

# Environmental Justice



# California Environmental Justice Law

- In 1999, **California codified Environmental Justice (EJ) into statute:** “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.”
- In 2008, SB 535 required CalEPA to identify disadvantaged communities (DACs) and to **allocate 25% of cap-and-trade funds to DACs.**
- In 2016, **Senate Bill 1000 enshrined EJ into local planning.** It requires jurisdictions with DACs to integrate EJ into the General Plan.

# What is a “disadvantaged community”?

According to state law, a “disadvantaged community” (DAC) 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.”



Source: Los Angeles Times

**Low-Income**



**High Pollution  
and Health  
Burden**



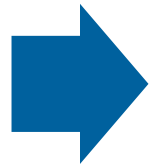
**Disadvantaged  
Community**

# SB 1000 Process

There are three steps to developing an Environmental Justice Element.

## 1. Analysis

Identify disadvantaged communities (DACs), including unique or compounded risks



## 2. Engagement

Engagement with the community, especially in DACs, on a minimum of five topic areas related to environmental justice



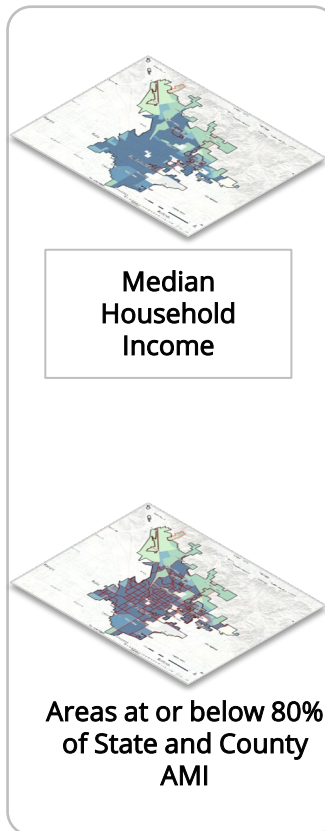
## 3. Policy Development

Integration of goals, policies, and programs into the General Plan to address DAC priorities

# SB 1000 DAC Methodology

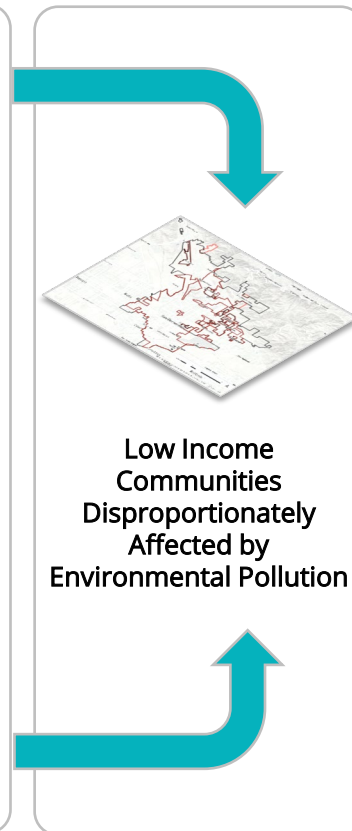
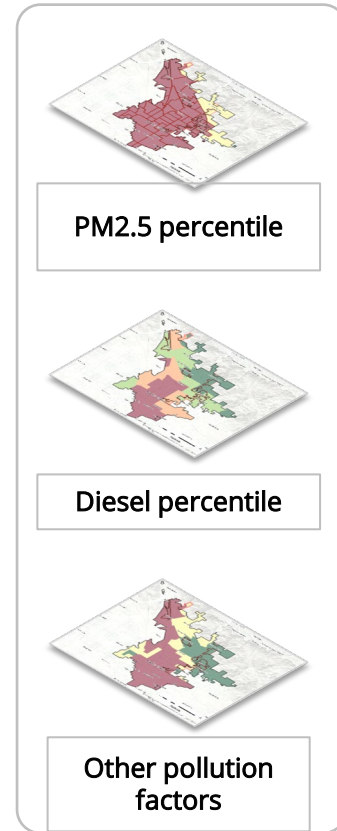
## Method 1

