

**DRAFT**

CITY OF IRWINDALE

**General Plan**

# Environmental Justice Element



City of Irwindale  
5050 North Irwindale Avenue  
Irwindale, California 91706

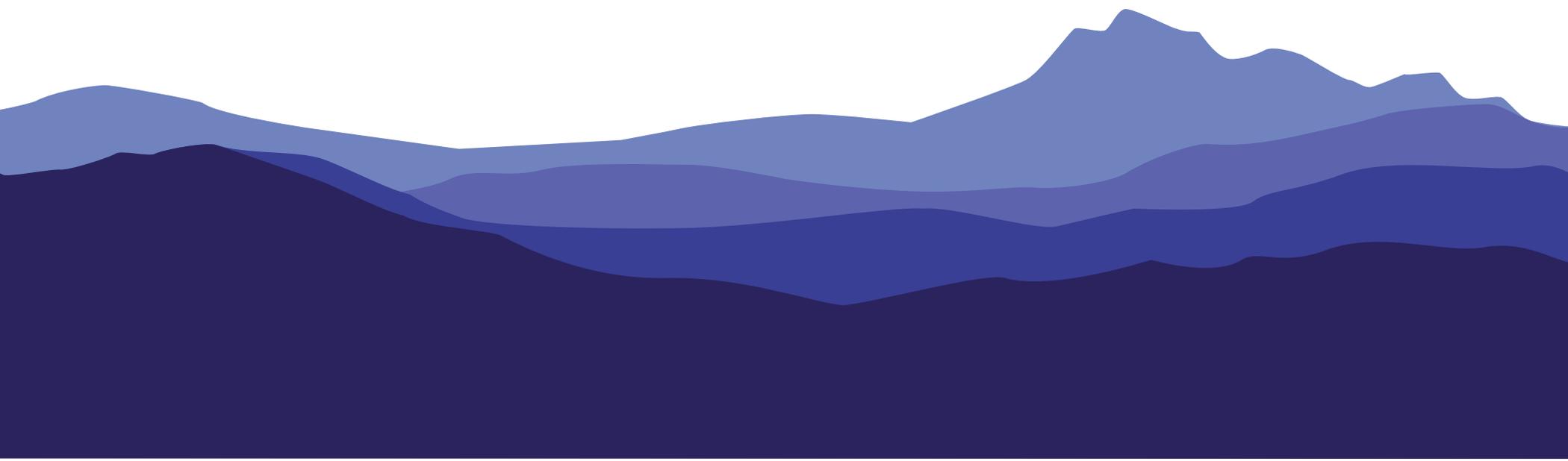
**April 2024**





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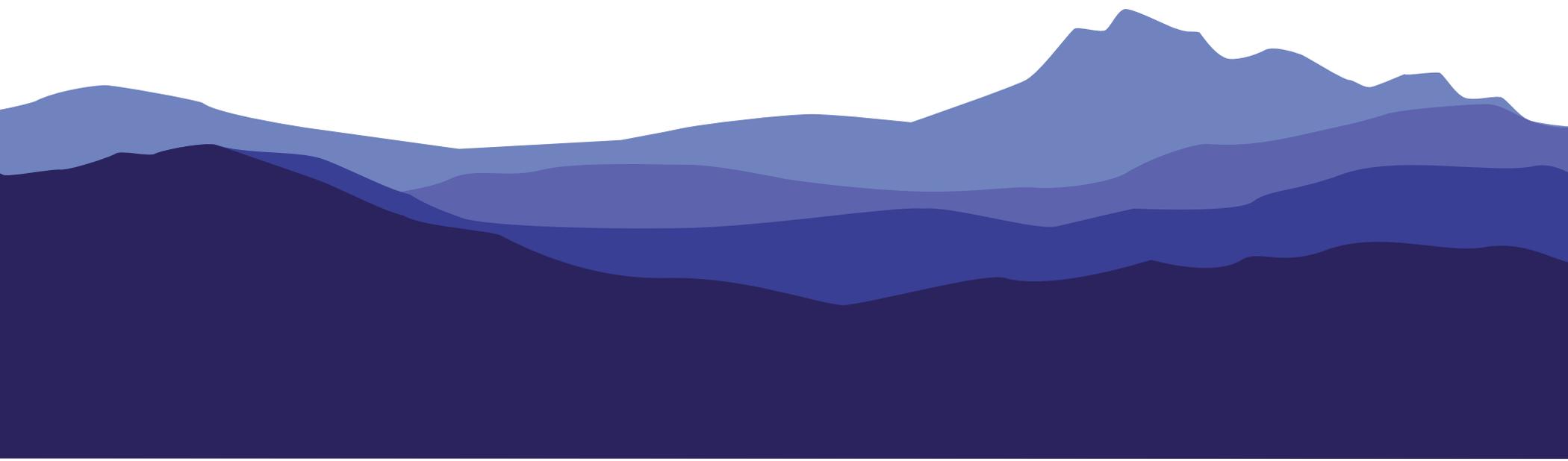
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# SECTION 1 Introduction



The Environmental Justice Element of the General Plan addresses the inequities and disparities in environmental conditions and resources. The Environmental Justice Element also identifies low-income populations and communities of color that bear a disproportionate burden of environmental hazards and pollutions. As with other Elements of the General Plan, background information on these topics is presented in the first part of the Element, and goals, policies, and actions are presented at the end.

An important function of this Element is to identify locations in Irwindale that are disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards, pollution, and health risks. This Element also examines and evaluates the specific environmental, social, and health challenges faced by these areas, highlighting the disparities and inequities present. It encourages sustainable and equitable development practices that support the well-being and quality of life for all community members, with particular attention to addressing the needs of those disproportionately affected by environmental burdens. The purpose of this Element is to foster a more inclusive, fair, and sustainable approach to land-use planning and resource allocation. This Element strives for environmental justice and equal protection for all community members.

In alignment with State mandates, the Environmental Justice Element focuses on addressing environmental justice concerns identified by the community. These concerns

include, but are not limited to, reducing exposure to pollution and improving air quality; ensuring the availability of safe, healthy, and affordable housing; providing equitable access to public facilities; expanding access to nutritious food; promoting physical activity; enhancing civic engagement, and prioritizing improvements and programs for those disproportionately burdened by environmental burdens.

The specific topics covered by this chapter are listed below:

- Reduce Pollution Exposure and Improve Air Quality
- Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes and Neighborhoods
- Promote Health and Physical Activity
- Promote Healthy Food Access
- Promote Access to Public Facilities
- Promote Civic Engagement



## Land Acknowledgement

The City of Irwindale acknowledges the traditional, ancestral territory of the Gabrielino-Tongva peoples. We take this opportunity to acknowledge the generations that have gone

before as well as the present-day Gabrielino-Tongva people. We recognize and respect all Indigenous peoples, their histories, and their ties to the land.

## What Is Environmental Justice?

### Definition of Environmental Justice

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, in developing, implementing, and enforcing environmental laws, regulations, and policies. It recognizes that certain communities, particularly those of marginalized and disadvantaged groups, have historically borne a disproportionate burden of environmental hazards, pollution, and degraded natural resources.

Environmental justice emerged in response to the recognition that low-income communities and communities of color often experience a higher

concentration of environmental hazards, such as toxic waste sites, industrial pollution, and contaminated water sources. These communities may also lack access to clean air, safe drinking water, and healthy food options. Environmental justice seeks to address these disparities by promoting equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens and ensuring equal protection under environmental laws.

### Environmental Justice Principles

Several key principles form the basis of environmental justice:

1. It emphasizes **equality and fairness**, ensuring that everyone, regardless of their

Environmental Justice is achieved when all individuals have the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, as well as equal access to the decision-making process to create a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

#### Goal of Environmental Justice



- background or wealth, has an equal right to a clean and healthy environment.
2. It highlights the importance of **community participation and engagement**, meaning that all individuals should have a say in decisions that affect their communities, ensuring their voices are heard and respected.
  3. Environmental justice **opposes discrimination**, aiming to prevent vulnerable communities from disproportionately being exposed to environmental hazards based on race, ethnicity, or income.
  4. It promotes a **precautionary approach**, which means preventing environmental and health risks when there is uncertainty about the potential harm of certain activities.
  5. Environmental justice advocates for **sustainable development**, which entails meeting the needs of the present generation while preserving resources and opportunities for future generations.

## Senate Bill 1000

Senate Bill (SB) 1000, known as “Environmental Justice in Local Land Use Planning,” addresses the unfair burden of pollution and health risks faced by low-income communities and communities of color (CA Office of Attorney General n.d.). It requires local governments in California to identify these “disadvantaged communities” and consider their needs and input when making land use plans. It is a requirement for counties and cities in California to address environmental justice in their General Plans if they have a “disadvantaged community” as defined by the State.

The goal is to promote fairness and transparency in decision-making, reduce pollution in these communities, and ensure equal access to health benefits like healthy food and recreational spaces. California has been at the forefront of environmental justice legislation, with other laws focusing on funding, air quality, and climate change impacts in these communities. The state also provides a web-based tool called CalEnviroScreen to help identify communities facing multiple pollution sources. SB 1000 seeks to create a more equitable and healthier environment for everyone.

## Methodology for Identifying Environmental Justice Communities

### CalEnviroScreen 4.0

The State of California has established a multi-step screening process to identify Environmental Justice communities. This process determines and prioritizes “disadvantaged communities” or communities disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other harmful environmental factors. The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) developed CalEnviroScreen. This tool assesses multiple environmental and socioeconomic indicators to identify census tracts facing the most significant ecological burdens and vulnerabilities. CalEnviroScreen evaluates factors

such as pollution exposure, public health data, socioeconomic factors, and sensitive populations. A CalEnviroScreen score is a measurement used to rank communities' environmental health and vulnerability. The score ranges from 1 to 100, with higher scores indicating a higher ecological burden and exposure level.

The city of Irwindale, located in California, is a unique case where the entire city consists of only one census tract. A census tract is a small geographic area defined by the U.S. Census Bureau for the purpose of gathering demographic and statistical data. Typically, officials use census tracts to divide larger cities or counties into smaller, more manageable units.



\*The Environmental Effects score was weighted half as much as the Exposure score.

*CalEnviroScreen score*

**Table EJ-1** provides a score for each pollution burden indicator for Irwindale. Scores of 75 or higher are highlighted in the table, as they indicate a disproportionate impact. As shown in Table EJ-1, disproportionate impacts are found in pollution burdens related to cleanup sites, groundwater threats, hazardous waste, solid waste facilities, ozone, toxic releases inventory, traffic, and drinking water. Section 2 discusses the environmental impacts within Irwindale associated with each of these pollution burdens.

## Challenges of One Census Tract

In the case of Irwindale, the relatively small geographical size and population of the city led to the designation of a single census tract to encompass the entire city. This practice is relatively uncommon since most cities have multiple census tracts, which allows for a more detailed capturing of population distribution and characteristics.

Having only one census tract for the entire city can pose data analysis and representation challenges. Census tracts are crucial for understanding an area's socioeconomic and demographic makeup and decision-making processes related to resource allocation, urban planning, and policy development. With only one

census tract, it may be more challenging to capture and address the specific needs and variations within the community.

TABLE EJ-1 **Pollution Burden Scores for Priority Community Census Tracts**

INDICATORS	PERCENTILES
CES 4.0 Percentile	83
Pollution Indicators Percentile	100
Population Characteristics Percentile	47
Cleanup Sites	83
Groundwater Threats	93
Hazardous Waste	92
Impaired Water Bodies	44
Solid Waste Facilities	99
Ozone	83
PM2.5	66
Diesel PM	68
Toxic Releases Inventory	75
Traffic	88
Pesticides	54
Drinking Water	85
Lead in Housing	68

SOURCE: Cal EnviroScreen 4.0

It's worth noting that the size and population of a city can change over time, and the number of census tracts may be adjusted accordingly in future census cycles to accommodate any significant changes.

This Environmental Justice Element compares data for the city of Irwindale with data for Los Angeles County as a whole. This comparison highlights disproportionate health outcomes and environmental burdens Irwindale faces.

## Community Engagement

### Importance of Community Input

The City of Irwindale values community input as a guiding force in its planning decisions and policies, including land use strategies and practices. To ensure the inclusion of community perspectives, the City facilitated a comprehensive community engagement process. This process involved conducting workshops and an online survey to gain a deeper understanding of the needs and ideas of Irwindale community members and employees concerning environmental justice pillars such as pollution exposure, air quality, public facilities, access to healthy food, and housing, among others. A more detailed summary of the community engagement process can be found in **Appendix A**.

### Community Survey

The City of Irwindale released a community survey to elicit input on topics such as access to healthy food, using the parks, street conditions, and air quality to better understand ways to improve their quality of life in Irwindale. The survey provides a better understanding of the community's concerns, which helps create a more robust and relevant Environmental Justice Element chapter for the City's General Plan. Residents were notified via newsletter, mail, the City website, and the City's social media platforms, including Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

The resident community survey yielded 19 responses, all being English-speaking respondents, with no Spanish-speaking respondents. The employee community survey yielded 64 responses, 62 being



English-speaking respondents with 2 being Spanish-speaking. Resident and employee community survey results are summarized throughout relevant sections in this Environmental Justice Element.

## Community Workshops

These workshops strived to provide outreach and obtain community input for environmental justice topics to meet SB 1000 requirements. Community members possess valuable local knowledge and expertise about their neighborhoods, environmental challenges, and potential solutions. Workshops provide an opportunity to tap into this knowledge, as community members can share their experiences, insights, and ideas. This information enriches the planning process and helps develop context-specific and effective environmental justice policies.

The first community workshop was a virtual event on April 7, 2022. The community members discussed the Environmental Justice pillars during this workshop, identified the issues they wished to see addressed, and shared environmental aspirations.

During the City of Irwindale Safety & Environmental Justice Community Workshop held on August 9, 2022, community members and participants developed several solutions and ideas. Throughout the workshop, common themes emerged, including the importance of buffering to minimize pollution exposure, the significance of trees and the environment, housing concerns, the need for recreational spaces, improved transit connections, reducing industrial uses, promoting access to healthy food, and centralizing uses around downtown.

## Stakeholder Engagement

The first Stakeholder Engagement event took place on January 10, 2023. Participants from different public and private agencies such as the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Irwindale Environmental Health and Safety Department, Irwindale Police Department, Yellow Iron Real Estate, River and Mountain Conservancy, Storage Facility, and Foothill Transit gathered to discuss public safety and air quality. In these stakeholder engagement meetings, participating service provider

staff shared information, ideas, and perspectives that informed the development of this Environmental Justice Element and the Implementation Plan.

Within the Environmental Justice Element, each pillar incorporates a section dedicated to community and stakeholder input. These sections summarize the feedback received through the survey, community workshops, and stakeholder meetings pertaining to each specific topic. The valuable input from these public engagement activities played a significant role in informing the development of policies and actions outlined within the Environmental Justice Element.

## Environmental Justice Element Existing Conditions Report

The Environmental Justice Element Existing Conditions Report (**Appendix B**) offers comprehensive insights into the local conditions of the City of Irwindale. It delves into existing policies, programs, and regulations pertaining to environmental justice topics, accompanied by summaries of community inputs. Detailed background information and data are presented for each environmental justice topic. The information gathered in the Existing Conditions Report was used to formulate goals, policies, and actions within the Environmental Justice Element.

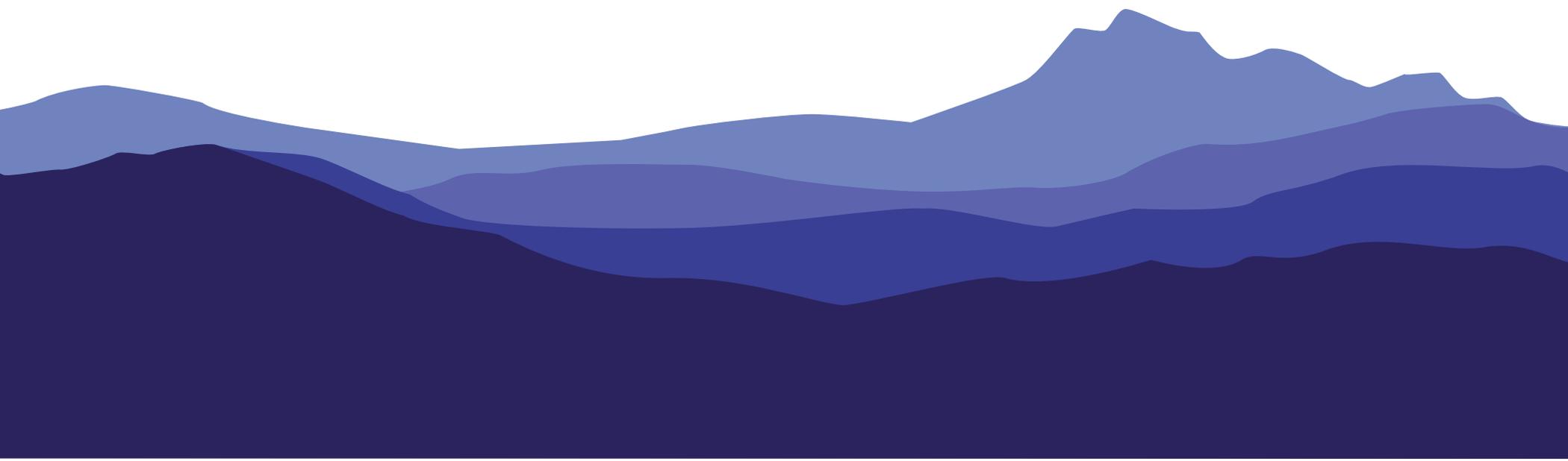


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## SECTION 2 Existing Conditions



As the County seeks to address environmental and health hazards impacting Irwindale, it is necessary to first understand the population and socioeconomic conditions, as well as the existing environmental, social, and economic conditions, that affect community health and wellness. Historical inequalities have created unique issues and needs within the city. This section presents an analysis of existing conditions in Irwindale by EJ topic:

-  Reduce Pollution Exposure and Improve Air Quality
-  Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes and Neighborhoods
-  Promote Health and Physical Activity
-  Promote Healthy Food Access
-  Promote Access to Public Facilities
-  Promote Civic Engagement



## Reduce Pollution Exposure and Improve Air Quality

### Introduction

Access to healthy environments, clean air, and drinking water is essential to building healthy communities. People are exposed to pollution daily when interacting with the environment. However, some communities are more exposed or burdened than others. Therefore, air, water, and soil pollution are critical environmental justice issues for those disproportionately impacted by pollution. Due to historic discriminatory housing and planning policies, as well as systemic underinvestment in communities of color, environmental justice communities are more likely to be located next to and directly affected by the pollution of industrial land uses, oil and gas infrastructure, freeways, and other land uses. Exposure to these sources of pollution is linked to asthma, cardiovascular disease, and other health risks.

An essential part of achieving environmental justice is reducing pollution in disproportionately affected communities. Sensitive populations such as children, the elderly, and those with prior health conditions are more vulnerable to pollution. This section will discuss local air, water, and soil pollution conditions and the associated sources of pollution that contribute to health impacts.

### Local Conditions

#### HISTORY

Beginning in the 20th century, mining became Irwindale's primary industry. In 1900, the first commercial-scale aggregate production sites began operating out of the city. **Aggregate** is a category of material used in construction. It typically consists of a combination of crushed stone, gravel, sand, or recycled materials like concrete or asphalt. Railroad lines and stations were built to ship a steady supply of aggregate throughout Los Angeles County. As Los Angeles grew, so did the demand for aggregate, and Irwindale's mines flourished. Seventeen mining sites came to occupy 70 percent of the land in Irwindale. While a significant source of revenue for the City, mining activity is also a source of significant pollution. Mining activities can generate pollution through various means, such as releasing dust, particulate matter, heavy metals, or contaminating soil and groundwater (Witchalls 2022). However, identifying all sources, quantities, and types of pollution in a community is a critical step in creating policy that reduces pollution. This section explores local levels of air,



water, and soil pollution, and the health risks associated with that pollution.

## AIR POLLUTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is an independent federal agency tasked with environmental protection matters and has found several major air pollutants of concern all over the United States. These major air pollutants and their primary pollutant sources are listed in **Table EJ-2**. In Irwindale, a certain amount of air pollution comes from industrial sources, such as mining activity in the city. Still, more harmful air emissions come from cars and trucks, construction equipment, and other motor vehicles.

Major pollutants in Irwindale include ozone, particulate matter, and diesel particulate matter. These major pollutants are described in greater detail below.

## DIESEL

Diesel particulate matter (diesel PM) are solid particles that contain harmful chemicals from the exhaust of trucks, buses, trains, and other equipment with diesel engines (OEHHA 2021). Therefore, diesel PM is higher along major freeways, ports, rail yards, and industrial centers.

TABLE EJ-2 **Major Air Pollutants & Primary Sources**

POLLUTANT	PRIMARY SOURCES
<b>Diesel PM</b>	Diesel engines such as ships, trains, and trucks
<b>Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)</b>	Vehicles, factories and other industrial sources, fossil fuels, combustion, consumer products, evaporation of paints
<b>Suspended Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>)</b>	Dust and fume-producing construction, industrial and agricultural operations, combustion, atmospheric photochemical reactions, and natural activities (e.g., wind-raised dust and ocean sprays)

SOURCE: CARB n.d.

Irwindale’s high level of industrial activity is one reason diesel PM levels are so high in the area. Trucks traveling to and from industrial warehouses and manufacturing sites contribute to high levels of diesel PM because semi-trucks operate using diesel engines. California has categorized diesel PM as carcinogenic, meaning it is cancer-causing. Diesel PM can also cause inflammation of the lungs which can worsen respiratory diseases and increase the likelihood of **asthma** and asthma attacks. Diesel PM emissions in Irwindale are high, greater than 68 percent of other census tracts in California.

Asthma is a chronic disease that causes shortness of breath, coughing, and chest tightness.

### Asthma



The City's proximity to major freeways used for trucks, buses, and other heavy diesel equipment emit higher levels of air-polluting chemicals and toxins. Freeways generally have a high traffic density, and the San Gabriel River Freeway (I-605) and Foothill Freeway (I-210) contribute to the poor air quality within the city.

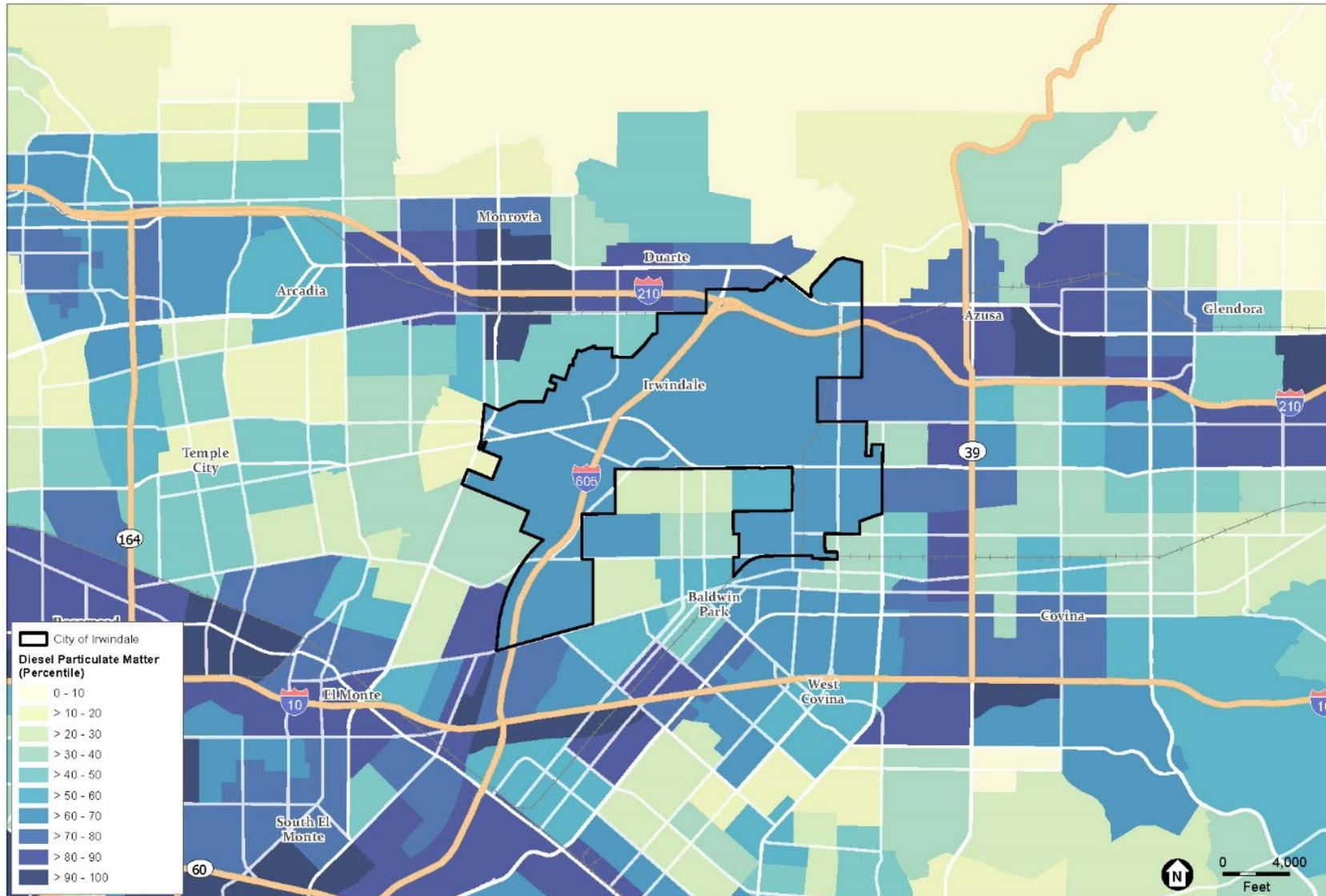
### PARTICULATE MATTER 2.5

Particulate matter (PM) 2.5 refers to airborne particles with a diameter of fewer than 2.5 micrometers. Particulate matter is very small particle pollution that can lead to adverse health conditions such as heart and lung disease. PM2.5 particulates are a byproduct of many sources, specifically those involving combustion. Some of the main contributors are automobiles, industrial manufacturing, and wood burning. **Figure EJ-1** and **Figure EJ-2** illustrate the Diesel PM and PM2.5 pollution levels within Irwindale compared to neighboring jurisdictions. These maps show that diesel PM and PM2.5 are highest in areas of the city near the I-605 and I-210 freeways. Specifically, the I-605/I-210 freeway interchange contributes significantly to PM in the foothills and Duarte (SCAQMD 2021). Overall, Irwindale's concentration of PM2.5 is higher than 66 percent of census tracts in California.

High levels of PM2.5 negatively impact the overall health of its population because they can penetrate deep into one's lungs and cause lung inflammation. Since PM2.5 particles are so small, they can seep into buildings and homes, which increases the chances of exposure. Long-term exposure to PM2.5 has been connected to respiratory infection, asthma attacks, and reduced lung function and development in children. While PM2.5 can threaten the health of all populations, certain groups are more vulnerable to health impacts, such as children, the elderly, and those with prior or chronic health conditions including asthma, and cardiopulmonary disease (EPA 2019).



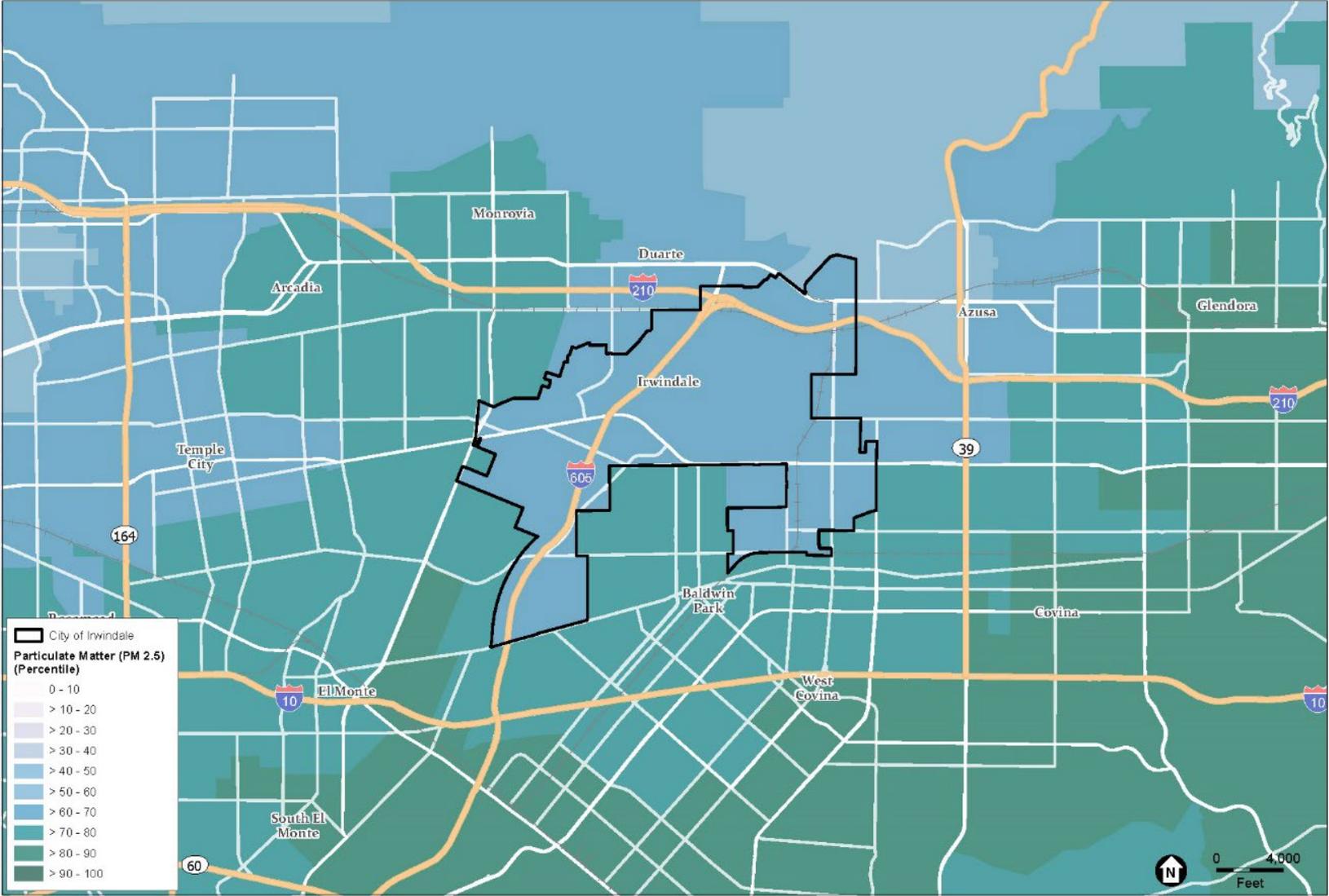
SECTION 2 EXISTING CONDITIONS



SOURCE: OEHA 2021; ESA 2022

FIGURE EJ-1 Diesel PM





SOURCE: OEHHA 2021; ESA 2022

FIGURE EJ-2 **PM2.5**



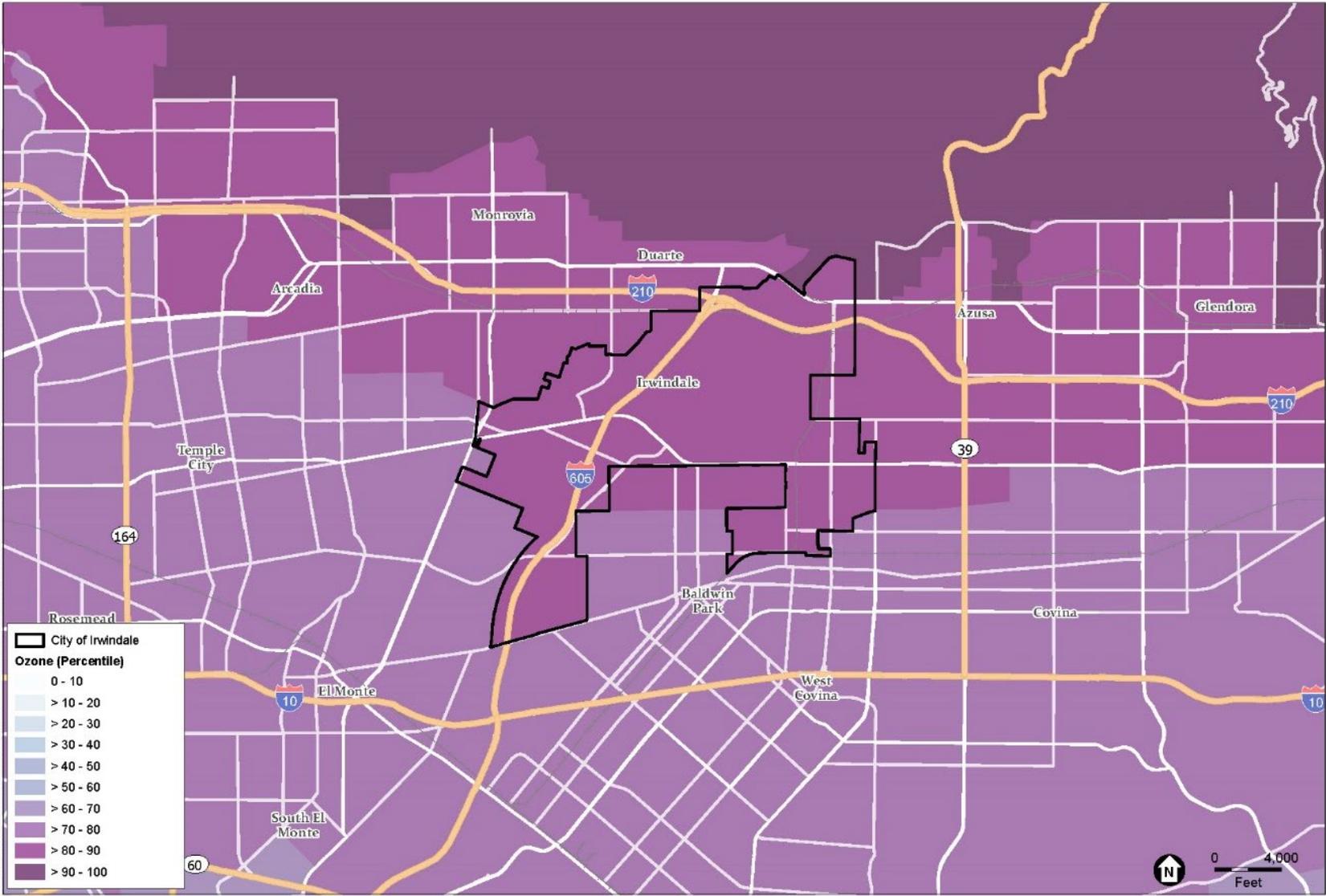
## OZONE

Another major air pollutant that affects Irwindale and the greater Los Angeles region is ozone. Ground-level ozone is the primary cause of smog. It is produced when air pollution from vehicles, industrial manufacturing facilities, active quarries, and other polluting sources in the City reacts with oxygen and sunlight. **Figure EJ-3** illustrates the level of ozone pollution within Irwindale compared to neighboring jurisdictions. According to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), ozone concentration in Irwindale is higher than 83 percent of other census tracts in California.

Ozone at ground level can cause adverse health effects. Long-term exposure to ozone is known to cause asthma and worsen the conditions of people with asthma. Breathing in ozone can also increase the chances of developing respiratory disease, irritate the lungs and increase the frequency of asthma attacks. Children and the elderly population, as well as those who spend large amounts of time outdoors, are most susceptible to ozone's adverse health effects (OEHHA 2021).

## AIR POLLUTION AND ASTHMA/HEALTH

Poor air quality is known to both cause asthma and worsen an existing condition. Studies consistently show a link between respiratory disease and proximity to roadways, freeways, and industrial manufacturing/ processing facilities. Exhaust from engines emits small particles that make their way deep into one's lungs leading to respiratory diseases such as asthma. Irwindale's community suffers from high asthma rates. According to OEHHA, about 49 per 10,000 people in Irwindale visited the emergency room from 2015–2019 due to asthma. In 2020, the prevalence of asthma among Irwindale adults was estimated to be almost 9 percent (CDC). Asthma rates in Irwindale are 54 percent higher than in other census tracts in California (OEHHA 2021).



SOURCE: OEHHA 2021; ESA 2022

FIGURE EJ-3 **Ozone in Irwindale**



## WATER POLLUTION

Water quality in Irwindale and the surrounding region has degraded from historical levels due to industrial or commercial activities involving the use or storage of hazardous substances that can leak and lead to groundwater pollution. Water pollution can impact drinking water quality and the ability of communities to interact with waterbodies nearby.

### Groundwater

Groundwater threats refer to hazardous materials often stored in containers on land or underground storage tanks. Leaks from these containers and tanks can contaminate soil and pollute groundwater. Common groundwater threats are diesel, gasoline, pesticides, and heavy metals (OEHHA 2021).

According to OEHHA, groundwater threats in Irwindale are greater than 93 percent of other census tracts in California. This means that groundwater quality in Irwindale is among the poorest in the state. **Figure EJ-4** illustrates the location of groundwater clean-up sites in Irwindale, scattered throughout the city's western, southern, and eastern portions. The Santa Fe Dam and northern areas of the city are primarily free of **cleanup sites**, though some are present in the surrounding communities,

including Duarte, Monrovia, and Azusa. Irwindale is in the top 25 percent of cities with cleanup sites due to its high concentration of industrial sites, some of which are older and do not meet current standards.

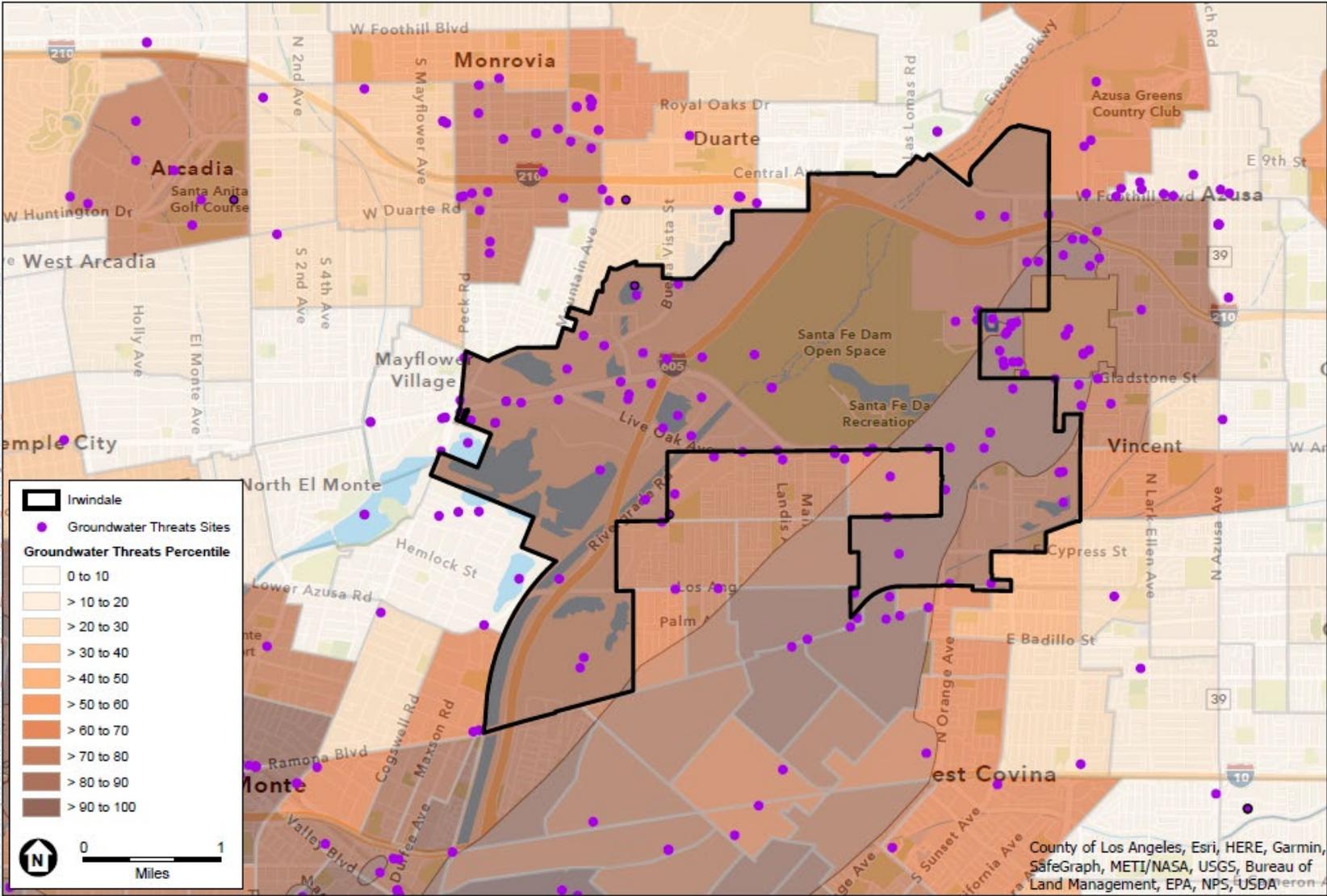
Additionally, cleanup sites contaminated with hazardous chemicals have been known to leak into groundwater. Whether a leaking storage tank or hazardous waste, the pollutants will transfer from the environment to the surrounding community through water and air. Some cancer-causing chemicals from cleanup sites have been found in drinking water supplies in California.

### Drinking Water

Drinking water contamination is a byproduct of both natural and human sources. Human sources include, but are not limited to, runoff from farms, factories, and sewage. Natural sources can come from fires, wildlife, rocks, and soil. Drinking water typically comes from groundwater, wells, streams, rivers, and lakes. Drinking water contamination is affected by proximity to impaired water bodies and measured by the level of contaminants found within the drinking water. A body of water is considered "impaired" when pollution compromises its use for drinking, fishing, or swimming and threatens the ecosystem. California surface water is re-evaluated every two years, and if it does not meet the federal Clean

Cleanup sites are areas that can affect air quality, groundwater, and have health impacts on their surrounding community. These sites require clean-up when hazardous substances begin to affect the environment. Clean up can take many years, even decades, and is often delayed by cost and liability issues. Living near cleanup sites has been known to increase the probability of low birth rates, elevated blood lead levels and liver disease.

### Cleanup Sites



SOURCE: OEHHA 2021; ESA 2022

FIGURE EJ-4 Groundwater Threats



Water Act's standard, it is listed as impaired. According to OEHHA, as of 2018, there are five impaired water bodies within and around Irwindale. This includes the Santa Fe Dam Park Lake in Irwindale, Peck Road Park Lake to the southwest in North El Monte, Sawpit Creek to the west, and the San Gabriel River and Walnut Creek Wash to the south. The level of contamination that affects water bodies in Irwindale is greater than 44 percent of California census tracts. This means that the City is faring better than most communities statewide regarding impaired water bodies. Water impairment may be due, in part, to a large number of manufacturers, industrial activity, and active quarries in the area.

Drinking water contamination is high in the City, greater than 85 percent of other census tracts in California. While this does not indicate whether water within the City of Irwindale is safe to drink, it is a general indication that compared to other census tracts in the state, drinking water in Irwindale contains a higher level of contaminants and bacteria. Poor drinking water due to contaminants can cause severe health impacts, including cancer and blue baby syndrome, a blood disorder in infants (OEHHA 2021). All persons are at risk of illness from contaminated drinking water, and children, seniors, and those with existing health conditions or immunocompromised are at greater risk of getting sick.

## SOIL POLLUTION & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Soils are generally contaminated through the storage, transport, or other handling of hazardous materials that make their way into the ground, often by spills, leaks, or fires. Contamination of soils can cause widespread pollution, as contaminants can be distributed through groundwater or by wind and dust. Facilities handling hazardous materials must follow precautions to protect ground resources and public health.

### Toxic Release Sites

**Toxic release sites** refer to facilities that release pollutants into the air, water, and land as a result of industrial activity, such as manufacturing, power generation, mining, and hazardous waste treatment. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) to monitor pollutants released from various facilities. This inventory takes into account factors such as air concentration and the toxicity of chemicals present in the environment. The resulting toxic release score provides an indication of the level of toxicity associated with a particular city. The toxic release indicator ranges from 0 to 96,985. Irwindale was given a score of 1,656.45, which is greater than 75 percent of census tracts in California (EPA). While the score is

A mapping tool developed by the Office of Environmental Health Hazards Assessment (OEHHA) used to help identify California communities disproportionately affected by pollution, CalEnviroScreen uses state and federal data to identify pollution burden in census tracts across the state from various factors, including air pollutants, hazardous materials, and water contamination.

**CalEnviroScreen**



higher than a significant portion of the state, it does not necessarily imply that the pollution level or the quantity of toxic chemicals in Irwindale is exceptionally high. The score does not directly indicate a significantly high pollution level or toxic chemical quantity in Irwindale, but rather a relatively high pollution level.

Exposure to pollutants is greater near industrial facilities involved in manufacturing, power generation, mining, hazardous waste management or treatment, and similar facilities. Toxic release sites have negative impacts to public health in their surrounding communities. Once toxic chemicals are absorbed into the surrounding environment, they can be transferred into the body through the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat. Those most affected by pollutants are children and those with existing health conditions. Proximity to toxic release sites and exposure to pollutants is associated with low birth weight, infant mortality, and mortality from cardiovascular disease (OEHHA).

### Hazardous Waste

**Hazardous waste** refers to liquids, gases, or solid materials that result from the management, transport, treatment, storage, or disposal of materials that pose a danger to human health. Communities located near treatment, storage,

and disposal facilities (TSDF) and areas where hazardous waste is generated are at a higher risk of being impacted by hazardous materials. These materials can be produced as a byproduct of industrial processes or manufacturing, or they can be unused or discarded materials from these processes (OEHHA 2021). Irwindale has a hazardous waste percentile of 92, meaning the number and type of hazardous waste facilities in Irwindale are higher than 92 percent of census tracts in California.

Hazardous waste is highly toxic and can affect the surrounding community's air, soil, and water quality. Studies have shown that living near a hazardous waste site can lead to health conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), almost 12 percent of adults in Irwindale have diabetes, and almost five percent have heart disease (CDC). Additionally, Irwindale has more residents that visit the hospital for a heart attack than 37 percent of other census tracts in California. High pollution levels can exacerbate these conditions and affect the overall health of the community for generations to come. See Health and Physical Activity for information on health conditions in Irwindale.



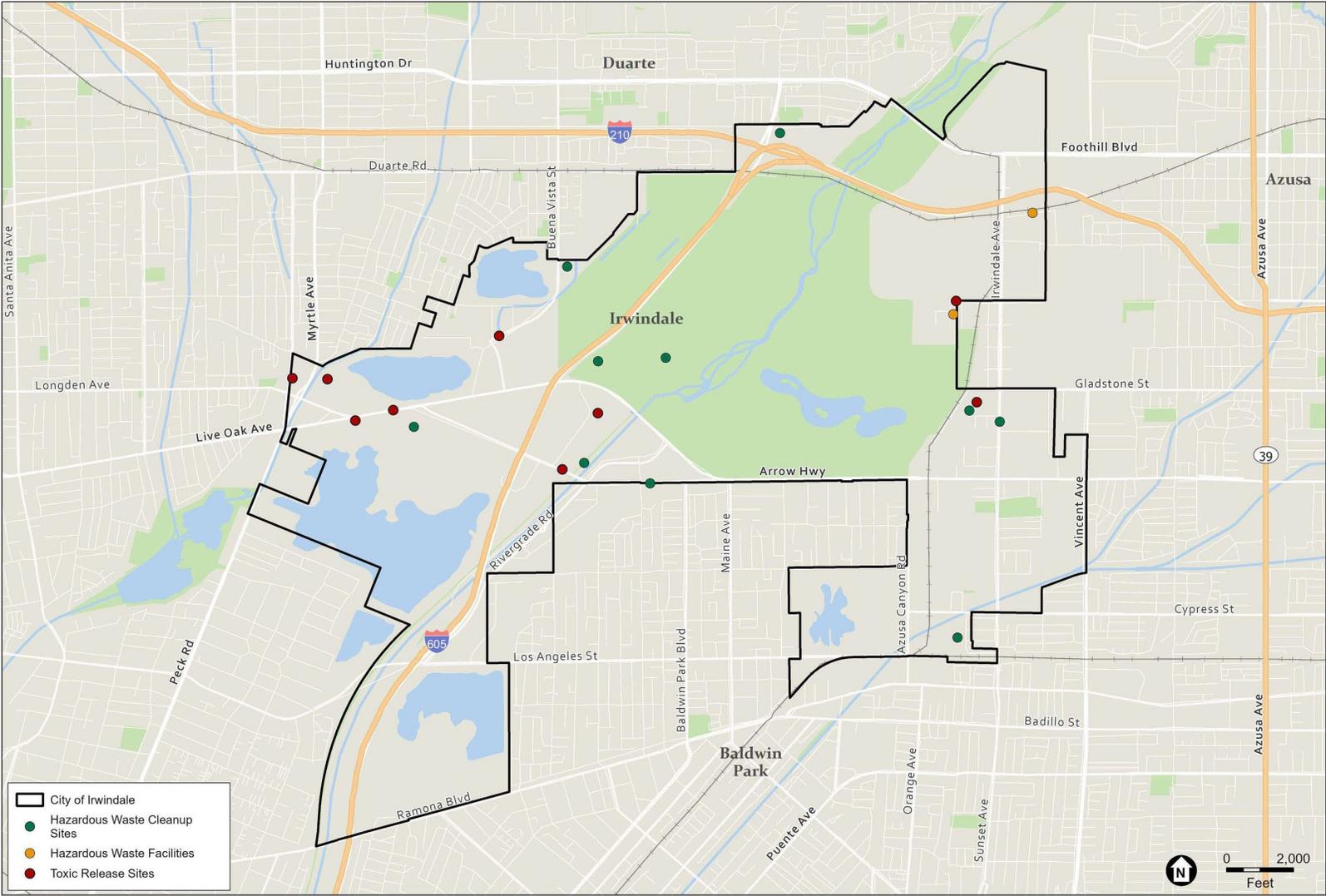
Certain socioeconomic conditions can further increase the risk of exposure. Hazardous waste sites are disproportionately located near low-income neighborhoods. Approximately 27 percent of Irwindale's population is living twice below the federal poverty level, which is higher than 49 percent of all other California census tracts (CalEPA CalEnviroScreen 4.0 2022). Since hazardous waste sites disproportionately affect low-income communities, and there is a high percentage of low-income residents in Irwindale, this presents an environmental justice concern for the community (OEHHA 2021).

**Figure EJ-5** shows hazardous facilities that contribute to soil pollution, including toxic release sites and hazardous waste facilities. Toxic release sites are located mainly in the city's western and eastern areas with industrial and commercial uses near Live Oak Avenue, Arrow Highway, and Irwindale Avenue. There are few sites near the residential neighborhoods in the southeastern portion of Irwindale, so there is less risk of exposure to these community members. However, there is a greater risk to Irwindale employees that work close to hazardous sites. Hazardous waste sites are also generally located in these areas, with additional sites nearby in surrounding cities, such as Duarte, Baldwin Park, and Azusa. While these facilities are outside Irwindale's boundaries, soil contamination in

Irwindale is still possible through water, soil, wind, and dust movement. Remediation, cleanup, and other monitoring activities should be conducted in partnership with other jurisdictions to reduce exposure and contamination distribution. *See the Hazardous Materials section of the Safety Element for additional information.*

## Existing Programs

The following section summarizes existing programs and procedures that help mitigate the impact of polluting sources on Irwindale's environment. These programs aim to incentivize a community's transition to more sustainable practices. This section informs us on what policies and programs exist and what needs to be created to help reduce current pollution sources and prevent the development of new pollution sources. It is crucial to develop policies and programs that are accessible to everyone, specifically low-income individuals.



SOURCE: OEHHA 2021; ESA 2022

FIGURE EJ-5 Soil Pollution and Hazardous Materials Sites



## CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

The California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) recognizes the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in addressing air pollution. To achieve this, they utilize the California Adaptation Planning Guide (APG), which offers jurisdictions best practices, tools, and the latest scientific knowledge to aid their climate adaptation initiatives. Additionally, the State develops the Safeguarding California Plan: California's Climate Adaptation Strategy, which serves as a comprehensive roadmap for state agencies to effectively address the impacts of **climate change**, including those related to greenhouse gases and air pollution.

### South Coast Air Quality Management District

SCAQMD is the air pollution agency that regulates stationary sources of air pollution in southern California, including the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino. SCAQMD has multiple programs that aim to reduce air pollution.

- **Check Before You Burn.** It aims to limit the emissions of fine particulate matter (PM2.5). No-Burn Days are announced when PM2.5 reaches unhealthy levels due to stagnant

weather conditions and air emissions (SCAQMD).

- **CLEANair Furnace Rebate Program.** A rebate is available for those who replace their gas furnace with an all-electric one; 25 percent of the funds will be reserved for low-income areas (SCAQMD).
- **Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive & Exchange Program.** Includes a rebate of up to \$250 with the purchase of a cordless electric lawn mower and a savings of up to 75 percent off to commercial landscapers to purchase electric garden equipment (SCAQMD).
- **Old Vehicle Scrapping Program.** It aims to remove older, high-polluting cars from the South Coast region (MSERCs).
- **Replace Your Ride Program.** Eligible applicants can receive up to \$9,500 to replace old vehicles with newer or hybrid/electric vehicles or car-sharing/public transportation vouchers (SCAQMD).

### Hazardous Materials Management

Federal, state, and local laws have strict regulations governing hazardous materials, including those that impact the environment in Irwindale. New laws are constantly being developed as more knowledge is discovered

The United Nations defines climate change as long-term changes in temperatures and weather patterns, which can occur naturally through variations in the sun's activity or major volcanic eruptions. Since the 1800s, human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas, have become the primary cause of climate change. The combustion of fossil fuels releases greenhouse gas emissions that act as a blanket, trapping the sun's heat and causing a rise in temperatures.

#### Climate Change

about the effects of these substances on human health and the environment. The City's primary responsibility in handling hazardous materials is to meet these regulations. The management of hazardous waste is regulated at the local level by rules in the Irwindale Municipal Code.

### City of Irwindale Municipal Code

The City of Irwindale's Municipal Code (Code) addresses a variety of hazards, and related topics, including hazardous materials and waste and safety. Chapter 13.04 of the Code is the Sanitary Sewer and Industrial Waste Ordinance, which regulates the following:

- Discharge, deposit, and disposal of all waste, including any material that may cause pollution of underground or surface waters, in, upon, or affecting the city
- The design, construction, alteration, use, and maintenance of public sewers and house laterals; industrial connection sewers; water pollution control plants; sewage pumping plants; industrial liquid-waste pretreatment plants, dairy screen-chambers, sand and grease interceptors, and appurtenances
- The issuance of permits and collecting fees to pay the cost of checking plans, inspecting the construction, and making record plans of the facilities permitted

### Key Findings

- Although industrial sources, such as mining activity, contribute to air pollution in the city, the majority of air emissions come from cars and trucks, construction equipment, and other motor vehicles.
- Local and regional air pollutants of concern include ozone, PM2.5, and diesel PM. Irwindale has relatively high levels of air pollution among other census tracts in California. Ozone is in the 83rd percentile, PM2.5 is in the 66th percentile, and diesel PM is in the 68th percentile.
- Vulnerable populations in Irwindale include seniors, children, pregnant women, individuals experiencing homelessness and lack of health care, and those with preexisting health conditions, among others.
- Greater levels of and exposure to air pollution can affect physical health, such as respiratory and cardiovascular systems, cancers, and low birth weight in infants.
- Major roadways serve as designated truck routes, increasing pollution exposure risk for bicyclists, pedestrians, and other outdoor and active commuters.
- Groundwater threats in Irwindale are greater than 93 percent of other census tracts in California. This means that groundwater



quality in Irwindale is among the poorest in the state.

