



focused general plan

environmental justice

existing conditions technical memorandum

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INTRODUCTION, KEY TAKEAWAYS, AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This Environmental Justice Existing Conditions Technical Memorandum provides a 2022 snapshot of Commerce’s environmental justice and community health and wellness conditions. Environmental justice focuses on pollution, environmental, and social factors that may burden a neighborhood, community, or city.

This technical memorandum:

- Identifies “Disadvantaged Communities” within Commerce as identified by CalEnviroScreen 4.0;
- Assesses the environmental and pollution hazards that disproportionately burden Disadvantaged Communities; and
- Assesses health and wellness disparities experienced by Disadvantaged Communities, including health insurance coverage, healthcare access, food insecurity, grocery store access, and physical activity.

This technical memorandum provides a foundation for the General Plan’s new Environmental Justice policies and implementation programs.

Key Takeaways and Policy Implications

- All three Commerce census tracts are considered Disadvantaged Communities based on CalEnviroScreen’s criteria, allowing the entire city to benefit from state programs and funds to address environmental justice issues.
- Commerce has some of the highest rates of environmental burdens in California due to the city’s industrial character. While most pollution indicators scored above the 75th percentile, pollution indicators ozone, impaired water bodies, and drinking water scored moderately.
- Despite lower health insurance coverage rates and no hospitals located in the community, reported health conditions and healthcare services were comparable to adjacent communities and the rest of Los Angeles County.
- While most population characteristic indicators scored above the 75th percentile, specific indicators asthma, unemployment, and housing burden scored moderately.
- Using the Justice40 Initiative criteria, two of the three Commerce census tracts (5323.02 and 5323.04) are designated as “Disadvantaged Communities. The areas that had individual indicators score above the 90th percentile include energy, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, and workforce development. Legacy pollution had the highest number of indicators score in the 90th percentile range, which can be attributed to the industrial nature and history of the community.

Environmental Justice policies will be looking to lessen pollution burdens and improve population characteristics while continuing to sustain, if not improve residents healthy living opportunities.

Environmental Justice

Environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental regulations and policies implemented by local agencies. Fair treatment means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, and commercial operations and policies.

Equity is grounded in principles of justice and fairness, focused on creating a society in which everyone can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. Residents who can participate and express their thoughts in these decision-making processes, can help to ensure that their neighborhoods and regions are shaped in more equitable ways. However, equitable outcomes occur when decisionmakers take these thoughts into consideration when making strategic and equitable choices that enable residents to lead healthy and prosperous lives.

Disadvantaged Communities

Disadvantaged communities refer to areas that are most afflicted with a combination of economic, health, and environmental burdens.

California law requires local governments to identify any Disadvantaged Communities that exist within their jurisdiction. The California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool “CalEnviroScreen” was developed by the California Environmental Protection Agency to identify Disadvantaged Communities using the following indicators of pollution burden and population characteristics:

- **Pollution Burden.** Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.
- **Population Characteristics.** Areas with concentrations of people that are of low income, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, and/or low levels of educational attainment.

The CalEnviroScreen tool reports on a census tract level for the entirety of the State. It is important to note that although these attributes are used to characterize the concentration of burdens within a tract, it is not limited to the tract and can have impacts on the surrounding area.

Table 1 summarizes the indicators used in the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 analysis.

CalEnviroScreen analysis produces a percentile ranking of Commerce’s census tracts (small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a city or county), see Figure 1. The percentile ranking for each census tract demonstrates the degree of burdens present in that tract, relative to the rest of the State’s census tracts. Using the 21 indicators listed in Table 1, an overall CalEnviroScreen 4.0 score is created for each census tract.

All census tracts across the State are then ordered from highest to lowest based on their CalEnviroScreen 4.0 score and assigned a percentile rank. A percentile ranking above 75 would mean that the census tract is in the top 25% of all CalEnviroScreen 4.0 scores statewide, and is of high pollution/population burden concerns, while a census tract with a percentage of 74% or lower is not as critically observed.

In the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 analysis, all three of census tracts in Commerce (5323.02, 5323.03, 5323.04) have pollution burden impacts and population characteristics that cumulatively score above 75, which qualifies all neighborhoods in Commerce as Disadvantaged Communities (DAC, see Table 2). The only score that fell below 75 was the population characteristic percentile for census tract 5323.03 (73.39).

Due to the industrial origins and nature of Commerce, factors contributing to these elevated scores are the Union Pacific Intermodal Terminal and adjacent warehouses that store and export goods, and Interstate 710 (I-710) and Interstate 5 (I-5) that bifurcate the community and allow residents to be directly exposed to air pollution generated from highway traffic. While all three census tracts consist largely of industrial uses, predominantly minority communities are nestled within or between the industrial and transportation uses. In census tract 5323.02, the Bandini neighborhood is wedged between the Union Pacific Intermodal Terminal facilities to the north and south. Additionally, I-710 cuts through a portion of the neighborhood, disconnecting residents from the rest of the city. Census tract 5323.03, which is home to several community facilities, is wedged between industrial warehouses and the I-5. Census tract 5323.04, which partially falls outside of the city’s jurisdiction, entails the largest swath of industrial uses but includes the Laguna neighborhood that transitions into Bell Gardens’ residential areas .

Table 1: CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Indicators

Pollution Burdens	
Exposure Indicators:	Environmental Effect Indicators:
▪ Ozone concentrations in air ▪ PM 2.5 concentrations in air ▪ Diesel particulate matter emissions ▪ Drinking water contaminants ▪ Children’s lead risk from housing ▪ Use of certain high-hazard, high volatility pesticides ▪ Toxic releases from facilities ▪ Traffic density	▪ Toxic cleanup sites ▪ Groundwater threats from leaking underground storage sites and cleanups ▪ Hazardous waste facilities and generators ▪ Impaired water bodies ▪ Solid waste sites and facilities
Population Characteristics	
Sensitive Population Indicators:	Socioeconomic Factor Indicators:
▪ Asthma emergency department visits ▪ Cardiovascular disease (emergency department visits for heart attacks) ▪ Low birth weight infants	▪ Educational attainment ▪ Housing burdened low-income households ▪ Linguistic isolation ▪ Poverty ▪ Unemployment

Source: California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen 4.0), Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), 2021.

Table 2: CalEnviroScreen (CES) 4.0 Percentile Scores

Tract		Percentiles and Indicators	
Census Tract Number	CES 4.0 Percentile Score (Overall)	Pollution Indicators Percentile	Population Characteristics Percentile
5323.02	99.58	99.84	87.25
5323.03	96.39	99.43	73.39
5323.04	99.08	99.83	82.12

Source: CalEnviroScreen 4.0 the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, February 2021.

Note: Census tracts with a percentile of 75 or greater are highlighted, indicating these areas are within the top 25 percentile in the State.

All three Commerce census tracts have an aggregate pollution and population characteristic burden that designate them as Disadvantaged Communities. All three census tracts are above the 95th percentile in State, indicating that Commerce has some of the most acute environmental burdens of any California community.