CalEnviroScreen 4.0



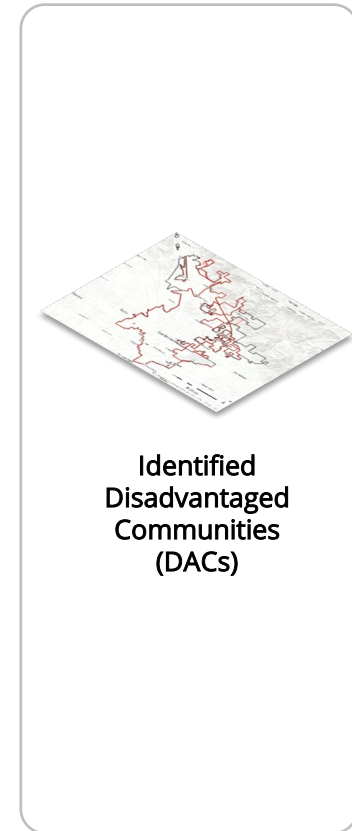
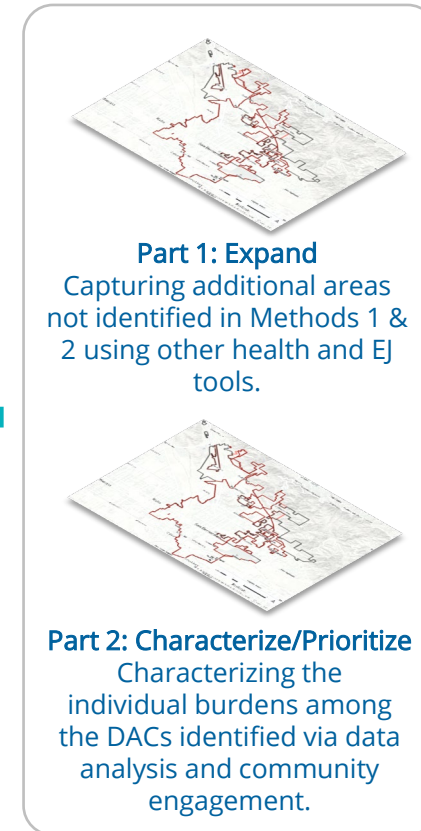
## Method 2

Low-income communities with disproportionate pollution burden



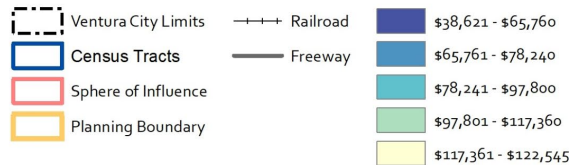
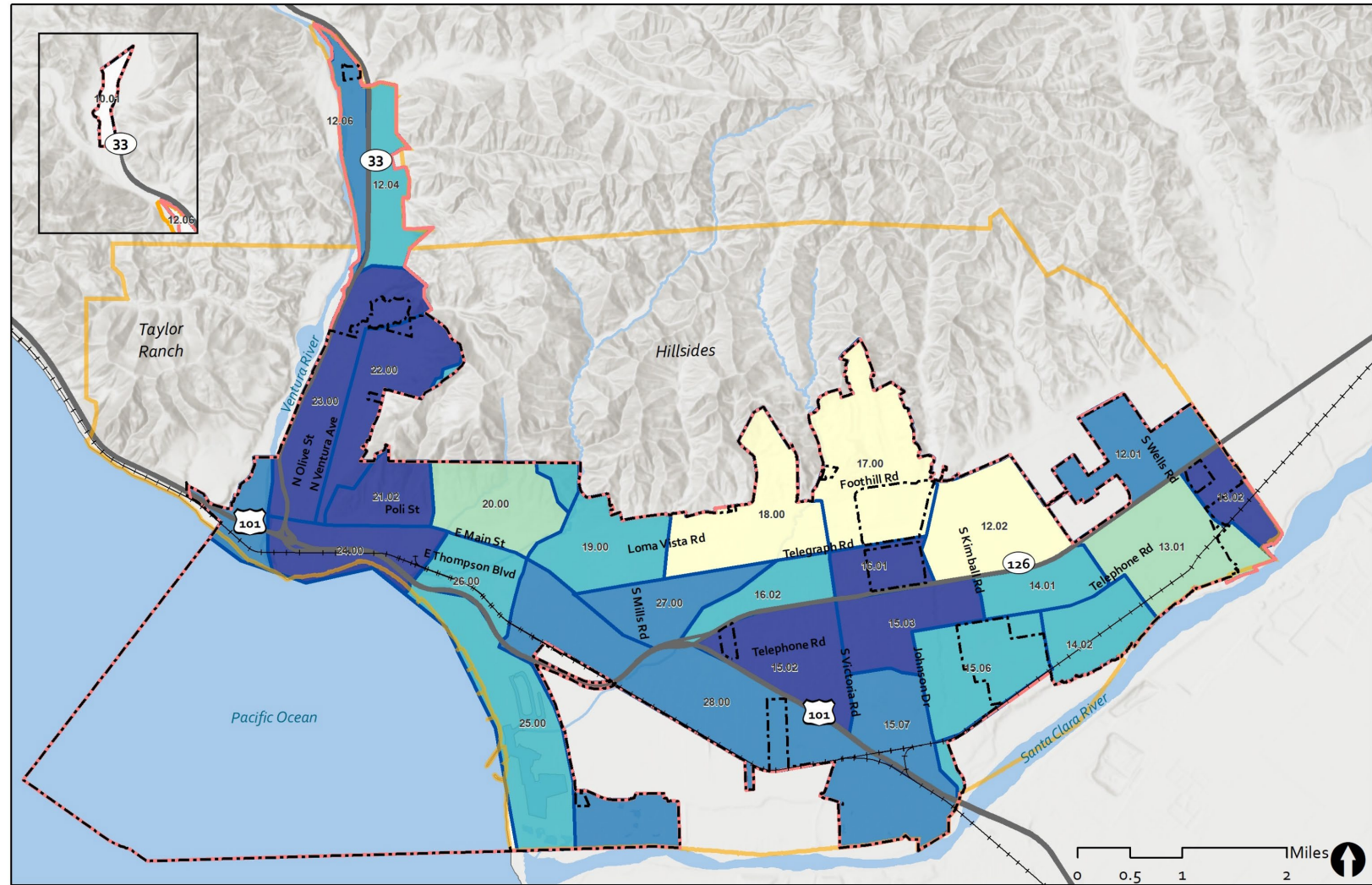
## Method 3

