



PLANNING COMMISSION

Darren Smith, Chairman

Juan Tavares, Vice-Chairman

John Lane George A. Marquez

Jay Goyal Robert Palacio Kevan Hutchinson

AGENDA

PLANNING COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021 AT 5:30 P.M.

CITY OF BRAWLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

383 MAIN STREET

BRAWLEY, CALIFORNIA

This meeting will be broadcast live at www.facebook.com/cityofbrawley .

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

2. APPROVE AGENDA

3. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

The Planning Commission encourages citizen participation on all matters presented for their consideration. The Planning Commission does not take action on items presented under Public Appearances.

As the Planning Commission is observing social distancing protocols as recommended, social distancing and facemask will be required. Should a member of the public wish to provide verbal or written public comments prior to the meeting, please submit written comments via email to amontano@brawley-ca.gov or contact the Planning Division Office at 760/344.8822.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

The City of Brawley is in the process of drafting the first Environmental Justice Element as required by SB1000 after updating the Housing Element of the General Plan. EJE's are important in preventing future disadvantaged communities and improving existing ones as the City grows. A disadvantaged community is defined by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code or an area that is 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.

5. NEXT MEETING DATE

6. ADJOURNMENT

Supporting documents are available for public review in the Community Development Services office, 205 S. Imperial Avenue, Brawley, CA 92227 Monday through Friday, during regular posted business hours.

PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT
City of Brawley

Meeting Date: October 20, 2021

FROM: Prepared by: Gordon R. Gaste AICP CEP, Development Services Director
Presented by: Andrea Montano, Planning Technician

SUBJECT: City of Brawley Environmental Justice Element

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

RECOMMENDATION: The City of Brawley is requesting approval for the City of Brawley Environmental Justice Element (EJE). This is the first EJE for the City as required by SB1000. EJE's are important in preventing future disadvantaged communities and improving existing ones as the City grows. A disadvantaged community is defined by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code or an area that is 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.

FISCAL IMPACT: Potential for future grants to support environmental justice issues and policies.

ATTACHMENTS: Environmental Justice Element. Presentation



City of Brawley

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT



Planning Commission Approval:
October 20, 2021

City Council:

Luke Hamby, Mayor

Sam Couchman, Mayor Pro-Tempore

George Nava

Ramon Castro

Donald Wharton

Planning Commission

Darren Smith, Chairman

Juan Tavares, Vice-Chairman

Jay Goyal

John Lane

George A. Marquez

Robert Palacio

Kevan Hutchinson

Planning Department:

Andrea Montañó, Planning Technician

Gordon R. Gaste, Planning Director

Table of Contents:

Sections

Background.....	Page 3
Environmental Injustice.....	Page 5
Air Quality and Hazards.....	Page 6
Community Engagement.....	Page 8
Active and Healthy Living.....	Page 10
References.....	Page 16

Figures List

CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Map.....	Page 4
Food Desert Map	Page 11
Current and Planned Parks with Exercise Amenities Table	Page 13

DRAFT

Background

Environmental Justice ensures members of the community are not unfairly burdened by environmental issues that range from adequate housing to pollution. The State of California, through SB 535 and Government Code Section 65302(h) requires that disadvantaged communities adopt an Environmental Justice Element. These documents are meant to identify objectives and policies to reduce health risks in disadvantaged communities, promote civil engagement in the public decision making process, and prioritizes both improvements and programs that address the disadvantage community's needs. The Environmental Justice Element will be a key used by the Brawley City Council, Planning Commission and other boards for determining effects of environmental hazards.

The definition of a disadvantaged community, as noted in Section 65302(h) is as follows:

“An area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code or an area that is 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.”ⁱ

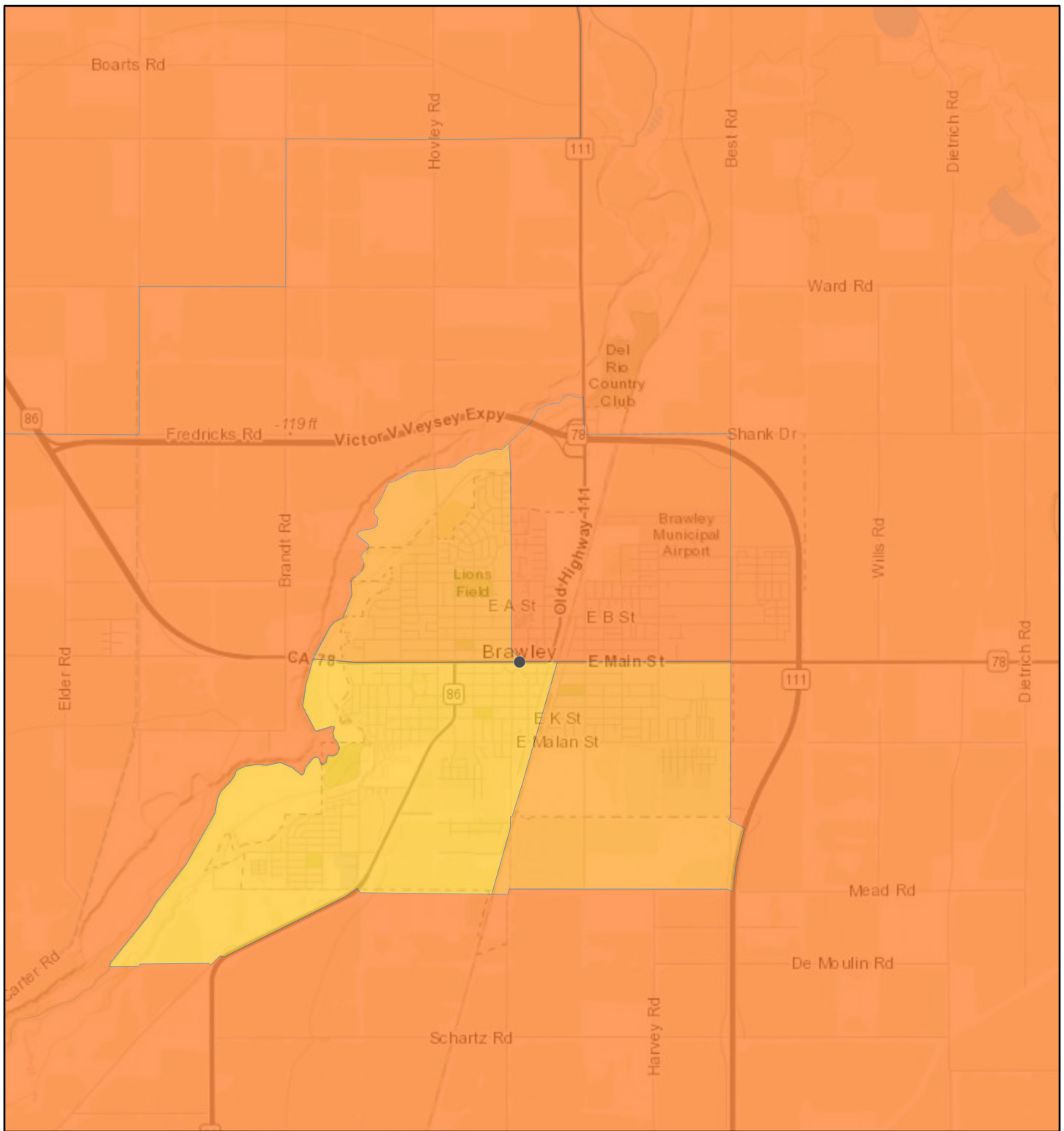
The California Environmental Protection Agency(CALEPA) through their Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment(OEHHA) use their science-based mapping tool, CalEnviroScreen, to identify communities vulnerable to pollution using environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce a numerical score for each census tractⁱⁱ.

