

Safety & Security Section

Hazards Element

The massive scale of the county's geography and the complexity of its economy and socioeconomics exposes people, buildings, and facilities to a wide range of natural (wildfires, flooding, geologic activity, and wind) and human-generated hazards (hazardous materials, airports, and noise). Reducing the risks associated with such hazards improves real and perceived senses of safety, providing the county with a higher quality of life and spurring continuous investment and improvement of the county's communities, businesses, and natural areas.

The County is committed to protecting life, property, and commerce from impacts associated with natural hazards, human-generated hazards, and increased risk due to climate change. The County also works to ensure that residents in unincorporated disadvantaged communities have a reduced risk of exposure to pollution and have equitable access to public facilities and services. Effectively reducing these risks requires the County and its partners to evaluate public safety threats, proactively plan and protect against potential hazards, and establish systems that will make the county and its people safer and more self-reliant.

Purpose

The Hazards Element:

- Identifies potential natural and human-generated hazards, including increased risk due to climate change.
- Provides direction to address risks to residents, businesses, workers, and visitors.
- Prioritizes resources and reduce pollution exposure in unincorporated disadvantaged communities.

Principles

We believe:

- A safe environment is necessary to build and maintain a sustainable and prosperous county.
- The County is proactive in lessening risks from natural and human-generated hazards.
- Reduction in the loss of life, injury, private property damage, infrastructure damage, economic losses, and social dislocation can be achieved through planning and preparedness.
- Emergency response and recovery efforts contribute to a resilient county, given unavoidable emergencies and natural disasters.
- Those who live in unincorporated disadvantaged communities should not be burdened with elevated exposure to pollution risks and reduced access to public facilities and services.

Goals & Policies

Goal HZ-1 Natural Environmental Hazards

Minimized risk of injury, loss of life, property damage, and economic and social disruption caused by natural environmental hazards and adaptation to potential changes in climate.

Policy HZ-1.1 **New subdivisions in environmental hazard areas.** We require all lots and parcels created through new subdivisions to have sufficient buildable area outside of the following environmental hazard areas:

- Flood: 100-year flood zone, dam/basin inundation area
- Geologic: Alquist Priolo earthquake fault zone; County-identified fault zone; rockfall/debris-flow hazard area, existing and County-identified landslide area

Policy HZ-1.2 **New development in environmental hazard areas.** We require all new development to be located outside of the environmental hazard areas listed below. For any lot or parcel that does not have sufficient buildable area outside of such hazard areas, we require adequate mitigation, including designs that allow occupants to shelter in place and to have sufficient time to evacuate during times of extreme weather and natural disasters.

- Flood: 100-year flood zone, dam/basin inundation area
- Geologic: Alquist Priolo earthquake fault zone; County-identified fault zone; rockfall/debris-flow hazard area, medium or high liquefaction area (low to high and localized), existing and County-identified landslide area, moderate to high landslide susceptibility area)
- Fire: high or very high fire hazard severity zone

Policy HZ-1.3 **Floodplain mapping.** We require any new lots or subdivisions partially in, and any new development partially or entirely in 100-year flood zones or 100-year flood awareness areas to provide detail floodplain mapping for 100- and 200-year storm events as part of the development approval process.

Policy HZ-1.4 **500-year flood zone.** We may collaborate with property owners in the Valley region to establish funding and financing mechanisms to mitigate flood hazards in identified 500-year flood zones.

Policy HZ-1.5 **Existing properties in environmental hazard areas.** We encourage owners of existing properties in hazard areas to add design features that allow occupants to shelter in place and to have sufficient time to evacuate during times of extreme weather and natural disasters.

Policy HZ-1.6 **Critical and essential facility location.** We require new critical and essential facilities to be located outside of hazard areas, whenever feasible.

Policy HZ-1.7 **Underground utilities.** We require that underground utilities be designed to withstand seismic forces, accommodate ground settlement, and hardened to fire risk.