- Under EPA's Toxic Release Inventory (TRI), Irwindale was given a score of 1,656.45. This score indicates that Irwindale has more toxic releases than 75 percent of census tracts in California.
- Hazardous waste is highly toxic and can affect the surrounding community's air, soil, and water quality, leading to health conditions. Irwindale has more hazardous waste facilities than 93 percent of census tracts in California.
- SCAQMD provides programs to help improve local and regional air quality. These include wildfire smoke and ash resources, a pollution reporting hotline, and incentive programs for replacing diesel fuels with cleaner alternatives.

## Community Perspective

According to feedback from the community gathered through surveys, community members of Irwindale are concerned about the sources of pollution identified in this Environmental Justice Element.

Community members of Irwindale identified "air quality" as a significant hazard concern with an emphasis on pollution from neighboring

industrial uses. When asked about reducing pollution, their ideas included the following:

- Improving water infrastructure
- Enforcing vehicle pollution requirements
- Improving streets and sidewalks to make Irwindale more bike and pedestrian-friendly

Employees working in Irwindale also identified "air quality" as a primary concern. Most employee respondents chose harmful air pollution or dangerous fumes from industrial land use as a main pollution problem. When employees were asked their thoughts on reducing pollution, their ideas included the following:

- Minimizing industrial facilities
- Transitioning to alternative forms of energy, such as electric vehicles
- Encouraging the use of public transportation
- Requiring local businesses to recycle and reduce their pollution contribution
- Reducing vehicle trips and incentivizing carpool programs



## Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes and Neighborhoods



### Introduction

Housing location, quality, affordability, and stability all have health implications for a community and its residents. Irwindale's makeup of local housing and neighborhood conditions contribute to the overall quality of life for community members. This section will discuss local conditions in Irwindale and indicators that contribute to these health risks, including housing cost burden, housing quality, characteristics of the existing residences in Irwindale, and conditions of overcrowding. It also provides perspectives from the community on this topic and describes existing policies and programs that work to promote safe and sanitary homes and neighborhoods.

### Local Conditions

#### HOUSING QUALITY

Housing quality is primarily determined by property age, construction materials, and maintenance conditions. As shown in **Table EJ-3**, the housing stock of the city is relatively old, with 54 percent of units built before 1980. Homes built

prior to modern building standards may expose residents to harmful chemicals, such as lead and asbestos. Lack of maintenance is also associated with poor health outcomes for residents. Conditions such as water leaks, poor ventilation, dirty carpets, pest infestation, unkempt yards, and lack of paint often exacerbate existing health conditions, such as asthma. In general, low-income residents are more likely to live in structures that are of low quality and poorly maintained. Policy interventions can help address poor design or construction of homes that often contributes to home-related accidents or otherwise impacts resident health. The American Community Survey (ACS) also evaluates housing quality based on access to telephone services, sufficient plumbing, and kitchen facilities. Based on these criteria Irwindale has few substandard units with 1.8 percent of the housing stock in the City failing to meet these conditions.

TABLE EJ-3 **Age of Housing Stock**

YEARS STRUCTURE BUILT	NUMBER OF HOMES	PERCENT
Units Built Before 1980	232	54%
Units Built After 1980	193	45%
Total Housing Units	425	100%

SOURCE: 5-Year Estimated Data Profiles ACS 2019)

## AFFORDABILITY AND DISPLACEMENT

Access to affordable housing helps reduce undue stress suffered from unstable living conditions. Housing cost burden refers to households that spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent. This metric provides a simplified estimate of the economic impact of housing costs on residents. According to the Southern California Association of Governments, approximately 50 percent of renters in Irwindale spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs placing them in the housing cost burden category. Among all Irwindale residents housing cost burden is less than surrounding cities of Duarte and Baldwin Park. In addition, Irwindale has a smaller proportion of cost-burdened households than the County and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region overall due to the high rate (72 percent) of home ownership in the City (ACS 2019). While housing cost burden overall is

relatively low, Irwindale experiences hot summers that are expected to increase due to climate change conditions, which makes addressing housing cost burden and inefficient households a priority, as utility costs and costs to combat heat are likely to increase.

Public investments from policies related to SB 1000 may have the unintended consequence of gentrifying existing communities and put community members and businesses at risk of displacement. As such, assisting community members in maintaining their homes and neighborhoods can help to combat the effects of gentrification and prevent the displacement of residents and businesses.

## OVERCROWDING

According to the California Department of Public Health, living conditions are considered “overcrowded” if there is more than one person per each room (excluding bathrooms). Overcrowding is classified as a health risk by the World Health Organization because it can lead to unsanitary living conditions that contribute to the spread of disease. Additionally, overcrowding can inhibit children's educational goals if they do not have a consistent place to study and complete schoolwork.

Overcrowding is a metric used to estimate the burden of housing cost and size. While this is generally a helpful measurement to better understand housing conditions it is important to note that many cultures and communities of color value multigenerational households which may contribute to observed overcrowding.

Rates of overcrowding in Irwindale are similar to those of the surrounding communities in the Eastern San Gabriel Valley. The City has 1.5 to 2 times the statewide average of overcrowding.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

Measurements of unemployment provide insight into the socioeconomic characteristics within Irwindale. Unemployment rates in Irwindale lag compared to the LA region. Looking at the County and the SCAG region, Irwindale has a consistently higher rate of unemployment than these counterparts. In January 2010, the unemployment rate for the city was 16.8 percent, even as the County and the SCAG region saw much lower rates of 13 percent and 12.9 percent, respectively, reflecting the effects of the Great Recession. Until 2016, rates for all three geographies generally declined, and then converged at around five to six percent, until the global COVID-19 pandemic generated a massive spike in May 2020 to 22.3 percent for Irwindale, 18.2 percent for Los

Angeles County, and 16.8 percent for the SCAG Region. As of June 2021, the unemployment rate in the City has decreased compared to the high during the COVID-19 pandemic but is still higher than the regional aggregate (California Employment Development Department 2021).

## Neighborhood Characteristics

### CRIME

Crime rates have the potential to affect quality of life, sense of safety and housing costs in neighborhoods. Crime reports in Irwindale are mostly attributed to property crimes. In 2020, there were 182 reports of property crime, 104 of which were larceny-theft, and 17 reports of violent crime (see the **Safety Element – Law Enforcement** and Crime section for additional information).

In the past 10 years, violent crime in Irwindale has fluctuated with peaks in 2011, 2015, and most recently in 2019. The year 2015 saw the highest number of violent crimes with 27 reports submitted, of which 22 have been cleared. Property crimes, including burglary, larceny-theft, and motor-vehicle theft, peaked in 2019 with 240 reports, compared to the yearly average of 197. From 2010 to 2020, only four percent of property crimes have been cleared.



## STREETSCAPE SAFETY

Streetscape elements such as lighting, pedestrian crosswalks, and landscaping all contribute to the beautification and safety of thoroughfares for community members and encourage more activity in the community. Investment in these elements is crucial to developing safe neighborhoods. Recent improvements along Irwindale Avenue and Arrow Highway, like new medians and landscaping, can serve as an example for future safety features that create a streetscape that is both active and inviting.

## Existing Programs

Internally, the Irwindale Housing Authority assists low to moderate income community members with their affordable housing needs. In the past programs from the department include assistance programs for first time ownership and ongoing oversight of the Las Casitas senior apartment complex application process. New programs will be implemented following the Housing Element Update.

The City also works closely with the Los Angeles County Housing Rights Center (HRC) to promote fair housing. HRC provides assistance with monitoring and enforcing fair housing rights for all County residents, including Irwindale. Services

include landlord tenant counseling, outreach and education, and discrimination investigation.

## Key Findings

- Irwindale has a relatively low percentage of substandard housing units (1.79 percent) based on criteria such as access to telephone services, sufficient plumbing, and kitchen facilities.
- The City's housing stock is relatively old, with 54 percent of units built before 1980, which may expose residents to harmful chemicals and poor health outcomes if not properly maintained.
- Irwindale has a smaller proportion of cost-burdened households due to the high rate of home ownership in the city (72 percent).
- Policies to address housing costs should consider the efficiency of homes, particularly in Irwindale where hot summers can lead to higher utility bills.
- Public investments aimed at improving housing and neighborhoods should involve community members to combat the effects of gentrification and prevent displacement of residents and businesses.
- Unemployment rates in Irwindale are consistently higher than the region as a whole

and programs should be developed to bring both housing and jobs to the city.

Most crime in Irwindale is related to larceny-theft (property crime), followed by violent crime. Violent crime in Irwindale has fluctuated over the past 10 years and generally is a concern among community members.

### Community Perspective

Community workshops held to elicit input regarding safety and environmental justice in the City of Irwindale found that community members were concerned about issues related to housing cost, stock, and quality as well as the perception of safety and comfort within neighborhoods. To improve neighborhood safety, respondents cited a desire for increased neighborhood surveillance, law enforcement, lighting, and improved streetscapes. In addition to improved safety, respondents also expressed a desire for improved air filtration systems in community spaces to mitigate the impacts of particulate matter from nearby freeways. These community characteristics are all vital to creating a more comfortable and welcoming urban environment in the city.





## Promote Health and Physical Activity

### Introduction

Research has shown that health outcomes and mental wellbeing are linked to social and environmental factors such as: level of physical activity, access to parks and recreation, and transportation safety (SCAG 2020). Healthy and active communities have **built environments** that encourage walking, biking, outdoor recreation, and other forms of exercise. Communities can improve health outcomes and mental wellbeing by expanding access to parks and providing opportunities to engage in physical activity (CEJA 2018).

The Environmental Justice Element addresses health and physical activity because the built environment can significantly impact a community's ability to engage in healthy behaviors. In disadvantaged communities, there may be compounding factors that contribute to ongoing health issues, such as poverty, ethnicity, education level, access to services, sense of safety in neighborhoods, and lack of affordable housing (SCAG 2020). Environmental justice aims to promote equitable access to health resources and a built environment that encourages healthy and active lifestyles.

This section will provide an overview of health and physical activity in Irwindale, including prevalent health issues, park and recreation availability, tree canopy, active transportation trends, and community feedback.

Health and physical activity in a community are both influenced by the availability of high-quality and well-maintained public facilities such as parks, open space, community centers, and health clinics. For a detailed description of public facilities in Irwindale, see the Promote Access to Public Facilities section starting on p. 2-45.

Health outcomes are also influenced by access to healthy food options (see Promote Healthy Food Access starting on p. 2-32).

### Local Conditions

In Southern California, the leading chronic conditions making up a large portion of health expenditures are all linked to physical inactivity. **Table EJ-4**, Irwindale Health Conditions, lists the percentages of Irwindale residents affected by health conditions linked to physical inactivity. Of these, high blood pressure and obesity are most

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) describes the built environment as the human-made surroundings that provide the setting for human activity, ranging in scale from buildings, parks, and transportation systems to entire cities and regions. This includes the physical infrastructure, such as roads, sidewalks, and public transportation, as well as the design, planning, and management of these systems. (EPA 2023).

### Built Environment

Long-term illnesses that often do not resolve readily and are not fully curable. Chronic disease include cancer, diabetes, stroke, heart disease and hypertension, among others (Purdue 2003).

### Chronic Diseases



Adult Dance Class. Courtesy of Pexels Stock Photos.

prevalent, while cardiovascular disease and diabetes are impacting residents at lower rates.

TABLE EJ-4 **Irwindale Health Conditions**

HEALTH INDICATOR	PERCENT OF RESIDENTS
Cardiovascular Disease	4.8%
Diabetes	11.3%
High Blood Pressure	24.7%
Obesity	32%

SOURCE: CDC 2019 and 2021

NOTES: Data for cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity is from 2021. Data for high blood pressure is from 2019.

## CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, DIABETES, AND OBESITY

Cardiovascular disease refers to a class of conditions that affect the heart and blood vessels, including coronary artery disease, heart failure, and stroke. Cardiovascular disease is often caused by a combination of risk factors, including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, smoking, exposure to pollution, physical inactivity, and poor diet, among others. Almost 5 percent of Irwindale's adult population (aged 18 and older) had cardiovascular disease in 2020 (CDC 2021).

Diabetes is a chronic health condition characterized by high blood glucose levels due to either insufficient insulin production or the body's inability to effectively use insulin. Diabetes can lead to a range of negative health outcomes, such as vision problems, nerve damage, kidney disease, and an increased risk of heart attack and stroke. The majority of people diagnosed with diabetes have type 2 diabetes. Unlike type 1 diabetes, which is a genetic disorder that often shows up early in life, type 2 diabetes is largely diet-related and develops over time (CDC 2021). There is also substantial evidence to suggest that sleep habits and sleep disorders are related to diabetes risk (Grandner MA 2016). While there is no cure for diabetes, type 2 diabetes can be prevented or delayed through a healthy lifestyle. In 2020, 11 percent of the adult population was estimated to have diabetes (CDC 2021).

High blood pressure, or hypertension, is a chronic medical condition characterized by elevated blood pressure levels in the arteries, which can increase the risk of cardiovascular disease and other health problems. Although some cases of high blood pressure are hereditary, many cases are caused by a lack of physical activity and unhealthy lifestyles. Certain conditions such as diabetes and obesity can increase the risk for developing high blood pressure. In turn, higher blood pressure can increase the risk of

## SECTION 2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

cardiovascular disease (CDC 2021). In 2019, almost 25 percent of adults in Irwindale were estimated to have high blood pressure (CDC 2021).

Obesity is a condition characterized by excessive body fat that accompanies increased risk of numerous health problems, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and certain cancers. Obesity is typically caused by a combination of genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors, such as poor diet, physical inactivity, and certain medical conditions or medications. Research has shown that communities with low access to active transportation networks and safe spaces to engage in physical activity are more susceptible to obesity (Lovasi et al. 2009). Additionally, Hispanic populations have been found to be more vulnerable to obesity (CDPH 2016). This is significant as Irwindale's population is 92 percent Hispanic (U.S. Census Bureau 2020). In 2020, the prevalence of obesity among Irwindale adults was approximately 32 percent (CDC 2021).

### PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE

Safe and accessible parks and open spaces can provide opportunities for individuals and communities to engage in physical activity,

socialize, and connect with nature, leading to numerous health benefits. Additionally, access to parks and green spaces has been shown to provide benefits to mental health by reducing feelings of stress, anxiety, depression, and isolation.

There are nine parks and open space areas in Irwindale, which make up 31 percent of the city's private and public land. A report created for the City of Irwindale by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) found that 61 percent of Irwindale residents live within a 10-minute walk to a park (Trust for Public Land 2022). This is greater than the national average of 55 percent. However, this means that nearly 40 percent of Irwindale residents do not live within walking distance of a park, indicating an opportunity to expand park access. For a detailed description of parks and recreation in Irwindale, see the Promote Access to Public Facilities section (p. 2-45).

### TREE CANOPY

A robust urban tree canopy in the public realm can promote physical activity by providing shaded paths for walking, cycling, and other modes of active transportation. Additionally, trees can help mitigate extreme heat effects, making it more comfortable and safer for people to walk and cycle outdoors. According to the LA County



Urban tree canopy is the layer of leaves, branches, and stems of trees that cover the ground when viewed from above. In urban areas, the tree canopy provides an important stormwater management, reduces the urban heat island effect, reduces heating/cooling costs, lowers air temperatures, reduces air pollution, increases property values, provides wildlife habitat, and provides aesthetic and community benefits such as improved quality of life. (Urban Tree Canopy 2015).

### Urban Tree Canopy

Climate Vulnerability Assessment, tree canopies can further improve respiratory health in communities by reducing particulate air pollution (Los Angeles County 2021). A robust tree canopy can also provide a more aesthetically pleasing environment, which can make active transportation more enjoyable and appealing.

In Irwindale, the tree canopy occupies 7 percent of the city's land cover, which is lower than LA County's average tree canopy of 18 percent (LMU CUREs 2020). This measure for tree canopy considers both *existing tree canopy* (trees) and *possible tree canopy* (includes areas that are suitable and available for the establishment of trees, such as grass, shrub, bare soil, and other paved or possible impervious surfaces). **Figure EJ-6** shows the percentage of tree canopy in Irwindale at the parcel level. Areas shown in darker green indicate higher tree canopy (existing and possible) relative to other parcels within the city.

Generally, there is a higher percentage of tree canopy in the eastern portion of the City, where the majority of residential and public facilities – police, fire, library, recreational center, and school exist. This indicates potential for tree cover to be improved in the northwestern portion of the city along sidewalks near residential uses on Mountain Avenue leading to the Little Park of Irwindale and the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area.

## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Approximately 82 percent of Irwindale commuters drive alone to work (Irwindale Active Transportation Plan 2021). Results from a survey conducted in Irwindale for the Active Transportation Plan revealed that the top challenges to walking and biking in the city include:

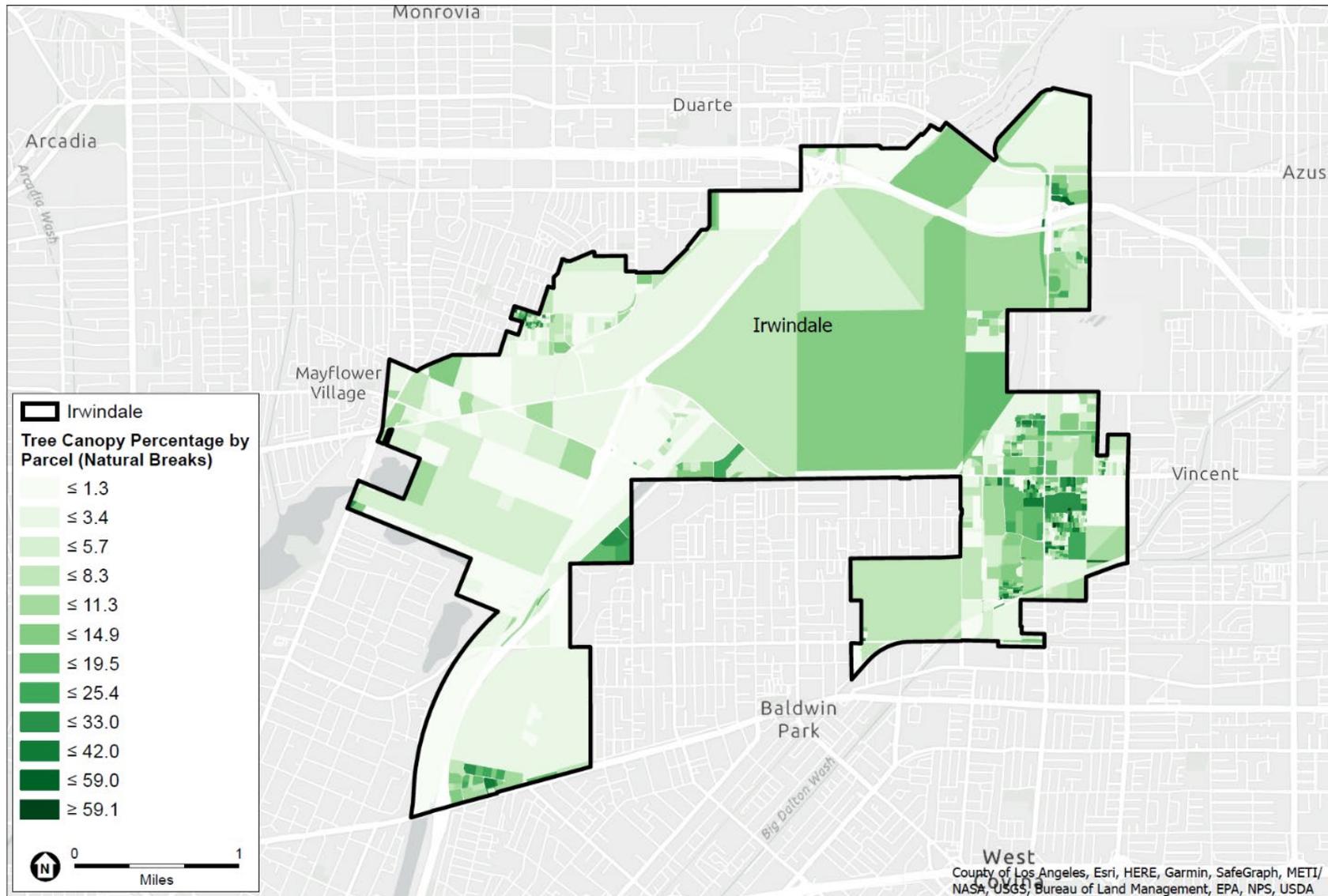
- Too much vehicular traffic, meaning there are too many vehicles for pedestrians to navigate with unsafe crossings and lack of improved sidewalks
- High vehicle traffic speeds
- A lack of bike lanes
- A lack of shade and other **pedestrian amenities**
- Concern with motorists not following the rules of the road, leading to collisions between motorists and pedestrians



*Irwindale Avenue Meandering Pathway. Courtesy of City of Irwindale.*



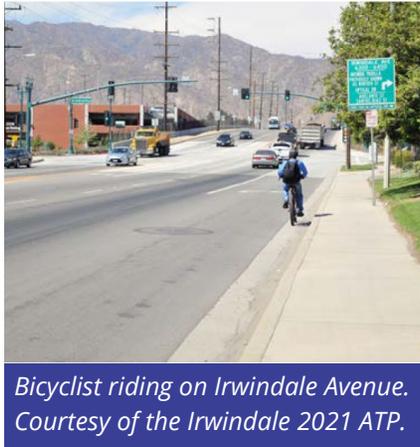
SECTION 2 EXISTING CONDITIONS



SOURCE: LMU CURES and TreePeople 2020, ESA

FIGURE EJ-6 **Percentage of Existing Tree Canopy by Parcel**





*Bicyclist riding on Irwindale Avenue.  
Courtesy of the Irwindale 2021 ATP.*

Approximately 3 percent of Irwindale residents walk to work. In Irwindale, the placement of sidewalks, trails, benches, trees, and trash receptacles is inconsistent, and many sidewalks are not designed to support high pedestrian activity (Irwindale ATP 2021). The San Gabriel River Trail and Bike Trail lacks connective paths from the residential neighborhoods in Irwindale, particularly in the southwest. These are areas where trails can be improved and added to increase likelihood of walking for both residents and employees and encourage walking as a form of physical activity.

Less than 1 percent of commuters utilize biking as their form of travel to work and there are no bike lanes near Irwindale's residential neighborhoods to the southeast. For a detailed description of active transportation in Irwindale, see the Promote Access to Public Facilities section (p. 2-45).

**Figure EJ-7** shows trails and bike paths in the city.

## Existing Programs

- Residents of Irwindale are eligible for a prescription drug program and a vision program.
- Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation holds recreation events at the Sante Fe Dam Recreational Area in Irwindale that include

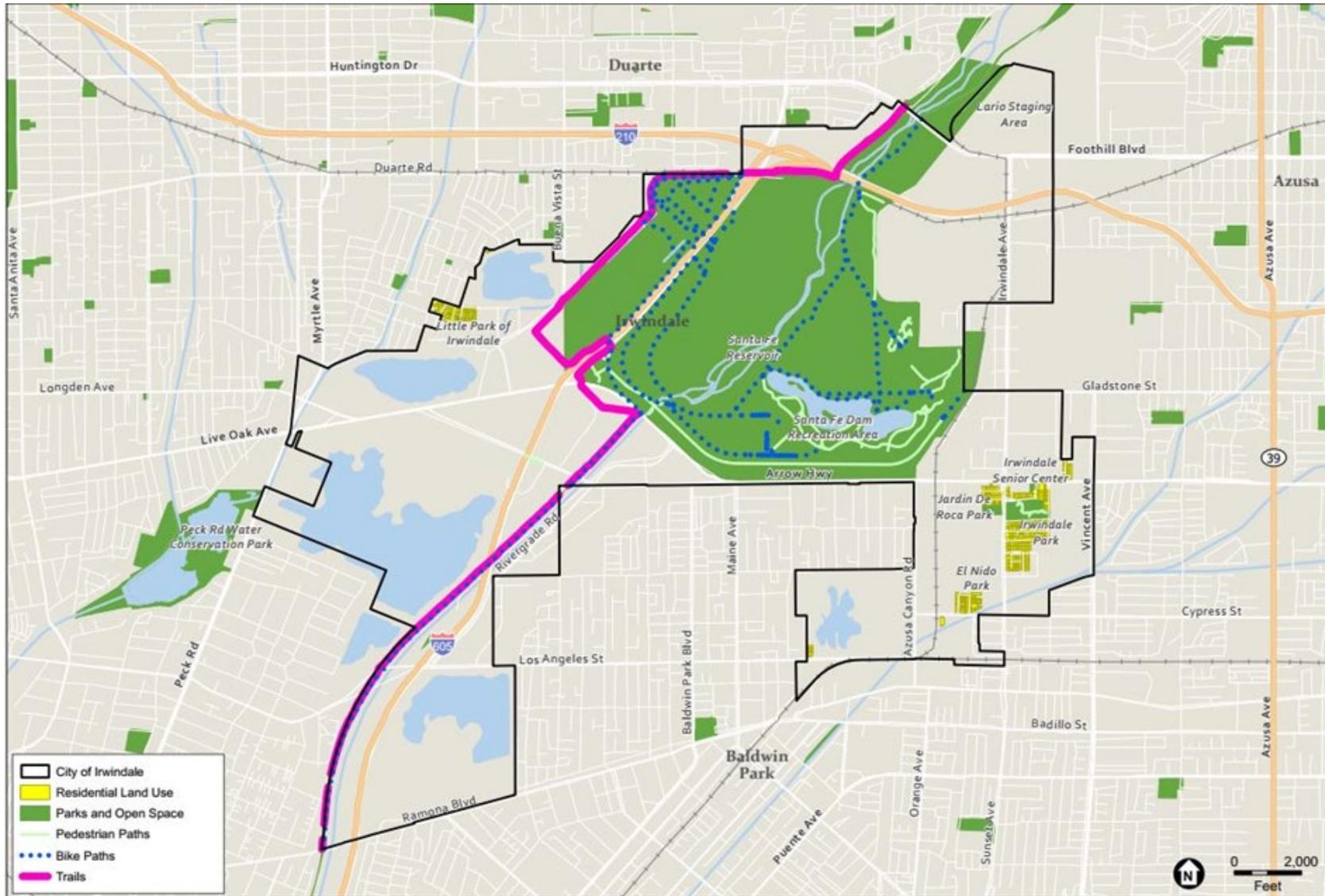
overnight camping, a swim beach, a youth fishing derby, and other recreation programs.

- The Irwindale Active Transportation Plan guides the development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and programs in the City of Irwindale.
- The Irwindale Recreation Department provides a wide array of activities for people of all ages at the Dan Diaz Recreation Center.
- The Irwindale Senior Center Transportation Service offers curbside transportation service to doctor, dental, vision, and pharmacy appointments.

## Key Findings

- Residents in Irwindale experience negative health impacts related to inactivity, including high rates of obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes.
- Forty percent of residents do not live within a 10-minute walk to a park.
- Irwindale's tree canopy covers only 7 percent of the City's land cover, which is 11 percent less than Los Angeles County's average tree canopy.

SECTION 2 EXISTING CONDITIONS



SOURCE: Los Angeles County 2021; OSM 2021; ESA 2021

FIGURE EJ-7 **Active Transportation Routes**



- Less than 4 percent of residents in Irwindale use active transportation when commuting to work, due to various concerns related to inconsistent sidewalks, lack of bike lanes, insufficient pedestrian crossings, speed of traffic and reckless driving.

## Community Perspective

During the community engagement process, residents and employees of Irwindale expressed their desire to live healthy lives. Community members identified the following concerns related to Health and Physical Activity:

- Air quality
- Extreme heat
- Community safety
- Health conditions, including diabetes
- Covid-19 (i.e., masks, vaccinations, and sanitizing)
- Lack of opportunities for physical activity and fitness
- Not having the time to incorporate healthy practices



*Youth Flag Football. Courtesy of The City of Irwindale Facebook Page.*



## Promote Healthy Food Access

### Introduction

Healthy food access means being able to safely and easily get to sources of nutritious, high-quality food that fits individual budgets and cultural preferences. Healthy food access is critical for good nutrition, which affects every aspect of health and well-being—physical, mental, social, and economic. Eating a healthy diet—one that is rich in fresh vegetables, fruits, and whole grains, and is minimally processed and low in salt, added sugars, and unhealthy fats—increases the likelihood of leading an active healthy life.

When people can't reliably get enough nutritious food, they can experience **food insecurity**, often turning to the most affordable, accessible, and filling foods available, such as fast-food or highly processed snack foods and beverages, which tend to be high in calories and low in nutrients. These foods can increase risk for chronic health conditions such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, asthma, and some types of cancer (Seligman et al. 2010).

The World Health Organization considers access to safe, nutritious food to be a basic human right. Studies show that people in low-income communities and communities of color are less likely to have this right. **Figure EJ-8** shows the results of a University of Southern California survey of 905 participants throughout Los Angeles County between April and May of 2020. This revealed that food insecurity is more than twice as likely for Hispanic and Black/African American participants as it is for White participants.

In Los Angeles County, the most visible examples of people who struggle with food security are fixed-income seniors, people with disabilities, low-income families, and unhoused people. However, the soaring costs of both housing and transportation mean that many people who work – even families with two incomes – often face challenges putting healthy food on the table (Los Angeles Food Bank 2019). The COVID pandemic that began in 2020 has made these challenges even greater (de la Haye et al. 2020).

According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), a household is food insecure if it:

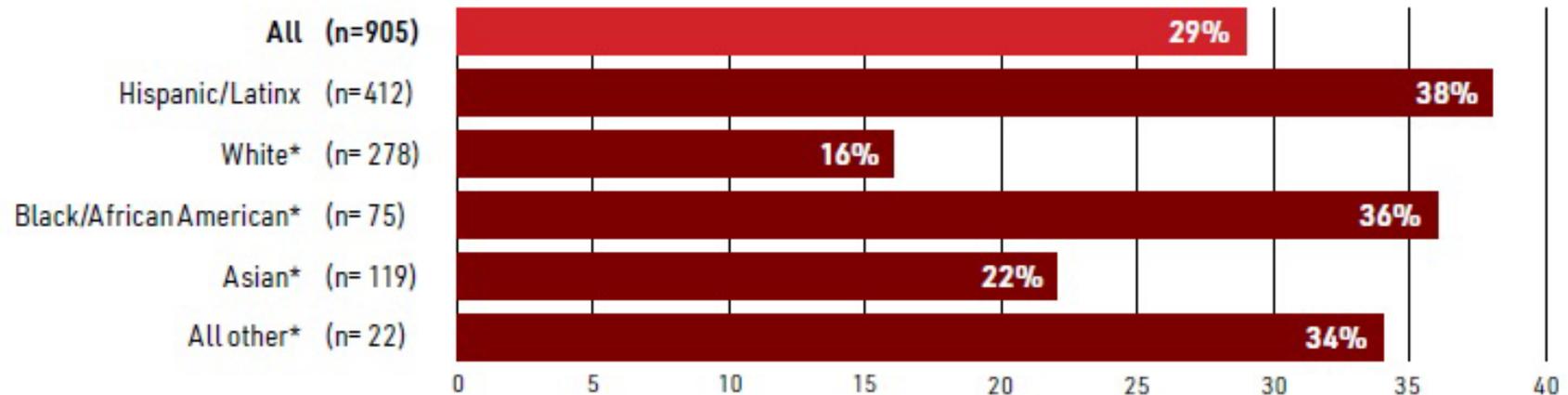
- Reports a reduction in the quality, variety, or desirability of diet with little to no indication of reduced food intake (low food security), or
- Reports multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake (very low food security)

Coleman-Jensen et al. 2021

### Food Insecurity

### Figure 1. Food insecurity in April and May 2020 across racial and ethnic groups

29% of the L.A. County population were food insecure between April and May. This graph shows the percentage of the population within a given racial and ethnic group who experienced food insecurity during this time.



\* Following the U.S. Census Bureau's guidelines, ethnicity is categorized as Hispanic/Latinx or Non-Hispanic/Latinx. In this figure, the race categories White, Black/African American, Asian, and All other are Non-Hispanic/Latinx.

SOURCE: University of Southern California's Understanding Coronavirus in America tracking survey

FIGURE EJ-8 **Food Insecurity in Los Angeles County**

## Local Conditions

### FOOD ACCESS

One of the many contributors to healthy food access is how far people need to travel from their homes to sources of healthy food. One way to measure this is to determine the percentage of residences within 0.5 miles of healthy food sources such as supermarkets, grocery stores (with substantial produce sections), farmers

markets, community gardens, and urban farms. As **Table EJ-5** shows, only 6 percent of Irwindale residences are within 0.5 miles of healthy food sources. Only one of the six Irwindale neighborhoods where data were available has a healthy food source within 0.5 miles, and that source is a grocery store in the neighboring City of Azusa. This is a very low percentage and clearly indicates that this aspect of healthy food access is lacking in Irwindale.

TABLE EJ-5 **Food Access**

RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD	DWELLING UNITS	UNITS WITHIN 0.5 MILES OF HEALTHY FOOD SOURCE*		UNITS WITHIN 0.5 MILES OF FAST FOOD	
		#	%	#	%
Town Center	204	0	0%	204	100%
Hidalgo/Juarez	49	0	0%	49	100%
Nora/Fraijo	44	0	0%	0	0%
Mountain/Meridian**	71	0	0%	0	0%
Morada Street Neighborhood	23	23	100%	23	100%
Park Avenue	NA	0			
Azusa Canyon Rd.	6	0	0%	6	100%
Vincent Ave.	1	0			
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>71%</b>

NOTES:

\* Farmer's market, fuller-service grocery store, supermarket

\*\* Includes 2 units from Duarte (per Google Maps)

The Food Access map shown in **Figure EJ-9** provides a geographic perspective on the data from the table above. Irwindale has only one grocery store, which, although it offers fresh meat, dairy, and some fruits and vegetables, doesn't have a full enough produce section to show up on this map or to be counted in this Element as a healthy food source. Irwindale's lack of supermarkets and grocery stores within its own city limits could possibly be attributed to its small residential population, which is concentrated on its northwest and southeast borders with neighboring cities that do have supermarkets and grocery stores. Irwindale is home to several large produce distribution warehouses, but these are not open to the public. There are currently no farmers markets\*, community gardens, or urban farms in Irwindale: places where healthy fresh food is often found in abundance. However, a biweekly farmers market has been approved to be held at the Kaiser campus at 12761 Schabarum Avenue. Another private farmers market at The Campus at SGV is currently on hiatus and is likely to resume in the summer of 2023, but it will only be accessible to tenants of The Campus at SGV.

Figure EJ-9 shows many fast-food outlets in eastern Irwindale. Even though fast-food restaurants may have some healthy food choices, they tend to offer less-healthy foods and

contribute to lower food quality overall. Compared to healthy food sources, the percentage of residences within 0.5 miles of fast-food restaurants (71 percent), is much higher and there are many more fast-food options within the 0.5-mile radius of most Irwindale residences.

Figure EJ-9 includes Shepherd's Pantry, which gives shelf-stable staple foods and fresh produce, meat, and dairy products twice a month to individuals and families in need from Irwindale and surrounding communities. Shepherd's Pantry also offers ready-to-eat food items up to three times per week for those experiencing homelessness. Shepherd's Pantry is described in more detail under Existing Policies and Programs.

## FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity is intertwined with many other factors such as housing, pollution, exercise, education, employment, and safety, and it isn't always possible to trace health conditions directly back to a dietary cause. Even so, the following health conditions linked with food insecurity are compelling reasons to continue to work on all the factors that affect the health of our communities and the people who live in them.

- Food-insecure adults are twice as likely to have diabetes as are food-secure adults (Seligman et al. 2010).



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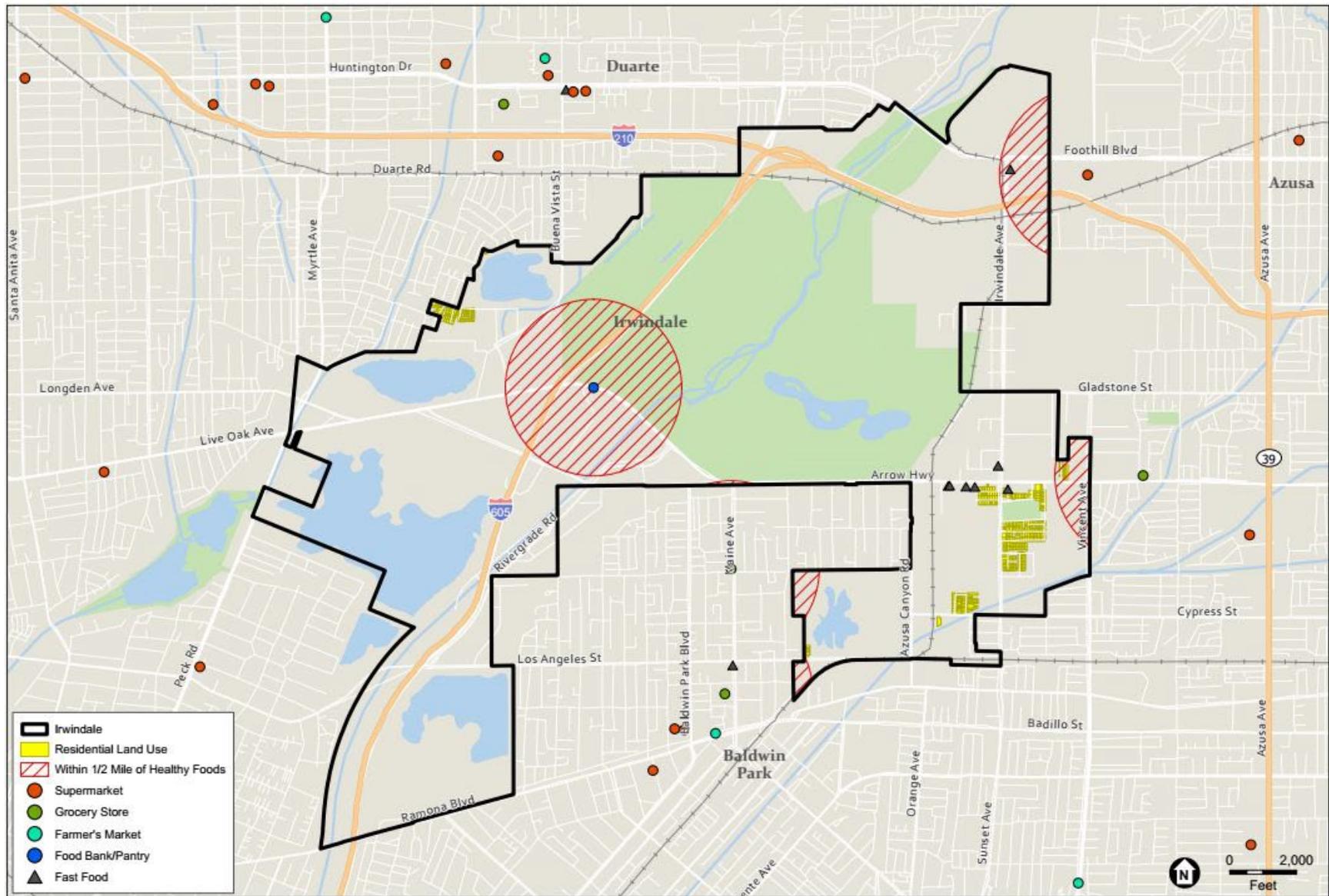


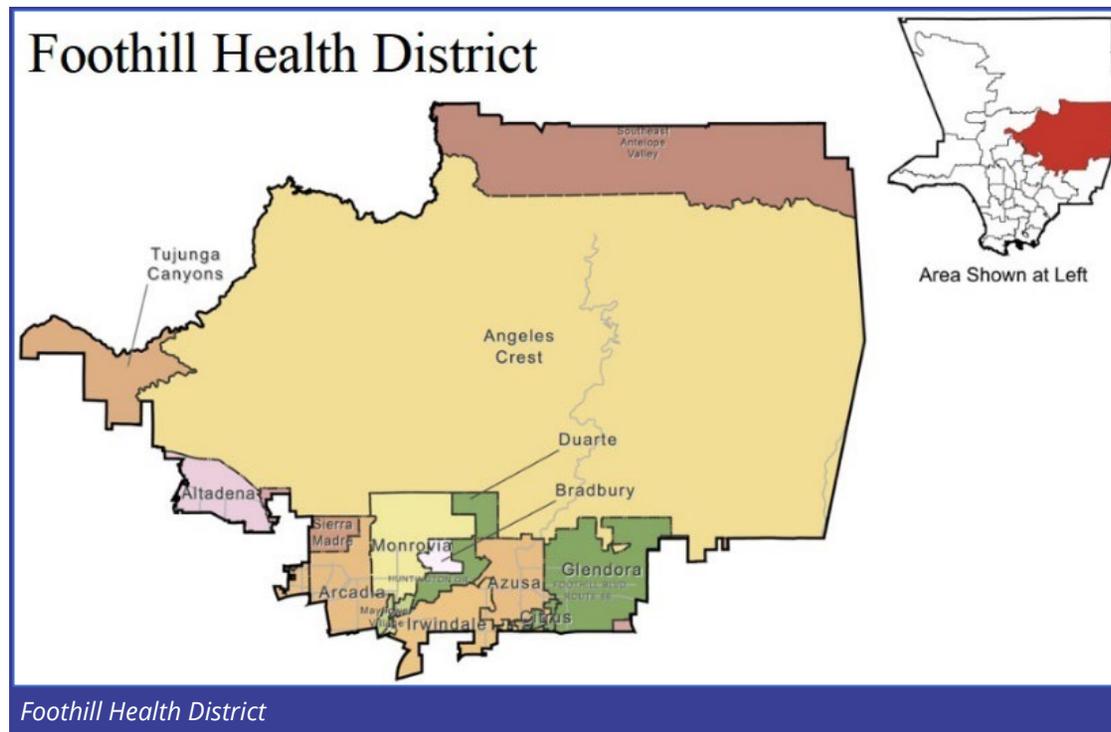
FIGURE EJ-9 Food Sources and Access

- Food insecure children are 40 percent more likely to have asthma than are food-secure children (Kirkpatrick et al. 2010).
- Marginally food insecure senior citizens are much more likely than fully food secure senior citizens to have limitations in activities of daily living. In fact, studies show that food-insecure senior citizens perform daily living activities at the same level as food-secure seniors fourteen years older (Ziliak et al. 2008).
- Adults with very low food security are at least 40 percent more likely than food-secure adults to suffer from cardiovascular conditions such as coronary heart disease, high blood pressure, and heart attack (Seligman et al. 2010).

Survey data can provide insight into people's own experiences of healthy food access and food insecurity. Although these survey data are available at a regional level, rather than being specific to Irwindale, they can still help expand perspectives beyond what is available by mapping distances to food sources.

According to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's (LA DPH's) 2015 health survey of 8,000 low-income households, the Foothill Health District, which contains Irwindale and surrounding communities to the north, east, and west (see Foothill Health District graphic), is more food-secure than most of Los Angeles County, with about 17 percent of households reporting food insecurity, compared to a County average of 29 percent.

A more recent (2018) California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) of 620 low-income San Gabriel Valley residents showed San Gabriel Valley residents with only a slim advantage over Los Angeles County as a whole, with about 25 percent of respondents reporting that fresh fruits and



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vegetables were affordable in their neighborhood only some of the time, or not at all, compared to 26 percent countywide.

The findings of these two surveys are consolidated in **Table EJ-6**.

TABLE EJ-6 **Food Insecurity Survey Results: San Gabriel Valley and Foothill Health District Compared to County-wide**

AREA	FOOD INSECURITY (LA DPH 2015 SURVEY)	INCONSISTENT AFFORDABILITY OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES (2018 CHIS SURVEY)
San Gabriel Valley		25%
Foothill Health District	17%	
<b>LA County Overall</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>26%</b>

Because of the City’s robust investment in its community (see Existing Programs below), Irwindale seniors and other low-income Irwindale residents may face less food insecurity than residents of surrounding cities. Shepherd’s Pantry reported that in the first half of 2022, only 4 percent of customers from their combined local food pantries (three of them) reported their place

of residence as Irwindale. That percentage may not include some unhoused people living in the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, but it still points to a lower need for emergency food than the regional average.

### Existing Programs

Food access is part of a web of environmental justice issues for all communities. In Irwindale for example, greater air pollution levels have the potential to contribute to higher levels of respiratory diseases, such as asthma, which could in turn reduce educational opportunities for children and employment opportunities for adults, leading to cycles of economic stress and food insecurity (LA DPH 2021). The City, along with several community organizations, funds several programs for its residents that enhance food access, help prevent or reduce the harmful effects of diseases and collectively save residents money that could potentially go toward healthy food choices.

### CITY-FUNDED PROGRAMS

City programs that are offered free to residents include prescription drug and vision care assistance, free senior services such as transportation, legal clinics, health screenings, and haircuts, and free youth services such as



tutoring, supervised sports and activities, and bus transport to schools. In addition, the City’s Senior Nutrition Program provides free nutritious lunches—which include produce grown locally at the Baldwin Park Community Garden—directly to its residents (beginning at age 50), every weekday, and delivers healthy lunches to its homebound seniors. Irwindale’s Library allows residents to check out items such as electronics, tools, and appliances, that they might otherwise need to rent or buy.

### COMMUNITY-ORGANIZATION-FUNDED PROGRAMS

The **Irwindale Community Foundation** offers one free turkey per year or equivalent gift card value to each Irwindale household. During the pandemic, they also provided each household with 1 or 2 boxes per year of canned goods and pasta. In addition, they partner with local businesses to provide scholarships to college or trade school. The **Irwindale Education Foundation** also offers a college or trade school scholarship program.

**Shepherd’s Pantry** offers food to residents in need and to the unhoused community. According to its Executive Director, Shepherd’s Pantry receives large weekly donations of fresh produce, meat, dairy, prepared foods, and bakery items

from several area supermarkets, produce distribution hubs, and restaurants. They also receive staples, such as canned foods and dry milk, beans, and grains from the LA Regional Food Bank. Shepherd’s Pantry’s three locations in Irwindale, Glendora, and La Puente distributed about fifteen hundred rations of food per month in 2021. This increased to about eighteen hundred per month in 2022. Individuals and families can come every other week to get a ration, which consists of about six large bags containing produce and staples. If needed, people can come in the intervening weeks to pick up more staples. Those who can’t make it to the Pantry can request home delivery. Shepherd’s Pantry distributes a modest amount of donated sweets but removes these items from the rations of recipients who request diabetes-friendly foods. They also remove high sodium items for recipients struggling with high blood pressure. Unhoused people, including those camped near the Santa Fe Dam, can come up to three times per week for smaller rations of ready-to-eat foods, including some healthy prepared foods to eat right away. Shepherd’s Pantry also provides case management to help people access social services, including employment, housing, health, substance abuse, and financial assistance.



*Image Courtesy of Shepherd's Pantry*

## REGIONAL/STATE PROGRAMS

The [Los Angeles Food Policy Council](#) coordinates programs to promote access for all of Los Angeles County to healthy, affordable food that is produced sustainably and fairly. These programs include:

The [Healthy Neighborhood Market Network](#) which empowers small markets in lower income neighborhoods to become healthy food retailers.

The [Food Leaders Lab](#), which facilitates 10-week programs to grow community members into food justice and health leaders.

They also partner with the national [Good Food Purchasing Program](#), which encourages and supports large institutions to direct their buying power toward five core values: local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare and nutrition.

The [Healthy San Gabriel Valley Collaborative](#) is a member of [California Accountable Communities for Health Initiative](#), and facilitates collaboration between organizations that are working to address all the factors that determine wellbeing: mental and physical health, nutrition, housing, employment, education, safety, etc.

The [City of Hope](#) provides several urban gardening, cooking and nutrition education, and

fresh produce access opportunities in the San Gabriel Valley, including:

- A Farm Lab at Arroyo High School in El Monte
- Student/Teacher-run farmers markets at Beardslee Academy in Duarte, and La Primaria Elementary School in El Monte
- Gardening and healthy cooking classes at the organic teaching garden on the City of Hope's main campus in Duarte

**San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps** runs [Earthworks Farm](#), a 4.9-acre urban farm in South El Monte that provides vocational training in organic gardening to its Corps members. It also offers produce to the community through a Community Supported Agriculture program as well as a weekly produce stand. Community members can learn organic gardening techniques through its workshops and garden tours, which it also offers to local schools.

At a statewide level, [Senate Bill 1383](#) requires large food-generating businesses and organizations to arrange with food recovery organizations or services to recover the maximum amount of their surplus edible food to make it available to people in need. **CalRecycle**, California's recycling and waste management agency, provides education, resources, and grants to support these efforts. The City of Irwindale is partnering with the [San Gabriel Valley Regional](#)



Image Courtesy of Baldwin Park Unified School District

[Food Recovery Program](#) to identify and educate businesses that may produce surplus edible food, assess and expand the capacity of food recovery organizations, and facilitate partnerships between these two groups.

## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Nutrition education can shape lifelong habits and provide an understanding of the types of foods that can promote health and combat disease. For example, eating a diet high in antioxidants such as vitamins C and E that are found in fresh vegetables, fruits, and fish has been shown to reduce the burden of respiratory disease to people facing high levels of air pollution (Barthelemy et al. 2020).

Shepherd's Pantry (see above) manages the grant for the Nutrition in the Garden Partnership, a collaboration between Kaiser Permanente and the Baldwin Park Unified School District. This program gives elementary students a chance to plant, tend, and harvest at the Baldwin Park Community Garden, and to use their fresh produce to prepare recipes to share with their families. This program has been on hold since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic but is projected to resume in the fall of 2023. As Irwindale does not have its own school district, its students attend schools in nearby communities and will

benefit from this program as it rotates through Baldwin Park schools, as well as from at least two other school gardens supported in part by Kaiser: Various elementary school gardens, and the Peace and Pride Garden at Baldwin Park High.

While the City of Irwindale does not have authority over school siting and operations, school lunch programs offer an opportunity to provide nutritious meals to children. The lunch menus of the school districts that serve Irwindale students (Azusa, Baldwin Park, Covina, and Duarte) show that children are being offered fresh fruits and vegetables with each meal; however, main entrées are often items such as nachos, pizza, corn dogs, cheeseburgers, chicken nuggets, etc. that are commonly found at fast-food restaurants (see [Figure EJ-10](#)). Healthier ingredients are swapped for less-healthy ones, e.g., wheat instead of white hamburger buns; however, according to the nutrition information provided on school menu items, many exceed the American Heart Association's food procurement guidelines for sodium and saturated fats (First 5LA 2018).

Children learn from their school-provided meals, just as they do from any other class. School nutrition programs can help educate the palates of the next generation to prefer healthy foods.

<h1>JUNE LUNCH – SUMMER MEALS</h1> 				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>6</b> PEPPERONI PIZZA	<b>7</b> TACONADA TACO SNACK or DELI SANDWICH	<b>8</b> CHICKEN ALFREDO	<b>9</b> CHEESEBURGER or DELI SANDWICH	<b>10</b> BBQ RIB SANDWICH
<b>13</b> CHICKEN NUGGETS & TOTS	<b>14</b> CORN DOG or DELI SANDWICH	<b>15</b> SPAGHETTI	<b>16</b> CHICKEN SANDWICH or DELI SANDWICH	<b>17</b> PEPPERONI PIZZA
<b>20</b> BBQ RIB SANDWICH	<b>21</b> TACONADA TACO SNACK or DELI SANDWICH	<b>22</b> CHEESEBURGER MAC	<b>23</b> CHEESEBURGER or DELI SANDWICH	<b>24</b> PEPPERONI PIZZA
<b>27</b> CHICKEN NUGGETS & TOTS	<b>28</b> CORN DOG or DELI SANDWICH	<b>29</b> SPAGHETTI	<b>30</b> CHICKEN SANDWICH or DELI SANDWICH	ENTREE OFFERED DAILY  PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY SANDWICH
<h3>LUNCH INCLUDES</h3> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">                       Entree                 </div> <div style="text-align: center;">                       Seasonal Fresh Fruit &amp; Vegetables                 </div> <div style="text-align: center;">                       Chips or Crackers                 </div> <div style="text-align: center;">                       Milk                 </div> </div>				

FIGURE EJ-10 Covina USD June 2022 Lunch Menu

## Key Findings

- Irwindale community members have access to many programs that provide free food and services, help prevent or reduce the harmful effects of diseases, and save them money that could potentially go toward healthy food choices (e.g., Senior Nutrition Program and Prescription Assistance).
- Six percent (6 percent) of Irwindale residences are within 0.5 miles of healthy food sources.
- Seventy-one percent (71 percent) of Irwindale residences are within 0.5 miles of fast food sources.
- Many people who live and work in Irwindale want a local grocery store, a farmers market, a community garden, and healthier restaurant options.
- There is much potential for collaboration with regional programs to improve the overall wellbeing of the Irwindale community, including access to healthy food and healthy school lunches.

## Community Perspective

The City of Irwindale surveyed its resident and employee communities on all topics of environmental justice. Many of the participants, both residents and employees, agreed on the

need for a local grocery store and a farmers market to provide more convenient access to fresh food. Some residents advocated for the farmers market to be on a street such as Allen Drive that can be closed off, and that it coincide with events like “Music in the Park” and other City events. Employees and residents also agreed on the need for more healthy restaurants and fewer unhealthy fast-food outlets, with employees expressing the desire for vegan options as well. Residents wanted organic produce to be available at reasonable prices. They expressed interest in a community garden, and in more fruit trees. Some preferences around the community garden were that it be located in or near a park, and/or on the site of a closed mining pit, and that it be City-owned, but run by a non-City organization. Participants also voiced the need for a food pantry that accepts donations, including food from community gardens.

A June 2022 interview with the Executive Director of Shepherd’s Pantry revealed that an important part of the Pantry’s mission is to help people access job training and other resources that will allow them to graduate from the need for emergency food. The Pantry also recognizes that many will need direct food assistance for the foreseeable future. Shepherd’s Pantry looks forward to planning and partnering more closely with the City of Irwindale, other surrounding



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cities, and with local and regional organizations to share knowledge, support each other, and eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort. The Pantry is currently straining to meet the increased needs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and would welcome support in finding grants to fund a refrigerated van and more staff to provide case management and food transport.

Irwindale residents, along with local and regional community leaders were invited to a workshop on January 12, 2023, to provide feedback on the Health and Physical Wellness and Food Access Existing Conditions Draft and input on next steps: Goals, Policies, and Actions. Although no Irwindale residents attended the workshop, two representatives from community organizations attended, along with two members of the business community and one representative from LA County Parks and Recreation.

Attendees raised several issues and opportunities related to food access and security, many of which have been added to the Existing Programs section above:

- The City of Hope – a research and treatment center for cancer, diabetes and other life-threatening diseases serves Irwindale, along with other areas of Los Angeles County. The center provides a resource for Irwindale as it addresses food access and food security in

the context of mental, physical, social, and economic wellbeing. They are also working to increase collaboration with existing organizations, such as the Healthy San Gabriel Valley Collaborative.