The City of Brawley is located in Imperial County in the Southern California desert region. In addition, while the distance is longer if you travel by vehicle at its nearest points, it is located approximately 11 linear miles from the Salton Sea. The County of Imperial is an agricultural community that produced a gross value of \$2,026,427,000 in 2020 per the County of Imperial Agricultural Commissioner over a wide range of commodities.

The City per the most recent data provided by ESRI and the American Community Survey, the City of Brawley has a population estimate of 25,602 people that are spread over the following four census tracts: 6025010400 (104), 6025010500 (105), 6025010600 (106), and 6025010700 (107). See the following page for CalEnviroScreen Map.

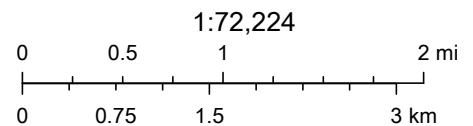
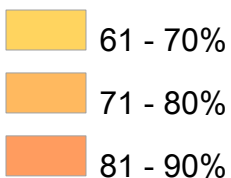
Census Tract	104	105	106	107
Population	7,316	6,156	7,677	4,453
Total Households	2,049	1,901	2,549	1,351
Median Household Income	\$29,294	\$50,967	\$76,033	\$33,545
Median Home Value	\$144,013	\$217,296	\$290,302	\$163,858
Households Below Poverty Level	39% or 676	28% or 544	18% or 358	31% or 361
Households without Vehicle	227	312	69	24
Disadvantaged per CalEnviroScreen 3.0 ⁱⁱⁱ	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
This data was taken using an infographic by Esri, American Community Survey (ACS), Esri and Data Axle. The vintage of the data is 2021, 2026, 2015-2019.				

CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Results (June 2018 Update)



9/18/2018, 3:09:06 PM

CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Results (June 2018 Update)



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
 Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, USGS, METI/NASA, NGA, EPA, USDA | OEHHA | Web AppBuilder for ArcGIS

ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE

As history passes and research grows community's regulations and requirements change. As the United States Environmental Protection Agency(EPA) notes, the American conversation about protecting the environment began in the 1960's^{iv}. It wasn't until 1970, during the Nixon Administration, that the EPA was established after there were heightened public concern about deteriorating city air, natural areas littered with debris, and urban water supplies contaminated with dangerous impurities. In California, regulations such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) were also not required until were also not required until the 1970's. This created social injustices of different calibers amongst an array of disadvantaged communities.

The City of Brawley isn't immune to environmental injustices in our communities created by our predecessors. A perfect example of the importance of civic engagement and the need for environmental justice is the PureGro factory.

PureGro was previously located directly adjacent to a residential area in Tract 6025010400 the City's most disadvantaged tract. It was a facility, according to the Initial Study prepared by the Department of Toxic Substances Control, that was used to formulate, store, and distribute agricultural products (e.g. fertilizers and pesticides) from the 1940s to 2000. While operating, according to DTSC, the Project site contained features such as a warehouse, lime sulfur plant, sulfur sludge pond, reactor areas, metal machine shop, hazardous waste storage area, grease pit, wash/rinse areas, liquid emulsion plant, underground and aboveground storage tanks, and an evaporation pond. Through remedial investigations and sampling it was discovered that there were components of DDT, petroleum hydrocarbons, iron and manganese, chloride, nitrate, sulfate, and total dissolved solids (TDS).

According to DTSC's EnviroStor Database^v, when the factory ceased operating in 2000 a majority site improvements such as buildings, tanks, and concrete pads were demolished in 2001. In 2004 DTSC began monitoring the site and is currently on going. Comite Civico del Valle, a community organization, through active civic engagement mobilized local residents including the Imperial Valley Environmental Justice Taskforce and expanded remediation efforts that the community were left dissatisfied with. The requested remediation efforts from the community was complete removal of all contaminated soil, which was not the final DTSC remediation plan. The current approved cleanup plan is ongoing and includes but is not limited to soil stockpile removal, soil excavation, 50 foot buffer zones, engineered cover, and well monitoring.

Community advocacy is also ongoing in efforts to ensure the complete correction of past environmental injustices. Additional advocacy groups have also joined the efforts such as the Environmental Justice Coalition, Los Amigos de La Comunidad, and the Our Roots Multi Cultural Center, California.

As of now, Comite Civico was able to secure funding for the Brawley Health ACTION Environmental Study^{vi}, an independent environmental study that is led by Paul English from Tracking California which will include a public health study, extended soil sampling, and consider historical stories from longtime residents of this area.

AIR QUALITY AND HAZARDS

Introduction



Clean air is a valuable and essential resource, which affects many aspects of our daily lives. It is vital to our health and welfare, to the local agricultural economy, and to the quality of life enjoyed by local residents, which in turn affects the City's ability to attract new business and industry. According to the California Department of Public Health, in 2017^{vii} approximately 14.7% of the County of Imperial has had Asthma in their lifetime and 11.4% of the population have active asthma, meaning they have had an episode of asthma in the last 12 months.

The CARB designates areas within California as either attainment or non-attainment for each criteria pollutant based on whether the California Ambient Air Quality Standards have been achieved. Under the CCAA, areas are designated as non-attainment for a pollutant if air quality data shows that a State standard for the pollutant was violated at least once during the previous three calendar years. Under the California standard, Imperial County is a non-attainment^{viii} area for Ozone (O₃)¹ and a nonattainment^{ix} area for particulate matter² (PM₁₀). It classifies Imperial County as an attainment^x area for CO and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). Under the federal standard, Imperial County is in "marginal"^{xi} non-attainment for 8-hour O₃, "moderate"^{xii} non-attainment for PM_{2.5} and "serious"^{xiii} maintenance for PM₁₀.

