





## Chapter 9

# Equitable and Healthy Communities

The Equitable and Healthy Communities Element of the Palmdale General Plan outlines the goals and policies related to public health, equity, and environmental justice in Palmdale.

# Statutory Requirements

## Senate Bill 1000: Planning for Healthy Communities Act

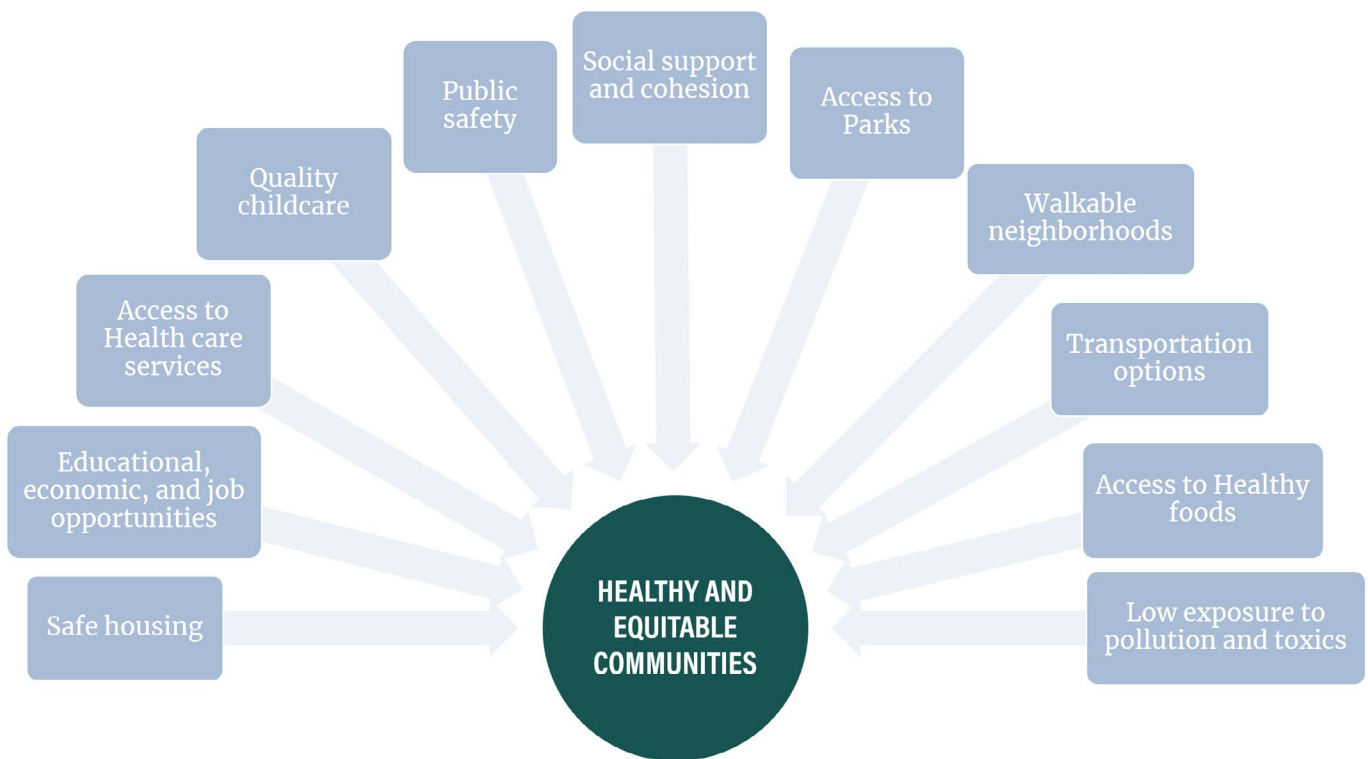
Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), or the Planning for Healthy Communities Act, requires jurisdictions with disadvantaged communities to develop an environmental justice element, or related environmental justice goals and policies, as part of their general plans. The goal of SB 1000 is to help identify and reduce risks in communities disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. In doing so, SB 1000 offers an opportunity to address existing community health concerns and mitigate the impacts of future health issues.

# Overview

## Healthy Communities

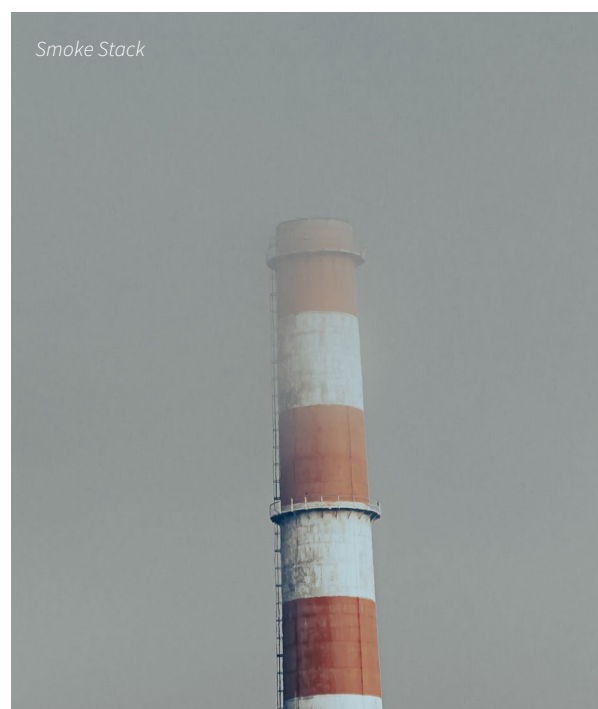
Healthy communities are places that foster positive health outcomes for all who live, work, and play. Good nutrition, physical activity, and access to healthcare all influence health. However, health is also influenced by many other factors, including access to economic opportunities, safe and sanitary housing, high-quality education, and low exposure to pollution (see Figure 9.1). A city’s physical, social, and economic environments combine to make residents healthier and more resilient to long-term changes and short-term shocks. Palmdale is working toward becoming a healthy community through the policy, program, and design interventions in the physical environment outlined in the General Plan.

**Figure 9.1** Example of Healthy Communities Components



## Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is defined in California’s Government Code Section 65040.12(e) as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” For decades, many low-income communities and communities of color have experienced a disproportionate burden of environmental pollution because of past discriminatory land use and environmental policies. Environmental justice seeks to rectify these past injustices by protecting all people from exposure to pollution, toxins, hazardous wastes, radioactive materials, and other environmental harms. This Equitable and Healthy Communities Element incorporates goals, policies, and actions to address disproportionate pollution burden, prioritize improvements that address the needs of disadvantaged communities, and protect Palmdale residents from environmental harm and risk.



## Disadvantaged Communities

According to California’s Health and Safety Code (Section 39711), a “disadvantaged community” is defined 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.” The California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen) is a screening methodology developed by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) that is used to identify disadvantaged communities burdened by multiple sources of pollution. The General Plan’s Public Health and Equity Existing Conditions Report utilized CalEnviroScreen version 3.0, the latest version at that time. Following the release of the Existing Conditions Report and before preparation of this element, OEHHA released CalEnviroScreen version 4.0, which includes updated data for all its component indicators as well as an additional pollution exposure indicator for children’s lead risk from housing. Thus, this Element utilizes data from both CalEnviroScreen versions 3.0 and 4.0 to screen for and identify disadvantaged communities in Palmdale. Appendix A: Health and Equity Analysis provides the summary of the analysis.

