

6b. Community Health and Environmental Justice

What is Environmental Justice?

“The basic right of people to live, work, go to school, and pray in a healthy and clean environment.”

Source: California Environmental Justice Alliance



SB 1000

THE PLANNING FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ACT

“Requires cities and counties with disadvantaged communities to incorporate environmental justice policies to their general plans.”

- Prioritization of Needs of Disadvantaged Communities**
- Food Access**
- Civic Engagement**
- Safe and Sanitary Homes**
- Public Facilities**
- Reduction of Pollution Exposure**

Community Health Programs and Services

Riverside County Public Health provides a robust selection of programs and services that address top issues in the county and help to foster healthy communities, from engaging with residents through outreach and education programs to connecting individuals to a variety of resources. Some examples include:

SAVINGS FOR SUCCESS:

A matched savings incentive program for residents of Riverside County seeking economic stability to reach the one of three goals: purchase a first home, attend college or vocational school, or start/expand a business.

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM:

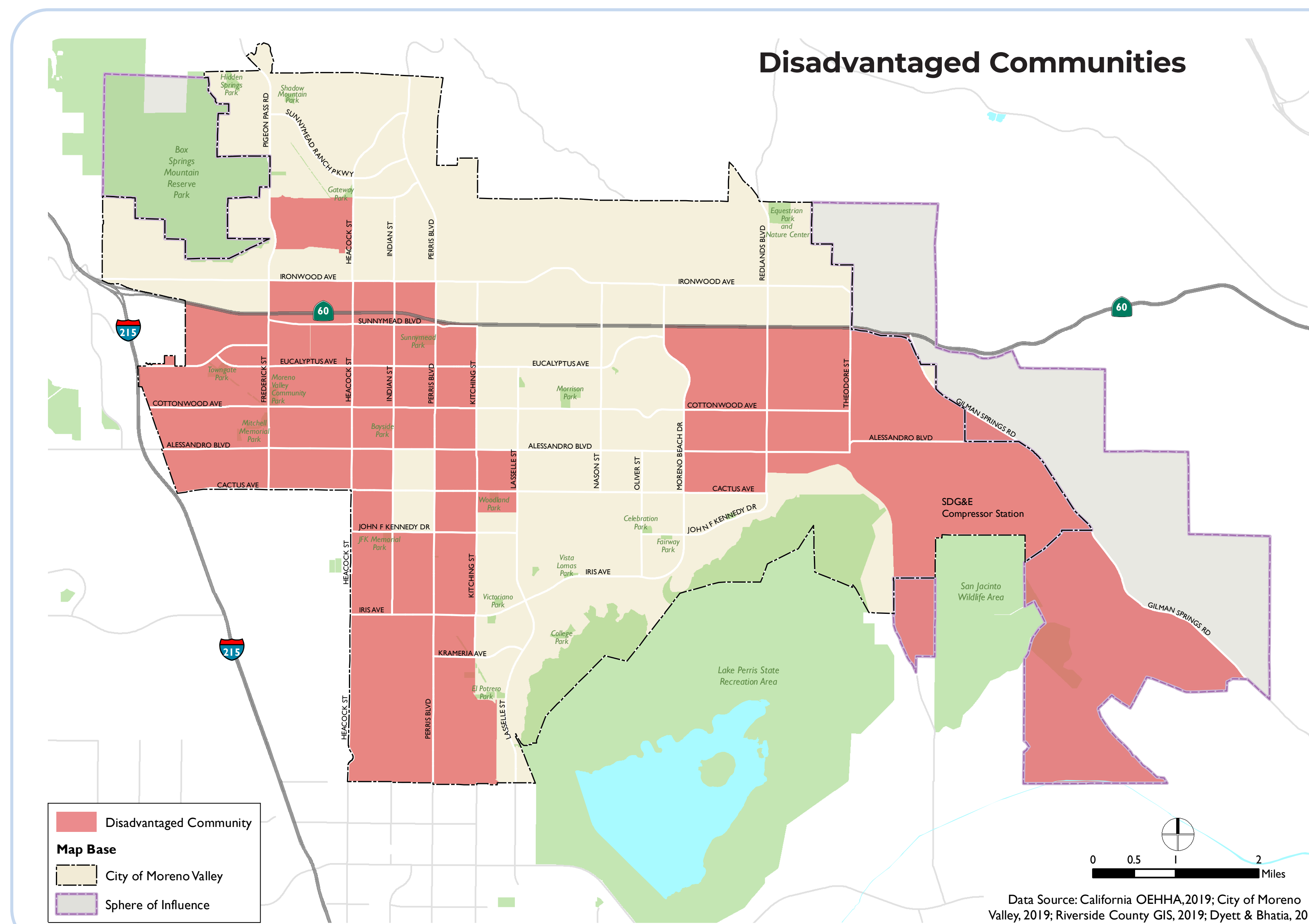
A program that offers information about child vaccinations, current immunization guidelines for healthcare providers, and recommendations for travelers going abroad, working to improve vaccine coverage rates that protect against illnesses such as influenza, measles, and whooping cough.

NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP (NFP):

An evidenced-based nurse home visitation program that improves the health, well-being, and self-sufficiency of low-income, first-time parents and their children.

NUTRITION EDUCATION AND OBESITY PREVENTION (NEOP):

A partnership with cities and school districts in Riverside County to improve outcomes related to childhood obesity and promote health while making a difference in the community.



What is a Disadvantaged Community?

California law recognizes that some low-income areas of California are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that are harmful to human health. These areas are known as Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and have been mapped by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) based on 20 different indicators, including poverty, rates of asthma, exposure to toxic materials, or air and water pollution. CalEPA's methodology for identifying DACs does not account for race, but areas with higher percentages of communities of color are often more exposed to pollution or hazards.

A DAC identified by CalEPA is a qualified recipient for funding that helps mitigate hazards and impacts affecting these communities. This funding comes in the form of projects that are fueled by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, or the state's cap-and-trade program, which was established by the California Global Warming Solutions Act in 2006. Additional legislation has specified that 25 percent of these proceeds must be spent on projects that benefit DACs, and 25 percent of proceeds must be spent on projects actually located within these communities.