DOCKETED			
Docket Number:	22-IEPR-04		
Project Title:	Equity		
TN #:	245728		
Document Title:	Presentation - Pollution and Prejudice		
Description:	2. ABC Kevin Olp, Jaimie Huyn, Jennifer McGovern		
Filer:	Raquel Kravitz		
Organization:	Bay Area Air Quality Management District		
Submitter Role:	Public		
Submission Date:	8/29/2022 3:30:49 PM		
Docketed Date:	8/29/2022		



**Redlining and Environmental Injustice in California** 

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https://twitter.com/LordAshcroft/status/1269639037737938944





# THE BEGINNING: POLLUTION AND AND REDLINING IN STOCKTON

# CalEPA's Commitment to Racial Equity

### Normalize

- A shared analysis and definitions
- Urgency / prioritize

### **Visualize**

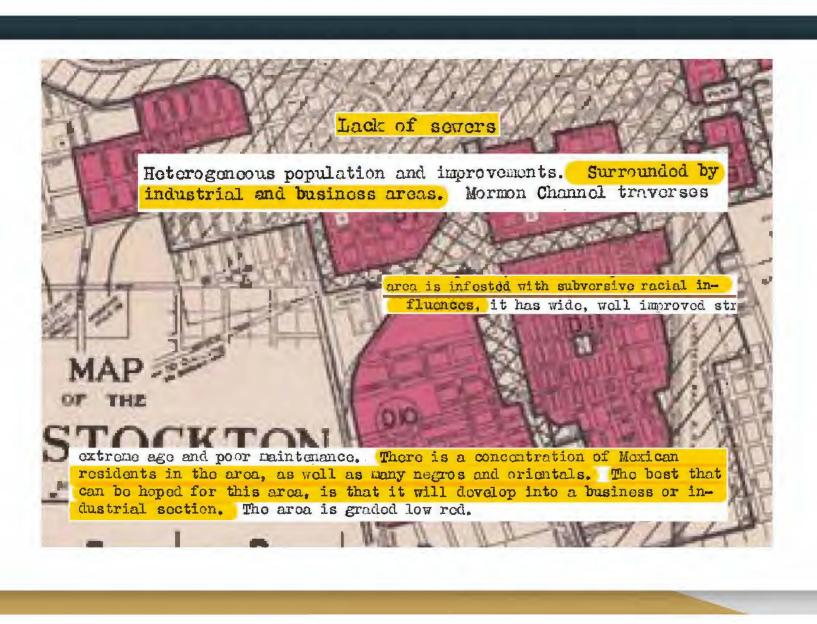
### Operationalize

- Racial equity tools
- Data to develop strategies and drive results

### Organize

- Internal infrastructure
- Partnerships





## CalEPA Racial Equity Team

Storymap released February 1, 2021



### Pollution and Prejudice: CalEPA Releases Redlining StoryMap

As part of its commitment to racial equity, CalEPA has released a draft StoryMap highlighting the connection between racist land use practices of the 1930s and environmental injustice, as reflected by CalEnviroScreen scores. Redlining practices systematically included both race and environmental factors as criteria in assessing the credit-worthiness of neighborhoods. Explore the StoryMap: Pollution and Prejudice | Contaminación y Prejuicio (Download English, español) (02/01/21)

### **Project Team:**

- Greg Gearheart, State Water Resources Control Board
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- Kevin Olp, Bay Area Air Quality Management District
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- Amy Schwanhausser, former CalEPA Intern
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- Angie Ye, former CalEPA Intern

# Background – History

- FDR and The New Deal- 1930s
  - Housing crisis relief
  - Created Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC)
    - Evaluated mortgage lending risk maps
      - Green "Best"
      - Blue "Still Desirable"
      - Yellow "Declining"
      - Red= "Hazardous"

"A neighborhood earned a red color if

African Americans lived in it, even if

it was a solid middle-class

neighborhood of single family

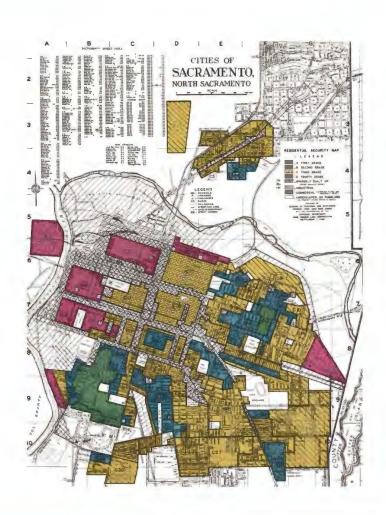
homes."