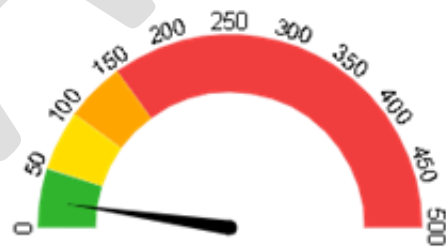
There are different resources you can use to monitor the local air quality before you chose to go outside:

IVAN Network:

<https://ivan-imperial.org/air>

CARB & ICAPCD:

<http://www.imperialvalleyair.org/>



Goals, Objectives, and Policies

The quality of the air in Imperial County must be improved to meet state and federal mandates. Regional cooperation and local action are both necessary to achieve air quality improvements, which are also vital to public health. The following air quality policies rely on land use, transportation, and energy conservation measures to improve air quality.

¹ Per EPA, Ozone or O₃ is a highly reactive gaseous molecule that consists of three atoms. On the ground-level ozone it is formed from through photochemical (chemical reaction of light i.e. ultraviolet light) reactions of man-made air pollutants. It affects human health by absorbing ultraviolet(UV) light, when inhaled it damages the respiratory tract.

² Per EPA, Particulate Matter is a mixtures of solid and liquid droplets made up of a number of different components. It comes from a variety of pollutants such as construction sites, unpaved roads, power plants, automobiles, and even vacuuming. It is found everywhere and when exposed it can cause cardiovascular effects and respiratory effects.

EJE Goal 1:	Air Quality and Environmental Hazard Improvement
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EJE Objective 1.1: Improve air quality to protect all life from disproportionate burdens that often affect people across all income levels.

- EJE Policy 1.1.1:** Incorporate measure during the entitlement process to create adequate buffers between all land uses.
- EJE Policy 1.1.2:** Encourage development of multimodal transportation infrastructure in new residential development.
- EJE Policy 1.1.3:** Seek funds available at all levels to develop existing infrastructure to incorporate safe multimodal transportation corridors throughout the City.
- EJE Policy 1.1.4:** Coordinate with public agencies such as Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, CARB, CalEPA, US EPA or any other enforcement agency to ensure the most current air quality regulations or any other environmental hazards are met and impacts to the environment are thoroughly mitigated.
- EJE Policy 1.1.5:** Facilitate the proper reporting of environmental hazards such as, but not limited to, air quality regulation violations and improper waste disposal.
- EJE Policy 1.1.6** Coordinate and/or provide support to private organizations or public agencies such as the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, CARB, CalEPA, & US EPA when seeking funding to improve air quality and mitigate exposure to any environmental hazards.

Community Engagement

Introduction



An issue that is faced by disadvantaged members of the community is that often they do not have a voice in the decision making process. There are different factors that may contribute to an inadequate voice such as cultural and language barriers, the lack of information, inadequate training, lack of exposure to the decision making process and officials who aren't informed about issues of concern for those members of the community. Developing community capacity is important in order to make sound decisions especially in controversial topics. Public participation leads to better decisions as it contributes to complete information as it relates to facts, values and perspectives of all stakeholders.



The City meetings or events that occur in the City on the official website either under latest news or on the respective Council, Commission or Committee page. Community members with limited to no computer or internet access may be able to use the services provided by the City at the Brawley Public Library located at 400 W. Main Street and the Del Rio Branch Library located at the

1501 I Street on site of the ICOE Del Rio Campus. In addition, agendas are also posted at the location that the meeting will be held. Meetings that require a public hearing are mailed out to property owners in a radius determined by the City of Brawley Municipal Code or any superseding State or Federal guidelines.

The City recognizes an importance for continued public participation in decision making. In effort to provide meaningful involvement opportunities for all citizens especially to low-income, minority, disabled, and other underrepresented citizens in the public participation process and encourage non-traditional communication methods. It is important to initiate outreach efforts as early as possible in the decision-making process, before significant resources have been invested in a particular outcome and ensure that materials are distributed far enough in advance of meetings, workshops, and hearings to allow sufficient time for review and comment. Additionally, as resources allow it is important to provide translation or interpretation services for documents and public meetings in the second primary language other than English.

Educational attainment that included a civic engagement/environmental justice component is a powerful predictor of civic engagement. The more education people have, the more likely it is that they will participate in civic affairs. Democratic societies rely on the active and informed participation of their citizens in order to make good collective decisions and ensure that powerful minority interests do not take control.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

EJE Goal 2:	Community Engagement
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EJE Objective 2.1: Ensure that the community at large has equal opportunity to participate in planning and decision-making processes

EJE Policy 2.1.1: Create electronic methods of comment submittal to ensure citizens that are unable to attend meeting can participate regardless of socioeconomic status, language or literacy levels, and physical limitations.

EJE Policy 2.1.2: Ensure meetings announcements are available via different outreach platforms (i.e. coordination with local partnering organizations, newspaper, public posting areas and online).

EJE Policy 2.1.3 Explore non-conventional outreach methods.

EJE Policy 2.1.4 Collaborate outreach efforts or policy development with local organizations, such civic engagement or environmental justice organization.

EJE Policy 2.1.3: Ensure outreach material and events accommodate various literacy and educational levels.

EJE Policy 2.1.4: All forms of public outreach material should be translated to in major languages spoken in the City (i.e., Spanish and English) as resources allow.

EJE Policy 2.1.5: Governing documents such as the Municipal Code and other long range planning documents should be translated as resources allow.

EJE Objective 2.2: Ensure that the community is informed about civic engagement and environmental justice.

EJE Policy 2.2.1: Assist, develop, or promote materials and/or programs that inform the community about what both civic engagement and environmental justice are and their importance.

EJE Policy 2.2.2: Provide support to local agencies or organizations that promote the education of civic engagement and environmental justice.

EJE Policy 2.2.3: Participate in or facilitate local events that promote the education of civic engagement and environmental justice.

Active and Healthy Living

Introduction

Factors that can impact achieving a sustainable community is ensuring there are both adequate food access and avenues for physical activity. Food security, meaning adequate food access to affordable nutrient dense foods, is an integral part of in the health of a community particularly in underserved areas where resources are limited. Sources of physical activity are important to be provided in the community that are adequate for all levels of physical activity and socio-economic levels. This section analyzes both avenues of food security and physical activity in the City.

Food Security

According to the USDA a food desert is an area where residents are both low income and have low access supermarkets that carry affordable and nutritious food^{xiv}. Low access to healthy food retain is defined as being more that 1 mile from a supermarket or large grocery store in an urban area, an area with a population of greater than 2,500 (USDA)^{xv}. The USDA also adds that low-income residents in food deserts without vehicle access are more prone to food insecurity as they rely on stores that may not carry healthy foods or purchase healthy foods at higher prices.

In the City of Brawley, two of the four Census Tracts, Tracts 104 and 107, are considered food deserts. Tract 105 is considered food insecure and not considered a food desert, as it is designated as an area with limited access to vehicles^{xvi}.