- Policy HZ-1.8 **Wind erosion hazards.** We require new development in medium-high or high wind erosion hazard areas to minimize the effects of wind-blown soil through building and site design features such as fencing, surface treatment or pavement, attenuation or wind barriers, architectural features, building materials, and drought resistant landscaping.
- Policy HZ-1.9 **Hazard areas maintained as open space.** We minimize risk associated with flood, geologic, and fire hazard zones or areas by encouraging such areas to be preserved and maintained as open space.
- Policy HZ-1.10 **Energy independence.** We encourage new residential development to include rooftop solar energy systems and battery storage systems that can provide backup electrical service during temporary power outages.
- Policy HZ-1.11 **Energy efficiency retrofits.** We encourage owners of existing residential and commercial properties to retrofit the walls, doors, windows, ceilings, roofs, ductwork, and other elements of their building envelopes, in order to improve energy efficiency and better protect occupants from extreme temperatures.
- Policy HZ-1.12 **Local hazard mitigation plan implementation.** We require adherence to the goals, objectives and actions in the Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and subsequent amendments to reduce and mitigate damages from hazards in the county.
- Policy HZ-1.13 **Fire protection planning.** We require that all new development in County-designated Fire Safety Overlay and/or CAL FIRE-designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones meet the requirements of the California Fire Code and the California Building Code as amended by the County Fire Protection District, including Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations fire safety requirements for any new development within State Responsibility Areas, as well as provide and maintain a Fire Protection Plan or Defensible Space/Fuel Modification Plan and other pre-planning measures in accordance with the County Code of Ordinances.
- Policy HZ-1.14 **Long-term fire hazard reduction and abatement.** We require proactive vegetation management/hazard abatement to reduce fire hazards on existing private properties, along roadsides of evacuation routes out of wildfire prone areas, and other private/public land where applicable, and we require new development to enter into a long-term maintenance agreement for vegetation management in defensible space, fuel modification, and roadside fuel reduction in the Fire Safety Overlay and/or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
- Policy HZ-1.15 **Evacuation route adequacy.** We coordinate with CAL FIRE, California's Office of Emergency Services, and other local fire districts to identify strategies that ensure the maintenance and reliability of evacuation routes potentially compromised by wildfire, including emergency evacuation and supply transportation routes.

Goal HZ-2 Human-generated Hazards

People and the natural environment protected from exposure to hazardous materials, excessive noise, and other human-generated hazards.

- Policy HZ-2.1 **Hazardous waste facilities.** We regulate and buffer hazardous waste facilities to protect public health and avoid impacts on the natural environment.
- Policy HZ-2.2 **Database of hazardous materials.** We maintain up-to-date databases of the storage, use, and production of hazardous materials, based on federally- and state-required disclosure and notification, to appropriately respond to potential emergencies.
- Policy HZ-2.3 **Safer alternatives.** We minimize the use of hazardous materials by choosing and by encouraging others to use non-toxic alternatives that do not pose a threat to the environment.
- Policy HZ-2.4 **Truck routes for hazardous materials.** We designate truck routes for the transportation of hazardous materials through unincorporated areas and prohibit routes that pass through residential neighborhoods to the maximum extent feasible.
- Policy HZ-2.5 **Community education.** We engage with residents and businesses to promote safe practices related to the use, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials.
- Policy HZ-2.6 **Coordination with transportation authorities.** We collaborate with airport owners, FAA, Caltrans, SBCTA, SCAG, neighboring jurisdictions, and other transportation providers in the preparation and maintenance of, and updates to transportation-related plans and projects to minimize noise impacts and provide appropriate mitigation measures.
- Policy HZ-2.7 **Truck delivery areas.** We encourage truck delivery areas to be located away from residential properties and require associated noise impacts to be mitigated.
- Policy HZ-2.8 **Proximity to noise generating uses.** We limit or restrict new noise sensitive land uses in proximity to existing conforming noise generating uses and planned industrial areas.
- Policy HZ-2.9 **Control sound at the source.** We prioritize noise mitigation measures that control sound at the source before buffers, soundwalls, and other perimeter measures.
- Policy HZ-2.10 **Agricultural operations.** We require new development adjacent to existing conforming agricultural operations to provide adequate buffers to reduce the exposure of new development to operational noise, odor, and the storage or application of pesticides or other hazardous materials.
- Policy HZ-2.11 **Legacy abandoned mine lands.** We inventory legacy abandoned mines and require private property owners to eliminate hazardous conditions that could threaten human life and environmental contamination. We pursue funding to address legacy abandoned mines on County-owned property.

Goal HZ-3 Environmental Justice

For unincorporated environmental justice focus areas, equitable levels of protection from environmental and health hazards; expanded opportunities for physical activity and meaningful civic engagement; and access to healthy food, public facilities, safe and sanitary housing.

