Environmental Justice

Chapter 10

Introduction

The purpose of the EJ Element is to identify goals and policies that promote environmental justice citywide with a focus on reducing disproportionate impacts on the City's most vulnerable populations such as low-income residents, communities of color, and immigrant communities.

> The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines **environmental justice** 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 laws, regulations, and policies. 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 or policies."

The EJ Element hopes to contribute toward remedying environmental injustices caused by historic and social influences, including those related to zoning, land ownership, lending practices, economics, public health, and politics.

Relationship To Other Elements

Other Elements in Williams's General Plan, including the Land Use and Character Element, Public Safety Element, Public Facilities Element, Noise Element, Open Space and Conservation Element, Circulation Element, and Housing Element already contain many goals and policies related to EJ. The EJ Element identifies additional goals and policies as necessary to comply with SB 1000 based on information in the Environmental Justice Existing Conditions Report and input from the community. New goals and policies are included under each topic area, followed by references to existing relevant policies. As illustrated throughout this EJ Element and the General Plan more broadly, the City of Williams values its role in promoting environmental justice for current and future residents.

Contents

Introduction 4.0
Relationship To Other Elements 4.0
Environmental Justice in Williams 4.1
Policies and Actions 4.2
Reduce Pollution Exposure and Improve Air Quality 4.3
Access to Public Facilities 4.6
Healthy Food Access 4.9
Safe and Sanitary Homes 4.11
Promote Physical Activity 4.13
Reduce Any Unique Health Risks 4.16
Promote Civic Engagement in the Public Decision-Making Process 4.17
Prioritize Improvements & Programs That Address the Needs of DACs 4.19

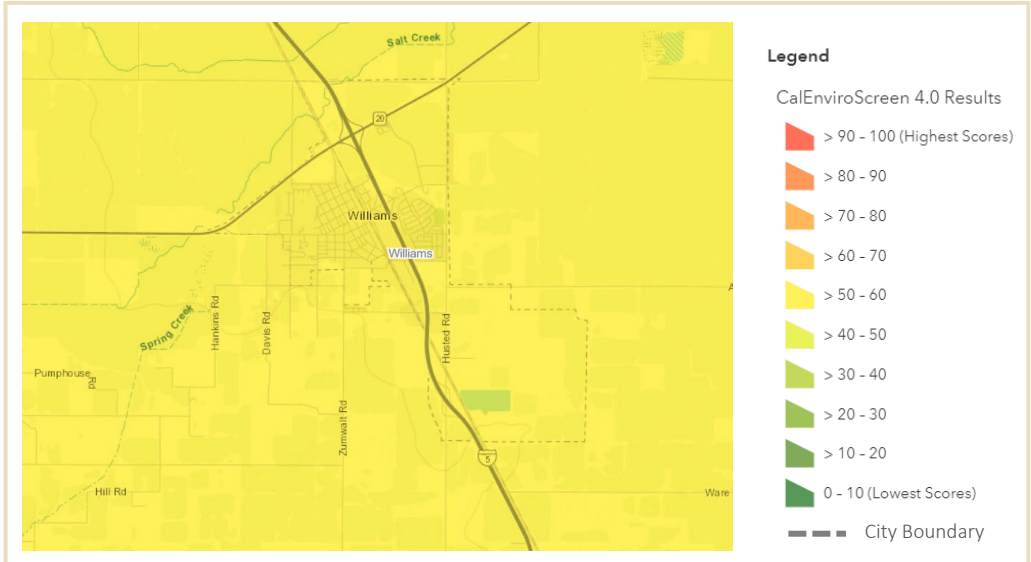
Environmental Justice in Williams

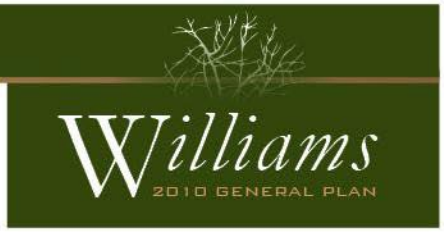
As recommended by SB 1000, the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool ("CalEnviroScreen") version 4.0, developed by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), is the method used to identify DACs. CalEPA defines a DAC as a "low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation."

CalEnviroScreen assigns composite scores to census tracts in California based on aggregate data from 21 indicators including potential exposures to pollutants, adverse environmental conditions, socioeconomic factors, and the prevalence of certain health conditions. Census tracts with a composite CalEnviroScreen score of 75 or higher are considered DACs. The City of Williams is within one census tract (6011000300) which has a CalEnviroScreen 4.0 score of 54. Based on this score, Williams is not considered a DAC; however, the City is electing to prepare a new, stand-alone EJ Element so that all existing EJ-related goals and policies are conveniently located in one document for easy reference. Additionally, the new EJ Element will identify new goals, policies, and programs relevant to the City of Williams.

Two pop-up events were conducted to collect input on the creation of the EJ Element. More details about community engagement efforts are included in the Outreach Summary Report (Appendix A). The EJ Element Existing Conditions Report (Appendix B) provides detailed descriptions of existing conditions in Williams related to EJ, with the goal of helping the City planning team understand the issues and opportunities facing the community.

Figure 10.1: CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Map for Williams





Policies and Actions

The Policies and Actions included in this EJ Element address and are organized by the following topic areas:

1. Reduce Pollution Exposure and Improve Air Quality
2. Access to Public Facilities
3. Healthy Food Access
4. Safe and Sanitary Homes
5. Promote Physical Activity
6. Reduce Any Unique Health Risks
7. Promote Civic Engagement in the Public Decision-Making Process
8. Prioritize Improvements and Programs that Address the Needs of Areas with Higher Levels of Environmental Burdens

The Williams General Plan addresses most of these topics within the context of other elements as described in the introduction. This EJ Element serves to highlight those existing policies and actions contained in other elements as they relate to environmental justice by duplicating them here, within the priority areas identified above. In addition, new policies and actions are included to supplement the City's existing policy direction. New policies are included first under each priority area, followed by relevant policies from other General Plan elements along with a reference to that policy's original location. By presenting the EJ Element in this way, the City seeks to further demonstrate the deep connections between these important priorities and other City goals, priorities, programs, and objectives. As illustrated throughout this EJ Element and the General Plan more broadly, the City of Williams values its role in promoting environmental justice for current and future residents.

1. REDUCE POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

A fundamental part of achieving environmental justice is reducing pollution exposure in communities that are disproportionately burdened with pollution. Pollution exposure occurs when people come into direct contact with air, water, and soil contaminants and is often the result of incompatible land uses sited adjacent to each other. Sensitive populations (such as children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems) are the most susceptible to pollution exposure. Although air quality is just one type of pollution exposure, improving air quality is critical to the health and well-being of all people and the environment. "Reducing pollution exposure" as outlined in SB 1000 refers to a broad range of environmental impacts, but "improving air quality" is specifically focused on reducing specific air contaminants.

Policies

10.1. Support policies and programs to meet or exceed the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

10.2. Encourage the continued development and expansion of local and regional public transit systems. (Circulation Policy 8.i)

10.3. Maintain roadways and circulation improvements to ensure safe, energy efficient and convenient daily travel for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and drivers as Williams grows. (Circulation Policy 8.d)

10.4. Improve travel safety, accessibility and energy efficiency. (Circulation Policy 8.e)

10.5. Encourage residential mixed uses in the downtown area to improve housing opportunities, enhance marketing conditions and to reduce the use of autos. (Land Use Policy 3.20)

10.6. Potential adverse impacts on adjacent land use types shall be considered in the City's development review process (including factors such as noise, odor, pollution, excessive light, traffic, etc.). (Land Use Policy 3.56)

10.7. Prevent the introduction of new noise-producing uses in noise-sensitive areas. (Noise Policy 6.9)

10.8. The City will coordinate with appropriate federal, state, and regional agencies to address local sources of groundwater and soil contamination, including underground storage tanks, septic tanks, agriculture, and industrial uses. (Public Safety Policy 4.45)

10.9. The City will establish safeguards for the aerial spraying of pesticides and other agricultural chemicals within or in near proximity to the City limits. (Public Safety Policy 4.52)

10.10. The City will educate the public as to the types of household hazardous waste and the proper means of disposal. (Public Safety Policy 4.54)

10.11. The City will require that development project proposals address existing hazardous materials concerns, particularly past agricultural uses, through preparation of Phase I or Phase II hazardous materials studies. (Public Safety Policy 4.55)

Actions

10.a. Upon signalization improvements, the City shall optimize traffic signal performance to increase traffic flow and reduce vehicular emissions. (Circulation Action 8.b-5)

10.b. The City shall strive to provide for smooth traffic flow and a compact urban pattern to maximize efficient movement between residential, commercial, and public areas. (Circulation Action 8.e-3)

10.c. The City will coordinate with Caltrans, the Colusa County Air Pollution Control District and the Colusa County Regional Transportation Commission to minimize air quality and transportation impacts associated with planned and existing transportation facilities. (Circulation Action 8.l-4)

10.d. The City shall evaluate circulation improvements and traffic control as to their effect on air and noise pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. (Circulation Action 8.n-6)

10.e. Amend the zoning and subdivision regulations to allow and encourage conservation, low-impact development types. Corresponding density bonuses may be integrated into the ordinance to make these attractive to conventional large-lot subdivisions. In this way development may reinforce the City's desired rural character while invoking sustainable development practices. (Open Space and Conversation Action 7.gg)

10.f. Plant trees in parking lots, parks and recreation areas, and pedestrian corridors to promote outdoor activity, reduce radiation heating, and encourage the reduction of greenhouse gases. (Open Space and Conversation Action 7.yy)

10.g. Support green roofs on new developments as a method of stormwater mitigation, as well as reduction of the urban "heat island" effect. For new construction, the use of green roofs shall result in a reduction in the extent of stormwater facilities that need to be constructed to meet standards. (Open Space and Conversation Action 7.bbb)

10.h. Develop a database of hazardous materials generators and storage facilities for hazardous materials incident management. As a component of the environmental review process, the City may require a hazardous materials inventory, including an assessment of materials and operations for any applications for land use entitlement. (Public Safety Action 4.oo)

10.i. Consider a cooperative program with Colusa County and the Recology Butte Colusa Counties facility in Oroville for regular, scheduled collection of household hazardous wastes. (Public Safety Action 4.pp)

2. ACCESS TO PUBLIC FACILITIES

Under SB 1000, "public facilities" is an umbrella term that includes "public improvements, public services, and community amenities." This covers a wide spectrum of publicly provided uses and services including infrastructure, school facilities, parks, and transportation and emergency services. These amenities and services act to improve the health, safety, and well-being of a community by either enhancing the public sphere or providing services that are available to every resident.

Policies

10.12. Support opportunities to increase the number of parks, public facilities, and other recreational amenities within or near underserved areas of the City.