Figure 1: Commerce Census Tracts

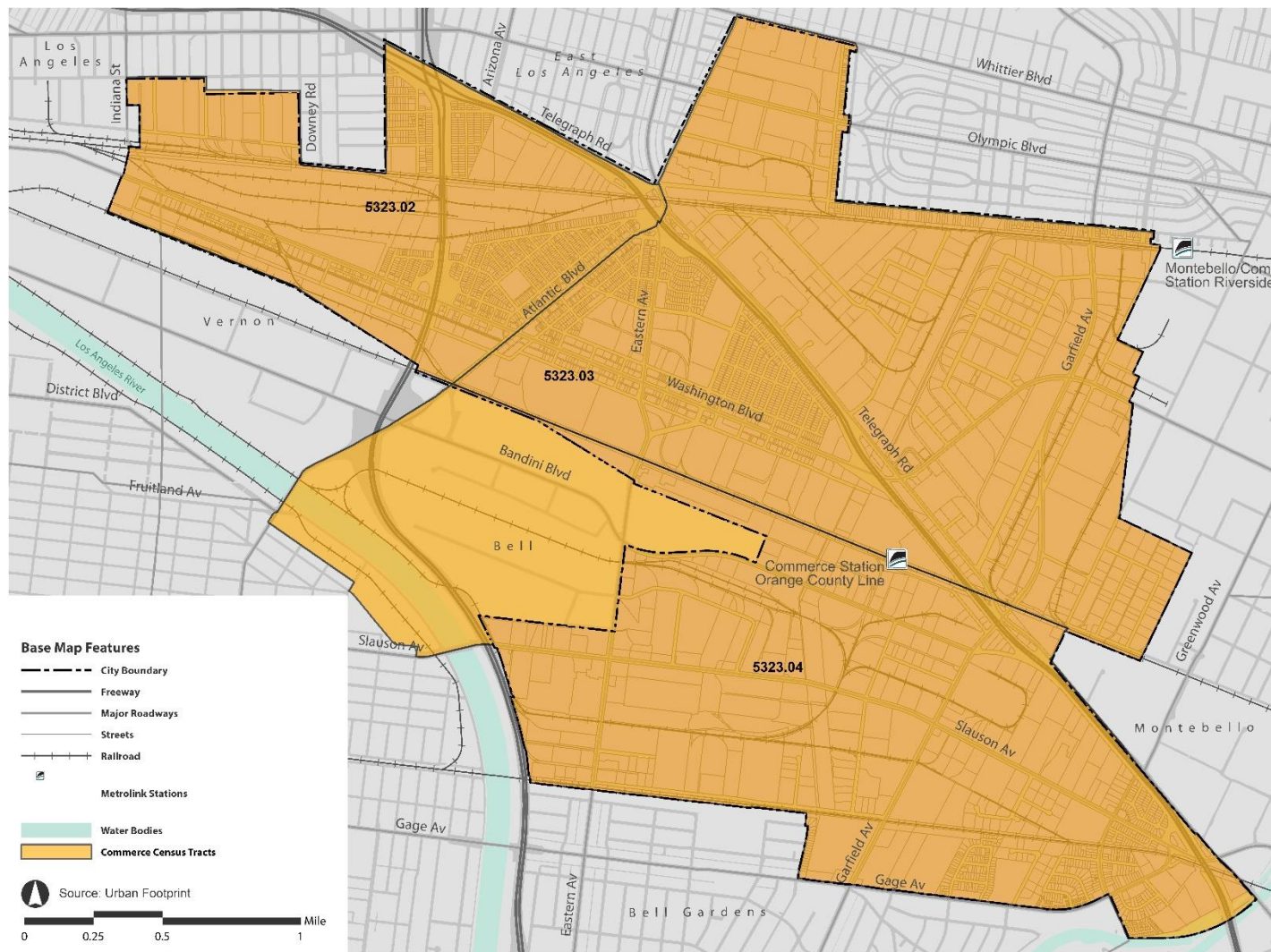
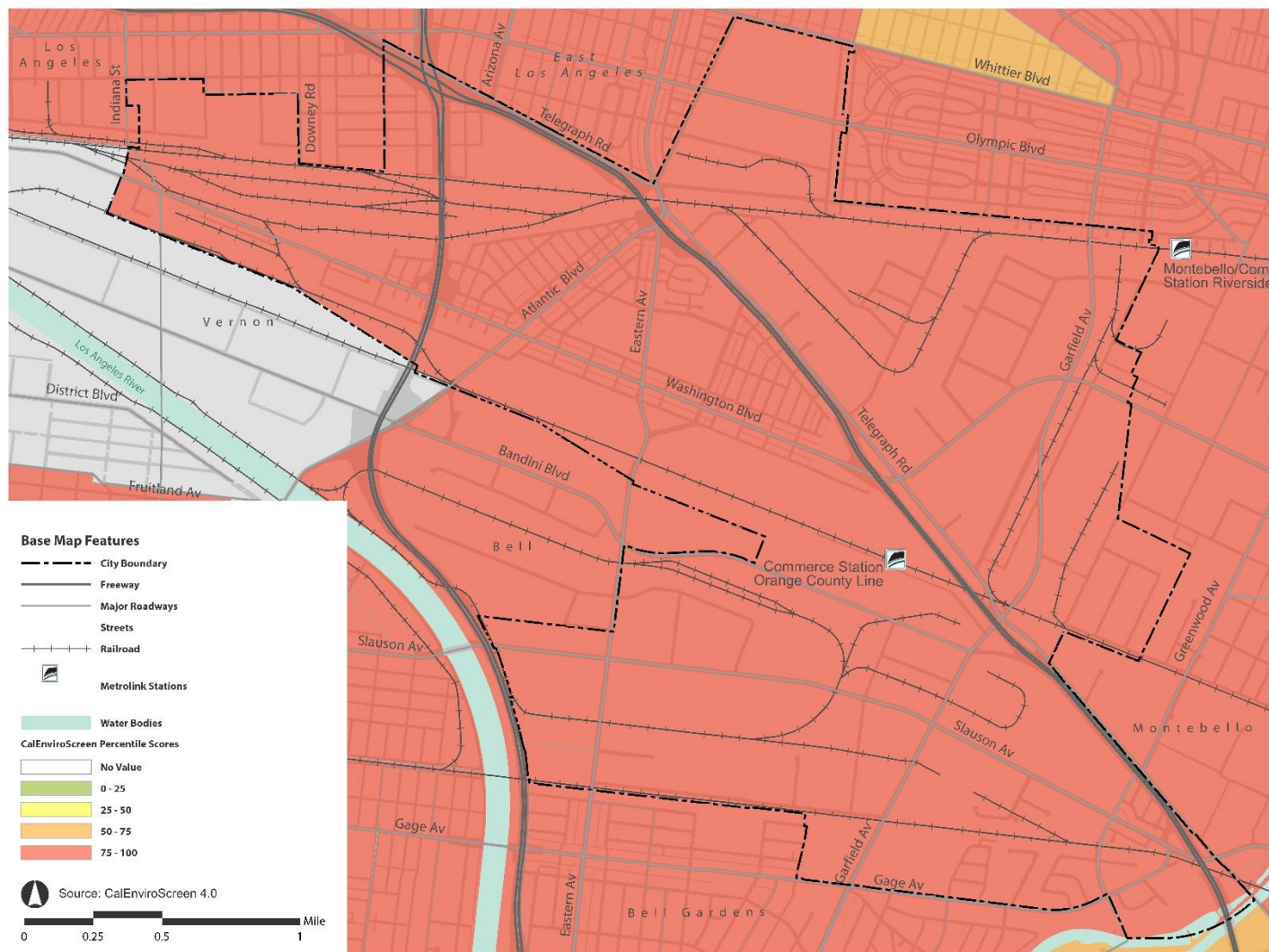


Figure 2: CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Percentile Scores



Pollution Burden

Each census tract's pollution burden is calculated by averaging indicators that measure exposure and environmental effects. The individual indicator scores are aggregated together to determine the overall Pollution Burden. Figure 3 maps the aggregate pollution burden percentile scores across Commerce. Table 3 shows that most census tracts have some of the highest percentiles for individual indicators. All census tracts have an aggregate score in the 75th percentile or higher. While most individual indicators were above the 75th percentile, ozone, impaired water bodies, and drinking water are at more moderate levels. Pesticides are not measured in Commerce due to unavailable land for agricultural uses. Conversely, all other pollution burdens are extremely high due to the urban, industrial nature of the city.

Table 3: Pollution Burden Indicators Percentile Scores

Census Tract Number	CES 4.0 Percentile	Aggregation of Pollution Indicators	Toxic Release	PM 2.5	Solid Waste	Groundwater Threats	Hazardous Waste	Diesel PM	Traffic Density	Cleanup Sites	Ozone	Impaired Water Bodies	Pesticides	Drinking Water	Lead
5323.02	100	100	87	87	80	89	98	98	95	99	55	67	0	63	98
5323.03	96	99	86	89	90	96	98	95	81	96	57	67	0	48	79
5323.04	99	100	88	87	98	98	95	96	91	98	51	87	0	65	69