- Policy HZ-3.1 **Health risk assessment.** We require projects processed by the County to provide a health risk assessment when a project could potentially increase the incremental cancer risk by 10 in 1 million or more in unincorporated environmental justice focus areas, and we require such assessments to evaluate impacts of truck traffic from the project to freeways. We establish appropriate mitigation prior to the approval of new construction, rehabilitation, or expansion permits.
- Policy HZ-3.2 **Studying and monitoring.** We coordinate with state and regional regulatory entities to monitor pollution exposure, publicize pollution data, and identify solutions in unincorporated environmental justice focus areas. We work with state and regional regulatory entities to pursue grant funding to study cumulative health risks affecting such areas.
- Policy HZ-3.3 **Community emissions reduction plans.** We assist the air quality management districts in establishing community emissions reduction plans for unincorporated environmental justice focus areas and implement, as feasible, those parts of the plans, that are within the jurisdiction and authority of the County, with particular emphasis in addressing the types of pollution identified in the Hazard Element tables.
- Policy HZ-3.4 **Residential improvements.** In directing discretionary housing improvements investments in unincorporated communities, we encourage and prioritize investments that also address environmental conditions identified in the Hazard Element tables. We utilize code enforcement activities to enhance structural safety and property maintenance in environmental justice focus areas.
- Policy HZ-3.5 **Hazardous waste facilities.** We do not permit new hazardous waste facilities to be developed in unincorporated environmental justice focus areas.
- Policy HZ-3.6 **Contaminated water and soils.** We advocate for and coordinate with local and regional agencies in efforts to remediate or treat contaminated surface water, groundwater, or soils in or affecting unincorporated environmental justice focus areas. We pursue grant funding and establish partnerships to implement the County's Site Remediation Program in unincorporated environmental justice focus areas, with particular emphasis in addressing the types of contamination identified in the Hazard Element tables.
- Policy HZ-3.7 **Well water testing.** In unincorporated environmental justice focus areas that are not served by public water systems, we periodically test well water for contamination, identify potential funding sources, and, where feasible, provide technical assistance to implement necessary improvements, with particular emphasis in addressing the types of contamination identified in the Hazard Element tables.

- Policy HZ-3.8 **Indoor air quality.** We educate and raise awareness in unincorporated environmental justice focus areas about indoor air quality, and we pursue grant funding to address asthma and other respiratory illnesses.
- Policy HZ-3.9 **Public improvements and services.** In directing discretionary investments in County-provided public facilities, infrastructure, and services in unincorporated communities, we prioritize investments that also address environmental conditions identified in the Hazard Element tables.
- Policy HZ-3.10 **Multi-use facilities.** We emphasize coordination efforts for joint use of public and private recreation facilities serving unincorporated environmental justice focus areas. We encourage that newly constructed or substantially remodeled public facilities serving unincorporated environmental justice focus areas be assessed and designed for features and spaces that improve the community’s access to physical activity and/or healthy food options, as feasible and appropriate to the needs of the community.
- Policy HZ-3.11 **Public Health.** We utilize County Department of Public Health experience, expertise, and staffing resources to expand and improve outreach, community engagement, analysis, and implementation efforts in unincorporated environmental justice focus areas, with particular emphasis in addressing the types of health concerns identified in the Hazard Element tables.
- Policy HZ-3.12 **Barriers to physical activity.** We prioritize identification of appropriate remedies to improve and remove, where feasible, barriers to outdoor physical activity, such as inadequate infrastructure, when doing County projects in environmental justice focus areas, with particular emphasis in addressing the types of health and mobility issues identified in the Hazard Element tables.
- Policy HZ-3.13 **Safe routes to school.** We work with our regional transportation authority, school districts and local law enforcement to ensure that schools have safe walking and bicycling routes to school. In applying for Safe Routes to School grants, we will prioritize schools that are either located in the environmental justice focus areas, or serve children residing in environmental justice focus areas.
- Policy HZ-3.14 **Community-desired improvements.** We assist unincorporated environmental justice focus areas to identify ways in which they might establish special funding and financing mechanisms to provide community-desired public facilities and services, recreational facilities, sidewalks and bike trails, and access to fresh and healthy food.
- Policy HZ-3.15 **Food access.** We increase access to healthy food in underserved areas by promoting local food production, community gardens, and urban farms in agricultural zoning districts or on vacant or underutilized lands. We also encourage existing and new small grocery or convenience stores to sell fresh foods in underserved areas. We require the County Healthy Communities Program to prioritize environmental justice communities for technical assistance and grant making, and ensure that residents of environmental justice communities are provided educational materials related to food assistance programs, healthy eating habits and food choices.

- Policy HZ-3.16 **Notification.** We notify the public through the County website, mail, and other means when applications are accepted for conditional use permits, changes in zoning, and Policy Plan amendments in or adjacent to environmental justice focus areas. We prepare public notices in the predominant language(s) spoken in the communities containing environmental justice focus areas.
- Policy HZ-3.17 **Community stakeholders.** We identify and coordinate with key community stakeholders through advisory committees or other methods to increase public awareness and obtain timely community input concerning potential funding opportunities, conditional use permits, changes in zoning, and amendments to the Policy Plan in or adjacent to environmental justice focus areas.
- Policy HZ-3.18 **Application requirements.** In order for a Planning Project Application (excluding Minor Use Permits) to be deemed complete, we require applicants to indicate whether the project is within, adjacent to, or nearby an unincorporated environmental justice focus area and, if so, to:
- document to the County’s satisfaction how an applicant will address environmental justice concerns potentially created by the project; and
 - present a plan to conduct at least two public meetings for nearby residents, businesses, and property owners to obtain public input for applications involving a change in zoning or the Policy Plan. The County will require additional public outreach if the proposed project changes substantively in use, scale, or intensity from the proposed project presented at previous public outreach meeting(s).
- Policy HZ-3.19 **Community education.** We make educational materials available to the public in unincorporated environmental justice focus areas so that they clearly understand the potential for adverse pollution, noise, odor, vibration, and lighting and glare, and the effects of toxic materials to promote civil engagement. We require that such educational materials be developed in accordance with Plain Language Guidelines. We require that this information be made available in public spaces such as libraries and community centers, as well as on County websites and other appropriate means.
- Policy HZ-3.20 **Updating EJFAs.** We update the assessment of boundaries, issues, policies, objectives, and implementation strategies regarding environmental justice focus areas subsequent to updates in CalEnviroScreen, equivalent state tools, or as the County deems necessary.
- Policy HZ-3.21 **Emerging pollutants.** For pollutants that do not yet have established regulatory thresholds, we coordinate with regulatory agencies to assist their efforts to monitor pollutant levels, establish thresholds, and identify funding and mitigation options, particularly for pollutants that are found in environmental justice focus areas.