- The San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps runs a community farm (see [Earthworks Farm](#) above).
- The Kare Youth League is experiencing problems with litter, encampments, vandalism, and people under the influence of alcohol/drugs, which may be related to the unhoused population that frequents the Shepherd’s Pantry across the street from the Kare Youth Center.
- There is potential for more connections between the City and its restaurants to facilitate edible food rescue and distribution – especially in the light of related regulations from the recently enacted Senate Bill 1383.



## Promote Access to Public Facilities

### Introduction

Senate Bill 1000, the legislation that has guided the development of this Environmental Justice Element, broadly defines public facilities to include “public improvements, public services, and community amenities” such as parks, public schools, public transportation, hospitals, emergency facilities, and basic infrastructure. Public facilities provide communities with valuable opportunities that promote community health and safety, physical activity, and community engagement.

Environmental justice seeks to provide equitable access to public facilities in order to ensure that all community members can benefit from the opportunities and amenities they provide.

This section outlines the existing conditions of public facilities in Irwindale, covering a wide spectrum of publicly provided uses and services that contribute to overall wellbeing in a community, including parks and recreational facilities, infrastructure, school facilities, public transportation, and emergency services. It also summarizes input provided by the community on these topics.

Public facilities contribute to health and physical activity in communities. See the Promote Health and Physical Activity section starting on p. 2-24 for a description of the existing conditions in Irwindale related to this topic.

### Local Conditions

The City provides public facilities that meet a majority of civic, safety, health, educational, and recreational needs (see **Figure EJ-11**).

Public buildings in Irwindale include:

- City Hall
- The Irwindale Police Department
- The Los Angeles County Fire Department, Station 48
- The Irwindale Public Library
- The Dan Diaz Recreation Center
- The Irwindale Senior Center
- A United States Post Office
- The Irwindale Chamber of Commerce
- Urgent care centers and medical offices



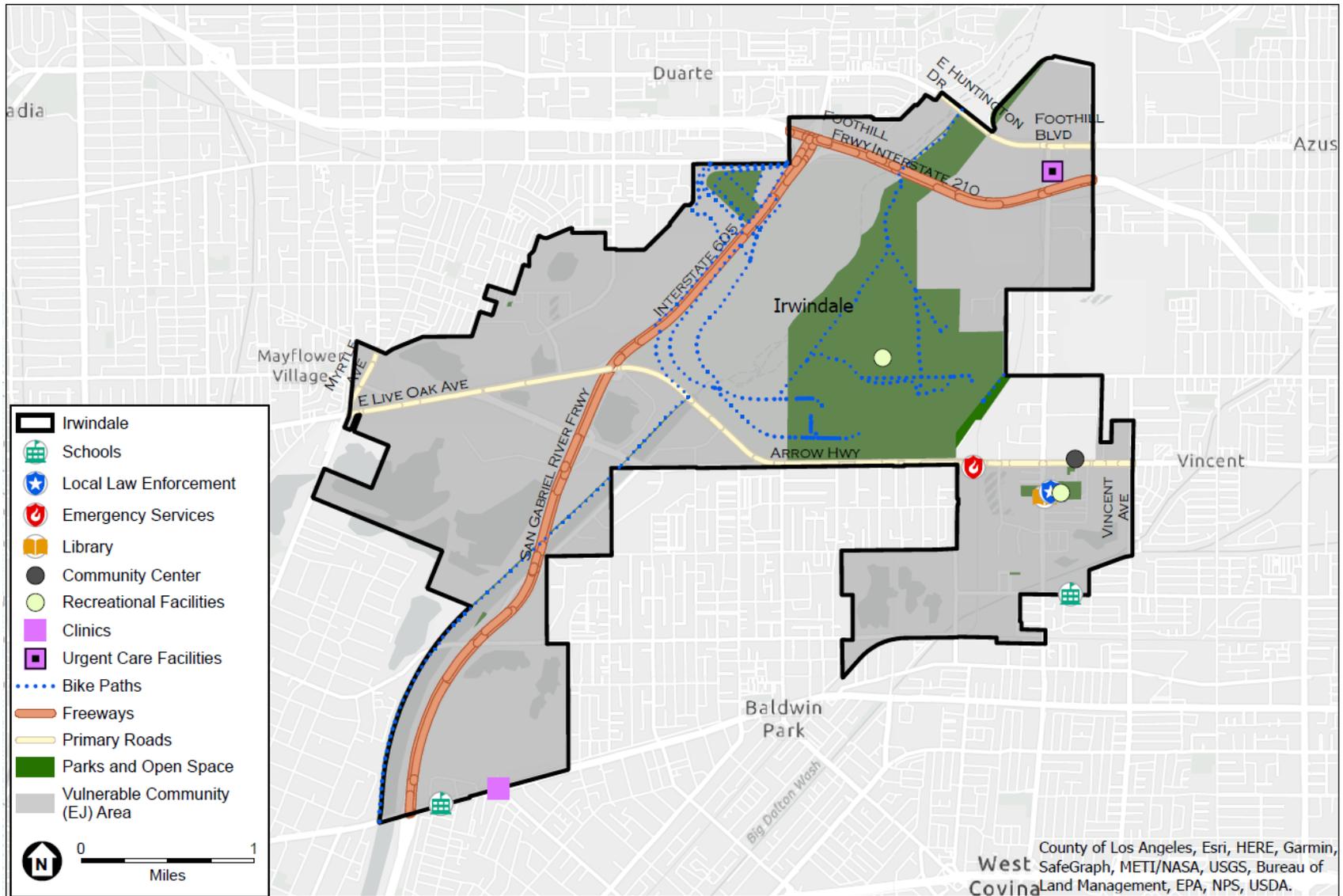
*San Gabriel River Trail. Courtesy of Irwindale ATP, 2021.*



*Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area. Courtesy of Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation.*

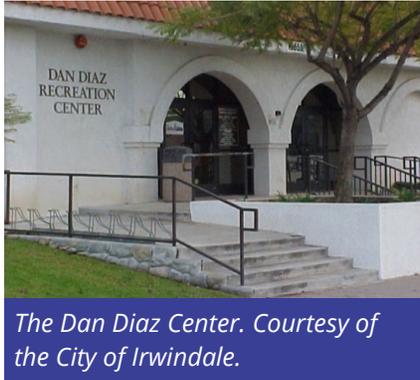


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SOURCE: ESA 2022

FIGURE EJ-11 **Public Facilities**



*The Dan Diaz Center. Courtesy of the City of Irwindale.*

Public parks in Irwindale include:

- Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area
- Jardin de Roca Park
- Irwindale Park
- El Nido Park
- Little Park

Most of these facilities are concentrated off of Arrow Highway and Irwindale Avenue, which are within close proximity to residential neighborhoods located in the southeastern portion of the city but are not close to residential uses off of Mountain Avenue to the northwest.

## PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Irwindale has nine different parks and open spaces, as described in **Table EJ-7**. There are approximately 1,222 total acres of parks in Irwindale and 0.895 park acres per person or 895 acres per 1,000 people. The City exceeds the recognized standard of 4 acres of parks for every 1,000 people due to its small population size and large park spaces. The majority of park acreage comes from the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, located in the eastern portion of the city. The Sante Fe Dam Recreation Center provides various recreation amenities including boating,

swimming, hiking, camping, equestrian trails, concerts in the park, volleyball courts, and more.

The Dan Diaz Recreation Center and the aquatic center are located in the southeastern portion of the community. These facilities provide space for recreational and educational activities and provide meeting rooms for community groups. The Dan Diaz Recreation Center offers recreation programs, such as fitness classes, yoga classes, arts and crafts activities, remote/at home activities, and educational resources. The Recreation Center has a basketball court, game room, weight room, cardio room, showers and lockers, and rental facilities. These centers are in close proximity to residents living in the southeastern portion of Irwindale; however, they are less accessible to residents living in the northwestern portion of the City.

The Irwindale Senior Center offers fitness classes, workout equipment, dances, and field trips. The Senior Center also holds events for holidays, facilitates recurring social events, hosts educational seminars, and provides professional services. Additionally, lunch is provided for seniors at the Senior Center Monday through Friday.



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TABLE EJ-7 Irwindale Parks and Open Spaces

PARK	TYPE	SIZE (ACRES) WITHIN IRWINDALE	AMENITIES
Peck Road Water Conservation Park	Regional Open Space	0.76	Picnic tables, trails, lakes, mountain biking, horseshoe pits
San Gabriel River and Bike Trail	Natural Area	201.03	Biking, walking path, horseback riding allowed, wildlife watching
El Nido Park	Local Park	0.49	Picnic tables, tot lot
Irwindale Park	Local Park	15.25	Trails, tennis, basketball, baseball, skate park, picnic tables, pool, gym
Jarden de Roca Park	Regional Open Space	4.56	Skate park, tennis courts, tot lot, walking path, picnic tables, outdoor basketball court
Irwindale Senior Center	Regional Open Space	1.25	Open space area
Little Park of Irwindale	Local Park	0.40	Picnic tables, tot lot
Lario Staging Area	Natural Area	45.61	Equestrian staging area, equestrian trails, horseback riding allowed, biking, picnic tables, trails
Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area	Regional Recreation Park	952.38	Lake area, swimming, boating, equestrian trails, horseback riding allowed, walking, biking, hiking trails, camping, open space area, concession stands, fitness zones, bird walks, fishing, picnic tables, concerts in the park, volleyball courts

SOURCE: Los Angeles County 2021



## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

In Irwindale, public transportation is provided by LA Metro and Foothill Transit, with bus lines running through Irwindale's major roads including Arrow Highway, Irwindale Avenue, Live Oak Avenue, Los Angeles Street, and Foothill Boulevard. Transit routes in Irwindale are shown in **Figure EJ-12**.



*San Gabriel River Trail. Courtesy of Irwindale ATP, 2021.*

Foothill Transit stops are located near Irwindale's major residential neighborhood to the southeast along Irwindale Avenue and Arrow Highway. There are also several local bus and rail lines that connect the city to surrounding areas and the larger Los Angeles region. Most public transit stops within the city provide bus shelters, benches, and trash receptacles, which are important in promoting transit use by increasing comfort and safety for riders.

While the southeastern portion of the city has high levels of connectivity, the northwestern portion provides fewer options for community members to use public transit. Increasing transit stops along residential uses located in the northwest of the city along Mountain Avenue as well as near major employment areas would provide access for more residents and employees of the community.

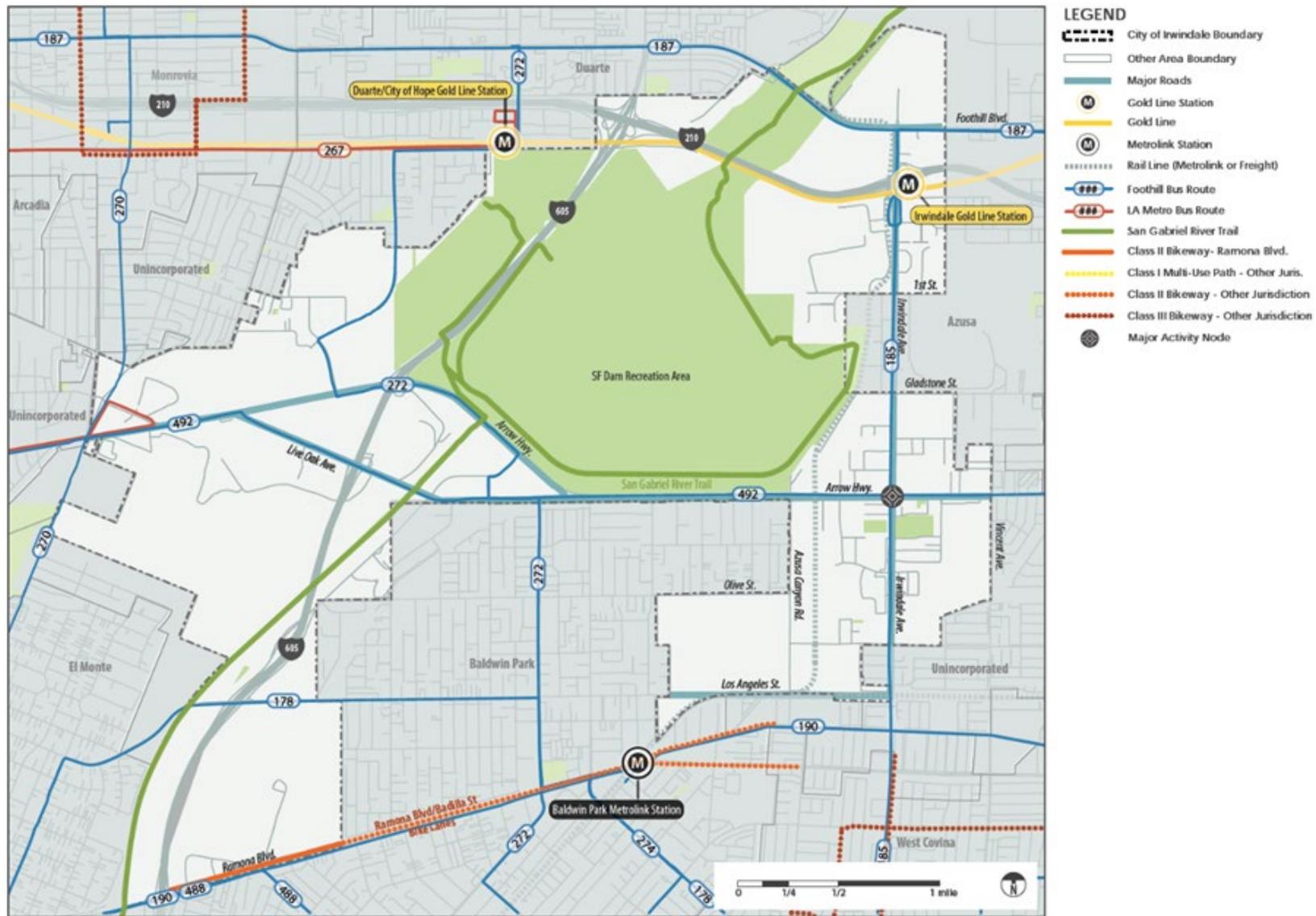
## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Approximately 41 percent of Irwindale residents work within the city (Irwindale ATP 2021). The majority of commuters (82 percent) drive alone to work, 3 percent walk and less than 1 percent bike. This indicates a need for improved active and public transportation opportunities.

### Biking

Previous studies conducted by the City have revealed that the top challenges to biking include a lack of bike lanes, high vehicle traffic speeds, and too much traffic (Irwindale ATP 2021).

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SOURCE: Irwindale Active Transportation Plan 2021

FIGURE EJ-12 **Public Transportation in Irwindale**

Figure EJ-12 shows the City's major roads, trails, and bicycle network. The San Gabriel River Trail, shown in green, runs northeast to southwest through Irwindale for approximately 10 miles and adjacent to the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area. The trail functions well for recreational use but does not provide connectivity to services and amenities in Irwindale. There is a lack of bikeways where most residents and community amenities are located, which is the southeast portion of the City by Arrow Highway and Irwindale Avenue.

### Walking

Previous studies in Irwindale revealed that the top challenges to walking in the city include too many vehicles for pedestrians to navigate, safety concerns, lack of shade, sidewalks, and crosswalks in need of improvements, motorists not following the rules of the road, and potential for collisions between motorists and pedestrians (Irwindale ATP 2021).

Most major roads in Irwindale have sidewalks on both sides of the road, helping with walkability and connectivity. However, a small portion of roadway along Live Oak Avenue to the west has no sidewalks, which reduces pedestrian connectivity to San Gabriel River Trail and to the eastern portion of the city where the majority of residential neighborhoods and public facilities are located. Additionally, many smaller roads in the

neighborhoods in the eastern side of the city have no sidewalks or a sidewalk on only one side of the street, including neighborhoods near Arrow Highway and Irwindale Avenue, where there is greater access to parks and public facilities. This discourages residents from walking in their own neighborhoods, which is typically a prime location for people to get out and walk.

The expansion and improvement of sidewalks and **pedestrian amenities** would increase the number of individuals who use walking to commute to key destinations in and around the city, including schools, job locations, and parks and recreation areas.

*See the Irwindale Active Transportation Plan for an in depth description of the existing conditions of the active transportation network in Irwindale:*

<https://www.irwindaleca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6532/IrwindaleActiveTransportationPlan-012021?bidId=>.

### EMERGENCY FACILITIES

Emergency facilities within Irwindale include the Irwindale Police Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) Station 48.

The Irwindale Police Department is located in Irwindale City Hall at 5050 N Irwindale Avenue. The Police Department acts as a hub that

Pedestrian amenities include sidewalks, trails, crosswalks, signals, lighting, trees and shade, shelters, benches, curb ramps, signage that aids pedestrians in finding their way through the city, and other features that enhance safety and comfort for pedestrians.

#### Pedestrian Amenities



## SECTION 2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

provides specialized law enforcement services to the whole community. Additionally, through a mutual aid contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the City of Irwindale receives special weapons team services as necessary as well as other specialized equipment and services to assist with law enforcement.

To provide a high level of cost-effective fire protection and prevention services to residents and the business community, the City contracts with the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD). The LACFD operates Station 48 which is located at 15546 E Arrow Highway in Irwindale.

### MEDICAL AND HEALTH FACILITIES

Two major hospitals serve the local community. The City of Hope Medical Center, which borders Irwindale to the northwest includes a comprehensive cancer and Kindred Hospital San Gabriel Valley is located to the southeast in West Covina. Both hospitals provide a wide variety of emergency care and health services, including 24-hour service and long-term care. In addition, Irwindale has three 24-hour urgent care clinics. The Irwindale Industrial Clinic is the nearest urgent care facility to most of the City's residential neighborhoods, concentrated in the southeast. The Kaiser Permanente Health Offices and the

Healthpointe Irwindale clinic provide medical and occupational health care services in Irwindale. Additionally, Pacific Clinics' Hope Drop-in Center located on the southwestern edge of the City along Ramona Boulevard, offers programs and services targeting youth ages 16 to 25 with a focus on mental health and supportive housing services.

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS & CHILDCARE

Merwin Elementary School is a Kindergarten through 5th grade school located on the southeastern boundary of the city on Cypress Avenue. Merwin Elementary School borders the City of Covina and serves the communities of Irwindale and unincorporated Covina with an enrollment of approximately 500 students. It is the only public school facility located in the city limits (Merwin Elementary 2021).

The campus hosts the Covina Children's Center which provides before and after school childcare and Think Together after-school care for school-age students that attend Merwin. Merwin Elementary School is accessible by car, foot, and bus to residents living in the residential areas located in the southeast but only accessible by car and bus to residential neighborhoods in the northwestern portion of the City.



*Merwin Elementary School Gym.  
Courtesy of the Covina-Valley  
Unified School District Website.*

As Merwin Elementary only provides K-5 education, students in Irwindale attend schools in the nearby Azusa Unified School District, Baldwin Unified School District, and Duarte Unified School District.

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES



*Irwindale Library. Courtesy of the City of Irwindale.*

The Irwindale Public Library, located at City Hall, serves the Irwindale community. Public libraries are a signature of a healthy community as they provide free services for businesses, families and individuals that live and work in the community. The Irwindale Public Library offers free access to reading material, homework help, in-person story time, online tutoring services, mobile printing, passport services, chromebooks, hotspots, adult learning, eBooks, and digital resources. The Library also offers a collection of items residents can borrow including a video projector, musical instruments, tools, and other electronics.

The Irwindale Public Library conveniently serves the southeastern portion of the city, south of Arrow Highway, where residents living off Irwindale Avenue, between Cypress Street and Arrow Highway have access by car, foot, and transit. Residents in the northwest portion of the city are approximately 5 miles from the public library and most likely access the library by car or bus.

## Existing Programs

- Irwindale Police Department personnel provide several programs and services focused on crime prevention including:
  - Homeless Outreach
  - Substance Medication Disposal with the Rite Aid Foundation
  - Air Support
- The Irwindale Police Department uses the CivicReady system to issue urgent notifications, critical information, emergency instructions, public safety warnings, and other communications to subscribed users via email, text message and voicemail. Additionally, the department uses social media accounts and National Crime Stoppers to provide event information and police activity updates to the public.
- The Irwindale Active Transportation Plan guides the development of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and programs in the City of Irwindale.
- The Irwindale Recreation Department provides a wide array of activities for people of all ages at the Dan Diaz Recreation Center.
- See also Existing Programs in the Health and Physical Activity section (p. 2-29).

## Key Findings

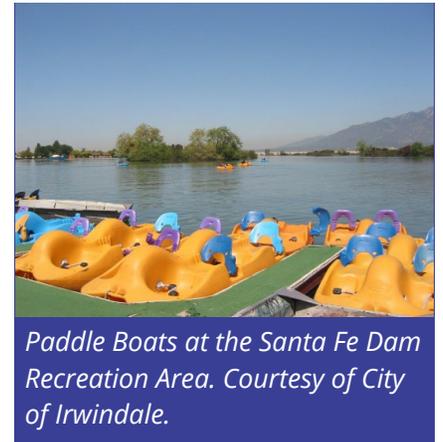
- The City provides public facilities for a variety of civic, safety, health, educational and recreational needs. These facilities are located primarily in the southeastern portion of Irwindale.
- Irwindale has 9 parks and open spaces that provide outdoor recreation opportunities.
- The Dan Diaz Center provides community programs, activities, and exercise classes.
- The neighborhoods in the northwest portion of the city do not experience the same level of connectivity through public transit as neighborhoods in the southeast.
- The City is connected to the surrounding region through bus and rail lines.
- A majority of community members in Irwindale do not utilize active transportation infrastructure.
- The current conditions of bike path connectivity and **pedestrian amenities** do not promote active transportation.
- Emergency services are provided by the Irwindale Police Department and the Los Angeles County Fire Department.
- There are multiple medical facilities that serve the city, providing various levels of care.

- The Irwindale Public Library provides the community with various resources in an accessible manner.
- Irwindale has one school which offers K-5 education. The remainder of public education needs are met outside of the City.

## Community Perspective

During the community engagement process, residents and employees of Irwindale provided the following input regarding public facilities:

- A need for more parks with a particular interest in dog parks.
- A desire to expand the Police Department station.
- A request for more recreational facilities.
- Transportation options such as a shuttle that would take residents to neighboring cities, so they have access to more recreational and commercial/retail areas.
- An increase in urban greening, water supply, and tree canopy at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area.
- Interest in an active transportation incentive program.
- Safety concerns related to pedestrian and bike transportation.



*Paddle Boats at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area. Courtesy of City of Irwindale.*

- A need for improvements to the transportation system in the city, including roads, sidewalks, connective pathways, alleys, bikeways, lighting, and trees.

In the community survey, a majority of residents who responded (71 percent) reported that they use parks and recreational facilities in Irwindale. A smaller portion (29 percent) indicated they do not use these facilities based on their perception that the existing parks and recreational facilities are run-down or need equipment improvements. Residents also indicated that they would like to see the following included in parks and recreation opportunities in Irwindale:

- Youth programs
- Skate parks
- Trails
- New classes (i.e., exercise and fitness, and technology courses)
- More notice of and information about the programs, requesting that flyers be mailed to homes, like what is done with City event flyers

The community survey also showed that, of those that responded, 78 percent of those that work in Irwindale but live elsewhere indicated that they do not use parks and recreation facilities. Employees

indicated improvements to parks and recreation facilities that would encourage use, such as:

- Receiving more information regarding weekend events or programs
- Having more adult activities for 18 to 35 year olds
- Improved lighting at parks at night and overall improved cleanliness
- Ensuring that facilities are inviting
- Earlier start times for programs, (i.e., lap swimming at 5 a.m. before work)
- Improved parking at public facilities
- Addressing homelessness in the parks



*Outdoor Community Event.  
Courtesy of the City of Irwindale  
Facebook Page.*





## Promote Civic Engagement

### Introduction

Equitable and effective planning and decision-making processes prioritize the meaningful involvement of the community members that will be directly impacted by City decisions. Civic engagement is a vital aspect of environmental justice and is a necessary and mandatory component of the Environmental Justice Element. Partnerships made with community groups facilitate a successful advancement of Environmental Justice goals.

Effective policies that promote effective and inclusive civic engagement are based in understanding the barriers to, and community preferences for, engaging in community and public processes. This section presents population characteristics and community feedback that is relevant to inform the preparation of goals, policies, and actions for promoting civic engagement.

### Local Conditions

Successful civic engagement will incorporate methods for effective communication that consider the needs of the population. Population characteristics that can inform avenues for civic engagement and assess its effectiveness include linguistic isolation and access to the internet.

#### LINGUISTIC ISOLATION

The people and institutions that provide social services and medical care often fail to provide translation or interpretation for adults who are not able to speak or read English well, which means they may not get the health care and information they need. Limited English proficiency can pose barriers when it comes to social and civic inclusion. A household is considered linguistically isolated when all adults primarily speak a language other than English and have limited English proficiency.

According to CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Irwindale is in the 36th percentile for linguistic isolation (CalEnviroScreen 4.0) with 7 percent of households being limited English speaking households (U.S. Census Bureau 2020).

## ACCESS TO INTERNET

Reliable access to the internet and telecommunications systems plays an increasingly important part in daily and civic life, helping people to work, learn, access services, participate in government, and stay connected to friends and family. Despite this importance, there are still households without access to the Internet or without computers at home. The impacts of digital isolation, especially for older adults, people with disabilities, and communities of color, include less access to resources and decreased ability to participate in civic, political, and non-political activities, which compounds other barriers to civic engagement and increases impacts of racial disparities in access to resources and opportunities.

According to the 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, 11.3 percent of households in Irwindale do not have internet access which is comparable to the Los Angeles County average of 11 percent (ACS 2021 5-year estimate).

## Community Feedback

The Community Survey provided residents the opportunity to provide suggestions on how to enhance community involvement. The summarized responses include the following ideas:

- increasing community outreach efforts
- providing advanced notification of meetings
- making meeting notes available on the City website
- maintaining accessibility to meetings through the zoom platform
- organizing more town hall meetings during community events
- ensuring fair representation of community members.

Additionally, written responses were sought to gather ideas for improvements that both the City and community can make. The summarized responses for these ideas are as follows:

- holding the City accountable for co-ownership of properties that pose hazards from substances
- fostering better connections between different age groups
- striving for increased diversity among City Council members.

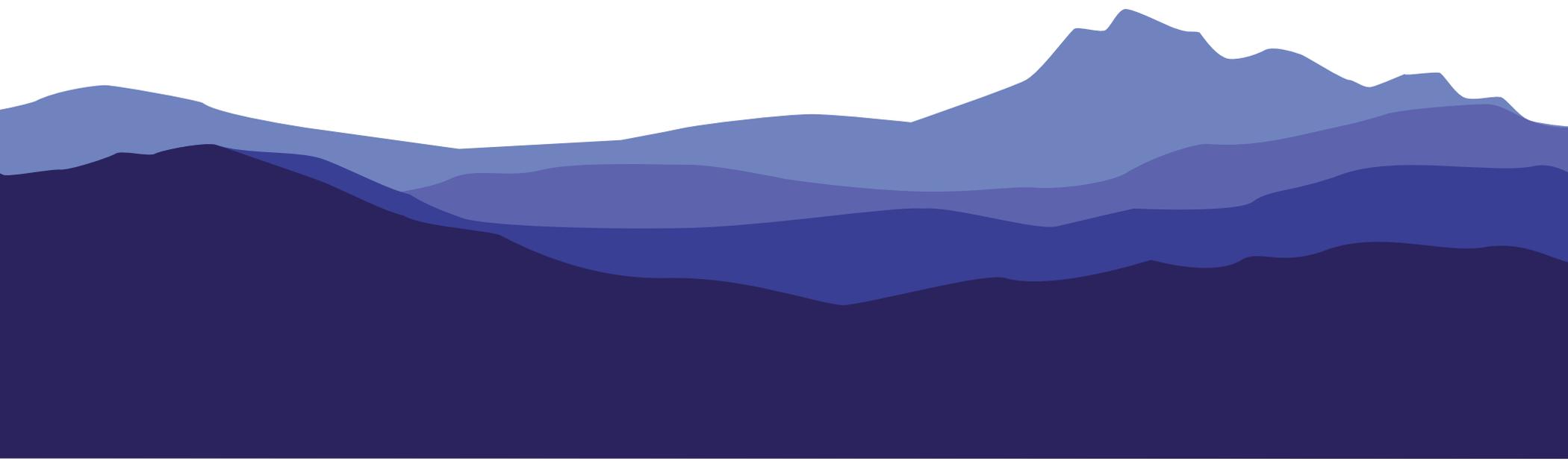


## Key Findings

- Irwindale is in the 36th percentile for linguistic isolation; 7 percent of households in Irwindale are limited English speaking households (U.S. Census Bureau 2020).
- 11.3 percent of the households in Irwindale do not have internet access, which is comparable to Los Angeles County as a whole.
- When asked what prevents them from attending a community meeting or public hearing, 42 percent of resident survey respondents selected the option “I do not think they will take my opinions seriously.”



## SECTION 3      Goals, Policies, and Actions



The following goals, policies, and actions were developed in response to the issues and opportunities identified above in Section 2, which are summarized under each Key Findings and Community Perspective section. The goals, policies, and actions are organized by topic as follows:

-  Reduce Pollution Exposure and Improve Air Quality
-  Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes and Neighborhoods
-  Promote Health and Physical Activity
-  Promote Healthy Food Access
-  Promote Access to Public Facilities
-  Promote Civic Engagement



## Reduce Pollution Exposure and Improve Air Quality

### Goal EJ1

All individuals and communities have access to clean and healthy air and reduced exposure to harmful pollutants and materials.

### Policy EJ1.1

**Promote Healthy Land Use Patterns.** Require that all new development consider future and long-term impacts to health.

### Action EJ1.A

The Planning Division will update zoning regulations to prohibit the development of new residential uses within 500 feet of a freeway, and establish a buffer to protect sensitive receptors from industrial uses and truck routes (e.g., landscaped setbacks).

### Action EJ1.B

The Public Works Engineering Department will evaluate the health risks on sensitive populations when building or expanding roads or redesignating citywide truck routes and will implement mitigation measures to prevent health risks to community members.

### Action EJ1.C

The appropriate City agency will seek and prioritize grant funding to implement projects and programs in residential neighborhoods that mitigate air pollution impacts on sensitive receptors.

*See the Safety Element for related policies on air quality:*

**Safety Element Policy SAF1.1:** *Continue to participate in regional planning efforts led by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to develop and implement strategies for improving air quality and mitigating pollution from freight, truck traffic, industrial facilities expansions, and other land uses that contribute to poor air quality.*

**Safety Element Policy SAF2.1:** *Require new residential developments and sensitive uses (e.g., schools, daycares, community centers, senior centers, parks) in proximity to pollution sources to incorporate design elements that provide mitigation or buffers, such as urban greening and landscaping, air conditioning, and ventilation. Where feasible, expand requirements for existing developments to incorporate such design elements.*

**Policy EJ1.2**

**Increase Monitoring and Transparency.**

Increase access and transparency to air quality monitoring systems and data and ensure equitable access to all community members.

**Action EJ1.D**

The Community Development Department will collaborate with SCAQMD to increase the number of air monitoring stations in areas that are most affected by air pollution, such as near highways or industrial facilities. This will provide more accurate data on air quality in these areas and help identify sources of pollution that need to be addressed.

**Action EJ1.E**

The City will publish air quality data from these new monitoring locations on the City's website, making it easily accessible to the public. This could include real-time data from monitoring stations, as well as historical data that allows community members to track changes in air quality over time.

**Action EJ1.F**

The Code Enforcement Division will work with the Planning Division to identify and map businesses, stations, and locations that were granted a conditional use permit (CUP) for the use, sale, and storage of any materials classified as toxic or hazardous by either the federal or state government as a substantial part of the total use. This map is required to be easily and publicly accessible.

**Safety Element Policy SAF1.2:** *Continue to monitor air quality through the city's Aquatic Centers' outdoor programming and ensure readings are accessible on the city's webpage for community members to be informed of elevated risks and poor air quality days. Ensure that community members have access to information on daily air quality levels and safety measures for days with elevated exposure.*

**Policy EJ1.3**

**Prevent Soil and Water Contamination.**

Promote practices that ensure clean and safe surface water, groundwater, and soil.

**Action EJ1.G**

The Public Works Engineering Department will analyze the effectiveness of the Sanitary Sewer and Industrial Waste Ordinance in preventing the contamination of soil and surface water and groundwater in Irwindale.



**Action EJ1.H**

Establish a regular water testing program in areas surrounding industrial sites, focusing on both surface water and groundwater, and publicize the results of water quality tests to keep residents informed.

**Action EJ1.I**

Pursue grant opportunities and partner with water companies to provide and distribute at-home water testing kits to residents.

**Safety Element Policy SAF11.3:** *Continue to require businesses that store, generate, use, or transport large or toxic quantities of hazardous materials or wastes to comply with LACFD standards.*

**Safety Element Policy SAF11.6:** *Continue to proactively contain and supervise the cleanup of spills on city streets, catch basins, storm drains, and storm channels, and work with property owners to reduce hazardous materials accidents.*

**Policy EJ1.4****Support Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure.**

Support the statewide transition to EVs through the investment in EV infrastructure thoughtfully, in a way that reduces pollution and promotes the use of more public and shared transportation. *Refer to the Public Facilities section for more transportation policy recommendations.*

**Action EJ1.J**

The Community Development Department will conduct community workshops and/or surveys to gather interest in investing and prioritizing EV infrastructure considering other community needs for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

**Action EJ1.K**

The Public Works Engineering Department will assess the potential sites and determine the locations for EV infrastructure. The City will invest in EV infrastructure in a way that continues to disincentivize single-occupancy vehicles and supports shared and alternative forms of transportation (e.g., electric bikes, buses, City fleets, trucks).

**Action EJ1.L**

The Public Works Engineering Department and the Planning Division will assess the need for hydrogen fueling infrastructure and incorporate provisions for hydrogen refueling stations alongside new EV charging stations if needed.



### Goal EJ2

A City that equitably promotes urban greening and uses green strategies to improve air quality in all communities.

#### Policy EJ2.1

**Increase Urban Greening.** Implement ordinances and programs that increase green spaces, trees, vegetation, and parkways throughout Irwindale.

#### Action EJ2.A

The Public Services Department will implement an urban tree planting program to increase the number of trees in public urban areas. Trees will be selected that maximize carbon sequestration, while also providing shade and reducing urban heat island effects.

#### Action EJ2.B

The Planning Division will update zoning regulations to support and incentivize the installation of green roofs and walls on new and existing buildings. Green roofs and walls help to reduce the amount of heat absorbed by buildings, as well as filtering out pollutants from the air.

#### Action EJ2.C

The Public Services Department will partner with **Garden View** to expand **Garden Tips with Gardy & Woody** to schools and neighborhoods throughout Irwindale.

**Safety Element Policy SAF3.1:** *Promote the creation of new parks, including pocket parks, with a mix of amenities (trees, trails, ponds, exercise equipment, benches, picnic tables), throughout the community, with priority for areas with residential and sensitive uses such as community centers, social gathering places, and schools. Ensure new park sites are environmentally safe from hazards prior to development.*

**Safety Element Policy SAF7.1:** *Increase parks, open space amenities, and tree canopy in residential and commercial areas and near schools, community centers, and other social gathering areas.*

*Garden View is an outdoor construction, swimming pool construction, nursery, and maintenance company. They developed an educational series on landscaping.*

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#### Garden View

**Goal EJ3**

Community members have access to air quality and pollution education and resources.

**Policy EJ3.1****Promote Environmental Justice Education.**

Provide information, resources, and workshops to community members involving the intersectionality of air quality, pollution, and health.

**Action EJ3.A**

The Community Development Department will host community workshops on how City residents can access air quality data, how to protect themselves from exposure to air pollution, and actions they can take to reduce their own contributions to air pollution.

**Action EJ3.B**

The Community Development Department will collaborate with SCAQMD to support residential monitoring of air quality and include education and trainings for community members to collect and analyze data and support community-led initiatives to improve air quality.

**Action EJ3.C**

The City will include information regarding air quality and pollution information and resources in the residential newsletter, Inside Irwindale, and include existing SCAQMD programs and incentives such as the CLEANair Furnace Rebate Program, as well as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 programs: Home Efficiency Rebates (HOMES), and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEEHRA). The City will publish and promote these sections in the website publication.

***Safety Element Policy SAF11.4: Encourage the proper reduction of household hazardous waste and disposal through comprehensive public education, recycling efforts, and collection programs.***

**Policy EJ3.2****Encourage Workplace Education Programs.**

Invite employers to implement education programs for their employees about air quality and pollution. These programs can include training on how to reduce exposure to pollutants in the workplace as well as information about how individual actions can contribute to reducing air pollution.



#### Action EJ3.D

The Irwindale Human Resources Department will establish an Air Quality and Pollution Education program that new and existing employers will be invited to share with their employees.

#### Goal EJ4

Industrial facilities and uses contribute to community members' well-being by properly considering environmental and health impacts.

#### Policy EJ4.1

**Minimize Truck Impacts.** Minimize the air quality impacts of trucks on sensitive receptors.

#### Action EJ4.A

The Public Works Engineering Department will ensure that design of new facilities allows for the queuing of trucks on-site and away from sensitive receptors.

#### Action EJ4.B

The Public Works Engineering Department will restrict and enforce the queuing of trucks on streets or elsewhere outside of facilities.

#### Action EJ4.C

The Public Works Engineering Department will require on-site signage for directional guidance to trucks entering and exiting facilities to minimize potential impacts on sensitive receptors.

#### Action EJ4.D

The Public Works Engineering Department will install signs in residential areas indicating no-idling zones and displaying the associated fines.

#### Action EJ4.E

The City will establish a system where residents can easily report instances of excessive truck idling to the Public Works Engineering Department.

#### Action EJ4.F

The City will implement regulations to allow for the widening of roads on designated truck routes to accommodate the efficient movement of truck traffic.

#### Action EJ4.G

The Public Works Engineering Department will conduct assessments of truck impacts on sensitive receptors as needed, including air quality, noise levels, and traffic congestion.

#### Policy EJ4.2

##### **Sustainable Commercial Development.**

Promote sustainable commercial development and actively involve community members when evaluating new commercial and industrial uses.

**Action EJ4.H**

Develop clear and transparent criteria for evaluating new commercial proposals, giving weight to sustainability factors such as energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, and community engagement. Make these criteria publicly available to ensure transparency and accountability in the decision-making process.

**Action EJ4.I**

Develop a set of incentives, such as expedited permit processing, reduced fees, or tax incentives, to attract businesses with sustainable practices. Criteria for these incentives may include energy efficiency, waste reduction, eco-friendly design, and community engagement initiatives.

**Action EJ4.J**

Distribute informational materials to the community to ensure the evaluation of proposals, emphasizing sustainable practices and community benefits.

**Policy EJ4.3**

**Responsible Businesses.** Require businesses to take responsibility for landscaping, drainage, and debris maintenance, and implementing sustainable landscaping techniques in compliance with the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Municipal Storm Water Program (MS4) and landscaping ordinance.

**Action EJ4.K**

Update City landscaping requirements to require businesses to adopt sustainable landscaping practices, such as bioswales, rain gardens, permeable pavements, and native plants.

**Action EJ4.L**

Conduct periodic inspections to ensure businesses are complying with drain maintenance requirements.

**Action EJ4.M**

Establish penalties for businesses that neglect their drain maintenance responsibilities.





## Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes and Neighborhoods

This section of the Environmental Justice Element is unique in its close relationship to the goals of the Housing Element. The 2021–2029 Housing Element identifies quantitative objectives to expand access to housing through development of new units and rehabilitation of existing housing stock. Housing Element programs also aim to support tenant protections, eliminate residential blight, expand access to resources for home improvement projects, improve neighborhood safety and comfortability, and increase access to fair housing opportunities. This “Safe and Sanitary Homes and Neighborhoods” section of this Element builds upon these programs with policies that address community-level barriers to housing and local security and promotes just and equitable living conditions. These policies seek to bring community members into the process laid out in the Housing Element and bridge gaps in the distribution of housing resources.

### Goal EJ5

A City with livable neighborhoods where all residents have access to safe and sanitary housing.

### Policy EJ5.1

#### Make Data-Informed Community Investments.

Prioritize local investments where most needed, ensuring the use of the latest data available to support equitable decision-making for improving housing conditions in the community.

### Action EJ5.A

Coordinate with local, regional, and state agencies involved in housing initiatives, such as the California Department of Housing and Community Development, HRC, Los Angeles County Development Authority, and San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, to gather and maintain data on living conditions to help evaluate opportunities for local investments. Data gathered should include metrics for promoting safe and sanitary housing, including overcrowding, housing cost burden, housing stock quality, and other relevant household characteristics.

**Policy EJ5.2**

**Expand Community Engagement.** Require community engagement and involvement for new housing programs through the Housing Division and Community Development Department to ensure community needs will be met.

**Action EJ5.B**

In tandem with community engagement efforts, establish a community feedback program through the City's webpage to gather information from community members following the implementation of new housing programs.

**Policy EJ5.3**

**Promote Fair Housing.** Continue working to promote and increase fair housing in Irwindale.

**Action EJ5.C**

Identify metrics that help determine the accessibility and utilization of rental assistance and landlord mediation resources.

**Action EJ5.D**

Evaluate the accessibility of existing renter assistance resources and determine appropriate changes or programming necessary to respond to the unique cultural needs of the renters in the City. Use the community engagement process to vet findings and inform improvements needed.

**Policy EJ5.4**

**Increase Home Efficiency.** Increase awareness and access to programs that assist low- and moderate-income homeowners with housing efficiency.

**Action EJ5.E**

Collaborate with local and regional agencies and community organizations to distribute information to households and business on funding and assistance opportunities, including for utility costs, through the City's webpage, during City events and workshops, and other existing platforms. Promote programs such as California Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE), Family Electric Rate Assistance Program (FERA), California Low-Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE) Program, and Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) that improve housing conditions and quality of life in Irwindale.



### Action EJ5.F

Seek partnerships with local agencies and organizations to host informational workshops that educate community members on strategies to improve efficiency within their homes, including striping and caulking around all entrance doors and windows to limit air leaks, removing furniture or items that block vents supplying and returning air to air conditioning, and others. Include this information on the City website so community members can access the information year-round.

*See the Housing Element for related policies on household retrofits.*

**Housing Element, Program No. 27:** Grants for Green appliances, solar, sustainability/Energy. Encourage retrofit of existing homes with energy-efficient appliances.

### Policy EJ5.5

#### **Ensure Healthy Homes and Code Compliance.**

Ensure the Housing Division and Code Enforcement have adequate resources (staffing, budget, etc.) for helping to maintain healthy homes in compliance with Chapter 8.08 of the Irwindale Municipal Code "Maintenance of Property as Public Nuisance."

### Action EJ5.G

Code Enforcement Division and Building and Safety Division will work together to create a streamlined home maintenance program for renters to report maintenance issues and locate funding for home improvement.

### Action EJ5.H

The Building and Safety Division will conduct comprehensive assessments of for-rent residential structures, focusing on existing roofing conditions, insulation, and the adequacy of lumber used in construction as feasible. Identify vulnerable areas that require retrofitting for improved weather resistance and energy efficiency.

### Action EJ5.I

Establish a city grant program aimed explicitly at weatherproofing existing houses.

### Policy EJ5.6

**Mold Programs.** Address indoor mold issues in for-rent residential homes and provide support programs for retrofitting and remediation.

### Action EJ5.J

Launch a citywide awareness and education campaign on mold prevention, identification, and remediation techniques.

**Action EJ5.K**

Allocate resources to research and identify federal, state, and private grants related to mold abatement and residential retrofitting.

**Action EJ5.L**

Assist residents in preparing and submitting grant applications. Offer guidance, workshops, and one-on-one support to help residents navigate the application process effectively.

**Policy EJ5.7**

**Promote Safe Neighborhoods.** Partner with local community-based organizations, schools, block watches, and other neighborhood-level groups to address neighborhood safety and comfort and improve conditions that benefit residents in the neighborhood.

**Action EJ5.M**

Involve residents and community-based organizations to create anti-displacement policies that will help residents stay in place when beautification investments are undertaken in a neighborhood.

**Action EJ5.N**

In tandem with the Housing Element's program #28, which calls for development in alignment with sustainable community design, improve neighborhood amenities in public spaces that are built sustainably and enhance quality of life for residents. Seek funding opportunities for investment in neighborhoods for improved lighting, crosswalks, and landscaping.

**Action EJ5.O**

Prioritize improved lighting, particularly near sand and gravel pits, around bus stops, and on the north side of Foothill Blvd.

**Action EJ5.P**

The Public Works Engineering Department will review the existing lighting schedules in public areas, including streets, parks, and other communal spaces, and adjust them to accommodate daylight savings time changes, ensuring that outdoor lighting turns on an hour earlier during the darker months or turns off an hour later when daylight is reduced.

**Action EJ5.Q**

The Public Works Engineering Department will assess the need or impact of integrating energy-efficient LED lighting technologies to reduce energy consumption and environmental impact.



**Policy EJ5.8**

**Code Enforcement Reporting.** Enhance community involvement in maintaining neighborhood standards and promoting public safety by enabling residents to report violations to code enforcement.

**Action EJ5.R**

Establish multiple accessible reporting channels, including an online portal on the City's official website and a mobile application.

**Action EJ5.S**

Provide an anonymous reporting option for residents, and other persons reporting, who prefer not to disclose their identity.

**Action EJ5.T**

Implement a system to acknowledge receipt of reports and follow up promptly. Residents should receive confirmation that their report has been received and when the case has been resolved.

*See the Housing Element for related policies on sustainable design.*

**Housing Element, Program No. 28:** *Promote sustainable community design and reduced dependence on vehicles to create an inclusive community that strives to meet the needs of residents of all ages, income levels, occupations, family types, and lifestyles. Encourage new development that is organized around compact, walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods and districts to conserve open space resources, minimize infrastructure costs, and reduce reliance on automobiles.*

**Policy EJ5.9**

**Increase Community Safety.** Coordinate with other departments, community-based organizations, and local law enforcement to increase community awareness and vigilance for crime and improve sense of safety, security, and unity in neighborhoods.

**Action EJ5.U**

Work with City departments and local organizations to develop culturally appropriate programs and activities that promote social cohesion and safety in the community.



**Action EJ5.V**

Increase safety through community and neighborhood watch programs that ensure all community members feel safe and secure, rather than threatened, by the presence of law enforcement.

**Policy EJ5.10**

**Storm Preparedness.** Enhance community resilience and safety during storms.

**Action EJ5.W**

Organize storm preparedness workshops and training sessions where residents can create emergency kits, secure property, and help develop evacuation plans.

**Action EJ5.X**

Offer training programs, including basic first aid, search and rescue techniques, and communication strategies, for community volunteers interested in assisting with storm preparedness efforts.

*See the Safety Element for related policies on Emergency Preparedness.*

**Safety Element Action 16.F:** *Provide evacuation information to residents, businesses, and visitors, particularly at-risk populations, to help improve emergency preparedness. Evacuation materials should identify shelter locations, evacuation routes, defensible space and procedures for storing valuable items or taking such items with them.*





## Promote Health and Physical Activity

### Goal EJ6

A community that provides access to programs, services, and a **built environment** that promotes healthy and active lifestyles suited to and available for all community members.

### Policy EJ6.1

**Implement Health in All Policies.** Implement a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach, requiring that all policies and decisions take into consideration the potential impact on community health outcomes.

### Action EJ6.A

Identify guiding HiAP principles and establish procedures for the implementation of HiAP for future plans and programs. Consider health metrics for measuring implementation, including health conditions and level of physical activity.

### Action EJ6.B

Provide training to City staff on the HiAP approach and procedures to ensure health and physical activity is considered within all departmental initiatives.

### Policy EJ6.2

**Promote Existing Health Programs.** Ensure that all residents are aware of, and provided access to, the prescription and vision health programs available to them through the City.

### Action EJ6.C

Provide targeted outreach to community members to increase awareness of City healthcare programs and give them the opportunity to use these benefits. Conduct this outreach on an annual basis, targeting seniors, low-income residents, non-English speakers, unemployed individuals, and others who may have limited access to healthcare services.

### Policy EJ6.3

**Create Health and Physical Activity Fair.** Host an annual Health Fair in the city with information, screenings, services, and activities celebrating an active lifestyle.



*The City of Irwindale Drive Through Health Fair 2020. Courtesy of the City of Irwindale Facebook Page.*

#### **Action EJ6.D**

Collaborate with local healthcare providers, such as City of Hope Medical Center and the Los Angeles County Health Department to develop an annual Health Fair. The Health Fair will provide educational activities, interactive games that engage community members in fun physical activities, and resources related to health issues that are influenced by physical inactivity. This could be combined with a Food Fair that addresses information and resources associated with access to Healthy Foods.

#### **Policy EJ6.4**

**Collaborate with the City of Hope.** Pursue a partnership with the City of Hope Medical Center to increase awareness of services and programs available and help enhance overall health outcomes of the community.

#### **Action EJ6.E**

Identify existing opportunities to engage in regionwide programs conducted by City of Hope.

#### **Action EJ6.F**

Collaborate with City of Hope to explore opportunities to establish a strategic partnership that could address leading community health risks, promote mental health, and establish health monitoring programs.

#### **Policy EJ6.5**

**Update Website.** Use the City website to provide information and resources related to health and physical activity.

#### **Action EJ6.G**

Enhance communication efforts through the City of Irwindale website to include information and resources related to health and physical activity, with a focus on addressing obesity and high blood pressure. This will be done through a process similar to the City's communication approach for Covid-19, which created a landing point for relevant pandemic information.

#### **Action EJ6.H**

Establish and manage a Listserv to distribute a monthly schedule of recreational activities, upcoming City events, and information related to health and physical activity to community members (including those who work in the City but live somewhere else).

#### **Action EJ6.I**

Ensure that the City website remains an up-to-date source of information regarding City-sponsored recreational activities, programs for teenagers, sports for youth and adults, and updates related to the Dan Diaz Recreation Center.

**Policy EJ6.6**

**Expand Park Access.** Identify and eliminate barriers to parks and recreation access in Irwindale.

**Action EJ6.J**

Collaborate with Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation and community members to identify and eliminate barriers, such as the appropriateness or desirability of the types of recreational programs available, as well as the cost or accessibility concerns for enjoying recreational amenities.

**Action EJ6.K**

Collaborate with Los Angeles Parks and Recreation to develop a voucher program that will allow low-income residents of Irwindale to access the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Center at a free or reduced price.

**Action EJ6.L**

Collaborate with Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation to send flyers out to all community members (including those who work in the City but live somewhere else) to ensure that they are aware of events, activities, and programs that are held at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Center.

**Policy EJ6.7**

**Enhancing Active Transportation.** Create a more walkable and bike-friendly environment.

**Action EJ6.M**

The Public Works Engineering Department will conduct a comprehensive assessment to identify critical routes for bike lane expansion.

**Action EJ6.N**

Install clear, intuitive signs indicating bike routes, pedestrian paths, distances to key destinations, and estimated walking/cycling times. Utilize maps, QR codes, and smartphone apps to enhance accessibility to wayfinding information.

**Action EJ6.O**

Invest in pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, including crosswalks, sidewalks, pedestrian overpasses, shade structures, and traffic calming measures in areas with high foot traffic, especially near schools, public transportation hubs, and commercial spaces.

**Policy EJ6.8**

**Provide Free Physical Activity Programming.**

Continue providing diverse physical activity programming at the Dan Diaz Recreation Center.

**Action EJ6.P**

Continue to provide free, adaptive, and accessible physical activity programming to residents in Irwindale through the Dan Diaz Recreation Center, with recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities.

**Policy EJ6.9****Increase Recreation Programming Access.**

Identify and eliminate any barriers to using the programs offered for free to community residents.

**Action EJ6.Q**

Conduct an annual community survey to assess community satisfaction and participation in existing programming and to identify community members' interests in programming. The survey will help inform future programming decisions to ensure that the Recreation Department is meeting the needs and interests of the community.

**Action EJ6.R**

Using survey results conduct targeted engagement of individuals who are not utilizing the Dan Diaz Center in order to identify any barriers and increase program engagement. Based on this engagement, implement reasonable measures to ensure that all residents have an equal opportunity to attend physical activity programs at the center.

**Policy EJ6.10**

**Expand Employee Recreation Access.** Evaluate opportunities to expand programming to community members who work in Irwindale but live in different cities.

**Action EJ6.S**

Evaluate whether or not the Dan Diaz Recreation Center has the capacity to extend free or reduced programming to employees who work in the city.

**Action EJ6.T**

Engage with large employers in the city to identify partnership opportunities that would allow for expanded access to the Dan Diaz Recreation Center.

**Policy EJ6.11**

**Expand the Tree Canopy.** Expand the tree canopy in Irwindale to promote a comfortable environment for increased physical activity and active transportation. Combine tree plantings with public education and involvement, through interagency collaboration and the dedication of funds.

**Action EJ6.U**

Dedicate funds in the Capital Improvement Plan to the maintenance, expansion, and protection of the City's tree canopy, focusing on areas of the City with disproportionately low tree canopy landcover in order to increase the tree canopy landcover to at least meet the Los Angeles County average.



**Action EJ6.V**

Engage the public to prioritize locations of pedestrian rights-of-way for tree plantings, which will encourage more active transportation and use of rights-of-way.

**Action EJ6.W**

Collaborate with local organizations, schools, or community members to develop a user-friendly educational module that is accessible on the City website, to educate residents on the advantages of planting trees, the most suitable tree species for planting, and the proper techniques for planting and maintaining new trees on private property.

*See the Safety Element for related policies on the tree canopy.*

**Safety Element Policy SAF6.1:** *Reduce the impacts of extreme weather on people and places through safe buildings, public shelters, cooling centers, sustainable materials, tree canopy, and other measures that promote safety and mitigate hazards.*

**Safety Element Policy SAF7.1:** *Increase parks, open space amenities, and tree canopy in residential and commercial areas and near schools, community centers, and other social gathering areas.*

*See the Public Facilities goals, policies, and actions for more information on active transportation.*



*Event at the Irwindale Senior Center. Courtesy of the City of Irwindale Facebook Page.*



## Promote Healthy Food Access

### Goal EJ7

Irwindale is part of a thriving regional food economy that creates dignified jobs at all levels of the food system, conserves natural resources, strengthens its local agricultural ecosystems' resilience to the changing climate, and provides its community with safe and convenient access to affordable, healthy, culturally relevant food.

### Policy EJ7.1

#### Encourage Healthy Food Businesses.

Implement zoning and City policies and practices that encourage healthy food businesses and discourage unhealthy food businesses.

### Action EJ7.A

Offer incentives such as tax reductions and expedited permitting to healthy food businesses such as grocery stores and farmers markets, as well as non-traditional businesses such as food cooperatives, street vendors, pop-up markets, and home-kitchen-based businesses.

### Action EJ7.B

Offer direct assistance to healthy food entrepreneurs to help them understand and meet public health guidelines and vending regulations, as well as take advantage of financing opportunities.

### Action EJ7.C

Provide free publicity in City communications to healthy food entrepreneurs.

### Action EJ7.D

Require a minimum amount of staple and/or fresh foods as a condition for a liquor license.

### Action EJ7.E

Confirm that the Schabarum Avenue Kaiser campus farmers will indeed open as planned and will be adequate to meet the community's needs. If not, collaborate with community organizations to establish an Irwindale Farmers market.