10.13. Downtown will be the center of the City's public and civic life by retaining its important public institutions, such as the library and City Hall, and by adding new ones that will strengthen its vitality over time. The City will consider the impact of new commercial development on the competitiveness and economic vitality of downtown. (Land Use Policy 3.13)

10.14. The City will grow contiguously to manage the efficiency of public services and municipal infrastructure provision, to maintain a compact and well defined community form, and to oblige its fiscal responsibility. (Land Use Policy 3.32)

10.15. During its annual budget process, the City Council will strike a balance between 1) extending infrastructure to facilitate redevelopment of blighted structures or properties, 2) facilitating infill development of vacant parcels, and 3) improving services to developed sites. (Land Use Policy 3.33)

10.16. Infrastructure and public services will be brought to a sufficient, quality standard within the developed area, requisite with needs. (Land Use Policy 3.40)

10.17. Adequate public facilities and services are required concurrent with annexation and development. (Land Use Policy 3.42)

10.18. Walkability and good connectivity will be promoted through continuity of the street and pedestrian system, together with a compact community form. (Land Use Policy 3.62)

10.19. Schools, parks, golf courses, and community facilities shall be located close to or within residential neighborhoods for accessibility and to provide a focal point for effective and cohesive neighborhood design. (Land Use Policy 3.68)

10.20. Parks and open spaces will be well distributed and conveniently accessible to all neighborhoods, including provisions for pedestrian connectivity. (Land Use Policy 3.71)

10.21. The City will provide facilities and services at a minimum of its current manpower ratio per 1000 persons. (Public Facilities Policy 5.7)

10.22. The City will determine enhancements annually with its budget process to identify necessary growth in its services to continue to meet service needs. (Public Facilities Policy 5.9)

10.23. The City recognizes there continues to be need to fill gaps in the provision of health care within a reasonable distance. (Public Facilities Policy 5.15)

10.24. The City recognizes that there are significant issues regarding access to social services for its citizens. (Public Facilities Policy 5.16)

Actions

10.j. Identify public investment in the streetscape, public space, and public buildings, coupled with outreach to property and business owners to improve the appearance of their properties and to support business investment and entrepreneurship. (Land Use Action 3.o)

10.k. Establish minimum open space standards within each district, which may be used for storm water detention, resource protection (e.g. riparian buffers along streams), bufferyards, and/or parks, trails, and open space. The amount of private or common open space relates to the character of development. For instance, in the Agriculture and Estate Residential districts, there is a high proportion of private open space whereas the Suburban Residential and Urban Residential districts have increasing percentages of common (public or semi-public) open space. (Land Use Action 3.hh)

10.l. Utilize density bonuses as an incentive for promoting open space preservation, more efficient, clustered development, and housing choice. (Land Use Action 3.kk)



10.m. For joint use detention basins, on a case-by-case basis, determine the proper cost share between drainage mitigation to be borne by future development versus public benefit of additional recreational infrastructure. Distinguish cost participation depending on the number of dwelling units that will be served by the recreational use. Establish guidelines for parkland dedication credit in future residential areas. (Public Facilities Action 5.i)

10.n. Estimate the City's population annually and project a one, two, five, ten, and twenty year population to recalibrate the City's future needs for facilities and services. Include development pressures and gauge the likelihood that they will come to fruition in the estimates and projections. (Public Facilities Action 5.o)

10.o. Maintain the City/WUSD relationship to continue sharing school and City facilities and services. (Public Facilities Action 5.q)

10.p. Create written agreements with WUSD regarding school facility use as public parks. (Public Facilities Action 5.r)

10.q. Streamline development approvals by eliminating lengthy review processes and allowing staff-level approval for all health and social service related uses. (Public Facilities Action 5.t)

10.r. Continue to evaluate significant gaps and address those that the market has not covered through programming and the Community Center. (Public Facilities Action 5.v)

3. HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

Food plays a critical role in the health of a community. It is essential that all residents have access to food that is healthy and affordable. Communities with higher levels of environmental burdens may face constraints related to accessibility of nutritional food, and this lack of accessibility has a direct impact on personal health and well-being. Food access is not only associated with the physical accessibility and affordability of food, but also with food security, defined as access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. Food security includes the availability of nutritious and safe foods as well as the ability to acquire foods.

Policies

10.25. Support the establishment of farmer's markets, farm stands, neighborhood markets, mobile health food markets, and other stores that sell healthy food and fresh produce, to expand access to healthy food options throughout the City.

10.26. Encourage retailers to improve the quality and selection of healthy foods and nutritional information and to stock fresh and healthy food at affordable prices by providing incentive programs, technical assistance, or other services.

10.27. Support opportunities for neighborhood-run community gardens including coordination with local school districts and non-profits.

10.28. Support policies and programs to divert organic waste from landfills into recycling activities and food recovery organizations that help provide healthy food to the local community.

10.29. Support local schools, non-profits, and community-based organizations that provide nutrition and healthy cooking instruction.

10.30. The history and tradition of local agricultural will be promoted through cultural events and programming. (Open Space and Conservation Policy 7.2)

10.31. Agriculture and ranching activities will be supported through financial incentives and access to municipal venues and facilities. (Open Space and Conservation Policy 7.3)

10.32. Prime farmland shall be prioritized for agricultural (rather than industrial or residential) uses to ensure the most efficient use of land. (Open Space and Conservation Policy 7.4)

Actions

10.s. Set an example in City facilities and at City-sponsored events by providing healthy food and beverage options.

10.t. Coordinate with local markets, restaurants, and food recovery organizations to donate surplus food to residents in need.

10.u. Prepare and distribute information on the benefits of healthy eating and on the availability of food assistance programs.

10.v. Work with local organizations and community groups to provide free or reduced cost lunches after the school year ends.

10.w. Support and promote activity associated with farmer's markets.

10.x. Relocate the farmer's market to the immediately downtown area, possibly either on the corner of 7th Street and E Street or F Street. Design the site as a civic park/plaza amenity, that has permanent improvements to support the market, including shade structures, electrical connections, lighting, and design amenities (e.g. pavilion or performance stage, public art installations, fountains, gardens, etc.) (Land Use Action 3.p)

10.y. Consider funding a marketing campaign that promotes the purchase of "local" products from the City of Williams and Sacramento Valley region. (Open Space and Conservation Action 7.f)

4. SAFE AND SANITARY HOMES

The condition of homes in a community has direct health implications for those who live in them. Lower-income residents may live in dwellings built before standards and regulations were established to ensure that new homes are free from pollutants such as lead and asbestos and issues such as poor ventilation and infestations. Overcrowded living conditions also affect the safety and cleanliness of homes. Lastly, housing affordability influences whether homes in a community are safe and sanitary. When a household is cost-burdened, there is less money for housing maintenance or other needs such as healthcare and healthy food. These issues are further discussed and addressed in the Housing Element of this General Plan.

Overcrowding is typically measured by the persons-per-room in a dwelling unit, with more than one person per room considered overcrowded.

Cost-burdened is when a tenant or homeowner spends more than 30 percent of their income toward housing (including utilities).

Policies

10.33. Support capital improvements such as sewer, water, street, and electrical improvements that facilitate the provision of safe, decent, and sanitary housing.

10.34. Focus code enforcement efforts to improve unsafe and unsanitary conditions, focusing on overcrowding, illegal garage conversions, illegal home businesses, unpermitted plumbing and electrical, property maintenance, trash and dumping, and graffiti.

10.35. Raise awareness about the risks associated with lead-based paint and other housing hazards.

10.36. Encourage measures to reduce indoor air quality impacts (e.g., air filtration systems, kitchen range hood exhaust fans, low-VOC paint and carpet) for new developments.

10.37. Become actively involved in federal and state housing assistance programs directed toward new construction, renter assistance, rehabilitation and infrastructure, when there is a reasonable probability of success in obtaining the funds. (Housing Element Policy 1: Involve Housing Assistance Program)

10.38. Promote orderly growth, and assure an adequate supply of housing sites for all economic segments of the community. (Housing Element Policy 2: Promote Adequate Supply of Housing Sites for All Segments of the Community)

10.39. Support the efforts of for-and non-profit housing developers in providing affordable housing opportunities for extremely low, low-and moderate-income households and special needs households (the elderly, female-headed households, people with disabilities, farm workers and the homeless). (Housing Element Policy 4: Support Efforts to Provide Affordable Housing)

Actions

10.z. Distribute information about remediation of lead and best practices to reduce and eliminate other housing hazards.

10.aa. Conduct periodic absentee owner outreach in Environmental Justice Communities to inform owners of their legal requirements to maintain and upkeep their rental properties.

10.bb. Distribute information with City newsletters and/or other periodical publications about protecting tenant rights, so they are not penalized for reporting or living in a dwelling unit that does not meet health and safety standards.

10.cc. Apply for funds for housing rehabilitation resources as feasible.

5. PROMOTE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Physical activity is a large contributor to the physical and mental health of Williams residents. Research by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that physically active people tend to live longer and have lower risk for heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, depression, and some cancers. Physical activity is promoted by the built environment through providing places that encourage walking, biking, and other forms of exercise. These places include parks, open space, trails, urban green spaces, areas with robust tree canopies, and active transportation networks. An important component of environmental justice is distributing facilities that promote physical activity equitably throughout the community so there are equal opportunities for all residents to be physically active.

Policies

10.40. Form partnerships with non-profit organizations, healthcare organizations, and regional governmental agencies to foster and participate in efforts promoting healthy lifestyles, physical activity, and positive health outcomes.

10.41. Improve and maintain the system of sidewalks and crosswalks to promote a pedestrian-friendly community. (Circulation Policy 8.j)

10.42. The financial support and development of future parks will follow the long-range, Parks and Recreation Master Plan (and subsequent updates) to accommodate a diversity recreational activities and support the interests of all age ranges, including youth, singles, families, and retirees. The annual budget under the City of Williams Parks Improvement Project shall complement the Plan. (Open Space and Conservation Policy 7.5)

10.43. The City will continue to expand its parks and recreational facilities and services in proportion to population growth and state and national standards. (Open Space and Conservation Policy 7.6)

10.44. Parks and open space shall be evenly distributed, with regard to location, size, and amenities, to reflect population density and nearby land uses. (Open Space and Conservation Policy 7.8)

10.45. A comprehensive, interconnected trail system will offer pedestrian walkways, bike paths, and equestrian trails throughout the community. (Open Space and Conservation Policy 7.12)

10.46. The creation of inter-city trails will enhance recreational opportunities and promote walking as a viable travel mode. (Open Space and Conservation Policy 7.13)

10.47. Pedestrian paths will adhere to ADA accessibility guidelines, including possible redesign of existing sidewalks, sidewalk curb cuts, ramps, and trails. (Open Space and Conservation Policy 7.16)

Actions

10.dd. New development shall incorporate connected street and pedestrian/bicycle networks, with many connections between new and older neighborhoods and between neighborhood and commercial and downtown areas. (Circulation Action 8.b-2)

10.ee. The City will seek funding for, and include pedestrian and bicycle improvements in Capital Improvement Planning, as feasible. Such improvements will include, but are not limited to:

- Construction of sidewalks where they do not currently exist;
- Widening of sidewalks in high pedestrian traffic areas;
- Installation of bike paths and lanes; and
- Improved crossings of roads and railroad for bicycles and pedestrians. (Circulation Action 8.c-4)

10.ff. The City shall develop an Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) transition and compliance program for pedestrian facilities. (Circulation Action 8.e-4)

10.gg. The City shall plan and require construction of bikeways, sidewalks, and pedestrian access ways to major destination points with emphasis on providing connecting access to schools, parks and shopping centers from residential neighborhoods. (Circulation Action 8.h-4)

10.hh. Increase the number of events and programs for year-round indoor and outdoor activities, with the help of additional staff and continued support of community groups. (Open Space and Conservation Action 7.j)

10.ii. Adopt a parks-to-standards program to set a standard by which all parks, recreation areas, and public spaces are measured. Improvements would bring each to an equivalent standard, which may then be adhered to through ongoing maintenance. In this way, the entire park system is elevated to the same standard of quality. (Open Space and Conservation Action 7.l)

10.jj. Prepare a comprehensive trail and greenways master plan that identifies the locations of bike lanes, trails, greenways, and pedestrian linkages throughout the City. Attention shall be given to identify sidewalk improvements in and around Downtown and the well established areas of town where roadways may require "retrofitting" to accommodate such improvements. Generally, the plan shall:

- Inventory and map all existing trail segments and sidewalks throughout the City.
- Identify missing and incomplete segments needed to improve continuity, particularly those adjacent to schools, parks, public buildings, and other pedestrian generators and attractors, such as Downtown.
- Inventory possible accessibility barriers for disabled persons.
- Identify natural areas and other infrastructure corridors within the community that could serve as linear linkages and/or greenbelts. These areas shall be acquired and developed for recreational use and as trails and connections. (Open Space and Conservation Actions 7.r-v)

10.kk. Acquire any necessary additional rights-of-way or easements to allow for a multi-purpose (walking, jogging, bicycle, and equestrian use) trails along linear features, such as the railroad, waterways, and roadways. Provide for lateral extensions to serve neighborhood areas and points of public access, consistent with the comprehensive trail and greenways master plan. (Open Space and Conservation Action 7.bb)

6. REDUCE ANY UNIQUE HEALTH RISKS

An important component of environmental justice is identifying unique situations that may compound health risks for the community. Due to the large agricultural uses both in the City and in the surrounding area, there is a higher chance of residents coming in contact with harmful levels of air or water pollutants associated with agricultural byproducts.