Tables

The following tables provide more detailed information on the census tracts and community areas considered to be environmental justice focus areas (EJFAs). Table HZ-1 lists the percentile scores and major contributing factors for each EJFA. Tables HZ-2 through HZ-5 provide an expanded discussion of the contributing issues present in each EJFA by topical area, while Table HZ-6 lists high-level objectives for each topic.

Table HZ-1. CalEnviroScreen Scores for Environmental Justice Focus Areas

CES Rankings		Quartile 1 = Good	Quartile 2 = Moderate	Quartile 3 = Poor	Quartile 4 = Challenged	
Variables/Factors in the CES model:						
POLLUTION EXPOSURE		ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS		SENSITIVE POPULATION		SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS
AQ = Air Quality		CS = Toxic Cleanup Sites		AS = Asthma		LI = Linguistic Isolation
PEST = Pesticides		GW: Groundwater Threats		LB = Low Birth Weight		POV = Poverty
DW = Drinking Water		HZ = Hazardous Waste		CVD = Heart Disease		UE = Unemployment
TR = Toxic Releases		IW = Impaired Waters				HB = Housing Burden
TD = Traffic Density		SW = Solid Waste Sites/Facilities				ED = Educational Attainment
LD = Lead from Housing						
Census Tract	Low Income	Percentile and Quartile Rank			Scores in the Upper Quartile	
		Composite Score	Pollution Score	Population Score	Pollution Factors	Population Factors
El Mirage Valley						
6071011700 Oro Grande	Yes	81	72	79	AQ, HZ, SW	LB, POV, UE
6071009117 El Mirage	Yes	89	65	95	AQ, CS, HZ	AS, CVD, ED, POV, UE, HB
North High Desert						
6071011900 Hinkley	No	78	59	83	AQ, CS, GW, HZ	AS, CVD, ED, UE
6071010300 Daggett/ Newberry Springs/Baker	Yes	75	62	77	AQ, DW, CS, GW, HZ, SW	LB, POV, UE
Bloomington-Colton						
6071003606	Yes	77	80	66	AQ, TD, DW	AS, CVD, ED, LI, POV
6071004001	Yes	94	88	89	AQ, TD, DW	AS, CVD, ED, LI, POV, UE
6071004003	Yes	95	91	89	AQ, DW, LD, GW, HZ, SW	AS, LB, CVD, ED
6071004004	Yes	96	99	76	AQ, TD, DW, CS, GW, HZ, SW	AS, LB, CVD, ED
6071003302	Yes	91	95	75	AQ, TR, TD, DW, SW	ED, LI, POV, UE
6071006601	Yes	78	83	65	AQ, TD, LD	AS, CVD