As part of the General Plan process, other screening tools and data sources were also used to identify health impacts on disadvantaged communities in the city. For instance, the California Healthy Places Index<sup>34</sup> is a tool to understand the cumulative burden of social, economic, and environment conditions that may lead to unequal, inequitable, or disparate outcomes for a specific group of neighborhoods. This tool can be used to identify the top 25 percent highest scoring communities with less healthy community conditions, including housing, transportation, education, and poverty. Furthermore, the General Plan integrates data from the California Health Interview Survey and the County of Los Angeles’s Community Health Profiles. Both data sources provide detailed information at multiple geographic levels of chronic disease rates, life expectancy, and other major health indicators.

<sup>34</sup>. Public Health Alliance of Southern California. Healthy Places Index 3.0. (2022). Retrieved from: <https://map.healthyplacesindex.org/>.

# Context

This section provides an overview of existing health, equity, and environmental justice conditions in Palmdale. The description includes an identification of disadvantaged communities in the city and the major health inequities affecting residents.

## Pollution Burden and Disadvantaged Communities

Compared to the rest of California, and especially compared to the rest of Los Angeles County, Palmdale has a lower pollution burden. The city has less exposure to environmental pollution such as lower levels of fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) and fewer groundwater threats and cleanup sites. However, most neighborhoods east of SR-14 are identified as disadvantaged communities based on two of the State’s recommended screening methods, which includes CalEnviroScreen’s overall index scores and low-income areas with high pollution burden for at least one pollution indicator. A high pollution burden for a given pollution indicator is defined as scoring in the top 25% compared to all other census tracts in the state<sup>35</sup>. The low-income areas shown in Figure 9.2 were identified as disadvantaged

communities because of the high proportion of low-income households exposed to high pollution burden, mostly from ozone and toxic releases from facilities, in comparison to the rest of California. In addition, a few low-income areas were found to also face a high relative pollution burden from lead risk in housing and air pollution-related traffic impacts. Table 9.1 provides a summary of the pollution burden in the city.

<sup>35</sup> California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. CalEnviroScreen 4.0. (2021). Retrieved from: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40>.

**Table 9.1**

**Summary of Pollution Burden Indicators**

Pollutant Exposures	Are Low-Income Areas Impacted?	Additional Considerations
Air quality: ozone	Yes, all low-income areas in the city have a high pollution burden for ozone. Thus, all low-income areas can be considered “disadvantaged communities.”	The entire Antelope Valley basin has poor ozone levels, because of the region’s plentiful sunshine and the air pollution that blows in from the Los Angeles basin.
Air quality: particulate matter 2.5	No low-income areas in Palmdale scored in the top 25% for this indicator.	There is no high relative pollution burden for particulate matter 2.5 in the city.
Children’s lead risk from housing	Yes, four low-income census tracts scored in the top 25% for this indicator. Thus, these four low-income areas can be considered “disadvantaged communities.”	One additional census tract in the far northeast of the city scored in the top 25%, but this area is unpopulated.
Diesel particulate matter	No low-income areas in Palmdale scored in the top 25% for this indicator.	There is no high relative pollution burden for diesel particulate matter in the city.
Drinking water contaminants	No low-income areas in Palmdale scored in the top 25% for this indicator.	There is no high relative pollution burden for drinking water contaminants in the city.
Pesticide use	No low-income areas in Palmdale scored in the top 25% for this indicator.	One census tract in the far northeast of the city scored in the top 25%, but this area is unpopulated.
Toxic releases from facilities	Yes, all low-income areas in the city have a high pollution burden for toxic releases from facilities. Thus, all low-income areas can be considered “disadvantaged communities.”	Nearly all of Palmdale has high relative pollution burden for toxic releases from facilities, because of the nationally significant facilities in the city, such as Air Force Plant 42. (Plant 42)
Traffic impacts	Yes, one low-income census tract along SR-14 scored in the top 25% for this indicator. Thus, this low-income area can be considered a “disadvantaged community.”	Although there are a few other census tracts that scored in the top 25% for this indicator, they are not low-income areas.

Pollutant Exposures	Are Low-Income Areas Impacted?	Additional Considerations
Cleanup sites	No low-income areas in Palmdale scored in the top 25% for this indicator.	There is no high relative pollution burden for cleanup sites in the city.
Groundwater threats	No low-income areas in Palmdale scored in the top 25% for this indicator.	There is no high relative pollution burden for groundwater threats in the city.
Hazardous waste generators and facilities	No low-income areas in Palmdale scored in the top 25% for this indicator.	Two census tracts in the city scored in the top 25%, but both are unpopulated areas owned by the LAWA or Plant 42.
Impaired water bodies	No low-income areas in Palmdale scored in the top 25% for this indicator.	There is no high relative pollution burden for impaired water bodies in the city.
Solid waste sites and facilities	No low-income areas in Palmdale scored in the top 25% for this indicator.	One census tract in the far west of the city scored in the top 25%, but this area is not low-income. Moreover, this indicator simply measures the presence of solid waste sites, such as the City's landfill, rather than actual risk of harm from such a facility.

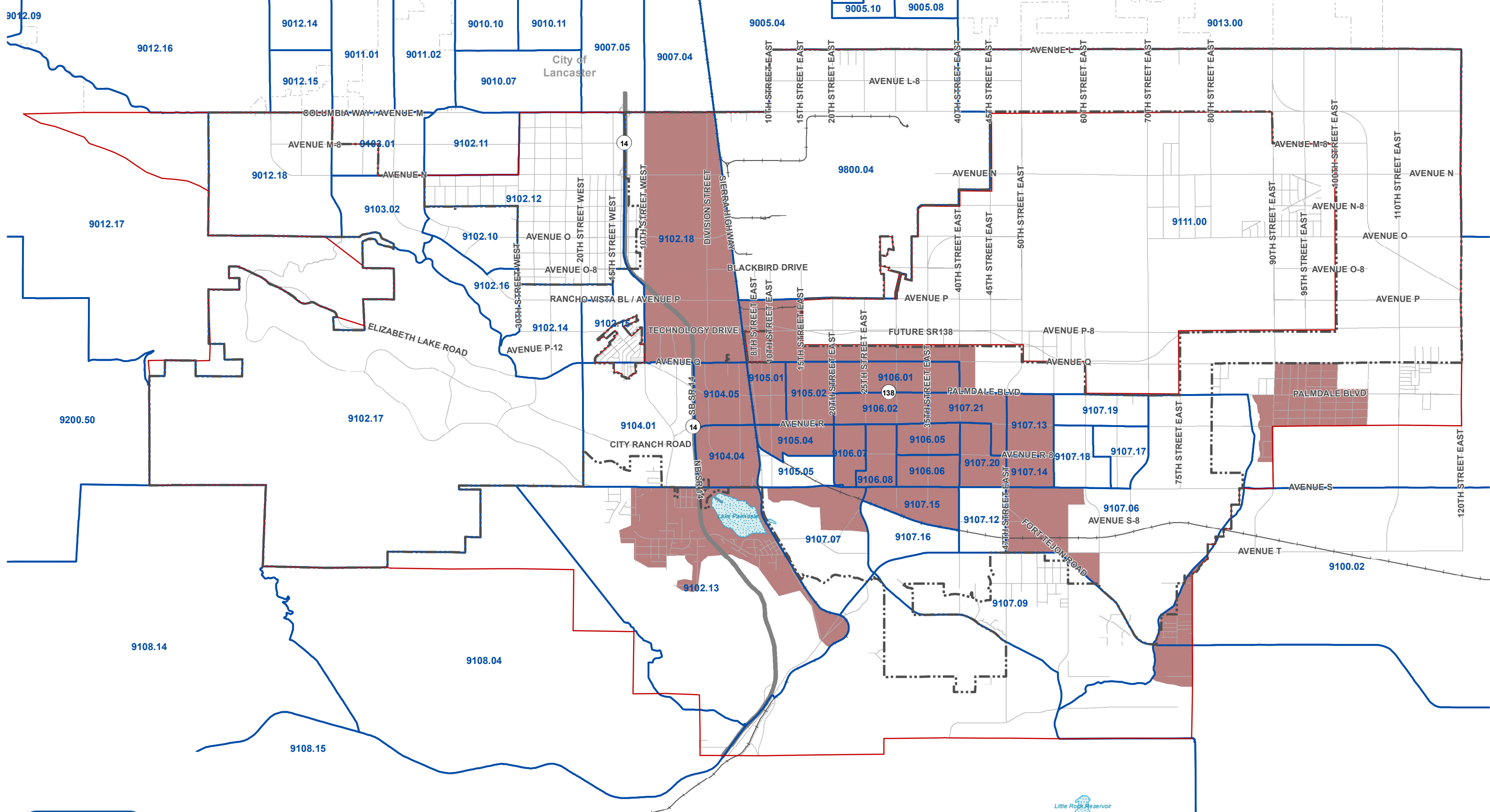
As a result of pollution from the Los Angeles basin and the plentiful sunshine, the entire Antelope Valley has high levels of ozone pollution with the annual average exceeding safe levels for vulnerable populations. Diesel emissions from high volume roadways and truck routes, such as Palmdale Boulevard and Pearblossom Highway, also contribute to the high level of urban ozone pollution in lower-income neighborhoods. Moreover, because of the nationally significant facilities in the city, such as Plant 42, there is a higher relative concentration of toxic chemicals released into the air than in the rest of the state. Therefore, this element prioritizes improvements that address the needs of these identified disadvantaged communities by reducing disproportionate pollution burden and promoting public health.