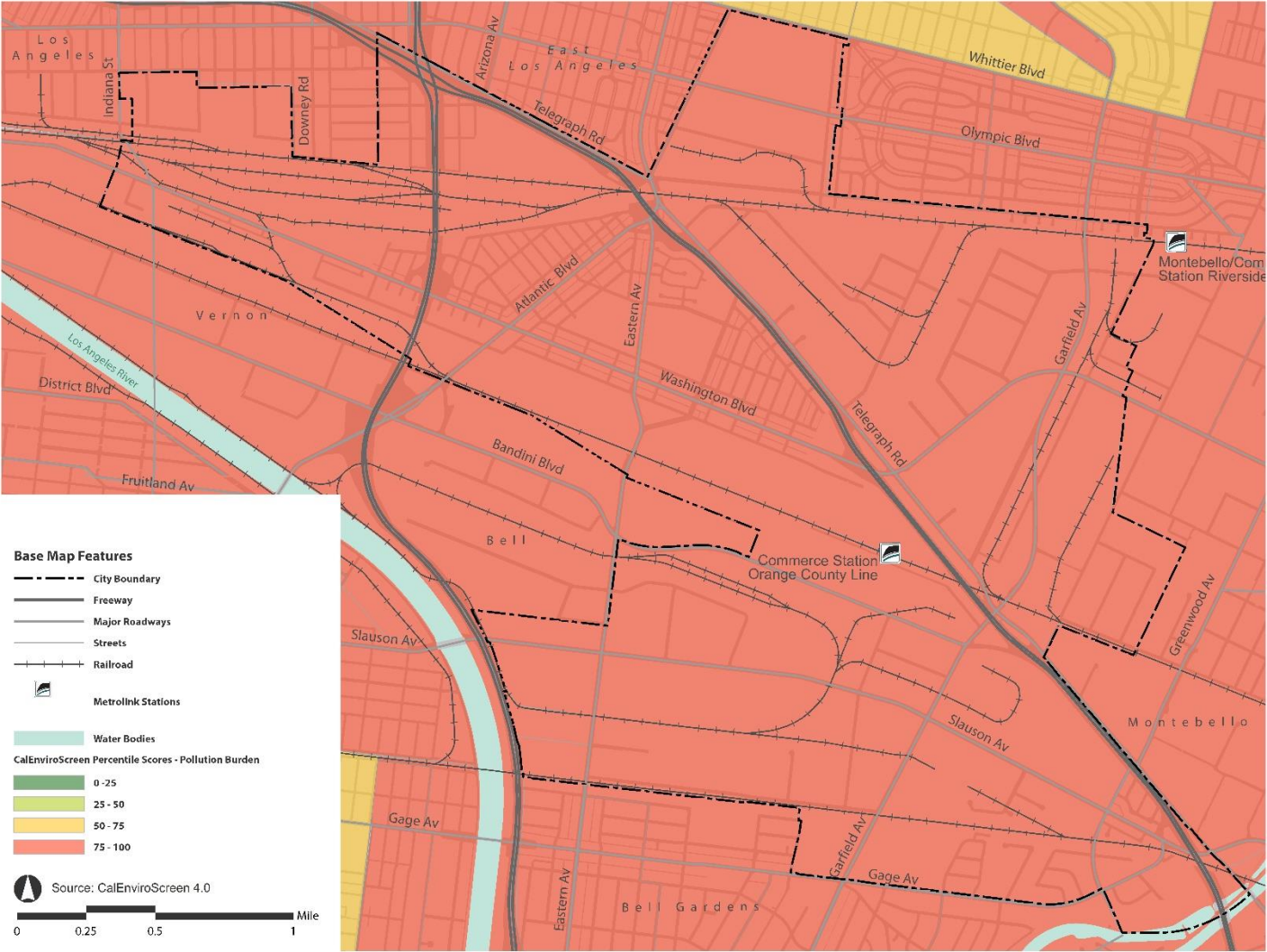
Source: CalEnviroScreen 4.0 the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, February 2021.

Note: Census tracts with a percentile of 75 or greater are highlighted, indicating these areas are within the top 25 percentiles in the State.

All three census tracts have pollution indicators above the 75 percentiles, as noted in Table 3. The pollution indicators that impact one or more census tracts impacts are described below:

- Solid Waste Facilities.** Solid waste facilities are places where household garbage and similar kinds of waste are collected, processed, or stored. These include landfills and composting or recycling facilities. Solid waste disposal can release waste gases such as methane and carbon dioxide and may do so for decades after site closure. Exposure to landfill leachate can have adverse impacts on reproductive and respiratory systems. Composting, recycling, and waste treatment facilities may produce odors, attract pests, and increase local truck traffic. Each solid waste facility is given a value based on its type, how much waste it handles, and whether violations occur at the facility. Closed, illegal, and abandoned disposal sites are also included. The solid waste sites and facilities' proximity to residences is also calculated. The values for all solid waste facilities were summed. Additional information is available at CalRecycle and USEPA.
- Groundwater Threats.** Hazardous chemicals can be stored in containers on land or in underground storage tanks. Common soil and groundwater pollutants include gasoline and diesel fuel, solvents, heavy metals, and pesticides. Leaks from containers and tanks can contaminate soil and pollute groundwater. Man-made ponds containing water produced from oil and gas activities may also contain pollutants. The State Water Resources Control Board maintains a database of places where groundwater may be threatened by certain sources of pollution. The scores for sites that threaten groundwater quality are added together for each census tract. The score is based on information about the type of site and how close it is to residences. Additional information may be provided by State Water Resources Control Board and USEPA.

Figure 3: Pollution Burden



- **Hazardous Waste.** Hazardous waste is created by different commercial or industrial activities containing chemicals that may be dangerous or harmful to health. Only certain regulated facilities are allowed to treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste. Hazardous waste includes a range of materials from automotive oil to highly toxic waste materials produced by businesses and industries. Hazardous waste may also be transported from businesses that generate waste to permitted facilities for recycling, treatment, storage, or disposal. Hazardous waste is potentially dangerous or harmful to human health and the environment. Potential health effects associated with living in proximity to hazardous waste processing and disposal sites include diabetes and cardiovascular disease. This indicator sums the number of permitted hazardous waste facilities and hazardous waste generators in each census tracts. The score is also based on how close a generator is to residential uses. These facilities are not “clean up” sites. For additional information, see California Department of Toxic Substances Control and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).
- **Diesel PM.** Diesel particulate matter is emitted into the environment from on- and off-road sources. These sources include trucks, buses, cars, ships, and locomotive engines. Diesel particulate matters are found in higher concentrations near ports, rail yards, and freeways. As with other particulate matters, diesel PM can enter into an individual’s airways and cause, or worsen, chronic respiratory illnesses. Sensitive populations, such as individuals with asthma, are at a higher risk of poor health outcomes from exposure to diesel PM.
- **Traffic Density.** Heavy traffic is common in major cities, traffic density is a measure of the number of vehicles on the roads in an area. Major roads and highways can bring air pollution into nearby neighborhoods. Exhaust fumes contain toxic chemicals that can damage DNA, cause cancer, make breathing difficult, and cause low weight and premature births. Children who live or go to schools near busy roads can have higher rates of asthma and other lung diseases. Traffic density is calculated by dividing the traffic volumes on major and some local roads by the total road length in the census tract for the year 2017. Traffic density information is available from California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), California Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Investigations Branch, and Harvard School of Public Health.
- **Cleanup Sites.** Contaminated sites can pose a variety of risks to nearby residents. Hazardous substances can move off-site and impact surrounding communities. In general, it takes many years for a site to be certified as clean, as cleanup work is often delayed due to cost, litigation, concerns about liability or detection of new contaminants.
- **Impaired Water Bodies.** Stream, rivers, and lakes are used for recreation and fishing and may provide water for drinking or agriculture. When water is contaminated by pollutants, the water bodies are considered impaired. These impairments are related to the amount of pollution that has occurred in or near the waterbody. The State Water Resources Control Board maintains information on water bodies in California that are impaired by pollutants. The indicator combines the number of pollutants in all water bodies designated as impaired in each census tract.
- **Lead.** Lead is a toxic heavy metal that occurs naturally in the environment. Historically, lead has been used in common items such as house paint, plumbing, and gasoline. Lead exposure in children can adversely affect brain development, and can result in blood, kidney, and endocrine toxicity. Higher levels of lead in blood are often found in populations who live in neighborhoods that have older housing or that have high rates of poverty levels.

In addition to the pollution burden indicators, proximity to industrial uses and high traffic volume roadways exposes people to air pollutants and higher noise levels. Industrial uses may generate unhealthy fumes and increase truck traffic near neighborhoods. Major roads and highways can bring air pollutants and noise into nearby neighborhoods as well. Table 4 quantifies residential uses near industrial uses and/or I-710 and I-5.

Table 4: Housing and Population Proximity to Industrial Uses and Freeways

Housing and Population Proximity to Industrial Uses and Freeways	City	
	Housing Units	Population
Proximity to Industrial Uses		
Within 100 feet	939	3,530
Within 500 feet	2,725	10,006
Proximity to Freeways		
Within 500 feet	810	3,130
Within 1,000 feet	1,768	6,610

Source: MIG, Urban Footprint, 2022.

Population Characteristics

Population characteristic indicators considered by the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 include health conditions and socioeconomic factors. Asthma, education, poverty, employment, housing burden, are among those considered, as shown in Table 5. Census tracts 5323.02 and 5323.04 have aggregate population characteristics score of 75 or higher, with 5323.03 falling just under the 75th percentile threshold. The indicators with the highest percentile scores for all three census tracts include education and linguistic isolation, which may indicate a lack of educational opportunities and a high proportion of individuals and households that speak a language other than English.

