



**Capacity Building from the Ground Up in the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys | August 2023
California Adaptation Forum**

Our Vision

The Greenlining Institute works towards a future where communities of color can build wealth, live in healthy places filled with economic opportunity, and are ready to meet the challenges posed by climate change.



Introductions



Lina Mira
(she/her)

Executive Director
The Latino/a Roundtable f
the San Gabriel and
Pomona Valleys



**Nenetzin
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Stephen Yorba
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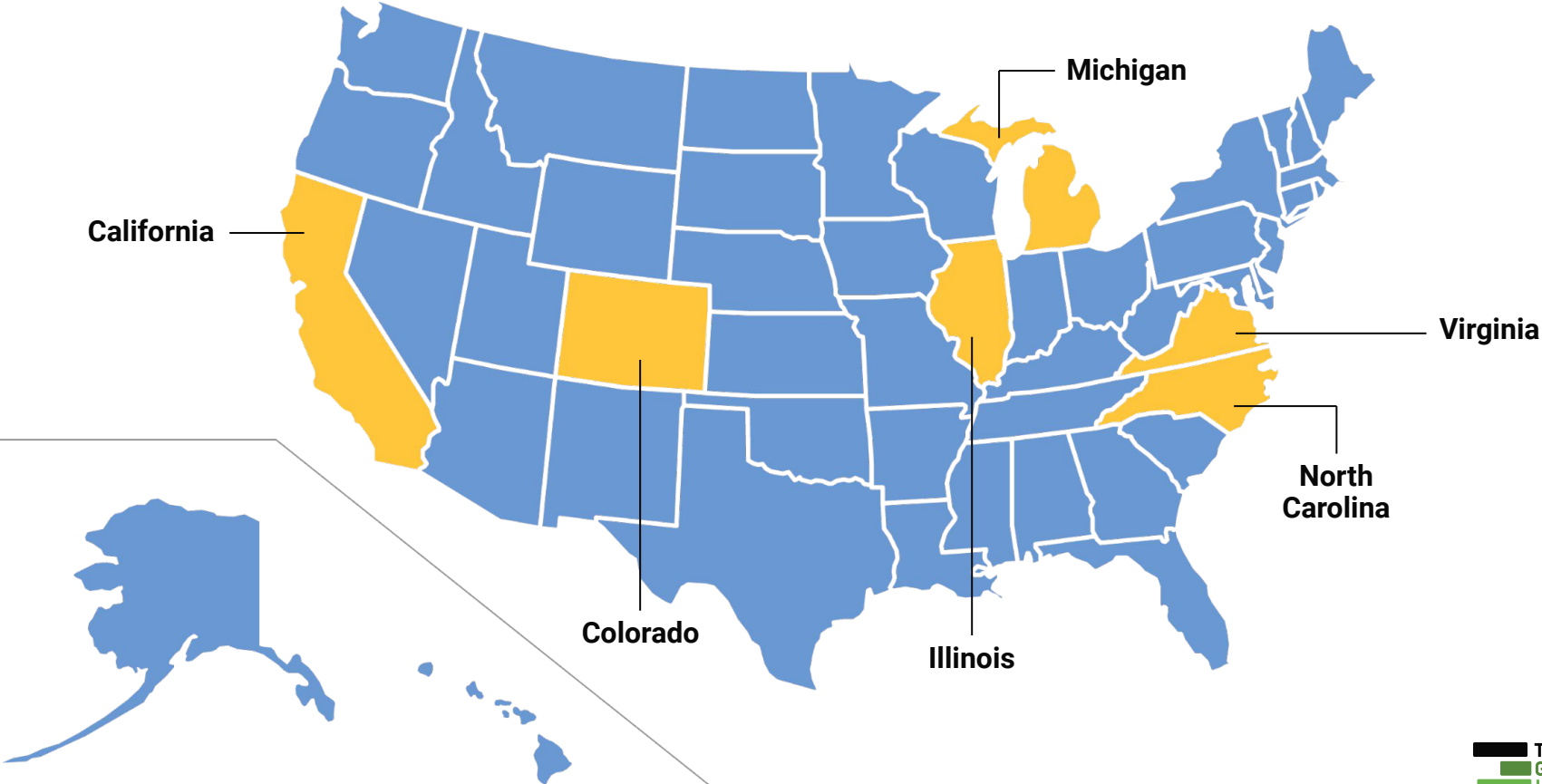
Executive Director
Community Partners for
Innovation