Community-specific data and ground truthing



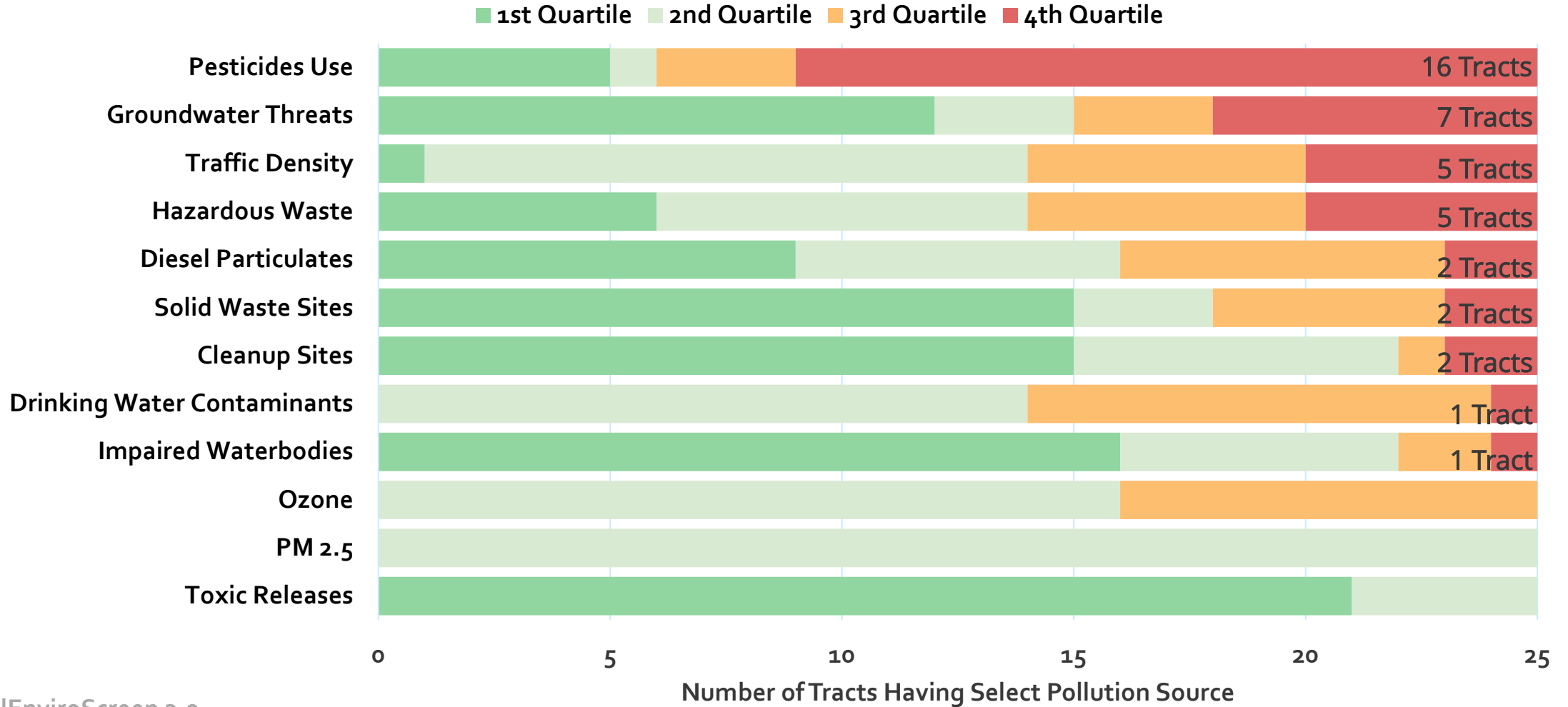
# Low Income Areas

- Income is a strong social determinant of health
- Linked to ability to:
  - Live in an area with high quality education
  - Access health care and other services