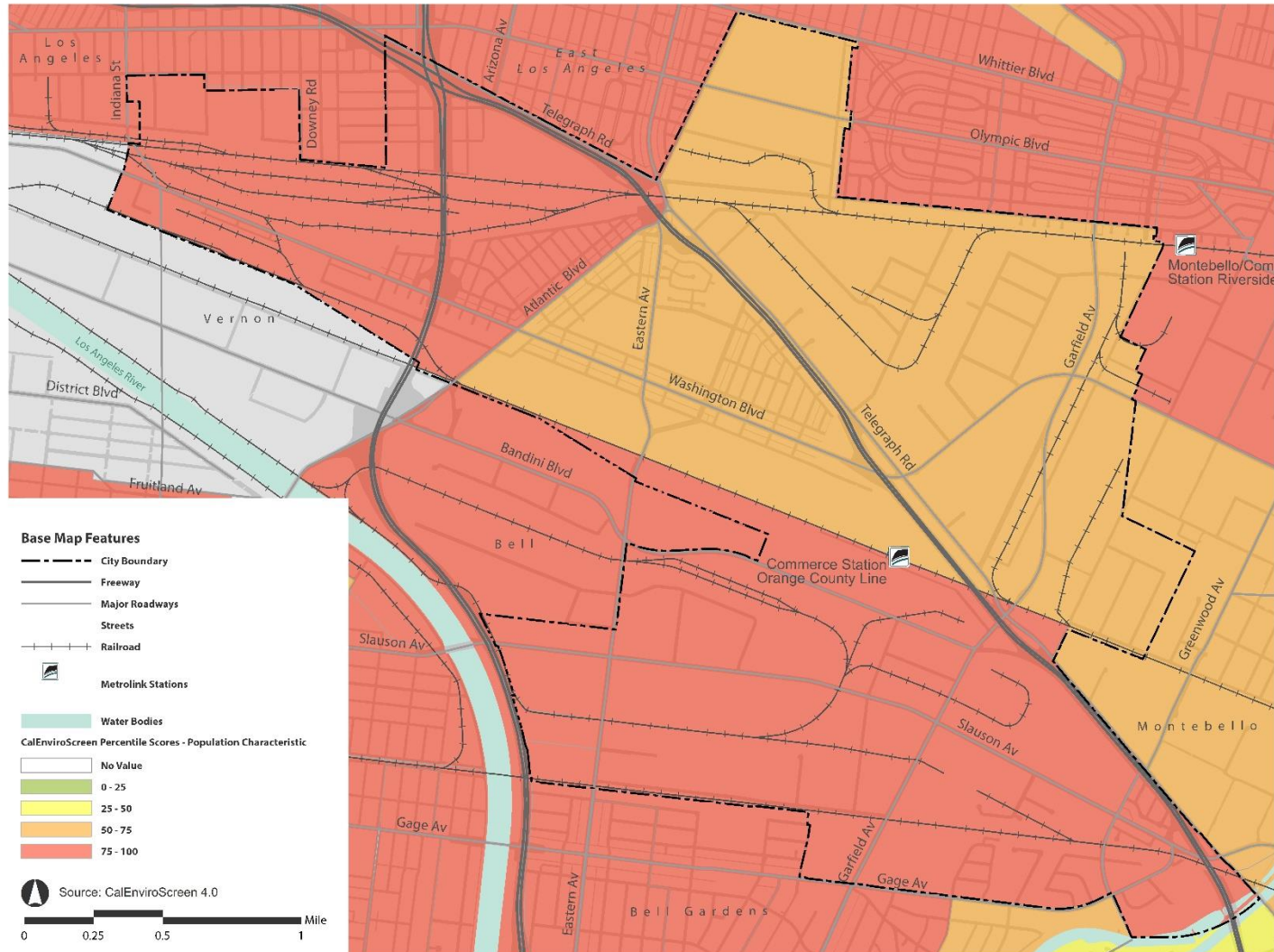
Table 5: Population Characteristics Indicators Scores

Census Tract Number	CES 4.0 Percentile	Aggregated Population characteristic	Asthma	Low Birth Weight	Cardiovascular Disease	Education	Linguistic Isolation	Poverty	Unemployment	Housing Burden
5323.02	100	87	65	82	84	93	88	82	62	46
5323.03	96	73	59	35	77	92	68	58	75	75
5323.04	99	82	58	60	80	86	85	77	0	61

Source: CalEnviroScreen 4.0 the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, February 2021.

Note: Census tracts with a population characteristics percentile of 75 or greater are highlighted, indicating these areas are within the top 25 percentile in the State regarding population characteristics.

Figure 4: Population Characteristics



Population characteristics indicators impacting the census tracts are described below:

- **Asthma.** Asthma increases an individual's sensitivity to pollutants. Air pollutants, including particulate matter, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and diesel exhaust, can trigger symptoms among asthmatics. Children living along major roadways and freeways have been known to suffer from asthma at a disproportionate rate. Asthma can also increase susceptibility to respiratory diseases such as pneumonia and influenza.
- **Low Birth Weight.** Babies who weigh less than 5 ½ pounds at birth at full term are considered to have a low birth weight. Poor nutrition, lack of prenatal care, stress, and maternal smoking are known to increase the risk of having a low birthweight baby. Studies suggest that pollution could also be a factor. The California Department of Public Health collects information on where low birth weight infants are born in California. The indicator is the percentage of low weight births, averaged over the 2009-2015 period.
- **Education.** Educational attainment is an important independent predictor of health. As a component of socioeconomic status, education is also related to the degree of indoor and outdoor pollution exposure. Studies have demonstrated that the likelihood of exposure to environmental pollutants was associated with educational attainment. Low educational attainment increases the likelihood of experiencing economic hardship, stress, and lack of social support and reduced access to medical care, which can significantly affect health.
- **Linguistics Isolation.** The inability to speak English well can have impacts on an individual's communication with service providers and their ability to perform daily social activities. People with limited English are less likely to have regular medical care and are more likely to report difficulty getting medical information or advice. Linguistic isolation is also an indicator of one's ability to participate in local politics and decision-making, as there is a disconnect between government and residents who are not well versed in English writing or speaking.
- **Poverty.** Poverty is an important social determinant of health. Numerous studies have suggested that lower income populations are likelier than wealthier populations to experience adverse health outcomes when exposed to environmental pollution. Wealth impacts health, as it determines one's living conditions, occupations, nutrition, and access to proper health care services.
- **Unemployment.** At an individual level, unemployment can be associated with stress. Individuals who are unemployed tend to have higher annual illness rates and lack health insurance and access to health care. Stress from being unemployed and not securing income can result in chronic illnesses related to stress.
- **Housing Burden.** Households with lower incomes may spend a larger proportion of their income on housing and may suffer from housing-induced poverty, which can lead to adverse health effects. The housing burden indicator measures the percent of households in a census tract that are both low income (making less than 80% of the Los Angeles County median family income) and severely burdened by housing costs (paying greater than 50% of their income to housing costs) during the 2013-2017 period. Low-income households paying more than 50% of their income on housing in the region are on the rise. Additional information on housing burden is available from the State of California Legislative Analyst's Office.

Health and Wellness

This Health and Wellness section presents data and analysis that identify the relationship between economic, education, healthcare, housing, transportation, and environmental decisions and their effects on health and wellness of Disadvantaged Communities and populations that historically have experienced inequities, institutionalized racism, exclusion, and/or isolation.

Healthy Places Index

Everyone should have the opportunity to be healthy. A person's health is shaped dramatically by community characteristics—housing, education, economic, and other social factors—which often are shaped through policy. The California Healthy Places Index (HPI) combines eight indicators comprising 24 community characteristics with weighted scoring into a single indexed HPI Score, as seen in Table 6. HPI scores are displayed in quartiles, allowing for straightforward comparisons within a specific geography and across California.