Capacity Building in California

We work to to strengthen community power to advance multi-sector, community-driven, and equitable solutions in specific places across the state of California

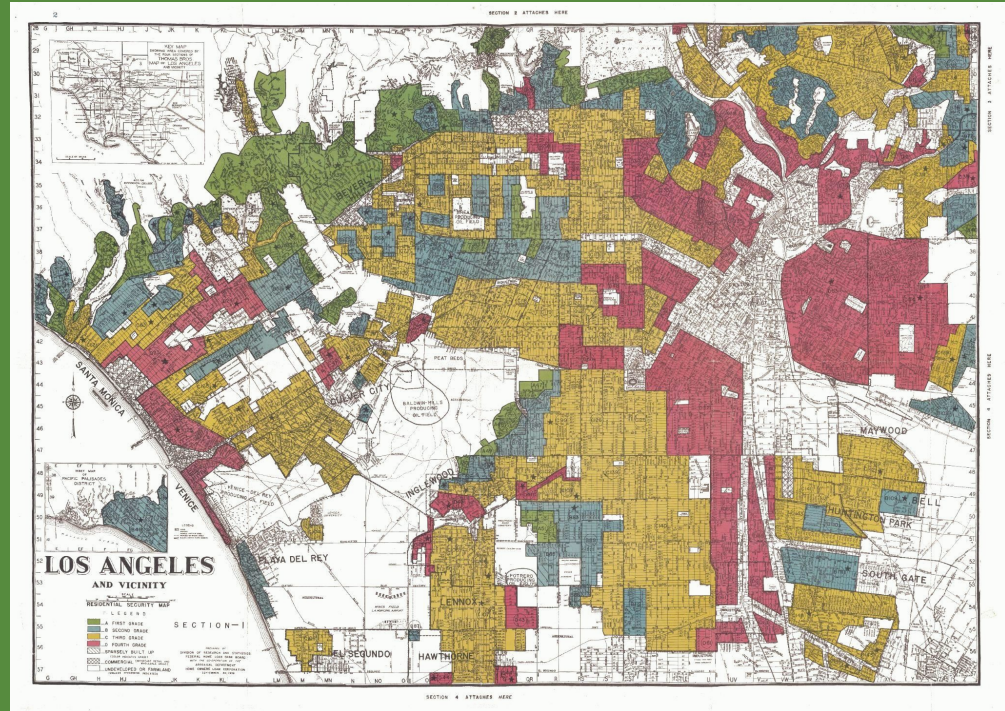


Multi-State Capacity Building



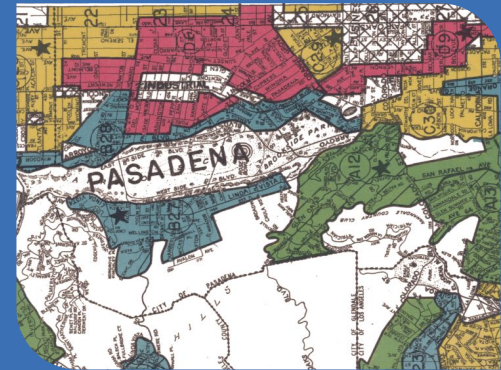
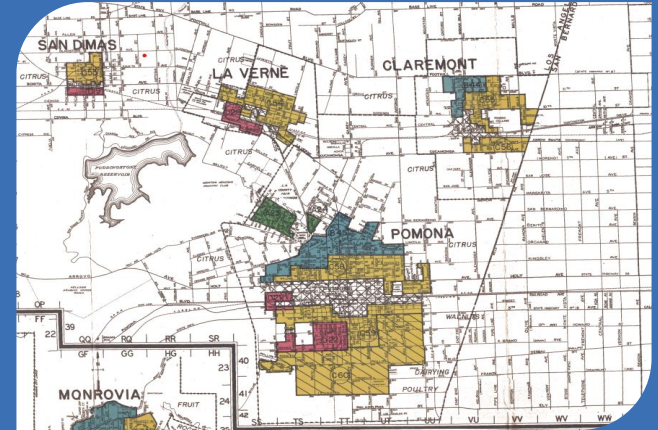
Vision for LA Place-based Work