### Action EJ7.F

Incentivize the SGV Farmers Market to allow non-SGV tenants to buy food at their farmers market when it reopens.



### Action EJ7.G

Organize events and activities that coincide with farmer's markets to encourage attendance and promote healthy food businesses in the community.

### Policy EJ7.2

**Lead by Example.** Adopt a policy similar to the [Los Angeles Food Policy Council's Good Food Purchasing Policy](#), which encourages institutions to use the power of their food budgets to support local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare and good nutrition.

### Action EJ7.H

Update the City's food purchasing practices, to require all its departments to prioritize local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare, and nutrition in their food purchases.

### Action EJ7.I

Through publicity, education, and preferential contracting, encourage all other Irwindale agencies, institutions, and large employers to adopt the Good Food Purchasing Policy as well.

## Goal EJ8

The Irwindale community, from students to adults of all ages, has the knowledge, skills, and habits needed to make healthy food choices, and an opportunity to grow some of its own food.

### Policy EJ8.1

**Provide Urban Agriculture.** Develop opportunities for a community garden in or near a park or another appropriate area.

### Action EJ8.A

If a vacant site, such as a closed mining pit is chosen, offer incentives such as reduced taxes (property, vacancy, etc.) to put the land to use as a community garden if feasible.

### Action EJ8.B

Encourage knowledgeable residents to become educators, conducting workshops and demonstrations within the community garden.

### Action EJ8.C

Collaborate with local organizations such as the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, City of Hope, and any Tongva organizations for garden and program planning, operations, and maintenance.

**Policy EJ8.2**

**Facilitate Home Gardening.** Incentivize and facilitate edible landscaping and gardening around new and existing commercial and residential developments, as well as on underused industrial lands.

**Action EJ8.D**

Loosen permit requirements and reduce fees and taxes where possible for indoor or outdoor urban agriculture.

**Action EJ8.E**

Publicize resources and grant programs for urban agriculture activities.

**Policy EJ8.3**

**Fruit Tree Program.** Engage residents in the formation of a community-based fruit tree program.

**Action EJ8.F**

Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of soil health in residential areas where the fruit tree program will be implemented. Perform soil tests to assess nutrient levels, pH balance, and potential contaminants, including lead.

**Action EJ8.G**

Provide educational resources to residents about soil health, lead contamination risks, and best practices for safe gardening.

**Action EJ8.H**

Facilitate a fruit-sharing program where residents can share excess fruit from their trees with neighbors or community organizations.

**Policy EJ8.4****Encourage Nutrition Education in Schools.**

Encourage nutrition education and cooking and gardening programs in the school districts where Irwindale students attend.

**Action EJ8.I**

Partner with the school districts where Irwindale students attend to advocate for and support the adoption of a Good Food Purchasing Policy similar to the one LA Unified School District has adopted, so that students develop a taste for healthy food.

**Action EJ8.J**

Support the re-establishment and expansion of the Nutrition in The Garden Partnership between Baldwin Park Unified School District and Baldwin Park Community Garden (Kaiser Permanente), and advocate for other similar programs in all schools that serve Irwindale Students, so that students can continue to learn the value and appeal of cooking with freshly grown food, and bring healthy recipes home to their families.



**Policy EJ8.5**

**Promote Gardening and Cooking Education for Adults of All Ages.** Promote local opportunities for the Irwindale community to learn gardening and healthy cooking techniques.

**Action EJ8.K**

Partner with City of Hope and San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps to publicize and support opportunities for the Irwindale community to take healthy cooking and gardening classes.

**Action EJ8.L**

Continue to partner with Irwindale’s local hauler to offer home composting classes in Irwindale.

**Action EJ8.M**

Allow and encourage food/medicine harvesting and foraging by the Tongva community in Irwindale Park, Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area, and other natural areas.

**Goal EJ9**

The Irwindale community is aware of federal and local food assistance programs and knows how to access them.

**Policy EJ9.1**

**Increase Food Assistance Programs.** Work to increase community awareness of and participation in existing federal food assistance programs, such as the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as well as Shepherd’s Pantry.

**Action EJ9.A**

Publicize these assistance programs on the City’s website, other communications, and at City events and facilities.

**Action EJ9.B**

Encourage farmers markets (including the existing SGV market and the planned Kaiser Schabarum Avenue market) to accept CalFresh and WIC payments, and incentivize them to match customers’ purchase dollars to increase their fresh produce buying power.



**Goal EJ10**

Surplus edible food is recovered in Irwindale and made available to people who are experiencing food insecurity.

**Policy EJ10.1****Strengthen Edible Food Recovery Networks.**

Work to strengthen recovery systems for surplus edible food from all stages of the food system: production, storage, handling, processing, distribution, retail, and consumption.

**Action EJ10.A**

Continue to support and publicize Shepherd's Pantry as it engages with supermarkets, food processors and distributors, and other generators of surplus food and distributes it to people in need. Prioritize Irwindale residents in the food distribution process.

**Action EJ10.B**

Continue to collaborate with CalRecycle and Irwindale's trash/recycling/organics hauler on efforts to identify and educate generators of surplus edible food on the requirements and procedures for getting that food to food rescue organizations.

**Action EJ10.C**

Publicize opportunities for the Irwindale community to volunteer with [Food Forward](#) to glean surplus edible food from local markets, and to harvest surplus fruit from residential fruit trees for distribution to food rescue organizations.





## Promote Access to Public Facilities

### Goal EJ11

A community with equitable access to high-quality, well-maintained, and safe public facilities.

### Policy EJ11.1

#### Evaluate General Plan Programs for Parks.

Ensure updates to the General Plan Resource Management Element includes programs that reflect current park conditions, community needs, and infrastructure needs.

### Action EJ11.A

Conduct community engagement throughout the update of the Resource Management Element programs, and in follow-up periodic surveys, to ensure successful outcomes, including increased use and satisfaction of park and recreational facilities by community members.

### Action EJ11.B

To ensure effective development of programs in the Resource Management Element, the City of Irwindale will include specific and measurable targets. Additionally, an annual progress report will be prepared and publicly released to track progress toward meeting these targets. The progress report will serve as a resource for city leadership to make informed decisions regarding program funding.

*See the Safety Element for related policies on parks and open space:*

**Safety Element Policy SAF3.1:** *Promote the creation of new parks, including pocket parks, with a mix of amenities (trees, trails, ponds, exercise equipment, benches, picnic tables), throughout the community, with priority for areas with residential and sensitive uses such as community centers, social gathering places, and schools. Ensure new park sites are environmentally safe from hazards prior to development.*

**Safety Element Policy SAF3.2:** *Preserve existing parks and open space areas, including the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, from development.*

**Safety Element Policy SAF3.3:** *Develop incentives for private businesses and properties to engage in voluntary creations of open spaces and new tree plantings that promote good air quality.*

### **Policy EJ11.2**

**Implement the Irwindale Active Transportation Plan (ATP).** Continue to implement the Irwindale ATP as a means to improve access to public facilities.

### **Action EJ11.C**

Update the City webpage for the Irwindale Active Transportation Plan to reflect the current status of the plan and to include annual progress reports as the ATP is being implemented.

*See the Irwindale Active Transportation Plan for goals, policies, and actions that support the development of an active transportation network, in Irwindale, that is accessible and safe:*  
<https://www.irwindaleca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6532/IrwindaleActiveTransportationPlan-012021?bidId=>.

### **Policy EJ11.3**

**Identify Parking Obstacles to Public Facilities.** Identify any obstacles to accessing public facilities caused by parking limitations and implement strategies to address these constraints.

### **Action EJ11.D**

Conduct a parking inventory and utilization study of public facilities to identify areas where parking constraints exist. Based on the findings of the study, develop targeted parking management strategies and programs to address parking constraints, such as adjusting parking time limits and real time parking availability displays.

### **Policy EJ11.4**

**Increase Connectivity and Mobility.** Expand connectivity and mobility infrastructure in the city to ensure equitable access to centrally located public facilities.

### **Action EJ11.E**

Collaborate with the LA Metro and Foothill Transit to determine the level of connectivity and identify gaps in service between the various residential areas in Irwindale and the public facilities that are located in the southeastern portion of the city, where the majority of community amenities are located.

### **Policy EJ11.5**

**Promote Community Safety and Law Enforcement.** Continue to promote safety through the Irwindale Police Department while maintaining and building relationships with the community.



See the Safety Element for related policies on law enforcement and crime:

**Safety Element Policy SAF12.1:** Continue regular review of staffing, equipment, and resources of the police department to ensure continuous and responsive service for law enforcement, crime reduction, monitoring, investigations, emergency, and other critical operations. Identify potential gaps and needs to carry out services and prioritize capacity-building for the Irwindale Police Department to be able to respond to crime reports and increase safety.

**Safety Element Policy SAF12.2:** Evaluate need for increased patrolling and surveillance through additional officers or increased frequency of patrols using crime reports and feedback from the community to enhance safety in areas of concern within the city.

**Safety Element Policy SAF13.1:** Maintain voluntary crime reporting to the FBI for federally monitored offenses, including violent crime, property crime, arson, burglary, larceny-theft, and hate crime.

**Safety Element Policy SAF13.2:** Use reporting and crime data to map where offenses are occurring for violent crimes, property crimes, arson, burglaries, larceny-theft, and hate crimes. Regularly update and share crime maps on city platforms, including the city's webpage and online platforms, and through CivicReady messaging for public awareness.

**Safety Element Policy SAF13.3:** Continue to build positive relationships between community members and the Irwindale Police Department through programs, mentorship, education, and events that provide opportunities for engagement and connection.

### **Policy EJ11.6**

**Improve Homelessness Response.** Improve the local homelessness crisis response system.

#### **Action EJ11.F**

Evaluate the current programs and services that are provided to people in Irwindale who are experiencing homelessness.

#### **Action EJ11.G**

Identify the community needs related to homelessness and collaborate with the Los Angeles County Department of Public and Social Services, Homeless services, to expand existing programs and services to meet needs.

**Goal EJ12**

A community with enhanced, diverse, and equitable distribution of public facilities that meet the needs of all residents.

**Policy EJ12.1**

**Prioritize New Public Facilities Siting.** Prioritize the siting of new public facilities in the northeastern portion of the city to promote the equitable distribution of resources and services across all neighborhoods.

**Action EJ12.A**

Proactively evaluate the Northeastern portion of the City for sites that would be viable for the development of parks, mini-parks, dog parks, open space, community centers and other public facilities desired by the community. Develop a report that lists potential sites.

**Action EJ12.B**

When considering the development of new public facilities, the site evaluation report will be used to guide siting.

**Policy EJ12.2**

**Repurposing Vacant Property.** Revitalize underutilized spaces and encourage their transformation into community facilities.

**Action EJ12.C**

Conduct a comprehensive inventory of vacant properties and buildings within Irwindale. Identify the ownership status, condition, and potential usage of these properties. Make this information publicly accessible to encourage community involvement.

**Action EJ12.D**

If feasible, develop financial incentives and tax breaks for property owners who repurpose vacant buildings for sustainable businesses, community centers, or affordable housing projects.

**Action EJ12.E**

If feasible, convert applicable vacant buildings into community spaces and facilities that serve residents.

**Policy EJ12.3**

**Include Community in Mine Reclamation and Redevelopment.** Continue to actively engage community members in the redevelopment of mines.

**Action EJ12.F**

Collaborate with the community to establish redevelopment guidelines that include green space, mobility, service, and local benefit requirements.



**Policy EJ12.4**

**Accessible Public Facilities.** Ensure equitable access for all residents to public facilities and outdoor spaces.

**Action EJ12.G**

Conduct a thorough audit of all public facilities, including government buildings, community centers, parks, and recreational areas, to assess their compliance with ADA guidelines. Identify areas that require improvements or modifications to enhance accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

**Action EJ12.H**

Develop and implement a plan to expand wheelchair-accessible pathways and infrastructure throughout parks and recreational areas making them fully ADA compliant beyond just the perimeter.

**Action EJ12.I**

Engage with residents, including individuals with disabilities, to gather input on the design and placement of wheelchair-accessible pathways.

**Action EJ12.J**

Install clear and visible signage indicating accessible routes and facilities within public spaces.

*See the Safety Element for related policies mining pits:*

**Safety Element Policy SAF11.8:** *Identify and publicize the status of the mining pits in the city.*



## Promote Civic Engagement

### Goal EJ13

**A community with accessible and transparent governmental practices that promote community informed decision making.**

#### Policy EJ13.1

**Expand Civic Education.** Engage in educational initiatives that focus on topics such as governing bodies, individual rights, and local history. By offering accessible and engaging educational opportunities, such as workshops, presentations, and interactive activities, community members can develop a stronger understanding of civic life and become more active and informed participants in local governance.

#### Action EJ13.A

Organize informational workshops that provide detailed information on topics such as voter registration, polling locations, mail-in voting, and ballot counting procedures. Provide interpretation at these workshops as needed. Include Q&A sessions to address any questions or concerns from community members.

#### Action EJ13.B

Integrate governmental process education into the Irwindale Teen Club programming by offering workshops, presentations, or interactive activities that cover topics such as local governance, civic engagement, and public policy. The program could also include opportunities for teens to participate in mock government simulations, meet with local elected officials, and engage in community service projects that relate to civic education.

#### Action EJ13.C

Investigate the feasibility of incorporating an annual internship component as part of the Youth in Government Program, that is open to all individuals in Irwindale who are high school age and above. Provide interns with hands-on experience working in various departments of the City government, as well as opportunities to participate in training sessions, networking events, and community projects.

#### Policy EJ13.2

**Participatory Budgeting.** Promote community participation in budget-related decisions to understand community priorities and preferences in how tax dollars are invested, particularly as it relates to revenue generated from industrial businesses and capital improvement projects.

**Action EJ13.D**

Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment in collaboration with community members and gather data on existing challenges, opportunities, to better understand capital needs and expenditures.

**Action EJ13.E**

Create accessible online platforms where residents can view detailed reports on industrial revenue, expenditures, and ongoing projects funded by these revenues. Ensure that these reports are regularly updated and readily available to the public.

**Action EJ13.F**

The Community Development will hold public meetings, workshops, and online forums to gather input from residents on how industrial revenue should be utilized for community development projects.

**Policy EJ13.3**

**Transparent Community Engagement.** Enhance transparency and community participation by providing ample notice for all community engagement and workshop events.

**Action EJ13.G**

Provide a minimum of 21 days' notice before hosting community engagement events and workshops.

**Action EJ13.H**

Implement text messaging, social media, email alert systems and direct mailing to notify residents directly about upcoming community engagement events. Encourage residents to opt-in to receive these alerts, ensuring timely communication while minimizing printing and distribution costs.

**Action EJ13.I**

Utilize existing billboards, community notice boards strategically placed in high-traffic areas and in public facilities to display information about upcoming community workshops and engagement events.

**Action EJ13.J**

Collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce to send eblasts notifying businesses of community workshops and events, and utilize the business licensing roster to notify all businesses of upcoming events and workshops.

**Action EJ13.K**

Establish a feedback mechanism allowing residents to provide input on the City's established protocol for public noticing.



**Policy EJ13.4**

**Community Ambassador.** Consider creating a dedicated resident position within the City's Manager's Office, known as the Community Officer/Ambassador, tasked with interacting closely with residents to enhance community safety, foster social cohesion, and address specific neighborhood concerns.

**Action EJ13.L**

Provide comprehensive training to the Community Officer/Ambassador in conflict resolution, community engagement strategies, cultural competence, and relevant City policies.

**Action EJ13.M**

Facilitate dialogues and mediate conflicts when necessary, ensuring that community concerns are addressed in a timely and respectful manner.

**Action EJ13.N**

Develop a system for tracking and reporting the Community Officer/Ambassador's activities, including the number of community engagements, issues resolved, and programs implemented.

**Policy EJ13.5**

**City Council Participation.** Allow community members to request the City Council to address specific topics or projects.

**Action EJ13.O**

Allow community members, neighborhood associations, and local organizations to submit formal requests to the City Council for specific agenda items related to urban planning, land use, development projects, and relevant community concerns.

**Action EJ13.P**

Establish a clear and accessible process for community members to submit requests for agenda items to the City Council. Provide online forms, email addresses, or designated submission points at city offices where residents can submit their proposals.

**Policy EJ13.6**

**Create a Citizen Advisory Committee.** Establish a Citizen Advisory Committee consisting of community members who can provide feedback and recommendations on city policies and programs. This committee can act as a bridge between the city government and residents, providing an opportunity for citizens to have a voice in decision-making.



### Action EJ13.Q

Define the purpose and responsibilities of the Citizen Advisory Committee, such as its goals, objectives, scope, and areas of responsibility. This can be done through a formal resolution or an ordinance that outlines the committee's role in providing feedback and recommendations on City policies and programs.

*The following below may be considered when forming a City Advisory Committee:*

- 1. Establish a process for recruiting and selecting committee members, including qualifications, application procedures, and selection criteria. The committee can be composed of a diverse group of community members who represent different interests, backgrounds, and perspectives.*
- 2. Establish a term limit for committee members and provide them with training and resources to help them fulfill their duties.*
- 3. Establish meeting protocols and procedures that govern the operation of the Citizen Advisory Committee, such as meeting frequency, quorum, agenda setting, decision-making, and record-keeping. The committee can hold public meetings that are open to residents and provide opportunities for public comment and feedback.*

- 4. Provide staff support to the committee and ensure that committee input and recommendations are given due consideration by the City Council and other governmental bodies within the City.*

### Policy EJ13.7

#### **Ensure Accessible and Inclusive Public**

**Meetings.** Ensure that all City-led public meetings are accessible and inclusive to enable and encourage all community members to participate.

### Action EJ13.R

With community input, establish a public meeting accessibility standard that applies to all City-led public meetings in compliance with the Brown Act.

*The Public Meeting Accessibility Standard may consider the following meeting requirements:*

- 1. Use venues throughout Irwindale to accommodate community members who cannot travel far, including hybrid options.*
- 2. Evaluate meeting schedules to determine if they accommodate the availability of community members.*
- 3. Provide translation and interpretation services at public meetings throughout Irwindale.*
- 4. Provide instructions for requesting translation services on the City's Meeting webpage and on all meeting notification documents.*

5. *Ensure that translation time will not be taken from a person's time limit for comments.*
6. *Provide listening devices for all meetings.*
7. *Include considerations for childcare, food options, and Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations such as physical changes to meeting spaces, accessible and assistive technologies, accessible communications, and policy enhancements.*
8. *Require that meeting minutes refrain from using, or clearly define, abbreviations and jargon.*
9. *Include an anonymous end-of-meeting survey after community meetings to learn how people found out about the meeting along with any other comments that they wish to add. Gathering feedback will be helpful to know which outreach methods are most effective and what could be improved regarding the meeting processes.*
10. *Provide community members with tools to easily review meeting minutes.*

*The standard may also include the following additional virtual meeting requirements:*

1. *Do not require the use of an email address to register for meetings.*
2. *Eliminate the passcode requirement to enter virtual meetings, as it complicates the process of accessing the meeting and can be a barrier to community members.*

3. *Ensure that phone-in options are available for community members without access to smart phones or computers.*

### **Policy EJ13.8**

**Increase Linguistic Accessibility.** Provide interpretation in public meetings and include Spanish language translation, and other commonly spoken languages within the city upon request, on future publicly released information.

### **Action EJ13.S**

Provide interpretation for Spanish and other commonly spoken languages in public meetings.

### **Action EJ13.T**

Translate future public documents and communications into Spanish and other commonly spoken languages, using a professional translation service or qualified city staff as appropriate.

### **Policy EJ13.9**

**Expand Internet Accessibility.** Provide internet access and opportunities to enhance technological literacy to build skills and encourage participation in civic life.

### **Action EJ13.U**

The Administration Department will work with the Community Development Department and IT to establish and host free community Wi-Fi hotspots at public facilities.



**Action EJ13.V**

Seek opportunities to increase free access to public computer stations at public facilities.

**Action EJ13.W**

Libraries will seek partnerships with schools, community based organizations (CBOs), and private sector partners to provide technology classes for diverse languages, and skill levels, with subjects ranging from basic computer literacy and typing, to programming and coding, to Zoom participation.

**Goal EJ14**

Irwindale community members will have a strong sense of belonging that promotes civic engagement.

**Policy EJ14.1**

**Promote Placemaking.** Promote the creation of public spaces that are inviting, vibrant, and functional for the community. Public art can play a crucial role in placemaking by adding visual interest and promoting a sense of community pride.

**Action EJ14.A**

Identify public facilities that could function as sites for local art installations.

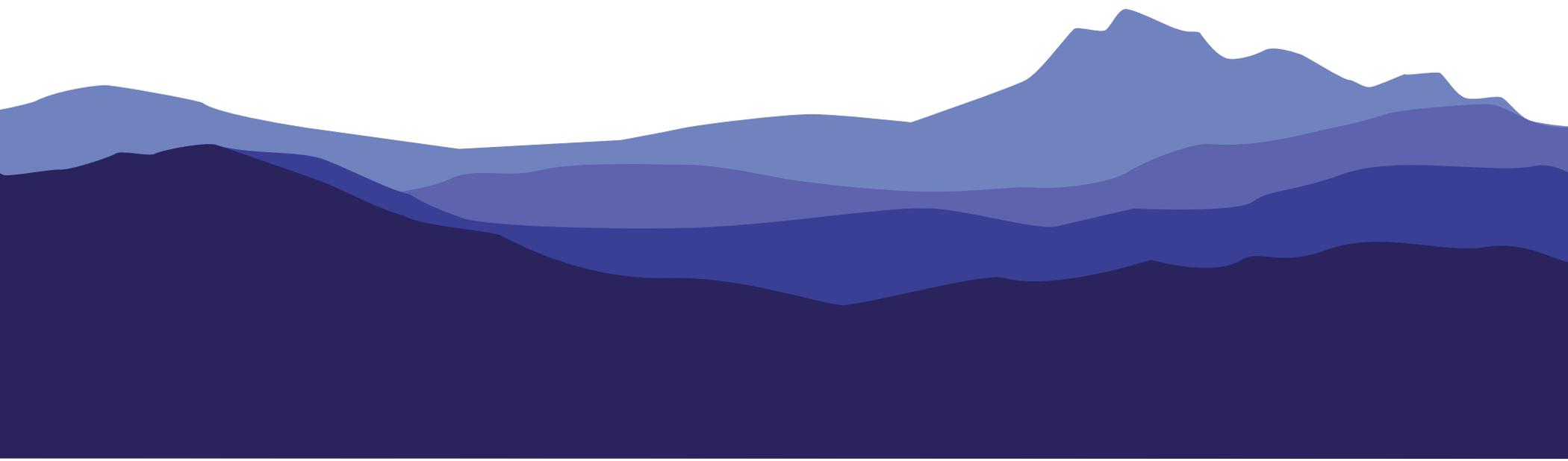
**Action EJ14.B**

Coordinate with local artists to create murals, sculptures, and other installations in public spaces.





## SECTION 4 Implementation



This section provides a framework for systematically implementing the actions associated with each policy presented in the Environmental Justice Element. It will be used during the City's planning and budgeting processes to understand priorities and how and when to effectively allocate funding and resources to achieve the City's EJ goals. Collectively, these actions work to help the City make measured progress towards reducing pollution exposure, improving air quality, promoting safe and sanitary homes and neighborhoods, promoting health and physical activity, expanding access to healthy foods and adequate public facilities. These actions also work to improve community engagement, transparency and equity in the decision-making process.

Table EJ-8 presents the implementing actions for the EJ Element. The actions

are organized as presented in Section 3: Goals, Policies, and Actions.

Each of the components of the implementation table are described below.

**Lead Agency.** This column identifies the lead agency responsible for managing the implementation of the action. While other City departments may support its implementation, the lead agency is primarily responsible for determining next steps and moving the action forward and could include state agencies such as the California Air Resources Board.

**Partnerships.** This column identifies the local and regional agencies, City departments and organizations that have authority, influence, or knowledge to assist with implementation of the associated action. In some cases, several coordinating partners are shown as

there may be joint responsibility and/or interest for implementation.

**Relative Cost.** This column provides a relative cost for implementing the associated action using dollar signs (\$). One dollar sign (\$) indicates that the action is lower cost, based on the assumption that it would require the use of existing staff time. Two-dollar signs (\$\$) indicate the action may require additional time and resources, such as hiring new staff. Three-dollar signs (\$\$\$) indicate the action may be part of a capital improvement project and/or include construction.

**Timeframe.** This column identifies the target timeframe for the action to be implemented. A “short” timeframe indicates the action should be implemented in the near term or within one to three years of adoption. A “mid” timeframe indicates that the action should be completed within 3 to 5 years of adoption. A “long”

timeframe indicates a period of 5 to 10 years or longer for implementation. The exact targeted time to complete an action will be determined during the City’s planning and budgeting processes. An action referred to as “ongoing” indicates that the action should occur periodically.



SECTION 4 IMPLEMENTATION

TABLE EJ-8 Action Implementation Information

ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
 <b>Reduce Pollution Exposure and Improve Air Quality</b>					
EJ1.A	The Planning Division will update zoning regulations to prohibit the development of new residential uses within 500 feet of a freeway, and establish a buffer to protect sensitive receptors from industrial uses and truck routes (e.g., landscape setbacks).	Planning Division	Code Enforcement	\$	Near-Term
EJ1.B	The Public Works Engineering will evaluate the health risks on sensitive populations when building or expanding roads or redesignating citywide truck routes and will implement mitigation measures to prevent health risks to community members.	Public Works Engineering Department	Building and Safety, Code Enforcement	\$\$	Near-Term
EJ1.C	The appropriate City agency will seek and prioritize grant funding to implement projects and programs in residential neighborhoods that mitigate air pollution impacts on sensitive receptors.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ1.D	The Community Development Department will collaborate with SCAQMD to increase the number of air monitoring stations in areas that are most affected by air pollution, such as near highways or industrial facilities. This will provide more accurate data on air quality in these areas and help identify sources of pollution that need to be addressed.	Community Development Department	SCAQMD	\$\$	Near-Term
EJ1.E	The City will publish air quality data from these new monitoring locations on the City's website, making it easily accessible to the public. This could include real-time data from monitoring stations, as well as historical data that allows community members to track changes in air quality over time.	Community Development Department		\$	Mid-Term



ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ1.F	The Code Enforcement Division will work with the Planning Division to identify and map businesses, stations, and locations that were granted a conditional use permit (CUP) for the use, sale, and storage of any materials classified as toxic or hazardous by either the federal or state government as a substantial part of the total use. This map is required to be easily and publicly accessible.	Code Enforcement Division	Planning Division	\$\$	Near-Term
EJ1.G	The Public Works Engineering Department will analyze the effectiveness of the Sanitary Sewer and Industrial Waste Ordinance in preventing the contamination of soil and surface water and groundwater in Irwindale.	Public Works Engineering Department	Public Services Department	\$	Near-Term
EJ1.H	Establish a regular water testing program in areas surrounding industrial sites, focusing on both surface water and groundwater, and publicize the results of water quality tests to keep residents informed.	Code Enforcement Division	Public Works Engineering Department	\$\$	Near-Term
EJ1.I	Pursue grant opportunities and partner with water companies to provide and distribute at-home water testing kits to residents.	Code Enforcement Division		\$\$	Near-Term
EJ1.J	The Community Development Department will conduct community workshops and/or surveys to gather interest in investing and prioritizing EV infrastructure considering other community needs for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.	Community Development Department	Code Enforcement Division	\$	Near-Term
EJ1.K	The Public Works Engineering Department will assess the potential sites and determine the locations for EV infrastructure. The City will invest in EV infrastructure in a way that continues to disincentivize single-occupancy vehicles and supports shared and alternative forms of transportation (e.g., electric bikes, buses, City fleets, trucks).	Public Works Engineering Department	Planning Division	\$\$	Near-Term



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ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ1.L	The Public Works Engineering Department and Planning Division will assess the need for hydrogen fueling infrastructure and incorporate provisions for hydrogen refueling stations alongside new EV charging stations if needed.	Public Works Engineering Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ2.A	The Public Services Department will implement an urban tree planting program to increase the number of trees in public urban areas. Trees will be selected that maximize carbon sequestration, while also providing shade and reducing urban heat island effects.	Public Services Department	Planning Division	\$\$	Mid-Term
EJ2.B	The Planning Division will update zoning regulations to support and incentivize the installation of green roofs and walls on new and existing buildings. Green roofs and walls help to reduce the amount of heat absorbed by buildings, as well as filtering out pollutants from the air.	Planning Division	Public Works Engineering Department	\$	Near-Term
EJ2.C	The Public Services Department will partner with Garden View to expand Garden Tips with Gardy & Woody to schools and neighborhoods throughout Irwindale.	Public Services Department	Garden View	\$	Near-Term
EJ3.A	The Community Development Department will host community workshops on how City residents can access air quality data, how to protect themselves from exposure to air pollution, and actions they can take to reduce their own contributions to air pollution.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ3.B	The Community Development Department will collaborate with SCAQMD to support residential monitoring of air quality and include education and trainings for community members to collect and analyze data and support community-led initiatives to improve air quality.	Community Development Department	SCAQMD	\$\$	Mid-Term



ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ3.C	The City will include information regarding air quality and pollution information and resources in the residential newsletter, Inside Irwindale, and include existing SCAQMD programs and incentives such as the CLEANair Furnace Rebate Program, as well as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 programs: Home Efficiency Rebates (HOMES), and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEEHRA). The City will publish and promote these sections in the website publication.	Community Development Department	SCAQMD	\$	Near-Term
EJ3.D	The Irwindale Human Resources Department will establish an Air Quality and Pollution Education program that new and existing employers will be invited to share with their employees.	Human Resources Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ4.A	The Public Works Engineering Department will ensure that design of new facilities allows for the queuing of trucks on-site and away from sensitive receptors.	Public Works Engineering Department	Code Enforcement	\$	Near-Term
EJ4.B	The Public Works Engineering Department will restrict and enforce the queuing of trucks on streets or elsewhere outside of facilities.	Public Works Engineering Department	Code Enforcement	\$	Near-Term
EJ4.C	The Public Works Engineering Department will require on-site signage for directional guidance to trucks entering and exiting facilities to minimize potential impacts on sensitive receptors.	Public Works Engineering Department	Planning Division	\$	Near-Term
EJ4.D	The Public Works Engineering Department will install signs in residential areas indicating no-idling zones and displaying the associated fines.	Public Works Engineering Department	Code Enforcement	\$	Near-Term
EJ4.E	The City will establish a system where residents can easily report instances of excessive truck idling.	Public Works Engineering Department	Code Enforcement	\$	Near-Term
EJ4.F	The City will implement regulations to allow for the widening of roads on designated truck routes to accommodate the efficient movement of truck traffic.	Public Works Engineering Department	Planning Division		



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ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ4.G	The Public Works Engineering Department will conduct assessments of truck impacts on sensitive receptors as needed, including air quality, noise levels, and traffic congestion.	Public Works Engineering Department		\$\$	Near-Term
EJ4.H	Develop clear and transparent criteria for evaluating new commercial proposals, giving weight to sustainability factors such as energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, and community engagement. Make these criteria publicly available to ensure transparency and accountability in the decision-making process.	Public Works Engineering Department	Planning Division	\$	Near-Term
EJ4.I	Develop a set of incentives, such as expedited permit processing, reduced fees, or tax incentives, to attract businesses with sustainable practices. Criteria for these incentives may include energy efficiency, waste reduction, eco-friendly design, and community engagement initiatives.	Public Works Engineering Department	Planning Division	\$	Near-Term
EJ4.J	Distribute informational materials to the community to ensure that community input is integrated into the evaluation of proposals, emphasizing sustainable practices and community benefits.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ4.K	Update City landscaping to require businesses to adopt sustainable landscaping practices, such as bioswales, rain gardens, permeable pavements, and native plants.	Public Services Department		\$\$	Mid-Term
EJ4.L	Conduct periodic inspections to ensure businesses are complying with drain maintenance requirements.	Public Works Engineering Department	Building and Safety Division	\$\$	Near-Term
EJ4.M	Establish penalties for businesses that neglect their drain maintenance responsibilities.	Public Works Engineering Department	Code Enforcement	\$	Near-Term



ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
 <b>Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes and Neighborhoods</b>					
EJ5.A	Coordinate with local, regional, and state agencies involved in housing initiatives, such as the California Department of Housing and Community Development, HRC, Los Angeles County Development Authority, and San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, to gather and maintain data on living conditions to help evaluate opportunities for local investments. Data gathered should include metrics for promoting safe and sanitary housing, including overcrowding, housing cost burden, housing stock quality, and other relevant household characteristics.	Community Development Department	Public Works Engineering Department	\$\$	Near-Term
EJ5.B	In tandem with community engagement efforts, establish a community feedback program through the City's webpage to gather information from community members following the implementation of new housing programs.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ5.C	Identify metrics that help determine the accessibility and utilization of rental assistance and landlord mediation resources.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ5.D	Evaluate the accessibility of existing renter assistance resources and determine appropriate changes or programming necessary to respond to the unique cultural needs of the renters in the City. Use the community engagement process to vet findings and inform improvements needed.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-Term



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ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ5.E	Collaborate with local and regional agencies and community organizations to distribute information to households and business on funding and assistance opportunities, including for utility costs, through the City's webpage, during City events and workshops, and other existing platforms. Promote programs such as California Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE), Family Electric Rate Assistance Program (FERA), California Low-Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE) Program, and Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) that improve housing conditions and quality of life in Irwindale.	Community Development Department	HCD	\$	Near-Term
EJ5.F	Seek partnerships with local agencies and organizations to host informational workshops that educate community members on strategies to improve efficiency within their homes, including striping and caulking around all entrance doors and windows to limit air leaks, removing furniture or items that block vents supplying and returning air to air conditioning, and others. Include this information on the City website so community members can access the information year-round.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ5.G	Code Enforcement Division, and Building and Safety Division will work to create a streamlined home maintenance program for renters to report maintenance issues and locate funding for home improvement.	Code Enforcement Division	Building and Safety Division	\$	Mid-Term
EJ5.H	The Building and Safety Division will conduct comprehensive assessments of for-rent residential structures, focusing on existing roofing conditions, insulation, and the adequacy of lumber used in construction. Identify vulnerable areas that require retrofitting for improved weather resistance and energy efficiency.	Building and Safety Division		\$	Near-Term
EJ5.I	Establish a city grant program aimed explicitly at weatherproofing existing houses.	Building and Safety Division	Community Development Department	\$	Near-Term



ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ5.J	Launch a citywide awareness and education campaign on mold prevention, identification, and remediation techniques.	Community Development Department	Public Works Engineering Department	\$	Near-Term
EJ5.K	Allocate resources to research and identify federal, state, and private grants related to mold abatement and residential retrofitting.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ5.L	Assist residents in preparing and submitting grant applications. Offer guidance, workshops, and one-on-one support to help residents navigate the application process effectively.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ5.M	Involve residents and community-based organizations to create anti-displacement policies that will help residents stay in place when beautification investments are undertaken in a neighborhood.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ5.N	In tandem with the Housing Element’s program #28, which calls for development in alignment with sustainable community design, improve neighborhood amenities in public spaces that are built sustainably and enhance quality of life for residents. Seek funding opportunities for investment in neighborhoods for improved lighting, crosswalks, and landscaping.	Housing Division		\$\$	Mid-Term
EJ5.O	Prioritize improved lighting, particularly near sand and gravel pits, around bus stops, and on the north side of Foothill Blvd.	Public Works Engineering Department	Code Enforcement	\$	Near-Term
EJ5.P	The Public Works Engineering Department will review the existing lighting schedules in public areas, including streets, parks, and other communal spaces, and adjust them to accommodate daylight savings time changes, ensuring that outdoor lighting turns on an hour earlier during the darker months or turns off an hour later when daylight is reduced.	Public Works Engineering Department		\$	Near-Term



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ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ5.Q	The Public Works Engineering Department will assess the need or impact of integrating energy-efficient LED lighting technologies to reduce energy consumption and environmental impact.	Public Works Engineering Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ5.R	Establish multiple accessible reporting channels, including an online portal on the City's official website and a mobile application.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ5.S	Provide an anonymous reporting option for residents who prefer not to disclose their identity.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ5.T	Implement a system to acknowledge receipt of reports and follow-up promptly. Residents should receive confirmation that their report has been received and when the case has been resolved.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ5.U	Work with City departments and local organizations to develop culturally appropriate programs and activities that promote social cohesion and safety in the community.	Community Development Department	Administration	\$	Near-Term
EJ5.V	Increase safety through community and neighborhood watch programs that ensure all community members feel safe and secure, rather than threatened, by the presence of law enforcement.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ5.W	Organize storm preparedness workshops and training sessions where residents can create emergency kits, secure property, and help develop evacuation plans.	Community Development Department	Public Works Engineering Department	\$\$	Near-Term
EJ5.X	Offer training programs, including basic first aid, search and rescue techniques, and communication strategies, for community volunteers interested in assisting with storm preparedness efforts.	Police Department	Community Development Department, LA County Fire	\$\$	Near-Term



ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
 <b>Promote Health and Physical Activity</b>					
EJ6.A	Identify guiding HiAP principles and establish procedures for the implementation of HiAP for future plans and programs. Consider health metrics for measuring implementation, including health conditions and level of physical activity.	Recreation Department	Community Development Department, LA County Parks and Recreation	\$	Near-Term
EJ6.B	Provide training to City staff on the HiAP approach and procedures to ensure health and physical activity is considered within all departmental initiatives.	Recreation Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ6.C	Provide targeted outreach to community members to increase awareness of City healthcare programs and give them the opportunity to use these benefits. Conduct this outreach on an annual basis, targeting seniors, low-income residents, non-English speakers, unemployed individuals, and others who may have limited access to healthcare services.	Recreation Department	Community Development Department	\$\$	Near-Term
EJ6.D	Collaborate with local healthcare providers, such as City of Hope Medical Center and the Los Angeles County Health Department to develop an annual Health Fair. The Health Fair will provide educational activities, interactive games that engage community members in fun physical activities, and resources related to health issues that are influenced by physical inactivity. This could be combined with a Food Fair that addresses information and resources associated with access to Healthy Foods.	Recreational Department	Administration	\$	Near-Term
EJ6.E	Identify existing opportunities to engage in regionwide programs conducted by City of Hope.	Recreation Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ6.F	Collaborate with City of Hope to explore opportunities to establish a strategic partnership that could address leading community health risks, promote mental health, and establish health monitoring programs.	Recreation Department	Administration	\$	Mid-Term



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ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ6.G	Enhance communication efforts through the City of Irwindale website to include information and resources related to health and physical activity, with a focus on addressing obesity and high blood pressure. This will be done through a process similar to the City's communication approach for Covid-19, which created a landing point for relevant pandemic information.	Recreation Department		\$	Near-Term
EJ6.H	Establish and manage a Listserv to distribute a monthly schedule of recreational activities, upcoming City events, and information related to health and physical activity to community members (including those who work in the City but live somewhere else).	Recreation Department	Senior Center	\$\$	Near-Term
EJ6.I	Ensure that the City website remains an up-to-date source of information regarding City-sponsored recreational activities, programs for teenagers, sports for youth and adults, and updates related to the Dan Diaz Recreation Center.	Recreation Department	Administration	\$	Near-Term
EJ.6.J	Collaborate with Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation and community members to identify and eliminate barriers, such as the appropriateness or desirability of the types of recreational programs available, as well as the cost or accessibility concerns for enjoying recreational amenities.	Recreation Department	LA County Parks and Recreation	\$	Near-term
EJ6.K	Collaborate with Los Angeles Parks and Recreation to develop a voucher program that allow low-income residents of Irwindale to access the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Center at a free or reduced price.	Recreation Department	LA County Parks and Recreation		
EJ6.L	Collaborate with Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation to send flyers out to all community members (including those who work in the City but live somewhere else) to ensure that they are aware of events, activities, and programs that are held at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Center.	Recreation Department	LA County Parks and Recreation	\$\$	Near-term



ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ6.M	The Public Works Engineering Department will conduct a comprehensive assessment to identify critical routes for bike lane expansion.	Public Works Engineering Department		\$	Near-term
EJ6.N	Install clear, intuitive signs indicating bike routes, pedestrian paths, distances to key destinations, and estimated walking/cycling times. Utilize maps, QR codes, and smartphone apps to enhance accessibility to wayfinding information.	Public Works Engineering Department		\$\$	Near-term
EJ6.O	Invest in pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, including crosswalks, sidewalks, pedestrian overpasses, shade structures, and traffic calming measures in areas with high foot traffic, especially near schools, public transportation hubs, and commercial spaces.	Public Works Engineering Department		\$\$	Mid-term
EJ6.P	Continue to provide free, adaptive, and accessible physical activity programming to residents in Irwindale through the Dan Diaz Recreation Center, with recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities.	Recreation Department	Senior Center	\$	Near-term
EJ6.Q	Conduct an annual community survey to assess community satisfaction and participation in existing programming and to identify community members' interests in programming. The survey will help inform future programming decisions to ensure that the Recreation Department is meeting the needs and interests of the community.	Recreation Department	Administration	\$	Near-term
EJ6.R	Using survey results conduct targeted engagement of individuals who are not utilizing the Dan Diaz Center in order to identify any barriers and increase program engagement. Based on this engagement, implement reasonable measures to ensure that all residents have an equal opportunity to attend physical activity programs at the center.	Recreation Department		\$	Near-term



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ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ6.S	Evaluate whether or not the Dan Diaz Recreation Center has the capacity to extend free or reduced programming to employees who work in the city.	Recreation Department		\$	Near-term
EJ6.T	Engage with large employers in the city to identify partnership opportunities that would allow for expanded access to the Dan Diaz Recreation Center.	Recreation Department	Irwindale-based employers	\$	Near-term
EJ6.U	Dedicate funds in the Capital Improvement Plan to the maintenance, expansion, and protection of the City's tree canopy, focusing on areas of the City with disproportionately low tree canopy landcover in order to increase the tree canopy landcover to at least meet the Los Angeles County average.	Finance Department	Community Development Department, Public Works Department	\$	Near-term
EJ6.V	Engage the public to prioritize locations of pedestrian rights-of-way for tree plantings, which will encourage more active transportation and use of rights-of-way.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ6.W	Collaborate with local organizations, schools, or community members to develop a user-friendly educational module that is accessible on the City website, to educate residents on the advantages of planting trees, the most suitable tree species for planting, and the proper techniques for planting and maintaining new trees on private property.	Community Development Department	Public Services Department	\$	Near-term
 <b>Promote Healthy Food Access</b>					
EJ7.A	Offer incentives such as tax reductions and expedited permitting to healthy food businesses such as grocery stores and farmers markets, as well as non-traditional businesses such as food cooperatives, street vendors, pop-up markets, and home-kitchen-based businesses.	Community Development Department	Finance Department	\$	Near-term
EJ7.B	Offer direct assistance to healthy food entrepreneurs to help them understand and meet public health guidelines and vending regulations, as well as take advantage of financing opportunities.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term



ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ7.C	Provide free publicity in City communications to healthy food entrepreneurs.	Community Development Department	Administration	\$	Near-term
EJ7.D	Require a minimum amount of staple and/or fresh foods as a condition for a liquor license.	Community Development Department		\$	Mid-term
EJ7.E	Confirm that the Schabarum Avenue Kaiser campus farmers will indeed open as planned and will be adequate to meet the community's needs. If not, collaborate with community organizations to establish an Irwindale Farmers market.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ7.F	Incentivize the SGV Farmers Market to allow non-SGV tenants to buy food at their farmers market when it reopens.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ7.G	Organize events and activities that coincide with farmer's markets to encourage attendance and promote healthy food businesses in the community.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ7.H	Update the City's food purchasing practices, to require all its departments to prioritize local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare, and nutrition in their food purchases.	Finance Department		\$\$	Mid-term
EJ7.I	Through publicity, education, and preferential contracting, encourage all other Irwindale agencies, institutions, and large employers to adopt the Good Food Purchasing Policy as well.	Community Development Department		\$	Mid-term
EJ8.A	If a vacant site, such as a closed mining pit is chosen, offer incentives such as reduced taxes (property, vacancy, etc.) to put the land to use as a community garden if feasible.	Community Development Department	Finance Department	\$	Near-term
EJ8.B	Encourage knowledgeable residents to become educators, conducting workshops and demonstrations within the community garden.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term



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ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ8.C	Collaborate with local organizations such as the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, City of Hope, and any Tongva organizations for garden and program planning, operations, and maintenance.	Community Development Department	San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps, City of Hope	\$\$	Near-term
EJ8.D	Loosen permit requirements and reduce fees and taxes where possible for indoor or outdoor urban agriculture.	Building and Safety Department	Community Development Department	\$	Near-term
EJ8.E	Publicize resources and grant programs for urban agriculture activities.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ8.F	Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of soil health in residential areas where the fruit tree program will be implemented. Perform soil tests to assess nutrient levels, pH balance, and potential contaminants, including lead.	Building and Safety Department		\$\$	Near-term
EJ8.G	Provide educational resources to residents about soil health, lead contamination risks, and best practices for safe gardening.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ8.H	Facilitate a fruit-sharing program where residents can share excess fruit from their trees with neighbors or community organizations.	Community Development Department	Recreation Department	\$	Near-term
EJ8.I	Partner with the school districts where Irwindale students attend to advocate for and support the adoption of a Good Food Purchasing Policy similar to the one LA Unified School District has adopted, so that students develop a taste for healthy food.	Community Development Department	Baldwin Park Unified School District, Azusa Unified School District, Covina Valley Unified School District, Duarte Unified School District	\$	Mid-term



ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ8.J	Support the re-establishment and expansion of the Nutrition in The Garden Partnership between Baldwin Park Unified School District and Baldwin Park Community Garden (Kaiser Permanente), and advocate for other similar programs in all schools that serve Irwindale Students, so that students can continue to learn the value and appeal of cooking with freshly grown food, and bring healthy recipes home to their families.	Community Development Department	Baldwin Park Unified School District	\$	Near-term
EJ8.K	Partner with City of Hope and San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps to publicize and support opportunities for the Irwindale community to take healthy cooking and gardening classes.	Community Development Department	City of Hope, San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corp	\$	Near-term
EJ8.L	Continue to partner with Irwindale's local hauler to offer home composting classes in Irwindale.	Public Services Department		\$	Near-term
EJ8.M	Allow and encourage food/medicine harvesting and foraging by the Tongva community in Irwindale Park, Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area, and other natural areas.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ9.A	Publicize these assistance programs on the City's website, other communications, and at City events and facilities.	Community Development Department	Administration	\$	Near-term
EJ9.B	Encourage that farmers markets (including the existing SGV market and the planned Kaiser Schabarum Avenue market) to accept CalFresh and WIC payments, and incentivize them to match customers' purchase dollars to increase their fresh produce buying power.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ10.A	Continue to support and publicize Shepherd's Pantry as it engages with supermarkets, food processors and distributors, and other generators of surplus food and distributes it to people in need. Prioritize Irwindale residents in the food distribution process.	Community Development Department	Shepherd's Pantry	\$	Near-term



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ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ10.B	Continue to collaborate with CalRecycle and Irwindale's trash/recycling/organics hauler on efforts to identify and educate generators of surplus edible food on the requirements and procedures for getting that food to food rescue organizations.	Public Services Department	CalRecycle	\$	Near-term
EJ10.C	Publicize opportunities for the Irwindale community to volunteer with <a href="#">Food Forward</a> to glean surplus edible food from local markets, and to harvest surplus fruit from residential fruit trees for distribution to food rescue organizations.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
 <b>Promote Access to Public Facilities</b>					
EJ11.A	Conduct community engagement throughout the update of the Resource Management Element programs, and in follow-up periodic surveys, to ensure successful outcomes, including increased use and satisfaction of park and recreational facilities by community members.	Recreation Department	Community Development Department	\$\$	Mid-term
EJ11.B	To ensure effective development of programs in the Resource Management Element, the City of Irwindale will include specific and measurable targets. Additionally, an annual progress report will be prepared and publicly released to track progress toward meeting these targets. The progress report will serve as a resource for city leadership to make informed decisions regarding program funding.	Recreation Department		\$\$	Near-term
EJ11.C	Update the City webpage for the Irwindale Active Transportation Plan to reflect the current status of the plan and to include annual progress reports as the ATP is being implemented.	Public Works Engineering Department	Administration	\$	Near-term

ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ11.D	Conduct a parking inventory and utilization study of public facilities to identify areas where parking constraints exist. Based on the findings of the study, develop targeted parking management strategies and programs to address parking constraints, such as adjusting parking time limits and real time parking availability displays.	Public Works Engineering Department		\$\$	Near-term
EJ11.E	Collaborate with the LA Metro and Foothill Transit to determine the level of connectivity and identify gaps in service between the various residential areas in Irwindale and the public facilities that are located in the southeastern portion of the city, where the majority of community amenities are located.	Community Development Department		\$\$	Near-term
EJ11.F	Evaluate the current programs and services that are provided to people in Irwindale who are experiencing homelessness.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ11.G	Identify the community needs related to homelessness and collaborate with the Los Angeles County Department of Public and Social Services, Homeless services, to expand existing programs and services to meet needs.	Community Development Department	Los Angeles County Department of Public and Social Services, Homeless Services,	\$	Mid-term
EJ12.A	Proactively evaluate the Northeastern portion of the City for sites that would be viable for the development of parks, mini-parks, dog parks, open space, community centers and other public facilities desired by the community. Develop a report that lists potential sites.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ12.B	When considering the development of new public facilities, the site evaluation report will be used to guide siting.	Community Development Department	Public Works Department, Recreation Department	\$	Near-term



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ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ12.C	Conduct a comprehensive inventory of vacant properties and buildings within Irwindale. Identify the ownership status, condition, and potential usage of these properties. Make this information publicly accessible to encourage community involvement.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ12.D	If feasible, develop financial incentives and tax breaks for property owners who repurpose vacant buildings for sustainable businesses, community centers, or affordable housing projects.	Community Development Department	Finance Department	\$	Near-term
EJ12.E	If feasible, convert applicable vacant buildings into community spaces and facilities that serve residents.	Community Development Department	Recreation Department	\$\$	Mid-term
EJ12.F	Collaborate with the community to establish redevelopment guidelines that include green space, mobility, service, and local benefit requirements.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ12.G	Conduct a thorough audit of all public facilities, including government buildings, community centers, parks, and recreational areas, to assess their compliance with ADA guidelines. Identify areas that require improvements or modifications to enhance accessibility for individuals with disabilities.	Public Works Engineering Department	Code Enforcement	\$	Near-term
EJ12.H	Develop and implement a plan to expand wheelchair-accessible pathways and infrastructure throughout parks and recreational areas making them fully ADA compliant beyond just the perimeter.	Public Works Engineering Department		\$\$	Mid-term
EJ12.I	Engage with residents, including individuals with disabilities, to gather input on the design and placement of wheelchair-accessible pathways.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term



ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ12.J	Install clear and visible signage indicating accessible routes and facilities within public spaces.	Public Works Engineering Department		\$\$	Near-term
 <b>Promote Civic Engagement</b>					
EJ13.A	Organize informational workshops that provide detailed information on topics such as voter registration, polling locations, mail-in voting, and ballot counting procedures. Provide interpretation at these workshops as needed. Include Q&A sessions to address any questions or concerns from community members.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ13.B	Integrate governmental process education into the Irwindale Teen Club programming by offering workshops, presentations, or interactive activities that cover topics such as local governance, civic engagement, and public policy. The program could also include opportunities for teens to participate in mock government simulations, meet with local elected officials, and engage in community service projects that relate to civic education.	Administration Department	Recreation Department	\$	Near-term
EJ13.C	Investigate the feasibility of incorporating an annual internship component as part of the Youth in Government Program, that is open to all individuals in Irwindale who are high school age and above. Provide interns with hands-on experience working in various departments of the City government, as well as opportunities to participate in training sessions, networking events, and community projects.	Administration Department		\$	Near-term
EJ13.D	Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment in collaboration with community members and gather data on existing challenges, opportunities, to better understand capital needs and expenditures.	Finance Department		\$	Near-term



SECTION 4 IMPLEMENTATION

ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ13.E	Create accessible online platforms where residents can view detailed reports on industrial revenue, expenditures, and ongoing projects funded by these revenues. Ensure that these reports are regularly updated and readily available to the public.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ13.F	The Community Development Department will hold public meetings, workshops, and online forums to gather input from residents on how industrial revenue should be utilized for community development projects.	Community Development Department	Finance Department	\$	Near-term
EJ13.G	Provide a minimum of 21 days' notice before hosting community engagement events and workshops.	Community Development Department	Administration Department	\$	Near-term
EJ13.H	Implement text messaging, social media, email alert systems, and direct mailing to notify residents directly about upcoming community engagement events. Encourage residents to opt-in to receive these alerts, ensuring timely communication while minimizing printing and distribution costs.	Community Development Department	Administration Department	\$	Near-term
EJ13.I	Utilize existing billboards, community notice boards strategically placed in high-traffic areas and in public facilities to display information about upcoming community workshops and engagement events.	Community Development Department		\$\$	Near-term
EJ13.J	Collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce to send eblasts notifying businesses of community workshops and events and utilize the business licensing roster to notify all businesses of upcoming events and workshops.	Community Development Department	SoCal Edison	\$	Near-term
EJ13.K	Provide comprehensive training to the Community Officer/Ambassador in conflict resolution, community engagement strategies, cultural competence, and relevant City policies.	Administration Department		\$	Near-term



ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ13.L	Facilitate dialogues and mediate conflicts when necessary, ensuring that community concerns are addressed in a timely and respectful manner.	Administration Department		\$	Near-term
EJ13.M	Develop a system for tracking and reporting the Community Officer/Ambassador's activities, including the number of community engagements, issues resolved, and programs implemented.	Administration Department		\$	Near-term
EJ13.N	Allow community members, neighborhood associations, and local organizations to submit formal requests to the City Council for specific agenda items related to urban planning, land use, development projects, and relevant community concerns.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ13.O	Establish a clear and accessible process for community members to submit requests for agenda items to the City Council. Provide online forms, email addresses, or designated submission points at city offices where residents can submit their proposals.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ13.P	Define the purpose and responsibilities of the Citizen Advisory Committee, such as its goals, objectives, scope, and areas of responsibility. This can be done through a formal resolution or an ordinance that outlines the committee's role in providing feedback and recommendations on City policies and programs.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ13.Q	With community input, establish a public meeting accessibility standard that applies to all City-led public meetings in compliance with the Brown Act.	Community Development Department	Administration Department	\$	Near-term
EJ13.R	Provide interpretation for Spanish and other commonly spoken languages in public meetings.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term



SECTION 4 IMPLEMENTATION

ACTION NO.	ACTION	LEAD AGENCY	PARTNERSHIPS	RELATIVE COST	IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAME
EJ13.S	Translate future public documents and communications into Spanish and other commonly spoken languages, using a professional translation service or qualified city staff as appropriate.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ13.T	The Administration Department will work with the Community Development Department and IT to establish and host free community Wi-Fi hotspots at public facilities.	Administration Department	Community Development Department, IT	\$	Near-term
EJ13.U	Seek opportunities to increase free access to public computer stations at public facilities.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ13.V	Libraries will seek partnerships with schools, community-based organizations (CBOs), and private sector partners to provide technology classes for diverse languages, and skill levels, with subjects ranging from basic computer literacy and typing, to programming and coding, to Zoom participation.	Library Department	Community Development Department	\$	Near-term
EJ14.A	Identify public facilities that could function as sites for local art installations.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term
EJ14.B	Coordinate with local artists to create murals, sculptures, and other installations in public spaces.	Community Development Department		\$	Near-term





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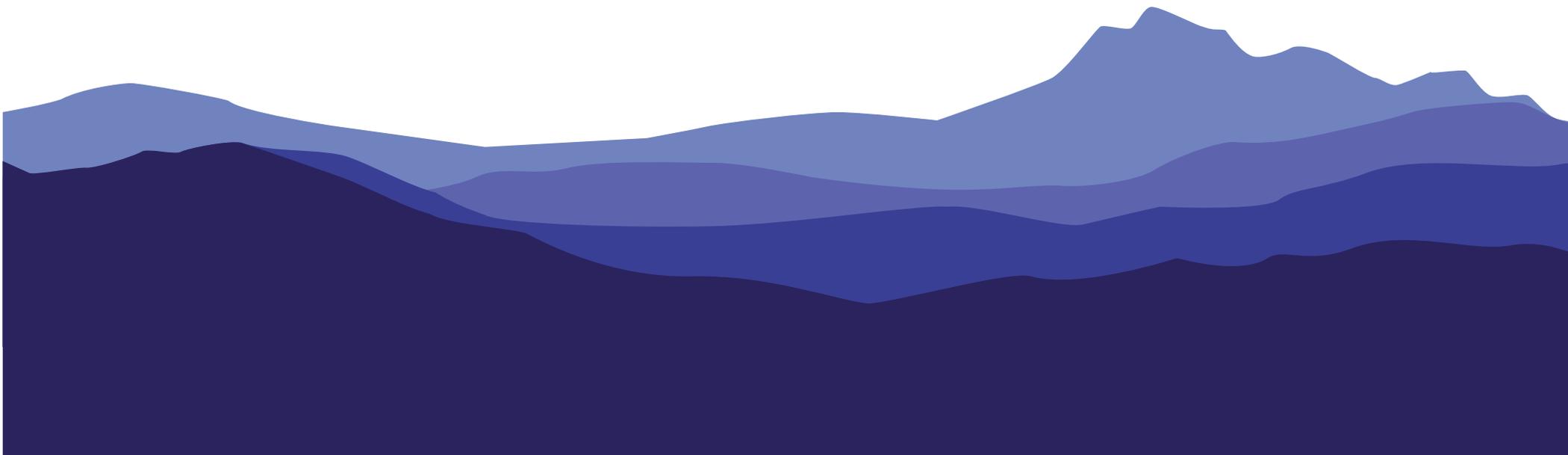


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APPENDIX A      Community Engagement  
Report



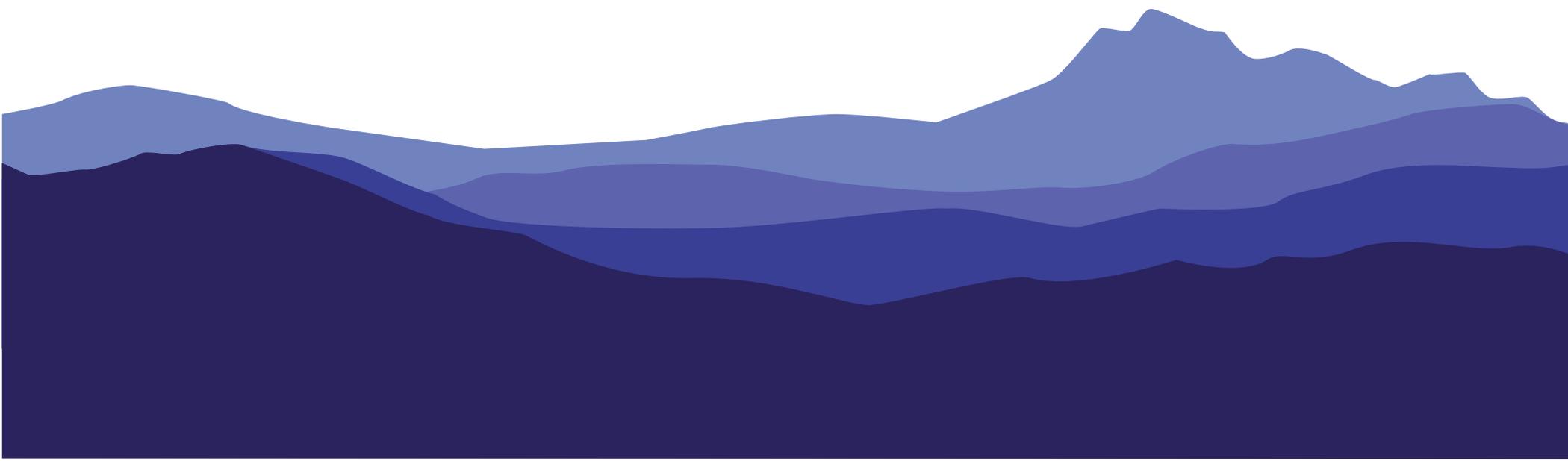




**City of Irwindale General Plan Update: Housing, Safety, and Environmental Justice Elements**

# **Community Engagement Summary Report**

**April 2024**



### Introduction

This community engagement report summarizes the collective voices and perspectives gathered through a comprehensive series of outreach efforts undertaken for Irwindale's General Plan Update, which included updates to the City's Housing and Safety Elements, and a new Environmental Justice Element. The community engagement initiatives aimed to facilitate inclusive dialogue and solicit feedback from residents, employees, and stakeholders at each milestone in the planning process. This community engagement process was key in highlighting community needs and priorities as part of the General Plan Update.