Large Truck in Palmdale



Plant 42

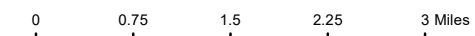


**Figure 9.2** Disadvantaged Communities in the City of Palmdale and Sphere of Influence

- City Boundary
- Sphere of Influence
- Major Highway/Arterial
- Railroad
- Water Body/Aqueduct

- Census Tract
- SB1000 Disadvantaged Communities

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 Data Sources: City of Palmdale GIS data; World Terrain Base, 2015 ESRI, USGS, NOAA.  
 Produced by Raimi + Associates  
 March 2019





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# Social Determinants of Health

In addition to the environmental pollution assessment, the General Plan conducted an analysis of existing public health conditions in Palmdale. This section includes topics related to the social determinants of health, such as housing, economic opportunity, and access to public facilities. Table 9.2 provides a list of all the public health issues considered as part of the public health assessment and identified by City staff, focus groups, stakeholder interviews, and the consultant team. This section provides a summary of the public health assessment, more details can be found within the Palmdale 2045 General Plan Public Health and Equity Existing Conditions Report.

## Health Status

Life expectancy varies depending on place of residence, race and ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and place of birth, among other factors. On average, life expectancy in Palmdale is 78.5 years; nearly four years less than Los Angeles County’s life expectancy of 82.3 years.<sup>37</sup> However, life expectancy within the city varies greatly by neighborhood; with some areas of central Palmdale having a life expectancy as low as 74.0 years, while areas of west Palmdale having a life expectancy of 84.0 years.<sup>371</sup> There is no single cause for this disparity. Rather, it suggests that the average Palmdale resident faces a variety of physical, social, and economic conditions that negatively impact health status and life expectancy. Disparities in life expectancy underscore the importance of improving community health as a critical long-term goal.

Other indicators of health status can highlight a population’s risk factors and suggest policy priorities. For example, in 2018, 18.2% of adults in Palmdale had been diagnosed with asthma, which is significantly higher than the statewide adult asthma rate of 15.9%.<sup>382</sup> Moreover, in 2018, 33.3% of adults in the city had been diagnosed with obesity, which is significantly higher than the corresponding statewide rate of 26.8%. Compared to countywide averages, Palmdale also has higher rates of several other chronic diseases including chronic obstructive respiratory disease (COPD), coronary heart disease, diabetes, and mental illness. Similar to the geographic disparities in life expectancy mentioned above, there are disproportionately higher rates of chronic diseases in the low-income communities and communities of color east of SR-14. Therefore, General Plan policies and actions to improve air quality and to equitably expand safe and convenient opportunities for physical activity can make a significant difference in improving the health of Palmdale residents.

**Table 9.2**

**Public Health Issues Assessed**

Public Health Indicators		
Life expectancy	Obesity and overweight	Housing cost-burden
Heart disease	Youth physical activity levels	People experiencing homelessness
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Mental health and substance abuse	High-volume roadways and truck routes
Lung cancer	Asthma	Food access
Stroke	Diabetes	Crime and public safety
Alzheimer’s disease	Access to healthcare	



36. Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. LA County Health Profile: City of Palmdale. (2018). Retrieved from: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ohae/docs/cchp/pdf/2018/Palmdale.pdf>.

37. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Life Expectancy Estimates by U.S. Census Tract, 2010-2015. National Center for Health Statistics. 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data-visualization/life-expectancy/>

38. UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. California Health Interview Survey. (2018).

### Access to Housing and Economic Opportunity

Compared to the rest of Los Angeles County, Palmdale has a comparatively affordable housing stock that provides residents with a greater degree of housing security and allows residents an opportunity to achieve homeownership, as evidenced by high homeownership rates. Additionally, the city is also home to some of the most innovative research and development in the aerospace industry with Plant 42, which provides economic opportunity and supplies high quality STEM jobs for the region.

Though housing costs are comparatively lower than the Los Angeles basin, costs are still exceedingly high based on household income for some Palmdale residents. Many low-income families and households of color face significant housing cost-burden, which forces families to choose between housing and other important expenses, such as healthcare, prescription medicines, and healthy food. As of 2017, nearly half of the population (48 percent) was under 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, which was 10 percent higher than the countywide poverty rate of 38 percent. Furthermore, multifamily affordable housing is challenging to develop because of rising development costs and a lack of existing infrastructure in certain areas of the city. Therefore, this General Plan provides the opportunity to promote an inclusive economic, educational, and housing strategy that focuses on expanding access to jobs with prevailing wages, strengthening trade schools and job training programs, and providing more affordable housing opportunities for residents of all ages in the city.

### People Experiencing Homelessness

A close connection exists between rising housing costs and homelessness. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, people experiencing unsheltered homelessness are those who are sleeping outside or in places not meant for human habitation<sup>39</sup>. In January 2020, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority reported 289 residents experiencing homelessness in Palmdale<sup>40</sup>. Of those 289 residents, 241 were unsheltered and 48 were in an emergency shelter. Of the 241 unsheltered residents, about 29% lived in makeshift shelters, 27% lived in RVs or campers, and 20% lived on the street without a makeshift shelter. Of the 48 who were in an emergency shelter, all were counted at the winter emergency shelter operated by the Volunteers of America – Greater Los Angeles.