Table 6: Healthy Places Index Indicator Weights & Community Characteristics

Economic (32% of HPI Score)	Education (19% of HPI Score)	Transportation (16% of HPI Score)
▪ Above Poverty ▪ Employed ▪ Median Housing Income	▪ Pre-School Enrollment ▪ High School Enrollment ▪ Bachelors Attainment	▪ Automobile Access ▪ Active (healthy) Commuting
Social (10% of HPI Score)	Clean Environment (5% of HPI Score)	Neighborhood (8% of HPI Score)
▪ Two Parent Household ▪ Voting	▪ Clean Air - Diesel PM ▪ Clean Air - Ozone ▪ Clean Air - PM 2.5 ▪ Safe Drinking Water – Contaminants	
Housing (5% of HPI Score)	Healthcare (5% of HPI Score)	
▪ Severe Housing Costs Burden ▪ Homeownership ▪ Housing Habitability ▪ Uncrowded Housing	▪ Insured Adults	▪ Retail Density ▪ Supermarket Access ▪ Parks ▪ Tree Canopy ▪ Alcohol Establishments Availability

Source: *The California Healthy Places Index (HPI)*, Public Health Alliance of Southern California, 2022.

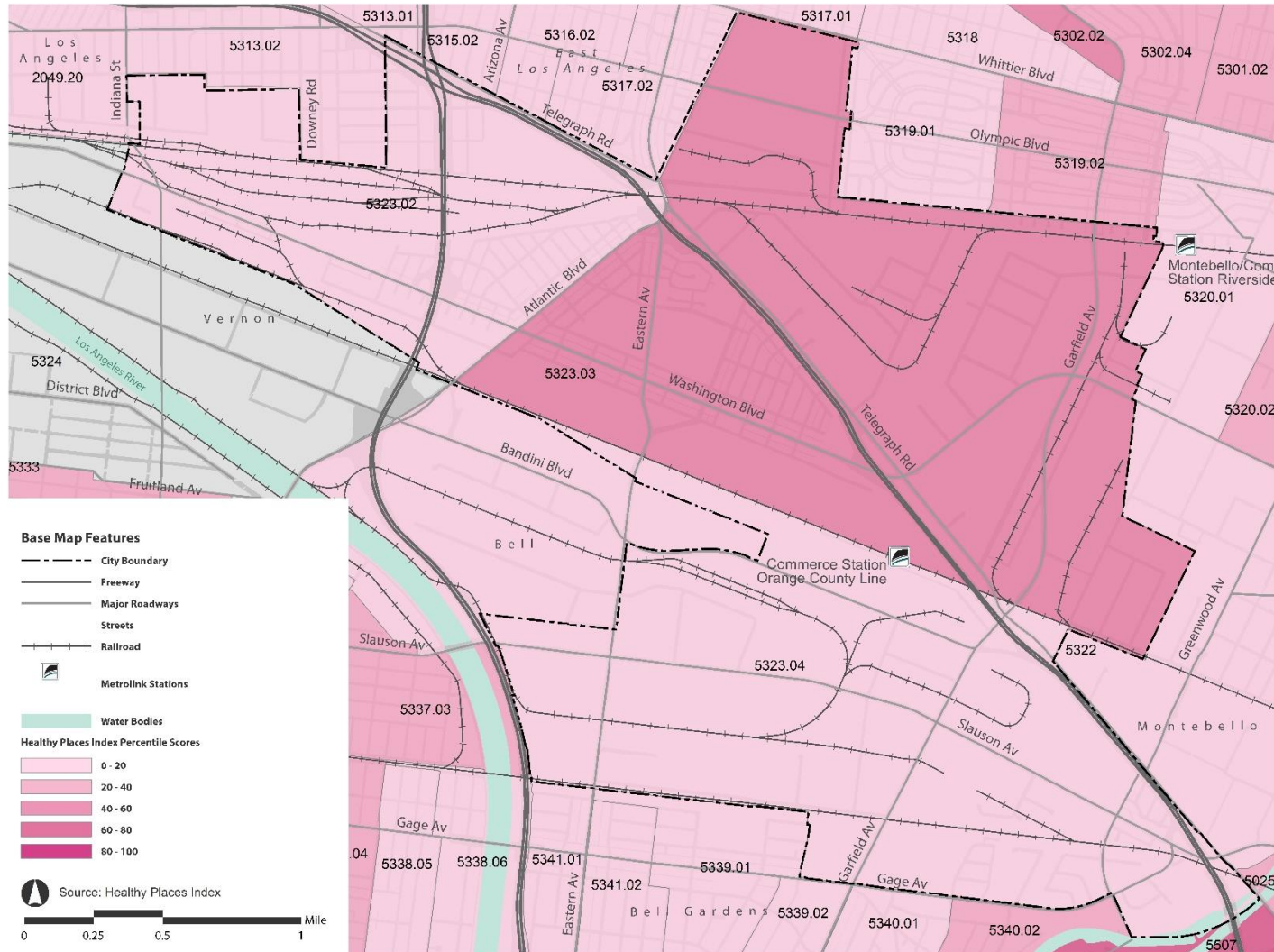
In contrast to the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 data, where higher percentiles equate to worse conditions, **lower HPI percentiles equate to worse conditions** for both the overall HPI score and contributing indicators.

Commerce's HPI percentiles for each census tract fell below the 50th percentile, indicating acute environmental and social burdens like CalEnviroScreen. Census tracts 5323.02 and 5323.03 had moderate neighborhood scores, which are primarily attributed to the retail density in these tracts. Census tract 5323.04 had the lowest percentiles for socioeconomic categories, but this may be attributed to the sparsely populated nature of this tract. Table 7 provides Commerce's aggregate HPI percentile scores, as well as the scores for each individual census tracts in detail, and Figure 5 maps the aggregate scores for each individual census tract. The map also reveals that adjacent communities have similar HPI scores, meaning that Commerce has similar conditions to nearby cities.

**Table 7: Healthy Places Index Indicators Percentile Scores
(Commerce and Census Tracts)**

Healthy Places Index Indicator and Community Characteristics	Overall Score	5323.02	5323.03	5323.04
Economic (32% of HPI Score)	24	15	36	6
Above Poverty	24	18	42	23
Employed	30	19	39	3
Per Capita Income	19	11	24	16
Education (19% of HPI Score)	26	20	55	3
Bachelor's Degree Attainment	14	9	19	20
Pre-School Enrollment	24	25	75	60
High School Enrollment	39	25	63	2
Transportation (16% of HPI Score)	29	45	68	5
Automobile Access	13	54	32	9
Active (Healthy) Commuting	76	42	78	62
Social (10% of HPI Score)	43	27	47	34
Voting	15	20	35	19
Census Response	64	38	60	58
Neighborhood (8% of HPI Score)	59	72	66	24
Tree Canopy	28	53	27	24
Retail Density	95	81	91	68
Park Access	80	80	49	30
Healthcare Access (5% of HPI Score)	11	12	26	18
Insured Adult	11	12	26	18
Housing (5% of HPI Score)	14	42	31	22
Low-Income Housing Cost Burden (Homeowner)	16	53	45	2
Homeownership	14	40	44	23
Housing Habitability	83	81	36	81
Low-Income Housing Cost Burden (Renter)	53	63	23	85
Uncrowded Housing	11	13	24	27
Clean Environment (5% of HPI Score)	11	11	24	17
Safe Drinking Water – Contaminants	45	37	52	35
Clean Air - Ozone	53	45	43	49
Clean Air - PM2.5	10	13	11	13
Clean Air - Diesel PM	0	2	5	4
HPI Score for Commerce	22	17	41	6

Figure 5: Healthy Places Index by Census Tracts



Comparative Health Indicators

Commerce has an HPI score of 22, which means that the city has healthier community conditions than 22% of other California cities.

General Health Conditions

Health estimates from the UCLA Health Policy Center's California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), the largest state health survey in the United States, is shown in Table 8. Commerce participants responded somewhat similarly as nearby cities and County respondents to questions about their physical and mental health.

Table 8: Health Condition and Healthcare Service Comparisons

2018 Health Conditions for Population (Ages 18 to 64 in Past 12 months)	Commerce	East Los Angeles	Montebello	Los Angeles County
Fair or poor health	4%	5%	5%	4%
Needed help for mental health problems	17%	15%	16%	21%
Delayed prescriptions/medical services	19%	17%	19%	22%
Serious psychological distress	10%	9%	10%	12%
Ever diagnosed with diabetes	14%	15%	14%	12%

Source: AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition, California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), UCLA, 2018.

Health Insurance and Healthcare Access

Access to comprehensive, quality health care services is important for promoting and maintaining health, preventing, and managing disease, reducing unnecessary disability and premature death, and achieving health equity for all Americans. People without medical insurance are more likely to lack a usual source of medical care (such as a primary care provider) and are more likely to skip routine medical care due to costs, thus, increasing their risk for serious and disabling health conditions. When they access health services, they are often burdened with large medical bills and out-of-pocket expenses. Increasing access to both routine medical care and medical insurance is vital toward improving health.