The data set provided in by the USDA Economic Research Service Food Access Research Atlas^{xvii} is based on the latest data as of 2019. The population total of Brawley in 2019 according to the USDA Economic Research Service was 25,075 and a total of 7,652 housing units. The combined population of Census Tracts 104, 105, 107 is 18,077 people and a total of 5, 338 housing units. There is also a total of 1628 or 30% of housing units that received SNAP benefits and 461 or 9% of housing units without a vehicle. In total 72% of the total population of Brawley and 69% of housing units are in either food insecure or are in a food desert.

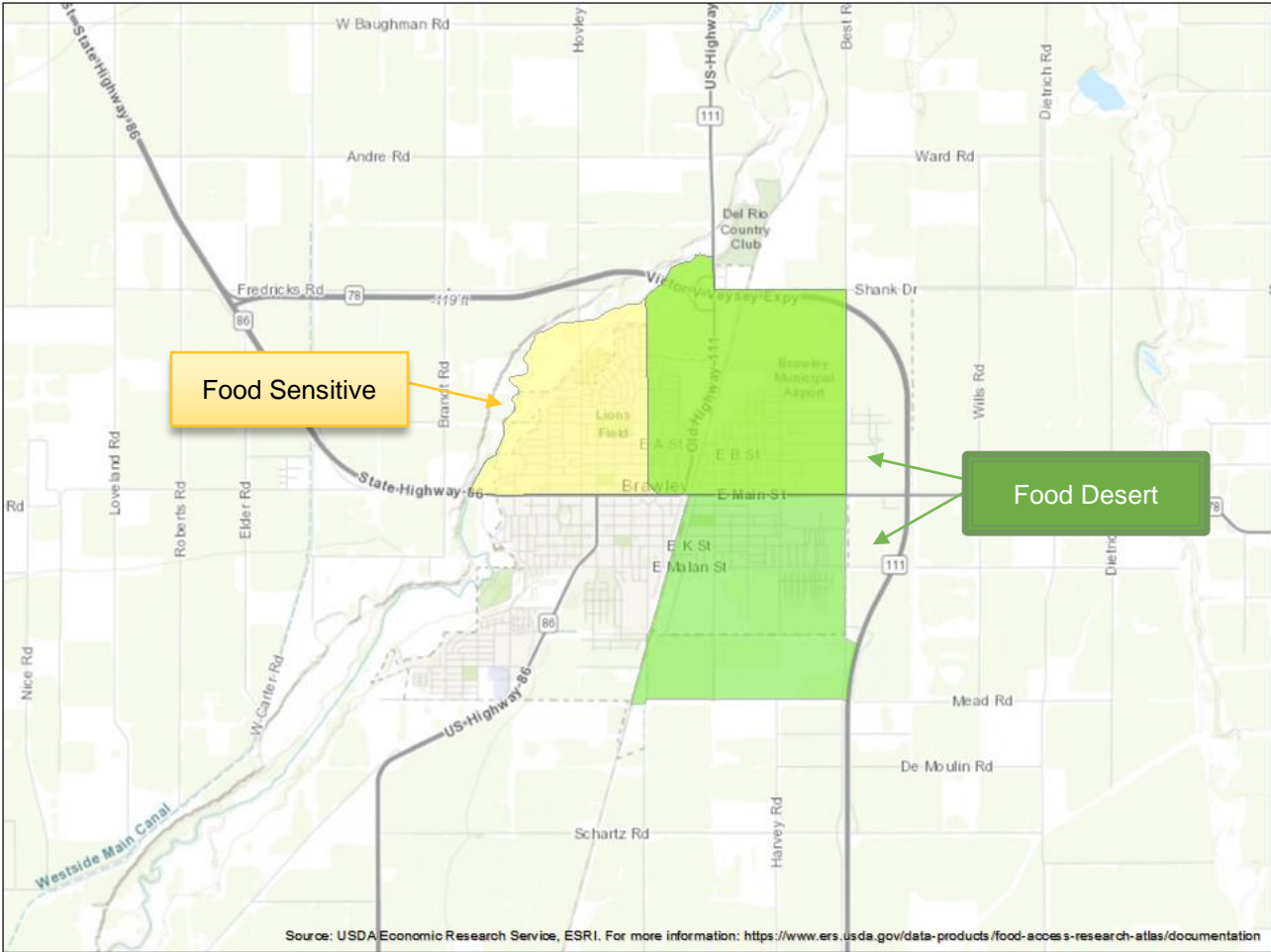
Census Tract 104 had approximately 1,997 housing units and a total population of 7,162. The tract median family income was calculated at 26,533 and the tract poverty rate at 46.3%. There were 717 or 36% of housing units that received SNAP benefits and 191 or 10% housing units without a vehicle.

Census Tract 105 had approximately 1,299 housing units and a total population of 6,593. The tract median family income was calculated at \$58,420 and the tract poverty rate at 32.3%. There were 533 or 26% of housing units that received SNAP benefits and 242 or 12% housing units without a vehicle.

Census Tract 107 had approximately 1,299 housing units and a total population of 4,322. The tract median family income was calculated at \$34,439 and the tract poverty rate at 20.4%. There were 28 or 2% of housing units that received SNAP benefits and 461 or 9% housing units without a vehicle.

City of Brawley

Food Desert Map



Obesity

According to the Lets Get Healthy California, in 2018, there was an average of 39.0 % of adults aged 20+ years who were considered obese^{xviii}. The CDC's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)^{xix} notes that the County of Imperial is considered to be more vulnerable to obesity than 99.78% of all the other counties in the United States. When compared to all the other counties in the State of California, the County of Imperial is 100% more vulnerable than all the other counties in the State.

Recreation and Mobility

City of Brawley has a total of approximately 111.2 acres of existing recreation facilities that contain some sort of exercise amenity that allows for cardio exercises. Note that this is not the entire park acreage available in the City. These parks hold a variety of recreation activities appropriate for different levels of physical activity that include cycling lanes, walking and/or running lanes, basketball courts, baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis courts, swimming and skateboarding. See following page for list of parks that offer amenities.

The City of Brawley, being located in a desert region, has an extremely hot summer season that reaches temperatures over 120 °C. According to the California Healthy Places Index^{xx} (HPI) projections there are approximately 68 days of extreme heat. As noted in the HPI report our homes, neighborhoods and workplaces should help protect us from heat-related health impacts. Extreme heat can cause heat-related illness like heat exhaustion and heat stroke, and can exacerbate pre-existing health conditions.

According to the HPI 91.22 percent of the population living in Brawley live within a half-mile of a park or open space that is greater than 1 acre. In addition to that approximately 2.9 percent of the population living in Brawley have tree's or other plant life near their home. HPI notes that Trees are beneficial for mental and physical health as they provide shade and cool surrounding areas, reduce stress, and promote health, wellness and physical activity. HPI also notes that trees are essential to mitigate the effects of climate change, especially extreme heat events.