To prevent and combat homelessness in Palmdale, the Housing Authority of the City of Palmdale partners with The Salvation Army, South Antelope Valley Emergency

Services (SAVES), Hope of the Antelope Valley, the County of Los Angeles, and other organizations to implement the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRRP). The HPRRP supports households who are at risk of experiencing homelessness by preventing episodes of being without housing. The program also assists individuals and families experiencing homelessness by providing relevant and accurate information that creates a path for them to no longer be without housing and creates housing opportunities that meet their needs.

### Access to Public Facilities and Amenities (Healthy Food, Healthcare, Recreational Facilities)

Affordability, long distances to healthcare facilities, and limited transportation options pose significant barriers for the city's large population of adults and children currently living at or below the poverty line. In fact, a quarter (25 percent) of adults in Palmdale report difficulty accessing health care<sup>41</sup>. While a variety of health facilities exist, there is a shortage of healthcare providers to meet the demand. Palmdale has been federally designated as a health shortage area for primary care providers, particularly in areas east of SR-14 and south of Avenue Q. Additionally, almost the entire city is federally designated as a health shortage area for mental health providers. Federal regulations stipulate that a shortage of providers is based on a population-to-provider ratio. For primary care providers, the ratio is 3,500 to 1, while for mental health providers, the ratio is 9,000 to 1<sup>42</sup>.

While various food stores exist in Palmdale, access to fresh produce and healthy food is limited in certain neighborhoods, especially along the southern and eastern boundaries of the city. At the time this General Plan was prepared, no Certified Farmers Markets are offered in Palmdale. Additionally, the high concentration of fast-food restaurants along Palmdale Boulevard, East Avenue S, and Rancho Vista Boulevard exacerbates poor access to healthy food for residents. A priority of Palmdale 2045 is to locate grocery stores and other healthy food retailers that sell affordable, high-quality fruits and vegetables in low-income neighborhoods to improve nutrition and health outcomes for Palmdale residents.

39. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim Guidance on People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness. (2022). Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html>.

40. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. 2020 Homeless Count Data: City of Palmdale. (2020). Retrieved from: <https://www.lahsa.org/data?id=45-2020-homeless-count-by-community-city>.

41. Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. LA County Health Profile: City of Palmdale. (2018). Retrieved from: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ohae/docs/cchp/pdf/2018/Palmdale.pdf>.

42. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas Statistics. (2022). Retrieved from: <https://data.hrsa.gov/Default/GenerateHPSAQuarterlyReport>.

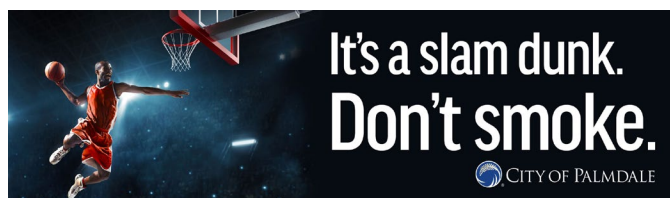
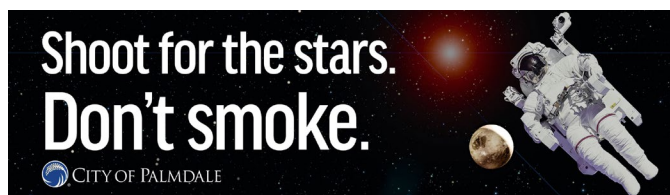
Through the community engagement process, Palmdale residents identified an ongoing division between the eastern and western portions of the city. Residents also noted the feeling of inequitable distribution of public services, including quality schools, parks, and recreational programs that influence health and quality of life. Through the General Plan update process, careful consideration of future park priority areas where identified. A map of future park priority areas and parks to neighborhood distribution can be found in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element. Moving forward, by partnering with local school districts, there are opportunities to leverage school sites to further access to recreational facilities and primary care providers.

### Tobacco Use

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report smoking as the leading cause of preventable death in the United States.<sup>43</sup> Though the effects of smoking are well-known and strong anti-smoking policies have reduced popularity since the mid-1990s, smoking is still prevalent in cities across the United States.

A 2015 Los Angeles County Health Survey found that 17% of Palmdale adults over age 18 smoke cigarettes, compared to 13% of adults in Los Angeles County<sup>43</sup>. The report found that smoking prevalence varies across communities and cities, though the Antelope Valley reported among the highest percentage of smokers in the county.<sup>45</sup>

The City of Palmdale has implemented measures to reduce smoking and limit secondhand smoke, most recently through the 2022 amendment to the City's Smoking Ordinance, that further restricts smoking in public places. The Palmdale Municipal Code includes several smoking related regulations including regulation of smoking in enclosed public places, places of employment, separation of nonsmoking and smoking areas, and places where smoking is not regulated. The City has also targeted illegal cigarette and tobacco sales to minors with the help of state funding through the California Department of Justice's Tobacco Grant Program. Ongoing efforts include coordination with the Palmdale Sheriff's Department for retail sales enforcement, and anti-tobacco advertising aimed at discouraging use, especially among minors.<sup>43</sup>



43. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Tobacco Information and Prevention (TIPS). Tobacco use in the United States. Retrieved from: [http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ha/reports/habriefs/2007/Cigarette\\_Smoking\\_Cities\\_finalS.pdf](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ha/reports/habriefs/2007/Cigarette_Smoking_Cities_finalS.pdf)
44. Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. LA County Health Profile: City of Palmdale. (2018). Retrieved from: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ohae/docs/cchp/pdf/2018/Palmdale.pdf>.
45. Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County Health Survey, 2015.
46. City of Palmdale. Tobacco Compliance. Retrieved from: <https://cityofpalmdale.org/661/Tobacco-Compliance>

# Community Engagement

Extensive community engagement was a key priority throughout the General Plan Update process. Activities and discussions took place over four years—and at every stage—to fully understand the key values and ideas residents have for the future of Palmdale. The City hosted 18 General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) meetings, 4 public workshops, 3 online surveys, 14 pop-up workshops, and dozens of small-group meetings that encouraged community members to collaborate with neighbors, prioritize outcomes, and participate in the land use map update, among others.

An important component of the engagement process was to seek participation from Spanish-speaking populations in Palmdale and those generally under-represented in local government. Most meetings offered simultaneous Spanish translation, while all meetings welcomed translation requests (made in advance to the City), all surveys were provided in hard copy format and in Spanish, and separate discussions with Spanish speakers, seniors, and others without internet access took place throughout the General Plan update process.

Community input helped shape the content and strategies of the Equitable and Healthy Communities Element and highlighted important themes which are woven throughout the General Plan. The themes related to health, equity, and environmental justice included:

**A DESIRE FOR A MORE DIVERSE EMPLOYMENT BASE AND REDUCED RESIDENT COMMUTE TIMES.**

**IMPROVED ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FACILITIES AND SERVICES.**

**AN IMPROVED PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM WITH CONNECTIONS TO RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS.**

**EXPANDED AND SAFE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS INCLUDING BIKE LANES, TRAILS, AND SIDEWALKS.**

**A ROBUST AND HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEM.**

**DIVERSE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS THAT PROVIDE PATHWAYS TO ACHIEVE HOMEOWNERSHIP.**

It is important to note that the COVID-19 Pandemic occurred during the update process. From 2019 through March 2020, all General Plan activities were held both in-person and online. In response to State and local public health guidance regarding the COVID-19 virus, all engagement activities—except for some pop-up events—were held virtually from March 2020 through the end of the update process.