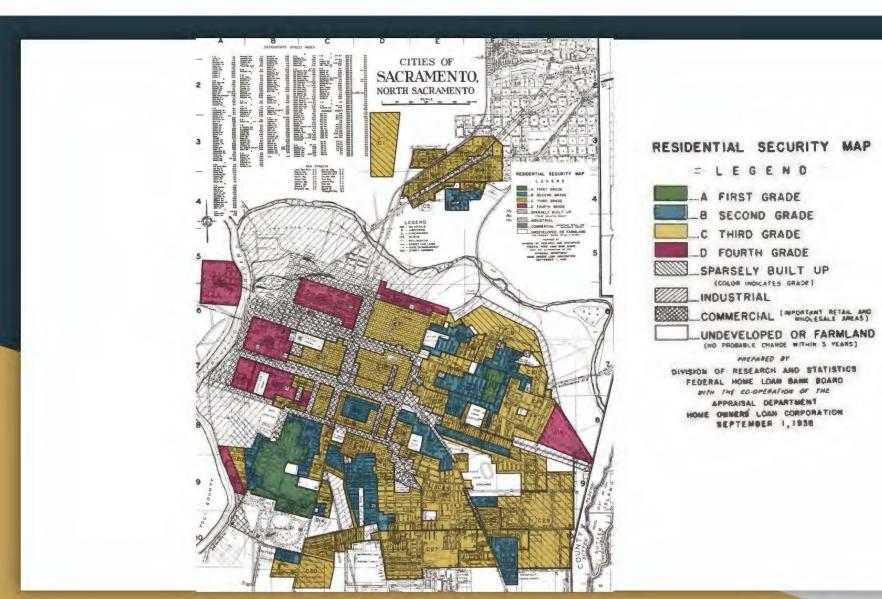
—Richard Rothstein, The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America (2017)

# Background – History

1930s "Residential Security" maps of major cities across the country (population >40,000), including 8 in California:

- Fresno
- Los Angeles
- Oakland
- Sacramento
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Jose
- Stockton





NS FORM 8

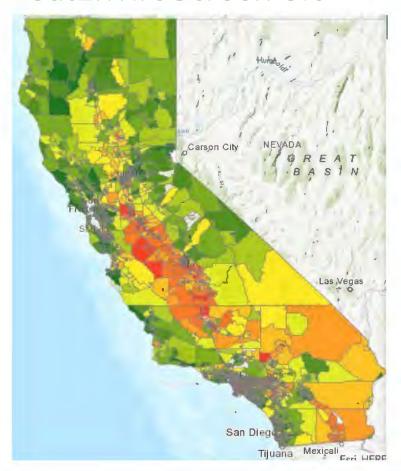
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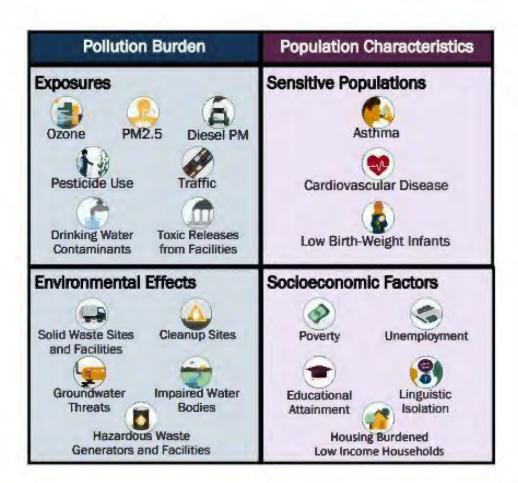
6.