Current and Planned Parks with Exercise Amenities

Current Parks			
Name	Location	Acres	Facilities
Ridge Park	N. Western and Park View	1.6	Tennis courts, some playground equipment
Citrus View Park	Ronald Street and Kelly Street	0.7	Playground, ½ basketball court
Meserve Park	2nd and K St.	4.4	Lighted ball field, tennis courts, playground, horseshoe pits
Hinojosa Park	9th and H St.	6.5	Lighted ball fields and basketball courts, playground, picnic facilities, horseshoe pits
Guadalupe Park*	S-11 and Malan St.	3.6	Soccer field, picnic area, playground
*Note: This is a park that is on privately owned which may be subject to change.			
Alyce Gereaux Park	Alder and Eastern	3.9	Basketball courts, playground, turf area, BBQ facilities, horseshoe pits
Thorton Park	West Legion Street	5.5	Turf, basketball court, playground, walking/jogging path
Abe Gonzalez Park	North 1st Street and West D Street	4.4	Two softball fields, two basketball courts, picnic area, playground
Cattle Call and Rotary Park	Cattle Call Dr.	56	Walking and bicycle paths
Lions Center Complex	255 A St.	8.9	20,000 square foot multi-use complex; 25,000 square foot Lions Pool
Pat Williams Park	W. River Drive	15.7	Passive recreation and picnic facilities, playground equipment, horseshoe pits, and walking paths.
TOTAL ACREAGE		111.2	
PROPOSED PARKS			
La Paloma	Avenida de La Paloma and South Best Avenue	6.6	Retention basin park located in a densely populated residential area.
Victoria Green Belt	Wildcat Drive	4	Passive use retention basin park to serve as an esthetic enhancement to the subdivision; landscaping and walking/jogging path
TOTAL ACREAGE		10.6	
PLEASE NOTE: THAT THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE LISTS OF ALL PARKS OR ALL PROPOSED PARKS. THIS IS A LIST THAT INCLUDES CURRENT PARKS THAT CONTAIN SOME SORT OF EXERCISE AMMENITY SUCH AS A BASKETBALL COURT, DESIGNATED PATH, OR A LARGE AREA OF LAND THAT ALLOWS FOR CARDIO EXCERCISES. THE PROPOSED PARKS LISTED ARE PARK LOCATED IN CURRENTLY ACTIVE SUBDIVISIONS THAT SHOULD BE INSTALLED IN COORDINATION WITH CONSTRUCTION. FOR A CURRENT LIST OF ALL PARKS, PLEASE SEE THE CITY OF BRAWLEY GENERAL PLAN OR THE PARKS AND RECREATION WEBPAGE.			

Goals, Objectives, and Policies

EJE Goal 3: Increase Mobility and Physical Activity

EJE Objective 3.1: Increase mobility for all residents.

- EJE Policy 3.1.1:** Encourage development to include multimodal access to shopping, jobs, healthcare facilities, and education facilities regardless of socioeconomic demographic.
- EJE Policy 3.1.2:** Explore opportunities to develop or upgrade existing facilities to include safe multimodal transportation infrastructure.
- EJE Policy 3.1.3:** Encourage use of existing multimodal transportation infrastructure.
- EJE Policy 3.1.4:** Investigate and develop a plan to locate and prioritize underserved areas necessitating multimodal transportation to shopping centers, jobs, and healthcare or education facilities.
- EJE Policy 3.1.5:** Coordinate with local school districts to ensure there are ample safe multimodal transportation corridors to all schools regardless of socioeconomic demographic.

EJE Objective 3.2: Increase physical activity for all residents

- EJE Policy 3.2.1:** Promote regular use of public parks to increase physical activity.
- EJE Policy 3.2.2:** Create a visual of all parks locations to showcase amenities (i.e. trails, basketball courts, park hours etc.) to assist the public in locating parks for their physical activity needs.
- EJE Policy 3.2.3:** Seeks funds at all levels to develop existing and new park infrastructure to ensure all have adequate accessory amenities (i.e. shade, restrooms, picnic areas, bleachers, water fountains and lighting)
- EJE Policy 3.2.4:** Encourage developers to incorporate physical activity inducing features (i.e., walking trails with distance tracking signage, calisthenics equipment).
- EJE Policy 3.2.5:** Explore, partner, and/or support funding opportunities that will create green spaces in the City.

EJE Goal 4: Increase Healthy Foods

EJE Objective 4.1: Increase healthy eating for all residents

- EJE Policy 4.1.1:** Seeks funds at all levels to develop healthy eating programs, community gardens, food drives or community food pantries.
- EJE Policy 4.1.2:** Encourage developers to incorporate community gardens into their landscape or recreation plans.

EJE Policy 4.1.3: Streamline private projects that intend to develop healthy eating programs, community gardens, food drives or food pantries.

EJE Policy 4.1.4: Encourage and streamline the development of supermarkets that both contain foods that are both affordable and healthy.

EJE Policy 4.1.5: Partner with organizations, distribute assist or develop educational materials that inform or direct the public to healthy eating programs, community gardens development, food drives or food pantries.

EJE Goal 5:	Decrease prevalence of chronic disease
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EJE Objective 5.1: Provide the community information on different means to reduce or prevent chronic disease.

EJE Policy 5.1.1: Foster relationships with educational institutions, non-profit organizations, healthcare organizations, and regional governmental agencies to participate in efforts promoting healthy lifestyles, physical activity and positive health outcomes

EJE Policy 5.1.2: Provide support to local agencies or non-profit programs who are seeking funding for programs aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles, physical activity and positive health outcomes as staffing levels allow.

References:

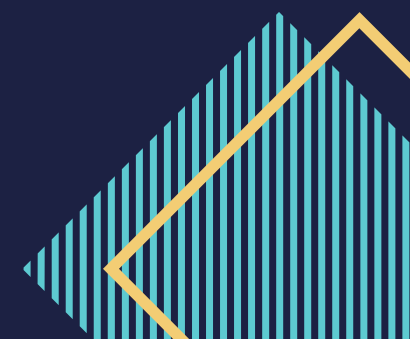
- ⁱ California Governor's Office Planning and Research, Chapter 4, Section 8: Environmental Justice Element, June 2020, https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20200706-GPG_Chapter_4_EJ.pdf
- ⁱⁱ California Environmental Protection Agency, CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Factsheet, June 2018 <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/fact-sheet/ces30factsheetfinal.pdf>
- ⁱⁱⁱ California Environmental Protection Agency, CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Map, June 2018 <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>
- ^{iv} United States Environmental Protection Agency, The Origins of EPA, <https://www.epa.gov/history/origins-epa>
- ^v Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroSTOR Database, PUREGRO COMPANY (13070097) https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=13070097
- ^{vi} Comite Civico del Valle, Brawley Health ACTION Environmental Study Information Page <https://www.ccvhealth.org/programs-single.php?program=17>
- ^{vii} California Department of Public Health County Asthma Data Tool April 30, 2019 <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/DEODC/EHIB/CPE/Pages/CaliforniaBreathingCountyAsthmaProfiles.aspx>
- ^{viii} California Air Resources Board, Maps of Current State and Federal Area Designations Ozone Map https://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/2019/state_o3.pdf?_ga=2.65689127.861366180.1634569638-1015701055.1630100059
- ^{ix} California Air Resources Board, Maps of Current State and Federal Area PM2.5 Map https://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/2019/state_pm10.pdf?_ga=2.263430021.861366180.1634569638-1015701055.1630100059
- ^x California Air Resources Board, Maps of Current State and Federal Area PM10 Map https://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/2019/state_pm25.pdf?_ga=2.267153927.861366180.1634569638-1015701055.1630100059
- ^{xi} United States Environmental Protection Agency, Green Book, 8-Hour Ozone (2015) Designated Area State/Area/County Report Data is current as of September 30, 2021 <https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/jbcs.html#CA>
- ^{xii} United States Environmental Protection Agency, Green Book, PM-2.5 (2012) Designated Area State/Area/County Report Data is current as of September 30, 2021 <https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/kbcs.html#CA>
- ^{xiii} United States Environmental Protection Agency, Green Book, PM-10 (1987) Designated Area State/Area/County Report <https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/pbcs.html#CA>
- ^{xiv} Michele Ver Ploeg, USDA, Economic Research Service, Access to Affordable, Nutritious Food Is Limited in "Food Deserts", March 01, 2010 <https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2010/march/access-to-affordable-nutritious-food-is-limited-in-food-deserts/#:~:text=Some%20neighborhoods%20in%20the%20United%20States%2C%20particularly%20those,food%20retailers%20that%20carry%20affordable%20and%20nutritious%20food.>
- ^{xv} U.S. Department Of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Introduction to the Food Access Research Atlas <https://gisportal.ers.usda.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=a53ebd7396cd4ac3a3ed09137676fd40>
- ^{xvi} U.S. Department Of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Introduction to the Food Access Research Atlas Map <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas/>
- ^{xvii} U.S. Department Of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Introduction to the Food Access Research Atlas, Data Download <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/DataFiles/80591/FoodAccessResearchAtlasData2019.xlsx?v=8400.4>
- ^{xviii} California Department of Public Health, Let's Get Healthy California, Living Well / Reducing Adult Obesity <https://letsgethealthy.ca.gov/goals/living-well/reducing-adult-obesity/>
- ^{xix} Center for Disease Control and Prevention, United States Diabetes Surveillance System, <https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/diabetes/DiabetesAtlas.html#>
- ^{xx} Public Health Alliance of Southern California, The California Healthy Places Index (HPI), <https://map.healthyplacesindex.org/>



October 20, 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

Presented by:
Andrea Montano
Planning Technician
City of Brawley



POINTS OF DISCUSSION

What is environmental justice(EJ)?

Background of EJ requirements

City Demographics

Air Quality and Hazards

Community Engagement

Active and Healthy Living

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ)?

Per the state is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.



EJ ELEMENT REQUIREMENT BACKGROUND

SB 1000

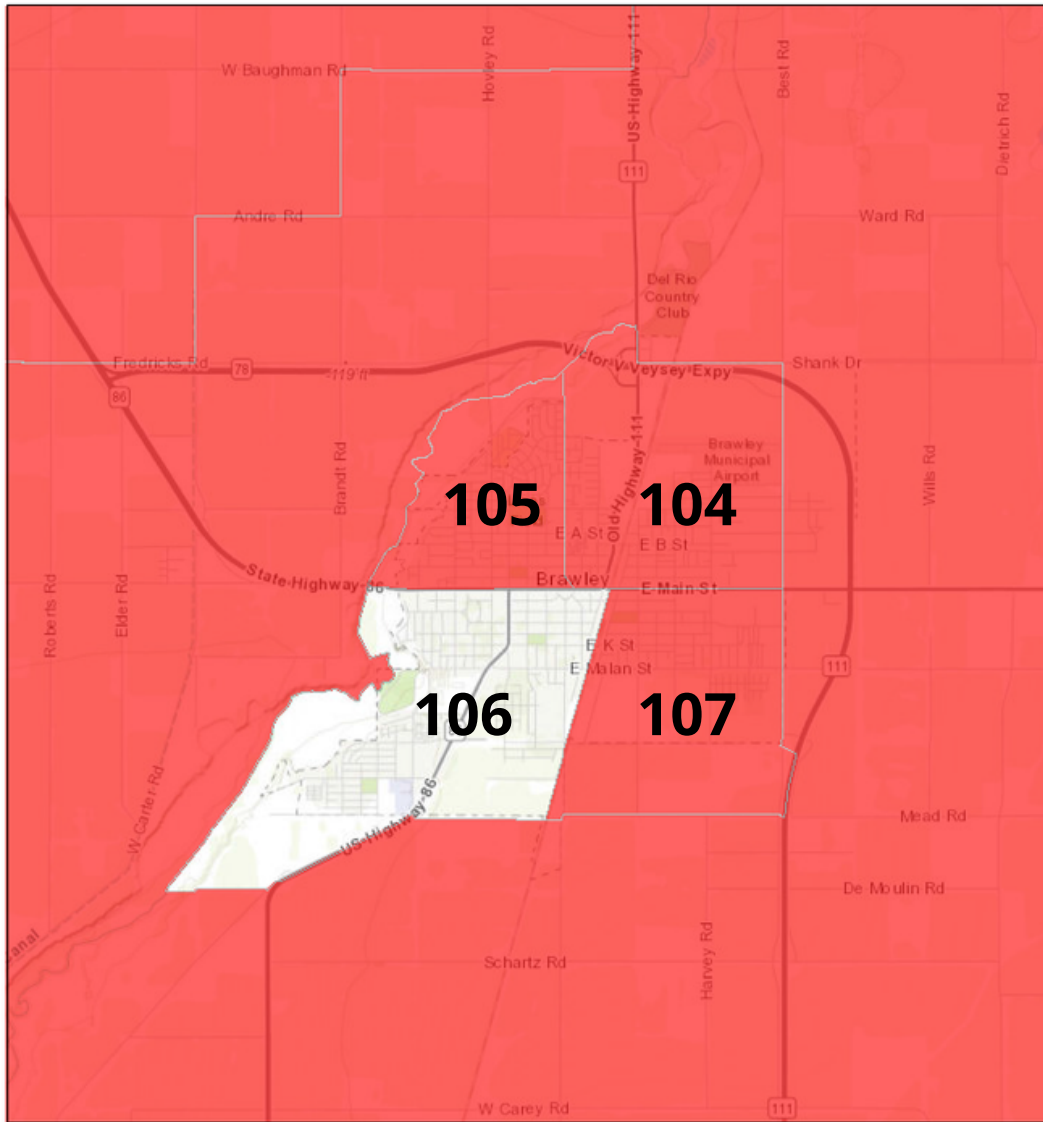
Approved in 2016, required cities and counties with disadvantaged communities to develop an EJ Element or General Plan Policies.