- Connect LA leaders with climate policy opportunities
- Support stakeholders with the capacity, resources and partnerships needed to realize community visions for climate resilience and equity
- Deliver direct, tangible and significant benefits to communities



Anchoring Capacity Building Work in the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys

- **Challenges:**
 - Region has been left behind and not included in broader climate conversations
 - Lack of capacity and resources to address the impacts of climate change
 - Need for technical assistance and connective tissue to what is happening at the state level to pursue climate opportunities.
- **Opportunities:**
 - Desire to pursue climate equity work, and shared strategy throughout the region.
 - Climate Education
 - Center climate conversations with nontraditional EJ stakeholders
 - Extreme heat is an emerging issue in the region.



Climate Justice Education Series

- **Connecting** leaders in the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys to build collective people power, and develop a common language to pursue climate opportunities
- **Centering** organizations and bringing together stakeholders who have not been traditionally part of the climate conversation
- **Increasing** community ownership over climate solutions including language justice to effectively engage in participatory planning, and policy making at the local and state level
- **Supporting** community stakeholders with the capacity, resources and partnerships needed to realize community visions for climate resilience and equity

Phase 1: Community Building and Ground Setting

September	Welcome
October	Aligning Community Priorities
November	Community-Driven Planning



Phase 2: Training, Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building

January	Tools to Understand Environmental Justice & Climate Change
February	Climate Change in the SGV and PV
March	Climate Solutions





The CalEnviroScreen 4.0 tool shows cumulative impacts in California communities by census tract.