### Workshop #1

April 7, 2022, 6–7:30 p.m., 11 attendees

Community Workshop #1, a virtual meeting held on April 7, 2022, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., marked the start of the community engagement process for Irwindale's Housing Element Update, Safety Element Update, and the city's inaugural Environmental Justice Element within the General Plan. The workshop introduced the key components of housing, safety, and environmental justice to the eleven attendees. Additionally, emphasis was placed on participating in the community engagement survey.

The event included Spanish translation to ensure inclusivity. From the community, several concerns and desires emerged:

1. **Budget Priorities:** There was a sentiment that the budget process was not effectively prioritizing residents' desires or going towards addressing community needs, such as a new library or improvements to recreational facilities like the gym.
2. **Infrastructure and Services:** Residents highlighted issues with the timing of traffic lights on residential streets, expressing frustration over lengthy waits and a perceived lack of synchronization with traffic flow. Additionally, there was a desire to revitalize business activity and ensure access to community programs without requiring proof of immigration status.

3. **Community Development:** The community expressed a vision for an ideal Irwindale, characterized by increased family-oriented housing, expanded dining options near the Metrolink, and cultivating a vibrant city identity through business development. There was a strong emphasis on preserving and enhancing parks, including the need for green spaces and tree planting to promote a sense of vitality and connection with nature.

## Workshop #2

August 9, 2022, 6–7:30 p.m., Irwindale Community Center

Community Workshop #2, held on August 9, 2022, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Irwindale Community Center, continued the discussion from Workshop #1, focusing on key safety and environmental justice themes. The workshop began with a recap of the previous session and a reminder of the six pillars of Environmental Justice. It then delved into community discussion questions and group activities, generating valuable insights and recommendations:

1. **Air Quality:** Residents expressed concerns about air pollution from businesses and freeways, proposing solutions such as urban greening, EV infrastructure implementation, and active transportation promotion. Suggestions included enhancing greenery along Irwindale Avenue, near industrial areas, and along the Gold Line, alongside better code enforcement and increased setbacks from residential areas.
2. **Extreme Weather:** Ideas for mitigating the effects of heat included expanding tree coverage, improving drain maintenance, and extending operating hours for community centers during the summer months.
3. **Emergency Preparedness:** Residents desired stronger community relationships with emergency services and advocated for city-led preparedness training and regular dissemination of emergency information through local publications.
4. **General/Overall Safety:** Improvements in safety, including crime reduction, graffiti removal, and sidewalk maintenance, were suggested. Areas of concern for pedestrian safety, such as Arrow



## WORKSHOPS #3 & 4

Highway, were identified, alongside recommendations for zoning adjustments and sidewalk expansions.

5. **Public Facilities:** The need for additional public amenities, such as dog parks, farmer's markets, and improved police stations, was highlighted. Residents also emphasized maximizing the use of existing facilities through expanded programming and transportation services to neighboring cities.
6. **Access to Healthy Foods:** Suggestions included establishing community gardens, farmers' markets, and food pantries, focusing on centralized markets, accessible locations, and partnerships with local organizations.
7. **Safe and Sanitary Homes and Neighborhoods:** Recommendations included support for housing improvements, including addressing issues of lead, mold, and aging infrastructure. Ideas included incentivizing multi-family housing near transit hubs and enhancing neighborhood safety.
8. **Health and Physical Activity:** Residents called for improved opportunities for active transportation, including bike-friendly infrastructure, expanded bike lanes, and increased access to recreational areas such as the Santa Fe Dam.
9. **Other Notes/Ideas:** Additional suggestions ranged from partnering with rideshare programs to enhance transportation access to advocating for more retail and mixed-use development to increase local amenities.

## Workshops #3 & 4

Workshop #3, held on September 19, 2023, at the Irwindale Senior Center served as critical meeting for evaluating proposed policies and actions in the Draft Safety and Environmental Justice Elements. The same workshop format was held on October 18, 2023, at Irwindale City Hall, to provide an additional opportunity to provide input. These interactive sessions focused on gathering feedback and assessing

consistency with community input from previous workshops. Below is a synthesis of the comprehensive notes from both workshops:

1. **Clean Environment:** Community members across all groups expressed concerns about air quality and industrial development. There was a strong consensus on the need for alternative fueling options, increased green spaces, and buffers between residential and industrial areas to mitigate pollution. Suggestions included implementing hydrogen fueling stations, promoting urban greening initiatives, and limiting new industrial developments.
2. **Safe Communities:** Improving safety was a priority for residents, with calls for enhanced lighting, expanded bike lanes, and safer road infrastructure. Concerns were raised about overgrown trees, the impact of truck traffic on roads, and the potential pollution from certain industrial activities. Suggestions included better road maintenance, proactive code enforcement, and measures to prevent hazardous conditions at bus stops.
3. **Healthy Communities:** Residents emphasized the importance of access to healthy food options and recreational opportunities. Calls were made for city-initiated community gardens, additional food banks, and programs promoting fruit tree cultivation. Suggestions included integrating farmers' markets with city events and making public spaces more accessible for individuals with disabilities.
4. **Resilience and Preparedness:** There was a strong desire for proactive measures to address housing maintenance issues, enhance emergency preparedness, and improve infrastructure resilience. Suggestions included updating emergency plans, increasing police presence, and providing grants for home improvements. Concerns were raised about outdated emergency plans, inadequate drainage infrastructure, and the need for designated meeting areas during emergencies.
5. **Ecological Disaster and Hazard Adaptation:** Residents highlighted the importance of studying storm drain capacities, retrofitting residential structures for disaster preparedness, and maintaining flood control infrastructure. Concerns were raised about code enforcement, sidewalk maintenance, and drainage issues, with calls for proactive measures to prevent hazards and ensure community safety.



## Stakeholder Engagement

The Public Safety and Air Quality/Pollution Stakeholder Engagement meeting on January 10, 2023, brought together diverse participants, including representatives from Martin Marietta, SCAQMD, Ready Pack, Irwindale Police Department, and various community stakeholders. Here's a summary of the discussion:

1. **Air Quality and Pollution:** SCAQMD provided an overview of the authority, programs, and resources available to address air quality concerns. The discussion highlighted the importance of sharing SCAQMD resources with the community and integrating them into the Safety Element.
2. **Extreme Weather and Drought:** Participants discussed transportation to cooling centers during extreme heat events, with suggestions for shuttle services for seniors and community members.
3. **Flood and Dam Failure:** Concerns were raised about stormwater flooding affecting Ready Pack facilities, with suggestions for city involvement in developing support lines for flooding issues. Participants discussed the potential for program development and increased transparency regarding flood-related concerns.
4. **Law Enforcement and Crime:** Chief Rob Castro shared information about safety improvement programs, including grant writing services provided by California Consulting. Participants highlighted the police department's active shooter training and efforts to address crime associated with unhoused populations.
5. **Emergency Preparedness:** Chief Rob Castro outlined the use of social media for emergency response information dissemination.
6. **Wildfire:** SCAQMD provided resources for wildfire smoke and ash health and safety tips.

The meeting provided valuable insights into stakeholder perspectives on public safety and air quality/pollution issues, with suggestions for collaboration and program integration to address community concerns.

## Community Survey

The Irwindale Community Survey was conducted to gather input from residents and employees to understand their needs and desires better. The survey aimed to inform updates to the Irwindale General Plan's Safety Element, 2021-2029 Housing Element, and Environmental Justice Element, identify future land use practices and guide the Planning Commission.

**Methodology.** The survey covered topics such as access to healthy food, park usage, street conditions, and air quality to improve the quality of life in Irwindale. The City informed residents about the survey through newsletters, mail, the City website, and social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. Hard copies of the English and Spanish surveys were mailed to residents twice. The surveys were also available online via SurveyMonkey. The survey remained active from December 13, 2021, to January 17, 2022. This methodology ensured broad outreach and participation, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the community's concerns and preferences.

**Results.** The resident community survey yielded 19 responses, all from English-speaking respondents with no Spanish-speaking respondents. The employee community survey yielded 64 responses: 62 English-speaking respondents and 2 Spanish-speaking.

**Resident Community Survey Results.** The community survey results from residents of Irwindale highlighted various concerns and aspirations across different aspects of community life. Residents voiced significant concerns about pollution and air quality, mainly from nearby industrial sources, advocating for infrastructural enhancements such as improved roads, sidewalks, and lighting to bolster safety and connectivity throughout the city. There was a desire among residents for healthier dining options and increased access to fresh produce, with many advocating for the establishment of a local grocery store and the cultivation of community gardens and farmers' markets. Safety emerged as a major concern, calling for heightened law enforcement and safety measures along streets to address crime-related concerns. Additionally, residents expressed interest in streamlining governmental constraints on housing development and expanding affordable housing opportunities. Residents had a concern regarding the effectiveness of civic engagement processes, with many having doubts about the authorities' responsiveness to their opinions.



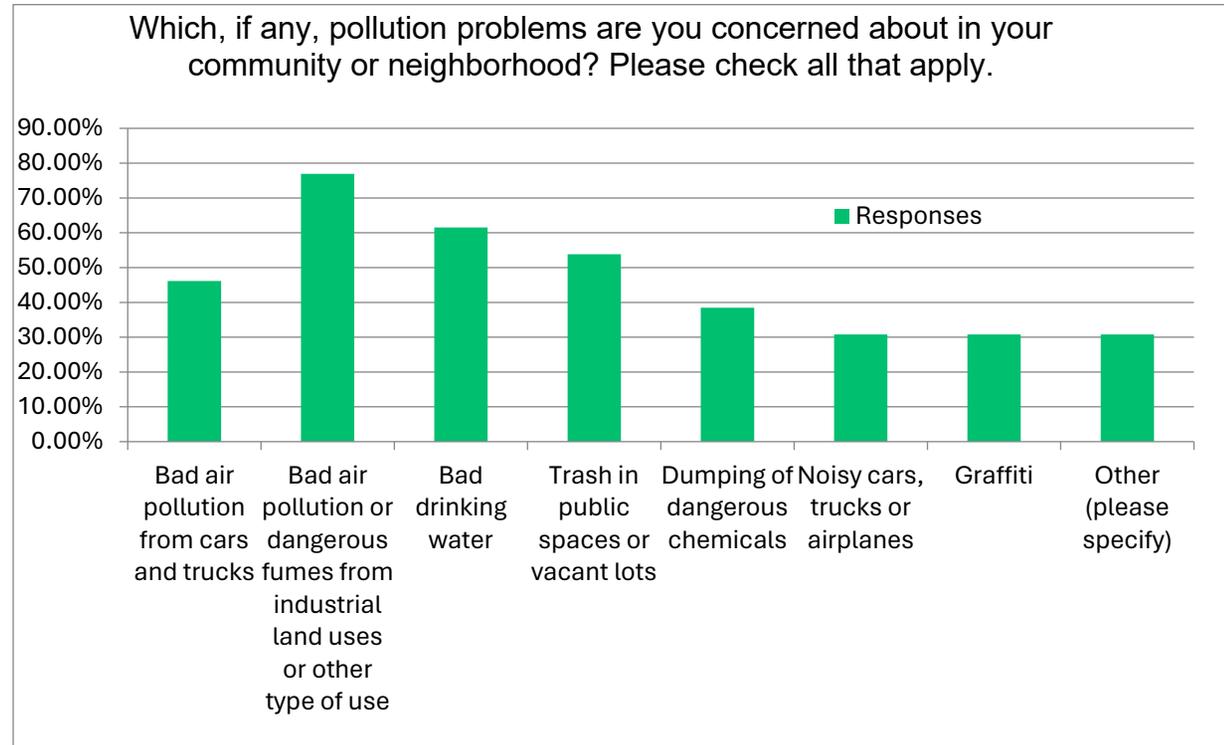
**Employee Community Survey Results.** Employees echoed similar sentiments about pollution and air quality, highlighting the need for infrastructure improvements and enhanced transportation options, including creating safe bike lanes and incentives for alternative modes of travel such as walking, biking, and carpooling. Employees also emphasized the importance of access to healthy food options, advocating for establishing a local grocery store and the availability of healthier dining alternatives. Safety remained a central issue for employees, with requests for increased street lighting to address traffic safety and crime concerns. Many employees faced challenges in utilizing public facilities due to work schedules and safety concerns. Housing preferences among employees varied, with some expressing unwillingness to reside in Irwindale due to pollution, affordability, and community dynamics.

**Survey Question Summaries.** The following provides a summary of responses to each survey question for both residents and employees.

## Pollution Exposure/Air Quality

### RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

The following bar chart shows the pollution problems that concerned respondents and are summarized below the chart.



- 77% of resident respondents identified "bad air pollution or dangerous fumes from industrial land uses or other type of use" as a primary issue.
- 62% expressed concerns about "bad drinking water."
- 54% cited "trash in public spaces or vacant lots" as a problem.
- 46% of respondents were troubled by "bad air pollution from cars and trucks."



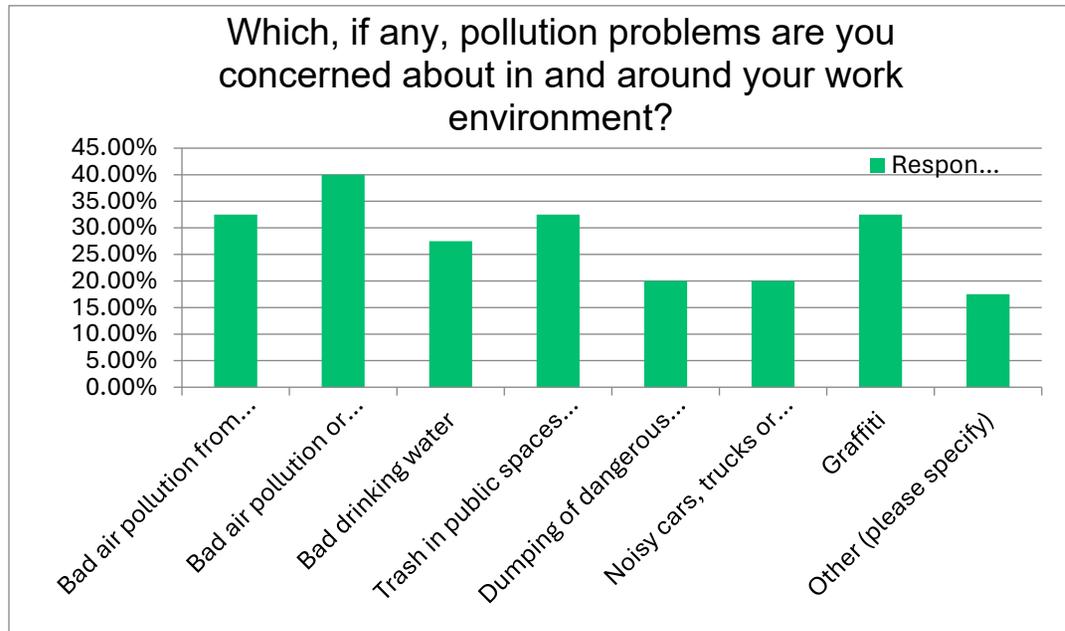
## COMMUNITY SURVEY

Responses under the "other" category included mentions of hazardous waste dumping, poor faucet water quality, and issues with homeless encampments in the city. Solutions proposed by residents to reduce pollution included:

- Improved water infrastructure
- Stricter compliance with vehicle pollution requirements
- Enhancements to streets and sidewalks to promote pedestrian and cyclist-friendly environments

## EMPLOYEE SURVEY RESULTS

The following bar chart shows the pollution problems that concerned employee respondents and are summarized below the chart:



- 40% of employee respondents expressed concern about "bad air pollution or dangerous fumes from industrial land uses or other type of use."

- 33% were troubled by "bad air pollution from cars and trucks," while another 33% cited concerns about "trash in public spaces or vacant lots."
- 33% of employees were worried about "graffiti," and about 28% were concerned about "bad drinking water."

Responses under the "other" category included mentions of wildfire impacts, hazards in older buildings, traffic congestion of non-commercial vehicles, extreme heat impacts, and homelessness.

Proposed solutions for reducing pollution from employee respondents included:

- Adoption of alternative forms of energy such as electric vehicles
- Removal of industrial facilities in Irwindale
- Mandating local businesses to recycle, reduce pollution, and implement safer protocols
- Reducing overall vehicle trips and encouraging transit use
- Increasing tree coverage and maintaining clean streets
- Incentivizing carpool programs
- Advocating for discounts from local businesses for Irwindale employees
- Expanding housing opportunities to reduce commuting distances
- Promoting walking and biking as alternative transportation options

## Public Facilities

### RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

Summary of Resident Engagement with Parks and Recreational Facilities:

- About 71% of resident respondents indicated that they use parks and recreational facilities in Irwindale, while 29% stated they do not. Among those who don't, reasons included:
  - Lack of programming, such as community exercise classes or 3D printing opportunities.
  - Existing facilities needing improvements.



## COMMUNITY SURVEY

When asked about factors that would encourage them to use the parks and its programs, residents suggested:

- Increasing youth programs.
- Updating the skate park trail surface.
- Introducing new classes or programs, such as exercise programs or technology-related activities.

Additional notes from the survey include:

- Suggestions to update the City website weekly for information regarding City Hall, the Recreation Center, and the Senior Center.
- Recommendations to increase advertisement of surveys to enhance community engagement.
- Requests for an increase in Saturday classes at the gym.
- Suggestions to utilize public facilities for hosting big events.

## EMPLOYEE SURVEY RESULTS

Only about 22% of employee respondents indicated that they access parks and recreational facilities in Irwindale, while a significant 78% stated they do not. Reasons provided by those who don't use the facilities include:

- Not being residents of the City.
- Utilizing parks in their home city.
- Distance from their residence.
- Time constraints or conflicts with work schedules.
- Lack of awareness about recreational programs in Irwindale.
- Concerns related to the pandemic.
- Perception of limited activities for adults, with a focus on kids and the elderly.
- Perception of parks not being welcoming, convenient, or clean.
- Concerns about houseless individuals occupying parks.

When asked about factors that would encourage them to use the parks and its programs, employees suggested:

- Receiving more information about weekend events or programs.
- Offering more adult activities tailored to the 18-35 age group.
- Improving lighting in parks at night.
- Enhancing cleanliness.
- Creating a welcoming atmosphere.
- Living closer to or within Irwindale.
- Starting programs earlier, such as offering lap swimming at 5 am before work.
- Providing better parking facilities.
- Addressing concerns about homelessness in parks.

## Healthy Food Access

### RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

About 69% of resident respondents indicated they are able to access food in Irwindale, while 31% stated they cannot. Reasons provided by those who cannot access food include:

- Lack of availability of fresh produce.
- Suggestions for establishing a community garden or farmer's market.
- Time constraints for commuting to shop elsewhere.
- Suggestions for developing markets with fresh produce or organic supply near residential areas.
- Requests for local healthy restaurants.

When asked about the types of healthy foods they would like to get but can't, residents mentioned:

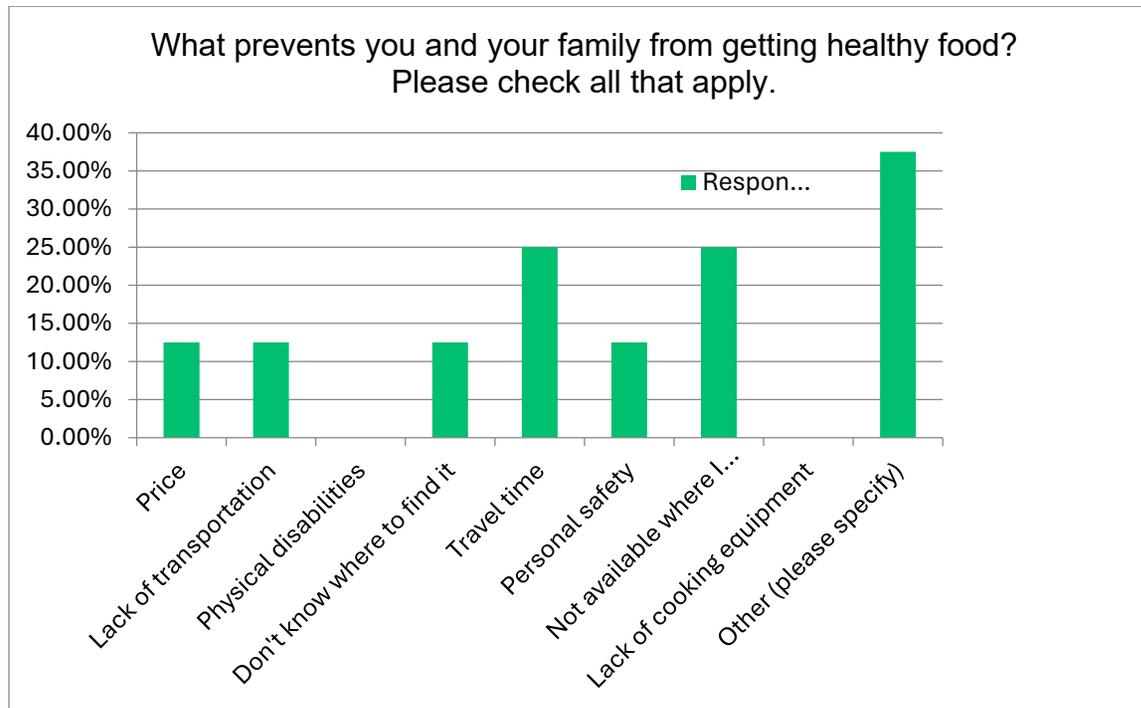
- Organic fruits and vegetables.
- Financial constraints preventing access to healthier options.
- Overall limited access to healthy food.



## COMMUNITY SURVEY

- Desire for organic food options at reasonable prices.
- Concerns about the prevalence of fast food restaurants and limited healthier food options.

The following bar chart shows the responses for what prevents resident respondents from getting healthy food:



- Regarding the challenges in accessing healthy food, 25% of respondents cited "Travel time" and another 25% mentioned "Not available where I regularly shop."

Additional reasons provided by respondents who selected "other" include:

- Lack of stores or markets within the city.
- Limited local availability of healthy food options.
- Lack of preference for healthy food options among some residents

## EMPLOYEE SURVEY RESULTS

Approximately 74% of employee respondents indicated that they can access food in Irwindale, while 26% reported being unable to do so. Reasons provided by employees unable to access fresh fruits and vegetables include:

- Presence of too many fast food options.
- Lack of fresh produce.
- Absence of grocery stores in the city.
- Insufficient vegan options.
- Limited access to healthy options.
- Travel or commute time to reach healthier options.
- Suggestions to improve access to healthy foods include:
  - Increasing diversity in restaurant options to include healthier food choices.
  - Encouraging more retail and grocery stores in the city.
  - Addressing affordability concerns by increasing pay or wages.
  - Establishing a farmer's market accessible during the day

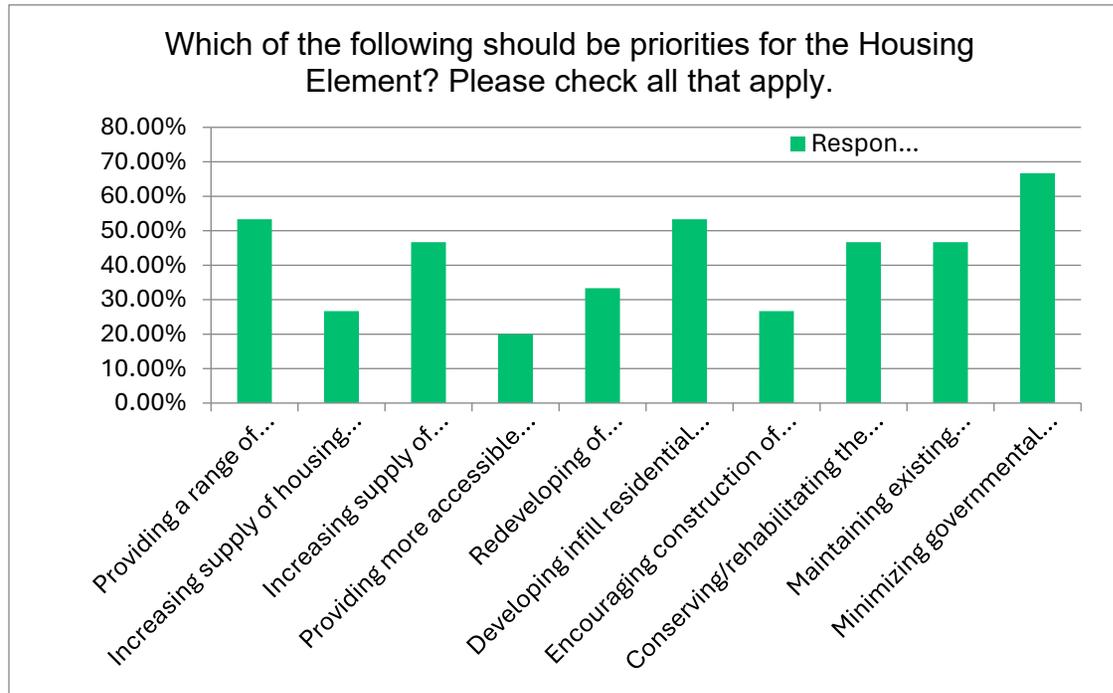
## Safe Neighborhoods and Safe, Sanitary Homes

### RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

Housing:

- **Home Ownership:** Approximately 97% of resident respondents indicated that they own their own home, while approximately 13% do not.
- **Perception of Multifamily Housing:** About 44% of resident respondents believe that Irwindale has an adequate supply of multifamily housing, while approximately 56% do not share this belief.





Housing Problems:

- Housing costs represent more than 50% of income for 22% of respondents.
- 33% of respondents reported that their housing unit is in poor condition.
- 11% of respondents stated that their housing unit is too small for their household size.

Other issues reported by about 56% of respondents included:

- Pollution.
- Poorly constructed homes.
- Issues with electricity.
- Presence of vacant lots in the neighborhood affecting property value.
- Need for low-income housing.



#### Safety:

- Perception of Safety: 35% of respondents indicate that they feel safe. However, the majority of respondents selected either "no" (~29%) or "somewhat" (~35%).

#### Concerns Raised by Respondents Feeling "Somewhat" Safe:

- Public spaces such as the train station, parks, and bus stops were mentioned as feeling unsafe.
- Concerns about the frequency of shooting incidents.
- Dimly lit streets and sidewalks.
- Overgrown vegetation hindering visibility for drivers.
- Lack of pedestrian-friendly walk paths and sidewalks.
- Primary Hazard Concerns:
  - Crime was reported as the highest concern among community residents (~62%).
  - 55% of residents don't feel safe from crime when biking or walking.
  - 38% of residents selected "pandemic" as a primary hazard concern.

## EMPLOYEE SURVEY RESULTS

#### Housing:

- Resident Composition: Only about 2% of employee respondents live in Irwindale.
- Interest in Living in Irwindale: When asked if they would consider living in Irwindale, only 18% of respondents expressed interest, while 54% said no, and 27% were unsure. Reasons for not wanting to live in Irwindale included concerns about safety, air quality, lack of amenities, industrial uses, affordability, and feeling unwelcome or lacking diversity.

#### Safety:

- Perception of Safety: Most employee respondents, approximately 82%, feel safe getting to and from work. Only about 3% felt unsafe, and roughly 15% felt somewhat safe.



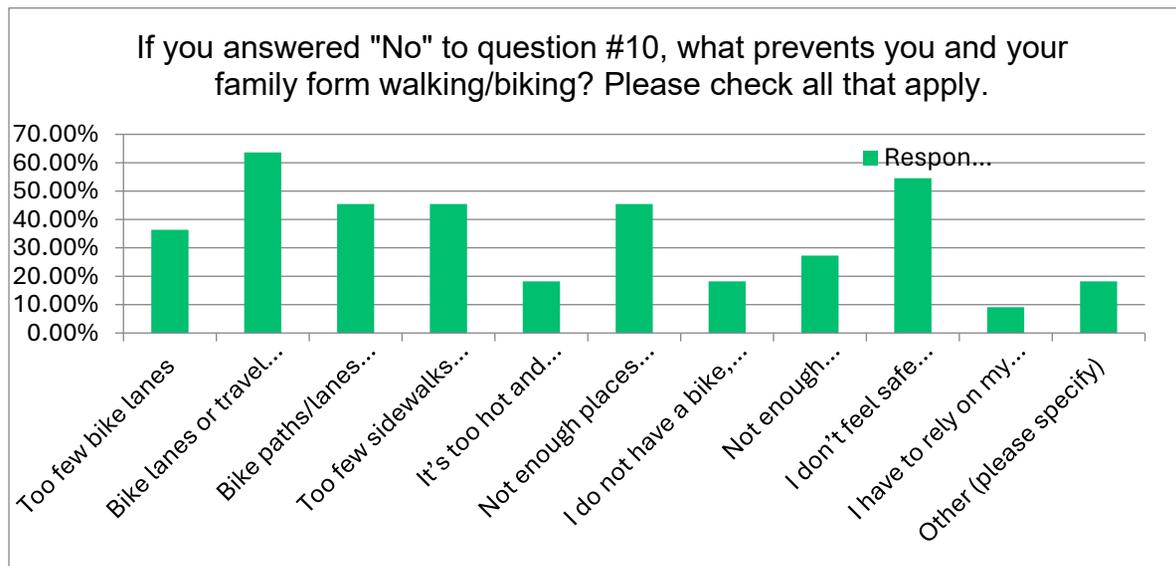
## COMMUNITY SURVEY

- Safety concerns related to traffic, houseless individuals, cyclists, heavy machinery/vehicles in traffic, and dust pollution impairing eyesight while commuting.
- Employee respondents suggested various measures to enhance safety, including increasing law enforcement presence, clearing vegetation, removing graffiti, enhancing business security requirements, relocating houseless individuals, improving property security, reducing traffic congestion, increasing lighting in alleys and on roads, and providing dedicated bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly elements within the city.

## Physical Activity

### RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

Approximately half of resident respondents reported being usually able to walk and/or bike in Irwindale, while the other half stated they were not.



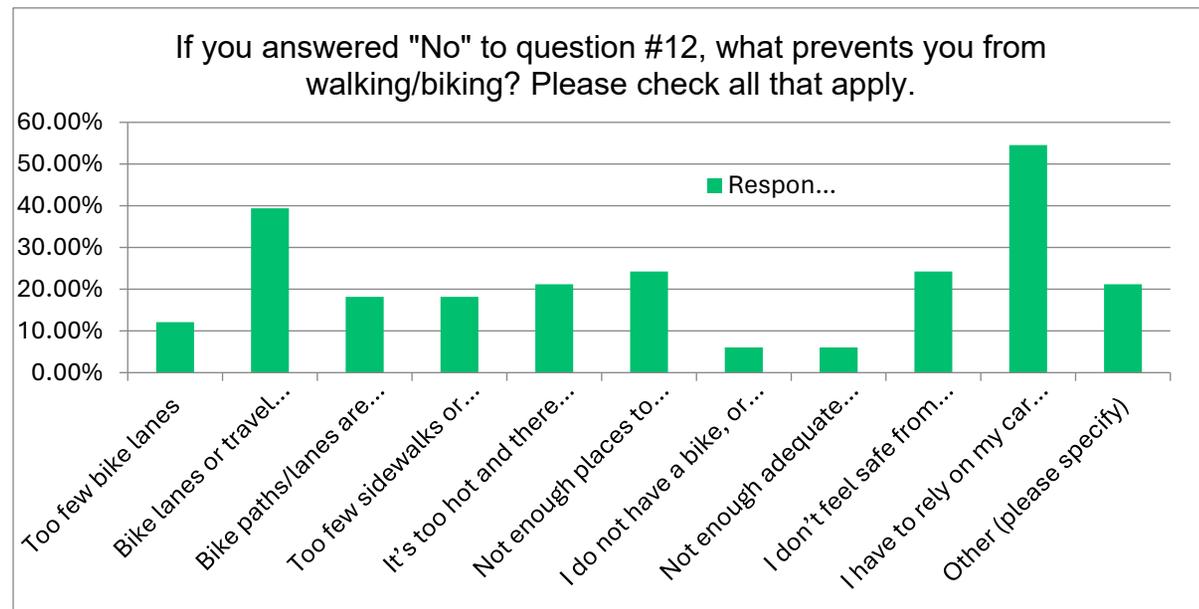
- **Barriers to Walking/Biking:** The top reasons preventing residents from walking or biking included concerns about the safety of bike lanes and travel lanes due to high-speed traffic (~64%), feeling

unsafe from crime (~55%), inconsistent or non-existent bike paths (~45%), lack of destinations within reasonable biking or walking distance (~45%), and inadequate bicycle parking (~27%).

- **Encouraging Factors:** Residents suggested that enhancing law enforcement presence, improving bike and walk paths with tree canopy coverage, upgrading existing infrastructure such as the Skate Park and poorly lit sidewalks, organizing community-sponsored events, conducting bike safety outreach programs and raffles, and ensuring the availability of safety gear would encourage them to walk or ride their bikes more.
- **Health Concerns:** Principal health concerns among resident respondents included staying fit through physical exercise, healthy living, remaining active, managing conditions like diabetes, and addressing home-related issues such as mold and rat infestations.

### EMPLOYEE SURVEY RESULTS

Approximately half of employee respondents reported being usually able to walk and/or bicycle in Irwindale, while slightly more than half stated they were not.

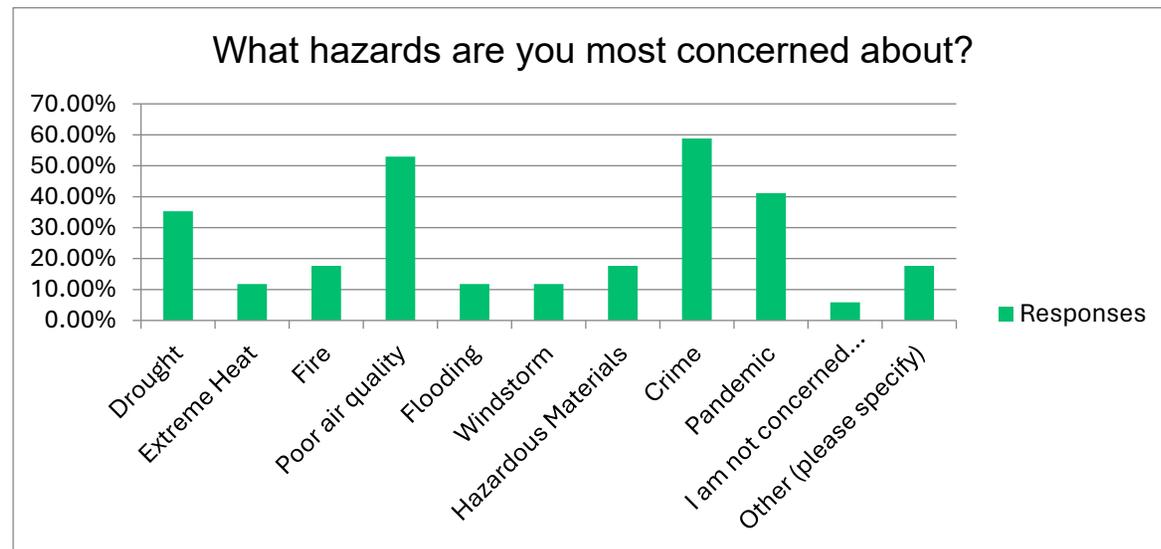


- **Barriers to Walking/Biking:** The top reasons preventing employees from walking or biking included the need to rely on cars for time-saving and multiple trips per day (~55%), concerns about the safety of bike lanes due to high-speed traffic (~39%), feeling unsafe from crime (~24%), and inadequate destinations within reasonable walking or biking distance (~24%).
- **Other Concerns:** Employee respondents also raised concerns about specific hazards such as sudden narrowing of roads, inability to leave for lunch, and issues related to the homeless population.
- **Encouraging Factors:** To encourage more walking or biking among employees, respondents suggested addressing safety concerns related to homelessness, increasing bike lanes and tree coverage along streets, providing access to fresh produce and grocery stores, offering incentives for biking, improving sidewalk and bike path aesthetics, and creating more interesting places along routes.
- **Health Concerns:** Principal health concerns among employee respondents included air quality, issues related to transients and homelessness, access to food and restaurants during lunch, safety, pollution from industrial uses, pandemic-related concerns such as masks and vaccinations, time constraints on health practices, water quality, extreme heat, and concerns about business COVID protocols.

## Community Hazards

### RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

Resident responses are listed/ranked by percentage:



1. ~59% of residents selected “crime” as a primary hazard concern
2. ~53% of residents selected “poor air quality” as a primary hazard concern
3. ~41% of residents selected “pandemic” as a primary hazard concern
4. ~35% of residents selected “drought” as a primary hazard concern
5. ~18% of residents selected “other”
6. ~18% of residents selected “hazardous materials” as a primary hazard concern
7. ~18% of residents selected “fire” as a primary hazard concern
8. ~12% of residents selected “windstorm” as a primary hazard concern



## COMMUNITY SURVEY

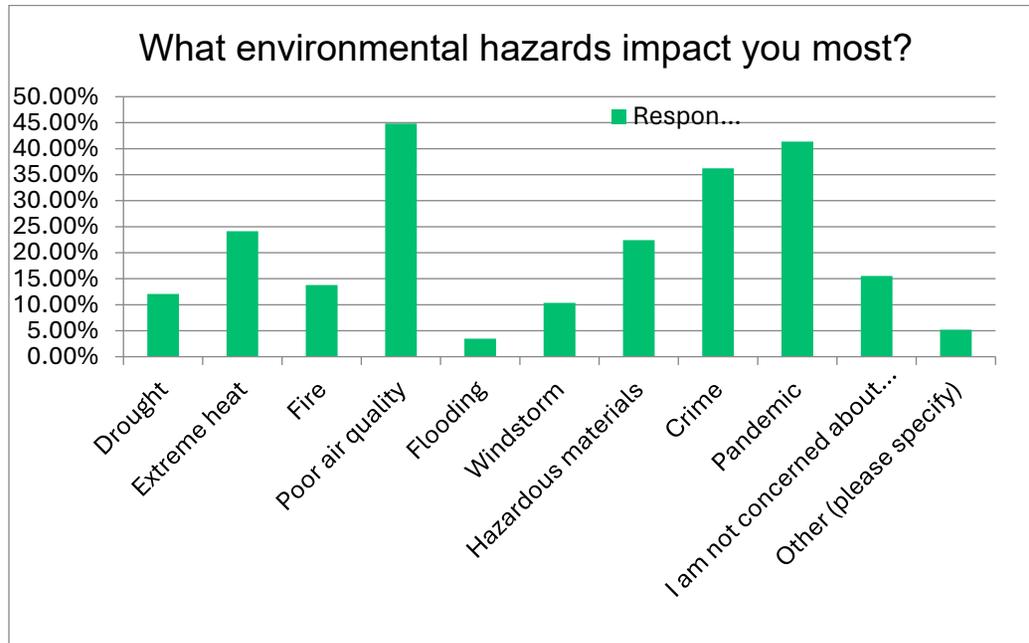
9. ~12% of residents selected “flooding” as a primary hazard concern
10. ~12% of residents selected “extreme heat” as a primary hazard concern

Resident respondents that selected “other” were given the option to type in a response. Responses are summarized as follows:

- Concerns regarding the pandemic
- Concerns with infrastructure and transit

## EMPLOYEE SURVEY RESULTS

Employee responses are listed/ranked by percentage:



1. ~45% of residents selected “poor air quality” as a primary hazard concern
2. ~41% of residents selected “pandemic” as a primary hazard concern

3. ~36% of residents selected “crime” as a primary hazard concern
4. ~24% of residents selected “extreme heat” as a primary hazard concern
5. ~22% of residents selected “hazardous materials” as a primary hazard concern
6. ~14% of residents selected “fire” as a primary hazard concern
7. ~12% of residents selected “drought” as a primary hazard concern
8. ~10% of residents selected “windstorm” as a primary hazard concern
9. ~5% of residents selected “other”
10. ~3% of residents selected “flooding” as a primary hazard concern

Employee respondents that selected “other” were given the option to type in a response. Responses are summarized as follows:

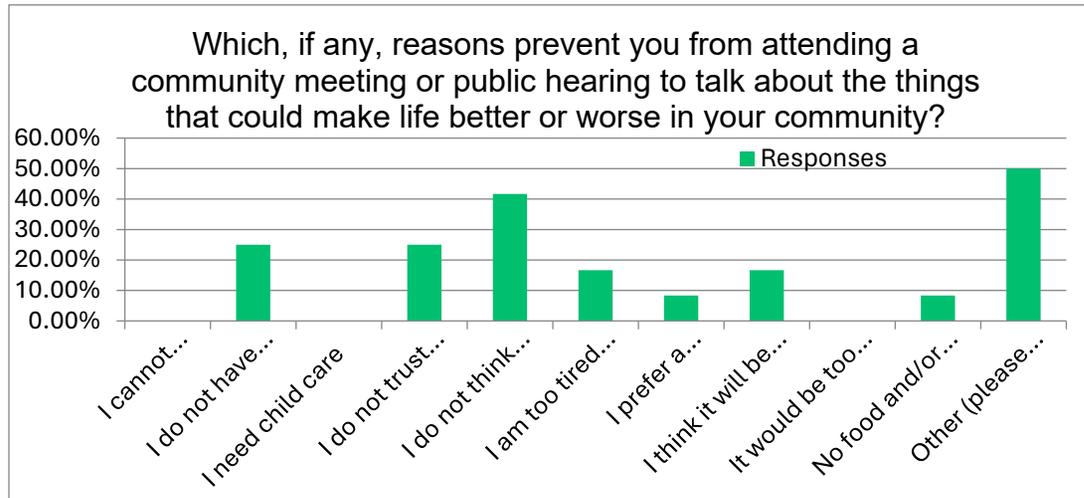
- Noise from traffic
- Traffic pollution

## Civic Engagement

### RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

Summary of Factors Preventing Resident Attendance at Community Meetings:





- Lack of Confidence in Representation: 42% of residents cited concerns about their opinions not being taken seriously.
- Distrust in Government: 25% of residents expressed distrust in the government, reflecting skepticism about the effectiveness and transparency of governance.
- Time Constraints: 25% of residents cited being too busy to attend meetings.
- Fatigue: 17% mentioned fatigue as a barrier to attending meetings after work.
- Perceived Ineffectiveness: 17% expressed concerns about meetings being a waste of time.
- Preferences for Meeting Timing: 8% preferred daytime or weekend meetings.
- Lack of Refreshments: 8% mentioned the absence of food and drinks at meetings as a deterrent.
- Other Factors: 18% cited various other reasons, including lack of trust in the City Council, pandemic concerns, and feelings of misrepresentation.

Suggestions for Increasing Community Involvement:

- Residents proposed increasing community outreach efforts to better inform and engage residents.
- Providing advanced notification of meetings was suggested to allow residents to plan attendance.



- Making meeting notes available on the City website would facilitate access to information for residents unable to attend in person.
- Maintaining accessibility to meetings via platforms like Zoom
- Increasing the frequency of town hall meetings during community events.
- Residents emphasized the importance of fair representation of community members in decision-making processes.

#### Ideas for City and Community Improvements:

- Residents called for greater accountability from the City regarding properties at risk of hazardous substances.
- Suggestions were made to bridge the gap between different age groups within the community.
- Residents proposed increasing the diversity of City council members to better represent the community's demographics.

## EMPLOYEE SURVEY RESULTS

There were no questions regarding civic engagement in the employee community survey.

## Improvements and Programs

### RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

The following are additional concerns/notes derived from survey questions (results listed under other EJ topics below) that relate to “improvements and programs”:

- Update City website weekly for City Hall, Recreation Center, and Senior Center
- Increase the hours of the Senior Center
- More funds for the Community Service department
- Increase weekend programs.
- Build a cancer foundation.
- Increase youth programs, i.e., dance classes, karate, host tournaments, and competitions.



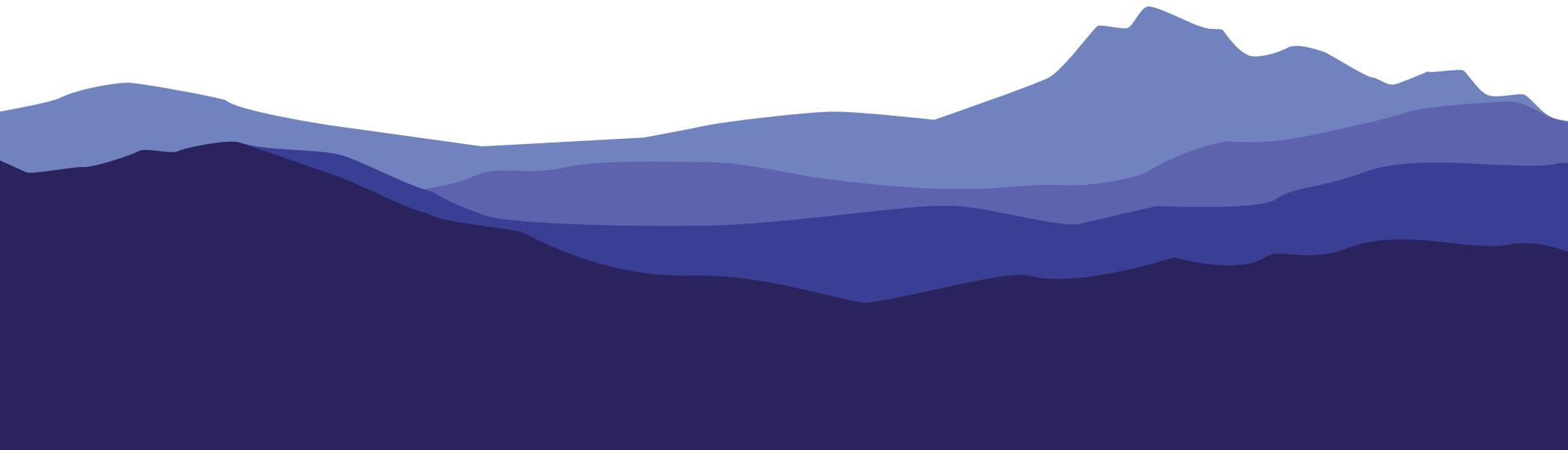
## EMPLOYEE SURVEY RESULTS

Written responses were solicited regarding other comments, thoughts or suggestions they have about the city environment around where they work. Responses are summarized as follows:

- Increase and maintain public trash cans.
- Improve/fix traffic signals at crosswalks.
- Increase trees throughout City.



# APPENDIX B Existing Conditions Report





Final

# CITY OF IRWINDALE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

## Environmental Justice Element – Existing Conditions

Prepared for  
City of Irwindale

April 2023





Final

# CITY OF IRWINDALE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

## Environmental Justice Element – Existing Conditions

Prepared for  
City of Irwindale

April 2023

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Bend	Orlando	San Jose
Camarillo	Pasadena	Santa Monica
Delray Beach	Petaluma	Sarasota
Destin	Portland	Seattle
Irvine	Sacramento	Tampa
Los Angeles	San Diego	
Oakland	San Francisco	

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

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<b>Acronym/Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
AB	Assembly Bill
ALW	Azusa Light & Water
APG	California Adaptation Planning Guide
APSA	Aboveground Petroleum Act
BMPs	best management practices
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CalEnviroScreen	California Environmental Health Screening Tool
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CBC	California Building Code
CDF	California Division of Forestry
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERS	California Environmental Reporting System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agency
diesel PM	Diesel Particulate Matter
DSA	Division of the State Architect
DSW	Disaster Service Workers
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
EAP	emergency action plan
EAS	Emergency Alert System
<i>EOC</i>	<i>Emergency Operations Center</i>
EOP	emergency operations plan
ESF	Emergency Support Function
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigations
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHSZ	Fire Hazard Severity Zone
FRA	Federal Responsibility Area
GHG	greenhouse gas
HHE	heat health events

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<b>Acronym/Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
HSC	Health & Safety Code
ICBO	International Conference of Building Officials
IMC	City of Irwindale's Municipal Code
LA	Los Angeles
LACF	Los Angeles County Fire Department
LACFCD	Los Angeles County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
LHMP	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
Los Angeles Water Board	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
LUST	leaking underground storage tank
MMI	Modified Mercalli Intensity
mph	miles per hour
MWD	Metropolitan Water District
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NGO	non-governmental organization
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRF	National Response Framework
OES	California Office of Emergency Services
OPR	Governor's Office of Planning and Research
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PM	particulate matter
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	fine particulate matter
ppb	parts per billion
ppm	parts per million
PTSD	post-traumatic stress disorder
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RMP	Release Prevention Program
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SB	Senate Bill
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District

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<b>Acronym/Abbreviation</b>	<b>Definition</b>
SEMS	California Standardized Emergency Management System
SPRA	Screen Portfolio Risk Analysis
SRA	State Responsibility Area
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TRI	Toxic Release Inventory
U.S. DOT	Department of Transportation
UBC	Uniform Building Code
Upper District	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
UST	underground storage tank
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
VHFHSZ	Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone
VOC	volatile organic compound
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface

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# 1.0 Introduction

## What Is Environmental Justice?

Most often, the phrase “environmental justice” is defined as the basic right of people to live, work, go to school, play, and pray in a healthy and clean environment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, in developing, implementing, and enforcing environmental laws, regulations, and policies. It recognizes that certain communities, particularly those of marginalized and disadvantaged groups, have historically borne a disproportionate burden of environmental hazards, pollution, and degraded natural resources. Fair treatment means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, and commercial operations and policies. The California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines a “disadvantaged community” or an “environmental justice community” (EJC) as a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation (Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code).

**Required Element**

All cities and counties in California are required to have a General Plan. The Environmental Justice Element is one of seven required topics that must be addressed in the General Plan.

In 2016, Senate Bill (SB) 1000 amended California Government Code Section 63502 to require cities and counties with disadvantaged communities to incorporate environmental justice policies into their general plans.

Government Code Section 65302(h) (1) added an environmental justice element that identifies “disadvantaged communities” to the required elements of the general plan.

**Tribes in Irwindale**

- Gabrielino-Tongva Nation
- Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
- Kizh Nation

Historically, low-income residents, communities of color, tribal nations, and immigrant communities have disproportionately experienced some of the greatest environmental burdens and related health problems throughout the history of the United States. These environmental burdens include living or being located near freeways and industrial uses, which have a direct and negative effect on the health of those communities.