  - Afford healthy foods
  - Pay for quality housing
- Determined by 80% of State (\$65,760) or County (\$78,240) median income



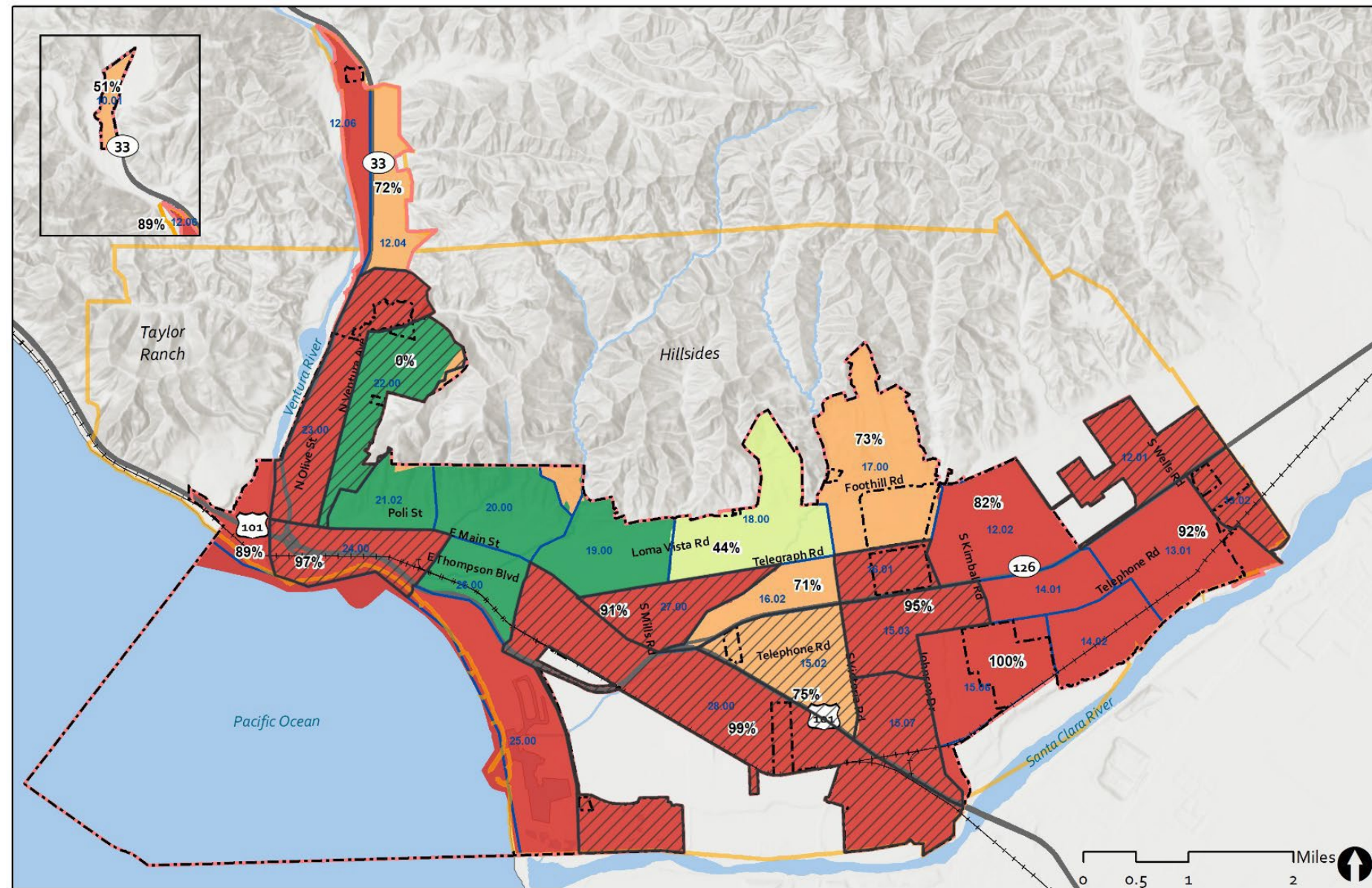
Data Sources: City of Ventura (2020); County of Ventura (2020); ACS15-19 (2019); ESRI (2020)