Policies

10.48. Development will occur in a manner that is compatible with the existing agricultural resources, including agricultural cropland, orchards, and ranchlands. (Land Use Policy 3.44)

10.49. Agricultural resources will be observed so as not to unnecessarily encroach upon their operations or create nuisance conditions. (Land Use Policy 3.47)

10.50. New development adjacent to areas of ongoing agricultural development shall provide agricultural buffers that are adequate to protect residents from the harmful effects of agricultural chemical use. (Public Safety Policy 4.53)

Actions

10.ll. Adopt an ordinance to establish standards relating to the spray application of agricultural chemicals within a specified distance of the City limits. (Public Safety Action 4.rr)

7. PROMOTE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE PUBLIC DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Civic, or community, engagement is an important goal across local planning and decision-making processes. It can help foster a strong sense of place within a neighborhood and deepen the investment of stakeholders working toward neighborhood improvements. Environmental justice issues are more effectively identified and resolved if opportunities to engage in local decision-making are created for low-income, minority, and linguistically isolated stakeholders. Effective civic engagement not only provides the City with an opportunity to strengthen its relationship with the community but provides for sound investment in better decision-making by ensuring decisions are informed by community needs and aspirations.

Policies

10.51. Support a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to civic engagement and public outreach on local planning and decision-making processes to facilitate a variety of participation opportunities and methods.

10.52. Publicize major transportation issues and solicit public input. (Circulation Policy 8.k)

10.53. Provide Spanish language public hearing information, including noticing, regarding City housing programs shall be provided, such as future updates of the General Plan. The City will expand its efforts for meaningful public outreach by providing Spanish language notices regarding future housing programs, such as update of the Housing Element. (Housing Element Program 9.1)

10.54. The City will consider adding a new program to educate community leaders of the services the City provides. (Public Facilities Policy 5.14)

Actions

10.mm. Promote meaningful cross-cultural participation in local planning and decision-making processes by:

- Providing City-sponsored material in multiple languages.
- Organizing outreach events and conducting surveys directly to specific demographic groups.
- Partnering with community-based organizations that have relationships, trust, and cultural competency with target communities to conduct outreach for local initiatives and issues.
- Tailoring activities and the venues where they take place to accommodate the cultural preferences of different racial/ethnic groups.

10.nn. Make meetings and other public engagement forums accessible to a wide range of residents and encourage greater attendance by:

- Ensuring any materials are distributed far enough in advance of meetings to allow sufficient time for review and comment.
- Using communication methods that convey complex or technical information in an easily understandable manner.
- Facilitating meetings using diverse methods that can engage all participants and can appeal to multiple styles of learning.
- Focusing on methods to effectively engage younger residents.

10.oo. The City shall provide timely notification on major transportation issues to the public through press releases, public service radio announcements, television, and contact with local organizations. (Circulation Action 8.k-1)

10.pp. The City shall conduct public hearings on proposed major actions and notify the public through public notices. (Circulation Action 8.k-2)

10.qq. Establish a "Friends-of-the-Park" program to solicit neighborhood, business, and civic group involvement in maintaining and policing parks and open space areas. (Open Space and Conservation Action 7.n)

10.rr. Take steps to lay out a program for an annual "Williams 101" that targets community leaders and teaches them about all City functions, including SOI residents. (Public Facilities Action 5.s)

10.ss. Consider an additional City staff position that can act as a clearinghouse of contact information for assistance that is available in the City, County, and region. (Public Facilities Action 5.x)



8. PRIORITIZE IMPROVEMENTS AND PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF AREAS WITH HIGHER LEVELS OF ENVIRONMENTAL BURDENS

An essential component of the EJ Element is prioritizing projects, programs, and investments that directly serve and benefit residents within areas experiencing higher levels of environmental burdens. Effective prioritization requires coordination and alignment across departments, agencies and shared jurisdictional partners along with consistent and sustained engagement with community stakeholders. Although Williams is not considered a DAC, identifying and considering improvements and programs for areas of the City that are in need of investment may help the City obtain grants and/or other public funding that is targeted for these areas.

Policies

10.55. Promote the equitable provision of public amenities such as sidewalks, street trees, crosswalks, paving, streetlights, bike lanes, and other amenities as specified in other sections of this EJ Element.

10.56. Encourage programs that serve targeted populations such as youth and women.

10.57. Prioritize agricultural flood recovery programs targeted to small business owners.

10.58. The integrity of the original town neighborhoods will be protected and enhanced through conservation measures and allowances for improvement and reinvestment. (Land Use Policy 3.1)

10.59. Preservation and replacement measures will be encouraged for existing vegetation, with special emphasis on mature shade trees. (Open Space and Conservation Policy 7.22)

Actions

10.tt. Engage with the community to identify desired programs that would benefit targeted segments of the population such as youth, women, and small business owners.

10.uu. Prepare a neighborhood improvement plan for the original town neighborhoods to organize and coordinate with neighborhood representatives to identify improvement projects, regulatory adjustments, enforcement targets, and needed amenities. The plan should be backed by grants and seed funding for individual property improvements and a capital budget for street, sidewalk, utility, drainage, lighting, and park projects. (Land Use Action 3.f.)

10.vv. Prepare a downtown master plan to guide the strategies and improvement projects necessary to support the formation of a redevelopment district. The master plan shall entail the type and character of future land use, specific use and building types, street and sidewalk improvements, streetscape enhancements, and infrastructure requirements, together with strategies for creating partnerships, assembling and marketing land deals, and recruiting developer interest. Lastly, the plan shall evaluate market conditions and likely absorption rates and subsequently, identify funding sources and a general financing plan. (Land Use Action 3.m)

10.ww. Coordinated with the master plan, conduct an infrastructure assessment and prepare a capital improvement plan. The purpose of this plan is to outline the phasing and timing of capital infrastructure projects, including drainage improvements, utility upgrades and line replacement, street redesign and reconstruction, and streetscape enhancements (lighting, landscaping, and pedestrian amenities). (Land Use Action 3.n)

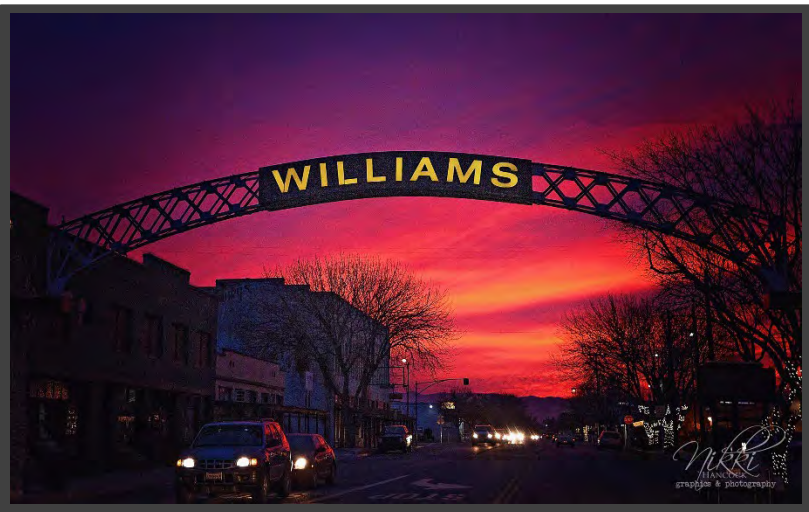
10.xx. Initiate a downtown façade improvement program when it becomes financially feasible for the City to fund such a program. (Land Use Action 3.q)

10.yy. Consider creating a façade improvement grant program and offering business development loans for code compliance. Consider a revolving loan fund to help with business start-ups and expansions. (Land Use Action 3.s)

10.zz. Prepare a near-term capital improvement plan and program for those trail or sidewalk segments that would have an immediate impact, meaning those by which connections may be made to and

10.aaa. between significant destinations with relatively little planning and investment. (Open Space and Conservation Action 7.y)

10.bbb. Prepare an application for the Safe Routes to School Program. Under this program Caltrans makes grants available for the construction of facilities that improve and enhance the safety of pedestrians and bicycle facilities and infrastructure. (Open Space and Conservation Action 7.aa)









City of Williams

Environmental Justice Element

Outreach Summary Report

Appendix A

De Novo Planning Group

A Land Use Planning, Design, and Environmental Firm

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 1 | PAGE

COMMUNITY SURVEYS 1 | PAGE

ACTIVITY #1 BRAINSTORMING 3 | PAGE

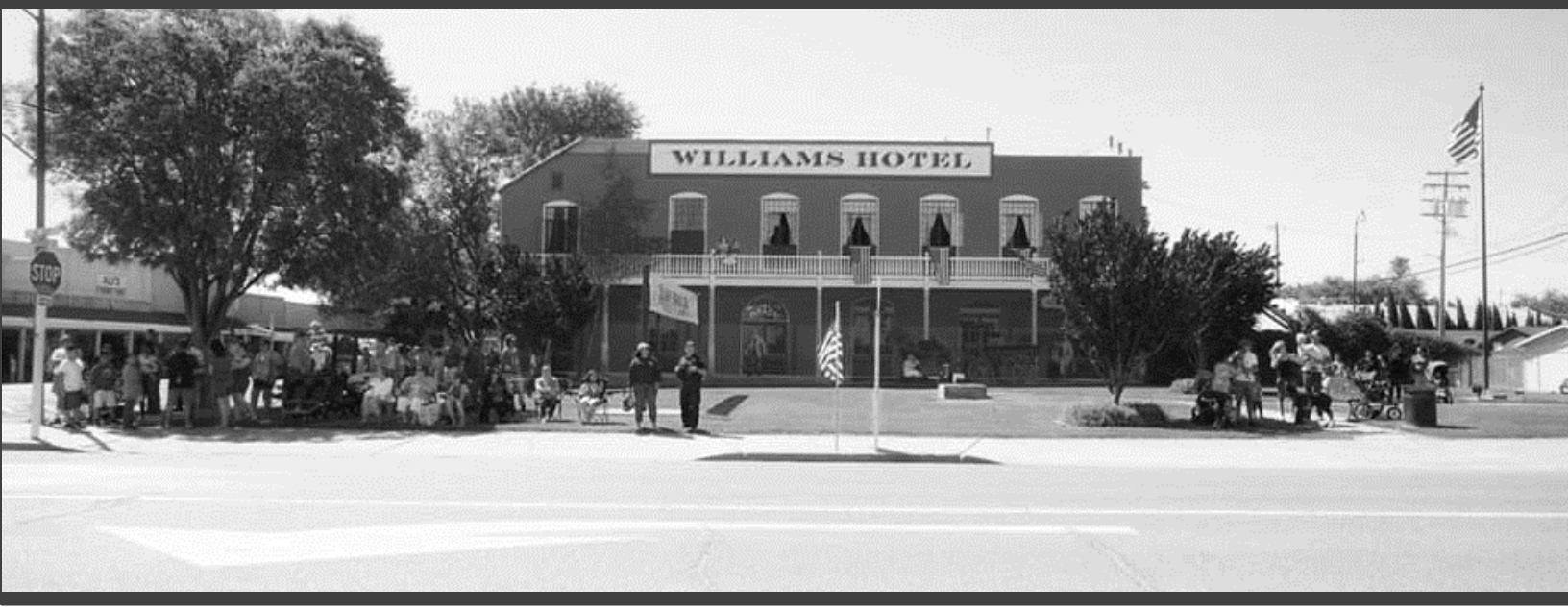
ACTIVITY #2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES 5 | PAGE

NEXT STEPS 5 | PAGE

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: BRAINSTORMING A-1 | PAGE

APPENDIX B: GUIDING PRINCIPLES B-1 | PAGE



INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the public participation and input received during the Environmental Justice outreach activities conducted in March and April of 2023 in the City of Williams.