Additionally, those in neighborhoods of lower income are more likely to be at a disadvantage when it comes to equal access to programs and places that make and keep us healthy. This disadvantage gave way to the notion of environmental justice, which arose out of the social and environmental movements of the 1960s and 1970s based on the fact that polluting facilities were being located in neighborhoods that were mostly minority or low income. This inequity is the result of many factors, such as improper zoning and land use planning practices, discriminatory housing and lending practices, limited political and economic power, the prioritization of business interests over public health, and development patterns that tend to concentrate pollution, and environmental hazards, in certain communities. These factors often lead to communities having a less healthy environment, having less access to healthy food and fully equipped parks, and unsanitary and unsafe housing conditions, with the balance of economic and environmental benefits based outside of these communities. Environmental justice seeks to remedy this imbalance, based on the democratic values of fairness and equity. Irwindale has been identified as an EJ community according to the screening process developed by the State of California which evaluates environmental conditions and

population data to determine if communities experience a disproportionate environmental burden. The purpose of the EJ Element is to ensure that the City of Irwindale (or City) is a safe and healthy place for everyone, and to focus on goals that will improve communities and reduce inequities.

## Requirements of State General Plan Law

In 2016, Senate Bill (SB) 1000 amended California Government Code Section 63502 to require cities and counties with disadvantaged communities to incorporate environmental justice policies into their general plans. SB 1000 is an important addition to California’s climate change strategy as it places priority on improving local planning efforts to reduce disproportionate environmental and health impacts on the state’s most vulnerable residents. SB 1000 (Chapter 587, Statutes of 2016) directs local governments in California to include an EJ element or similar goals, policies, and objectives in their

### General Plan

A long-term planning document that guides the future physical development of each city and county.

General Plans when they are updated. A **General Plan** is a long-term planning document that guides the future physical development of each city and county. Cities and counties are now required to develop policies to reduce the compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities as defined by SB 1000. These policies must promote the reduction of pollution exposure, the improvement of air quality, the promotion of public facilities, and access to healthy food, safe and sanitary homes, and lastly, health and physical activity in disadvantaged areas. In addition, local governments must also identify ways to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process and identify ways to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

**California Government Code Section 63502** requirements are organized into two subsections [Section 65302 (h) (1) through Section 65302 (h)(2)], which are summarized below:

- 65302 (h) (1) add to the required elements of the general plan an environmental justice element, or related goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements, that identifies “disadvantaged communities”
- 65302 (h) (1) (A) identify objectives and policies to promote:
  - Public facilities in disadvantaged communities
  - Food access in disadvantaged communities
  - Safe and sanitary homes in disadvantaged communities
  - Physical activity in disadvantaged communities
- 65302 (h) (1) (A) identify objectives and policies to reduce:
  - Exposure to pollution, including improving air quality in disadvantaged communities
  - Any unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities not otherwise addressed above
- 65302 (h) (1) (B) identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process in disadvantaged communities
- 65302 (h) (1) (C) identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities
- 65302 (h) (2) adoption or revision of environmental justice element, or related goals, policies, and objectives, upon the revision of two or more elements concurrently on or after January 1, 2018.

SB 1000 requires local governments to address pollution and other hazards that disproportionately impact low-income communities and communities of color within their jurisdiction as a way to proactively plan for and address environmental concerns when developing and updating components of the General Plan.

## Relationship to Other General Plan Elements

State law requires that the General Plan and all individual elements collectively form an "integrated, internally consistent, and compatible statement of policies." The goals, policies, and programs of this Environmental Justice Element are consistent with and build upon the goals, policies, and programs contained in other elements of the Irwindale General Plan.

The EJ Element is closely related to several other General Plan elements, in particular the Community Development, Housing, and Safety Elements. Planning decisions related to types of land uses; location, density and intensity of land uses; transportation systems; and street design have a profound impact on both public health and environmental justice. As such, the Environmental Justice Element is connected to the aforementioned elements and other important elements of the General Plan and thus should be read and considered in the context of other General Plan elements. However, unlike other General Plan Elements, the EJ Element will cover these topical areas from the viewpoint of public health and environmental justice as the entire City is considered an EJC under CalEnviroScreen 4.0.

## Identifying Environmental Justice Communities

### CalEnviroScreen

The California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool "CalEnviroScreen"<sup>1</sup> was developed by the California Environmental Protection Agency to identify environmental justice communities using the following indicators:

**Pollution Burden:** Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation; and

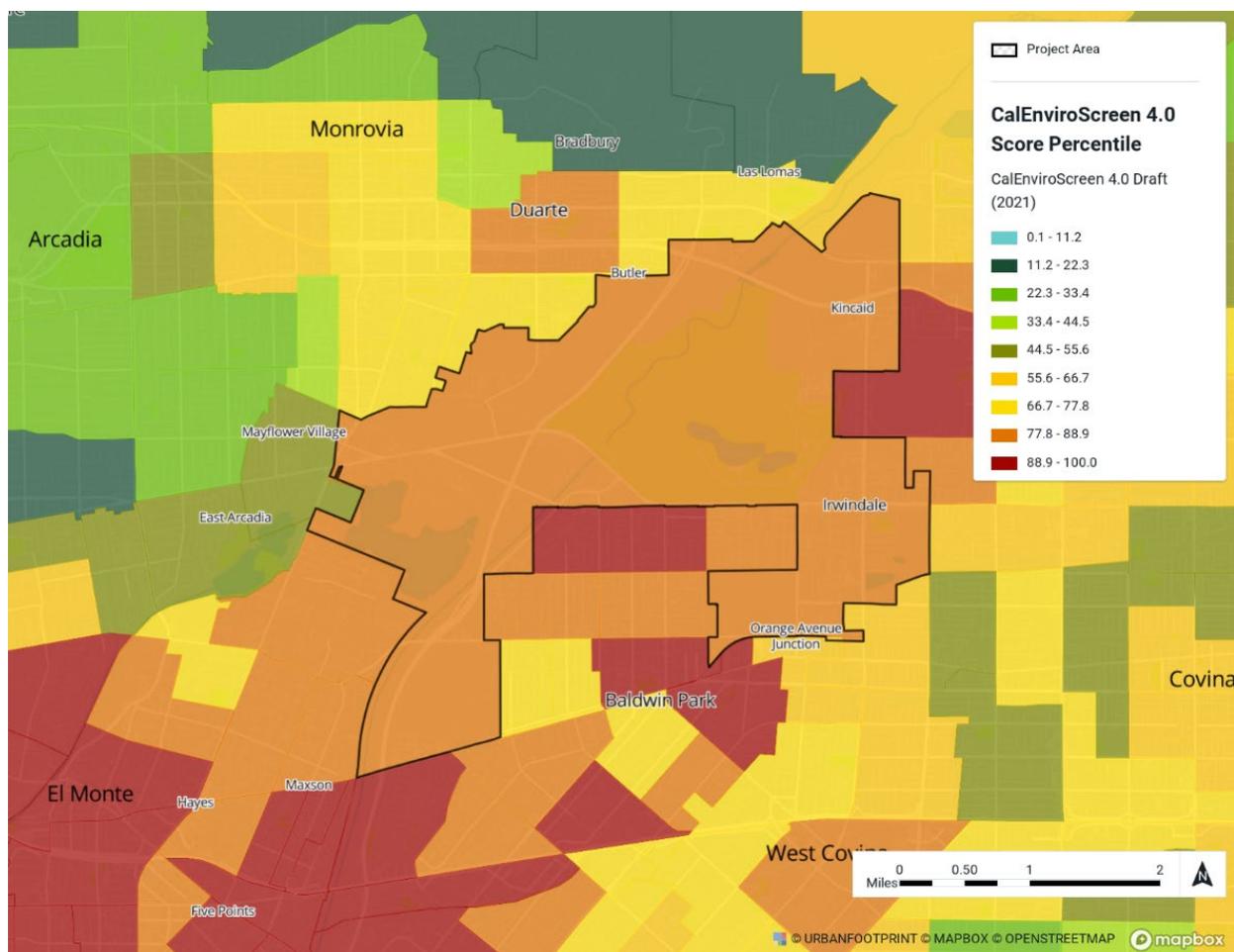
**Population Characteristics:** Areas with concentrations of people with low incomes, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, low levels of educational attainment, and/or are sensitive populations (e.g., disabled individuals, seniors, etc.)

Enacted in 2012, Senate Bill 535 designates the responsibility for identifying environmental justice (disadvantaged) communities to the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). In response, CalEPA has developed **CalEnviroScreen**, a mapping tool that helps identify California communities that are most affected by many sources of pollution and where people are often especially vulnerable to pollution's effects. To determine if an area is disproportionately affected and should be designated an EJC, the Office of Planning Research (OPR) requires jurisdictions with census tracts scoring above seventy-five percent in CalEnviroScreen to adopt an EJ Element.

CalEnviroScreen uses 20 indicators to calculate scores for every census tract in California. A census tract is a geographic boundary that is often either the smallest or most complete geographic scale for which data is available. CalEnviroScreen ranks communities based on data that is available from federal, State, regional, and local public agency sources. The scores are mapped so that different communities can be compared; an area with a high score is one that experiences a much higher burden than areas with low scores. An EJC is defined as an area scoring in the top 25 percent (75-100 percent) through this methodology.

CalEnviroScreen produces a percentile ranking of census tracts to demonstrate the degree of burdens present in that tract relative to the rest of the State. For example, a 75<sup>th</sup> percentile ranking for a census tract would mean that the census tract is in the top twenty-five percent of all CalEnviroScreen scores statewide—and among the highest burdened census tracts in California. The City of Irwindale is one census tract and has an overall CalEnviroScreen percentile score that is within the top 25 percent (75-100), qualifying that tract as an environmental justice community (See **Figure 1.1-1**).<sup>1</sup>

This report is primarily focused on the SB 1000 requirement to identify ways policies can prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities in Irwindale. The report seeks to understand the origins of environmental injustice in Irwindale and its effects on disadvantaged communities. Outlining the context of EJ concerns in the City and identifying opportunities for policy solutions will help to inform the development of future environmental justice strategies initiated by local decision makers and community members.



Source: Urban Footprint, 2022; ESA 2022.

**Figure 1.1-1 Irwindale Score under CalEnviroScreen 4.0**

<sup>1</sup> CalEnviroScreen is an evolving tool, with updates provided as new data become available. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 was used to provide the baseline for this Environmental Justice Element.

## Community Participation

### Survey

The City of Irwindale released a community survey to elicit input on topics such as access to healthy food, using the parks, street conditions, and air quality to get a better understanding of how we can improve their quality of life in Irwindale. The survey provided a better understanding of the community's concerns to create a more robust and relevant Environmental Justice, Safety, and Housing Element chapters for the City's General Plan Update. Residents were notified via newsletter, mail, the City website, and through the City social media platforms including Instagram and Facebook. The City of Irwindale mailed out hard copies of the English and Spanish resident community survey twice. The resident and employee community surveys were made available online via SurveyMonkey. Hard copies of the English and Spanish resident community survey submitted by residents were manually entered into SurveyMonkey. The survey remained active from December 13, 2021, through January 17, 2022. The resident community survey yielded 19 responses, all being English-speaking respondents with no Spanish-speaking respondents. The employee community survey yielded 64 responses, 62 being English-speaking respondents with 2 being Spanish-speaking. A detailed summary of the results is provided in Appendix A.

### Community Workshop

At a community workshop held on August 9, 2022, City staff introduced the Environmental Justice Element and existing conditions to the community, discussed their issues of concern, and solicited ideas for interventions and priorities for implementation. Translation of the presentation was offered in Spanish to accommodate Spanish-speaking community members.

To encourage participation, the meeting was widely advertised through the following:

- Mailed postcard to all residents, businesses, and property owners in Irwindale
- City's social media platforms
- City website
- Emails to local service providers and stakeholders
- Announcements during the City Manager's Report at City Council meetings
- The City of Irwindale's Weekly Update

### Community Priorities

Community participation gathered from both the survey and multiple workshops have identified these top priorities regarding environmental justice:

- Air quality is a significant hazard concern with an emphasis on pollution from neighboring industrial uses and increasing greening and buffer zones between these uses and residential areas.
- A need for improvements to public facilities and infrastructure, i.e., increasing tree canopy, roads, sidewalks, lighting along alleys and public facilities, increased trees, creating continuous paths that are easily accessible, and adding safe bike lanes throughout the City.

- Healthy living is a main health concern and respondents would like to see healthier dining options and recreational programs that support a healthy lifestyle for community members of all ages.
- Addressing issues regarding healthy food access as there was a consensus between residents and employees of the community of a need for a local grocery store, community garden, farmers markets, etc. to access fresh produce.
- Addressing issues regarding the availability of pedestrian, bicycling, and park/open space infrastructure.
- Better civic engagement and participatory decision making.

Additional findings of the community engagement process are provided in Section 2, Existing Conditions, for each topic of environmental justice. Feedback from the community on each topic will be used in the development of goals, policies and actions for the Environmental Justice Element.

## 2.0 Existing Conditions

This Element addresses six key public health and safety concerns as outlined in Senate Bill (SB) 1000: reducing pollution exposure and improving air quality, access to healthy food and public facilities, health and physical activity, safe and sanitary housing, and civic engagement.

The Environmental Justice Element contains a comprehensive set of goals and policies aimed at increasing the role and influence of historically marginalized populations and reducing their exposure to environmental and health hazards.

### Sections Included:

- 2.1 Reducing Pollution Exposure and Improving Air Quality
- 2.2 Promoting Safe and Sanitary Homes
- 2.3 Promoting Health and Physical Activity
- 2.4 Promoting Healthy Food Access
- 2.5 Access to Public Facilities

Each section is generally structured as follows:

- **Introduction:** Provides a brief introduction to the environmental justice topic to define what it is and why it is important for the City of Irwindale.
- **Local Conditions:** Describes how the City is addressing the associated topic as it relates to environmental justice issues, including health effects and access to resources.
- **Existing Policies, Programs, and Regulatory Framework:** Describes the overarching agencies and associated governing tools associated with each topic.
- **Community Outreach:** This section describes the findings of the community engagement process that included a series of workshops and an online survey to better understand the needs and desires of Irwindale residents and employees as it relates to environmental justice topics of healthy foods, parks and open spaces, public facilities, and air quality, among others.

Information contained in this section will be used to formulate goals, policies, and actions within the Environmental Justice Element to promote the reduction of pollution exposure, the improvement of air quality, the promotion of public facilities, and access to healthy food, safe and sanitary homes, and lastly, health and physical activity.

### 2.1 Reducing Pollution Exposure and Improving Air Quality

#### Introduction

Having access to healthy environments, clean air and drinking water is essential to building healthy communities. People are exposed to pollution daily when interacting with the environment. Basic daily necessities such as air, water, food or soil transfer pollution from the environment to our communities. However, some communities are more exposed or burdened than others, and these types of exposures are often the result of the proximity of people to industrial polluting facilities, heavily traveled roads and freeways.

Air, water, and soil pollution are critical environmental justice issues as communities of color and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by pollution. Due to historic discriminatory housing

and planning policies, as well as systemic underinvestment in communities of color, environmental justice communities are more likely to be located next to and directly affected by the pollution of industrial land uses, oil and gas infrastructure, freeways and other land uses that are often sources of pollution that are linked to asthma, cardiovascular disease, and other health risks. The most common pollution related illnesses are chronic respiratory disease, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease, lung and other cancers (see Section 2.3, Health and Physical Activity for additional details).

An important part of achieving environmental justice is reducing pollution in communities that are disproportionately affected. Not everyone reacts to air pollution the same way. Sensitive populations such as children, elderly and those with prior health conditions are more vulnerable to the effects of pollution. This section will discuss local conditions of air, water and soil pollution, and the associated sources of pollution that contribute to health impacts.

## Local Conditions

### Air Pollution

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an independent federal agency tasked with environmental protection matters, there are several major air pollutants of concern found all over the United States. These major air pollutants and their primary pollutant sources are listed in **Table 2.1-1**. In Irwindale, a certain amount of air pollution comes from industrial sources, such as mining activity in the city, but a greater percentage of harmful air emissions comes from cars and trucks, construction equipment, and other motor vehicles.

**TABLE 2.1-1 MAJOR AIR POLLUTANTS & PRIMARY SOURCES**

Pollutant	Primary Sources
<b>Carbon Monoxide (CO)</b>	Internal combustion engines, primarily gasoline-powered motor vehicles
<b>Nitrogen Oxides</b>	Motor vehicles, petroleum-refining operations, industrial sources, aircraft, ships, and railroads
<b>Sulfur Dioxide</b>	Fuel combustion, chemical plants, sulfur recovery plants, and metal processing
<b>Suspended Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>)</b>	Dust and fume-producing construction, industrial, and agricultural operations, combustion, atmospheric photochemical reactions, and natural activities (e.g., wind-raised dust and ocean sprays)

SOURCE: CARB, n.d.

Major pollutants in Irwindale include ozone, particulate matter, and diesel particulate matter. These major pollutants are described in greater detail below.

### Diesel Particulate Matter (Diesel PM)

Diesel PM are solid particles that consist of harmful chemicals coming from the exhaust of trucks, buses, trains, and other equipment with diesel engines (OEHHA 2021). Therefore, diesel PM is found to be higher along major freeways, ports, rail yards, and industrial centers.

Irwindale's high levels of industrial activity is one reason why Diesel PM levels are so high in the area. Trucks traveling to and from mining pits, industrial warehouses, and manufacturing sites contribute to high levels of Diesel PM because semi-trucks operate using diesel engines. California has categorized Diesel PM as carcinogenic, meaning it is cancer-causing. According to the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), long-term exposure to Diesel PM poses the highest cancer risk of any toxic air contaminant. Not only does Diesel PM cause cancer, but it also causes inflammation of the lungs which can worsen respiratory diseases and increase the likelihood of **asthma** and asthma attacks. Diesel PM emissions in Irwindale are high, as they are greater than sixty-eight percent of other census tracts in California. The City's proximity to major freeways that are used for trucks, buses, and other heavy diesel equipment emit higher levels of air polluting chemicals and toxins. Freeways in general have a high density of traffic and the San Gabriel River Freeway (I-605) and Foothill Freeway (I-210) contribute to the level of poor air quality within the City.

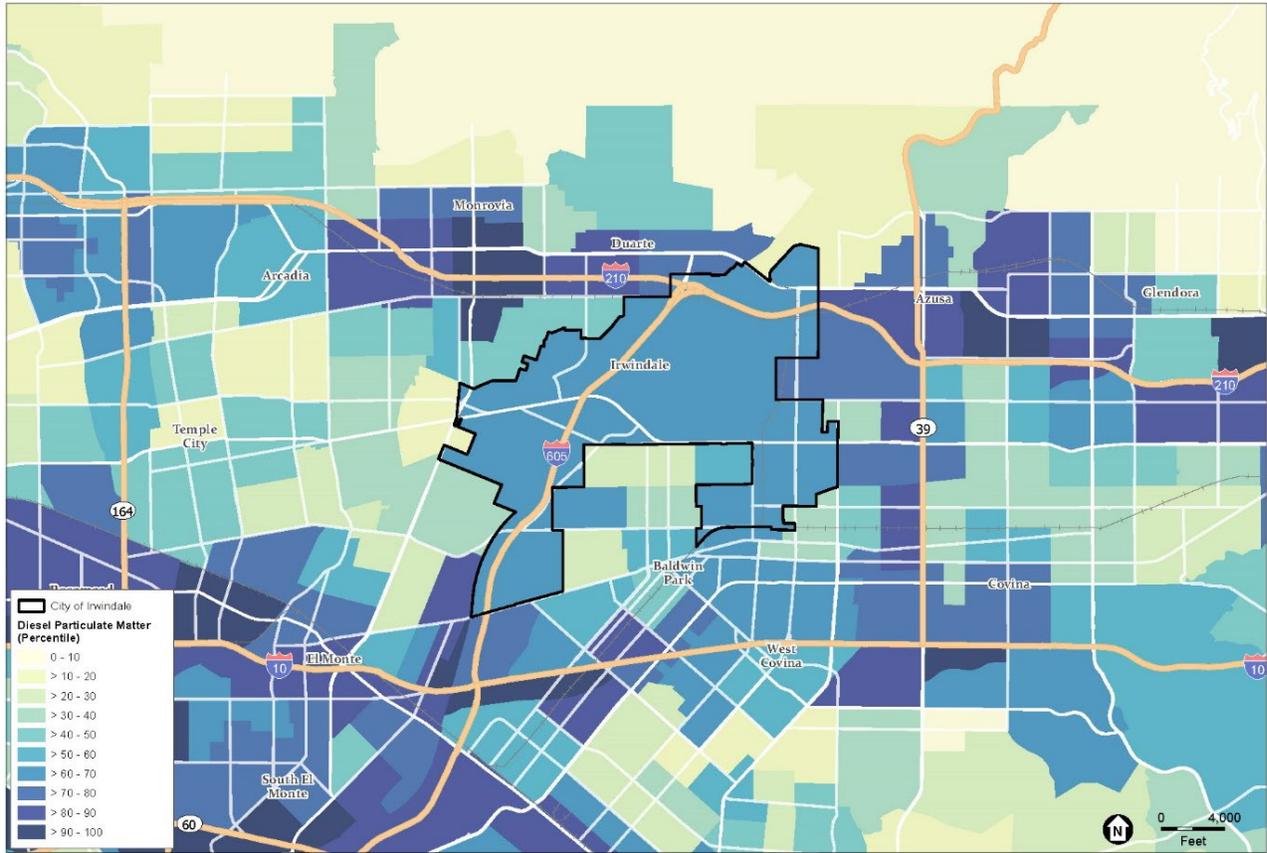
#### Asthma

Asthma is a chronic disease that causes shortness of breath, coughing, and chest tightness.

### Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM 2.5)

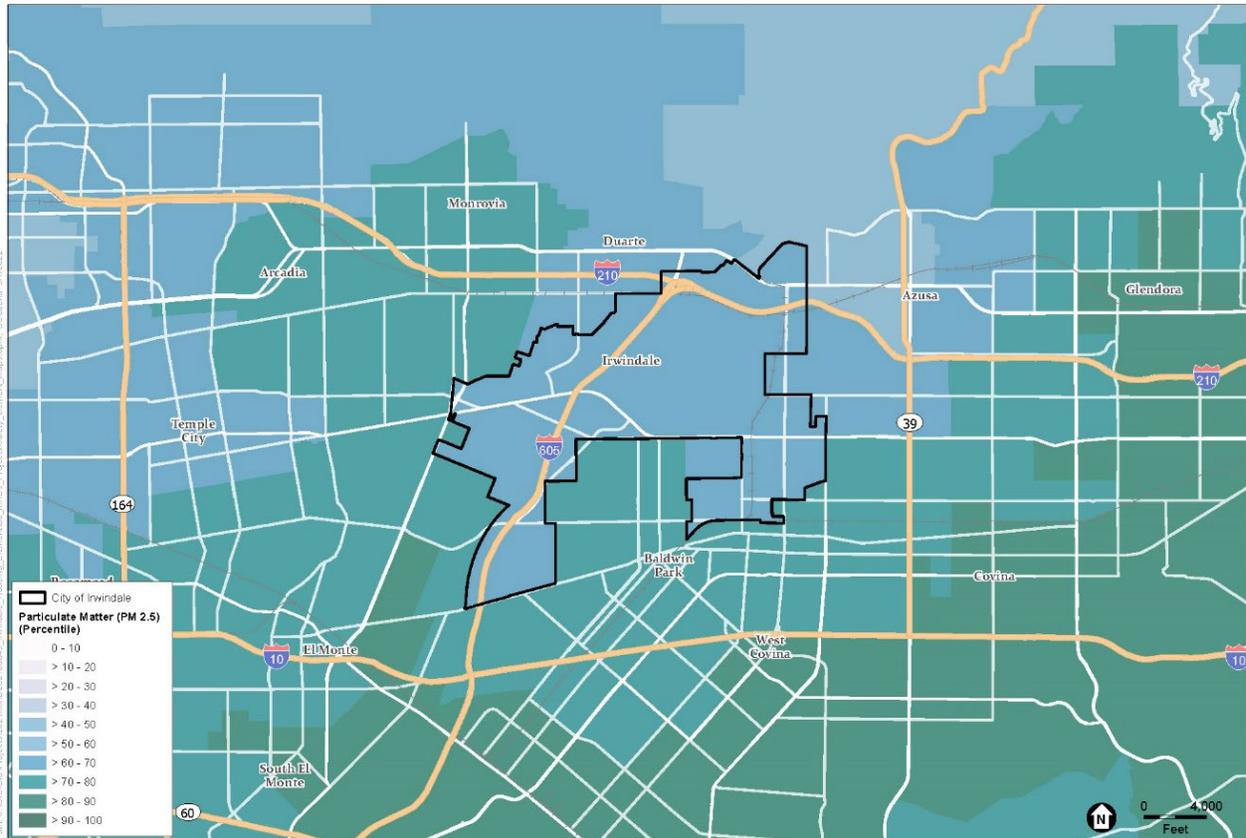
Particulate matter or PM 2.5 is airborne particles that have a diameter less than 2.5 micrometers. Particulate matter is a very small particle pollution that can lead to adverse health conditions such as heart and lung disease. PM 2.5 particulates are a byproduct of many sources, specifically those involving combustion. Some of the main contributors are automobiles, industrial manufacturing, and wood burning. **Figures 2.1-1 and 2.1-2** illustrate the level of Diesel PM and PM 2.5 pollution within Irwindale compared to neighboring jurisdictions. These maps show that the concentrations of Diesel PM and PM 2.5 are highest in areas of the City near the I-605 and I-210 freeways. Overall, Irwindale's concentration of PM 2.5 is higher than sixty-six percent of census tracts in California.

High levels of PM2.5 negatively impact the overall health of its population because they can penetrate deep into one's lungs. Additionally, since PM 2.5 particles are so small, they can also seep into buildings and homes which increase the chances of exposure. Long term exposure to PM 2.5 has been connected to respiratory infection, asthma attacks, and reduced lung function and development in children. While PM 2.5 particulates pose a threat to all, they have a heightened impact on children and elderly populations. The most vulnerable populations are those with prior or chronic health conditions, asthma and cardiopulmonary disease. People dealing with asthma are more sensitive to PM2.5 because these pollutants can cause lung inflammation. (EPA 2019b).



Source: OEHHA, 2021; ESA 2022.

**Figure 2.1-1 Diesel PM in Irwindale**



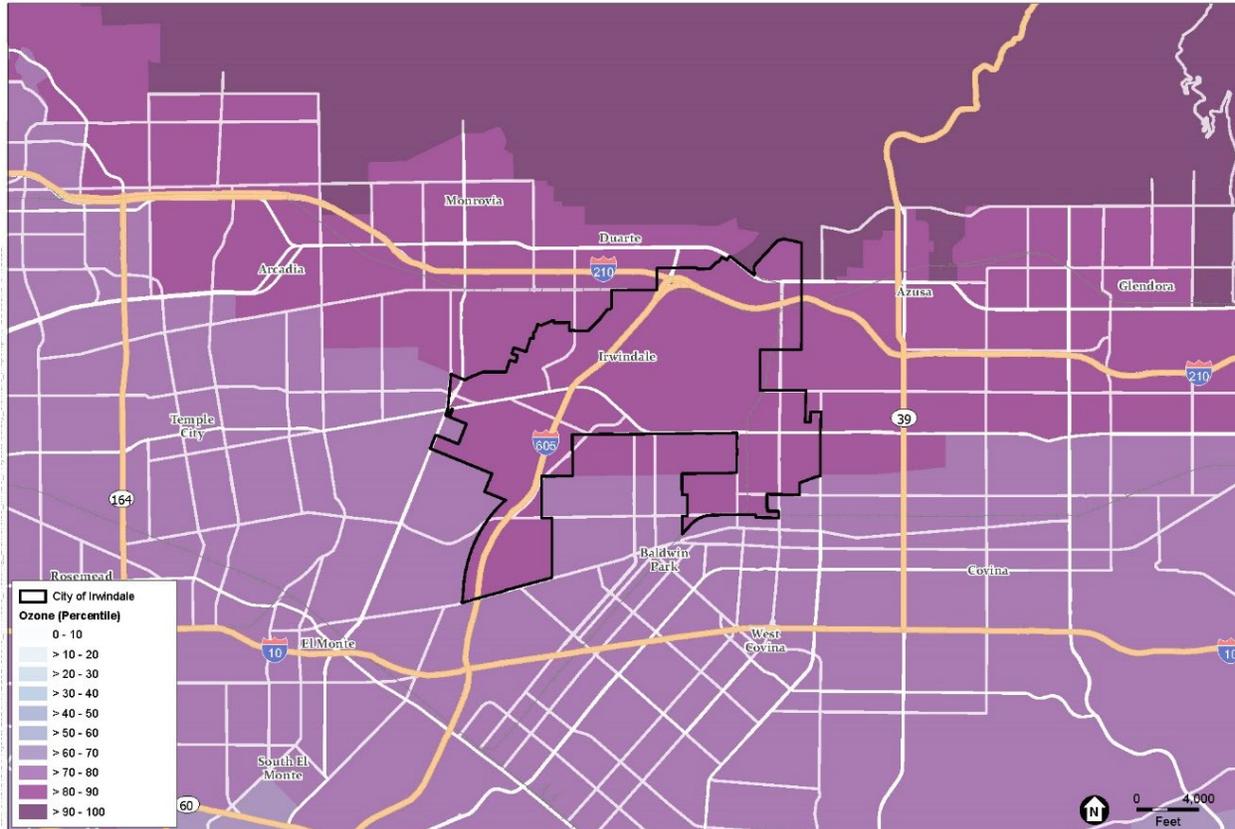
Source: OEHHA, 2021; ESA 2022.

**Figure 2.1-2 PM 2.5 in Irwindale**

## Ozone

Another major air pollutant that affects the Irwindale community is ozone. Ground-level ozone is the primary cause of smog, and is produced when air pollution from vehicles, industrial manufacturing facilities, active mining pits and other polluting sources in the City reacts with oxygen and sunlight. **Figure 2.1-3** illustrates the level of Ozone pollution within Irwindale compared to neighboring jurisdictions. This map shows that the concentrations of ozone are highest in areas of the City near the I-605 and I-210 freeways. According to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), ozone concentration in Irwindale is higher than eighty-three percent of other census tracts in California.

Ozone at ground level can cause adverse health effects. Long term exposure to ozone is known to cause asthma and worsen the conditions of people with asthma. Breathing in ozone can also increase the chances of developing respiratory disease, irritate the lungs and increase the frequency of asthma attacks. Children and elderly populations, as well as those who spend large amounts of time outdoors, are most susceptible to ozone's adverse health effects (CalEnviroScreen 4.0).



Source: OEHHA, 2021; ESA 2022.

**Figure 2.1-3 Ozone in Irwindale**

## Air Pollution and Asthma Rates

Poor air quality is known to both cause asthma and worsen existing conditions. Studies consistently show a link between respiratory disease and one's proximity to roadways, freeways and industrial manufacturing/processing facilities. Exhaust from engines emit small particles that make their way deep into one's lungs leading to respiratory diseases such as asthma. Irwindale's community suffers from high asthma rates. According to OEHHA about 49 per 10,000 people in Irwindale visited the emergency room from 2015-2019 as a result of asthma. Asthma rates in Irwindale are fifty-four percent higher than other census tracts in California.

## Water Pollution

Water quality in Irwindale and the surrounding region has degraded from historical levels due to industrial or commercial activities that involve the use or storage of hazardous substances that can leak and lead to the pollution of groundwater. Water pollution can impact drinking water quality and can also impact the ability of communities to interact with waterbodies nearby.

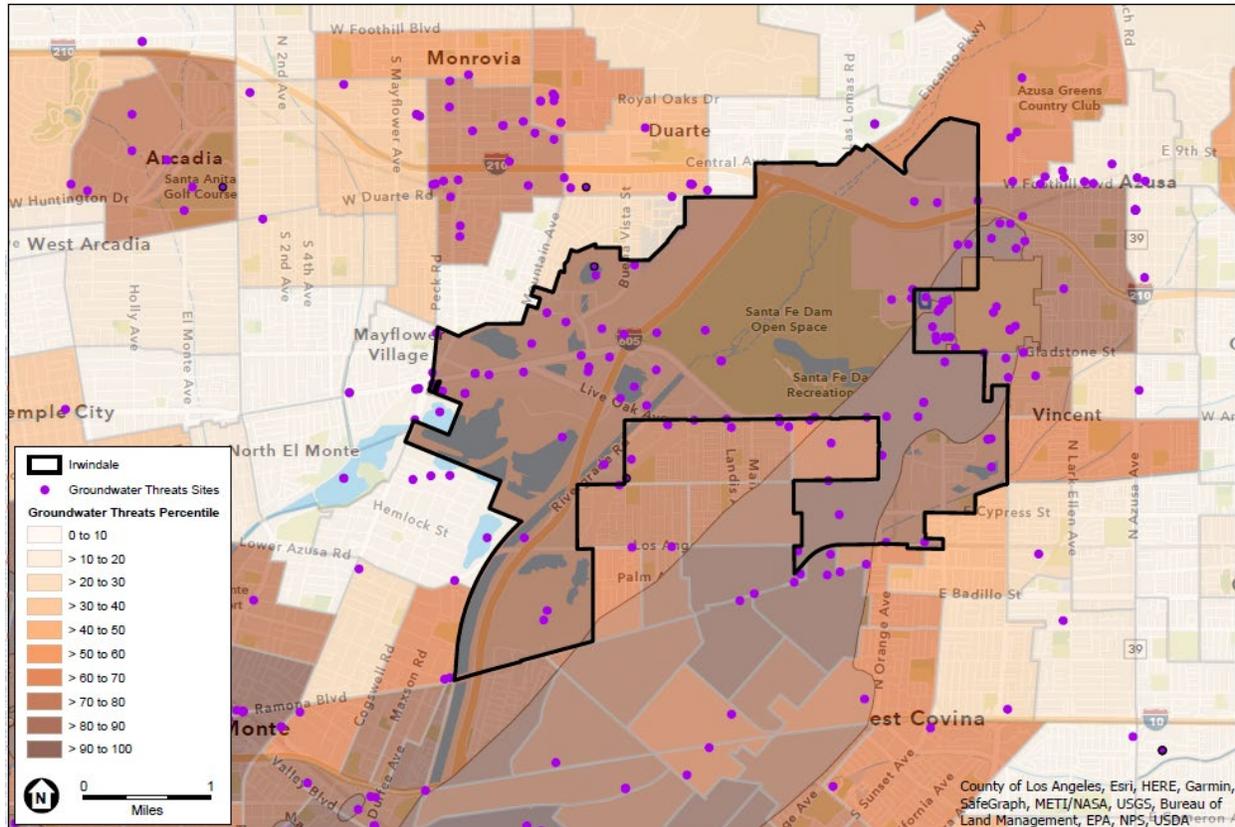
## Groundwater Threats

Groundwater threats refer to hazardous materials that are often stored in containers on land or in underground storage tanks. Leaks from these containers and tanks can contaminate soil and pollute ground water. Common types of ground water threats are diesel, gasoline, pesticides and heavy metals. (OEHHA)

According to OEHHA, groundwater threats in Irwindale are greater than ninety-three percent of other census tracts in California. This means that groundwater quality in Irwindale is among the poorest in the state. **Figure 2.1-4** illustrates the location of groundwater clean-up sites in Irwindale, which are scattered throughout the western, southern, and eastern portions of the City. The Santa Fe Dam and northern areas of the City are mostly free of cleanup sites, though there are some present in the surrounding communities, including Duarte, Monrovia, and Azusa. Irwindale is in the top twenty-five percent of cities with **cleanup sites**, due to its high concentration of industrial sites, some of which are older and do not meet current standards. Additionally, cleanup sites, which are contaminated with hazardous chemicals, have been known to leak into groundwater. Whether it be a leaking storage tank or hazardous waste, the pollutants will transfer from the environment to the surrounding community through water and air. Some cancer-causing chemicals from cleanup sites have been found in drinking water supplies in California.

### Cleanup Sites

Cleanup sites are areas that can affect air quality, groundwater, and have health impacts on their surrounding community. These sites require clean-up when hazardous substances begin to affect the environment. Clean up can take many years even decades and is often delayed by cost and liability issues. Living near cleanup sites has been known to increase the probability of low birth rates, elevated blood lead levels and liver disease.



Source: OEHHA, 2021; ESA 2022.

**Figure 2.1-4 Groundwater Threats**

## Drinking Water Contamination

Drinking water contamination is a byproduct of both natural and human sources. Human sources include, but are not limited to, runoff from farms, factories and sewage. Natural sources can come from fires, wildlife, rocks and soil. Drinking water typically comes from ground water, wells, streams, rivers and lakes. Therefore, impaired water bodies can also reflect the potential contamination of drinking water. Drinking water contamination is affected by proximity to impaired water bodies and is also measured by the level of contaminants found within drinking water. A body of water is considered “impaired” when pollution compromises its use for drinking, fishing, or swimming and poses a threat to the ecosystem. California surface water is re-evaluated every two years and if it does not meet the Federal Clean Water Act’s standard it is listed as impaired. According to CalEnviroScreen 4.0, as of 2018, there are five impaired water bodies within and around Irwindale. This includes the Santa Fe Dam Park Lake in Irwindale, Peck Road Park Lake to the southwest in North El Monte, Sawpit Creek to the west, and the San Gabriel River and Walnut Creek Wash to the south. The level of contamination that affects Irwindale is greater than forty-four percent of California census tracts, meaning that the City is faring better than most communities statewide in regard to impaired water bodies. This could be due, in part, to the large number of manufacturers, industrial activity and active quarries in the area.

Drinking water contamination is high in the City, greater than eighty-five percent of other census tracts in California. While this is not an indication of whether water within the City of Irwindale is safe to drink, it is a general indication that compared to other census tracts in the state, drinking water in Irwindale contains a higher level of contaminants and bacteria. Poor drinking water due to contaminants can cause severe health impacts, including cancer and blue baby syndrome, a blood disorder in infants (OEHHA, 2021). All persons are at risk of illness from contaminated drinking water, and children, seniors, and those with existing health conditions or immunocompromised are at greater risk of getting sick.

### CalEnviroScreen

A mapping tool developed by the Office of Environmental Health and Hazards Assessment (OEHHA) used to help identify California communities disproportionately affected by pollution. CalEnviroScreen uses State and Federal data to determine the degree to which each census tract is affected by pollution, hazardous materials, and their consequential health effects.

## Soil Pollution and Hazardous Materials

Soils are generally contaminated through the storage, transport, or other handling of hazardous materials that make their way into the ground, often by spills, leaks, or fires. Contamination of soils can cause widespread pollution, as contaminants can be distributed through groundwater or by wind and dust, affecting people, jobs, and the natural environment. Facilities engaged with handling of hazardous materials must follow precautions to protect ground resources and public health.

## Toxic Release Sites

**Toxic release sites** are chemical producing facilities that release pollutants into the air, water, and land. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) keeps a Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) which tracks the facilities that release these classified chemicals. EPA also produces a toxic release score for each city using air concentration and toxicity of chemicals. The toxic release indicator ranges from 0 to 96,985. Irwindale was given a score of 1,656.45. While this score may seem low, it indicates that Irwindale has more toxic releases than seventy-five percent of census tracts in California.

Elevated levels of toxic release can be found near large industrial facilities. These chemicals have negative health impacts on its surrounding communities because once toxic chemicals are absorbed into the surrounding environment, they are easily transferred into the body through the air we breathe, water we drink and food we eat. Those most affected by TRI facilities are children and those with existing health conditions. Both proximity to clean up sites and exposure to TRI facilities are associated with low birth weight, infant mortality and mortality from cardiovascular disease. (OEHHA).

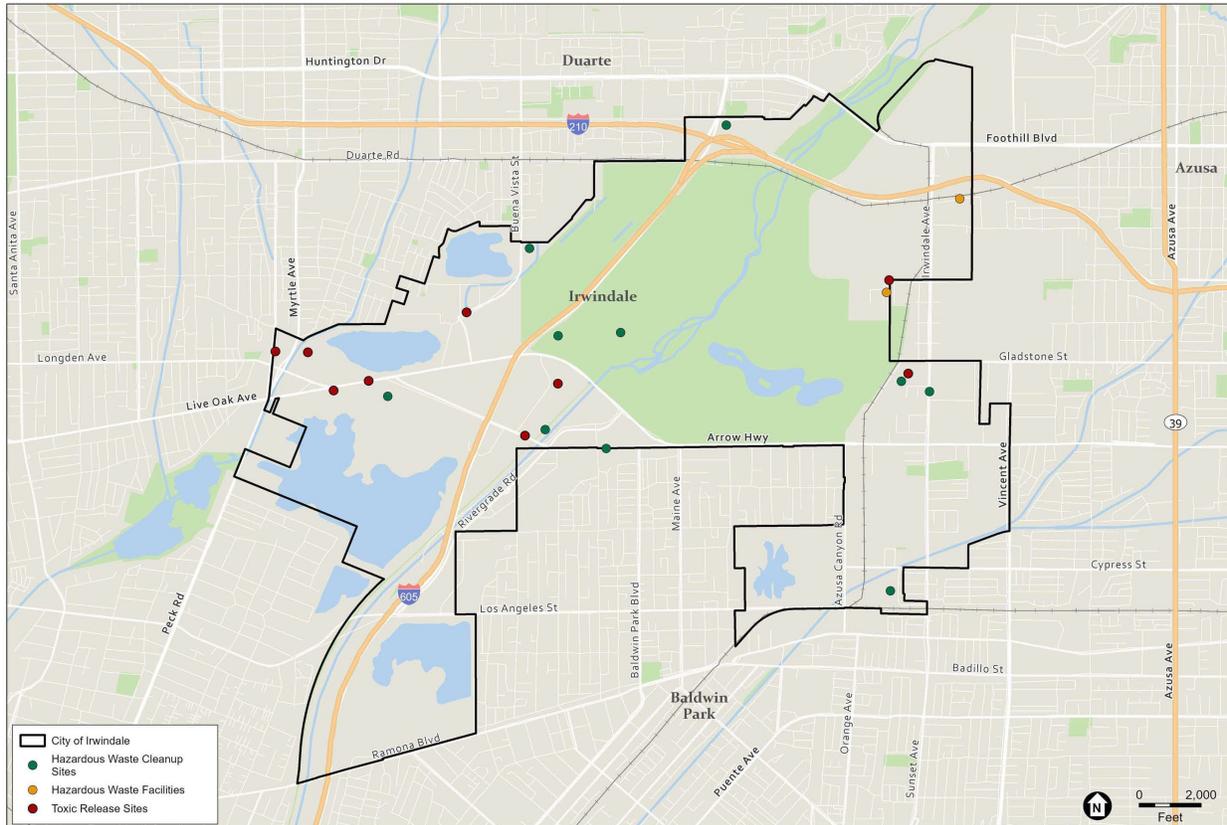
## Hazardous Waste

**Hazardous waste** contains chemicals that are produced through various activities, such as industrial manufacturing, gases, pesticides and businesses. Hazardous waste is transported from the business that produces it to a hazardous waste site for treatment, storage, or disposal. The impact of hazardous waste facilities on a community is calculated by the number of treatment, storage and disposal facilities (TSDF) and generators of hazardous waste. Irwindale has a high number of these facilities, higher than ninety-three percent of census tracts in California.

Hazardous waste is highly toxic and can affect the air, soil and water quality of the surrounding community. Studies have shown that living near a hazardous waste site can lead to health conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Based on data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), almost twelve percent of adults in Irwindale have diabetes and five percent have heart disease. Additionally, Irwindale has more residents that visit the hospital for a heart attack than thirty-seven percent of other census tracts in California. High levels of pollution can exacerbate these conditions and could affect the overall health of its community for generations to come.

Certain socioeconomic conditions can further increase risk from exposure. Hazardous waste sites have been shown to be disproportionately located near low-income neighborhoods. Approximately twenty-seven percent of Irwindale's population is living twice below the federal poverty level, which is higher than forty-nine percent of all other California census tracts. Since hazardous waste sites disproportionately affect low-income communities, and there is a high percentage of low-income residents in Irwindale, this is an environmental justice concern that must be addressed. (OEHHA).

**Figure 2.1-5** shows hazardous facilities that contribute to soil pollution, including toxic releases sites and hazardous waste facilities. Toxic release sites are located mostly in the western and eastern areas of the city where there are industrial and commercial uses, near Live Oak Ave, Arrow Highway, and Irwindale Ave. There are few sites in proximity to the residential neighborhoods in the southeastern portion of Irwindale, so there is less risk of exposure to these residents, however there is greater risk to Irwindale employees that work close to hazardous sites. Hazardous waste sites are also generally located in these areas, with additional sites in close proximity in surrounding cities, such as Duarte, Baldwin Park, and Azusa. While these facilities are outside of Irwindale's boundaries, soil contamination in Irwindale is possible through water, soil, wind, and dust movement. Remediation, cleanup, and other monitoring activities should be conducted in partnership with other jurisdictions to reduce exposure and contamination distribution. *See the Hazardous Materials section of the Safety Element for additional information.*



Source: OEHHA, 2021; ESA 2022.

**Figure 2.1-5 Soil Pollution and Hazardous Materials Sites**

## Community Outreach

Community input gathered through surveys reflects that the residents of Irwindale are concerned about the sources of pollution identified in this EJ Element. With regard to pollution and air quality, residents of Irwindale identified “air quality” to be a significant hazard concern with an emphasis on pollution from neighboring industrial uses. When residents were asked their thoughts about reducing pollution, their ideas included: improving water infrastructure, enforcing vehicle pollution requirements and improving streets and sidewalks to make Irwindale more bike and pedestrian friendly.

Employees working in Irwindale also identified “air quality” to be a primary concern. The majority of employee respondents chose bad air pollution or dangerous fumes from industrial land uses as a main pollution problem. When employees were asked their thoughts on reducing pollution their ideas included: minimizing industrial facilities, transitioning to alternative forms of energy such as electric vehicles, encouraging the use of public transportation, requiring local businesses to recycle and reduce their pollution contribution, reducing vehicle trips and incentivizing carpool programs.

## Policies, Programs, and Regulatory Framework

The following section is a summary of existing programs and procedures that help mitigate the impact that polluting sources have on Irwindale’s environment. These programs aim to incentivize a community’s

transition to more environmentally friendly practices. This section informs us on what policies and programs exist and what needs to be created to help reduce current pollution sources and prevent the development of new pollution sources. When creating policies and programs it is important to make them accessible to everyone, specifically low-income individuals.

## South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)

SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for all of Orange County and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. SCAQMD manages air quality through rules, incentive programs, and air quality plans. The SCAQMD maintains the Air Quality Management Plan, Clean Communities Plan, and the Vision for Clean Air. Additionally, the SCAQMD creates guidance documents to assist local governments with air quality planning.

## Irwindale General Plan

The General Plan does not include direct policies and goals in response to climate change. However, a few policies and implementation programs do address GHG emissions reductions and hazards related to climate change:

- **Air Quality Planning.** The City of Irwindale will continue to participate in the regional planning efforts being undertaken by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to develop and implement strategies to improve regional air quality. The City of Irwindale will continue to work with the SCAQMD and SCAG and the surrounding cities in improving air quality.
- **Resource Management Element Policy 11.** The City of Irwindale supports the ethic of conservation of non-renewable resources. This includes efforts to reduce the use of energy (in any form), greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (consistent with AB 32) and efforts to find new and more energy efficient methods for delivering services. The City supports the development of building standards that enable the community to design energy saving features such as solar energy systems, water efficient landscaping, and sustainable, green, and energy efficient building standards.

## Irwindale Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

While the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) does not directly address climate change, several policies and mitigation actions do address hazards relating to fire and flooding:

- **Local Mitigation Action #2 - Code Enforcement.** The Zoning Code and Building Code contains regulations regarding mitigation. As an example, the Building Code includes construction techniques and materials that may be effective in eliminating or reducing the spread of fire. Code Enforcement will ensure that the City's noise control ordinance is enforced. For this reason, ongoing code enforcement efforts are an important implementation program within the Safety Element.
- **Local Mitigation Action #4 – Fire Prevention.** The City shall also encourage periodic inspections of existing structures by the Fire Department for compliance with fire safety standards and practices. All new development plans must be submitted to the Fire Department for review and comment during the plan check process. This review must be completed for the development process to continue. New development must conform to applicable standards and regulations.
- **Local Mitigation Action #7 – Environmental Review.** Environmental review shall be provided for major projects and those that will have a potential to adversely impact the environment. Issue areas related to public safety that may be addressed in the environmental analysis include earth and geology,

risk of upset, public services, and flood risk. In compliance with CEQA, the City shall also assign responsibilities for the verification of the implementation of mitigation measures.

- **Local Mitigation Action #10 – Local Global Warming Initiative.** This program ensures that efforts are undertaken to assist those households that could be adversely impacted by higher summer temperature. This program will involve the City staff identifying those households at risk. The City will initiate an outreach effort at the community/senior center that will provide information regarding the risk and resources that are available in upgrading units and assisting in the payment of utility bills.
- **Local Mitigation Action #11 - State of California Dam Safety Act.** This Act requires dam owners to submit inundation maps for those dams whose total failure would cause loss of life or personal injury. This law also requires local jurisdictions to adopt emergency procedures for the evacuation and control of populated areas below such dams.
- **Local Mitigation Action #13 - National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).** This program was established as part of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and broadened and modified in the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973. This program enables property owners to purchase insurance protection against losses from flooding.
- **Local Mitigation Action #16 – NOAA Weather Radio.** The City will encourage the use of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radios among its residents. At least one set of counties surrounding a chemical stockpile has provided NOAA weather radios to all homes and businesses within the area. NOAA Weather Radio continuously broadcasts National Weather Service forecasts, warnings and other crucial weather information. NOAA Weather Radio also provides direct warnings to the public for natural, man-made, or technological hazards, and it is the primary trigger for activating our country’s Emergency Alert System (EAS) on commercial radio, television, and cable systems.
- **Local Mitigation Action #18 - Personal Preparedness.** Encourage residents to prepare themselves by understanding their local hazards, stocking up with necessary items, and planning for how family members should respond if any of a number of possible emergency or disaster events strike.
- **Local Mitigation Action #24 – Storm Drainage Systems.** The City of Irwindale will continue to mitigate flooding by installing, re-routing, or increasing the capacity of storm drainage systems that may involve detention and retention ponds, drainage easements, or creeks and streams. These activities may include separation of storm and sanitary sewerage systems as well as higher engineering standards for drain and sewer capacity.

## Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides disaster response and preparedness across the country for a number of hazards, including flooding. According to FEMA flood maps, the City of Irwindale is within areas of minimal flood hazards (*see the Flooding section of the Safety Element for additional information*). A few areas outside of the City boundary are within the 100-year floodplain; however, this is not expected to impact the City. Climate change may potentially worsen conditions related to increased precipitation and affect the intensity or frequency of flood events.

## California Office of Emergency Services

The California Office of Emergency Services addresses climate action and the need for GHG emissions reductions through the California Adaptation Planning Guide (APG). The Guide provides best practices, tools, and current science to support jurisdictions in climate adaptation efforts. The State also prepares a

Safeguarding California Plan: California’s Climate Adaptation Strategy, which serves as a roadmap for state agencies to address climate change impacts.

## Programs

The following section is a summary of existing programs and procedures that help mitigate the impact that polluting sources have on Irwindale’s environment. These programs aim to incentivize a community’s transition to more environmentally friendly practices. This section informs us on what policies and programs exist and what needs to be created to help reduce current pollution sources and prevent the development of new pollution sources. When creating policies and programs it is important to make them accessible to everyone, specifically low-income individuals.

### South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)

While the City currently does not have any policies or programs that aim to reduce air pollution, the primary agency that manages air pollution in Irwindale and the greater South Coast region is the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). The South Coast AQMD has multiple programs and a governing rule that aim to reduce air pollution.

- **Check Before You Burn.** This program aims to limit the emissions of fine particulate matter (PM 2.5). No-Burn Days are announced when PM 2.5 reaches unhealthy levels due to stagnant weather conditions and air emissions. No burn days include a 24-hour ban on wood – burning in fireplaces, outdoor fire pits and stoves and other residential uses. (SCAQMD)
- **CLEANair Furnace Rebate Program.** As of October 1, 2021, a rebate is available for those who replace their gas furnace with an all-electric one. Twenty-five percent of the funds will be reserved for low-income areas. (SCAQMD)
- **Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive & Exchange Program.** This program includes a rebate up to \$250 with the purchase of a cordless electric lawn mower, and a savings of up to seventy-five percent off to commercial landscapers to purchase electric garden equipment. (SCAQMD)
- **Old Vehicle Scrapping Program.** This program aims to remove older, high polluting cars from the South Coast region. This is a voluntary program that includes a Mobile Source Emissions Reduction Credit (MSERCs).
- **Replace Your Ride Program.** Applicants in the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction who meet the eligibility requirements can receive up to 9,500 to replace old vehicles with a newer vehicle, hybrid/electric vehicle or receive car-sharing/public transportation vouchers (SCAQMD).
- **Rule 403 - Fugitive Dust.** This Rule plays a key role in providing the necessary requirements to help mitigate negative impacts that major industrial uses within the City such as mining, batch plants, etc., can have on the surrounding community. The purpose of this Rule “is to reduce the amount of particulate matter entrained in the ambient air as a result of anthropogenic (man-made) fugitive dust sources by requiring actions to prevent, reduce or mitigate fugitive dust emissions.” The provisions of this Rule are applicable to any activity or anthropogenic condition that is capable of generating fugitive dust. (SCAQMD 403-1, Amended June 3, 2005).

### Hazardous Materials Management

Hazardous materials, including those materials that affect the local Irwindale environment, are extensively regulated by federal, state, and local regulations, and new regulations are constantly being developed as

more knowledge is acquired about the impact that these substances have on human health and the environment. The City's role in managing hazardous materials primarily involves enforcement of these regulations. At the local level, there are provisions in the municipal code that work to regulate management of harmful waste.

### City of Irwindale Municipal Code

The City of Irwindale's Municipal Code (Code) addresses a variety of hazards and related topics, including hazardous materials and waste and safety. Chapter 13.04 of the Code is the Sanitary Sewer and Industrial Waste Ordinance, which regulates the following:

- Discharge, deposit and disposal of all waste, including any material which may cause pollution of underground or surface waters, in, upon or affecting the City;
- The design, construction, alteration, use and maintenance of public sewers and house laterals, industrial connection sewers, water pollution control plants, sewage pumping plants, industrial liquid-waste pretreatment plants, dairy screen-chambers, sand and grease interceptors, and appurtenances; and
- The issuance of permits and the collection of fees to pay the cost of checking plans, inspecting the construction and making record plans of the facilities permitted.

Chapter 13.08 of the Code establishes regulations for underground utility districts. Any business operation requesting the use, sale or storage of hazardous materials would also be subject to Conditional Use Permit per IMC Subsection 17.80.030(27).

## 2.2 Promoting Safe and Sanitary Homes

Housing location, quality, affordability, and stability all have health implications for a community and its residents. According to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), the general plan must identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or complex health risks in **disadvantaged communities** by promoting safe and sanitary homes (OPR 2020). The whole of the City of Irwindale is considered a disadvantaged community, or an Environmental Justice Community (EJC).

For this General Plan element, a disadvantaged community refers to the areas throughout California which most suffer from a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens. These burdens include poverty, high unemployment, air and water pollution, presence of hazardous wastes as well as high incidence of asthma and heart disease (CPUC 2021).