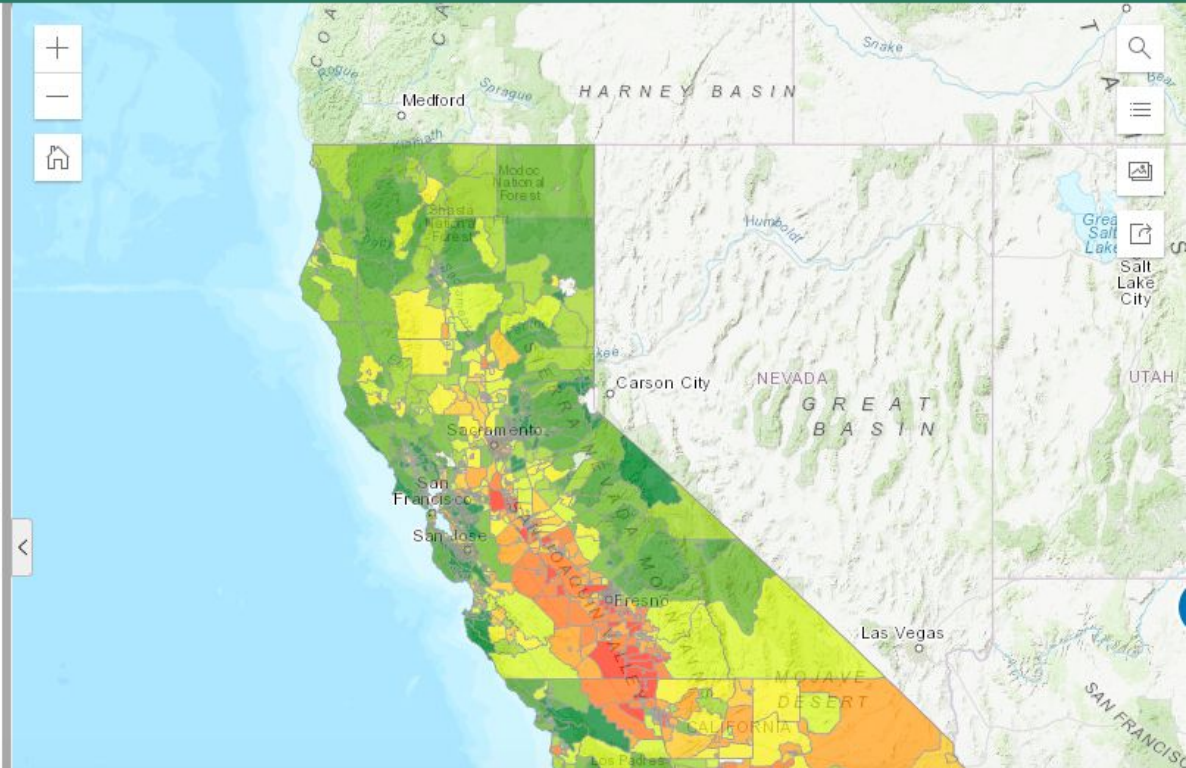
How to use this map

- Use your mouse or touchpad to pan around.
- Zoom in/out with a mouse wheel or the +/- icons.
- Search by location or census tract number with the **search icon**.
- Click on a census tract to view additional information in the pop-up window.
- Dock the pop-up window to the side of the screen by clicking the **dock icon**.
- Export a map view that includes the legend and popup using the **screenshot widget**.
- Learn more about CalEnviroScreen 4.0 and how this map was created [here](#)

Overall Percentile

CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Results

- >90 - 100 (Highest Scores)
- >80 - 90
- >70 - 80
- >60 - 70



How Community Gathers in Pomona

Revitalizing Pomona: Impact on Economic Mobility and Sustainable Transportation in the Inland Valley

Community members living and working in the Inland Valley are faced with the impacts of gentrification and displacement and face clean mobility transportation issues that limit their economic opportunities. Here we define the Inland Valley as inclusive of the City of Pomona and the communities of San Bernardino and Riverside County.



Latino/a Roundtable

Mobility and economic Resiliency
LPT CNA 2023
Economic mobility

Transit & Mobility in Pomona

"Across the income spectrum, transportation accounts for 17% of all spending for households, though the burden is far greater for low-income households...In communities with good regional transit connections and accessibility to jobs and amenities, households have the potential to reduce transportation switching to active modes is money that can be spent on other important household needs" (Handy 2). The following maps assess gaps in mobility, safety, and equity.

The following maps find that bus service in Pomona covers a majority of its city area (Figure 1), however, (Figure 2A & 2B) it struggles in frequency, depending on bus stop location, bus route, and the day of the week.

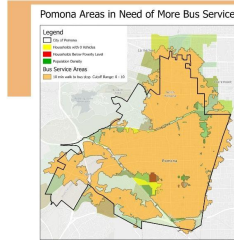


Figure 1. Bus Service Areas

The majority orange areas represent bus stops within a walkable, 10-minute distance.

The additional yellow (households with zero vehicles), red (households below poverty level), and green (population density) are areas and populations without current bus service that would most benefit from transportation options.

- view different color options:
- see purple for urbanization/ population
 - check for colorblind accessible
 - try different downloads for clear pics, also png?
 - BELOW is the legend for frequency readable? too small?

Weekday Bus Frequency in Pomona 2023

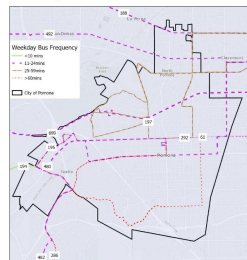


Figure 2A. While there are many bus stops in Pomona, Community riders are faced with low frequency buses - they must schedule their day around bus rides, and they may experience longer wait times.

