

2024  
2029

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND CLIMATE HEALTH

# STRATEGIC PLAN



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**Public Health**

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## COUNTYWIDE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants – past, present, and emerging – as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local Tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the

Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council

Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

To learn more about the First Peoples of Los Angeles County, please visit the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission website at [lanaic.lacounty.gov](http://lanaic.lacounty.gov).

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is my great pleasure to support the launch of the inaugural Strategic Plan for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health. It is with a deep sense of purpose and commitment that we embark on this important journey toward advancing environmental justice, climate health, and health equity within our Los Angeles County community.

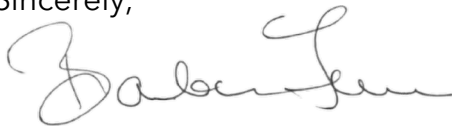
As the Director of Public Health, I firmly believe that everyone deserves the right to live in a healthy and safe environment, regardless of their background or socioeconomic status. Unfortunately, we know that environmental hazards and climate-related challenges disproportionately impact under-resourced communities that experience the first and worst consequences of environmental threats, exacerbating existing health inequalities and degrading neighborhoods.

We are looking forward to working collaboratively to develop strategic initiatives that promote environmental justice, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and foster health equity for all individuals within our community.

Prioritizing environmental justice and climate health within a health equity framework affords us an opportunity to have a meaningful and lasting impact on the health and well-being of our community. Together, we can create a future where every individual has the resources needed to be healthy and thrive, regardless of their background or circumstances.

I invite each one of you to join us in this important endeavor, as we work together to build a healthier, more equitable future for all.

Sincerely,



Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.

Director,

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

## INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Los Angeles County is one of the most dynamic, diverse, and populated counties in the nation. It is also home to some of the most environmentally challenged areas affected by dirty air, polluted stormwater runoff, contaminated soil, and other conditions that disproportionately threaten the health and well-being of our most vulnerable communities. Serving over 10 million community members across 88 independent cities and nearly 150 unincorporated communities, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) actively works to protect and promote health in places where people live, learn, work, and play. Recognizing the ongoing and emerging health threats from environmental pollution and climate change, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors established the Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health (OEJCH), within the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, to promote strategic interdepartmental policies and programs that prevent environmental threats, build climate resilience, and reduce health disparities.

The OEJCH developed this five-year Strategic Plan (Plan) that supports Public Health's mission to advance the conditions that support optimal health and well-being for all. Drawing from a comprehensive internal and public engagement process, the Plan establishes the OEJCH's role within Public Health and charts a pathway for advancing environmental justice, climate health, and health equity within the county's most impacted communities.

### Office Background and Strategic Plan Establishment

In April 2022, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a [motion establishing the OEJCH](#). This decision recognized that the communities facing the greatest pollution burden are the most vulnerable to climate threats. To address these challenges, the Board directed Public Health, in consultation with the Chief Executive Office, Los Angeles County Fire Health Hazardous Materials Division, Department of Public Works, and the Chief Sustainability Office, to develop a Plan that would bring the Environmental Justice and Climate Health Board Priorities to life, including the creation of the OEJCH.

The legacy Toxicology and Environmental Assessment (TEA) Branch established the foundation for the important work that the OEJCH will carry forward. TEA specialized in chemical and climate-related threats to health and had expertise in climate health, clinical health, environmental science, project management, research, data analysis,

and community engagement. TEA provided community engagement, assessment, analysis, education, and outreach in partnership with Public Health Regional Health Offices in response to environmental disasters that released harmful toxins into communities and developed the productive interagency partnerships and working relationships that continue today.

## **Strategic Plan Overview**

This Strategic Plan serves as a roadmap that will guide the OEJCH in establishing a safe, healthy, and just environment for everyone living in Los Angeles County. The Strategic Plan provides a forward-looking vision for where the OEJCH would like to be and what it would like to accomplish over the next five years. The components of the Strategic Plan include:

- **Result:** This describes what the world will look like when the Result is accomplished.
- **Purpose Statement:** This describes the work the OEJCH will do.
- **Values:** These are the collective values held by the OEJCH to guide its work.
- **Areas of Focus:** These are broad statements of what the OEJCH hopes to achieve.

**Strategies & Actions:** These are short and long-term initiatives with action items that will assist the OEJCH in achieving its goals and measuring progress.