Table 9 shows the percentage of Commerce's population with health insurance coverage. Commerce residents generally have access health insurance; however, Los Angeles County residents have higher rates of being insured.

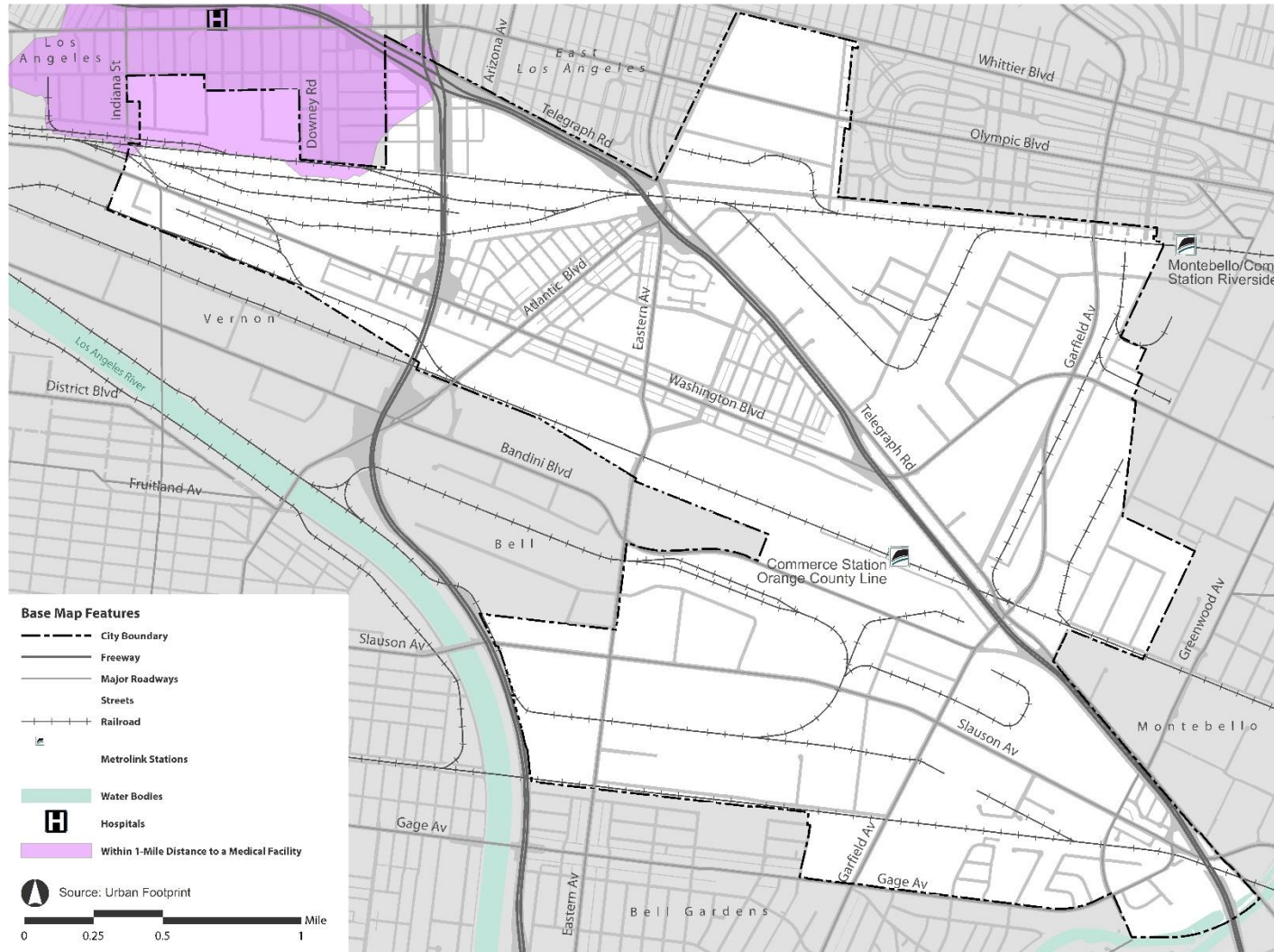
Figure 6 indicates the absence of a hospital is within city boundaries and that only a small swath of Commerce is within a 1-mile radius of the nearest hospital in Los Angeles.

Table 9: Health Insurance Coverage

Health Insurance Status	Commerce		Los Angeles County (9,754,769)
	Number	Percent	Percent
Total Population	12,649	100%	100%
With Health Insurance Coverage	10,775	85.2%	91%
No Health Insurance Coverage	1,874	14.8%	9%
Demographics - With Health Insurance Coverage			
Age			
Under 19 years	2,650	93.6%	96.4%
19-64 years	6,154	81.7%	87.5%
65 years and older	1,971	86.3%	98.3%
Race and Ethnicity			
White Alone	6,027	90.30%	96.0%
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	10,263	84.80%	86.7%
Black or African American Alone	58	86.60%	93.5%
Nativity and U.S. Citizenship Status			
Native Born	7,164	90.20%	94.1%
Foreign Born – Naturalized Citizen	3,611	76.70%	94.4%
Foreign Born – Not a Citizen	1,496	62.30%	72.9%

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2020.

Figure 6: Hospital Access



Food Access

Food Insecurity

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. A household being unable to afford sufficient, quality food correlates with experiences of unemployment and poverty. Participation in programs designed to address hunger, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or food stamps), rises in response to food insecurity.

Approximately 17% of Commerce households received food stamps/SNAP (also known as CalFresh, California's food stamp program) in 2020 compared to 9% in Los Angeles County (SNAP, 2020). SNAP can buffer participants against food insecurity and poor health.

Additionally, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal income supplement program designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people who have little or no income and to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. Participation in disability assistance programs is relatively high among adults with disabilities, particularly those who are unable to work due to their disability. Food insecurity is more prevalent among SSI recipients, including higher rates of food insecurity due to more severe disabilities. In 2020, about 9% of Commerce households received SSI income compared to about 7% of Los Angeles County residents (U.S. Census, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2020).

Residents may also rely on food banks and social service providers throughout the city and county, including Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) through the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank (LARF), and several other organizations. Families with school-aged children may receive free and reduced-price meals as part of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), a federally assisted meal program that provides free, nutritionally balanced lunches to children whose families meet eligibility income requirements. The NSLP provides nutritious foods that help reduce the harmful impact of food insecurity and improve outcomes for children. Research sponsored by U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service found that children receiving free or reduced price NSLP lunches consume fewer empty calories and more fiber, milk, fruit, and vegetables than income eligible nonparticipants, both at lunch and during a full 24 hours. Free and reduced-price school meals also free up some household resources for other necessary purchases.