# AREA DESCRIPTION - SECURITY MAP OF Sacramento, Cal.

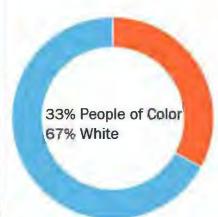
- a. Description of Terrain. Level with favorable grade and no construction hazards.
  - b. Favorable Influences. Convenience to transportation, schools, churches, trading and amusement areas. Nearness to city center. Proximity to centers of commercial and industrial employment.
  - c. Detrimental Influences. Highly congested population whose density greatly exceeds city's average. Presence in large numbers of subversive racial elements. Encroachment of commerce and business.
  - d. Percentage of land improved 95%; e. Trend of desirability next 10-15 yrs. Do-
  - INHABITANTS: All groups from relief to
  - a. Occupation Oriental business and. b. Estimated annual family income \$ Relief to 3600
  - c. Foreign-born families 75 %; Latin and Japanese predominating; d. Negro Yos
  - e. Infiltration of Orientals has oc; f. Relief families Many
  - 2. FORWLATION IS INCREASING

### CalEnviroScreen 3.0

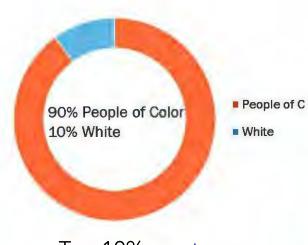




# CalEnviroScreen 4.0



Top 10% least polluted neighborhoods are 67% white



Top 10% most polluted neighborhoods are 90% people of color

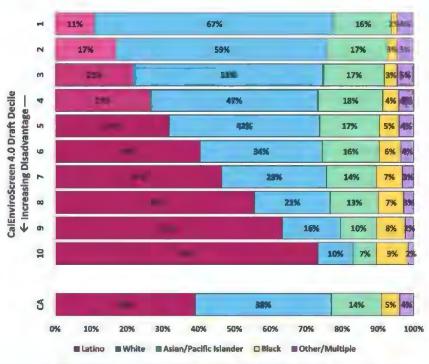
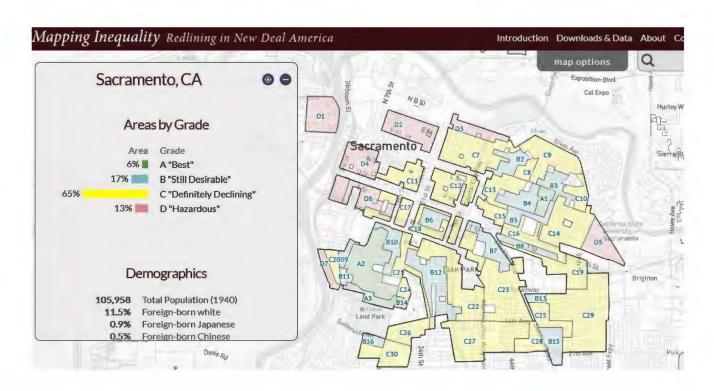


Figure 3. Racial Makeup of Each Decile of the Draft CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Score.

# Analysis-Digitized Redlining Maps



# Translating CalEnviroScreen Scores to Redline Maps

alifornia's Redlined Communities Home	Maps & CalEPA Data	nalysis	
Zoom To: Oakland	■ Show/Hide Sidebar  NOTE: Use the left side map to pan/zoom, and use the sidebar on the left first). Tabular data for the selected	the button in the upper right corner of each map to toggle layers on or sites is available to view/download below the maps.	off (some map layers must be activated in
	CalEPA Data:	HOLC (Redline) Data:	
CalEPA Regulated Sites:	+ 7iden	regional Park Titlen Nature	Park
Site Selection Options:	-		
None		Later-He 😺	Lalmitte
Redlining Data:			
Filter For Sites By HOLC Grade or Location:			Cảnyon
OFF		CONTRA	Park GONT
Environmental, Public Health, & Socieconomic Data:			
Select CalEnviroScreen (CES) Parameter:	100	P 25	
CES 3 Percentile		Mail Contraction	Lake Chabot Ragiona Perk
Filter Sites By Score of Selected CES Parameter:		lz	Oakland It! Airport
_	00	288	125

