Memo, we focus on SB 1000, which requires cities and counties with disadvantaged communities to “adopt or review the environmental justice element, or the environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives in other elements, upon the adoption or next revision of two or more elements concurrently on or after January 1, 2018.” Low-income communities and communities of color often bear a disproportionate burden of pollution and associated health risks. A focus on environmental justice seeks to correct this inequity by reducing the pollution experienced by these communities and ensuring their input is considered in decisions that affect them. "Environmental justice" is defined in California law as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. (Government Code Section 65040.12[e]).

The City of Los Angeles adopted the Plan for A Healthy Los Angeles as a Health and Wellness Element of the General Plan in 2015. This Element includes many of the policies and maps required for compliance with Environmental Justice legislation (SB 1000), including: identifying disadvantaged communities, air and water quality, public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, physical activity, health risks, civic engagement and prioritizing disadvantaged communities. The Element also includes a Health Atlas, comprised of 115 maps that display social, demographic, food and transportation access, and a hardship index among other data sets. The Atlas also includes specific information about communities considered vulnerable or disadvantaged.¹ In 2020, City Planning began the update to the Health Atlas.

As acknowledged by the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, environmental justice is also addressed as a part of other General Plan Elements, such as the Framework Element, Mobility Element, Housing Element, and in each of the City’s Community Plans, which collectively serve as the Land Use Element of the General Plan.

This Memo provides an overview of how the City’s existing General Plan addresses environmental justice consistent with State law requirements and tailored to meet the needs of the local community and local context.

Summary of SB 1000

SB 1000 requires cities and counties with disadvantaged communities to address environmental justice in their general plans. Following the passage of SB 1000, the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research has published recommendations for addressing environmental justice in the general plan in a revised section of the

¹ For more detail, please see: https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/04a6a47b-9269-4773-a3ae-55f110b7d1e8/Health_Atlas.pdf.

General Plan Guidelines.² Per Government Code Section 65040.12(e), environmental justice is “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” Environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives must aim to reduce health risks to disadvantaged communities, promote civil engagement, and prioritize the needs of disadvantaged communities. California law further establishes that environmental justice includes (Government Code Section 65040.12[e][2]):

- (1) the availability of a healthy environment for all people;
- (2) the deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for communities disproportionately experiencing the adverse effects of that pollution;
- (3) governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to communities most impacted by pollution to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decision-making process; and
- (4) at a minimum, the meaningful consideration of recommendations from communities most impacted by pollution into environmental and land use decisions.

As noted, for the City, environmental justice is primarily addressed in the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, although, as noted in this Plan, these topics are also addressed by the Framework Element, the Air Quality Element, the Housing Element, the Open Space Element, the Service Systems Element, the Mobility Element, and the City’s Community Plans, which collectively serve as the Land Use Element of the General Plan.³

Overall Compliance with SB 1000

The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles addresses topics required by Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(A-C). Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(A) is addressed by:

- Los Angeles, a Leader in Health and Equity policies, pages 26-32;
- An Environment Where Life Thrives policies, pages 88-94;
- Food that Nourishes the Body, Soul, and Environment policies, pages 73-80; and
- A City Built for Health policies, pages 41-48.

Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(B) is addressed by: A City Built for Health Policy 2.1, Access to goods and services.

Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(C) is addressed by:

- A City Built for Health policies, pages 41-48;
- Bountiful Parks and Open Space policies, pages 57-64;
- Food that Nourishes the Body, Soul, and Environment policies, pages 73-80; and
- Lifelong Opportunities for Learning and Prosperity policies, pages 100-106.

The City’s General Plan Framework Element, Air Quality Element, Housing Element, Open Space Element, and the Land Use Element (Community Plans) also address environmental justice topics included in State law.

² For more detail, please see: <https://opr.ca.gov/news/2020/06-24.html>.

³ The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles was adopted in March of 2015, when the Mobility Element was known as the “Transportation Element.” The current Mobility Element was adopted 2015 and amended in 2016.

Identifying Disadvantaged Communities

The first step in the environmental justice process required by SB 1000 is identifying whether or not a disadvantaged community is present. Disadvantaged communities are either:

- identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency according to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code,⁴ or
- are defined as an area with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income, or below the designated threshold defining a low-income area, and are “disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation” (Government Code Section 65302[h][4][A]).