Weekend Bus Frequency in Pomona 2023

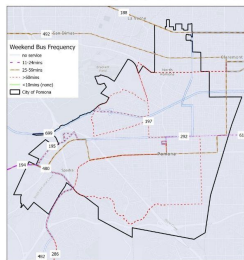
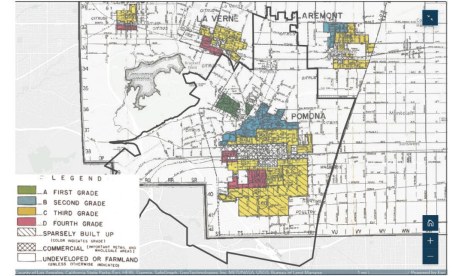


Figure 2B. Weekend service takes a dive with many lines not in service. Despite the weekends being a time when many may visit family, run errands, or even work an additional job.

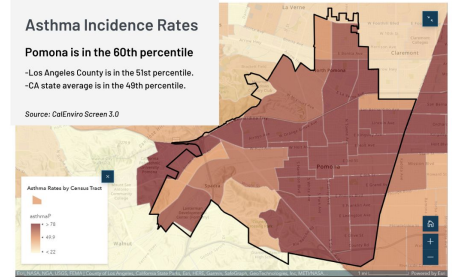
Redlining & Health Disparities

Historically, Pomona is impacted by redlining practices that have had long term effects on wealth inequalities and health disparities. After the 1930s, federal housing programs helped codify and expand practices of racial and class segregation. As part of providing federal aid, in the form of loans, neighborhoods were ranked for loan worthiness on a scale from "A" through "D" (ranked from green "A", blue "B", yellow "C", and red "D". These maps became known as redlining due to the use of color-coded maps of metropolitan areas designed to indicate with red where to not insure mortgages.

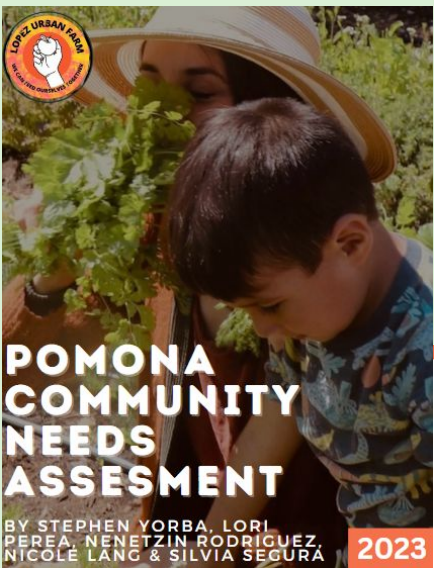


Freeways, Highways, and Asthma

As a city surrounded by five major freeways and highways, asthma rates in and around Pomona are significantly higher than the rest of Los Angeles County as well as the state average.



Asthma Rates by Census Tract

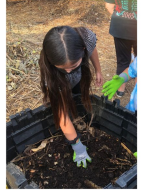


POMONA COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESMENT

BY STEPHEN YORBA, LORI PEREA, NENETZIN RODRIGUEZ, NICOLE LANG & SILVIA SEGURA

2023

WHY URBAN FARMS?



Being outside in nature and working with plants and animals can help reduce stress and anxiety, and promote feelings of calm and relaxation. Urban farms, like Lopez Urban Farm, provide a holistic approach to wellness by addressing physical, emotional, and social needs. By providing a safe and supportive environment, urban farming can help people build resilience and promote healing by providing a connection to nature. Urban farming provides a sense of accomplishment and purpose, boosting self-esteem and confidence. Urban farming can bring people together and create a sense of community.