## **How to read the Strategic Plan**

This document lays out the OEJCH's action-oriented Strategic Plan through a series of areas of focus, strategies, and actions. The Strategic Plan is comprised of five focus areas:

- Community Engagement and Partnerships
- Interagency Coordination and Governmental Engagement
- Policy
- Data
- Communications and Accountability

There is a section for each focus area with a description of what the focus area encompasses and hopes to accomplish. This is followed by corresponding strategies

to achieve the aims of the focus area. Each strategy is followed by specific actions which will help to operationalize the strategy.

## ALIGNMENT WITH LA COUNTY AND PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES

The OEJCH developed this Strategic Plan in alignment with the following LA County plans and documents:

- [County of Los Angeles 2024 - 2030 Strategic Plan, "Choose LA County: To Live! To Invest! To Work!"](#)
- County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health: [Climate Change and Health Equity Strategies for Action \(2021\)](#)
- Los Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office: [OurCounty Sustainability Plan \(2019\)](#)
- [County of Los Angeles Community Health Equity Improvement Plan 2024 - 2029](#)
- County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health: Strategic Plan 2025 - 2030 (under development)

Although environmental justice and climate health comprise the sole focus of the OEJCH's work, they also arise as priorities threaded through a variety of higher-level County and departmental plans, demonstrating the centrality of environmental justice and climate health to the well-being of communities across Los Angeles County. For example, the County's 2024-2030 Strategic Plan "...reflects the most important work for the County in the years to come" and elevates environmental justice and climate health as one of nine Board Directed Priorities. Similarly, [the OurCounty Sustainability Plan](#), the Public Health Department's Strategic Plan, and the County's Community Health Equity Improvement Plan all count environmental justice and climate health among their top priorities and critical aspirations to achieve equity and improve community outcomes.

It will take a coordinated effort to achieve the County's ambitious goals to improve the environmental conditions and grow the resilience needed for everyone in Los Angeles County to thrive in the face of a changing climate and increasing pollution, particularly for frontline communities: those that are primarily underserved communities of color who experience the first and worst consequences of these



environmental threats. The OEJCH Strategic Plan provides the foundation and roadmap to advance this urgently needed work.

## **THE PLANNING PROCESS**

The OEJCH initiated the strategic planning process in the fall of 2023. The process involved reviewing existing LA County plans and documents; engaging Public Health leadership, staff from the Environmental Health Division, and the OEJCH staff; interviewing public health experts and peer agencies at the local, state, and federal levels; interviewing representatives of Los Angeles County Tribes and Tribal organizations; and engaging community-based organizations and community members throughout Los Angeles County.

### **OEJCH Early Work**

The Strategic Plan builds on the early work of Public Health staff from October 2022 responding to the Board of Supervisors' motion that established the OEJCH. This work included engagement with Public Health staff and County Partners to identify preliminary strategic priorities, policy gaps, and areas for collaboration across the County.

### **Internal and External Stakeholder Engagement**

From October 2023 to February 2024, the OEJCH interviewed over a dozen internal and external staff and stakeholders to capture insights and recommendations on the OEJCH's core functions and overall direction. Interviewees included Public Health Executive Team Members, County partners, and peer agencies at the local, state, and federal levels. The OEJCH team also consulted individuals from local Tribes and Tribal organizations to understand how to better engage and partner with Indigenous communities.

### **Public Workshops**

From December 2023 to March 2024, the OEJCH partnered with five community-based organizations (CBO) to publicize and co-host nine public workshops attended by over 300 participants across Los Angeles County with the intent of capturing key priorities from populations that have historically been underrepresented in formal planning processes. After workshops were completed, the OEJCH engaged CBO partners in a focus group discussion to capture additional insights and recommendations from community leaders. CBO partners included: Central City

Neighborhood Partners, Day One, Del Amo Action Committee, Pacoima Beautiful, and Southeast Los Angeles Collaborative.

### **Public Health Workgroups**

To transition the ideas into strategies and actions, the OEJCH formed workgroups for each focus area consisting of the OEJCH and Public Health staff with roles relevant to each focus area. In their first meeting, workgroups began by reviewing themes and priorities collected through the engagement processes and suggested related strategies and actions for the OEJCH to take on. In a second meeting, workgroups then prioritized and refined the strategies and actions drafted in the first workgroup session. Final areas of focus, strategies, and actions were presented to the OEJCH leadership for their feedback and approval.