Compliant: The City has identified and thoroughly analyzed the disparities and needs of its disadvantaged communities in the publication titled Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles (City of Los Angeles 2013). City staff are currently developing an updated version of the Health Atlas with the most recent available data from the American Community Survey and other data sources.

Air Quality and Pollution Exposure

Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(A) requires the identification of objectives and policies to reduce health risks in disadvantaged communities by reducing exposure to pollution and improving air quality.

Compliant: The Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles identifies the background needs and disparities in disadvantaged communities related to pollution and air quality. The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, Chapter 5, discusses air quality issues, and provides implementation programs, objectives, and policies designed to reduce pollutant exposure and improve air quality.

The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles also addresses water quality starting in the Vision of Health. Chapter 2 indicates that the City will provide access to safe, free drinking water in public spaces. Chapter 5 includes an objective to reduce the disparity in environmental effects among zip codes, including impaired water bodies and groundwater pollution, and provides mapping of these and other environmental effects. Chapter 5 also commits the City to collaboration with other partners to remediate brownfields sites and increase resiliency related to reduced water supply in the city’s most underserved neighborhoods (see also Implementation Program P40 and P52).

The existing City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework Element, Air Quality Element, and Housing Element contain policies designed to reduce pollutant exposure and improve air quality. These policies are listed in Appendix 2 of the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles.

Public Facilities

Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(A) requires the identification of objectives and policies to promote public facilities in disadvantaged communities. This includes public services and community amenities such as community centers, libraries, public transit, parks and recreation facilities, and safe drinking water and wastewater services. Public facilities may also include active transportation infrastructure, flood control and water drainage, health care services such as hospitals and health clinics, broadband or internet access, and facilities and programs to improve disaster preparedness and recovery capacity.

⁴ CalEnviroScreen is the tool developed by the State to identify disadvantaged communities. CalEnviroScreen identifies communities with multiple sources of pollution, and that are most vulnerable to impacts from this pollution, taking into account socioeconomic status and health conditions of the people living in these communities.

Compliant: The Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles identifies the background needs and disparities in disadvantaged communities related to public facilities. The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles provides implementation programs, objectives, and policies related to facilities throughout the Plan. The existing City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework Element, Housing Element, Open Space Element, Service Systems Element, and Mobility Elements contain policies designed to provide facilities for disadvantaged communities (as listed throughout Appendix 2 of the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles).

Food Access

Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(A) requires the identification of objectives and policies to promote access to food in disadvantaged communities.⁵

Compliant: The Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles identifies the needs of, and disparities in disadvantaged communities related to food access. The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, Chapter 4, provides implementation programs, objectives, and policies related to food access. The existing City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework Element contains policies designed to provide food access (e.g., community gardens, farmer's markets), which are listed in Appendix 2 of the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles. Many of the City's Community Plans also include policies intended to facilitate and encourage farmers markets and community gardens.

Safe and Sanitary Homes

Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(A) requires the identification of objectives and policies to promote safe and sanitary homes in disadvantaged communities.

Compliant: Individuals who experience unique or compounding health risks may face multiple, inter-related barriers to accessing safe, stable, and affordable housing. The General Plan Housing Element includes policies to promote positive health outcomes and meet housing needs with a focus on lower-income and special needs households. The Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles identifies the needs of, and disparities in disadvantaged communities related to housing. The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, Chapters 2, 7, and 8 provide implementation programs, objectives, and policies related to housing, health, and safety. The existing City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework Element and Housing Element contain policies designed to promote an appropriate housing mix along with affordable housing. These policies are listed in Appendix 2 of the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles.

Physical Activity

Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(A) requires the identification of objectives and policies to promote physical activity in disadvantaged communities.

Compliant: The Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles identifies the needs for, and disparities in disadvantaged communities related to parks and recreational opportunities and access. The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, Chapter 3, provides implementation programs, objectives, and policies related to parks and recreational opportunities and access. The existing City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework Element, Open Space Element, Service Systems Element, and Mobility Element contain policies designed to promote

⁵ Research has shown low-income neighborhoods and communities of color are more likely to have limited access to healthy and affordable foods. Although individuals make food choices, those choices are made within the context of what is accessible, affordable, or available. Increasing access to healthy foods can occur through zoning, streamlining project approvals for opening grocery stores in underserved areas, providing policies to increase access to farmer's markets, promoting community gardens and small-scale urban farms, working with local convenience stores to increase affordable fresh produce selection, and establishing food procurement policies. Improving access to locally grown food can help reduce trip generation, promote locally sourced food, and support mixed use for food retail, farmers markets, and other food stores.

recreational opportunities and are listed in Appendix 2 of the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles. The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, in Chapter 2, and the Mobility Element both include policies designed to promote active transportation⁶, which is highlighted in the OPR General Plan Guidelines, along with access to park space and recreational opportunities.