Per SB 1000, when a City revises two or more General Plan elements concurrently and has areas defined as "Disadvantaged Communities" (DACs), the City must address environmental justice (EJ) in their General Plan. De Novo will work collaboratively with City staff and the community to create an EJ Element that is custom-tailored to address the unique issues and opportunities facing Williams.

The outreach program for this project is inclusive, educational, and designed to facilitate a meaningful conversation with City of Williams community members about the issues and challenges facing Williams, which should be addressed as part of the Environmental Justice element of the General Plan.

The outreach program has included in person surveys and community polling which were conducted to provide opportunities for community members to discuss their vision for the future of the City of Williams, issues related to air quality, safe housing, public facilities, physical activity, healthy food, and public input.

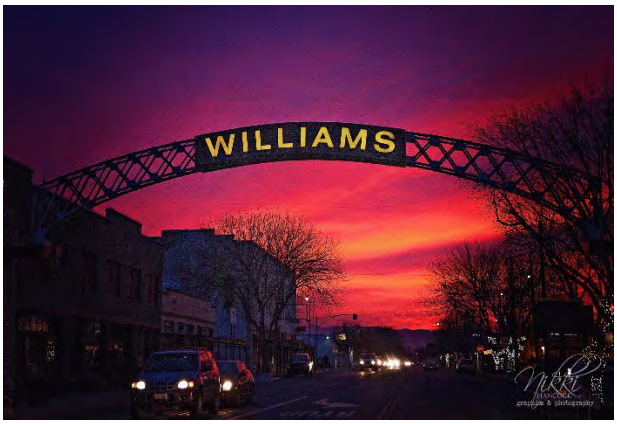
This Summary Report memorializes what was discussed during the two pop-up community events. These activities occurred throughout the Spring of 2023 at the City of Williams Flea Market.

Community input serves as the foundation for the City of William's Environmental Justice Element of the General Plan. We appreciate your time and ideas.

COMMUNITY SURVEYS

The City of Williams hosted two community pop up events in March and April of 2023. The topics explored at each pop-up event along with summaries of what we heard from the community are provided on the following pages. The intent of this Summary Report is to present the information we received without making assumptions or recommendations. The feedback we received has been recorded here in order to memorialize the key themes and ideas, and it will be used to help inform future work tasks associated with the Environmental Justice Element, including the creation of new goals, policies, and actions.

Community Pop-Up Event Topics, Dates, and Location

Community Pop-Up Event #1	Community Pop-Up Event #2
	
Friday, March 24th, 2023 **Williams Flea Market**	**Friday, April 21st, 2023** **Williams Flea Market**

Activity #1: Community Surveys

The Environmental Justice Community Pop-Ups were held on Friday March 24th and Friday April 21st, 2023, at the Williams Flea Market. The intent of these pop-ups is to begin a dialogue with the community regarding its priorities surrounding Environmental Justice. These activities are summarized on the following pages.

Activity –Brainstorming: The first activity in the community pop-up event was an individual exercise. Community members were provided stacks of blank Post-It-Notes and asked to write down what they love most about their community in Williams. The results are summarized by topic area on the following pages.

Common themes expressed during the Community Pop-Up Activity #1 are summarized and presented below. Full results from Activity #1 are included within Appendix A.

Table 1: What do you love about Williams?

Topic Area		
Community	• Hospitality of the people • Quiet town • Small town feel • Community pool • Community * • Sense of small community • The people * • Local ownership	• The people are very united * • Safe * • Everything in Williams * • Sense of community * • New ideas • I don't like marijuana
Mobility	• Fix potholes and streets • Pothole improvements • Safer streets • More stop signs by schools for safety • Need street and alley improvements	• More stop sign safety • Better public streets – 8th Street needs improvement • Need intersection safety (stopping measures)
Services	• More youth services and programs • Parks • More street maintenance • Health care services • Public services • Community engagement (combined school/parks programs, community centers) • Need food education for kids	• Pharmacy and health services • More after school and youth programming • Need police accountability • Need juvenile programs and services • Need more soccer programs for kids • Need for activities for women • Market • Flea market • El Campito • Fast food restaurants

Economy:	• Seasonal jobs in Williams • Agricultural flood recovery effect on business owners • Jobs and the local economy	• Market and local economy • Second hand and antique stores • Need better local economy for the City * •
Nature	• Fish and wildlife, hunting and fishing • Scenic flatlands	

*Comment received in Spanish and has been translated to English for the purpose of this report.

Activity #2: Guiding Principles

Activity - Guiding Principles:

Community members were provided three "dot" stickers and asked to review a list of 6 possible guiding principles and stick their "dot" next to the principle they vote for. Community members could assign all three dots to the same principle or divide the dots as they preferred. The results of this activity, starting with the principle that received the most votes, is provided below in Table 2. Original results are shown on the right and are included in Appendix B.

Table 2: Guiding Principles

Topic Area	Assets
Air Quality- A healthy community with good air quality where exposure to pollution is minimized	6
Safe housing- Safe and healthy living conditions for people of all backgrounds and incomes.	10
Public facilities- Public facilities and services are distributed equitably throughout the community	21
Physical activity- Accessible opportunities for physical activity	11
Healthy food- People throughout the City have convenient access to healthy food options	7
Public input- Inclusive and meaningful civic engagement	5

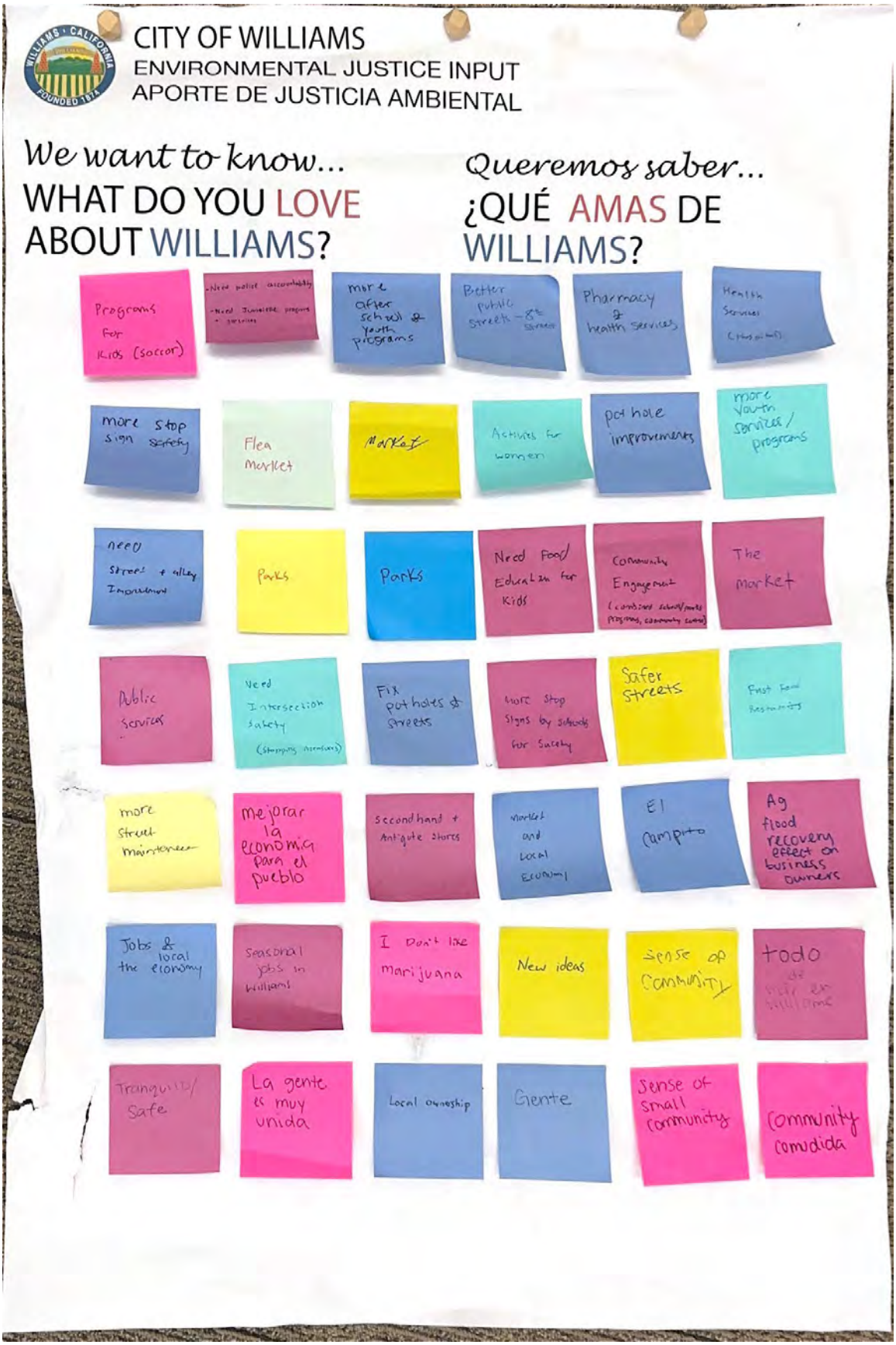
As shown above, the highest priority chosen by community members included ensuring public facilities and services are distributed equitably throughout the community (21 votes). Second was accessible opportunities for physical activity (11 votes).

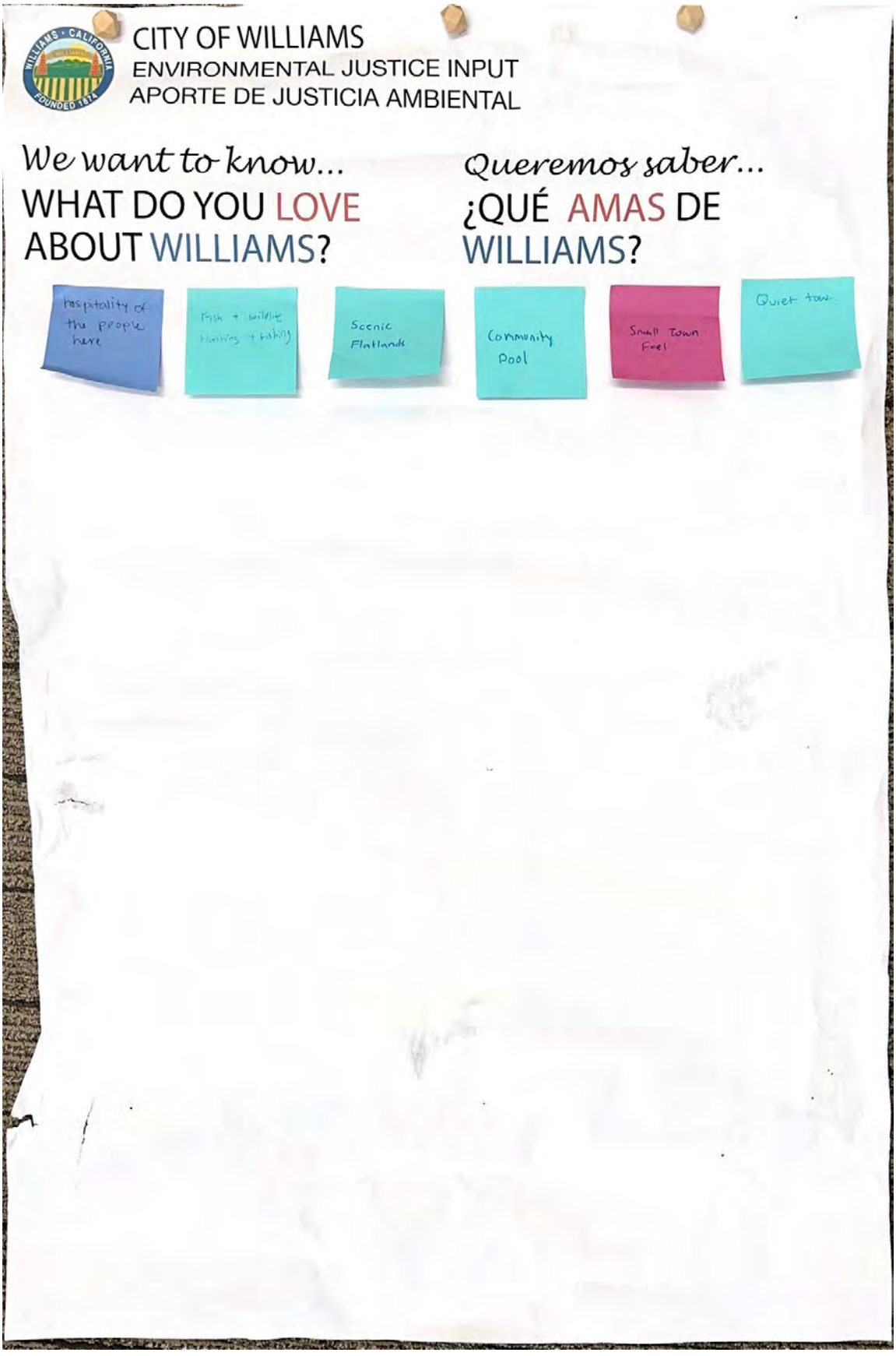
NEXT STEPS

The goal of the Community Pop-Up Events was to start a conversation with the City of Williams community regarding their vision for the City and how the General Plan Environmental Justice Element should address key issues, opportunities, and challenges that are most important to the City of Williams. Using this feedback, City staff and the General Plan Update consultant team will begin to draft goals, policies, and actions for the new Environmental Justice Element of the General Plan. This community feedback will also serve as a resource for the Williams Planning Commission and City Council as they review and provide input on draft products developed by the project team.