This section will discuss local conditions in Irwindale and indicators that contribute to these health risks, including housing cost burden, housing quality, characteristics of the existing residences in Irwindale, and conditions of overcrowding. It also provides perspectives from the community on this topic and describes existing policies and programs that work to promote safe and sanitary homes and neighborhoods.

Looking towards the future, in order to ensure that residents are able to remain in Irwindale, any habitability improvements, programs, or policies that are created as part of the Environmental Justice and Housing Element will be coupled with anti-displacement policies. Anti-displacement policies are intended to protect lower-income individuals and families who are at risk of displacement from their neighborhoods due to new investments in housing, business, and infrastructure.

## Local Conditions

### Housing Cost Burden

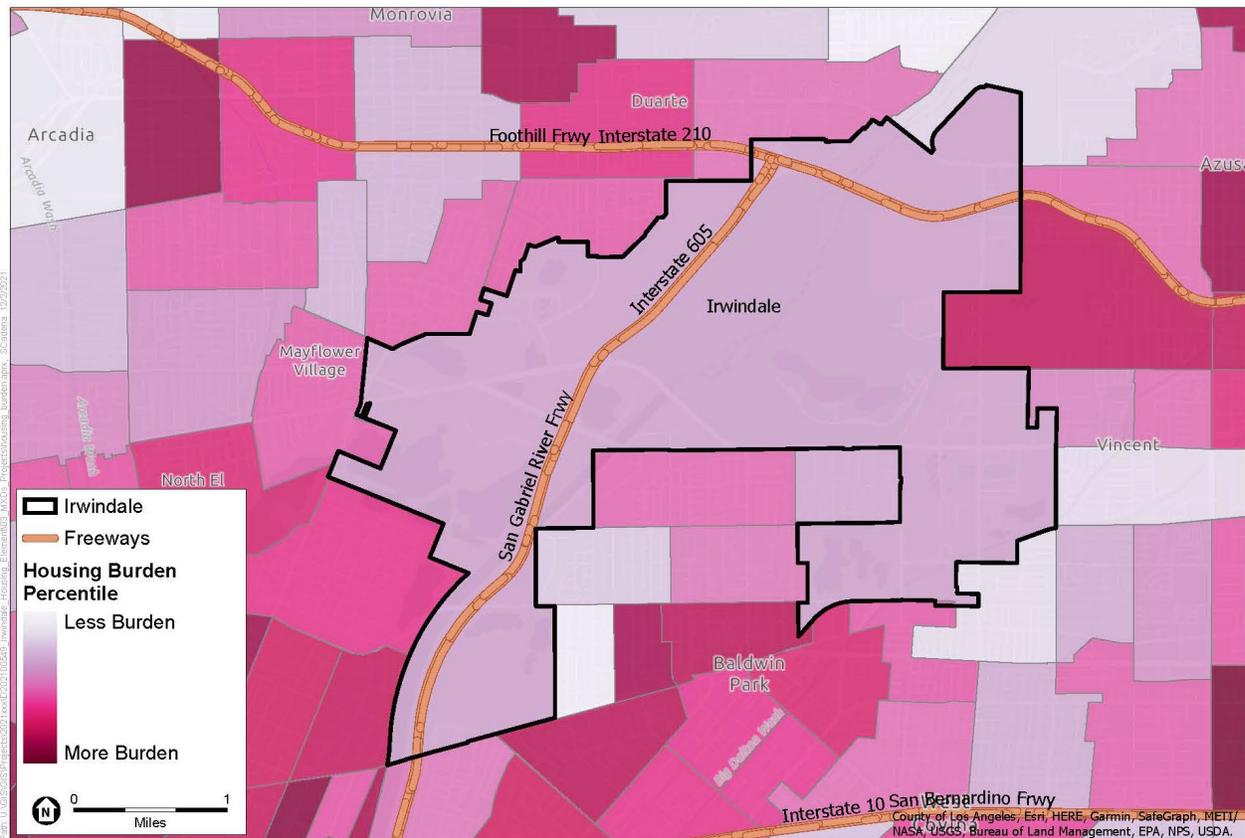
Access to affordable housing helps reduce undue stress suffered from unstable living conditions. Households paying more than thirty percent of income toward housing are considered housing “cost-burdened,” and households with housing costs that exceed half of income are considered “severely” cost-burdened. In general, cost burden for residents is generally higher for environmental justice communities. Further, wages have not kept up with increased housing costs in states such as California. This creates even more of a gap between the demand for affordable housing and the supply of rental housing available in a community.



*Image courtesy of City of Irwindale – New Homes on Juarez Ave.*

**Figure 2.2-1** illustrates that households are less burdened in Irwindale than in the surrounding cities of Duarte and Baldwin Park. According to the American Community Survey (ACS), Irwindale has a smaller proportion of cost-burdened households than Los Angeles County or the SCAG Region due to the high rate – seventy-two percent - <sup>2</sup>of home ownership in the City (ACS, 2019).

<sup>2</sup> <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/irwindale-ca#housing>

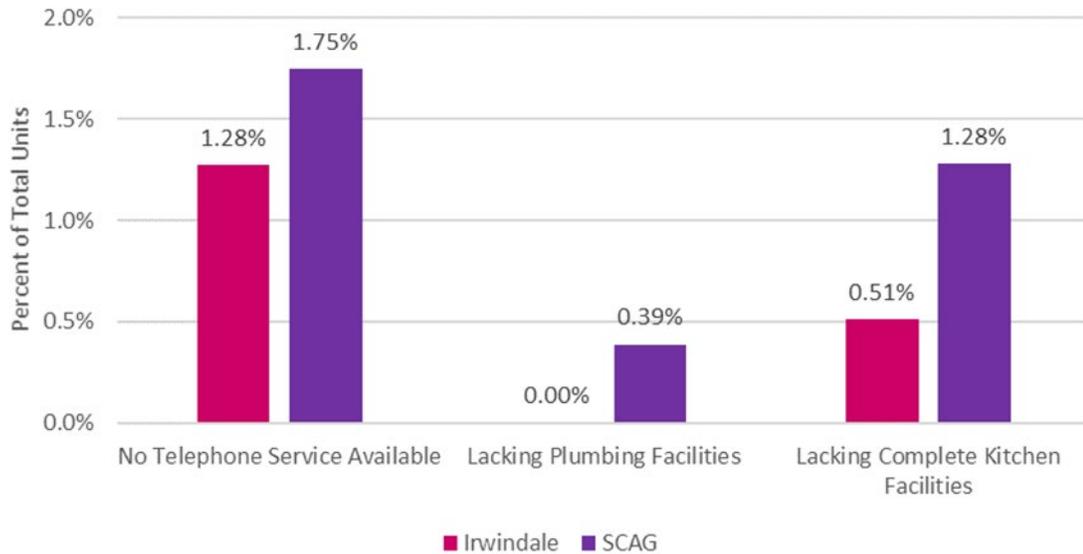


Source: OEHHA, LA County, ESRI, 2021; ESA 2022.

**Figure 2.2-1 Housing Cost Burden**

## Housing Quality

The quality of available housing stock has direct health implications for residents. For example, poor design or construction of homes is the cause of most home related accidents. Use of proper building materials, construction, and waste management could prevent indoor pollutants or mold, and help prevent associated illnesses, including asthma, allergies or respiratory diseases. Appropriate design and policy interventions can prevent both exposure and the risk to health. The ACS provides estimates of substandard units with no telephone service available (including cell phones), units lacking complete plumbing (e.g., no hot water or no toilet), or units lacking complete kitchen facilities (e.g., no refrigerator). By these criteria, Irwindale has few substandard units; 1.79 percent of housing units in Irwindale meet any one of these criteria as summarized below, in **Figure 2.2-2**.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Data (2015-2019), Table B25053, Table B25043, Table B25049.

**Figure 2.2-2 Substandard Housing Characteristics, Irwindale & SCAG Region, 2015–2019**

A number of environmental factors within homes are correlated with poor health, such as in-home exposure to harmful chemicals such as lead and asbestos. Poor housing conditions such as water leaks, poor ventilation, dirty carpets, pest infestation, unkempt yards, lack of paint, and overall lack of maintenance have also been associated with poor health outcomes, most notably those related to asthma. In general, low-income residents are more likely to live in structures that are of low quality and poorly maintained.

Another potential indicator of housing quality is the age of the structure, as homes built prior to modern building standards may include lead paint, asbestos and other hazards. The following table shows the proportion of homes in Irwindale that were built before 1980, which is approximately 54 percent. City housing programs help individuals with very low to moderate incomes meet their affordable housing needs by offering support in various areas, such as capital improvements.

**TABLE 2.2-1 AGE OF HOUSING STOCK**

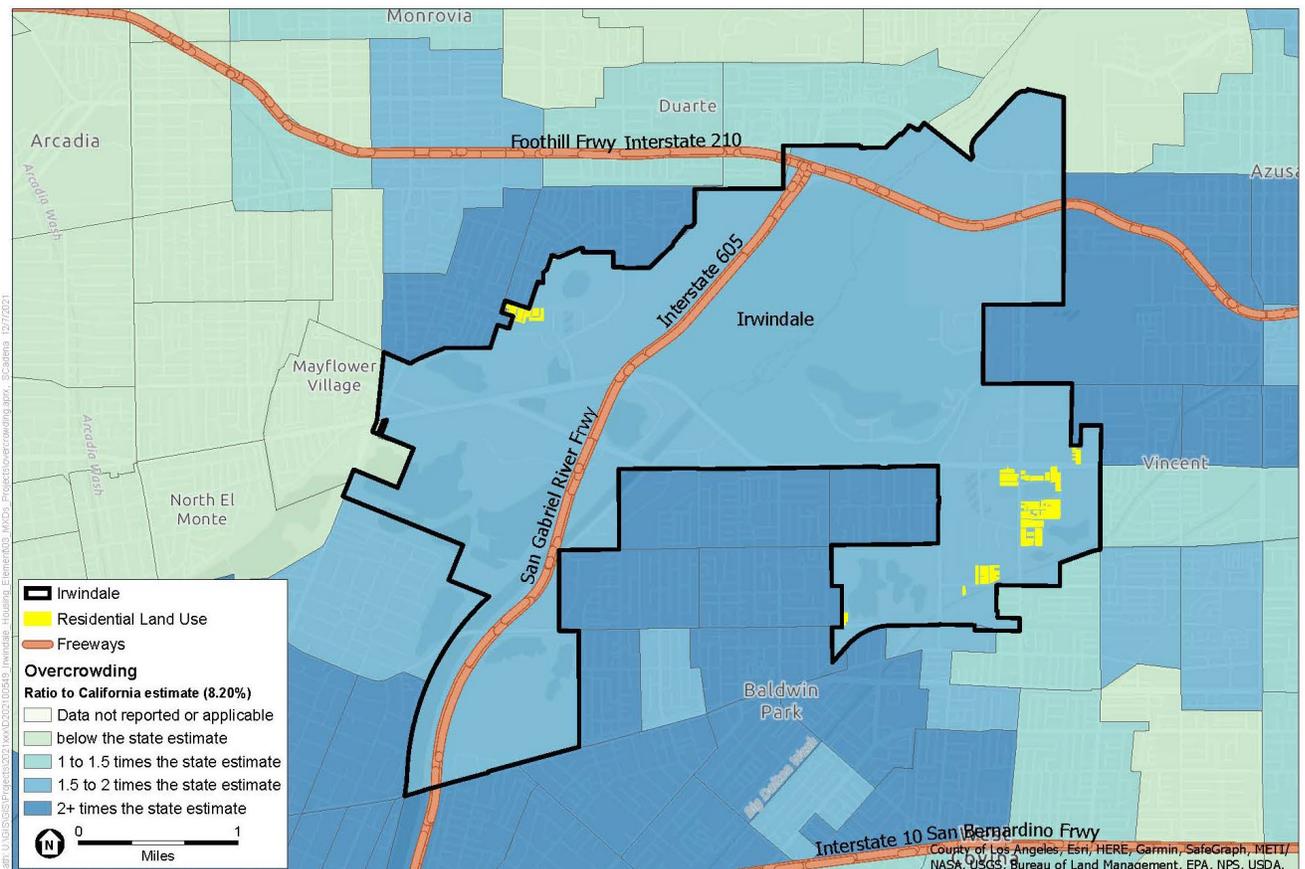
Years Structure Built	Percent	
Units Built Before 1980	232	54%
Units Built After 1980	193	45%
Total Housing Units	425	100%

Source: 2019 ACS 5-Year Estimated Data Profiles

## Overcrowding

A household is considered “overcrowded” if there is more than one person per room in the home (California Department of Public Health 2017). An overcrowded household can affect many in the home. In overcrowded households, contagious illnesses are likely to spread, because it is harder to isolate the sick person to their room and from the rest of the members of the household. Without a consistent place to study and/or finish schoolwork, children are also more likely to have a difficult time achieving educational goals. Overcrowded households are generally a sign that households are having difficulty affording an appropriate unit and that there might not be appropriate, affordable housing for larger families. It is important to acknowledge that there can be a cultural component to overcrowding, as many cultures value multigenerational households.

As shown in **Figure 2.2-3**, Irwindale has rates of overcrowding that is comparable to surrounding communities in the Eastern San Gabriel Valley. As a whole, Irwindale is one to 1.5 times greater than the state estimate of overcrowding conditions. Future policies and actions should continue to mitigate overcrowding conditions while acknowledging and maintaining cultural sensitivity.



Source: UCDPH, LA County, ESRI, ESA; 2021.

**Figure 2.2-3 Overcrowding**

## Promoting Safe Neighborhoods

While safe and sanitary homes are key indicators of individual and community health and wellness, neighborhood safety can impact social stress and influence whether people will be active or not. This section provides a summary of the public's perception of safety in Irwindale. This summary can help focus efforts to improve safety, such as increasing the use of **crime prevention through environmental design** or prioritizing investments in street lighting in specific areas. This assessment focuses on the presence of crime, streetscape improvements, and other interventions that the City of Irwindale is engaged in to ensure that Irwindale is a safe community. See Section 2.6, Public Facilities, for additional discussion related to community activities for families and youth.

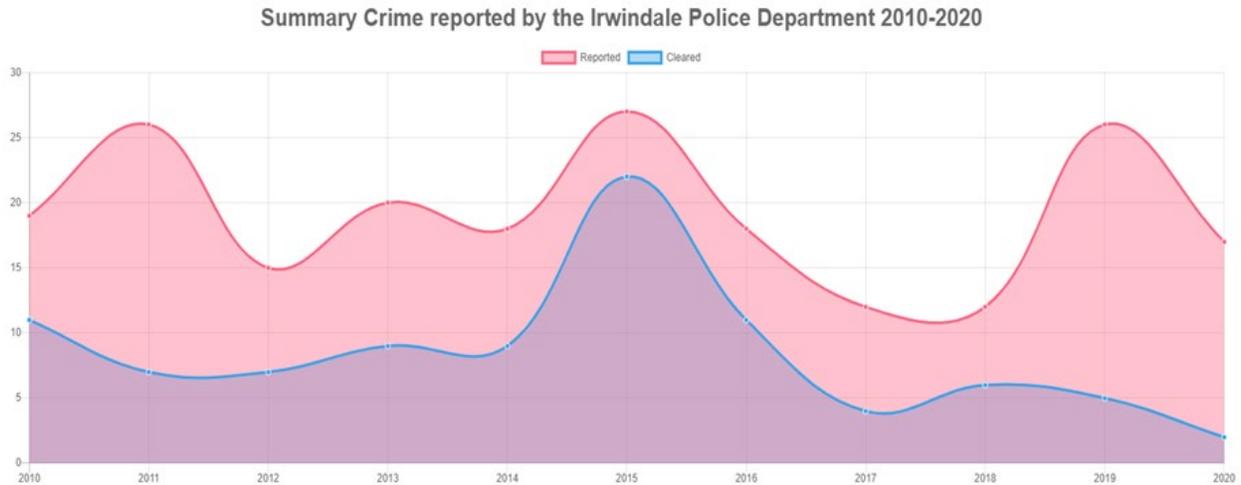
**Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)** uses architectural and urban design strategies to reduce victimization, deter offender decisions that precede criminal acts, and build a sense of community among inhabitants so they can gain territorial control of areas, reduce crime, and minimize fear of crime (The International CPTED Association, n.d.).

Community safety is a primary concern in many neighborhoods that experience high rates of crime and violence. The City of Irwindale has a higher violent crime rate than other communities statewide, with a rate of 17.7 per 1,000 people compared to the state rate of 4.41 per 1,000 people (FBI 2019). Data on specific types of crime in Irwindale, including violent crime, property crime, arson, and hate crime, are detailed further below.

### Violent Crime

Violent crime in Irwindale in the past 10 years has fluctuated, with peaks in 2011, 2015, and most recently in 2019. The year 2015 saw the highest number of crimes, with 27 reports submitted. Of these submitted reports, 22 were cleared. Clearances are crimes that are cleared, or closed, by police departments either by arrest or by exceptional means. Examples of exceptional clearances include, but are not limited to, identification of the offender, gathering of enough evidence to support an arrest, or encountering a circumstance that prohibits the agency from arresting, charging, and prosecuting the offender.

**Figure 2.2-4** shows a summary of all violent crimes reported in the City of Irwindale from 2010 to 2020. Overall, there are more violent crimes that are reported in Irwindale than violent crimes that are cleared. The red represents all violent crimes reported, while blue represents crimes that have been cleared.



Source: FBI 2021.

**Figure 2.2-4 Summary of Violent Crime Reported and Cleared in Irwindale 2010–2020**

### Property Crime

**Property crime** refers to burglary, larceny-theft, and motor-vehicle theft. In total, 2,171 property crimes were reported from 2010 to 2020 in Irwindale, with an annual average of 197 reports per year. The highest number of property crime was reported in 2019, with 240 reports. **Figure 2.2-5** shows a summary of all property crimes, which are reported separately and not included under violent crimes. Of these, very few property crimes reported are cleared. Similar to violent crime, there are more property crimes that are reported versus those that are cleared.



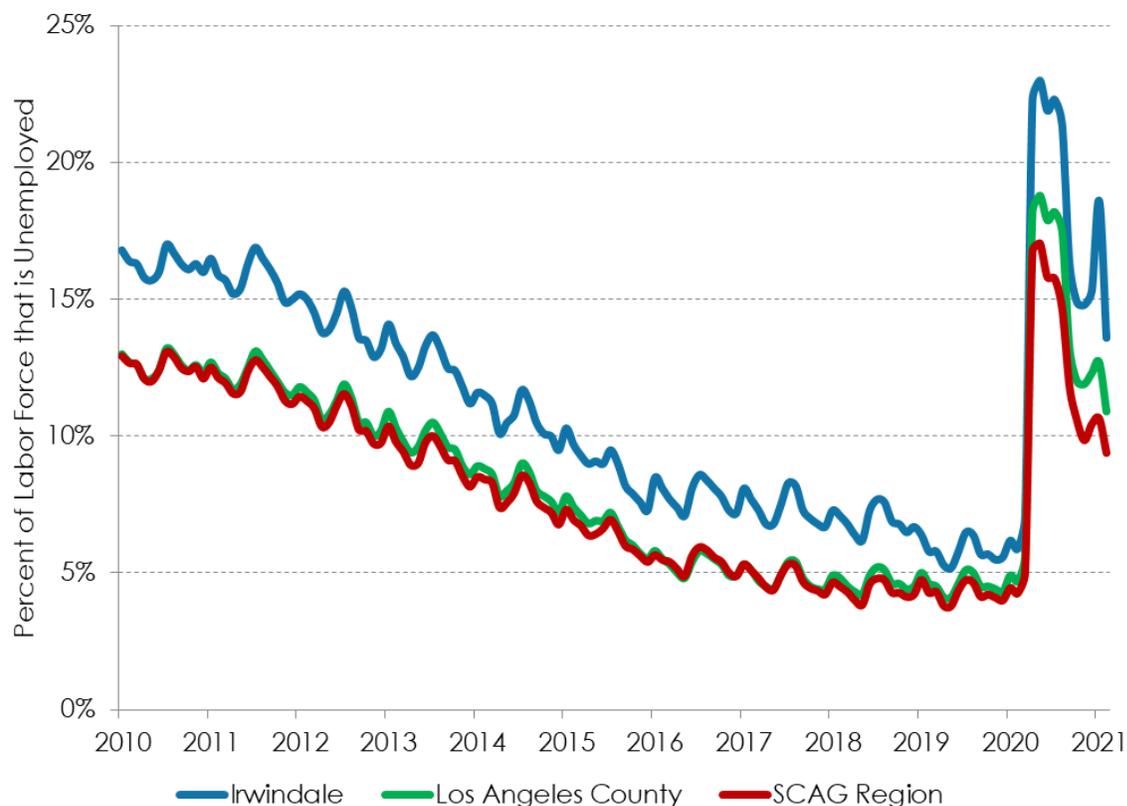
Source: FBI 2021.

**Figure 2.2-5 Summary of Property Crime Reported and Cleared in Irwindale 2010–2020**

## Labor Force Participation and Unemployment

Understanding socioeconomic characteristics in a community, such as labor force participation and unemployment, can help to inform policies that improve access to safe and sanitary homes. Generally, we look at participation in the formal workforce through the use of two measurements, Labor Force Participation (how many of those eligible to work are working or seeking work) and Unemployment (how many of those participating in the labor force are out of work and looking for work).

The unemployment rate for workers living in Irwindale is consistently above the rate for Los Angeles County and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Region, while following the same trends overall, as shown in **Figure 2.2-6** below. In January 2010, the unemployment rate for the City was 16.8 percent, even as the County and the Region saw much lower rates of 13.0 percent and 12.9 percent, respectively, reflecting the effects of the Great Recession. Up until 2016, rates for all three geographies generally declined, and then converged at around five to six percent until the COVID pandemic generated a massive spike in May 2020 to 22.3 percent for Irwindale, 18.2 percent for Los Angeles County, and 16.8 percent for the SCAG Region. Since then, rates have begun to fall rapidly, but as of June 2021 are still well above the five percent level, for Irwindale.



Source: California Employment Development Department, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Sub-county areas monthly updates, 2010-2021; BAE 2021.

**Figure 2.2-6 Unemployment Rate Trends, 2010-2021**

## Pedestrian Scale Lighting

Pedestrian-scale lighting can serve as a model for safety and improvement in city neighborhoods. One significant improvement in the City’s built environment was the redesign and beautification along the Irwindale Avenue and Arrow Highway thoroughfares. New streetscape elements include new medians with landscaping and color-stamped brick pedestrian crosswalks, and decorative new streetlights completed the transformation. As the redevelopment along the Irwindale Avenue / Arrow Highway continues, pedestrian scale lighting should be considered to increase safety while creating a streetscape that is both active and inviting.



## Community Outreach

The City of Irwindale held two community workshops and released a community survey to elicit input related to the topics of safety and environmental justice. Overall, respondents indicated the following with respect to the quality of existing housing and their perception of neighborhood safety in Irwindale.

- The majority of respondents believe that Irwindale does not have an adequate supply of multifamily housing and over thirty percent of respondents indicated that their housing unit is in poor condition.
- Housing costs remains an issue for many residents in Irwindale, where housing costs represent more than fifty percent of earned income, even when combined with the income of other household members. Over twenty percent of respondents indicated that they are paying fifty percent or more of their income on housing in Irwindale.
- Crime and public safety were reported as the highest concern to community residents. About half of resident respondents indicated that they do not feel safe from crime when they bike or walk, and employees expressed safety concerns as well towards traffic and cyclists.
- When asked for ideas for improving neighborhood safety, respondents provided solutions such as an increase in law enforcement, surveillance security, more street and alley lighting (particularly on Arrow Highway), removing and clearing overgrown vegetation, and streetscape improvements that would make the pedestrian environment more inviting.

## Policies, Programs, and Regulatory Framework

This section describes existing policies, programs, and departments that exist in Irwindale and work to preserve the quality of the existing housing stock and the safety of neighborhoods.

### Departments and Agencies

#### City of Irwindale Building and Safety

The City’s Department of Building and Safety is responsible for the administration and enforcement of city, state, and federal building and safety codes. Related to health and sanitation specifically, the City contracts with Los Angeles County for building plan check reviews, and has adopted the Los Angeles County

Building Code, 2020 edition for its use. These agencies help to enforce and manage building code and health violations that contribute to unsafe and unsanitary housing and neighborhoods.

### **City of Irwindale Code Enforcement**

As part of the Community Development Department, the mission of Code Enforcement in the City of Irwindale is to ensure the health and safety of residents and to improve the quality of life and the appearance of the city. Code Enforcement accomplishes this mission by working closely with city residents and by enforcing and gaining compliance with city municipal codes and state laws dealing with health and safety, property use and maintenance, and public nuisances.

Residents may file complaints with Code Enforcement through a variety of different ways, including in person at City Hall, Community Development Department, by mail, via email, or by telephone.

### **City of Irwindale Department of Public Works City Maintenance Division**

The City Maintenance Division is responsible for ensuring the preservation and maintenance of streets, parks, facilities, and city vehicles in Irwindale. As mentioned above, functional street lighting and well-maintained streets, parks, and public facilities can provide a sense of security across a neighborhood. Residents can report street light outages to the Department of Public Works Maintenance Division or to Southern California Edison by providing the ID written on the streetlight or the exact location of the streetlight (City of Irwindale 2021).

As identified in the FY2021-22 Budget Report for the City of Irwindale, Objective #1 for the Public Services division is to continue to implement energy efficient and safety measures for all patrons and staff by upgrading to LED lighting in all city owned Facilities and Parks (City of Irwindale 2021). The City has budgeted \$185,000 to this effort, and this is an ongoing yearly effort within the City of Irwindale as the City has a total of 17 facilities to maintain. For the past two years, the Maintenance Division has inspected, retrofitted and upgraded to LED lighting parts of City Hall, the Police Department, Dan Diaz Recreation Center, Aquatics Center, Library, Jardin de Roca Park, the Senior Center, the Irwindale Park Plaza, and the newly constructed Irwindale Park Memorial Garden area. The remaining LED lighting and upgrades in city facilities and parking lots are anticipated to be completed in FY 21/22.

As inadequate street lighting was identified as a community safety concern, continued implementation of this program will not only increase the perception of neighborhood safety, but will also provide environmental benefits by ensuring that street lighting is energy efficient to the maximum extent possible.

### **City of Irwindale Police Department**

Currently, many of the neighborhood safety programs in Irwindale are facilitated and administered by the Irwindale Police Department. The Police Department was established in 1960 with one police unit and five motorcycles (City of Irwindale 2021). Today, the Police Department has grown to have five departments and provides law enforcement, traffic enforcement, and police helicopter patrols, and assists in regional task forces and public safety services to the community through its 29 officers and nine civilian employees. The Police Department also became the first in the San Gabriel Valley to incorporate radar speed enforcement capabilities and a police canine team.

The Police Department manages the City’s emergency preparedness alerts, offers a Safe Medication Disposal Program, and coordinates with other local cities for an airborne law enforcement program. The Police Department also engages in community outreach through its Community Lead Officer program, which provides public safety awareness and education on crime suppression, trends, and reporting. The Neighborhood Watch and Citizen’s Academy support these community outreach efforts.

## Outside Programs

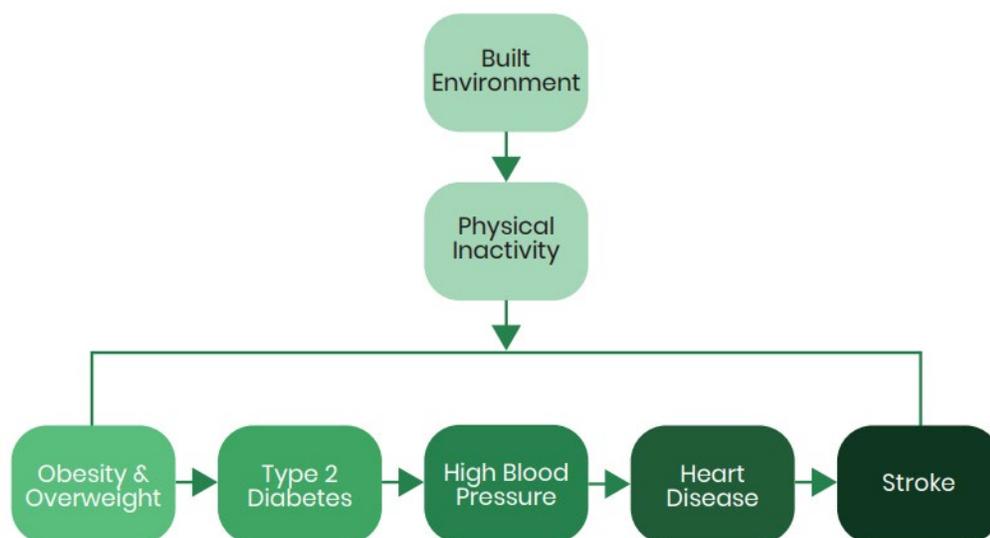
### Los Angeles County Housing Rights Center

There are many organizations outside of Irwindale that conduct work in the areas of affordable housing and create successful partnerships with jurisdictions. One organization that works closely with Irwindale is the Los Angeles County Housing Rights Center. The Housing Rights Center (HRC) was founded in 1968 and is one of the nation’s largest nonprofit organizations promoting Fair Housing (HRC n.d.). HRC provides assistance with monitoring and enforcing fair housing rights for residents of all of Los Angeles County, including Irwindale, as well as all of Ventura County. Services provided include landlord tenant counseling, outreach and education, and discrimination investigation.

In addition, the City of Irwindale publicizes fair housing services on its website (<https://www.irwindaleca.gov/137/Housing>) and also provides hard copy brochures regarding available fair housing services in the Community Development Department lobby. The City should continue to develop policies and programs that promote and encourage fair housing beyond what is required in the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element.

## 2.3 Health and Physical Activity

By providing a quality built environment the City can help improve community health, including unique and compounded health risks for vulnerable populations by promoting physical activity. This includes reducing risk for **chronic diseases**, which are long-term illnesses that often do not resolve readily and are



The built environment can impact opportunities for physical activity and health conditions.  
 Source: SCAG, 2020.

not fully curable. Chronic disease include cancer, diabetes, stroke, heart disease and hypertension, among others. Physical activity and active lifestyles, proper nutrition and reduced exposure to harm can help reduce the risk of chronic diseases, and these are elements that are influenced by the built environment, as shown in the graphic below (Perdue 2003).

Communities that are lacking in parks, open spaces, trails, supermarkets, and health care facilities can mean less opportunities for recreation, physical activity, healthy foods, and medical care, which can then impact overall health. Communities that provide access and opportunity for physical activity can promote public health and social equity due to the way the environment can facilitate healthy behaviors. (CEJA 2018).

## General Physical Activity and Health Considerations

Research has shown that social and environmental factors, including level of physical activity, air quality, access to parks and recreation, transportation safety, and availability and access to medical and health facilities are linked to over sixty percent of health outcomes (SCAG 2020). Physical activity, access to healthy foods, sense of safety in communities, and active lifestyles affect overall health and can increase vulnerability to disease and mental illness.

Certain groups of people are more prone to negative health conditions and physical inactivity than others. Poverty, ethnicity, education level, access to services, sense of safety in neighborhoods, and lack of affordable housing can increase the risk of health outcomes and hospital visits (SCAG 2020).

## Local Conditions

### Health Conditions

Physical activity can help prevent disease, and reduce the risks of heart disease, diabetes, and obesity. In Southern California, the three chronic conditions that make up a large portion of health expenditures are high blood pressure, heart disease, and type 2 diabetes. **Table 2.3-1** lists the percentages of Irwindale residents affected by health conditions linked to a lack of physical activity. Of these, high blood pressure and obesity are most prevalent in Irwindale, while cardiovascular disease and diabetes are less so.

**TABLE 2.3-1 IRWINDALE HEALTH CONDITIONS**

Health Indicator	Percent of Residents
Cardiovascular Disease	4.5%
Diabetes	11.7%
High Blood Pressure	24.7%
Obesity	30%

*Source: CDC (2021)*

## Cardiovascular Disease

**Cardiovascular Disease** or heart disease affects the blood vessels of the heart, which can result in heart attacks, strokes, and many other disorders affecting the heart and brain. Several factors can contribute to cardiovascular disease, including poor diet, lack of physical activity, smoking, and exposure to air pollution.

Approximately five percent of the population of adults (aged 18 and older) have heart disease (CDC, 2021). An estimated 11 persons per 10,000 in Irwindale have visited an emergency department for a heart attack. This rate is higher than thirty-seven percent of other communities statewide, indicating relatively better conditions as it relates to cardiovascular disease (OEHHA 2021)

## Diabetes

**Diabetes** is a chronic and life-long condition that affects the body's production or use of insulin, a hormone that regulates glucose in the blood stream. The majority of people diagnosed with diabetes have type 2 diabetes, which means the body does not use insulin well and struggles with maintaining healthy blood sugar levels. Unlike type 1 diabetes, which is a genetic disorder that often shows up early in life, type 2 is largely diet-related and develops over time. While there is no cure for diabetes, type 2 diabetes can be prevented or delayed through a healthy lifestyle. In Irwindale, approximately twelve percent of adults have diabetes (CDC 2021).

## High Blood Pressure

**High blood pressure**, or hypertension, develops over time and is diagnosed when a person experiences elevated blood pressure consistently above normal levels. Although some cases of hypertension are hereditary, many cases are caused by a lack of physical inactivity and unhealthy lifestyles, which affects the elasticity of the arteries in the body. Higher blood pressure can increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, and certain conditions such as diabetes and obesity can increase the risk for developing high blood pressure (CDC 2021). Approximately twenty-five percent of adults in Irwindale have high blood pressure (CDC 2021).

## Healthy Weight

Physical inactivity, poor diets, and overeating often contribute to unhealthy weight or obesity, which is defined as weight and body mass index that is greater than what is considered healthy for a given height. **Body mass index (BMI)** is a measure used in medicine that determines body fat based on height and weight for adult men and women. Those with a BMI of greater than 30 are considered to be at unhealthy weight (CDC 2021). In the United States, obesity is the second leading cause of preventable death and it increases the risk for many diseases, including diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and cancers (OPR, 2020). In 2019, approximately thirty percent of adults in Irwindale were considered to be at an unhealthy weight (CDC 2021). Hispanic populations are found to be more vulnerable to unhealthy weight. In 2014, almost approximately forty-six percent of Hispanic women in California were considered obese (CDPH 2016). This is significant as Irwindale's population is ninety-two percent Hispanic and so we can expect to see obesity as an issue (US Census Bureau 2020). Increase in physical activity is one of the principal ways to combat obesity.

Physical activity and healthy foods can help improve obesity conditions and secondary health concerns. See Section 2.4, Promoting Healthy Food Access, for additional information.

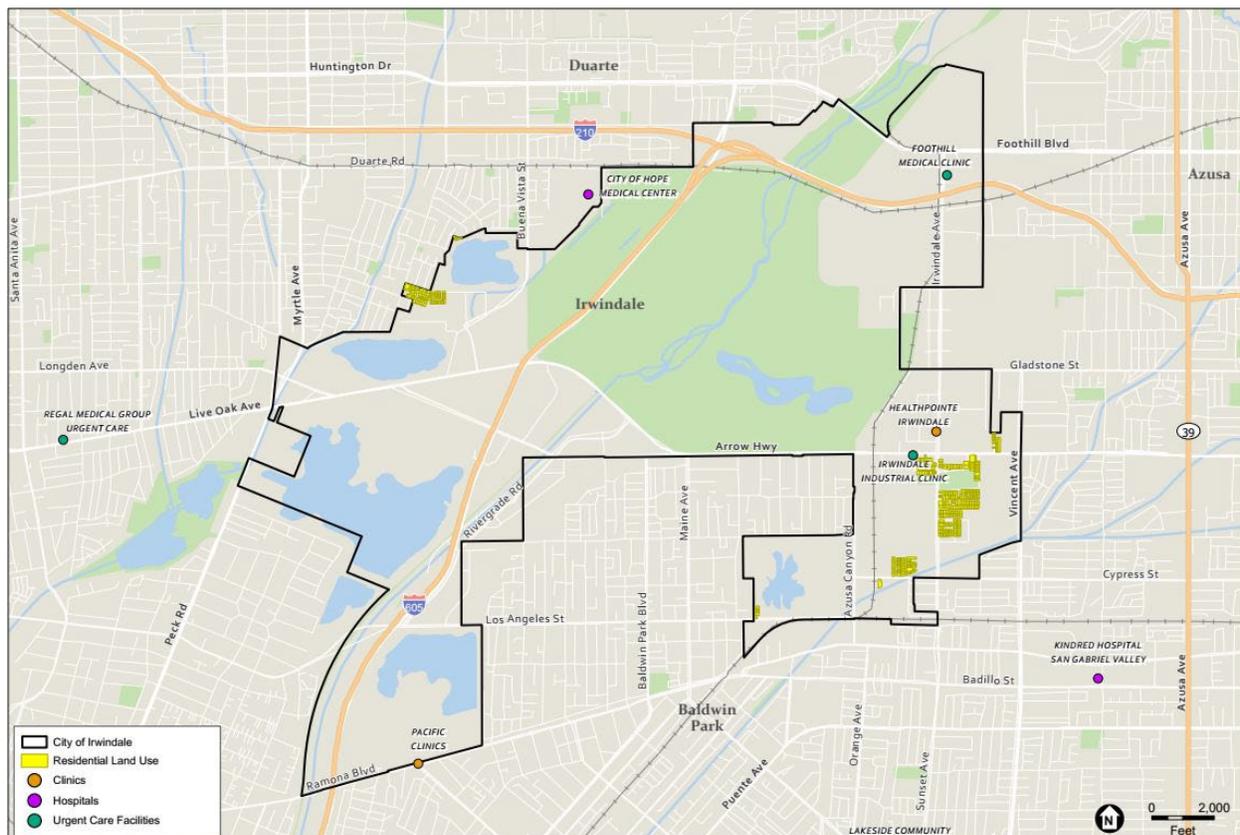
## Medical and Health Facilities

There are two major hospitals outside the City's boundary that serve the community – City of Hope Medical Center, a comprehensive cancer center located to the northwest in Duarte, and Kindred Hospital San Gabriel Valley located to the southeast in West Covina. Both hospitals provide a wide variety of emergency care

and health services, including 24-hour service and long-term care. In addition, Irwindale has two 24-hour Concentra clinics: Foothill Medical Clinic located near Irwindale Avenue and Foothill Boulevard, and Irwindale Industrial Clinic located near Arrow Highway and Irwindale Avenue. A third urgent care clinic, Regal Medical Group Urgent Care, is located to the west of the City on Live Oak Ave and also provides 24-hour services. Irwindale Industrial Clinic is the nearest urgent care facility to the majority of the City's residential neighborhoods, concentrated in the southeast, as seen in **Figure 2.3-1: Health Care Facilities in Irwindale**. There is also a nearby clinic, Healthpointe Irwindale, located along Irwindale Avenue and Arrow Highway that provides medical and occupational health care. One other clinic in the City, Pacific Clinics' Hope Drop-in Center is located on the southwestern edge of the City along Ramona Boulevard. This is a drop-in clinic that offers programs and services targeting transition-age youth ages 16-25 with a focus on mental health and housing supportive services.

Proximity to health care facilities and access to health insurance can significantly improve health outcomes for individuals. Data from 2018 identified that approximately ninety-one percent of adults in Irwindale have health insurance (Alliance 2018). Improving access to health insurance for all adults can help increase use of health facilities and improve overall community health and wellbeing. Notably, the City of Irwindale offers programs for residents that provide free prescription and vision care services.

**Figure 2.3-1 Health Care Facilities in Irwindale** shows hospitals, clinics, and urgent care facilities around the community.



Source: ESA 2022.

**Figure 2.3-1 Health Care Facilities in Irwindale**

## Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

Convenient, safe access to well-maintained and inviting parks, open space and recreational facilities is directly correlated to an increase in physical activity and overall health, including mental health. Parks often have drinking fountains, exercise equipment, nature paths and sports facilities to promote physical activity. People often walk to and around nearby parks, thereby increasing physical activity in this way as well. Increased physical exercise can reduce the risks of heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, and even some cancers. Access to parks and green spaces has been shown to provide benefits to mental health by reducing feelings of stress, anxiety, depression, and isolation. Regular exercise can also provide social and emotional benefits as residents meet each other, engage in activities together and generally share quality time together. These benefits can also reduce depression, isolation, sadness, loneliness, and anxiety: all important factors for good health. As climate change will exacerbate extreme heat conditions, communities with increased park space and tree canopy can also benefit from natural cooling and shading benefits.

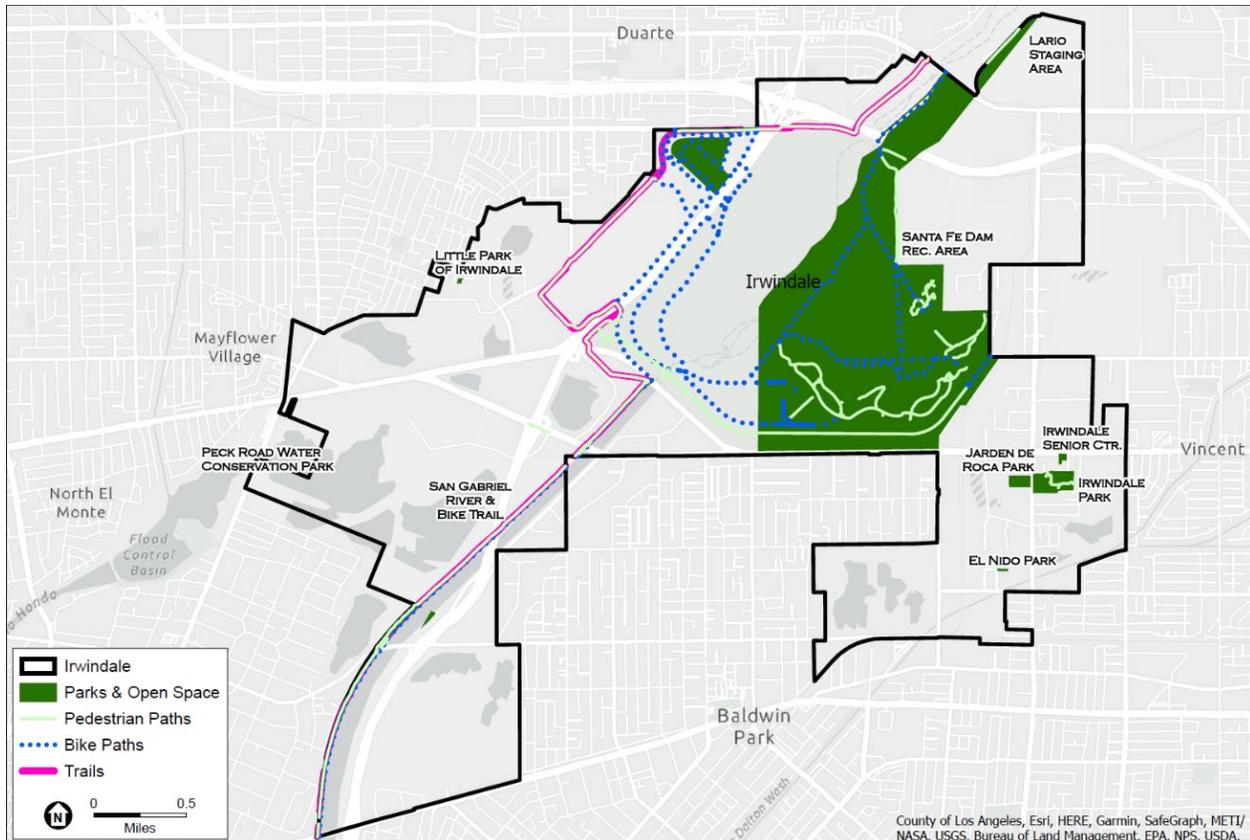
### Access to Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

There are nine parks and open space areas in the City, which take up thirty-one percent of the city's land (private and public land). A report created for the City of Irwindale by the *Trust for Public Land* gave *Irwindale a ParkScore* of sixty-one percent (Trust for Public Land, 2022), meaning that sixty-one percent of Irwindale residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. This is greater than the national average of fifty-five percent. However, this means that nearly forty percent of Irwindale residents do not live within walking distance of a park, indicating the need for more accessible parks to serve all members of the community within walking distance.



*Courtesy of the Trust for Public Land.*

See Section 2.6, Public Facilities, for additional information on public parks, open space, and recreational facilities.



Source: LA County 2021, OSM 2021, ESA 2021.  
**Figure 2.3-2 Parks and Open Spaces**

## Tree Canopy

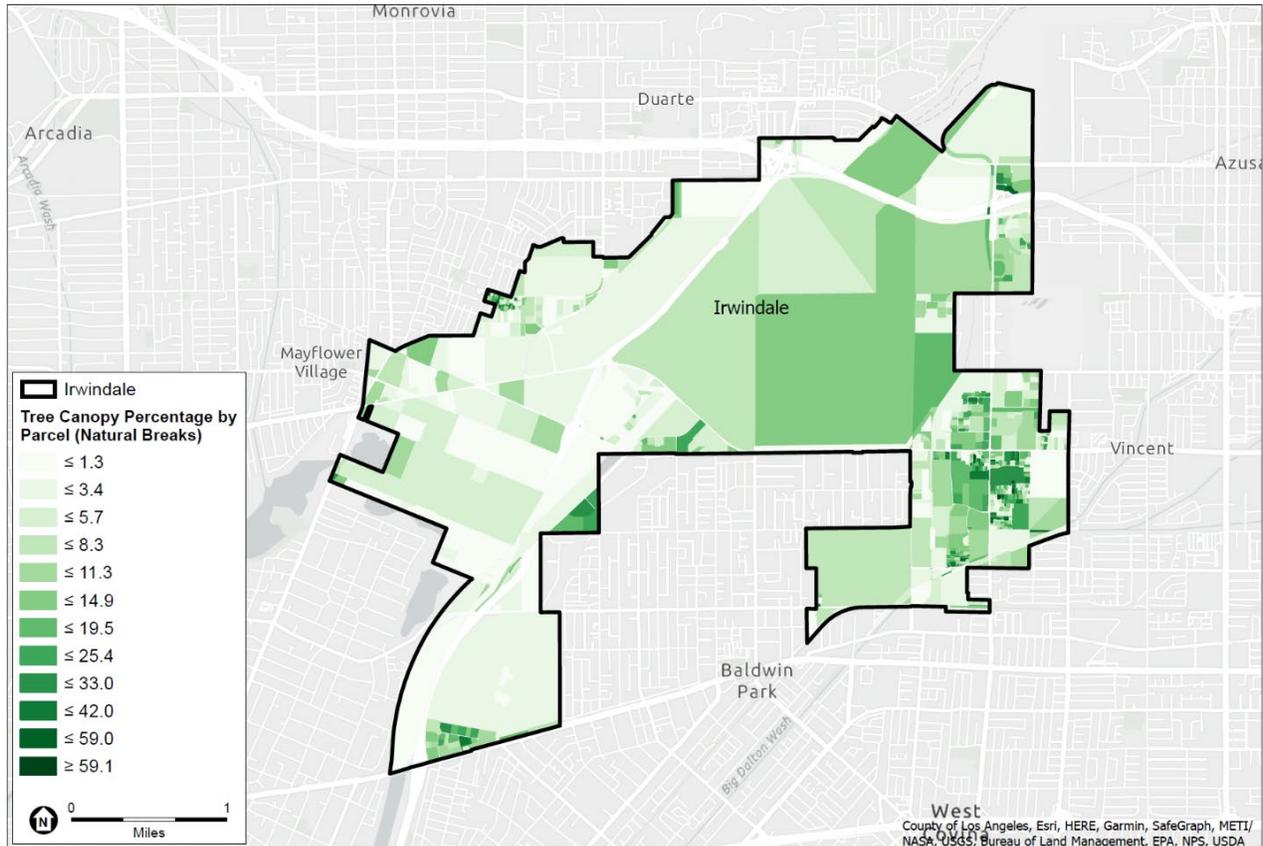
Shade and cooling provided by tree canopy can help reduce extreme heat effects and make sidewalks more comfortable for pedestrian and active transportation users. According to the LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment, tree canopies can further improve respiratory health in communities by reducing particulate air pollution (LA County 2021).

In Irwindale, the tree canopy occupies approximately seven percent of the city's land cover, which is lower than LA County's average tree canopy of eighteen percent (LMU CURES 2020). This measure for tree canopy takes into account both *existing tree canopy* and *possible tree canopy*, which includes areas that are suitable and available for establishment of trees, such as grass, shrub, bare soil, and other paved or possible impervious surfaces. **Figure 2.3-3** shows the percentage of tree canopy in Irwindale at the parcel level. Areas shown in darker green indicate higher tree canopy (existing and possible) relative to other parcels within the city. Generally, there is higher percentage of tree canopy in the eastern portion of the City, where the majority of residential and public facilities – police, fire, community center, library, recreational facility, and school exist (see Section 2.6, Public Facilities). Tree cover could be significantly improved in the northwest portion



Irwindale Avenue Meandering Pathway. *Courtesy of City of Irwindale.*

of the City along sidewalks near residential uses on Mountain Avenue leading to Little Park of Irwindale and the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area.



Source: LMU CUREs and TreePeople 2020, ESA 2021.

**Figure 2.3-3 Percentage of Existing Tree Canopy by Parcel**

## Active Transportation

A community's built environment can encourage physical activity through active transportation such as walking and biking, by maintaining sidewalks, trails, tree canopy, benches, shading, street lighting, trash receptacles, bicycle racks, and other amenities. Access and safety in these uses can make them more attractive for residents and increase the number of users.

## Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure

Approximately eighty-two percent of Irwindale commuters drive alone to work, while three percent walk and less than one percent bike. Results from a survey conducted in Irwindale for the Active Transportation Plan revealed the top challenges to walking and biking in the City, including too much vehicular traffic, meaning there are too many vehicles for pedestrians to navigate with unsafe crossings and lack of improved sidewalks; high vehicle traffic speeds; a lack of bike lanes; a lack of shade and other pedestrian amenities; and a concern with motorists not following the rules of the road, leading to collisions between motorists and pedestrians.

## Walking

Approximately three percent of Irwindale residents walk to work. The City provides and maintains public sidewalks, trails, crosswalks, lighting, street trees, benches, and other pedestrian amenities, however many of these are limited. There is inconsistent placement of sidewalks, trails, benches, trees, and trash receptacles, and many sidewalks not designed to support high pedestrian activity (Irwindale ATP 2021). The main walking trail, the San Gabriel River Trail and bike path lacks connective trails from the residential neighborhoods in Irwindale, particularly in the southwest, and trails connecting to the western part of the City. These are areas where trails can be improved and added to increase likelihood of walking for both residents and employees and encourage walking as a form of physical activity. **Figure 2.3-4** shows trails and bike paths in the City.

## Biking

Less than one percent of commuters utilize biking as their form of travel to work. The City's major roads and the existing bicycle network within Irwindale is limited, with one Class I bikeway and one Class II bikeway. **Figure 2.3-4** shows the major roads and bike paths within and near Irwindale. The San Gabriel River and Bike Trail runs northeast to southwest of the community and has an adjacent Class I bikeway that connects to the Santa Fe Recreation Area. Ramona Boulevard on the southwestern edge of the community has a Class II bikeway, which connects the City to Baldwin Park. There are no bike lanes near Irwindale's residential neighborhoods to the southeast.



Bicyclist riding on Irwindale Ave.  
*Courtesy of the Irwindale 2021 ATP.*



Source: Irwindale ATP, 2021.

**Figure 2.3-4 Active Transportation Routes**

## Public Transit

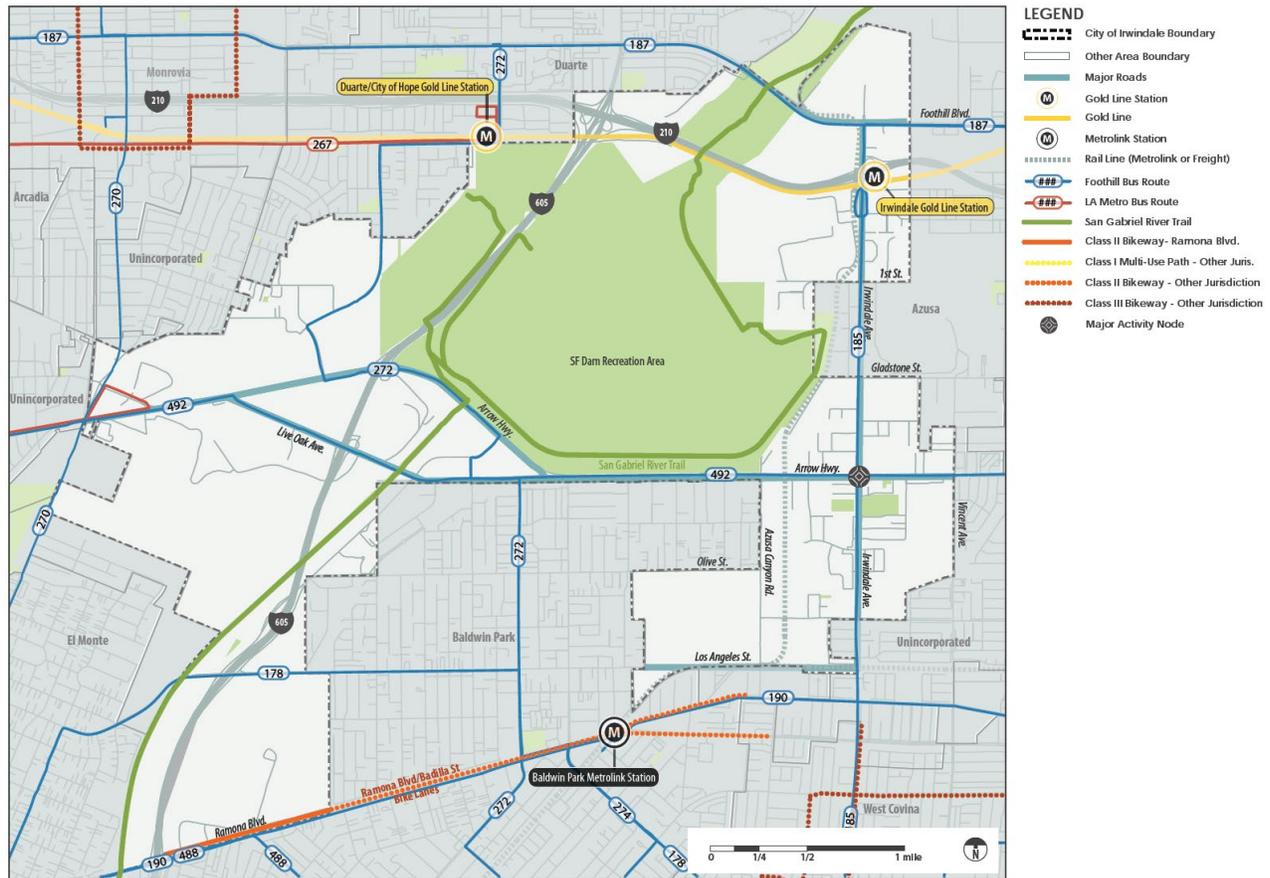
Access and proximity to transit has been linked to improved physical activity and overall health because it encourages individuals to commute and walk, instead of driving (PHASoCal 2018). According to Harvard Medical School, walking has the following five health benefits:

- Counteracts the effects of weight-promoting genes;
- Helps reduce cravings for sweets as it reduces stress levels;
- Reduces the risk of developing breast cancer;
- Eases joint pain; and
- Boosts immunity function (Harvard Medical School 2022)

Public transportation is provided by LA Metro and Foothill Transit, with bus lines running through Irwindale's major roads including Arrow Highway, Irwindale Ave, Live Oak Ave, Los Angeles Street, and Foothill Boulevard. Transit routes are shown in **Figure 2.3-5**.