Other Health Risks

Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(A) requires the identification of objectives and policies to reduce any unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities not otherwise addressed.

Compliant: The Health Atlas for the City of Los Angeles identifies the background needs and disparities in disadvantaged communities related to education and transportation. The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, Chapters 1, 2, and 6, provides implementation programs, objectives, and policies related to education and transportation. Climate change is addressed throughout all chapters of the plan. The existing City of Los Angeles General Plan Framework Element, Housing Element, and Mobility Element contain policies designed to promote education and transportation that help to reduce compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities. These General Plan policies are listed in Appendix 2 of the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles.

For Consideration: The City may wish to consider whether there are negative effects related to climate change that may be more severe in disadvantaged communities, and whether any policies or implementation programs should be added to the General Plan Elements, such as the Safety Element, and implementing programs such as the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to address any such disproportionate effects. Implementation Program P37 already calls for increased tree planting in areas with the highest heat island vulnerabilities, and this may be the primary climate change impact that may also occur disproportionately in disadvantaged communities, but the City may wish to consider additional policies or programs.

Civic Engagement

Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(B) requires local jurisdictions to identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process in disadvantaged communities.

Compliant: During the drafting and adoption of the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, the City worked to meaningfully engage diverse communities, with over 50 workshops, Council meetings, and events in communities most impacted by health disparities. The Plan was also shaped by a formal Community Advisory Committee, A Technical Advisory Committee, and an Expert Panel.

As noted in Section 2.1 of the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, “[t]he ongoing engagement of community members in identifying desired goods and services will be critical to informing the development and implementation of community plans, the Safe Routes to Schools Strategic Plan, transit neighborhood plans, and economic development initiatives that can incentivize and promote a greater provision of health-promoting amenities, with a special focus in underserved neighborhoods...” Section 3.6 of the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles establishes that the City will “[e]ngage communities and public, private, and nonprofit partners in park stewardship by working collectively to develop, program, and maintain parks and open spaces: target communities with the lowest combination of park access and park standard criteria” and Implementation Program P21 indicates that the City will continue the Los Angeles Public Library’s Citizenship Corners civic engagement program. Implementation Program P60 communicates the City’s intent to expand the diversity of input, measure this diversity of input, leverage the large and diverse participation in the Plan for a Healthy Los

⁶ Active transportation refers to human powered transportation, and low speed electronic assist devices. Examples include but are not limited to bicycles, tricycles, wheelchairs, electric wheelchairs/scooters, skates, and skateboards.

Angeles for future public engagement, and proactively engage the Neighborhood Councils, local community groups and other established groups to expand public engagement.

For Consideration: The City may wish to revise Implementation Program P60 to specifically identify disadvantaged community engagement or include an objective and policy addressing civic engagement in disadvantaged communities.

Prioritize Disadvantaged Communities

Government Code Section 65302(h)(1)(C) requires the identification of objectives and policies to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

Compliant: The Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, Chapter 8 (Implementation Programs), identifies a suite of implementation programs and improvements that focus on the needs of disadvantaged communities, including programs that focus on low-income communities and vulnerable populations related to health education, job training, social services, healthy food access, recreational facilities, displacement, job creation.

For Consideration: The City may wish to document the mechanism that is used to monitor and report progress on environmental justice policies and implementation programs. This could be a new section of the City's annual General Plan (or Housing Element) progress report.

It may not be widely understood that the Health and Wellness Element is the primary Environmental Justice Element of the City of Los Angeles. To help make this clear, the City may wish to revise Chapter 1 to include language explicitly recognizing the Element as the Environmental Justice Element of the General Plan, compliant with the direction established by SB 1000, as well as describe how other Elements of the General Plan address topics related to environmental justice. It may also be helpful to include this Memo as an appendix to the updated Health and Wellness Element for those interested in additional detail on how the Element complies with SB 1000.