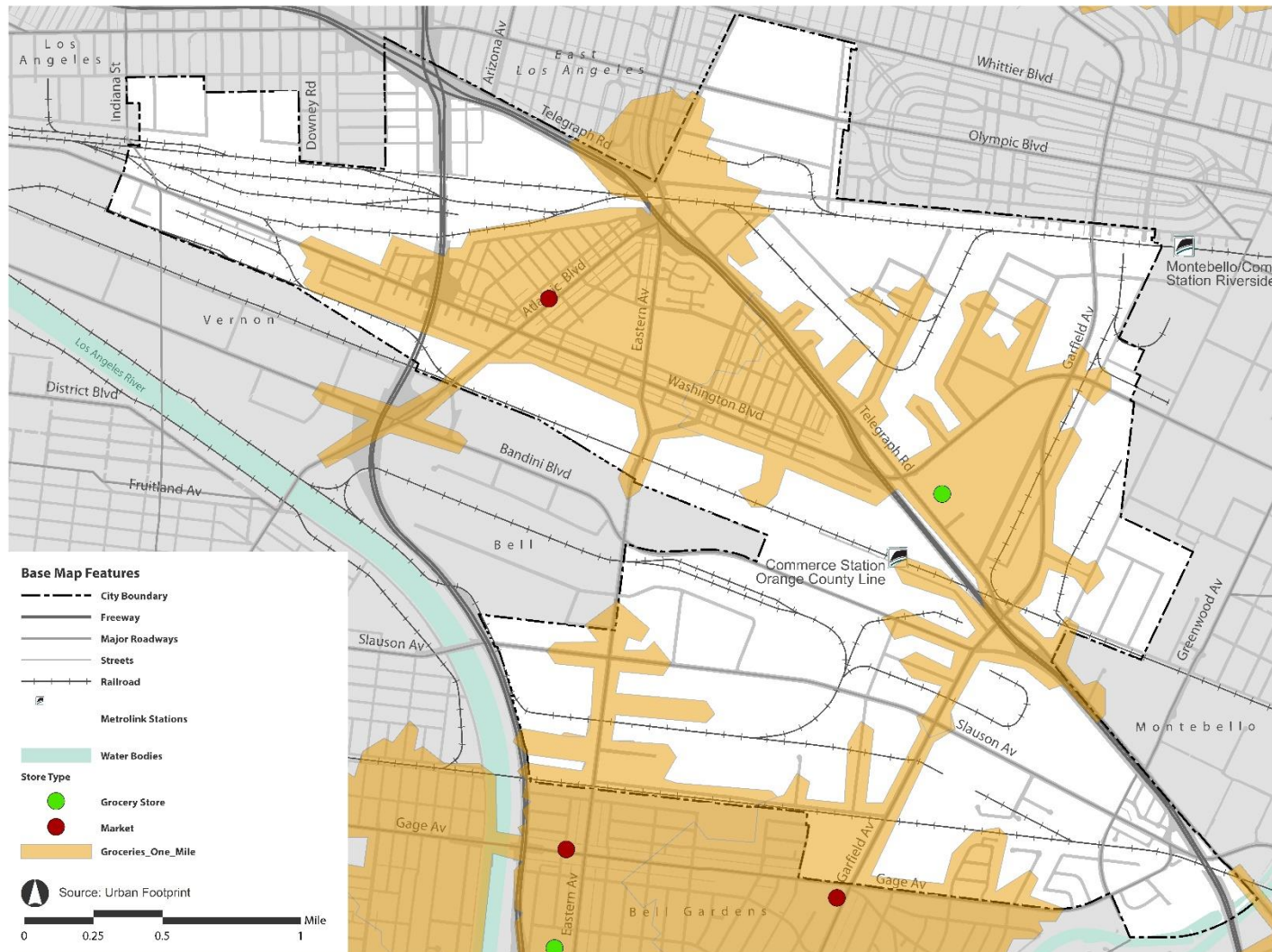
Grocery Store Access

Limited access to supermarkets, grocery stores, farmers' markets, and other sources of healthy and affordable food may make it harder for some residents to eat a healthy diet. Expanding the availability of nutritious and affordable food by developing and equipping grocery stores, small retailers, corner markets, and farmers' markets in communities with limited access is an important part of creating a healthy community. Food deserts are areas in which it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality fresh food. To define food deserts in Commerce, the following U.S. Department of Agriculture indicators of access are used:

- Accessibility to sources of healthy food, as measured by distance to a store or by the number of stores in an area
- Individual-level resources that may affect accessibility, such as family income or vehicle availability
- Neighborhood-level indicators of resources, such as the average income of the neighborhood and the availability of public transportation.

Figure 7 indicates that Commerce residents have access to healthy foods, although the closest food providers are smaller markets that traditionally do not offer robust options for fresh produce and meats. The major grocery store in the Commerce is Costco, which is on the other side of the I-5, creating a barrier for residents. The next closest grocery store is the Food 4 Less in Bell Gardens, although Commerce residential neighborhoods do not fall within a 1-mile radius of the store.

Figure 7: Healthy Food Access



Physical Activity and Park Access

Physical Activity

Research demonstrates that participating in regular moderate to vigorous physical activity provides many health benefits. Some benefits of physical activity can be achieved immediately, such as reduced feelings of anxiety, reduced blood pressure, sleep improvements, some aspects of cognitive function, and insulin sensitivity. Other benefits—such as increased cardiorespiratory fitness, increased muscular strength, decreased depressive symptoms, and sustained blood pressure reduction—require a few weeks or months of participation in physical activity.

Physical activity can also slow or delay the progression of chronic diseases, such as hypertension and Type 2 diabetes. Benefits persist with continued physical activity. Table 10 shows the level of self-reported physical activity in Commerce and surrounding areas, per the CHIS survey. Commerce residents generally reported a similar percentage of overweight/obesity across all age groups, when compared to neighboring cities, but higher when compared to the County.

Table 10: Weight and Physical Activity

Weight and Physical Activity (2018)	Commerce	East Los Angeles	Montebello	Los Angeles County
Obese Adults (BMI > 30) (Ages 18+)	41%	42%	37%	30%
Overweight or Obese Teens (Ages 12 to 17)	49%	49%	48%	34%
Overweight Children (Ages 2 to 11)	15%	18%	15%	14%
Regular Physical Activity (Ages 5 to 17)	19%	19%	19%	14%
Walked at least 150 Minutes in Past Week (Ages 18+)	39%	40%	38%	38%

Source: AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition, California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), UCLA, 2020

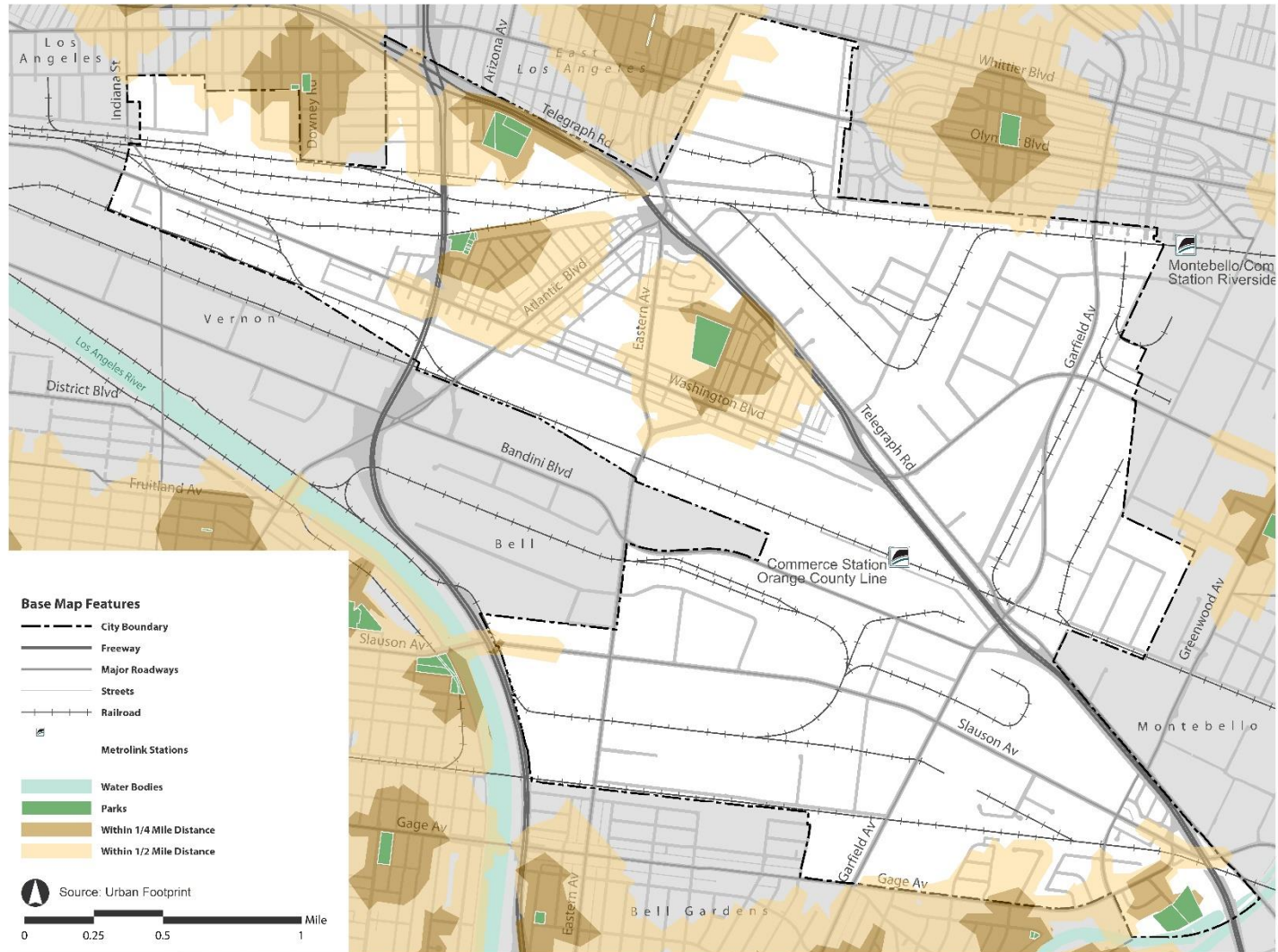
Park Access

Parks, playgrounds, greenways, trails, and community open spaces help keep residents fit and healthy by providing access to places that support physical activity. Physical activity increases strength, flexibility, and endurance; relieves symptoms of depression and anxiety; improves mood; and enhances psychological well-being. Figure 8 illustrates that most of the residential neighborhoods in Commerce are within a one-half mile of a park.