# Desired Outcomes, Indicators, and Targets

The following desired outcomes and metrics have been identified to help the City of Palmdale track progress toward improving health and equity citywide. This process follows the City of Palmdale’s General Plan Vision and Guiding Principles document which was informed by the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC), the Planning Commission and City Council.

## Key Outcomes

**OUTCOME:** An equitable local economy that provides career pathways and economic opportunities for existing residents, especially local youth.

**KPI:**

- Expanded economic opportunities for existing residents.

**TARGET:**

- Increase in the number of youths who participate in job training programs and are connected to employment opportunities in local industries.

**OUTCOME:** Improved health and quality of life, and lower rates of chronic diseases, among all residents.

**KPI:**

- Greater opportunities for physical activity.

**TARGET:**

- Increase in the proportion of residents living within a 20-minute walking distance from a dedicated public park, school, or multi-use trail.

**KPI:**

- Improved access to healthy food.

**TARGET:**

- Increase in the proportion of residents living within a 20-minute walking distance of a grocery store, farmers market, community garden, or other healthy food retailer.

**OUTCOME:** Diverse housing options including mixed-use and affordable options, for existing and future residents.

**KPI:**

- Diversified housing stock in Palmdale.

**TARGET:**

- Substantial increase in new multifamily housing units by 2045, 20% of which are affordable to families earning less than 80% of the area median income.

**OUTCOME:** Improved air quality for all residents.

**KPI:**

- Improved air quality with increased landscaping and trees.

**TARGET:**

- Expanded tree canopy, especially in disadvantaged communities.

**KPI:**

- Reduced exposure to toxic air pollution from industrial facilities.

**TARGETS:**

- Increase in the percentage of housing units, especially in disadvantaged communities, with air pollution reduction features and other measures that eliminate pollutants.
- Reduce smoking in public outdoor places in accordance with Ordinance No. 1580 and/or Ordinance No. 1571.

# Goals and Policies

The following section includes goals and policies for the Equitable and Healthy Communities Element. Goals and policies are followed by implementation actions. Health, equity, and environmental justice policies are woven throughout the General Plan, including in the Circulation and Mobility, Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure, and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space elements, among others.

It is the overall goal of this Equitable and Healthy Communities (EHC) Element to ensure that goals, policies, and implementation actions that address the needs of Palmdale’s disadvantaged communities are given priority. While all goals, policies, and implementation actions of this Element apply to all residents, priority shall be given to those projects, programs, and resources that would fulfill the needs of residents living in disadvantaged communities.

## ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY / EDUCATION PARITY

### Goal EHC-1

A City that promotes equitable access to economic opportunity for all residents.

#### EHC-1.1 Equitable investments.

Prioritize public infrastructure and facilities investments and develop incentives to promote private development investment in disadvantaged communities.

#### EHC-1.2 Community benefits agreements.

Develop a community benefits agreement for major private development projects, which may include affordable housing, job training funds, housing assistance, payment of parks and recreation fees or installation of amenities onsite and/or local hiring.

#### EHC-1.3 Equity impact assessments.

Regularly evaluate the impact of public infrastructure, facilities, and program investments, such as through equity impact assessments, to ensure equitable distribution of public resources across Palmdale.

#### EHC-1.4 Small business development.

Foster small business development with educational resources (e.g., funding sources, mentorship programs, etc.), permitting information, and services that can promote long term success in the city.

#### EHC-1.5 Small business funding.

Consider establishing funding for small business grants that prioritize low-income, women-owned, minority-owned, and/or LGBTQ-owned small businesses.

#### EHC-1.6 Career pathways.

Work with interested organizations and residents to create a youth job development partnership – connecting local businesses to youth for after school and summer work, volunteer positions, mentorship opportunities, and other skills development opportunities.

#### EHC-1.7 Services coordination.

Actively encourage the provision of public and private employment training, rental assistance, financial training, and other supportive services in multiple languages to enable households to be self-sufficient.

#### EHC-1.8 Internet Access.

Offer free high-speed Wi-Fi inside and outside of all City-owned facilities, especially in disadvantaged communities.

#### EHC-1.9 Bridging the digital divide.

Ensure all homes and businesses in the city have access to a fiber optic internet connection.

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## Goal EHC-2

A City with high-quality educational services and facilities in all neighborhoods, especially disadvantaged communities.

**EHC-2.1 Education districts.** Create two education districts in locations that are well-served by transit:

- Near Antelope Valley College Palmdale Center and Palmdale High School (Palmdale Boulevard and 25th Street East); and,
- In the vacant area on the northern side of Palmdale Boulevard and 47th Street East.

**EHC-2.2 Educational uses.** Attract a mix of educational uses such as public and private higher education facilities, satellite campuses, trade schools, along with supporting uses like retail and housing in the Educational Flex land use designation.

**EHC-2.3 Higher education institution.** Attract a new major higher education institution.

**EHC-2.4 Access to public facilities.** Maintain and expand access to education-related public facilities and services, including schools, libraries, and recreational spaces, to better support communities.

**EHC-2.5 Daycare facilities.** Promote opportunities for new affordable daycare, childcare, and pre-K facilities in Village Centers, and encourage these supporting uses in the Educational Flex land use designation.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Goal EHC-3

A City that promotes meaningful and equitable engagement with all residents.

**EHC-3.1 Strengthening community partnerships.** Encourage continuous participation in City planning processes, especially targeting hard-to-reach populations, including developing partnerships with local community-based organizations and faith-based institutions to help facilitate conversations.

**EHC-3.2 Communication and transparency.** Regularly monitor key milestones of investments in disadvantaged communities and provide regular updates via City communication channels and networks.

**EHC-3.3 Equity Committee.** Consider the creation of a Palmdale Equity Committee to provide guidance on equity-related topics in City governance.

**EHC-3.4 Youth Council.** Create a Palmdale Youth Council to participate in City governance and share in decision-making around issues impacting youth.

**EHC-3.5 Reduce barriers to participation.** Address barriers to civic participation at all public meetings by scheduling them at times convenient for residents and by providing transportation options, childcare services, and healthy food options at meetings.

**EHC-3.6 Language accessibility.** Provide multilingual interpretation at all public meetings, translate all meeting materials into Spanish and, by request, into other spoken and visual languages.

**EHC-3.7 Virtual participation.** Continue to make public hearings and meetings available virtually to expand community participation.



## ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

### Goal EHC-4

A City committed to supporting health equity and promoting access to high-quality health care.

**EHC-4.1 Health and wellness districts.** Create three health and wellness districts in locations that are well-served by transit:

- Around the Palmdale Regional Medical Center (Palmdale Boulevard and 10th Street West)
- Along Palmdale Boulevard and 40th/45th Streets East
- Adjacent to Kaiser Permanente (East Avenue S and 45th Street East)

**EHC-4.2 Health and wellness uses.**

Allow and encourage a mix of public and private medical, health, and wellness uses including emergency medical facilities, medical and supportive retail, offices, healthcare clinics and pharmacies in the Health and Wellness land use designation.

**EHC-4.3 Access to primary care.**

Encourage programs and practices that aim to increase access to primary healthcare, especially for low-income residents. Support partnerships with local health service providers, Los Angeles County Public Health Department, schools, and other community-based organizations to promote health, wellness, and preventative care.