### **Strategic Plan Advisory Committee**

To leverage past and existing engagement processes that had taken place in the department and to not overburden community stakeholders with outreach and engagement duplicating activities conducted previously, representatives from key Public Health Programs were convened. The Internal Advisory Committee met twice to assist in guiding the initial development of the strategic planning process, give input on the draft strategic planning framework, discuss successful community engagement practices, and to review preliminary findings from the engagement to ensure it was inclusive and well-rounded.

# RESULT, PURPOSE STATEMENT, VALUES

## Result

We envision thriving communities where people enjoy healthy lives safe from toxic exposures and the negative effects of climate change.

## Purpose Statement

We take action to protect everyone in Los Angeles County from public health risks created by toxic exposures and climate change. We center frontline communities in our data sharing, policy interventions, and inclusive engagement to advance environmental justice, equity, and climate resilience.

## Values

*Collaboration:* Our efforts are most impactful when we work collaboratively with other government agencies, local organizations, and community members.

*Community:* Our work is driven by the insights of those closest to the challenges and diverse community priorities. We are committed to working in partnership with frontline communities.

*Equity & Inclusion:* In order to close the gaps in risks and exposures, we are dedicated to prioritizing marginalized communities in our work and fostering a culture of inclusion.

*Innovation:* We embrace new approaches and strategies to best address environmental justice and climate challenges.

*Objectivity:* Our work is evidence-based, data-driven, and informed by best practices.

*Responsiveness:* We are adaptive and responsive to urgent environmental justice and climate health threats.

*Transparency & Accountability:* We are guided by integrity and honesty and are accountable to the public.

## AREAS OF FOCUS, STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

### 1. **Community Engagement and Partnerships:** Nurture community relationships to ensure interactive communication and develop community-informed solutions.

The OEJCH will sustain and enhance its effective community engagement, working directly with community partners and the Department of Public Health Regional Health Offices (RHOs) to remain apprised of community concerns, needs, and priorities and to provide requested or needed critical information, services, and referrals. Members of the public will be supported to engage with environmental policy and regulations that impact their health.

#### *Strategies & Actions*

#### **1.1 Develop and foster community partnerships that promote trust, ensure community input in decision-making, and inform community-directed action to reduce environmental injustice and climate health-related impacts.**

- 1.1.1. Develop, maintain, and share a contact list of key community stakeholders including neighborhood groups, schools, churches, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, and Tribal and Indigenous-serving non-profits that touch on environmental and climate justice issues in each County Service Planning Area (SPA).
- 1.1.2. Establish clear communication channels between Public Health staff, community partners, community members, and the OEJCH staff to remain apprised of community needs and priorities.
- 1.1.3. Partner with environmental justice and climate health organizations in LA County to support and convene spaces for symposiums on environmental justice and climate health topics at least once a year.
- 1.1.4. Engage the Public Health Youth Advisory Council and LA County Youth Climate Commission to integrate youth voices on the OEJCH policies, practices, and initiatives.

- 1.1.5. Establish an the OEJCH advisory board with representatives from community organizations, community members, Indigenous representatives, and other relevant stakeholders to review and advise on the OEJCH actions and activities.
- 1.1.6. Identify and assign staff to relevant committees and advisory groups Countywide (e.g., AB 617 Community Steering Committees) that advance environmental justice and climate health.

## **1.2. Inform and support community members on environmental justice, climate health, and their associated health impacts.**

- 1.2.1. Conduct a minimum of one annual listening session to hear emerging concerns and priorities from frontline and impacted communities. Explore identifying and using funds to compensate partners for their advisory efforts.
- 1.2.2. Create and drive traffic to an interactive and accessible website that provides resources, data, ongoing project updates, and opportunities to get involved and offer comment, including but not limited to:
  - A referral sheet for community use that lists relevant federal, state, and local environmental regulatory agencies with contact information for each, including when and why they should be contacted.
  - An online calendar of relevant local and regional meetings related to environmental justice and climate health.
  - Public Health program summaries and referral sheets with opportunities for involvement in specific programs, initiatives, or committees.
  - Educational materials on upcoming environmental justice and climate health policy decisions, health and safety practices (e.g., extreme heat), and other timely information.