Rosewood Park- Commerce, CA

Figure 8: Park Access



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), only 25% of American adults engage in recommended levels of physical activity, and 29% engage in no leisure-time physical activity at all. This sedentary lifestyle is contributing to an increased incidence of obesity along with obesity-related diseases, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, congestive heart failure, and stroke. As one solution to the increased incidence of obesity, the CDC has called for more parks and playgrounds. Studies have shown that when people have access to parks, they exercise more. Parks provide children with opportunities for play, and play is critical in the development of muscle strength and coordination, language, and cognitive abilities.

City Health and Equity Initiatives

The City has initiated several recreation programs to improve Commerce residents' quality of life.

Brenda Villa Aquatics Center

The Brenda Villa Aquatic Center is an indoor aquatic facility that provides a variety of aquatic-related programs and activities for age groups starting from 6 months old to senior age group. Activities include competitive swim and water polo programs, recreational swimming, swim lessons, weight and aerobic facilities.

Parks and Community Centers

All four parks in Commerce have well used community centers that provide access to park amenities such as playground and sports equipment, as well as providing event space with kitchens, televisions, and other technology.

Camp Commerce

Located in Lake Arrowhead, Camp Commerce is a City-owned and operated all-inclusive, year-round camp offering a variety of activities such as hiking, swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, movies, games and excursions. Camp Commerce is comprised of ten two-story cabins, a lodge, pool, and basketball and volleyball courts. Camp Commerce is a very affordable way for residents to enjoy the great outdoors for a three or four-day adventure. For a low fee, residents are bused to the Camp and stay in dormitory-style cabins.

Kids Club and Day Camp

The City offers an after school program called Day Camp and Kids Club that encourages youth to form healthy lifestyles through recreation activities that motivate campers physically and mentally, while developing a sense of community and creating friendships.

Justice40 – The Climate and Economic Justice Screen Tool

The Climate and Economic Justice Screen Tool was created by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) under President Biden’s Executive Order 14008 Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad. The purpose of the tool is to help Federal agencies identify disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. This tool designates “Disadvantaged Communities” as any census tract that fulfills one or more categories of criteria. The tool uses an IF-AND logic, where a census tract is identified IF it is above the threshold for a particular environmental or climate indicator AND it is above the threshold for socioeconomic indicators.

Census tracts designated as “Disadvantaged Communities” are targeted to receive 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments in seven key areas: climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development, the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, and the development of critical clean water infrastructure.

Two of the three Commerce census tracts (5323.02 and 5323.04) are designated as “Disadvantaged Communities” under the Justice40 Initiative criteria. The areas that had individual indicators score above the 90th percentile include energy, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, and workforce development. Legacy pollution had the highest number of indicators score in the 90th percentile range, which can be attributed to the industrial nature and history of the community. For a detailed look at individual indicators, see Table 11.

While many of the indicators dovetail with other data sources in the memo, new indicators around climate change and energy are introduced. This data source also allows opportunities to bring in federal investments to address the environmental burdens in the two census tracts designated as “Disadvantaged Communities”.

Figure 9: Justice40 Disadvantaged Communities

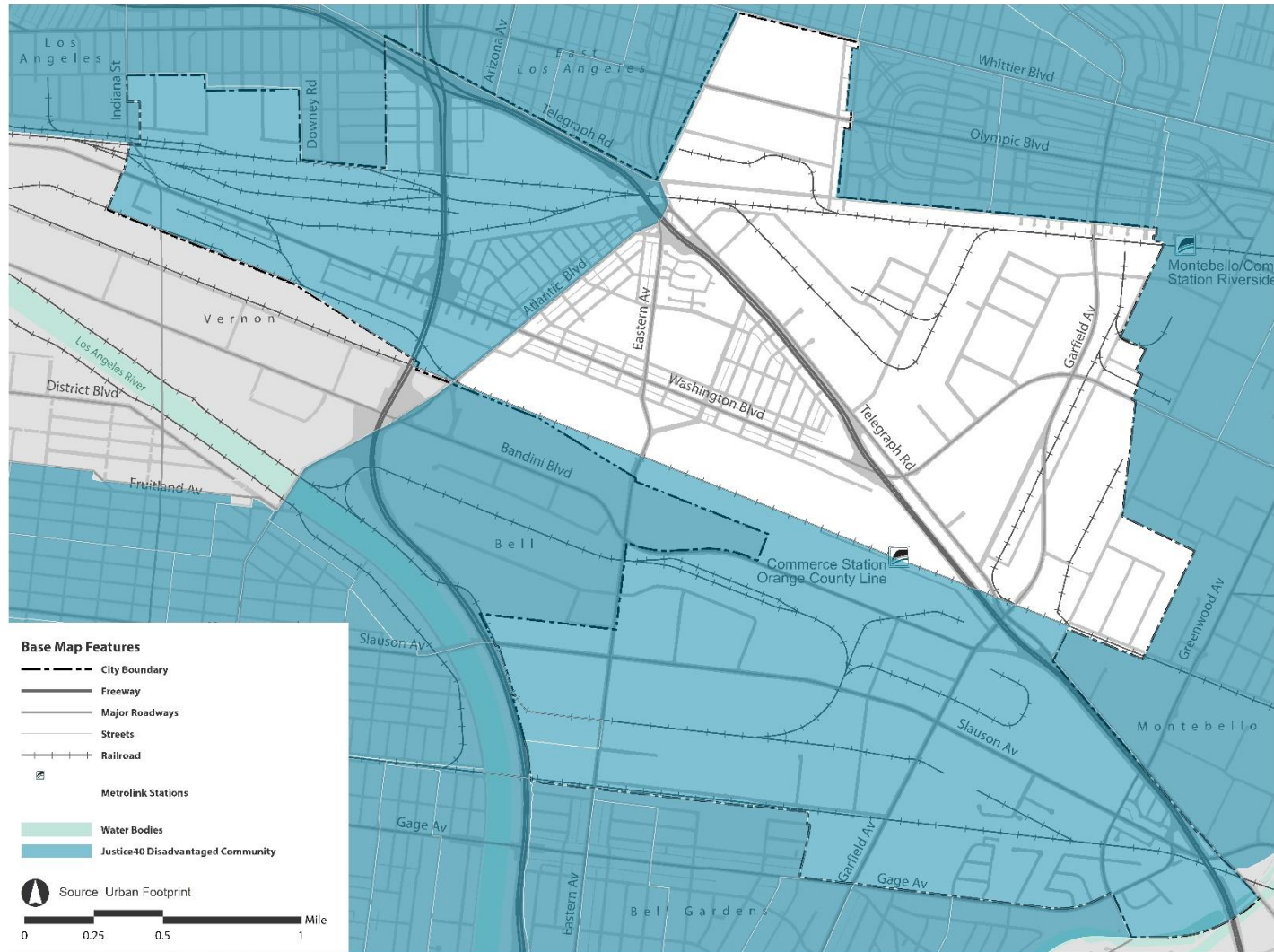


Table 11: Commerce Justice40 Disadvantage Communities – Percentile Scores

Indicator	5323.02	5323.04
Climate Change		
Expected Agricultural Loss Rate	0	0
Expected Building Loss Rate	6	6
Expected Population Loss Rate	28	34
Project Flood Risk	39	79
Projected Wildfire Risk	33	33
Energy		
Energy Risk	15	12
PM2.5 in the Air	97	98
Health		
Asthma	10	10
Diabetes	74	77
Heart Disease	33	37
Low Life Expectancy	23	9
Housing		
Housing Cost	85	80
Lack of Green Space	97	97
Lack of Indoor Plumbing	21	21
Lead Paint	92	61
Legacy Pollution		
Abandoned Mine Land	No	No
Formerly Used Defense Sites	N/A	Yes
Proximity to Hazardous Waste Facilities	98	96
Proximity to Risk Management Plan Facilities	99	98
Proximity to Superfund Sites	93	95
Transportation		
Diesel Particulate Matter Exposure	95	90
Transportation Barriers	No	No
Traffic Proximity and Volume	99	93
Water and Wastewater		
Underground Storage Tanks and Releases	72	79
Wastewater Discharge	Yes	Yes
Workforce Development		
Linguistic Isolation	95	94
Low Median Income	N/A	N/A
Poverty	60	80
Unemployment	67	87