Table HZ-1. CalEnviroScreen Scores for Environmental Justice Focus Areas

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Variables/Factors in the CES model:						
POLLUTION EXPOSURE		ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS		SENSITIVE POPULATION		
AQ = Air Quality		CS = Toxic Cleanup Sites		AS = Asthma		
PEST = Pesticides		GW: Groundwater Threats		LB = Low Birth Weight		
DW = Drinking Water		HZ = Hazardous Waste		CVD = Heart Disease		
TR = Toxic Releases		IW = Impaired Waters		UE = Unemployment		
TD = Traffic Density		SW = Solid Waste Sites/Facilities		HB = Housing Burden		
LD = Lead from Housing				ED = Educational Attainment		
Census Tract	Low Income	Percentile and Quartile Rank			Scores in the Upper Quartile	
		Composite Score	Pollution Score	Population Score	Pollution Factors	Population Factors
Muscoy-San Bernardino						
6071004104	Yes	95	77	99	AQ, LD, CS	AS, LB, CVD, ED, LI, POV, UE, HB
6071004101	Yes	86	63	93	AQ, LD, CS	AS, LB, CVD, ED, POV, UE
6071004103	Yes	92	77	94	AQ, LD, CS	AS, CVD, ED, POV, UE, HB
Valley Unincorporated Islands: Chino-Montclair						
6071000303	Yes	84	91	67	AQ, DW, CS, HZ, SW	ED, LI, POV
6071000304	No	84	78	79	AQ, DW, CS	LB, ED, LI
Valley Unincorporated Islands: Western Fontana						
6071002402	Yes	81	66	83	AQ, HZ	CVD, ED, LI, POV
6071002204	Yes	93	96	77	AQ, TR, CS, HZ, SW	CVD, ED, UE
6071002501	No	91	92	79	AQ, TR, TD, HZ, SW	CVD, ED, POV
6071002401	Yes	84	79	79	AQ, CS, HZ	CVD, ED, LI, POV
Valley Unincorporated Islands: San Bernardino						
6071006302	Yes	83	56	93	AQ, DW, LD	AS, CVD, ED, POV, UE, HB
6071006500	Yes	87	66	93	AQ, LD, CS	CVD, ED, POV, UE, HB
6071006100	Yes	78	48	91	AQ, DW, LD	AS, LB, CVD, HB

Source: OEHHA, CalEnviroScreen, version 4, 2021; latest data available.

Table HZ-2. EJ Assessment in the El Mirage Valley

Topic	Environmental Conditions
Reduction of pollution exposure and improving air quality	<p>Pollution Exposure El Mirage has hazardous waste cleanup sites from past military and aerospace uses, groundwater threats, and a remediated/closed hazardous waste storage facility.</p>
	<p>Air Quality El Mirage and Oro Grande are in the Mojave Air Quality Management District. Like much of southern California, the region has air quality issues. The region does not meet federal standards for ozone and respirable particulate matter (PM10) or state standards for ozone and respirable and fine PM2.5.</p>
Promoting public facilities (including infrastructure and community services)	<p>Water and Sewer El Mirage has limited water infrastructure and relies on private wells that tap into the aquifer. El Mirage is also reliant on septic tanks and leach fields, with no ability to support the installation of a regional wastewater treatment plant due to the extremely low levels of population and density. Groundwater has been known to be vulnerable to contaminants. Oro Grande has sufficient water, but lacks adequate storage, is a high priority basin, and is susceptible to contaminants.</p>
	<p>Fire and Sheriff County Fire Station 311 serves El Mirage and responds in an average of 19 minutes. Station 322 serves Oro Grande at an average response time of 8 minutes due primarily to the extremely low levels of population and density. Police service is provided by the County Sheriff in Victorville and response time is not known.</p>
Promoting health care Infrastructure	<p>Health Needs Health needs for El Mirage and Oro Grande are significant—including a 39% adult obesity (13 points above the state average), 30% of working age adults in fair or poor health (50% higher than state averages), 14% diabetes rate (50% above the state average), and higher asthma rates among adults. Heart disease is also a significant concern in the area.</p>
	<p>Health Care Infrastructure Both El Mirage and Oro Grande are designated a HPSA for mental health and primary care services and is a medically underserved area. Both areas have limited medical infrastructure, and residents must travel some distance to access facilities in other communities</p>

Table HZ-2. EJ Assessment in the El Mirage Valley

Topic	Environmental Conditions
Promoting food access	<p>Food Security</p> <p>The poverty rate in El Mirage and Oro Grande is 30%, which is twice the state average. As a result, food insecurity is similarly high, affecting 16% of low income households, twice the state average. In El Mirage and Oro Grande schools, over 70% of children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.</p>
	<p>Food Access</p> <p>El Mirage has limited grocery outlets, located in a cluster near SR-395 in Adelanto. There are no WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) vendors and only one Cal-Fresh-certified vendor in El Mirage. Due to the general lack of access to nearby stores, El Mirage is designated a food desert. Oro Grande also has limited food options, but is not considered a food desert due to its access to stores in Victorville.</p>
Promoting safe and sanitary housing	<p>Housing</p> <p>As part of the consolidated plan process, residents indicated a need to promote safe and sanitary housing. Although housing is relatively affordable in El Mirage and Oro Grande compared to other areas, concerns remain. Residents mentioned that abandoned homes should be demolished or rehabbed; code enforcement is understaffed; more is needed.</p>
Promoting physical activity	<p>Level of Physical Activity</p> <p>Among youth ages 5 to 17, 26% participated in at least of one hour of physical exercise regularly versus 24% in the county and 21% in the state. For adults, the percentages of adults who walked more than 150 minutes per week was lower in the area versus the county and state averages.</p>
	<p>Opportunities for Physical Activity</p> <p>Recreational outlets include trails and outdoor sports, including opportunities in state and federal parks. The unincorporated areas in the community plan areas have few developed parks. Road have limited pedestrian and bicycling facilities. This is not uncommon for desert roads.</p>
Civil Engagement	<p>Community Participation</p> <p>With daytime Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings and a conventional notification process, it can be difficult for residents in this area to learn about and provide input on proposed development in a timely manner that substantively and effectively impacts the decision making process. Additionally, this area is far from public meeting sites, most households do not have good internet access, and approximately 11 percent of households do not speak English well.</p>