For information on how to stay involved, and view project documents, please visit: https://www.cityofwilliams.org/ or contact the City at:

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CITY OF WILLIAMS
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INPUT
APORTE DE JUSTICIA AMBIENTAL
We want to know...
WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WILLIAMS?
Queremos saber...
¿QUÉ AMAS DE WILLIAMS?
Programs for Kids (soccer)
more after school & youth programs
Better public streets
Pharmacy & health services
more stop sign safety
Flea Market
Market
Activities for women
pot hole improvements
more youth services / programs
need Street + alley Improvement
Parks
Parks
Need Food/ Education for Kids
Community Engagement
The market
Public Service
Need Intersection Safety
Fix pot holes & streets
more Stop Signs by schools for Safety
Safer Streets
more Street maintenance
mejorar la economia para el pueblo
second hand + Antigute stores
market and Local Economy
El campito
Ag flood recovery effect on business owners
Jobs & local the economy
Seasonal jobs in Williams
I Don't like marijuana
New ideas
Sense of community
todo
Tranquility/ Safe
La gente es muy unida
Local ownership
Gente
Sense of small community
Community comodida


CITY OF WILLIAMS
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INPUT
APORTE DE JUSTICIA AMBIENTAL
We want to know...
WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WILLIAMS?
Queremos saber...
¿QUÉ AMAS DE WILLIAMS?
hospitality of the people here
Fish + wildlife Hunting + fishing
Scenic Flatlands
Community Pool
Small Town Feel
Quiet town

CITY OF WILLIAMS
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INPUT
APORTE DE JUSTICIA AMBIENTAL

Environmental Justice (EJ) is about reducing the disproportionate impacts of pollution and promoting equal distribution of resources.
La Justicia Ambiental (JA) se trata de reducir los impactos desproporcionados de la contaminación y promover la distribución equitativa de los recursos.

What three EJ issue areas do you think need the most attention in Williams?
¿Qué tres áreas problemáticas de JA (Justicia Ambiental) cree que necesitan más atención en Williams?



AIR QUALITY / CALIDAD DEL AIRE
A healthy community with good air quality where exposure to pollution is minimized.
Una comunidad saludable con buena calidad del aire donde se minimice la exposición a la contaminación.



SAFE HOUSING / VIVIENDA SEGURA
Safe and healthy living conditions for people of all backgrounds and incomes.
Condiciones de vida seguras y saludables para personas de todos los orígenes e ingresos.



PUBLIC FACILITIES / INSTALACIONES PÚBLICAS
Public facilities and services are distributed equitably throughout the community.
Las instalaciones y los servicios públicos se distribuyen equitativamente en toda la comunidad.



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY / ACTIVIDAD FÍSICA
Accessible opportunities for physical activity.
Oportunidades accesibles para la actividad física.



HEALTHY FOOD / COMIDA SANA
People throughout the City have convenient access to healthy food options.
Las personas en toda la ciudad tienen acceso conveniente a opciones de alimentos saludables.



PUBLIC INPUT / ENTRADA PÚBLICA
Inclusive and meaningful civic engagement.
Compromiso cívico inclusivo y significativo.



City of Williams

Environmental Justice Element
Existing Conditions Report
Appendix B

DE NOVO PLANNING GROUP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction 2

What is Environmental Justice (EJ)? 2

Senate Bill 1000 and Disadvantaged Communities 2

Topics Addressed 3

2. Detailed Analysis 3

2.1 Reduce Pollution Exposure and Improve Air Quality 3

2.2 Promote Public Facilities 9

2.3 Promote Healthy Food Access 11

2.4 Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes 14

2.5 Promote Physical Activity 16

2.6 Reduce Any Unique or Compounded Health Risks 16

2.7 Promote Civic Engagement in the Public Decision-Making Process 17

2.8 Prioritize Improvements and Programs Targeted To EJ Communities 19

3. References 21

1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of existing conditions in Williams related to Environmental Justice (EJ). The findings will be used to inform the goals and policies within the City's new EJ Element. In creating an EJ Element, the City of Williams will identify strategies to ensure equal distribution of resources.

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ)?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) defines EJ 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 laws, regulations, and policies."

SENATE BILL 1000 AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Senate Bill 1000 (SB 1000), the Planning for Healthy Communities Act, was signed into law by Governor Edmond G. Brown, Jr. on September 24, 2016. Per SB 1000, when a City revises two or more General Plan elements concurrently and has areas defined as "Disadvantaged Communities" (DACs), the City must address environmental justice (EJ) in their General Plan. The City can choose to either adopt a new, stand-alone element or integrate EJ policies and goals into existing elements of the General Plan. (Government Code Section 65302[h][2]).

The California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool ("CalEnviroScreen") version 4.0, developed by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), is the recommended method to identify DACs. CalEPA defines a DAC 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."

CalEnviroScreen assigns composite scores to census tracts in California based on aggregate data from 21 indicators including potential exposures to pollutants, adverse environmental conditions, socioeconomic factors, and the prevalence of certain health conditions. Census tracts with a composite CalEnviroScreen score of 75 or higher are considered DACs. The City of Williams is within one census tract (6011000300) which has a CalEnviroScreen 4.0 score of 54. Based on this score, Williams is not considered a DAC; however, the City is electing to prepare a new, stand-alone EJ Element so that all existing EJ-related goals and policies are conveniently located in one document for easy reference. Additionally, the new EJ Element will identify new goals, policies, and programs relevant to the City of Williams.

TOPICS ADDRESSED

As specified by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research General Plan Guidelines, Chapter 4, the EJ Element will address the following topics:

1. Reduce pollution exposure and improve air quality
2. Promote public facilities
3. Promote healthy food access
4. Promote safe and sanitary homes
5. Promote physical activity
6. Reduce any unique or compounded health risks not otherwise addressed above
7. Promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process
8. Prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of EJ communities

This report is organized according to these eight topics. A detailed analysis of each topic is provided in Section 2.

2. DETAILED ANALYSIS

This section provides a detailed analysis of each of the eight topics listed in the Introduction.

2.1 REDUCE POLLUTION EXPOSURE AND IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

CalEnviroScreen was used to determine pollution exposure and vulnerability in Williams. The City of Williams is within one census tract (6011000300) which has a composite CalEnviroScreen 4.0 score of 54. This score is aggregated from the scores of 21 individual indicators, shown in **Table 2.1**.

The 21 indicators are divided into two groups: Pollution Burden and Population Characteristics. Pollution Burden consists of 13 indicators which represent the potential exposures to pollutants and the adverse environmental conditions caused by pollution. Population Characteristics consists of eight indicators which represent physiological traits, health status, or community characteristics that can result in increased vulnerability to pollution. Scores between 0 to 100 are assigned to each indicator representing the degree of pollution exposure and vulnerability, or "burdens," facing each census tract. Scores between 75 to 100 are considered a high burden, scores between 25 to 74 are a medium burden, and scores between 0 to 24 are a low burden.

Unless specified otherwise, all descriptions of the 21 indicators comes from the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 mapping tool or report, both available at the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment website.[1]

[1] https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40

TABLE 2.1: CALENVIROSCREEN INDICATOR PERCENTILE SCORES

Indicator	Percentile Score
Pollution Burden	
Ozone Ozone is the main ingredient of smog. At ground level, ozone is formed when pollutants chemically react in the presence of sunlight. The main sources of ozone are trucks, cars, trains, factories, construction, and dry cleaners. Ozone can irritate the lungs, cause inflammation, and make chronic illnesses worse, even at low levels of exposure. Children and the elderly are sensitive to the effects of ozone. Ozone levels are highest in the afternoon and on hot days. People who spend a lot of time outdoors may also be affected by ozone.[2]	32
$PM_{2.5}$ $PM_{2.5}$ is very small airborne particle pollution, less than 2.5 micrometers, which is less than the thickness of a human hair. $PM_{2.5}$ is a mixture of particles that can include organic chemicals, dust, soot, and metals. These particles can come from cars and trucks, factories, wood burning, and other activities. They can travel deep into the lungs because they are so small and cause various health problems including heart and lung disease. Children, the elderly, and people suffering from heart or lung disease, asthma, or chronic illness are most sensitive to the effects of $PM_{2.5}$ exposure.[3]	6
Diesel Particulate Matter Exhaust from trucks, buses, trains, and other equipment with diesel engines contains a mixture of gases and solid particles. The solid material in diesel exhaust is known as DPM. More than 90% of DPM is less than 1 µm in diameter (about 1/70th the diameter of a human hair), and thus is a subset of $PM_{2.5}$.[4] DPM contains hundreds of different chemicals. Many of these are harmful to health. The highest levels of DPM are usually near rail yards, ports, and freeways. The particles in DPM can reach deep into the lung, where they can contribute to health problems including eye, throat and nose irritation, heart and lung disease, and lung cancer. Children and the elderly are most sensitive to the effects of DPM.[5]	7
Drinking Water Contaminants The drinking water contaminant index is a combination of contaminant data that takes into account the relative concentrations of different contaminants and whether multiple contaminants are present. The indicator does not indicate	9

[2] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?views=Ozone
[3] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?views=PM2.5
[4] https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/overview-diesel-exhaust-and-health#:~:text=The%20solid%20material%20in%20diesel,5)
[5] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?views=Diesel-Particulate-Matter

whether water is safe to drink.[6] Most drinking water in California meets health standards. However, drinking water sometimes becomes contaminated with chemicals or bacteria above the standards. Both natural and human sources can contaminate drinking water. Natural sources include rocks, soil, wildlife, and fires. Human sources include factories, sewage, and runoff from farms. One common contaminant, arsenic, occurs naturally in some rocks and soil and is often found in groundwater in California. Nitrate from fertilizer or manure can leach into groundwater and contaminate wells.[7]	
Lead Lead is a toxic metal that occurs naturally in the environment. However, the highest levels of lead present in the environment are a result of human activities. Historically, lead has been used in house paint, plumbing, and as a gasoline additive. While lead levels have declined over the past five decades in the United States, it still persists in older housing. Exposure to lead through paint is the most significant source of lead exposure for children. There are no known safe levels of lead exposure. Young children are especially susceptible to the effects of lead exposure and can suffer adverse health effects, particularly in the brain and nervous system. This increased susceptibility is due to children's unique exposure pathways, developing brains, and differences in the absorption of ingested lead. Children's exposure to lead even at low levels can lead to a higher likelihood of lower IQ and educational performance outcomes, and symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).[8]	51
Pesticides Exposure to pesticides can be an issue in communities near agricultural operations. Wind erosion, drift, or volatilization of pesticides from agricultural fields can be a source of pesticide exposure and can spread pesticides over a greater distance than the immediate area. Because of this, there is a higher exposure seen in Williams.[9]	87
Toxic Releases Facilities that make or use toxic chemicals can release these chemicals into the air and these chemicals are sometimes detected in the air of communities nearby. People living near these facilities may breathe contaminated air regularly. An accident at a facility may also release toxic chemicals into the air.[10] The US EPA maintains a Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) of on-site releases to air, water, and land and underground injection of any classified chemical, as well as quantities	4