**EHC-4.4 Transit access to healthcare.** Work with local transit agencies to ensure that bus routes provide transit service to health service facilities, especially from disadvantaged communities.

**EHC-4.5 Subsidized medical transportation.** Partner with local health systems and service providers to support Medicare and Medi-Cal recipients in accessing existing reimbursement programs for non-emergency medical transportation.

**EHC-4.6 Health data monitoring.**

Collaborate with the County of Los Angeles to track health data and ensure the City has necessary health-related data to guide decision-making.

**EHC-4.7 Community Health Profile.**

Partner with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to provide regular updates to Palmdale's Community Health Profile, as needed.

**EHC-4.8 Affordable healthcare options.**

Partner with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and other regional partners to provide residents with information on affordable and accessible healthcare services.

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## Goal EHC-5

A City committed to promoting access to high-quality mental health care and social services.

**EHC-5.1 Access to mental healthcare.** Collaborate with the County of Los Angeles and regional health organizations to improve access to mental healthcare, especially in disadvantaged communities.

**EHC-5.2 Community input.** Partner with the County and local health systems to gather community input on the city's existing mental healthcare infrastructure to improve behavioral health services accordingly.

**EHC-5.3 Preventive mental healthcare.** Develop programs and services that improve wellbeing and help reduce stress and mental health issues, especially for vulnerable populations such as foster youth, at-risk youth, and older adults.

**EHC-5.4 Homeless services coordination.** Coordinate with the Los Angeles County Homeless Services Authority to help residents currently or at risk of experiencing homelessness to access education, facilities, and health services.

**EHC-5.5 Homelessness Coordinator.** Consider creating a dedicated City staff position to function as a liaison with the County and Palmdale residents currently or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

**EHC-5.6 Partnerships with local shelters.** Continue to partner with local shelters to provide cots for emergency shelter situations, including extreme heat and cold days.

**EHC-5.7 At-risk youth services.** Coordinate with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services to support programs for at-risk youth and parents of at-risk youth, such as parent training programs, health and mental health resources, and youth transition programs.

**EHC-5.8 Cooling centers.** Coordinate with local agencies and organizations to establish centralized cooling centers during extreme heat days, and provide transportation to these facilities for older adults, disabled individuals, and other residents who may have transportation barriers.

## HOUSING

### Goal EHC-6

Promote neighborhoods with a range of housing opportunities that provide housing opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, socio-economic status, family structure and size.

#### **EHC-6.1 Transit-oriented housing.**

Direct the location of senior and multi-family housing to high resource areas accessible to public transportation, supportive commercial uses, and community facilities.

#### **EHC-6.2 Housing diversity.**

Encourage a variety of housing types developed at a range of densities to serve varying household types, including, but not limited to, single-family attached and detached, accessory dwelling units, multi-family apartments, townhomes, duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, and condominiums.

#### **EHC-6.3 ADA compliant housing.**

Facilitate housing for older adults, special needs groups, including the developmentally disabled, and non-traditional family groups by allowing a diverse range of housing configurations that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and flexible.

**EHC-6.4 Aging in place.** Promote development of housing types that support multi-generational households and opportunities to age in place.

**EHC-6.5 Resource families.** Promote development of housing types that support resource families and meet the needs of foster youth and transition age youth.

#### **EHC-6.6 Development review process.**

Periodically lead a comprehensive review of all steps in the development approval process to identify the factors that impede a variety of new residential construction, including affordable housing.

#### **EHC-6.7 Streamlining housing development.**

Create a one-stop permitting shop that streamlines review of potential housing projects and makes it accessible and easy for applicants to get the answers they need.

#### **EHC 6.8 Pre-application housing meetings.**

Encourage pre-application meetings with department staff to review potential projects and ensure consistency with the General Plan vision.

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## Goal EHC-7

A City that preserves and expands its supply of affordable housing.

**EHC-7.1 Affordable housing preservation.** Preserve or replace units with expiring affordable housing subsidies.

**EHC-7.2 Mobile home parks.** Use regulatory and financial tools to make mobile home spaces permanently affordable.

**EHC-7.3 Vacant and underutilized land.** Identify vacant and underutilized land, including publicly owned land, suitable for affordable housing.

**EHC-7.4 Affordability period.** Require that all units developed under any of the City affordable housing programs remain affordable for the longest possible time or at least 30 years.

**EHC-7.5 Affordable housing impact fee.** Consider a program where new commercial and/or industrial developments pay a fee to fund affordable housing units.

**EHC-7.6 Accessory dwelling units.** Periodically update the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance to be consistent with State law. Consider providing permit ready ADU plans to residents.

**EHC-7.7 Expedited permitting for affordable housing.** Develop an expedited permitting program to support the creation of new affordable housing.

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## Goal EHC-8

A City that encourages the construction and maintenance of safe, sanitary, and health-promoting housing.

**EHC-8.1 Housing rehabilitation.** Consider a housing rehabilitation program that assists multi-family residential property owners in modernizing and maintaining units. For example, support efforts to upgrade affordable units with effective ventilation and insulation systems, and eliminate common home pollutants such as lead, asbestos, mold, and pests.

**EHC-8.2 Code enforcement.** Develop a community code enforcement partnership to ensure ongoing and effective health and safety code enforcement, with priority given to rental properties in disadvantaged communities.

**EHC-8.3 Residential Rental Housing Inspection Program.** Evaluate the existing Residential Rental Housing Inspection Program and develop measures to improve effectiveness.

**EHC-8.4 Municipal code and healthy housing.** Review, revise, and update the municipal and zoning code (as well as other relevant plans, procedures, regulations, guidelines, programs, and design manuals) as needed, to promote healthy housing quality. Regulations may include:

- Siting buildings to encourage walking and physical activity
- Designing internal staircases that are visually prominent and attractive
- Designing buildings to allow for high levels of natural light and air
- Limiting concentration of unhealthy uses in proximity to sensitive uses
- Providing safe linkages to parks, trails, schools, and recreation
- Providing on-site recreational facilities
- Using materials that are proven to avoid negative health impacts

### Goal EHC-9

A City that proactively supports low-income residents who are housing insecure.

**EHC-9.1 Renter education and assistance.** Connect low-income residents to City, County, State, and non-profit resources that provide technical, legal, and financial assistance for renters facing eviction.

**EHC-9.2 Tenant protections.** Consider developing a tenant protections plan, which may include a rent stabilization policy, just cause eviction and harassment protections, tenant and landlord mediation programs, right of first refusal, rental assistance, tenant legal counseling, and a rent board to implement the program.

**EHC-9.3 Fair housing.** Strictly enforce fair housing laws to protect residents from housing discrimination.

**EHC-9.4 Mortgage assistance resources.** Connect low-income residents at risk of foreclosure to county, state, and non-profit homeowner assistance programs.

**EHC-9.5 Rapid rehousing.** Continue to support the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program to support households who are at risk of becoming unhoused.

**EHC-9.6 Permanent supportive housing.** Implement the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Housing First program once permanent supportive housing is available in the city.

**EHC-9.7 Limited-equity housing.** Encourage resident controlled limited-equity ownership, such as limited-equity condominiums, limited-equity cooperatives, and community land trusts.

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

### Goal EHC-10

Encourage neighborhoods with a range of opportunities to exercise, including parks and recreational facilities.

**EHC-10.1 Near-universal access to recreation.** Work toward a goal of having 90 percent of residents living within a 20-minute walking distance of a dedicated park, school, or multi-use trail.