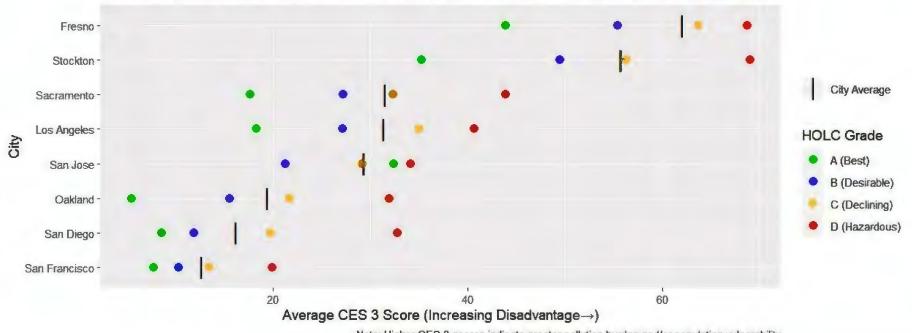
# Demo

https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f167b251809c43778a2f9f040f43d2f5

# Results – CalEnviroScreen Scores by City & Grade

Average CES 3 Score by City and HOLC Grade for Neighborhoods in California Cities Assessed by the HOLC in the 1930s

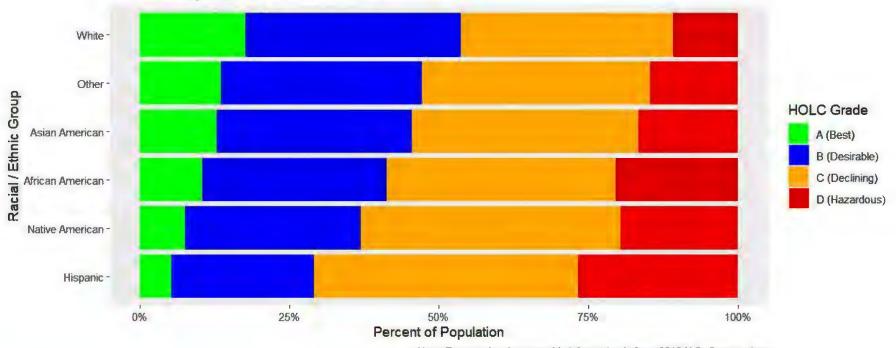
Black lines represent the average CES 3 Score of all neighborhoods assessed by the HOLC in the given city



Note: Higher CES 3 scores indicate greater pollution burden and/or population vulnerability

# Results – Present-Day Demographics

Present-Day Distribution of Racial / Ethnic Group Populations Within Neighborhoods Assessed by the HOLC in the 1930s in California



Note: Present-day demographic information is from 2010 U.S. Census data

## Where can I find all this information?

**Storymap** (ESRI/ArcGIS)- Pollution and Prejudice: Redlining and Environmental Injustice in California

https://bit.ly/pollutionandprejudice

Shiny App (R/RStudio)

https://cawaterdatadive.shinyapps.io/Redline-Mapping/

# Take-Aways and Next Steps

- Combining HOLC maps with CES shows how systemic racism in government policies contributed to the environmental injustices we see today.
- Using a racial equity lens requires the reliance on data-driven approaches.



# Breaking the cycle of injustice

# Historical injustices led to current inequality

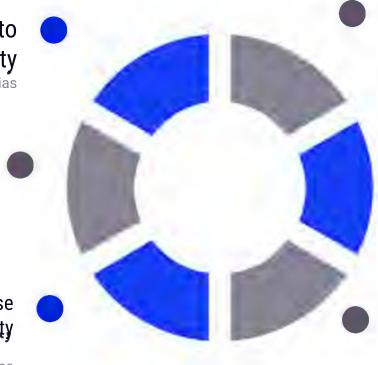
Permeates as implicit bias

# Inequality decreases participation

Leads to learned helplessness, individuals have seen they have no control over decisions affecting their health

# Lower participation increase cycle of inequality

Pollution manifests in the places of least resistance



# Share power, prepare for conflict

Emphasize accountability and transparency

# Make environmental justice explicit

Place responsibility for action on equity at the highest level of government

# Build meaningful community partnerships

Partner with communities; commit resources and creativity to overcome barriers

proximity to city dump

so strong is the racial threat

Lack of severs

Mexicans encroached upon an industrial district they are inextricably mixed. The district is

# WHAT DOES THIS HISTORY MEAN FOR YOU?

(out\_ side city limits ...

adjacence to oil wells and industry inharmonious racial elements, rende:

a residential island in a sea of industry.

along the numerous highways are found scattered groups of dwellings which house Mexican and Japanese farm laborers

# **Contact Information**

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