[6] https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf#page=54
[7] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350&views=Drinking-Water-Contaminants
[8] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350&views=Children%E2%80%99s-Lead-Risk-from-Housing
[9] More information available at: https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf#page=79
[10] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?views=Toxic-Releases-from-Facilities

transferred off-site. Facilities are required to report if they have 10 or more full-time employees, operate within a set of industrial sectors outlined by TRI, and manufacture more than 25,000 pounds or otherwise use more than 10,000 pounds of any listed chemical during the calendar year.[11]	
Traffic Impacts While California has strict vehicle-emissions standards, exhaust from cars and trucks is still one of the main sources of air pollution in much of the state. Major roads and highways can bring air pollutants and noise into nearby neighborhoods. Children who live or go to schools near busy roads have higher rates of asthma than children in areas farther from roads.[12]	3
Cleanup Sites Cleanup sites are places that are contaminated with hazardous chemicals and require clean up by the property owners or government. The Department of Toxic Substances Control tracks cleanups of contaminated sites in California. Chemicals at cleanup sites can move through the air or groundwater. People living near these sites have a greater potential to be exposed to chemicals from the sites than people living further away. According to studies cited in the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Report[13], neighborhoods with cleanup sites are generally poorer and have more people of color than other neighborhoods. The land may take many years or decades to clean up, reducing possible benefits to the community from potential public facilities.[14]	38
Groundwater Threats Groundwater threats may occur when leaks from containers and tanks that contain hazardous chemicals spill and contaminate the soil and pollute water sources. Hazardous chemicals are often stored in containers on land or in underground storage tanks. Leaks from tanks can contaminate soil and groundwater. Common soil and groundwater pollutants include gasoline and diesel fuels at gas stations, as well as solvents, heavy metals and pesticides.[15]	72
Hazardous Waste There is one hazardous waste site in the northwest corner of the City at 1185 Freshwater Rd (Julio Brincats Hightech Towing). Hazardous waste contains chemicals that may be harmful to health. Only certain facilities are allowed to treat, store, or dispose of this type of waste. Hazardous waste can range from used automotive oil to highly toxic waste materials produced by factories and businesses. Hazardous waste is transported from businesses that generate waste to	43

[11] https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf#page=91
[12] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?views=Traffic-Impacts
[13] https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf#page=106
[14] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350&views=Cleanup-Sites
[15] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350&views=Groundwater-Threats

permitted facilities for recycling, treatment, storage, or disposal. Studies have found that hazardous waste facilities are often located near poor neighborhoods and communities of color. Hazardous waste facilities often are cause for concerns about effects on health and the environment in the communities where they operate.[16]	
Impaired Water Bodies This indicator is calculated by considering the number of pollutants in water bodies listed as impaired and the water bodies' distance to the census tract. Water bodies like streams, rivers or lakes are used for recreation and fishing or may provide water for drinking or irrigation. When water bodies are contaminated by pollutants, they are considered impaired. These impairments can harm wildlife habitats and prevent recreational and other uses of the water body.[17] Williams is just under one mile south of the Freshwater Creek which is listed as an Impaired Water Body by the State Water Board due to indicator bacteria.	92
Solid Waste 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. The waste material may come from homes, factories, or businesses. Most of these operations require permits. Regulated facilities as well as illegal sites that do not comply with the law can harm the environment and potentially expose people to hazardous substances. Solid waste facilities can also raise concern in a community about odors, insect pests, vermin, and truck traffic.[18]	83
Population Characteristics	
Asthma Asthma is a disease that affects the lungs and makes it hard to breathe. Symptoms include breathlessness, wheezing, coughing, and chest tightness. The causes of asthma are unknown but both genetic and environmental factors can be involved. Five million Californians have been diagnosed with asthma at some point in their lives. People with asthma can be especially susceptible to pneumonia, flu, and other illnesses. Outdoor air pollution can trigger asthma attacks.[19]	38
Cardiovascular Disease Cardiovascular disease refers to conditions that involve blocked or narrowed blood vessels of the heart. A heart attack is the most common result of cardiovascular disease. Many people survive and return to normal life after a heart	78

[16] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_27-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350&views=Hazardous-Waste
[17] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Impaired-Waters
[18] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Solid-Waste-Sites
[19] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Asthma

attack, but quality of life may be reduced. There are many risk factors for developing cardiovascular disease including diet, lack of exercise, smoking and exposure to air pollution. According to studies cited in the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Report[20], exposure to outdoor air pollution following a heart attack has been shown to increase the risk of death. In addition to people with a past heart attack, the effects of air pollution may also be greater in the elderly and people with other preexisting health conditions.[21]	
Low Birth Weight Babies who weigh less than about five and a half pounds (or 2500 grams) at birth are considered low birth weight. Poor nutrition, lack of prenatal care, stress and smoking by the mother are known to increase the risk of having a low-birth-weight baby. Studies suggest that pollution could also be a factor. Low-birth-weight babies may face a greater risk of developing asthma or other chronic diseases later in life. They are also more likely to die as infants than babies who are not born low weight.[22]	71
Education The education indicator in CalEnviroScreen is based on the percentage of the population over age 25 with less than a high school education.[23] A higher education percentile shown in the map and legend indicates a higher number of residents in that tract without a high school diploma. Educational attainment is the highest level of education a person has completed. People with more education usually earn more than people with less education. Many studies have found that the health effects of air pollution are worse among people with low educational attainment.[24]	84
Housing Burden Housing-burdened low-income households are households that are both low income and highly burdened by housings costs. Households with lower incomes may spend a larger proportion of their income on housing and may suffer from housing-induced poverty. Housing affordability is an important determinant of health and well-being. Low-income households with high housing costs may suffer adverse health impacts.[25]	22
Linguistic Isolation	63

[20] https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf#page=156
[21] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Cardiovascular-Disease
[22] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Low-Birth-Weight
[23] https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf#page=168
[24] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Education
[25] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Housing-Burden

Linguistic isolation is a term used by the U.S. Census Bureau for limited English-speaking households. Adults who are not able to speak English well often have trouble communicating with people who provide social services and medical care. Linguistically isolated households may also not hear or understand important information when there is an emergency like an accidental chemical release or spill.[26] According to the U.S. Census, while the most common language other than English spoken in Williams is Spanish, the majority of Spanish speaking households in Williams are not considered limited-English speaking.	
Poverty The U.S. Census Bureau determines the federal poverty level each year. The poverty level is based on the size of the household and the age of family members. If a person or family's total income before taxes is less than the poverty level, the person or family are considered in poverty. The most current federal poverty level is $14,097 for one person under age 65 and $12,996 for one person aged 65 and older.[27] CalEnviroScreen used a threshold of twice the federal poverty level because California's cost of living is higher than many other parts of the country. This equates to $28,194 for one person under age 65 and $25,992 for one person aged 65 and older. According to studies cited in the CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Report[28], people living in poverty are more likely than others to become ill from pollution.	70
Unemployment The U.S. Census Bureau counts people who are over 16 years old, out of work and able to work but not working as unemployed. This does not include students, active-duty military, retired people, or people who have stopped looking for work. Stress from long-term unemployment can lead to chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, and can shorten a person's life.[29]	13

2.2 PROMOTE PUBLIC FACILITIES

Access and availability of public facilities is an important aspect of the built environment that shapes residents' lives. If community members have unequal access to public facilities, or if a City does not provide adequate facilities for public use, residents may be limited in their ability to access essential resources. Limited access to these resources can lead to reduced lifespans, poorer health outcomes, and diminished mental well-being. Intentional planning of parks and transportation infrastructure can help provide equal access to resources for all communities within a city. The distribution of these facilities are summarized below.

[26] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Linguistic-Isolation
[27] https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html
[28] https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen40reportf2021.pdf#page=187
[29] https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ed5953d89038431dbf4f22ab9abfe40d/page/Indicators/?data_id=dataSource_41-17c4c93b14c-layer-14%3A1350%2CdataSource_29-17c39109ce9-layer-2%3A7420&views=Unemployment

PUBLIC SERVICES

The City of Williams provides its residents with local fire, emergency, and police protection; as well as, works with Colusa County to utilize County-wide resources when needed. The City of Williams is served by the Williams Fire Protection District, with the local station located at 810 E Street. The fire station is located centrally in the northern portion of the City to better provide immediate response to residents. There is one police station: the Williams Police Department police station, located in the northern portion of the City, east of Interstate-5. Further, there is one family medical center: Williams Health Clinic. In terms of public transportation, Colusa County operates a public bus system that runs through the City, and along surrounding communities. Busses run from 7:30 AM to 4:20 PM or later.[30]

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

City Hall is located at 810 E Street, which sits centrally within the City. City Hall hosts City Council meetings in the Council Chambers, holds the Mayor's office, and conducts other various municipal functions.

The City of Williams is home to one museum: the Sacramento Valley Museum. The Sacramento Valley Museum is located at 1491 E Street, across from the Williams Unified School District school site. The Museum is designed to engage the community in exploring and celebrating the City's diverse heritage, culture, and arts through creative programming.

The Williams Community Center is located at 860 C Street. Activities catered towards youth, teens, adults, are held at the center, some of which include Zumba classes, Bridge, and Bingo Nights.[31] The Williams Children Center is located 501 Theatre Road, sightly south of the core of the City.

As established by the Parks and Recreation Department, there are 5 parks and one municipal pool in Williams:

- North View Park
- Redinger Park
- Venice Park
- Valley Vista Park
- Sierra Oaks Park
- Williams City Pool.[32]

The Colusa County Free Library contains seven public library branches that serve the County, including the City. One branch is located within City boundaries; the Williams Branch Library is located at 901 E Street. Colusa County Free Library partner with companies such as Ancestory.com and New York Times to provide residents with reading materials, information, and greater access to digital information. Colusa County Free Library's Career Online High School

[30] Colusa County, *Schedule and Brochures*, https://www.countyofcolusa.org/182/Schedule-Brochures, February 17, 2023.
[31] City of Williams, *Adult*, https://www.cityofwilliams.org/departments/parks_and_recreation/adult.php, February 17, 2023.
[32] City of Williams, *Parks and Facilities*, https://www.cityofwilliams.org/departments/parks_and_recreation/parks_and_facilities.php, February 17, 2023.

(COHS) offers adults the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and career certificate online.[33]

There are 4 school districts serving Colusa County. One of which serves the City: Williams Unified School District (WUSD). The WUSD is comprised of: Williams Elementary (located at 1404 E Street), Williams Upper Elementary, and Williams Junior and Senior High Schools (all three located at 260 11th Street).[34] There are two preschools. Williams Preschool Learning Center (located at 1404 E Street) is a licensed preschool center offering educational experiences and kindergarten readiness programs for up to 48 children.[35] E Center Head Start (located at 697 G Street) provides services to children 3-5 years of age through various delivery options.[36]

The City has a First 5 program which is currently located in Williams Elementary School. It is anticipated that this program will move to the new Low income Food Distribution Center at 470 7th Street by 2025. First 5 is a state program dedicated to improving the lives of California's young children and their families through a comprehensive system of education, health services, childcare, and other crucial programs.[37]

There is one main childcare facility outside of the educational programs in Williams: LIZKIDZ Day Care Center, located at 5750 Hankins Road. The City also contains the Colusa County Campus of Woodland Community College within its boundaries; more information on the Community College can be accessed here: https://wcc.yccd.edu/colusa/.