**EHC-10.2 Access to open space.** Plan for new parks and increase access to existing and future parks, trails, and open spaces, especially in disadvantaged communities.

**EHC-10.3 Recreational programs.** Prioritize investments in recreational programs that focus on physical activity.

**EHC-10.4 Community partnerships.** Partner with community-based organizations to improve access to recreational opportunities that promote physical activity across the city, particularly in park-poor neighborhoods.

**EHC-10.5 Fee waivers.** Consider fee waivers for low-income families, such as families with children who participate in the National School Lunch Program, so that all residents have access to the City’s recreational programming.

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## Goal EHC-11

Encourage neighborhoods that support safe pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit access for people of all ages, income levels, and cultural backgrounds.

**EHC-11.1 Near-universal walk access to retail and services.** Plan for 90 percent of residents (except for equestrian residential areas) to be within a 20-minute walking distance of a Village Center with retail and neighborhood services.

**EHC-11.2 Complete Streets investments.** Prioritize transportation system improvements that promote Complete Streets objectives, incorporate universal design principles, and encourage walking, biking, and transit use in disadvantaged communities.

**EHC-11.3 Improve connectivity.** Strive for a high level of connectivity of residents to Village Centers and neighborhood services through site design, open space linkages, and bicycle facilities. Integrate land use and transportation infrastructure to support a connected system of sidewalks, bikeways, greenways, and transit.

**EHC-11.4 Streetscape enhancements.** Enhance existing streetscapes to include greater sidewalk coverage, walkway connectivity, street trees and shade, street lighting, street crossing safety features, traffic calming measures, transit shelters, and other design elements, especially in disadvantaged communities.

**EHC-11.5 Safe routes for older adults.** Develop safe routes for aging adults, particularly routes to transit and shopping centers.

## AIR QUALITY / RESPIRATORY HEALTH

### Goal EHC-12

A City designed to improve air quality and reduce disparate health impacts.

**EHC-12.1 Tree planting.** Plant street trees, identified within the City's plant palette, throughout Palmdale, and especially in disadvantaged communities. Plant trees to provide shade and screening, especially along south and west facing sides of buildings.

**EHC-12.2 City vehicle fleet.** Transition the City's vehicle fleet to lower-emission fuel technologies.

**EHC-12.3 Truck routes.** Designate truck routes to avoid sensitive land uses, where feasible.

**EHC-12.4 Sensitive land uses.** Avoid siting schools, daycare facilities, playgrounds, older adult housing, and housing near land uses that produce localized air pollution (e.g., SR-14, SR-138, and Plant 42). For sensitive land uses that cannot be sited at least 500 feet away from sources of localized air pollution, potential design mitigation options include:

- Provide residential units with individual heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to allow adequate ventilation with windows closed.
- Locate air intake systems for HVAC systems as far away from existing air pollution sources as possible.
- Use High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) air filters in the HVAC system and develop a maintenance plan to ensure the filtering system is properly maintained.
- Use sound walls, berms, and vegetation as physical barriers.
- Notify new potential home buyers of risks from air pollution.

**EHC-12.5 Air quality monitoring.** Develop a citywide air quality monitoring program to identify areas with high gas, oil, and toxic chemical emissions, in addition to tracking changes over time, identifying polluters, and analyzing potential interventions.

**EHC-12.6 Air quality planning.** Participate in air quality planning efforts with local, regional, and state agencies that improve local air quality to protect human health and minimize the disproportionate impacts on sensitive population groups.

**EHC-12.7 Toxic air emissions.** Coordinate with regional, state, and federal agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as well as large aerospace and industrial employers to decrease toxic chemical emissions. Proactively explore potential partnerships and interventions to decrease potential exposure of residents to these chemicals.

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## Goal EHC-13

A City that strives to be a smoke-free community.

### **EHC-13.1 Smoke-free public space.**

Update the municipal code to require all City-owned public places, including outdoor facilities, to be smoke-free and vape-free to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke.

### **EHC-13.2 Smoke-free workplaces.**

Encourage employers to provide smoke-free and vape-free workplaces.

**EHC-13.3 Smoke-free multifamily housing.** Adopt an ordinance to transition all multi-family buildings into smoke-free and vape-free housing.

**EHC-13.4 Smoking product retailers.** Limit the sale of tobacco and other nicotine products in neighborhoods with a significant concentration of stores (e.g., multiple stores on the same block or intersection) and near child-sensitive areas, such as schools, parks, and daycare facilities. Consider distance requirements from sensitive uses.

### **EHC-13.5 Limit smoking**

**advertisements.** Encourage store owners to limit advertising for tobacco products.

### **EHC-13.6 Anti-smoking education.**

Coordinate with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and local community partners to continue educational campaigns regarding anti-smoking measures.



## FOOD ACCESS

### Goal EHC-14

A City that provides safe and convenient access to affordable and high-quality fruits and vegetables.

#### **EHC-14.1 Near-universal walk access to healthy food retailers.**

Work toward a goal of having 90 percent of residents living within a 20-minute walking distance of a grocery store, farmers market, community garden, or other healthy food retailer.

**EHC-14.2 Farmers markets.** Partner with organizations to bring one (or more) weekly Certified Farmers Markets to Palmdale. Encourage future farmers markets to accept CalFresh Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards; Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits; and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) benefits.

**EHC-14.3 Grocery stores.** Partner with developers and other stakeholders to bring full-service and affordable grocery stores to disadvantaged communities in Palmdale.

**EHC-14.4 Corner store conversion.** Utilize economic development incentives to encourage existing convenience stores, especially in disadvantaged communities, to expand inventory and to sell fresh, healthy foods such as produce. Assist convenience stores in modifying retail space with basic refrigeration and shelving to transform into economically viable healthy food retailers.

**EHC-14.5 Other healthy food retail.** Incentivize the location and expansion of new and existing small businesses that sell and/or serve healthy food options.

**EHC-14.6 Fast food and liquor stores.** Limit drive-through restaurants and off-sale alcohol beverage establishments—as defined in the municipal code—in neighborhoods with a significant concentration of stores (e.g., multiple stores on the same block or intersection) and child-sensitive areas, such as schools, parks, and childcare facilities.

**EHC-14.7 Local food production.** Strengthen the local economy by encouraging local food production, community gardens, and farmers markets on vacant or underutilized parcels.

**EHC-14.8 Transit access to healthy food retailers.** Improve ready access to healthy food retailers along key transit corridors and within transit-oriented developments. Work with local transit agencies to ensure that bus routes provide service from disadvantaged communities to healthy food retailers.

**EHC-14.9. Food waste diversion.** Partner with local grocery stores, restaurants, and other food retailers to divert food waste and donate extra food to local food banks, soup kitchens, and shelters.

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## Goal EHC-15

A City that encourages healthy eating habits for all residents.

**EHC-15.1 Student nutrition education.** Work with local school districts and other educational facilities to create or implement educational programs for children about healthy eating, such as edible schoolyards and healthy cooking classes.

**EHC-15.2 Healthy food options.** Require that City-funded events offering refreshments, also offer healthy food choices and water to participants.

**EHC-15.3 Communications support.** Help publicize small retailers and restaurants that sell and/or serve affordable and high-quality fruits and vegetables, including locally grown foods.

**EHC-15.4 Nutrition education.** Partner with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to develop food education programs, including culturally tailored messages, fruit and vegetable incentives, parenting skill classes, nutrition, and physical activity.