# Citywide Pollution Burden



Source: CalEnviroScreen 3.0

# Pesticide Use

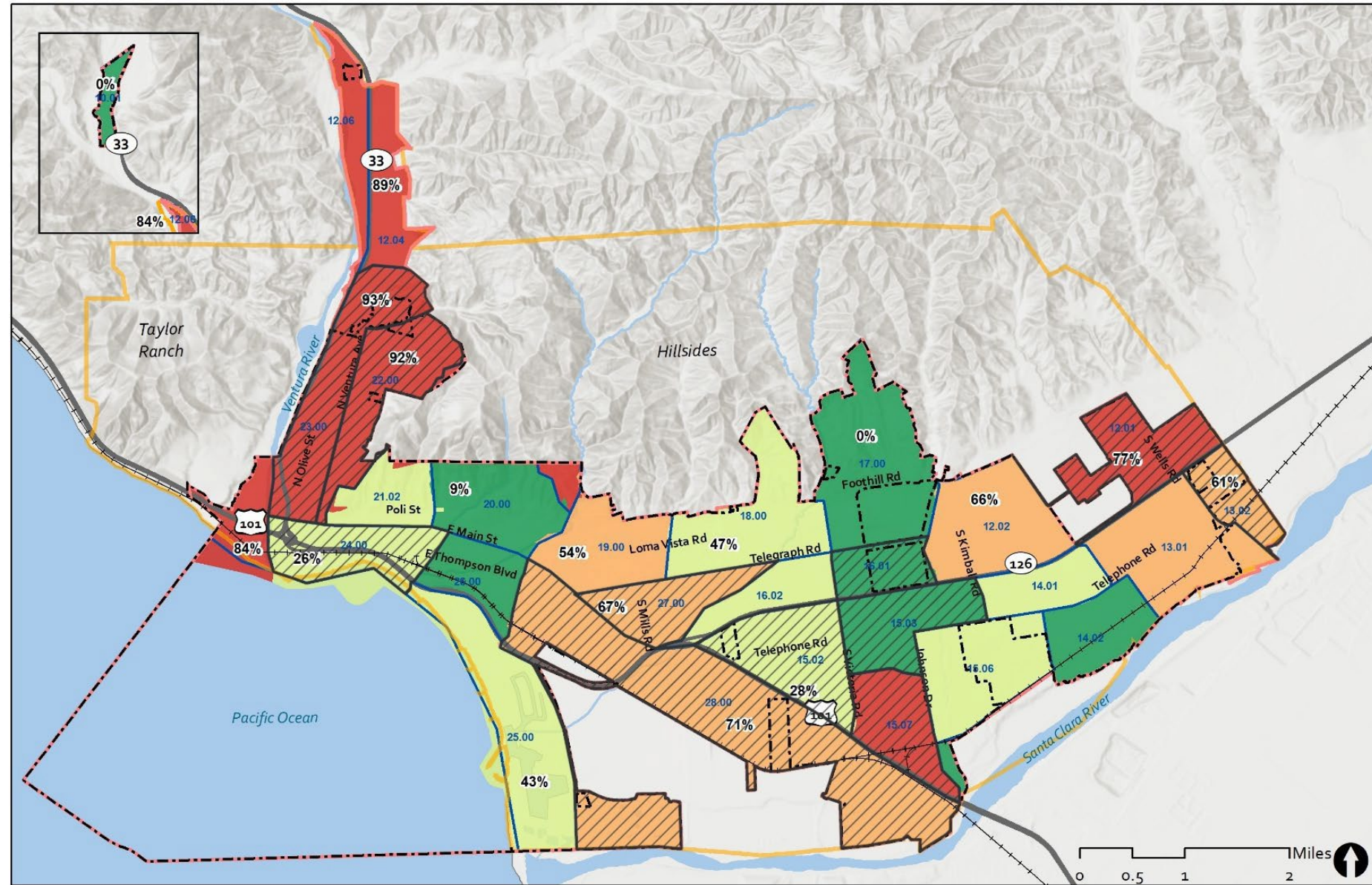


Note: Two-digit bold numbers in black represent CES pesticides percentile scores. Four-digit bold numbers in blue represent census tract numbers.

Data Sources: City of Ventura (2020); County of Ventura (2020); CalEnviroScreen 3.0 (2018); ESRI (2020)