2.3 PROMOTE HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

Healthy food access encompasses the following three interrelated topics:

- Nutritionally adequate, culturally appropriate, and affordable food;
- Income sufficient to purchase healthy food; and
- Proximity and ability to travel to a food source that offers affordable, nutritionally adequate, and culturally appropriate food.

Ensuring adequate access to healthy food is challenging in many communities. Many communities, especially those in low-income areas, lack retailers with a sufficient selection of healthy or fresh foods which exacerbates public health challenges. Healthy food access is closely linked to individual food security, defined as one's ability to obtain enough food to lead an active, healthy life. It is also linked to community food security, which is when all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that encourages community self-reliance and social justice. Promoting healthy food access directly supports community food security. No comprehensive source of data regarding existing conditions on food insecurity and costs currently exists at the city level. However, evaluating food source options and accessibility helps to develop a sense of the existing conditions on food insecurity.

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[33] Colusa County, *Colusa County Free Library*, https://www.countyofcolusa.org/24/Library, February 17, 2023.
[34] WUSD, *Home*, https://www.williamsusd.net/, February 17, 2023.
[35] Winnie, *Williams Preschool Learning Center A Am/Pm & B,* https://winnie.com/place/williams-preschool-learning-center-a-ampm-b-williams, February 17, 2023.
[36] E Center Head Start Programs, https://www.ecenter.org/programs/head-start-child-care-programs, June 21, 2023.
[37] First 5 California, https://www.ccfc.ca.gov/about/about.html, June 21, 2023.

Grocery stores are defined as larger food retailers that carry a wide selection of items and serve the community and surrounding area. Healthy food access includes economic accessibility in addition to physical accessibility. Specialty health food stores are often more expensive than grocery stores. Even within grocery stores, fresh produce can be more expensive than processed items. This can make less nutritious pre-packaged foods and fast-food options more attainable for families on a budget. Two alternatives to purchasing fresh produce at a grocery store include farmer's markets and community gardens. Williams has an active farmer's markets called Orv's Farm Market. The City is also in the process of rehabilitating an old abandoned building into a Low income Food Distribution Center at 470 7th Street which is anticipated to be finished and ready to serve the community by 2025.

On the eastside of Interstate-5, the City contains one grocery store: Grocery Outlet (435 Vada Center). Surrounding the Grocery Outlet is: Valencia Taco Truck (435 Vada Center), Taco Bell (288 Vann Street), Carl's Jr. (300 Vann Street), and Valazquez's Tacos La Barca (295 E Street). Next to La Barca there is a Subway (295 E Street Unit A). Directly adjacent to the Taco Bell and Carl's Jr. there is an ARCO Gas Station with a Krispy Crunchy Chicken inside (296 E Street) and Shell Gas Station (301 Vann Street), respectively. Inside the Loves Truck Stop (100 Marguerite Street) there is a Godfather Pizza, Chesters Chicken, and Arby's. While gas stations and convenience stores do not provide adequate supplies of fresh foods, they do carry packaged foods that are often more economically accessible.

On the west side of Interstate-5, the City contains three grocery stores: Shop N' Save (421 7th Street), El Toro Loco (757 E Street Williams), and Roy's Supermarket (933 E Street). McDonalds (475 4th Street), Williams Chinese (444 D Street), Burger King (480 E Street), Granzella's Italian restaurant (451 6th Street), Roberta's Taqueria (530 E Street), Starbucks (475 E Street), and Straw Hat Pizza (510 4th Street). Further west along E Street, there is a La Fortuna Bakery (669 F Street), Louis Cairo's restaurant (558 7th Street), Mi Gusto Es Taco Truck (933 E Street), and Pinas Juice Bar (734 E Street), which also has a full service taco truck behind the building.

It should be noted that the predominant food source option is fast food restaurants, however, there are several local, sit-down restaurants as well. While not an abundant surplus of food options, food sources within the City are diverse and culturally appropriate, these factors hinder food insecurity and bolster food accessibility.

The lack of proximate food retailers has greater impacts on residents who do not own vehicles. It is not only more challenging to get to and from the market, but they are also limited by the number of items they can carry with them whether they are taking transit, riding a bike, or walking. According to the American Community Survey (ACS), 67 units (4.5%) of Williams' occupied housing units do not have access to a vehicle, and 387 units (25.4%) only have one vehicle. [38]

Table 2.3.1 compares food insecurity rates for the US, the state of California, the 1st Congressional District, and Colusa County. The table also provides the food insecurity rate, the estimated nutrition program eligibility among food insecure people, as well as information about average meal cost and annual food budget shortfalls. As shown, the average meal cost is also higher in

[38] US Census Bureau, *2021American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Williams, Table ID: DP04,* https://data.census.gov/table?q=williams+ca+DP04&tid=ACSDP5Y2021.DP04, February 17, 2023.

Orange County when compared to the rest of the State. Approximately 13 percent of people in Colusa County are food insecure, which is slightly higher than the national, State, and Congressional District rates.[39]

TABLE 2.3.1: FOOD INSECURITY

LOCATION	FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE	FOOD INSECURITY RATE	ESTIMATED PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AMONG FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE[40]		AVERAGE MEAL COST[41]	ANNUAL FOOD BUDGET SHORTFALL[42]
			ABOVE OTHER NUTRITION PROGRAM THRESHOLD OF 185% POVERTY	BELOW SNAP THRESHOLD 130% POVERTY		
United States	35,207,000	10.9%	31%	50%	$3.13	$18.8B
California	3,571,920	9.1%	23%	77%	$3.45	$1.99B
1st District	84,690	12.0%	25%	75%	N/A	N/A
Colusa County	2,760	12.9%	14%	86%	$3.47	$1.54M

Source: Feeding America – Map the Meal Gap report, 2020.

In response to COVID-19, Feeding America released a study entitled *The Impact of the Coronavirus on Local Food Insecurity*, to predict changes to food insecurity rates for the overall population in response to projected changes to poverty and unemployment in the wake of the pandemic. Results showed that after nearly 10 years, food insecurity levels for most communities across the country had reached their lowest levels in 2018; however, due to the impacts associated

[39] Feeding America, *Food Insecurity among Overall (all ages) Population*, https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2020/overall/california/county/colusa , February 17, 2023.

[40] Nutrition program eligibility is defined as the percentage of the estimated food-insecure population by income category, according to the eligibility thresholds of the major federal nutrition assistance programs, including SNAP (at or below 130% of the federal poverty line or the state-specific threshold, when it is a higher multiple) and other programs such as WIC (185% of poverty or the state-specific threshold).

[41] The average weekly dollar amount food-secure individuals report spending on food, as estimated in the Current Population Survey, divided by 21 (assuming three meals a day, seven days a week). This amount has been adjusted to reflect local food prices and relevant taxes.

[42] The total annualized additional dollar amount that food-insecure individuals report needing, on average, to purchase just enough food to meet their food needs. This amount is based on responses in the Current Population Survey and the USDA assumption that individuals in households that are food insecure experience food insecurity, on average, seven months out of the year. This amount has been adjusted to reflect local food prices and relevant taxes.

with the COVID-19 pandemic, Feeding America predicts that progress made towards food insecurity in the U.S. this past decade will likely be wiped out. They estimate that food insecurity rates will climb higher than the peak of the Great Recession of 50 million people, potentially going from more than 37 million people facing hunger in 2018 up to more than 54 million in 2020.

2.4 PROMOTE SAFE AND SANITARY HOMES

The condition of homes could have negative health impacts on its residents. Unsafe housing conditions can be a result of the age of the dwelling, which increases the likelihood of the presence of dangerous materials like lead and asbestos that have significant negative health impacts. Other factors that can contribute to unsafe housing conditions include improper regulation and overcrowding. Prioritizing the safety and sanitation of housing stock within a community helps create proper living conditions for all residents.

HOUSING STOCK CONDITIONS

Housing age may affect the structural integrity of a house and can be an indicator of overall housing quality within a community. Housing that is over 30 years old is typically in need of some major rehabilitation, such as a new roof, foundation, plumbing, etc. Many federal and State programs also use the age of housing as a factor in determining housing rehabilitation needs. Residents in older units are more likely to be exposed to the harmful health impacts that stem from issues such as poor indoor air quality, toxic building materials, exposure to climate variation such as excess heat or cold, improper ventilation, and structural insecurity. Aging concerns do not include properties within historic districts that have been well-preserved.

The Williams 2020-2028 Housing Element states that the majority (51.7%) of the City's housing stock was built since 1990. Currently, over half of Williams' current housing stock is over 30 years old. Further, approximately 18.2% of the homes in Williams were built prior to 1960. The West Williams' neighborhood is the lowest income housing area in the City, and also one of the oldest areas. As over half of Williams' current housing stock is over 30 years old, the aging buildings indicate the potential need for rehabilitation and general maintenance of these units in the near future.

In addition to structural deficiencies and standards, the lack of infrastructure and utilities often serves as an indicator for substandard conditions. According to the ACS, zero occupied homes lack complete plumbing, kitchen, or telephone service facilities and infrastructure. [43]

OVERCROWDING

The U.S. Census defines overcrowded households as more than one occupant per room (excluding bathrooms, kitchens, hallways, and porches). Severely overcrowded households have more than 1.5 persons per room. According to the California Department of Housing and Community Development's *Housing Element Building Blocks*, a number of factors may cause overcrowding, including a lack of affordable housing (which forces more than one household to live together) and/or a lack of available housing units of adequate size. Overcrowding in households may lead to neighborhood deterioration, due to the intensive use of individual housing units which results

[43] US Census Bureau, *2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Williams, Table ID: DP04* https://data.census.gov/table?q=williams+ca+DP04&tid=ACSDP5Y2021.DP04 , February 17, 2023.

in excessive wear and tear, and the potential for cumulative overburdening of community infrastructure and service capacity. The combination of lower incomes and high housing costs may result in households living in some degree of overcrowded housing conditions.

The 2020-2028 Housing Element shows that overcrowding affects Williams households. In 2016, 187 households (13%) were living in overcrowded condition. Many of these households (39 units) were severely overcrowded. A lesser amount (71 units) were living in less-severe yet still overcrowded conditions. The total number of overcrowded households is highest amongst renters (90 units). The Housing Element estimates that 585.6 persons (11.4%) are living in overcrowded conditions. Since 2000, the number of 4-bedroom dwellings increased from 45 to 214 in 2010 in Williams. This appears to have had a direct effect upon overcrowded housing conditions, as the total number of overcrowded households in Williams decreased overall.

COST BURDEN

State and federal standards indicate that a household paying more than 30% of its income for housing is cost burdened. A household that allocates greater than 50% of total income toward housing costs is severely cost burdened. Cost burden provides an indicator of the ability to sustain a household budget in consideration of other factors beyond housing costs (utilities, food, maintenance, etc.). Cost burden for housing can cause an imbalance on the remainder of a household's budget. Whenever households pay an excessive amount of their income on costs directly related to housing, it decreases the amount of income available for other needs. This indicator is an important measurement of local housing market conditions as it reflects the affordability of housing in the community. Federal and state agencies utilize cost burden indicators to determine the amount of funding allocated to a community to assist with housing opportunities.

The majority of homeowners with a cost burden greater than 30% are those who have a household income between 50% and 80% of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Median Family Income (MFI). This HUD MFI is the median family income calculated by HUD for each county, to determine Fair Market Rents (FMRs) and income limits for HUD programs. MFI will not necessarily be the same as other calculations of median incomes (such as a simple Census number), due to a series of adjustments that HUD makes to these numbers. Of owner households with a cost burden over 50%, most have earned below 30% of the MFI.

The 2020-2028 Housing Element shows that 1,035 households in Williams (about 79%) are over-paying for housing. 62.8% of renters and 75.1% of owners are paying over 30% of their income on housing. Lower income households have much higher overpayment rates than moderate- and above moderate-income households. Collectively, lower-income households, those earning between 30% and 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), currently overpay at the highest rate (71%). Of the extremely low-income group, owner-occupied households have the highest rate of overpayment, with 57.9% paying more than 30% of their income for housing.