FOR COMPLETE BACKGROUND AND GUIDE VISIT THE
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH:

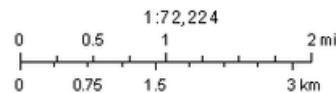
https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20200706-GPG_Chapter_4_EJ.pdf



SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities



October 18, 2021



Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, USGS, METI/NASA, NGA, EPA, USDA

WHAT IS A DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY?

The State defines a disadvantaged community as Disadvantaged communities 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.

The City has three tracts considered disadvantaged: 104,105,107

104

7,316 Population
2,049 Total Households
\$29,294 Median Household Income
\$144,013 Median Home Value
39% or 676 Households Below Poverty Level
227 Households without Vehicle
Considered Disadvantaged

105

6,156 Population
1,901 Total Households
\$50,967 Median Household Income
\$217,296 Median Home Value
28% or 544 Households Below Poverty Level
312 Households without Vehicle
Considered Disadvantaged


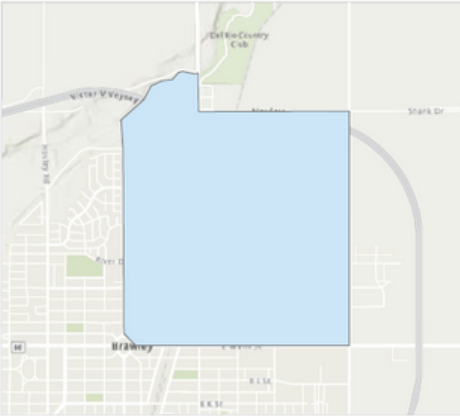

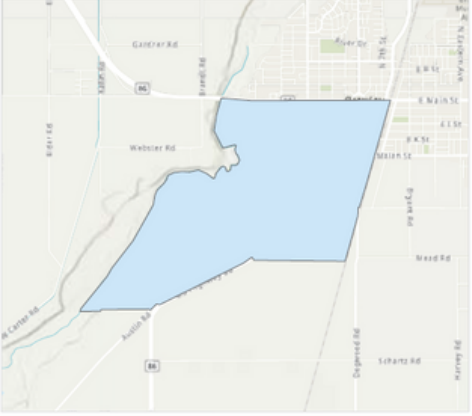
106

7,677 Population
2,549 Total Households
\$76,033 Median Household Income
\$290,302 Median Home Value
18% or 358 Households Below Poverty Level
69 Households without Vehicle
Not Disadvantaged

107

4,453 Population
1,351 Total Households
\$33,545 Median Household Income
\$163,858 Median Home Value
31% or 361 Households Below Poverty Level
24 Households without Vehicle
Considered Disadvantaged

WHEN COMPARING CENSUS TRACT DEMOGRAPHICS
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS
 HAS THE LOWEST MEDIAN INCOME AND HOME VALUES.

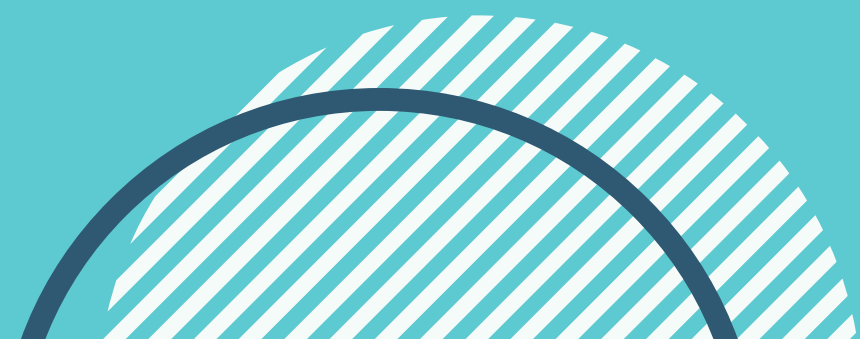
6025010500	6025010400	6025010700	6025010600
			
6,156 Population 1,901 Households 3.22 Avg Size Household	7,316 Population 2,049 Households 3.57 Avg Size Household	4,453 Population 1,351 Households 3.29 Avg Size Household	7,677 Population 2,549 Households 2.97 Avg Size Household
31.5 Median Age \$50,967 Median Household Income \$217,296 Median Home Value	27.6 Median Age \$29,294 Median Household Income \$144,013 Median Home Value	32.6 Median Age \$33,545 Median Household Income \$163,858 Median Home Value	35.0 Median Age \$76,033 Median Household Income \$290,302 Median Home Value



LOCATION OF **PUREGRO**



Social Injustices and PureGro

- United States Environmental Protection Agency(EPA) notes, the American conversation about protecting the environment began in the 1960's .
 - CEQA and EPA were formed/required in 1970.
 - PureGro serves as example for environmental injustices, importance of civic engagement and the need for environmental justice elements.
 - It was through Comite Civico del Valle and the Environmental Justice Coalition that the current remediation efforts gained traction. As of late, Los Amigos de La Comunidad, and the Our Roots Multi Cultural Center, California have also joined the efforts
 - The current approved cleanup plan is ongoing and includes but is not limited to soil stockpile removal, soil excavation, 50 foot buffer zones, engineered cover, and well monitoring.
 - Community advocacy is also on going as Comite secured funding to prepare the Brawley Health ACTION Environmental Study, an independent study that is intended to also include a public health study, extended soil sampling, and consider historical stories from longtime residents of this area.
- 



Air Quality and Hazards

EJE Goal 1: Air Quality and Environmental Hazard Improvement

EJE Objective 1.1: Improve air quality to protect all life from disproportionate burdens that often affect people across all income levels.

EJE Policy 1.1.1: Incorporate measure during the entitlement process to create adequate buffers between all land uses.


EJE Policy 1.1.2: Encourage development of multimodal transportation infrastructure in new residential development.

EJE Policy 1.1.3: Seek funds available at all levels to develop existing infrastructure to incorporate safe multimodal transportation corridors throughout the City.

EJE Policy 1.1.4: Coordinate with public agencies such as Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, CARB, CalEPA, US EPA or any other enforcement agency to ensure the most current air quality regulations or any other environmental hazards are met and impacts to the environment are thoroughly mitigated.

EJE Policy 1.1.5: Facilitate the proper reporting of environmental hazards such as, but not limited to, air quality regulation violations and improper waste disposal.

EJE Policy 1.1.6 Coordinate and/or provide support to private organizations or public agencies such as the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, CARB, CalEPA, & US EPA when seeking funding to improve air quality and mitigate exposure to any environmental hazards.