# Hazardous Waste Generators and Facilities

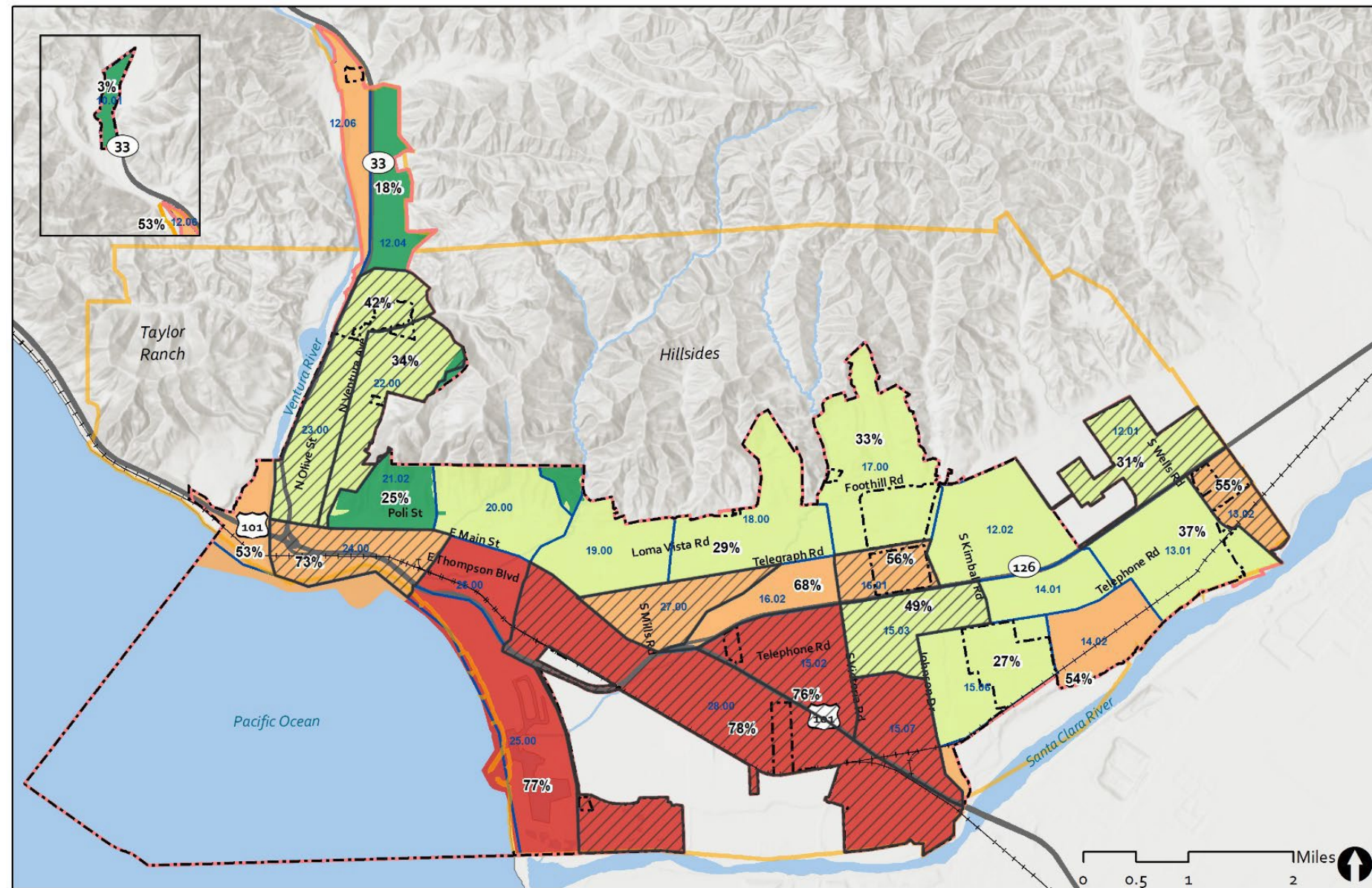


**Note:** Two-digit bold numbers in black represent CES hazardous waste percentile scores. Four-digit bold numbers in blue represent census tract numbers.

Data Sources: City of Ventura (2020); County of Ventura (2020); CalEnviroScreen 3.0 (2018); ESRI (2020)



# Traffic Density



Note: Two-digit bold numbers in black represent CES traffic density percentile scores. Four-digit bold numbers in blue represent census tract numbers.

Data Sources: City of Ventura (2020); County of Ventura (2020); CalEnviroScreen 3.0 (2018); ESRI (2020)



# Disadvantaged Communities Map



- Ventura City Limits
- Sphere of Influence
- Planning Boundary
- Census Tracts
- Railroad
- Freeway
- County of Ventura
- Potential Disadvantaged Communities

**Note:** Four-digit bold numbers in blue represent census tract numbers.  
 Data Sources: City of Ventura (2020); County of Ventura (2020); ESRI (2020)



# Engagement to Environmental Justice Element

- GPAC Health and Environmental Justice Educational Forum – Sept. 21, 2021
- Environmental Justice Organization Listening Session – Dec. 17, 2021
- Environmental Justice Focus Group (English & Spanish) – Mar. 29, 2022
- Surveys, Pop-ups, and other community engagement activities that took place during the General Plan process where we heard about EJ issues

# Environmental Justice Issues

## From EJ Screening Analysis

- High pesticide levels
- Legacy of soil and groundwater contamination
- Hazardous waste facilities
  - Industrial uses
  - Near oil and gas
- Air pollution from freeways and truck traffic

## Other EJ Issues

- High cost of housing
- Fire hazards