Table HZ-3. EJ Assessment in the North High Desert

Topic	Environmental Conditions
Reduction of pollution exposure and improving air quality	<p>Pollution Exposure The area’s primary exposure to pollution is groundwater threats, hazardous wastes, and solid wastes. It should be noted, however, that this area extends 200 square miles to the Nevada border. Many of these pollutant sources are in unpopulated areas, far from Daggett, Newberry Springs, and Yermo.</p>
	<p>Air Quality This area is in the Mojave Air Quality Management District. Although the area has very high levels of ozone, there are few other appreciable air pollutants, except for a small area around the Barstow BNSF railyard, which has high levels of diesel particulate matter.</p>
Promoting public facilities (including infrastructure and community services)	<p>Water and Sewer LAFCO identified Daggett as a hotspot for insufficient water supply, water quality concerns, deficient infrastructure, and financial concerns. Unincorporated areas rely on individual septic systems. Drinking water is known to be at risk of contamination from nitrate, lead, and radioactive elements.</p>
	<p>Fire and Sheriff County Sheriff’s Barstow Station serves this area; response times are not available. County Fire provides fire protection services from stations #52, #53, #56, and #4. Response times vary—from 20 to 50 minutes depending on staffing for the paid-call firefighter station.</p>
Promoting health care Infrastructure	<p>Health Needs Health issues include a 28% obesity rate and 10% diabetes rate—all close to state averages. Despite more modest income levels compared to other parts of the county, the health conditions of residents are better than many other areas of the county.</p>
	<p>Health Care Infrastructure Currently, the area is designated an HPSA for primary care, mental health, and dental services and a medically underserved area/population. There is a significant need for all the major medical services; residents must now travel to Barstow for service.</p>
Promoting food access	<p>Food Security The poverty rate in the area for adults is high (21%), far above the state average, and 11% of low income households are food insecure. Food insecurity affects children in the area as well. Approximately 78% of children in Barstow Unified School District were eligible for free/reduced-price meals in 2016.</p>
	<p>Food Access Except for small markets, these areas lack a full-service grocery store, and residents must drive to Barstow. There are no WIC vendors or Cal-Fresh–certified vendor closer than Barstow. Due to limited access to grocery stores, the entire area is designated a food desert by the USDA.</p>

Table HZ-3. EJ Assessment in the North High Desert

Topic	Environmental Conditions
Promoting safe and sanitary housing	<p>Housing</p> <p>Limited information is available about safe and sanitary housing in the area. Generally, the housing stock has a high proportion of mobile home units on septic service. Given the construction type and age of structures, there is a significant need to rehabilitate aging housing and demolish abandoned or dilapidated homes. Code enforcement issues may be concentrated in certain areas as well.</p>
Promoting physical activity	<p>Level of Physical Activity</p> <p>State physical fitness tests show one-third of students need improvement in aerobic capacity. However, the percentage of youth (age 5–17) getting regular physical activity is greater (31%) than in California (21%). The level of physical activity (measured by walking) among adults is lower than state averages.</p>
	<p>Opportunities for Physical Activity</p> <p>Recreational outlets include trails, hiking, and outdoor sports. Outside of Barstow and schools, formal park facilities are limited to Newberry Springs Park. Roadways have no pedestrian and bicycling facilities or other amenities. However, residents can walk and bicycle on public streets because traffic is very light.</p>
Civil Engagement	<p>Community Participation</p> <p>With daytime Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings and a conventional notification process, it can be difficult for residents in this area to learn about and provide input on proposed development in a timely manner that substantively and effectively impacts the decision making process. Many parts of this area are far from public meeting sites. Additionally, the Daggett, Newberry Springs, and Baker communities do not have good internet access and approximately 10 percent of households do not speak English well.</p>