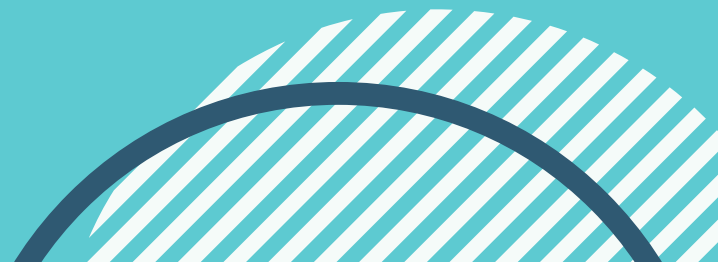
Community Engagement

EJE Goal 2: Improve Community Engagement

EJE Objective 2.1: Ensure that the community at large has equal opportunity to participate in planning and decision-making processes

- **EJE Policy 2.1.1:** Create electronic methods of comment submittal to ensure citizens that are unable to attend meeting can participate regardless of socioeconomic status, language or literacy levels, and physical limitations.
- **EJE Policy 2.1.2:** Ensure meetings announcements are available via different outreach platforms (i.e. coordination with local partnering organizations, newspaper, public posting areas and online).
- **EJE Policy 2.1.3** Explore non-conventional outreach methods.
- **EJE Policy 2.1.4** Collaborate outreach efforts or policy development with local organizations, such civic engagement or environmental justice organization.
- **EJE Policy 2.1.5:** Ensure outreach material and events accommodate various literacy and educational levels.
- **EJE Policy 2.1.6:** All forms of public outreach material should be translated to in major languages spoken in the City (i.e., Spanish and English) as resources allow.
- **EJE Policy 2.1.7:** Governing documents such as the Municipal Code and other long range planning documents should be translated as resources allow.

EJE Objective 2.2: Ensure that the community is informed about civic engagement and environmental justice.

- **EJE Policy 2.2.1:** Assist, develop, or promote materials and/or programs that inform the community about what both civic engagement and environmental justice are and their importance.
 - **EJE Policy 2.2.2:** Provide support to local agencies or organizations that promote the education of civic engagement and environmental justice.
 - **EJE Policy 2.2.3:** Participate in or facilitate local events that promote the education of civic engagement and environmental justice.
- 



ACTIVE AND HEALTHY LIVING

FOOD SECURITY
OBESITY
RECREATION AND MOBILITY

WHAT IS FOOD DESERT?

a food desert is an area where residents are both low income and have low access supermarkets that carry affordable and nutritious food . Low access to healthy food retain is defined as being more that 1 mile from a supermarket or large grocery store in an urban area, an area with a population of greater than 2,500 (USDA) .

TRACT 104 AND 107 ARE CONDISERED
FOOD DESERTS.
TRACT 105 IS FOOD INSECURE.

72% AND 69%
OF POPULATION OF HOUSING

ARE EITHER FOOD INSECURE
OR IN A FOOD DESERT

ACCORDING TO USDA



THE COUNTY OF IMPERIAL IS

RATED **99.78%**

MORE VULNERABLE TO OBESITY
WHEN COMPARED TO THE REST OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

&

WHEN COMPARED TO THE REST OF CALIFORNIA

100%

*ACCORDING TO THE CDC'S SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX

IN REGARDS TO RECREATION AND MOBILITY...
THE CITY HAS APPROXIMATELY **111.2** ACRES
OF EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES THAT
ALLOW FOR CARDIO ACTIVITIES.

HOWEVER...

ALSO ONLY 2.9% OF BRAWLEY
 HAS A TREE CANOPY.

ACCORDING TO THE HEALTHY
PLACES INDEX WE ALSO HAVE **68**
DAYS OF EXTREME HEAT



Active and Healthy Living

EJE Goal 3: Increase Mobility and Physical Activity

EJE Objective 3.1: Increase mobility for all residents.

- **EJE Policy 3.1.1:** Encourage development to include multimodal access to shopping, jobs, healthcare facilities, and education facilities regardless of socioeconomic demographic.
- **EJE Policy 3.1.2:** Explore opportunities to develop or upgrade existing facilities to include safe multimodal transportation infrastructure.
- **EJE Policy 3.1.3:** Encourage use of existing multimodal transportation infrastructure.
- **EJE Policy 3.1.4:** Investigate and develop a plan to locate and prioritize underserved areas necessitating multimodal transportation to shopping centers, jobs, and healthcare or education facilities.
- **EJE Policy 3.1.5:** Coordinate with local school districts to ensure there are ample safe multimodal transportation corridors to all schools regardless of socioeconomic demographic.

EJE Objective 3.2: Increase physical activity for all residents

- **EJE Policy 3.2.1:** Promote regular use of public parks to increase physical activity.
- **EJE Policy 3.2.2:** Create a visual of all parks locations to showcase amenities (i.e. trails, basketball courts, park hours etc.) to assist the public in locating parks for their physical activity needs.
- **EJE Policy 3.2.3:** Seeks funds at all levels to develop existing and new park infrastructure to ensure all have adequate accessory amenities (i.e. shade, restrooms, picnic areas, bleachers, water fountains and lighting)
- **EJE Policy 3.2.4:** Encourage developers to incorporate physical activity inducing features (i.e., walking trails with distance tracking signage, calisthenics equipment).
- **EJE Policy 3.2.5:** Explore, partner, and/or support funding opportunities that will create green spaces in the City.



Active and Healthy Living

EJE Goal 4: Increase Healthy Foods

EJE Objective 4.1: Increase healthy eating for all residents

- **EJE Policy 4.1.1:** Seeks funds at all levels to develop healthy eating programs, community gardens, food drives or community food pantries.
- **EJE Policy 4.1.2:** Encourage developers to incorporate community gardens into their landscape or recreation plans.
- **EJE Policy 4.1.3:** Streamline private projects that intend to develop healthy eating programs, community gardens, food drives or food pantries.
- **EJE Policy 4.1.4:** Encourage and streamline the development of supermarkets that both contain foods that are both affordable and healthy.
- **EJE Policy 4.1.5:** Partner with organizations, distribute assist or develop educational materials that inform or direct the public to healthy eating programs, community gardens development, food drives or food pantries.

EJE Goal 5: Decrease prevalence of chronic disease

EJE Objective 5.1: Provide the community information on different means to reduce or prevent chronic disease.

- **EJE Policy 5.1.1:** Foster relationships with educational institutions, non-profit organizations, healthcare organizations, and regional governmental agencies to participate in efforts promoting healthy lifestyles, physical activity and positive health outcomes
- **EJE Policy 5.1.2:** Provide support to local agencies or non-profit programs who are seeking funding for programs aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles, physical activity and positive health outcomes as staffing levels allow.





QUESTIONS?

FOR COMMENTS OR CONCERNS AFTER THE MEETING
PLEASE CONTACT ANREA MONTANO,
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AMONTANO@BRAWLEY-CA.GOV OR (760)344-8822