- Traffic safety (pedestrians and bikes)
- Noise and potential lead poisoning from firing range
- Walkability of Ventura
- ADA and accessibility issues
- Access to food
- Transit accessibility

# SB 1000 Environmental Justice Element Topics

## SB 1000 goals:

1. **Reduce unique and compounded health risks** in DACs by minimally addressing six topic areas
2. **Promote civic engagement** in the public decision-making process
3. **Identify objectives** and policies that prioritize improvements **that address the needs of disadvantaged communities**

**Reduce Pollution Exposure:** air quality, water quality, soil quality, and land use compatibility

**Promote Food Access:** grocery stores, farmers' markets, community gardens, etc.

**Promote Physical Activity:** walkable and bikeable communities, access to transit, traffic safety

**Promote Public Facilities:** libraries, schools, childcare, health facilities, parks

**Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes:** housing location, quality, and affordability

**Promote Civic Engagement:** language access, participatory planning, consult DACs

# Goals

1. Promote racial, social, and economic equity
  2. Reduce health impacts and health disparities
  3. Reduce pollution emissions from freeways and mobile sources
  4. Minimize pollution emissions from industrial uses
  5. Reduce pollution from agricultural uses
  6. Promote physical and mental health of residents
  7. Promote healthy and fresh food accessibility
  8. Promote meaningful and equitable civic engagement
  9. Support the production and maintenance of safe and sanitary housing
  10. Provide ADA access and equitable services
- Policies included in each goal