**EHC-15.5 Gardening education.** Partner with community-based organizations to provide gardening and composting classes citywide with an emphasis in disadvantaged communities.

## CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY

### Goal EHC-16

A City that improves public safety for all residents by reducing crime and injuries.

**EHC-16.1 Pedestrian and bicyclist safety.** Strive for a safe transportation system by making transportation improvements in areas with a high incidence of collisions, injuries, and death, especially for pedestrians and bicyclists. Street improvements may include the following:

- Marked crosswalks
- Bicycle lanes
- Traffic calming

**EHC-16.2 Coordination with Sheriff's Department.** Continue to coordinate with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for improvements to public safety.

**EHC-16.3 Crime prevention through environmental design.** Use Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies in new and existing development to improve public safety, including the following:

- Active public space
- Building design to promote "eyes on the street"
- Maintenance of public places
- Removal or repair of vandalism or broken property

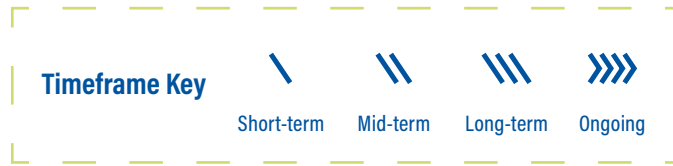
**EHC-16.4 Public realm lighting.** Improve lighting and nighttime security across all city neighborhoods to prevent crime and increase safety.

**EHC-16.5 Graffiti prevention.** Continue to support the graffiti prevention team to remove graffiti from public property (including parks, street signs, sidewalks) or property adjacent to public rights-of-way.



# Implementation Actions


The table below identifies programs, policy updates, planning efforts, coordination efforts, and other actions that will help implement the General Plan’s Equitable and Healthy Communities Element vision and policies. Programs are consistent with this chapter’s goals and policies.


The table provides a description of each Implementation Action and lists the correlating policies. Each action also identifies a timeframe for implementation with Short-term representing a 1–3-year timeframe, Medium-term is 4-7 years, Long-term is 8+ years and Ongoing represents an action that the City should continue. Additionally, the table includes the City department that should function as the lead for implementing the actions.



Correlating Goals	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Department
EHC-1	<b>Small business incubator.</b> Explore public and private partnerships to develop a small business incubator for lower-income entrepreneurs.	Long-term	Economic and Community Development
EHC-1	<b>Hiring apprentices.</b> Develop apprenticeship utilization requirements for public infrastructure projects in Palmdale, focusing efforts on hiring apprentices who live in the city and experience significant barriers to employment.	Short-term	Economic and Community Development and Public Works
EHC-1	<b>Youth internships.</b> Expand the City’s existing youth/teen internship program to all departments, with targeted recruitment of youth from disadvantaged communities.	Short-term	City Manager’s Office
EHC-2	<b>Childcare business portal.</b> Maintain an online portal and resources for childcare business development.	Mid-term	Economic and Community Development and Communications
EHC-2	<b>Childcare grants.</b> Explore the provision of one-time grants for home childcare businesses for zoning permit applications, home improvements, and waving fines for businesses to legalize their family childcare homes.	Mid-term	Economic and Community Development and Neighborhood Services
EHC-3	<b>Dedicated equity staff person.</b> Continue to fund dedicated staff position to advance equity initiatives and monitor equity-related outcomes throughout Palmdale.	Ongoing	City Manager’s Office

Correlating Goals	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Department
EHC-3	<b>Hire multilingual staff.</b> Hire staff who speak multiple languages, including Spanish.		City Manager's Office
EHC-4	<b>School-Based Health Centers.</b> Partner with the Palmdale School District, the Westside School District, and the Antelope Valley Union High School District to establish school-based health centers, especially in disadvantaged communities.		City Manager's Office
EHC-5	<b>Mental Health Services.</b> Partner with appropriate community partners such as, but not limited to, Palmdale Regional Medical Center, Antelope Valley Medical Center and Los Angeles County Mental Health to provide mental health resources to those in need.		City Manager's Office
EHC-6	<b>Transit-oriented housing strategy.</b> Develop a strategy to promote affordable housing in areas within a mile of the proposed California High-Speed Rail station.		Economic and Community Development and Neighborhood Services
EHC-6, EHC-7	<b>Affordable housing incentives.</b> Develop a package of developer incentives to promote the construction of affordable housing.		Economic and Community Development
EHC-7	<b>Housing cost burden assessment.</b> Assess the strength of affordable housing policies in each Housing Element update.		Economic and Community Development
EHC-8	<b>Lead removal.</b> In cooperation with Los Angeles County and other regional agencies, establish a lead removal program for homes built before 1980.		Neighborhood Services
EHC-8	<b>Air filtration.</b> Establish a program that provides incentives to property owners of existing multifamily residential buildings, especially those in disadvantaged communities, to install heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems with High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters for all units.		Neighborhood Services and Economic and Community Development
EHC-10	<b>Shared Use of Community Facilities.</b> Develop an agreement with the Palmdale School District, the Westside School District, and the Antelope Valley Union High School District to allow city residents access to outdoor recreational areas during non-school hours.		Parks and Recreation and City Manager's Office

Correlating Goals	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Department
EHC-10	<b>Open Space Partnerships.</b> Develop public, private, and non-profit partnerships to develop and maintain parks, recreational facilities, and publicly accessible private open spaces in disadvantaged communities.		Parks and Recreation, Neighborhood Services and City Manager's Office
EHC-11	<b>Safe Routes to School.</b> Partner with local school districts and community-based organizations to adopt a Safe Routes to Schools plan.		Economic and Community Development and Public Works
EHC-12	<b>Truck traffic rerouting.</b> Partner with Caltrans to study the potential to re-route Palmdale Boulevard truck traffic to Pearblossom Highway and Avenue M (Columbia Way).		Economic and Community Development and Public Works
EHC-13	<b>Smoking product retailers.</b> Update the zoning code to prohibit new tobacco/smoking product retailers, including the sale of vape products, within close proximity of child-sensitive areas (e.g., schools, parks, libraries, and recreation centers) and 1,000 feet of another tobacco/smoking product retailer.		Economic and Community Development and Neighborhood Services
EHC-14	<b>Conditional uses.</b> Update the zoning code to identify drive-through restaurants and convenience stores as conditional uses. Require conditional use review upon lease renewal or at point of business sale.		Economic and Community Development
EHC-14	<b>Drive-through restaurants.</b> Update the zoning code to limit new drive-through restaurants within close proximity of child-sensitive areas (e.g., schools, parks, libraries, and childcare facilities) and within close proximity of another drive-through restaurant.		Economic and Community Development
EHC-14	<b>Off-sale alcohol beverage establishments.</b> Update the zoning code to prohibit new off-sale alcohol beverage establishments, which sell alcohol for off-site consumption, within close proximity of child-sensitive areas (e.g., schools, parks, libraries, and childcare facilities), and within close proximity of another off-sale alcohol beverage establishment.		Economic and Community Development and Neighborhood Services
EHC-16	<b>Vision Zero.</b> Adopt and implement a Vision Zero program that reduces vehicle related fatalities to zero.		Public Works

Correlating Goals	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Department
EHC-16	<p><b>Traffic enforcement.</b> Partner with the County Sheriff's Department to enforce traffic safety near child-sensitive areas (e.g., schools, parks, libraries, and childcare facilities).</p>		Neighborhood Services and Public Works