2.5 PROMOTE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Increasing the opportunity for physical activity within a community can positively impact the physical health of residents living in these areas. Increased physical activity levels are associated with a decreased risk for numerous health conditions and chronic illnesses.

FACILITIES CONDUCIVE TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The City of Williams has 5 city parks, one municipal pool, and one community center. The municipal pool has dedicated pool hours for youth and teens, and, the community center offers scheduled exercise classes. A quarter mile equates to about a five-minute walk and a half mile to about a 10-minute walk. All parks are located within residential neighborhoods. A vast majority of residents live within a quarter mile of a public park, those that do not live within half a mile. The City could work to expand park space, facilities, and amenities for residents.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE FACILITIES

Walking and biking, whether for recreation or as a mode to get to work, are excellent forms of exercise. Providing safe and accessible places for residents to walk and bike encourages people to switch their mode of transportation from auto-centered to more active uses. The City is relatively flat, encouraging residents to walk, bike, or use other modes of active transportation. Sidewalks are provided along major thoroughfares such as E Street and 7th Street. These sidewalks are wide, smooth, and accessible for a wide range of users. Sidewalks are shaded by awnings or trees along major roads, and residential areas, including the downtown. Moving towards residential neighborhoods, the sidewalks become broken up, are comprised of compact dirt, are discontinuous, or are not well maintained. There are no dedicated bike lanes within the City. Reducing vehicular travel can result in several significant benefits, including a reduction in emissions and improvement in traffic congestion. One method to reduce automotive travel is through the addition of bicycle lanes.

2.6 REDUCE ANY UNIQUE OR COMPOUNDED HEALTH RISKS NOT OTHERWISED ADDRESSED ABOVE

Analyzing specific indicators that affect personal and communal health is important; but it is also essential to examine how each indicator affects one another, and how they combine to create unique health risks on both the individual and the community. As mentioned previously in this report, Williams has several highways traversing- Interstate-5 and Old Highway 20- its boundaries, carrying millions of commuters and truck trips annually. Further, due to the large agricultural uses both in the City and in the greater, surrounding area, there is a higher chance of residents coming in contact with harmful levels of air or water pollutants. The City is in a unique situation being located along a major highway and being located in a predominantly agricultural area. The City's unique situation compounds the health risks associated with regional transportation and agricultural byproducts.

2.7 PROMOTE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE PUBLIC DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

An important aspect of Environmental Justice is the development of effective policies and programs that enable all residents to participate in local decision making. Senate Bill 1000 emphasizes that community engagement must be promoted in a local jurisdiction through the development of objectives and policies that seek to specifically involve residents of EJ Communities. By engaging EJ Communities in decision-making processes, policymakers can effectively meet the needs of these community members. EJ Communities often have culturally specific needs, distinct from those of the general population. The US EPA EJ Policy requires the "…meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." While the City of Williams does not technically have any EJ Communities, it is beneficial to acknowledge specific challenges that do impact the community to help dimmish and eradicate existing issues.

DEMOGRAPHICS THAT MAY INFLUENCE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Certain demographic categories can help predict a community's level of civic engagement. This section assesses three demographic categories: resident age, educational attainment, and race/ethnicity.

Resident Age

Age distribution can help predict the likelihood of a community participating in civic activities and identify constraints associated with engaging different members of the community. A disproportionately high percentage of residents under the age of 18 suggests the significant presence of families. Parents of minors are generally busy raising their children, making them less likely to participate in civic activities. Encouraging the use of virtual outreach tools, such as social media and online surveying, and outreach approaches at other community events, such as farmers markets, fairs, and sporting events, can help increase participation among this group. Conversely, a disproportionately high percentage of seniors, a group that generally has fewer commitments and less time constraints, suggests that the community may participate in conventional civic activities at a higher rate. Because seniors are less familiar with technology than their younger counterparts, the group is less likely to utilize virtual outreach tools. However, patterns of civic participation are changing significantly as a result the COVID-19 pandemic. Populations previously reluctant to use online methods of communication are now more aware and comfortable with these tools, presenting new opportunities to engage all members of the community.

According to the 2020-2208 Housing Element, between 2000 and 2010, the number of older adults (ages 45 to 64) increased by 71%, contributing to an increase in the median age from 26.6 to 28.3 years. The young adult (25 to 44) and school age (5 to 19) groups represent the two largest population segments in Williams, with 28.2% and 26.5%, respectively.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is a strong signifier of a population's likely participation in civic activities. Higher educational attainment generally correlates with increased civic participation. This is

reflective of individuals with less educational attainment experiencing underemployment circumstances, such as working for less than a living wage and/or on a part-time basis. This may require individuals to seek out additional employment, reducing the time that they can commit to civic activities. In addition, individuals with lower educational attainment generally make less money. Those individuals who cannot afford to own or otherwise have limited access to an automobile, may be unable to attend civic events. This may also be reflective of individuals with less educational attainment lacking the sufficient literacy level and/or a formal education in civics and government to feel comfortable participating in civic matters.

As discussed in the 2020-2208 Housing Element, over 50% of Williams' residents graduated from high school and that only about 6% possessed a bachelor's degree. The level of education is slightly lower than Colusa County's overall. Both City and County resident education levels are lower than that of the state overall (76.8% graduated from high school and 26.6% held a bachelor's degree or higher). The level of educational attainment in Williams' suggests a lack of professional employment opportunities in the City and lower earning potential. The relatively high percentage of the population with less than a 12th grade education likely reflects employment opportunities in the agricultural/agricultural-support sectors.

Race/Ethnicity

Numerous studies have shown that race and ethnicity are important predictors of civic engagement, and that white populations are more likely to be civically engaged than other groups.[44] Similar to surrounding municipalities, the City of Williams has large Hispanic and Latino populations. According to 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates, 85.6% of Williams residents are Hispanic or Latino.[45] The following is a breakdown of those who are not Hispanic or Latino:

- 70.0% White alone
- 0.5% Asian alone
- 0.2% Black or African American alone
- 12.6% two or more races
- 0.3% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander alone
- 1.7% American Indian and Alaska Native alone
- 14.7% Some other race alone

[44]For example, see Foster-Bey, J. (2008, December). *CIRCLE Working Paper #62: Do Race, Ethnicity, Citizenship and Socio-economic Status Determine Civic-Engagement?* Retrieved from https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED505266.pdf, accessed February 24, 2022.

[45] US Census Bureau, *2021American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Williams, Table ID: DP05,* https://data.census.gov/table?q=Williams+city,+California&tid=ACSDP5Y2021.DP05, February 17, 2023.

2.8 PRIORITIZE IMPROVEMENTS AND PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF EJ COMMUNITIES

An integral component of EJ planning is prioritizing projects and investments that directly benefit EJ Communities. These communities may have specific needs that are distinct from those of the greater community, which may require taking actions to help improve existing conditions. While the City does not have any official EJ Communities, considering underrepresented communities' needs for future investments helps bolster community benefits and programs. Additionally, identifying and considering improvements and programs for underrepresented communities may also help the City obtain grants and/or other public funding that could improve the City.

The UC Davis Center for Regional Change and Rabobank, N.A. partnered to develop the Regional Opportunity Index (ROI) intended to help understand social and economic opportunity in California's communities. The goal of the ROI is to help target resources and policies toward people and places with the greatest need to foster thriving communities. The ROI integrates six topics, including civic life, health/environment, mobility/transportation, housing, economy, and education, and maps areas of potential investment by identifying specific areas of urgent need and opportunity. The ROI relies on many of the same data sources already analyzed in this report, such as the ACS, but also includes additional data sources such as the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES) data, the California Department of Education, and the California Department of Public Health. All data points used in the ROI are from 2014.

The tool analyzes different indicators for each of the six topics, as summarized in **Table 2.2** below. There are two types of indicators: people-based indicators illustrate the relative measure of people's assets in the six topics, while the place-based indicators illustrate the relative measure of a place's assets in those same topics, minus mobility/transportation.

TABLE 2.2: REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY INDEX (ROI) TOPICS AND INDICATORS

TOPICS	PEOPLE-BASED INDICATORS	PLACE-BASED INDICATORS
Civic Life	• English Speakers • Voting Rates	• Neighborhood Stability • US Citizenship
Health/Environment	• Years of Life Lost • Births to Teens • Infant Health	• Air Quality • Health Care Availability • Access to Supermarket • Prenatal Care
Mobility/Transportation	• Internet Access • Commute Time • Vehicle Availability	• N/A
Housing	• Housing Cost Burden • Homeownership	• Housing Affordability • Housing Adequacy
Economy	• Minimum Basic Income • Employment Rate	• Bank Accessibility • Job Quality • Job Growth • Job Availability

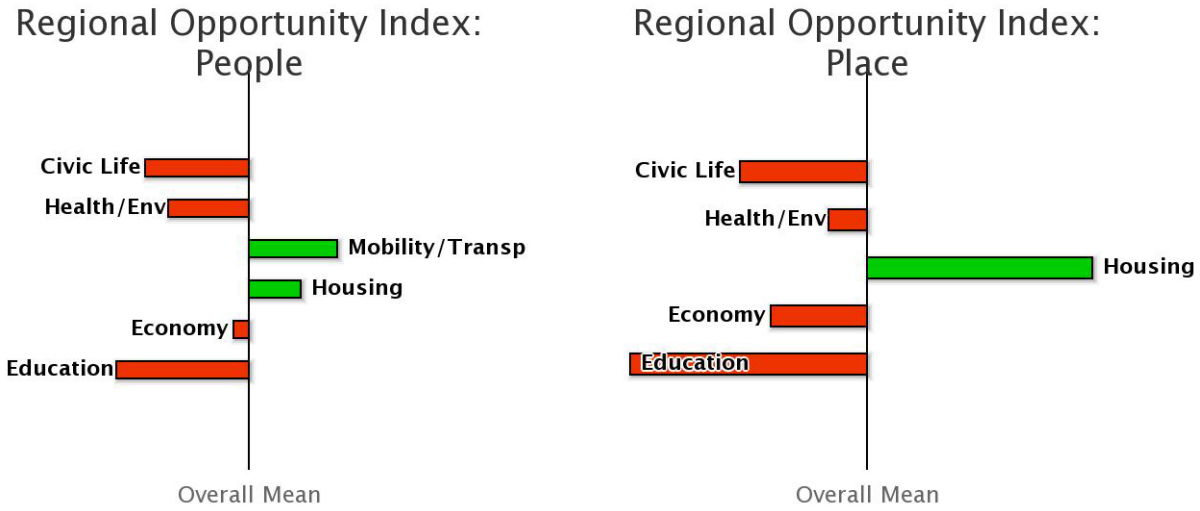
TOPICS	PEOPLE-BASED INDICATORS	PLACE-BASED INDICATORS
Education	• Elementary School Truancy • English Proficiency • Math Proficiency • College Educated Adults	• High School Discipline rate • Teacher Experience • UC/CSU Eligible • High School Graduation Rate

Source: UC Davis Center for Regional Change, 2020

The tool ranks each census tract in the State in terms of highest opportunity to lowest opportunity levels. Williams, which is within one census tract, has a mix of higher- and lower-opportunities., as shown in **Figure 2.1**. The highest opportunities, represented by green, indicate that conditions are good across the indicators; while lowest opportunity tracts, represented by red, indicate that improvements need to be made.

FIGURE 2.1: PLACE AND PEOPLE-BASED REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY INDEX (ROI)

Source: UC Davis Center for Regional Change, 2020 (using 2014 data points)



CONCLUSION

This existing conditions report represents one of the first major steps in developing an EJ Element for the City of Williams. The report provides a baseline of information that will be used for subsequent recommendations. The goal is to help the City planning team understand the opportunities and challenges facing the community, and begin to devise an approach for addressing environmental justice in Williams. While some of the information contained in the report may be carried forward into the EJ Element, the majority is background information that will remain on file with the City in the form of this document.

3. REFERENCES

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