Table HZ-4. EJ Assessment in Bloomington and Muscoy

Topic	Environmental Conditions
Reduction of pollution exposure and improving air quality	<p>Pollution Exposure Nearly all census tracts (11 of 13) have high levels of air pollution and drinking water contamination concerns. Other pollution exposure issues include traffic density, toxic releases from industry, hazardous waste and cleanup sites from military and industrial land uses.</p>
	<p>Air Quality This area is in the South Coast Air Quality Management District and as a nonattainment status for ozone and particulate matter. Pollutant concentrations are high for particulate matter, including diesel particulate matter due to trucking routes in and around both communities.</p>
Promoting public facilities (including infrastructure and community services)	<p>Water and Sewer Water and sewer challenges are significant. For Muscoy, water service is provided by the Muscoy Mutual Water Company, and septic tanks and leach fields are used for its wastewater needs. For Bloomington, several water districts provide potable water for the community. For sewer, Bloomington was also developed with reliance on septic tanks and leach field systems.</p>
	<p>Fire and Sheriff San Bernardino County Fire Station #75 serves Muscoy, and response times are 4 to 6 minutes, which is generally with NFPA standards. Bloomington Fire Station #76 serves the community and response times are unknown but are assumed to be also within NFPA standards due to the size of the community. Both areas are served by County Sheriff and response times were not available.</p>
Promoting health care Infrastructure	<p>Health Needs Within this area, Muscoy has elevated levels of asthma and high levels of obesity (35%) versus statewide average of 26%, and emergency room admits for cardiovascular disease. For Bloomington, key health needs include diabetes, a 43% obesity rate, and high rate of emergency room admits for heart disease.</p>
	<p>Health Care Infrastructure Access to health-supporting land uses is mixed. While Bloomington is not defined as a HPSA, all areas south of I-10 are designated a medically underserved population/area. Muscoy is also not a HPSA, although utilization of existing clinics in the area is mixed.</p>

Table HZ-4. EJ Assessment in Bloomington and Muscoy

Topic	Environmental Conditions
Promoting food access	<p>Food Security</p> <p>The poverty rate in both Bloomington and Muscoy is high. Low income household food insecurity is high in Bloomington (13%) and Muscoy (10%) versus state averages (8%). County has designated both areas as an HPLA–high poverty low access food desert.</p>
	<p>Food Access</p> <p>Food access is generally poor. In Bloomington, the area south of I-10 is designated by the USDA as a food desert, but other areas north of the I-10 have adequate access. Muscoy is also considered a food desert. There is a high preponderance of fast food outlets, liquor markets, and convenience stores.</p>
Promoting safe and sanitary housing	<p>Housing</p> <p>Limited information is available about safe and sanitary housing in the area. No code enforcement data are available. However, residents reported issues with the need for demolition and/or rehabilitation of homes, illegal dumping, junk and trash, and vacant homes in certain locations.</p>
Promoting physical activity	<p>Level of Physical Activity</p> <p>Among youth ages 5 to 17, 20% in Bloomington and 24% in Muscoy participated in at least of one hour of physical exercise regularly versus 24% in the county and 21% in the state. The percentage of adults who walked more than 150 minutes per week was lower in the area versus the county and state averages.</p>
	<p>Opportunities for Physical Activity</p> <p>Recreational outlets include bicycling, walking, and active recreation at parks. Roadways generally have limited pedestrian and bicycling facilities. Safety concerns (traffic and trucking) along streets makes active transportation uses generally not optimal.</p>
Civil Engagement	<p>Community Participation</p> <p>Despite the area’s proximity to the primary County Government Center, daytime Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings and a conventional notification process can make it difficult for residents in such areas to learn about and provide input on proposed development in a timely manner that substantively and effectively impacts the decision making process. Additionally, approximately 13 to 23 percent of households in Bloomington, 15 percent of households in the Colton SOI, and 5 to 13 percent of households in selected portions of Muscoy do not speak English well.</p>

Table HZ-5. EJ Assessment in Valley Unincorporated Islands

Topic	Environmental Conditions
<p>Reduction of pollution exposure and improving air quality</p>	<p>Pollution Exposure Pollution exposure is significant for valley unincorporated islands, particularly those located within or near to industrial land uses or transportation infrastructure. Locations and issues where the CES scores exceed the 75th percentile are as follows: Chino-Montclair: drinking water and toxic releases Western Fontana: toxic releases San Bernardino: toxic releases, lead from housing, drinking water, and cleanup sites</p> <p>Air Quality The San Bernardino Valley is in the South Coast Air Quality Management District and is designated as a nonattainment status for ozone and particulate matter. Pollutant concentrations are high for particulate matter, including diesel particulate matter due to trucking routes in these communities. Of concern, west Fontana and Chino-Montclair areas are near industrial centers. Toxic releases from industrial uses exceed the 75th percentile in every census tract within these two communities. None of the other census tracts in unincorporated San Bernardino or the Mentone area score high in toxic releases from industries.</p>
<p>Promoting public facilities (including infrastructure and community services)</p>	<p>Water and Sewer None of the four valley unincorporated islands were noted by the San Bernardino LAFCO as a hotspot for providing water. Wastewater service capacity is being studied by LAFCO. Based on technical reports for the countywide plan, infrastructure in all the unincorporated islands is able to provide water and sanitation services to support projected residential and nonresidential growth over the foreseeable future. However, it should be noted that drinking water contamination levels exceeded the 75th percentile in the Chino-Montclair and San Bernardino, unincorporated islands.</p> <p>Fire and Sheriff Chino-Montclair: Montclair FD and Chino Valley FD provides service; response times are unknown Western Fontana: County Station #72 serves west Fontana; response times are unknown San Bernardino: County Fire provides services to these areas; response times are unknown County Sheriff provides law enforcement services for all areas; response times are unknown</p>