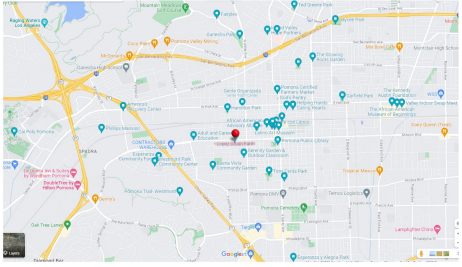
By working together on a shared project, people can develop a sense of belonging and connection to others, which can be especially important for those who have experienced trauma. Urban farming requires mindfulness and attention to detail, which can help people focus their minds and be present in the moment. Working in the outdoors benefits the mental health, mental outlook, and personal well-being of individuals (2). Urban farming can provide a form of exercise, which has been found to be beneficial for mental health.

LOPEZ URBAN FARM

VISION:
Lopez Urban Farm seeks to transform food systems in the City of Pomona and surrounding region by implementing sustainable principles of food sovereignty and the well-being economy (including the development of ecologically and socially just practices, while focusing on resilience, regeneration, and political change).

MISSION:
Lopez Urban Farm's mission is to create and support the development of local food systems that are resilient and sustainable through a historically, ecologically, and culturally informed approach. (We focus on the environmental and social realities of this region, particularly as they pertain to the impacts of climate change on food systems and the common good).

COMMUNITY ASSETS



The teal markers in the above map highlight some of the community assets that benefit Pomona community members and make the city special. Many provide resources to low income individuals, may serve as potential partnerships for programs that address environmental justice concerns, and/or are green spaces for community members to visit. These entities include, but are not limited to:

- African American Advisory Alliance
- America's Recovery Center
- American Museum of Ceramic Art / AMOCA
- Buena Vista Comm. Garden
- Cafe con Libros
- Center Street Comm. Garden
- Cal Poly Pomona
- dA Center for the Arts
- Esperanza Community Farm
- Esperanza y Alegria Park
- Fairplex
- Ganesha Park
- Garfield Park
- Cente Organizada
- God's Pantry
- Hamilton Park
- Helping Hands Caring Hearts
- Inland Valley Hope Partners
- Inland Valley Medical
- Joycee Park
- Kennedy Austin Foundation
- Latino Art Museum
- Lincoln Park Historic District
- Lopez Urban Farm
- Memorial Park
- Metrolink Station
- Monthly Art Walk
- Mt. San Antonio College
- Phillips Mansion
- Pomona Adult and Career Education
- Pomona Farmers Market
- Pomona Public Library
- Pomona Valley Hospital
- Serenity Garden & Outdoor Classroom
- Ted Greene Park
- The African-American Museum of Beginnings
- The Fox Theater
- The Growing Roots Community Garden
- Tony Cerdas Park
- Valley Indoor Swap Meet
- Westmont Hill Trail
- Willie White Park
- Youth And Family Club Of Pomona Valley



LOPEZ URBAN FARM PROGRAMS



Lopez Urban Farm has gone beyond its initial purpose as a garden by adapting to the community's needs. According to the LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment (4), Pomona is listed as a "highly vulnerable community" when it comes to extreme heat. During scorching summer heat waves, Lopez provides a cooling space for the community, thanks to the canopy of a large oak tree that cools the area. Another summer activity, Mud Play, offers a weekly program that invites many families and children to gather during the summer. In its first summer of opening, many visited because it is a safe space for children to play with a mud kitchen and water during high temperatures. The farm also hosts a yearly art festival, Dia de Los Muertos Festival, Christmas posadas and much more.



Successful farm programs include El Pueesticito Wednesdays, Pick Your Own Produce Saturdays, and Urban Farmer Training for kids.

- **El Pueesticito** is a Wednesday evening event where community members can come and crochet with Khaos Krafs as well as pay-what-they-can and take-what-they-need produce.
- **Pick Your Own Pomona Saturdays** enables community members to come to the farm to pick produce for themselves.
- **Urban Farmer Training for Kids** invites children, ages 2-12, to learn the basics of urban farming with their caregivers. The program is structured around the seasons, utilizing a variety of hands-on activities and learning methodologies for on-the-farm lessons.