Foothill Transit stops are located near Irwindale's major residential neighborhood to the southwest along Irwindale Avenue and Arrow Highway. However, this residential neighborhood is more than a half-mile

from the major transit stops to the north, making it more than a 10-minute walk for residents, which can reduce transit ridership for the rail line (PHASoCal 2018). It may be more convenient for people to drive to work than to take transit if major transit stops are located too far from where they live or need to get to, or if they need to take a separate, local bus to get to major transit. Increasing transit stops along residential uses located in the northwest of the City along Mountain Avenue as well as near major employment areas would provide access to more residents and employees of the community.



Source: Irwindale ATP, 2021.

**Figure 2.3-5 Public Transportation in Irwindale**

See Section 2.6, Public Facilities, for additional information on public infrastructure for active transportation.

## Community Outreach

The community engagement process provided opportunities for the City to better understand the needs and desires of Irwindale community members. Residents and employees expressed their desire to live healthily and that they would like to see healthier dining options and local grocery stores with access to fresh produce, as driving outside of the City to access these is inconvenient. Community members expressed that there are more fast-food options than healthy ones and suggested an increase in healthier restaurants, including those with vegan options. For a detailed report on community food access, see Section 2.4, Promoting Healthy Food Access.

Community members also identified concerns with a lack of opportunity for physical exercise and fitness and expressed concern for diabetes. Other concerns identified by residents and employees that relate to Health and Physical Activity include air quality; community safety; pandemic/Covid (i.e. masks, vaccinations, and sanitizing); not having the time to incorporate health practices, and; extreme heat.

## 2.4 Promoting Healthy Food Access

Healthy food access means that we can safely and easily get to sources of nutritious, high-quality food that fits our cultural preferences and budgets. Healthy food access is important to all of us because it is necessary for good nutrition, which affects every aspect of our wellbeing - physical, mental, social, and economic. When we eat a healthy diet – one that is rich in fresh vegetables, fruits, whole grains, minimally processed, and low in salt, added sugars, and unhealthy fats – we are more likely to lead an active healthy life.

When we can't reliably get enough nutritious food, we can experience **food insecurity**, often turning to the most affordable, accessible, and filling foods we can find, such as fast-food or highly processed snack-foods and beverages, which tend to be high in calories and low in nutrients. These foods can put us at risk for chronic health conditions such as type-2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, asthma, and some types of cancer. (Seligman et al. 2010)

### Food Insecurity

According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), a household is food insecure if it:

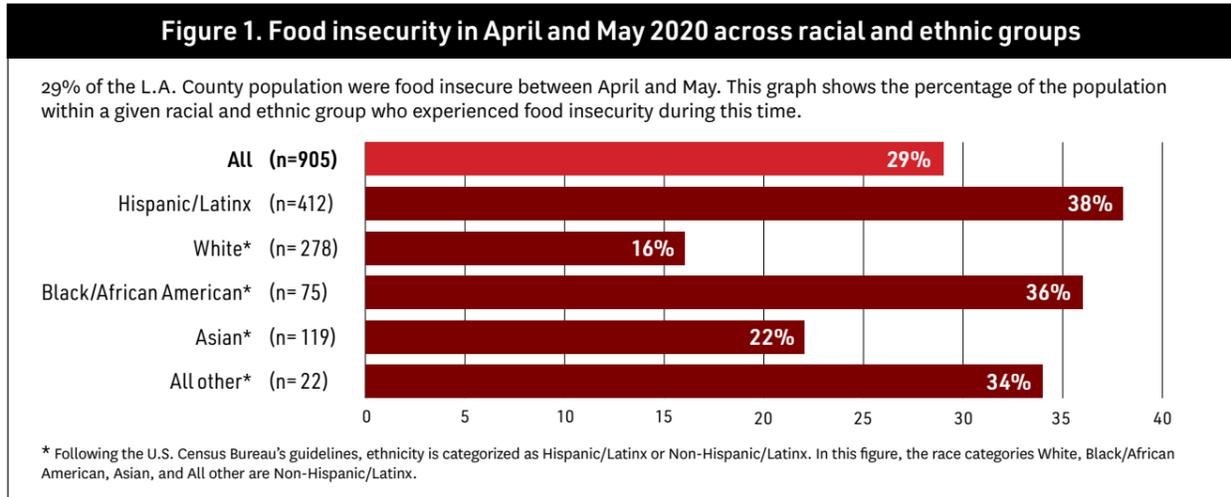
- reports a reduction in the quality, variety, or desirability of diet with little to no indication of reduced food intake (low food security), or
- reports multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake (very low food security)

Coleman-Jensen et al., 2021

The World Health Organization considers access to safe, nutritious food to be a basic human right and analysis shows that people in low-income communities of color are more likely to be denied this right. **Figure 2.4-1** below shows the results of a University of Southern California survey of 905 participants throughout Los Angeles County between April and May of 2020. Food insecurity is more than twice as likely for Hispanic/Latinx and Black/African American participants as it is for White participants.

In Los Angeles County, the most visible examples of people who struggle with food security are fixed-income seniors, people with disabilities, low-income families and unhoused people. However, the soaring costs of both housing and transportation mean that many people who work – even families with two incomes – often face challenges putting healthy food on the table (Los Angeles Food Bank 2019). The COVID pandemic that began in 2020 has made these challenges even greater (de la Haye et al. 2020)

This section describes local conditions in Irwindale related to food access and insecurity. It also provides perspectives from the community on this topic and describes existing policies and programs in Irwindale working to promote healthy food access for all members of the community.



Source: University of Southern California's Understanding Coronavirus in America tracking survey

Source: University of Southern California, 2020.

### Figure 2.4-1 Food Insecurity in Los Angeles County

## Local Conditions

### Food Access

One of the many contributors to healthy food access is how far people need to travel from their homes to sources of healthy food. One way to measure this is to determine the percentage of residences within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of healthy food sources such as supermarkets, grocery stores (with substantial produce sections), farmers markets, community gardens, and urban farms. As **Table 2.4-1** below shows, only six percent of Irwindale residences are within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of healthy food sources. Only one of the six Irwindale neighborhoods where data was available has a healthy food source within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, and that source is a grocery store in Azusa. This is a very low percentage and clearly indicates that this aspect of healthy food access is lacking in Irwindale.

The Food Access map (**Figure 2.4-2**, below) provides a geographic perspective on the data from the table above. Although there are several supermarkets and grocery stores in surrounding cities, there are no supermarkets in Irwindale, and only one grocery store, which, although it offers fresh meat, dairy, and some fruits and vegetables, doesn't have a full enough produce section to show up on this map, or to be counted here as a healthy food source. Irwindale is home to several large produce distribution warehouses, but these are not open to the public. There are no farmers markets, community gardens, or urban farms in Irwindale: places where healthy fresh food are often found in abundance.

The map also shows many fast-food outlets in eastern Irwindale. Even though fast-food restaurants may have some healthy food choices, they tend to offer less-healthy foods and contribute to lower food quality overall. Compared to healthy food sources, the percentage of residences within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of fast-food restaurants was much higher (seventy-one percent), and there were many more fast-food options within the  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile radius of most Irwindale residences.

TABLE 2.4-1 FOOD ACCESS

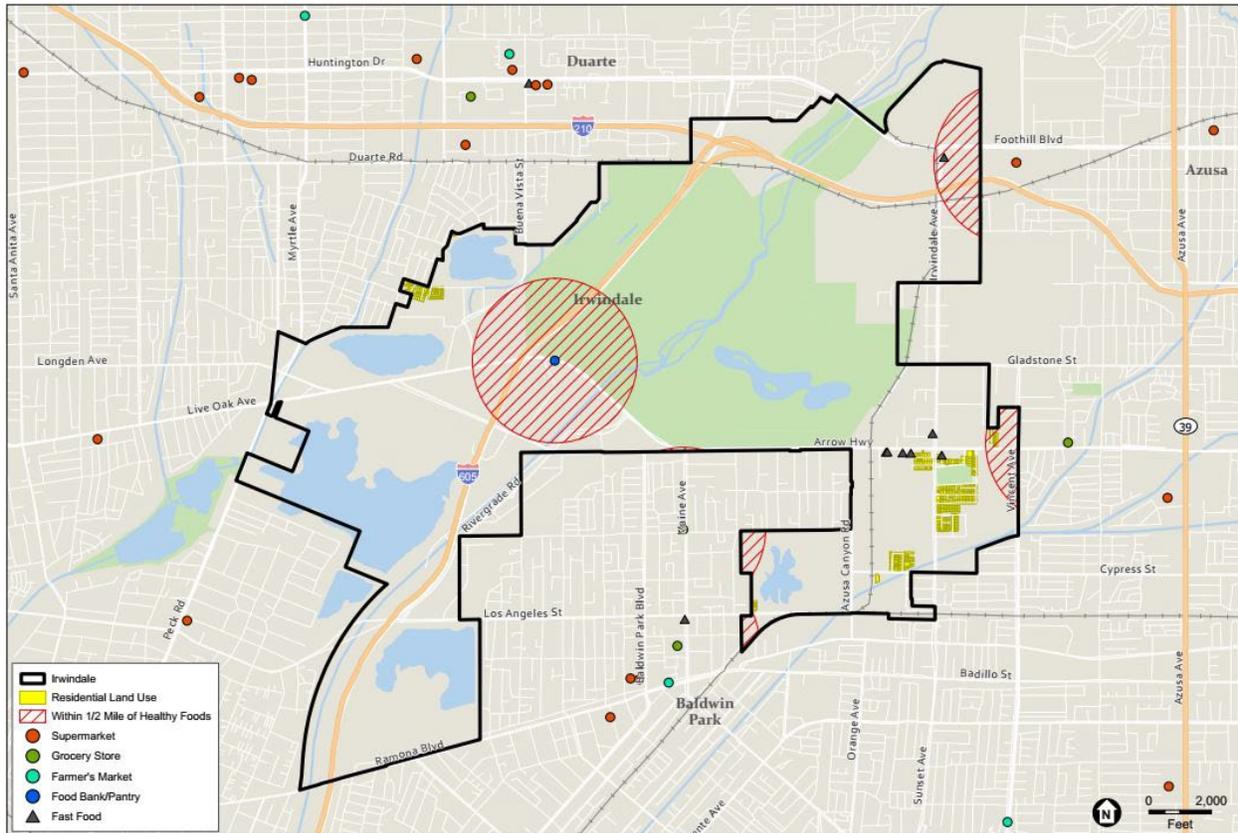
<b>Irwindale Residences within 1/2 Mile of Healthy* Vs Fast Food Sources</b>					
*farmer's market, fuller-service grocery store, supermarket					
		Units within 1/2 Mi. of Healthy Food Source		Units within 1/2 Mi. of Fast Food	
Residential Neighborhood	Dwelling Units	#	%	#	%
Town Center	204	0	0%	204	100%
Hidalgo/Juarez	49	0	0%	49	100%
Nora/Fraijo	44	0	0%	0	0%
Mountain/Meridian**	71	0	0%	0	0%
Morada Street Neighborhood	23	23	100%	23	100%
Park Avenue	NA	0			
Azusa Canyon Rd.	6	0	0%	6	100%
Vincent Ave.	1	0			
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>71%</b>
**includes 2 units from Duarte (per Google maps)					

This map includes Shepherd's Pantry, which gives staples and fresh produce, meat, and dairy products twice a month to individuals and families in need from Irwindale and surrounding communities. Shepherd's Pantry also offers ready-to-eat food items up to three times per week for those experiencing homelessness. Shepherd's Pantry is described in more detail under Existing Policies and Programs.

## Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is intertwined with many other factors such as housing, pollution, exercise, education, employment, and safety, and it isn't always possible to trace particular health conditions directly back to a dietary cause. Even so, the following health conditions linked with food insecurity are compelling reasons to continue to work on all the factors that affect the health of our communities and the people who live in them.

- Food-insecure adults are twice as likely to suffer from diabetes as are food-secure adults. (Seligman et al. 2010)
- Food insecure children are forty percent more likely to have asthma than are food-secure children. (Kirkpatrick et al. 2010)
- Marginally food insecure senior citizens were much more likely than fully food secure senior citizens to have limitations in activities of daily living, in fact, food-insecure senior citizens performed these activities at the same level as food-secure seniors who were fourteen years older. (Ziliak et al. 2008)
- Adults with very low food security (see blue box above) were at least forty percent more likely than food-secure adults to suffer from cardiovascular conditions such as coronary heart disease, high blood pressure, and heart attack. (Seligman et al. 2010)

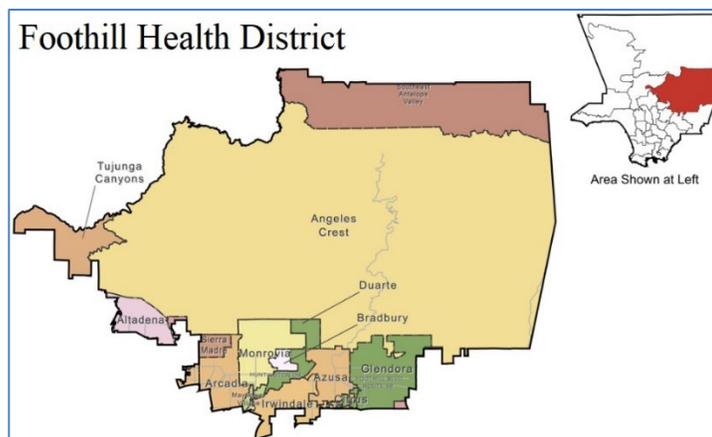


Source: OSM, SCAG, USDA, Urban Footprint, ESRI; ESA, 2021.

**Figure 2.4-2 Food Access**

Survey data can give us a window into people’s own experiences of healthy food access and food insecurity. Although this survey data is available at a regional level, rather than being specific to Irwindale, it can still help us expand our perspective beyond what we can get by simply mapping distances to food sources.

According to the LA County Department of Public Health’s 2015 health survey of eight thousand low-income households, the Foothill Health District, which contains Irwindale and surrounding communities to the north, east, and west (see map at right), is more food-secure than most of Los Angeles County, with about seventeen percent of households reporting food insecurity, compared to a County average of twenty-nine percent.



A more recent (2018) California Health Interview Survey of 620 Low-Income San Gabriel Valley residents showed San Gabriel Valley residents with only a slim advantage over Los Angeles County as a whole, with

about twenty-five percent of respondents reporting that fresh fruits and vegetables were affordable in their neighborhood only some of the time, or not at all, compared to twenty-six percent County-wide.

Because of the City’s robust investment in its community, Irwindale seniors and other low income Irwindale residents may face less food insecurity than residents of surrounding cities. According to Shepard’s Pantry’s report, only four percent of visitors to the three local food pantries in the first half of 2022 stated that they live in Irwindale. That percentage may not include some unhoused people living in the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, but it still points to a lower need for emergency food than the regional average. The City also promotes food security through the Senior Nutrition Program, which provides free nutritious lunches with locally grown produce, directly to its residents (beginning at age 50), every weekday, and delivers healthy lunches to its homebound seniors.

## Community Outreach

The City of Irwindale surveyed its resident and employee communities from December 2021 to January, 2022. Nineteen residents and sixty-four employees responded. In addition, community workshops were held on April 7th and August 9th, where in-person and remote attendees shared their ideas on improving conditions, including healthy food access, in Irwindale.

Many of the participants, both residents and employees, agreed on the need for a local grocery store and a farmers’ market to provide more convenient access to fresh food. Some residents advocated for the farmers’ market to be on a street such as Allen Drive that can be closed off, and that it coincides with events like “Music in the Park” and other City events. Employees and residents also agreed on the need for more healthy restaurants and fewer unhealthy fast-food outlets, with employees expressing the desire for vegan options as well. Residents wanted organic produce to be available at reasonable prices. They expressed interest in a community garden, and in more fruit trees. Some preferences around the community garden were that it be located in or near a park, and/or on the site of a closed mining pit, and that it be City-owned, but run by a non-City organization. Participants also voiced the need for a food pantry that accepts donations, including food from community gardens.

A June 2022 interview with the Executive Director of Shepherd’s Pantry revealed that an important part of the Pantry’s mission is to help people access job training and other resources that will allow them to graduate from the need for emergency food. The Pantry also recognizes that many will need direct food assistance for the foreseeable future. Shepherd’s Pantry looks forward to planning and partnering more closely with the City of Irwindale, other surrounding cities, and with local and regional organizations to share knowledge, support each other, and eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort. The Pantry is currently straining to meet the increased needs brought on by the COVID pandemic, and would welcome support in finding grants to fund a refrigerated van and more staff to provide case management and food transport.

## Policies, Programs, and Regulatory Framework

The City recognizes that food access is part of an interconnected web of environmental justice issues. For example, Irwindale’s greater air pollution levels has the potential to contribute to higher levels of respiratory diseases such as asthma, which could, in turn, reduce educational opportunities for children and employment opportunities for adults (LA Dept. of Public Health 2021), leading to cycles of economic stress

and food insecurity. The City, along with its Chamber of Commerce, funds several programs for its residents that enhance food access, help prevent or reduce the harmful effects of diseases and collectively save residents money that could potentially go towards healthy food choices.

## City-Funded Programs

City programs that are offered free to residents include prescription drug and vision care assistance, free senior services such as transportation, legal clinics, health screenings, and haircuts, and free youth services such as tutoring, scholarships, supervised activities, and bussing to schools. In addition, the City's Senior Nutrition Program provides free nutritious lunches – which include produce grown locally at the Baldwin Park Community Garden – directly to its residents (beginning at age 50), every weekday, and delivers healthy lunches to its homebound seniors.

## Shepherd's Pantry

Shepherd's Pantry also offers food to needy residents and to those experiencing homelessness, as mentioned in the Food Insecurity section above. According to its Executive Director, Shepherd's Pantry receives large weekly donations of fresh produce, meat, dairy, prepared foods, and bakery items from several area supermarkets, produce distribution hubs, and restaurants. They also receive staples, such as canned foods and dry milk, beans and grains from the LA Regional Food Bank. Shepherd's Pantry's three locations in Irwindale, Glendora, and La Puente distributed about fifteen hundred rations of food per month in 2021. This has increased to about eighteen hundred per month so far in 2022. Individuals and families can come every other week to get a ration, which consists of about six large bags containing produce and staples. If needed, people can come in the intervening weeks to pick up more staples. Those who can't make it to the Pantry can request home delivery. Shepherd's Pantry distributes a modest amount of donated sweets, but removes these items from the rations of recipients who request diabetes-friendly foods. They also remove high sodium items for recipients struggling with high blood pressure.

Unhoused people, including those camped near the Santa Fe Dam, can come up to three times per week for smaller rations of ready-to-eat foods, including some healthy prepared foods to eat right away. Shepherd's Pantry also provides case management to help those who are interested in accessing social services, including employment, housing, health, substance abuse, and financial assistance.

## Nutrition Education

Nutrition education is able to shape lifelong habits and provide an understanding of the types of foods that can combat disease and address various health conditions. For example, eating a diet high in antioxidants



*Image Courtesy of Shepherd's Pantry*



*Image Courtesy of Shepherd's Pantry*

such as vitamins C and E that are found in fresh vegetables, fruits, and fish, has been shown to reduce the burden of respiratory disease to people facing high levels of air pollution (Barthelemy et al. 2020).

Shepherd's Pantry manages the grant for the Nutrition in the Garden Partnership, a collaboration between Kaiser Permanente and the Baldwin Park Unified School District. This program gives elementary students a chance to plant, tend, and harvest at the Baldwin Park Community Garden, and to use their fresh produce to prepare recipes to share with their families. This program has been on hold during the COVID pandemic, but is projected to resume as soon as possible. The program is available to students living in Irwindale as Irwindale does not have its own school district and students attend schools in nearby communities.

## School Programs

While the City of Irwindale does not have jurisdiction over school siting and operations, school lunch programs offer an opportunity to provide nutritious meals to children. The lunch menus of the school districts that serve Irwindale students (Azusa, Baldwin Park, Covina, and Duarte) show that children are being offered fresh fruits and vegetables with each meal, but that the main entrées are often items such as nachos, pizza, corn dogs, cheeseburgers, chicken nuggets, etc. that one would find at a fast-food restaurant (see Covina-Valley Unified School District June 2022 Summer Lunch Menu to right). According to the nutrition information provided on these items, many exceed the American Heart Association's food procurement guidelines for sodium and saturated fats. (1<sup>st</sup> 5LA 2017)

JUNE LUNCH – SUMMER MEALS				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
6 PEPPERONI PIZZA	7 TACONADA TACO SNACK or DELI SANDWICH	8 CHICKEN ALFREDO	9 CHEESEBURGER or DELI SANDWICH	10 BBQ RIB SANDWICH
13 CHICKEN NUGGETS & TOTS	14 CORN DOG or DELI SANDWICH	15 SPAGHETTI	16 CHICKEN SANDWICH or DELI SANDWICH	17 PEPPERONI PIZZA
20 BBQ RIB SANDWICH	21 TACONADA TACO SNACK or DELI SANDWICH	22 CHEESEBURGER MAC	23 CHEESEBURGER or DELI SANDWICH	24 PEPPERONI PIZZA
27 CHICKEN NUGGETS & TOTS	28 CORN DOG or DELI SANDWICH	29 SPAGHETTI	30 CHICKEN SANDWICH or DELI SANDWICH	ENTREE OFFERED DAILY  PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY SANDWICH
<b>LUNCH INCLUDES</b> Entree  Seasonal Fresh Fruit & Vegetables  Chips or Crackers  Milk 				

Children are learning from their school-provided meals, just as they do from any other class. School nutrition programs have the opportunity to help educate the palates of the next generation to prefer healthy foods.

## 2.5 Public Facilities

An adequate supply of public facilities is a critical component to the current and future health of a community. Senate Bill 1000, which covers environmental justice defines **public facilities** as “public improvements, public services, and community amenities.” Public facilities should serve all members of the community equitably, including unhoused populations. A lack of public facilities such as open space, community centers, medical facilities, sidewalks, libraries and parks can degrade the quality of life of a community. For example, communities that lack basic infrastructure such as sidewalks and streetlights present safety hazards for residents, visitors, and unhoused populations using public spaces. Safety is particularly crucial for individuals that depend on alternate modes of transportation such as walking, riding a bike, and taking the public bus. When community members perceive they are unsafe, they are less likely to engage in physical or communal activities in their neighborhoods. This lack can occur most often in disadvantaged communities, who are disproportionately underserved by quality infrastructure in these areas.



Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area. *Courtesy of Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation*

Without physical activity made possible in part by the provision of quality public facilities and services, community health and quality of life can deteriorate. By providing quality public facilities, the City can help improve community health, particularly relating to **chronic diseases**, which are long-term illnesses that often do not resolve readily and are not fully curable. Chronic disease include cancer, diabetes, stroke, heart disease and hypertension, among others.

This section outlines the existing conditions of public facilities in Irwindale and covers a wide spectrum of publicly provided uses and services that contribute to health and physical activity, including park and recreational facilities, infrastructure, school facilities, public transportation, and emergency services. It also summarizes input provided by the community on these topics to inform goals and policies that improve access to public facilities in Irwindale.

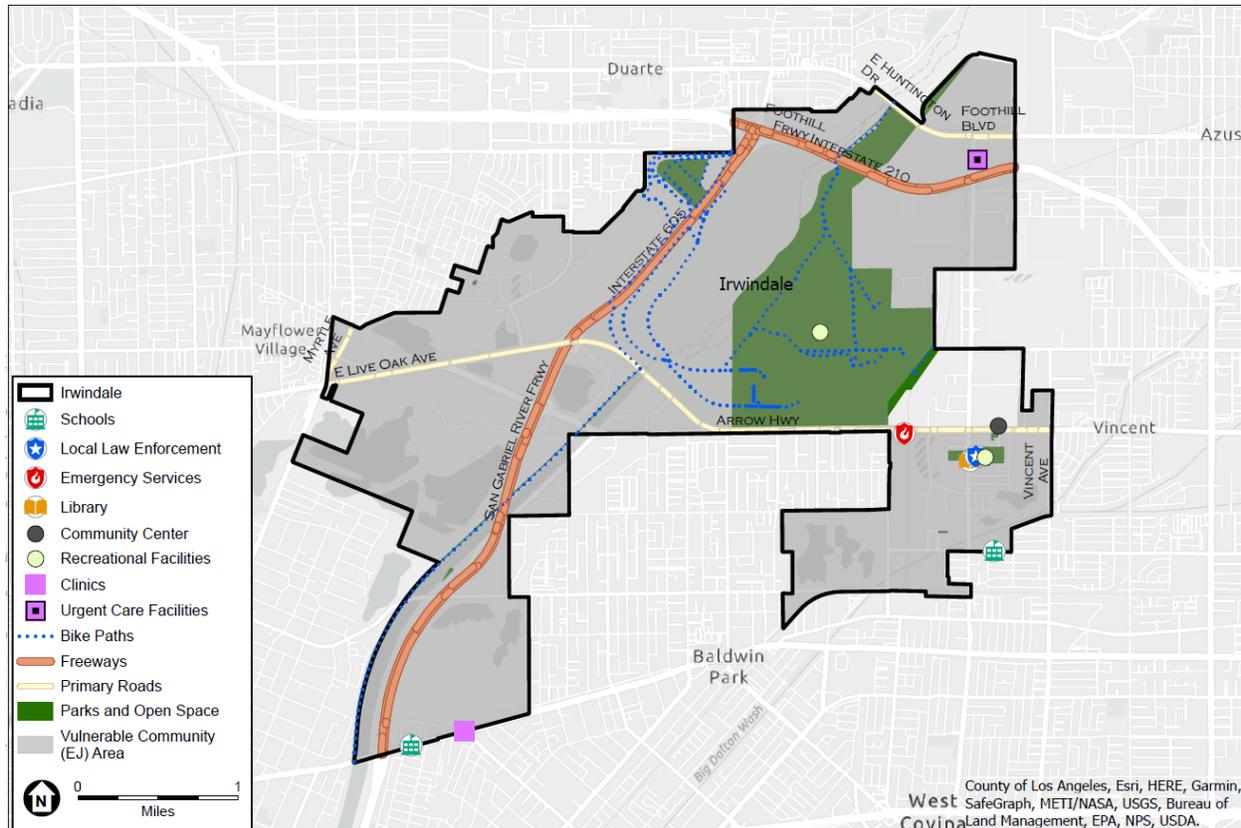
For a detailed report on community health and physical activity, see Section 2.3, Promoting Health and Physical Activity.

### Local Conditions

#### Facilities and Community Amenities

The City provides public facilities that meet a majority of civic, safety, health, educational and recreational needs. Public buildings and parks in the City include City Hall; the Irwindale Police Department; the fire station; the Library; the City’s Recreation Center; Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area; Jardin de Roca Park and Irwindale Park; the Community Center; Senior Center; urgent care and health clinics; the Post Office; and the Chamber of Commerce. **Figure 2.5-1, Public Facilities**, maps all of these public facilities listed above

in addition to other open space areas and bike paths for traveling between uses. All of these facilities, with the exception of a clinic and urgent care facility, are located off Arrow Highway and Irwindale Avenue which are within close proximity to residential uses located in the southeast but are not close to residential uses off of Mountain Avenue to the northwest.



Source: ESA 2022.

**Figure 2.5-1 Public Facilities**

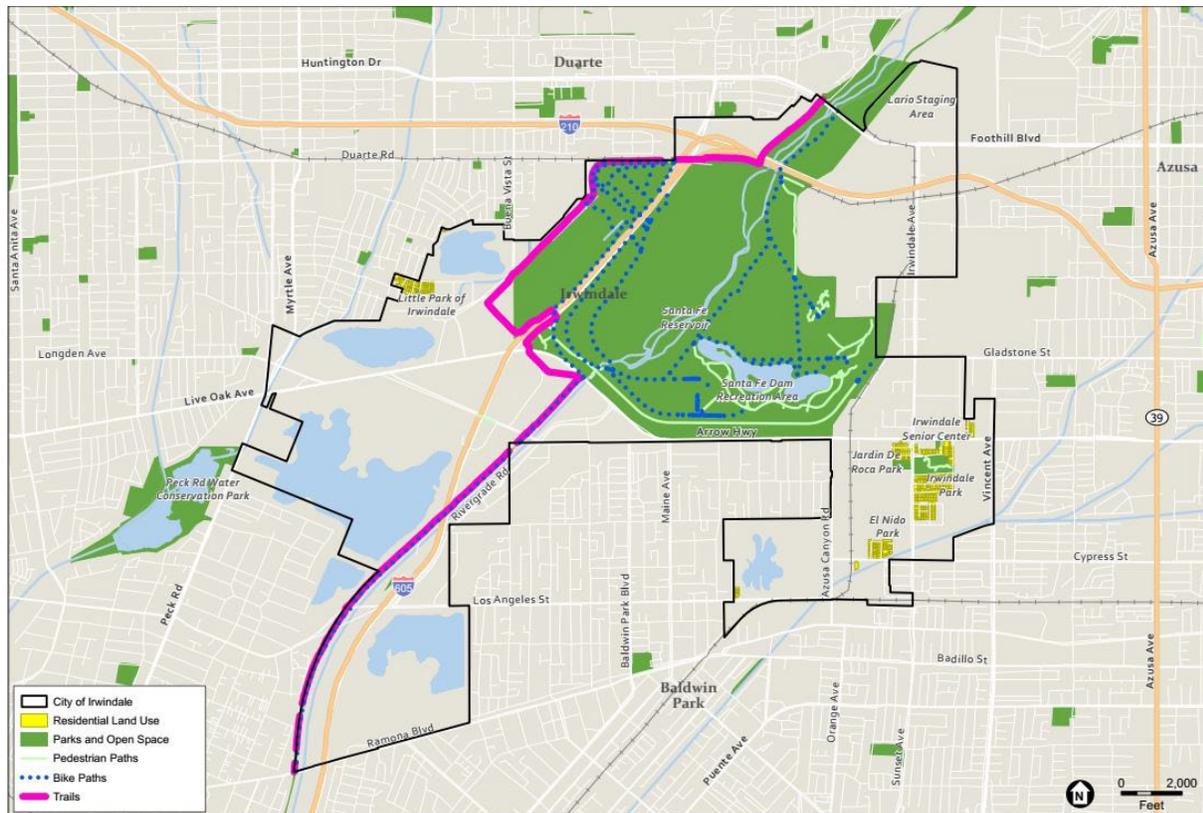
In many cases, the mere existence or proximity of certain public facilities is not enough to ensure they can be accessed by those who need them. These public facilities must be adequate to meet the needs of the community. Public facilities should be in good condition, be financially and physically sustainable, and be able to provide for the future demand, needs and desires of the community. Therefore, this section contains an assessment of existing facilities in Irwindale and how accessible they are to all members of the community.

## Public Parks, Open Space, and Recreational Facilities

The **epicenter** is the point on the Earth's surface vertically above the focus point in the crust where a seismic rupture begins.

Irwindale has nine parks and open space areas, shown in **Figure 2.5-2**, that provide various amenities. Of these, three are local parks, three are regional open spaces, and three are recreational areas (one open space park and two that are considered natural areas), as described in **Table 2.5-1**. There is approximately 1,222 total acres of park in Irwindale and 0.895 park acres per person or 895 acres per 1,000 people. The City exceeds the recognized standard of four acres of parks for every 1,000 people due to its small population size and large park spaces.

The majority of park acreage comes from the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, located in the eastern portion of the City and providing various recreation amenities including boating, swimming, hiking, camping, equestrian trails, concerts in the park, and volleyball courts, among others.



Source: LA County 2021, OSM 2021, ESA 2021.

**Figure 2.5-2 Parks and Open Spaces**

Parks also require convenient and safe access to maximize their use and benefits to the community. If provided with safe sidewalks, park paths, enough street lighting, and street trees for beauty and shading, residents are more likely to walk in their neighborhoods and access nearby parks and open space areas. (TPL 2022). According to the City's Active Transportation Plan, there are a number of sidewalks within the City that need beautification and infrastructure improvements (lighting, crosswalk markings and countdowns, etc.). Other streets have sidewalks on only one side, and are in need of additional sidewalks, such as along Irwindale Avenue (City of Irwindale 2021). Improving and adding sidewalks, particularly enroute to parks and open space areas, would facilitate safer and inviting access to existing park facilities.

**TABLE 2.5-1 IRWINDALE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE**

<b>Park</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Size (acres) within Irwindale</b>	<b>Amenities</b>
Peck Road Water Conservation Park	Regional Open Space	0.756	Picnic tables, trails, lakes, mountain biking, horseshoe pits
San Gabriel River and Bike Trail	Natural Area	201.031	Biking, walking path, horseback riding allowed, wildlife watching
El Nido Park	Local Park	0.489	Picnic tables, tot lot
Irwindale Park	Local Park	15.248	Trails, tennis, basketball, baseball, skate park, picnic tables, pool, gym
Jarden de Roca Park	Regional Open Space	4.555	Skate park, tennis courts, tot lot, walking path, picnic tables, outdoor basketball court
Irwindale Senior Center	Regional Open Space	1.247	Open space area
Little Park of Irwindale	Local Park	0.404	Picnic tables, tot lot
Lario Staging Area	Natural Area	45.614	Equestrian staging area, equestrian trails, horseback riding allowed, biking, picnic tables, trails
Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area	Regional Recreation Park	952.381	Lake area, swimming, boating, equestrian trails, horseback riding allowed, walking, biking, hiking trails, camping, open space area, concession stands, fitness zones, bird walks, fishing, picnic tables, concerts in the park, volleyball courts

Source: LA County (2021).

In addition to the importance of facilitating access to parks and recreational resources, and ensuring that they are safe, inviting and well-maintained, the affordability and programming of these services has an impact on their use and benefits to the community. Affordable or free programs that appeal to the diverse interests of all residents, can help promote physical activity.

The goals and policies in this Element address improving and adding new parks, park buildings and equipment, and recreational facilities, expanding recreational programs, and ensuring access for all residents to all facilities and programs.



Santa Fe Dam Park. *Courtesy of Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation Website*

## Community and Recreation Centers

Irwindale has a community center and recreation center, located in the southeastern portion of the community. Community centers provide multiple benefits to a community by being centers of activity for community members of all ages. These facilities can provide space for recreational and educational activities and provide meeting rooms for community groups. Community centers can also be venues for community events and be rented out for banquets and weddings. The local recreation and park district owns and maintains these facilities and administers many of the activities that occur at the centers. Community centers are often located in public parks.



Paddle Boats at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area. *Courtesy of City of Irwindale.*

As shown in **Figures 2.5-1**, there is only one identified community center within the City of Irwindale and it is located along Arrow Highway. The community center offers recreation programs, such as the ROCKing Recreation at Home, fitness classes, yoga classes, arts and crafts activities, and educational resources. The community center is not very accessible to residents residing in the northwest portion of the city. The recreation center (Dan Diaz Recreation), located next to the community center and in Irwindale Park, offers various amenities including a basketball court, game room, weight room, cardio room, showers and lockers, and rental facilities.

## Public Schools



Merwin Elementary School Gym.  
*Courtesy of the Covina-Valley Unified School District Website*

There is only one K-12 school, Merwin Elementary School, located in the City of Irwindale, which is part of the Covina-Valley Unified School District. The Covina-Valley Unified School District includes nine elementary schools serving grades kindergarten through 5th grade, three middle schools serving grades 6 through 8, 3 comprehensive high schools, and 1 alternative school. Merwin Elementary School (Merwin) located on the southeastern boundary of the City on Cypress Avenue, is the only public school facility serving the City. Merwin borders the City of Covina and serves the communities of Irwindale and unincorporated Covina with an enrollment of approximately 500 students. The campus hosts the Covina Children’s Center which provides before and after school childcare and Think Together after-school care for school-age students that attend Merwin.

The student body of Merwin reflects the largely Hispanic, lower-income demographic composition of the City’s residents. Of the 486 students, approximately ninety percent are Hispanic; four percent are White; three percent are Asian; two percent are Filipino; one percent identifies as “other”, and; less than one percent are African American. At Merwin Elementary School, 83.5 percent of the students qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch, 22.6 percent are English Learners with the majority speaking Spanish, 7.6 percent are GATE identified, and 12.9 percent are Students with Disabilities (Merwin Elementary 2021).

In addition, students from Irwindale attend schools in three other districts, described below:

- **The Azusa Unified School District:** The Azusa Unified School District serves close to 7,000 students. Schools include nine elementary, three middle, one K through 8, and three high schools, as well as an Adult School and Alternative Education school.
- **Baldwin Unified School District:** The Baldwin Unified School District is represented by its twelve TK through 5th grade elementary schools, three 6th-8th middle schools, one K-8th STEM Academy, two comprehensive high schools, one continuation high school, an adult education center, and an Early Childhood Education (ECE) program. Currently in the 2021-2022 school year, the Baldwin Park Unified School District has a K-12 enrollment of 12,000 students.
- **Duarte Unified School District:** The Duarte Unified School District includes one preschool, one kindergarten through 5th grade elementary school, one TK through 6th grade school, four TK through 8th schools/academies, one middle school serving grades 6 through 8, and two high schools.

While the four school districts mentioned above serve Irwindale residents, some students living within the city must travel to neighboring cities to attend school, as there is only one public elementary school within the city boundary. (refer to **Figure 2.5-1** for location of schools within Irwindale). Irwindale has one school located on the southeastern edge of the City. Merwin Elementary School is accessible by car, foot, and bus to residents living in the residential areas located in the southeast but only accessible by car and bus to residential neighborhoods in the northwestern portion of the City. Due to residents having to enroll their children in districts located outside the City and the limited access to schools for residential communities in the northwest, the City is lacking school accessibility, particularly for middle school and above.

## Public Libraries

Public libraries are a critical and free public service and are a signature of a healthy community for businesses, families and individuals that live and work in the community. Availability and free access to public libraries helps increase opportunities for EJ communities.

In the City of Irwindale, there is one Library located at City Hall. The Irwindale library offers free access to reading material, homework help, in-person story time, online tutoring services, mobile printing, adult learning and eBooks and digital resources. The Irwindale Library offers a variety of digital resources to Irwindale residents, as listed in the call out box. The Library also allows residents to check out items such as electronics, tools, and appliances, that they might otherwise need to rent or buy.



Irwindale Library. *Courtesy of the City of Irwindale.*

Irwindale Library Digital Resources include:

- **Hoopla** – all-in-one media service with 700,000+ titles in six different formats— audiobooks, eBooks, comics/graphic novels, full music albums, movies, and TV for instant borrow, download or stream
  - **LearningExpress** –e-learning platform featuring online tutorials, practice tests and e-books to help with educational and professional goals, including tools and resources for job searching, workplace skills, career certification exams, and college and grad school admissions test prep
  - **PressReader** – unlimited, digital access to 7,000+ of the world's most popular newspapers and magazines on any device
  - **ProQuest** – collection of six databases, often aligned with school curriculums. Databases offer cultural information of world countries; periodical and digital media content; literacy tools, tutorials and learning modules, and; general resources for students to develop research, writing, language and computer skills
  - **DigiLab** – Irwindale Public Library Digital Archive that features photos and other materials that document the City's history.
  - **Brainfuse JobNow & VetNow** – career and learning tools to assist with job searching, applications, interview preparation, tutoring, and practice tests; and tools for Veterans to learn about eligible benefits and community resources
  - **Rosetta Stone** – easy-to-use program to assist with learning new languages
  - **LawHelpCA.org** – statewide resources for easy access to self-help information on legal issues and referrals to local legal aid resources
  - **Tuition Funding Sources** – database on scholarships for college and college-bound students
  - **Citizenship study guide** – free citizenship study program offered in both English and Spanish
  - **Tutor.com** – live, individual tutoring and career services with access to over 3,000 professional academic and career tutors
  - **Flipster** –digital magazine issues that can be browsed on mobile devices or downloaded for offline reading
  - **Tumble Book Library** – eBook database for children and students in grades K-6
  - **eBooks** – eBooks, digital audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, and streaming video
  - **California State Library, Services for People with Print Disabilities** –books, magazines, playback equipment, audiobooks, and other print resources in Braille
- Source: City of Irwindale, 2021.

The Irwindale Library conveniently serves the southeastern portion of the city, south of Arrow Highway, where residents living off Irwindale Avenue, between Cypress Street and Arrow Highway have access by car, foot, and transit. Residents in the northwest portion of the City are approximately 5 miles from the public library and most likely access the library by car or bus.

## Emergency Facilities



Ty Henshaw, Former Chief of Police.  
*Courtesy of the City of Irwindale*

Emergency facilities within Irwindale include the Irwindale Police Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) station, as shown in **Figure 2.5-1**. Police stations act as local hubs that provide specialized law enforcement services to the whole community. There is one police station in Irwindale located in Irwindale City Hall at 5050 N Irwindale Avenue. Police personnel provide several programs and services focused on crime prevention, including Neighborhood Watch, Homeless Outreach, Substance Medication Disposal with the Rite Aid Foundation, and Air Support. In addition, the department hosts special business and resident events such as the National Night Out, Coffee with the Chief, and Menudo

with a Cop. The Irwindale Police Department also uses the *CivicReady* system to issue urgent notifications, critical information, emergency instructions, public safety warnings, and other communications to subscribed users via email, text message and voicemail. The department also uses social media accounts and National Crime Stoppers to provide event information and police activity updates to the public.

Fire districts provide emergency medical rescue and fire protection services, such as firefighting, urban search and rescue, hazardous materials response, and homeland security. To provide a high level of cost-effective fire protection and prevention services to residents and the business community, the City contracts with the LACFD. The LACFD operates Station 48 located at 15546 E Arrow Highway in Irwindale, which serves not only the City but also the cities of Azusa, Baldwin Park, Covina, and Duarte.

The Irwindale Police Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department Station 48 serve all of Irwindale. Additionally, through a mutual aid contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the City of Irwindale receives special weapons team services as necessary as well as other specialized equipment and services to assist with law enforcement.

According to the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, an evacuation shelter may be set up by the Red Cross at the request of the County if an area must be evacuated for an extended amount of time. In general, however, the location for an evacuation shelter will be announced by local officials once a safety assessment is complete and the shelter is ready to accept those affected by the evacuation. For a detailed report on hospital services and medical facilities in Irwindale, see Section 2.3, Promoting Health and Physical Activity.

## Public Transportation, Public Realm, and Alternative Transportation Facilities

A community's streets and streetscapes can encourage physical activity by providing safe, connected and attractive places to walk and bike, including well-maintained sidewalks, trails, paths and bike lanes; a shady tree canopy; and other public amenities such as benches, street lighting, trash receptacles, bicycle racks, shade structures and other amenities. When everyday conveniences such as stores, restaurants, parks and schools are located within walking distance of a neighborhood, opportunities for exercise increase. If it is

easy and safe to walk to these places, then more residents will walk or bike to them, thereby increasing physical activity and providing a place for community members to interact.

Land use patterns that facilitate healthy living can be achieved by encouraging in-fill development and locating destinations closer to housing, focusing development in mixed-use districts and along major transit corridors, constructing a diverse mix of uses throughout the City, and encouraging land use patterns that promote walking, bicycling and transit use. The City can focus land use efforts on this healthier approach with policies that improve the walkability of existing streets.

The 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year population estimates show that approximately forty-one percent of the population works within the City (Irwindale ATP 2021). **Table 2.5-2** shows commute patterns for Irwindale. The majority of commuters (eighty-two percent) drive alone to work and biking to work represents less than one percent. This indicates a need for improved active and public transportation modes as a way to promote physical activity and health for commuters.

**TABLE 2.5-2 IRWINDALE COMMUTE PATTERNS**

Travel Mode	Percentage of Users
Car, Truck or Van – single driver	82%
Car, Truck, or Van – Carpool	8%
Public Transportation	3%
Walking	3%
Biking	<1%
Motorcycle and other means	1%
Worked from Home	2%

*Source: Irwindale ATP (2021).*

## Bicycle Infrastructure

Less than one percent of commuters in Irwindale utilize biking as their form of travel. While more than forty percent live and work in the City, previous city studies have revealed that the top challenges to biking include a lack of bike lanes, high vehicle traffic speeds, and too much traffic. If people have safe, well-maintained bicycle paths and bike racks, they are more likely to bike either for pure recreation or to reach a specific destination, such as work, the post office, or the library. Communities are often designed with the car in mind and this can lead to a built environment where biking is unsafe or unpleasant.

Unsafe roads designed with only the car in mind can lead to collisions with bicyclists, risking injury or death (OEHHA 2021). From 2011 to 2017, there were a reported 40 collisions between bicyclists and motorists in the City of Irwindale. This represents almost three percent of all reported collisions in the City, which is relatively low compared to other jurisdictions in the region (Irwindale ATP 2021). Nonetheless, collisions indicate a need for improved bicycle infrastructure to better protect bicyclists, especially at “hot spots” where greater collisions are reported. Within the City, the intersections of Irwindale Avenue/Arrow Highway and Irwindale Avenue/Foothill Boulevard are identified as collision hot spots (ATP 2021).

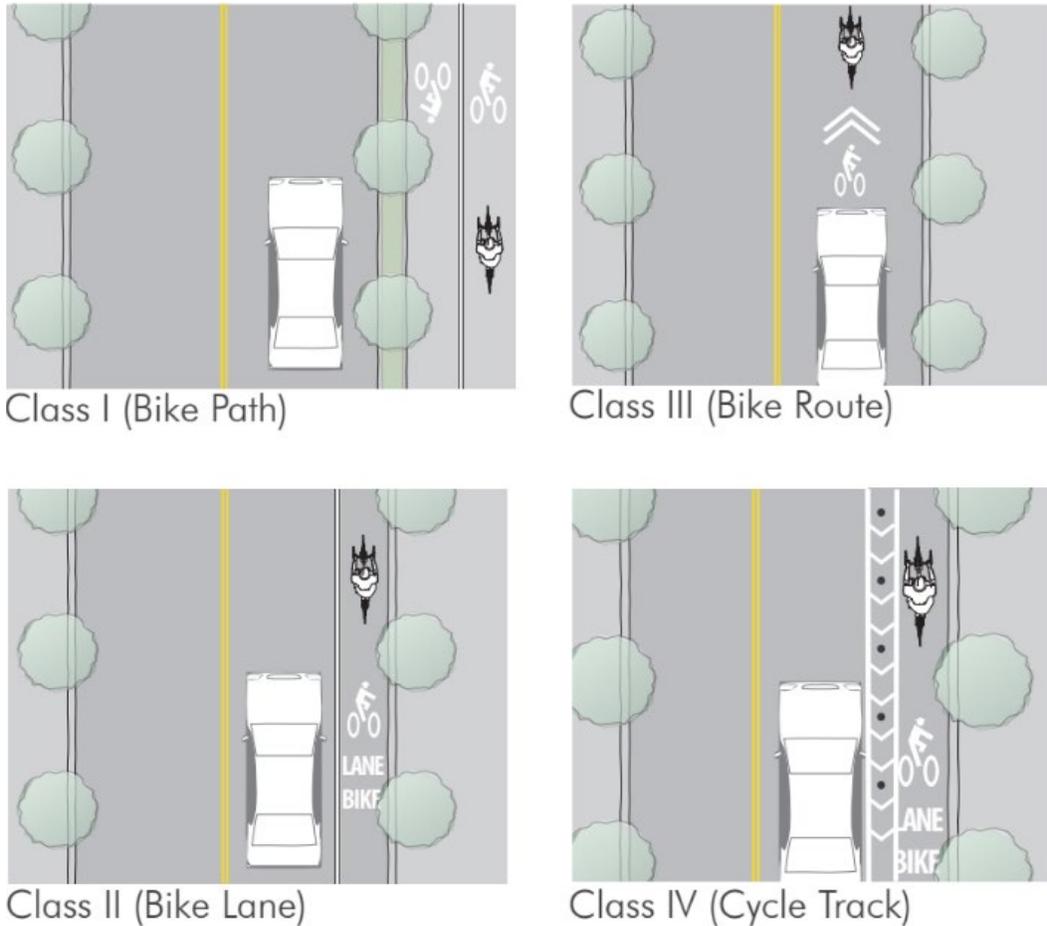
**Figure 2.5-4** shows the City’s major roads, trails, and bicycle network. The San Gabriel River Trail, shown in green, runs northeast to southwest through Irwindale for approximately 10 miles and adjacent to the

Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area. Bike lanes are categorized into **four classes: I, II, III, IV** as either bike paths or lanes, as shown in **Figure 2.5-3**. The optimum classes are those where the bike is physically



San Gabriel River Trail. *Courtesy of Irwindale ATP, 2021.*

separated from the vehicular traffic. The San Gabriel River Trail has an adjacent **Class I bike path or multi-use path**, which is a separated, paved trail that provides a low-stress and comfortable route for both bicyclists and pedestrians. The bike path along the San Gabriel River is one of the most regionally significant bikeways of the San Gabriel Valley as it connects various communities and amenities to the north and south of Irwindale.



Source: Irwindale ATP, 2021.

**Figure 2.5-3 Types of Bikeways**

Additionally, the City has one Class II bike lane along Ramona Boulevard in the southwestern edge of the community (ATP 2021). **Class II bike lanes** allocate a portion of the roadway for exclusive use by bicyclists, generally enhanced with pavement striping, buffers, and signage. Beyond the city's boundary to the south, a Class II bike path is located on Ramona Boulevard/Badilla Street. **Class III bike routes** are shared on roadways between vehicles and bicyclists, and are generally marked by signage. A Class III bike path exists along Irwindale Avenue, but does not extend into the City. **Class IV bikeways or cycle tracks** are adjacent to roadways and separated by traffic by physical barriers for exclusive use by bicyclists. Class IV bike paths are not present in or surrounding the community of Irwindale.

There is a lack of bikeways of all classes where most residents and community amenities are located, mostly in the southeast by Arrow Hwy and Irwindale Ave. These neighborhoods have access to the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area and San Gabriel River Trail and bike path; however, there is lack of connectivity to nearby bike routes, transit stations and to the western area of the city in general. There are opportunities to create more bikeways and to connect with bikeways from other jurisdictions.

## Pedestrian Infrastructure

Approximately three percent of Irwindale residents walk to work, even though forty-one percent of the working population actually live in the City. This fact would indicate that walking may not be safe, attractive, or encouraged. Previous studies in Irwindale revealed that the top challenges to walking in the City include too many vehicles to navigate, sense of safety, lack of shade, sidewalks and crosswalks in need of improvements, motorists not following the rules of the road, and potential for collisions between motorists and pedestrians. From 2011 to 2017, there were a reported 22 collisions that involved pedestrians. This represents almost two percent of all reported collisions in the City (Irwindale ATP 2021). Multiple collisions have occurred at the intersections of Irwindale Ave/Foothill Blvd and as on Irwindale Ave/Arrow Hwy, as well as near freeway on-ramps and off-ramps. Most collisions were caused by drivers engaging in unsafe lane changes, unsafe turning, and failure to follow traffic signals and signs. Other factors included high speeds, and unmarked pedestrian crossings that create unsafe conditions.



Unmarked crossing (left) and marked pedestrian crossing (right).

Irwindale's streets have sidewalks and other pedestrian amenities placed inconsistently throughout the City, which are the features that make walking feasible. **Pedestrian amenities** include sidewalks, trails, crosswalks, signals, lighting, trees and shade, shelters, benches, curb ramps, signage that aids pedestrian in finding their way through the city, and other features that enhance safety and comfort for pedestrians. Improvements and increasing these will increase the number of individuals who use walking as a form of travel, commute, or recreation, and especially for reaching key destinations in and around the city, including schools, job locations, and parks and recreation areas.

Most major roads in Irwindale have sidewalks on both sides of the road, helping with walkability and connectivity. However, a small portion of roadway along Live Oak Ave to the west has no sidewalks, which reduces pedestrian connectivity to San Gabriel River Trail and to the eastern portion of the City where the majority of residential neighborhoods and public facilities are located. Additionally, many smaller roads in neighborhoods in the eastern side of the City have no sidewalks or a sidewalk on only one side of the street, including neighborhoods near Arrow Hwy and Irwindale Ave, where there is greater access to parks and public facilities. This discourages residents from walking in their own neighborhoods, which is typically a prime location for people to get out and walk.

## Public Transit

Approximately three percent of Irwindale commuters use public transportation to get to work (ATP 2021). There are several local bus and rail lines that connect the City to surrounding areas and the larger Los



## Public Facilities, Parks and Recreation

In addition to wanting to see infrastructure improvements such as bicycle lanes, trees along sidewalks, and well-lit pedestrian walkways, residents also shared an interest in more recreation programs for residents of all ages.

In the community survey, a majority of residents (seventy-one percent) reported that they use parks and recreational facilities in Irwindale, and a smaller portion (twenty-nine percent) indicated they do not. This was principally based on their perception that the existing parks and recreational facilities are run-down or need equipment improvements. Also, residents that do not use parks and recreation facilities in Irwindale cited a lack of recreation programs and amenities. Residents would like to see more youth programs, skate parks, trails, and new classes (i.e., exercise and fitness, and technology courses). Additionally, they would like more notice of and information about the existing programs, requesting that flyers be mailed to homes, similar to what is done with City event flyers. Knowing more about the programs and opportunities would encourage residents to use the facilities and participate in the programs more. During a community workshop, residents expressed the following with relation to Public Facilities in Irwindale:

- A need for more parks with a particular interest in dog parks;
- A desire to expand the Police Department Station;
- A request for more recreational facilities;
- Transportation options such as a shuttle that would take residents to neighboring cities so they have access to more recreational and commercial/retail areas; and
- An increase in urban greening, water supply, and tree canopy at the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area.

In contrast to residents, a majority of employees in Irwindale (seventy-eight percent) indicated that they do not use parks and recreation facilities while approximately twenty-two percent do. Several factors influenced employees' access to parks and recreation, including not being a resident and already accessing parks and recreation in their own hometowns, Pandemic (COVID-19) concerns, a perception that facilities are unwelcoming, unsafe, and/or not convenient, and a concern with homeless individuals and camps occupying parks and recreational areas. Employees indicated several improvements to parks and recreation facilities that would encourage more access, such as receiving more information regarding weekend events or programs; having more adult activities for 18-35 year olds; improved lighting at parks at night; improved cleanliness; feeling welcomed; living closer to or in Irwindale; earlier start times for programs, (i.e., lap swimming at 5am before work); improved parking at facilities, and; addressing homelessness in the parks.

## Public Transportation

Residents expressed a need for improvements to public transportation, including roads, sidewalks, connective pathways, alleys, bikeways, lighting, and trees. These improvements and features would increase connectivity between people and places of interest, including public facilities and transit, and would make walking and biking safer along major roads such as Irwindale Avenue and Arrow Highway. Residents also suggested creating an incentive program for walking/biking/carpool to reduce vehicle trips. Reducing industrial uses was also raised as an issue as a way to create safer conditions and encourage more walking, biking and public transit. Both residents and employees indicated that safety is a major concern for bicyclists and pedestrians, as it relates to crime, homelessness, and vehicles. Some suggestions for improvement to safety as it relates to public facilities included increased surveillance, security, law enforcement and street lighting to improve safety conditions along roads. Most employees indicated that they are not usually able to walk and/or bike in Irwindale due to relying on their car to save time and/or needing to make various trips throughout the day.

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