Table HZ-5. EJ Assessment in Valley Unincorporated Islands

Topic	Environmental Conditions
Promoting health care Infrastructure	<p>Health Needs Chino-Montclair: high levels of diabetes (13%), obesity (37%), and emergency room visits for heart disease Western Fontana: high levels of diabetes (13%), obesity (41%), and emergency room visits for heart disease San Bernardino: high levels of diabetes (12%), obesity (40%), and emergency room visits for heart disease</p> <p>Health Infrastructure While the desert regions are known for a lack of health care infrastructure, most areas in the valley are fairly well-served with health care professionals, with a few exceptions by area. Chino-Montclair: not designated as a HPSA Western Fontana: not designated as a HPSA San Bernardino: designated as a HPSA for medically underserved area /population only</p>
Promoting food access	<p>Food Security A significant portion of children in these areas are eligible for free or reduced meals at local schools. With respect to household food insecurity, rates vary by community. Chino-Montclair: food insecurity similar to state (8%) and county averages (9%) Western Fontan: a-high levels of food insecurity among low income households (15%) San Bernardino: moderate levels of food insecurity among low income households (11%)</p> <p>Food Access Food access according to the USDA is generally good, with a few exceptions. Chino-Montclair: small portion along Mission Boulevard is a food desert Western Fontana: southeast quadrant is a food desert San Bernardino: selected unincorporated census tracts are food deserts</p>
Promoting safe and sanitary housing	<p>Housing There is no source of data documenting the condition of safe and sanitary housing in unincorporated islands. Most cities and the County do not track the data nor is this information included in consolidated plans or other mandated reports for individual areas. However, visual inspection indicates a need for housing rehabilitation, demolition of dilapidated structures, code enforcement concerns, property maintenance, and debris and vehicle clearance. While not all unincorporated islands display these issues, many of the lower income census tract areas have one or more of the above conditions affecting neighborhood quality.</p>

Table HZ-5. EJ Assessment in Valley Unincorporated Islands

Topic	Environmental Conditions
Promoting physical activity	<p>Level of Physical Activity Levels of physical activity are similar for most valley communities as follows. Chino-Montclair: 22% of youth exercised regularly and 30% of adults walked at least 150 minutes per week Western Fontana: 21% of youth exercised regularly and 31% of adults walked at least 150 minutes per week San Bernardino: 24% of youth exercised regularly and 30% of adults walked at least 150 minutes per week</p> <p>Opportunities for Physical Activity As the Valley is urbanized, there are ample opportunities for bicycling, walking, and active recreation at parks. Roadways generally have limited pedestrian and bicycling facilities. However, safety concerns (traffic and trucking) along streets makes active transportation uses generally not optimal. Certain neighborhoods may also have elevated levels of crime and vagrancy that may discourage use of physical activity opportunities.</p>
Civil Engagement	<p>Community Participation Despite the area’s proximity to the primary County Government Center, daytime Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings and a conventional notification process can make it difficult for residents in such areas to learn about and provide input on proposed development in a timely manner that substantively and effectively impacts the decision making process. Additionally, approximately 17 percent of households in the Montclair SOI, 14 to 17 percent of households in the western Fontana SOI, and 7 to 20 percent of households in the City of San Bernardino SOI do not speak English well.</p>

Table HZ-6. Objectives for Unincorporated Environmental Justice Focus Areas

Topic	Objective
Reduction of pollution exposure and improving air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contaminated soils. Remediation of hazardous waste sites and other contaminated sites. ▪ Water quality. Improved water quality and elimination of groundwater threats. ▪ Air quality. Reduction of ozone emissions and particulate matter to levels that meet federal and state standards.
Promoting public facilities (including infrastructure and community services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fire and Sheriff. Improved response times for public safety services. ▪ Public facilities. Improved access to existing and new public facilities that serve community needs for safety, health, and physical activity. ▪ Water and wastewater infrastructure. Adequate leach fields for onsite wastewater treatment systems and safe drinking water.
Promoting health care Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health needs and infrastructure. Reduction in the number of residents that lack access to health care professionals.
Promoting food access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food access. Improved food security and access to fresh food.
Promoting safe and sanitary housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing. Improved housing conditions for homeowners and renters.
Promoting physical activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joint use facilities. New joint use facilities that reduce barriers to exercise opportunities and increase access to physical fitness facilities. ▪ Opportunities for physical activity. New alternative transportation improvements in mobility focus areas.
Civil Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community participation. Increased awareness and understanding of potential projects and more opportunities for meaningful public participation that can affect the decision making process.

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