The emergence of Lopez Urban Farm as an inclusive community space represents a significant shift in the traditional narrative surrounding urban farms -- which are largely frequented by affluent individuals, who have expendable wealth and time. The success of Lopez Urban Farm demonstrates that with the right partnerships, funding, and dedication, community farms can be established by passionate residents who want to create urban agriculture opportunities for their community. By providing a pathway for healthier food options and engaging in sustainable practices, this project serves as a model for other communities looking to promote food security, education, and a sense of belonging through urban farming initiatives.



Greenlining the Block

- Lopez Urban Farm
- Active SGV
- API Forward Movement

Cycle of Community Transformation



Through Greenlining the Block, we will be investing in the capacity of community based organizations to advance their priority climate justice neighborhood project as follows:

- ▶ Pass-through over \$4.5 million in grant resources to support baseline dedicated capacity within partner organizations to engage on climate issues with longevity
- ▶ Support partners to evolve community identified priorities to “shovel-worthy” ideas and ultimately to “shovel-ready” proposals with dedicated funding and technical assistance resources
- ▶ Establish a \$1 million Climate Action and Racial Equity Fund to provide seed investment and leverage for their projects

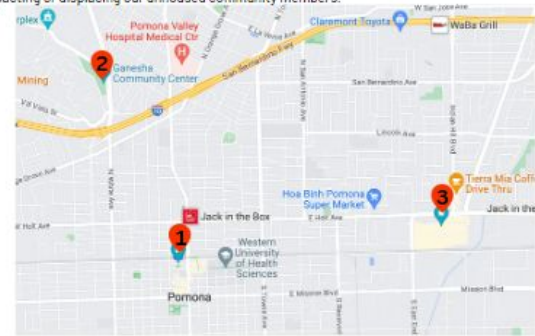
Transformative Climate Communities Grant

- Day One, Lopez Urban Farm and Latino/a Roundtable serving as co-applicants in partnership with the Energy Coalition
- Incorporation of potential projects identified in their CNAs such as EVSEs, organic composting, pedestrian/bike infrastructure, and strategies to address extreme heat such as residential cool roofs & EE upgrades

Built Infrastructure

As of 2023, the only free EV charging in Pomona available is through community partner Sustainable Electric Solutions (SES). There are two free charging spaces that are available all hours except during peak time of use from 4-9pm. In 2022 SES donated over 2,500 hours/8,100kWh of charging to the community.

Creating safe spaces to charge electric vehicles and other e-mobility devices should be a priority for the City of Pomona. These spaces should be in high traffic areas, well lit, and provide reliable access to charging. These locations have been selected with sensitivity to not impacting or displacing our unhoused community members.



Site 1 - Downtown Pomona Transit Center - Vehicle Parking District Lot 10

This lot is used by commuters who ride the MetroLink train and Foothill Transit bus lines. It is also utilized by people parking to attend cultural events and nightlife in Downtown Pomona. Currently, there are 138 parking spots. We have identified 12 spots that run along the south side of the lot that would be ideal for destination EV charging installation. These spots are ideal as they are well lit, feel safe, have dining, retail and entertainment near by, and are close to electrical services. We also see space for an e-mobility charging hub adjacent to the Shaun Diamond Plaza near the EV charging stations. We see the DPOA organization as a potential partner in this endeavor. We estimate the rough cost of this project to be \$75,000.



MAKING EQUITY REAL FRAMEWORK

01

GOALS, VALUES, MISSION

How is equity described in the context of the overall goal of the policy, program or funding approach? Is equity a core component? Is it missing?

02

PROCESS

How does the policy, program or funding approach propose to deliver outcomes with equity as a focus? How are decisions made or influenced by communities with less political power or voice?

03

IMPLEMENTATION

How does implementation lead to equity outcomes? What are the explicit equity outcomes described in the policy, program or funding approach?

04

ANALYSIS, MEASUREMENT

How is equity progress measured? How do we know that equity goals were achieved?



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Small Group Discussion

- What are the capacity building challenges the communities you work with face?
- How have you been able to overcome those challenges?



**THE
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