- 1.2.3. Coordinate with other local, state, and federal Environmental Health and Public Health programs and County departments to develop protocols and material templates with standard information for distribution for both non-emergency and emergency settings and coordinate to disseminate to impacted communities (e.g., gas, fire, sewage, air quality, and heat).
- 1.2.4. Leverage the Center for Health Equity's Language Justice translation and interpretation resources and graphic design resources from the Public Health Office of Communications and Public Affairs to develop culturally relevant materials and messaging that are easy to understand and use.
- 1.2.5. Identify and share resources and funding opportunities that can be used by community-based organizations engaging in environmental justice and climate change efforts.

**1.3 Build Public Health's capacity to support activities and actions that promote environmental and climate justice, and to work together with the community to inform the development of solutions.**

- 1.3.1 Train Public Health staff on current environmental justice and climate health issues and resources through meetings, workshops, online courses, and other methods as appropriate.
- 1.3.2 Actively pursue funding opportunities for both Public Health and community-based organizations in coordination with communities on environmental and climate justice issues.
- 1.3.3 Coordinate with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the Emergency Preparedness and Response Division (EPRD) and other emergency response offices to communicate effectively with the public, engage community members and address response gaps.

- 1.3.4 Establish clear coordination and communication protocols with Regional Health Offices (RHOs); identify a lead staff member in each RHO for engagement.
- 1.3.5 Collaborate with the Public Health Office of Planning, Integration, and Engagement (OPIE) to identify strategic connections and opportunities for shared public engagement efforts across Public Health programs.
- 1.3.6 Work with at least five community-based organizations and/or Tribes and Tribal organizations each year to advance environmental justice and mitigate health impacts from climate change.

## **2. Interagency Coordination and Governmental Engagement:**

Cultivate collaboration between public, private, and community partners to develop solutions to environmental and climate health threats.

The OEJCH will bridge, bring together, and liaise between regulatory and government agencies and community members on environmental and climate justice efforts. Staff will foster collaboration on County environmental justice and climate health efforts between public agencies (local, regional, state, federal, and Tribal), County Supervisor offices, educational institutions, and communities.

### *Strategies & Actions*

#### **2.1. Enhance interagency coordination to better respond to community needs.**

- 2.1.1. Create an asset map of local, state, and federal regulatory agencies' roles, resources, and enforcement authority to increase understanding among all agencies and the community.
- 2.1.2. Establish and maintain ongoing relationships with local regulatory agencies to foster ongoing engagement and identify points of

alignment, priorities, and collaboration to eliminate environmental threats.

- 2.1.3. Develop an OEJCH “playbook” in collaboration with key Public Health programs describing communication protocols, interagency coordination, and response procedures in the event of an environmental disaster.
- 2.1.4. Utilize community health data to inform and recommend enhancements to interagency actions to reduce environmental threats, and equitably compensate organizations sourcing data when possible.
- 2.1.5. Work with regulatory partners to create and deploy a plan for more timely, effective responses to community complaints.
- 2.1.6. Highlight the OEJCH’s community response model by developing a best practices report describing methods of response to community concerns.

## **2.2 Establish intentional and proactive engagement with Tribal groups around environmental justice and climate health utilizing the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent model developed by the United Nations.**

- 2.2.1 Identify and establish Tribal partners as formal advisors on land use policies and decisions involving the OEJCH.
- 2.2.2 Explore and identify funding to provide timely and fair compensation to Tribal partners for their advisory efforts.
- 2.2.3 Identify and attend (as appropriate) standing public meetings with Tribal organizations to identify environmental justice and climate health priorities.

## **3. Policy: Track, inform, and develop impactful environmental justice and climate health policies.**



The OEJCH will track, inform, develop, implement, and evaluate environmental justice and climate health policies at the local and state level based on identified community needs and priorities. Staff will also coordinate with other jurisdictions on regional and state policy to develop and share best practices on emerging issues.

### *Strategies & Actions*

#### **3.1. Build capacity among the OEJCH staff, CBOs, and the community to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to meaningfully engage and communicate on environmental justice and climate health policy.**

- 3.1.1. Establish regular policy and topical training for the OEJCH staff, Regional Health Offices (RHOs), Community Public Health Teams (CPHTs), and other relevant audiences to stay up to date on emerging policies.
- 3.1.2. Incorporate Community Listening Session feedback on policies and programs where possible.
- 3.1.3. As part of Action 1.2.2., develop and maintain a page on the Public Health OEJCH webpage to present relevant countywide environmental justice and climate health policies in a manner accessible to county departments, other jurisdictions (e.g., issue briefs), local CBOs, and the public.
- 3.1.4. Work with community-based organizations to support community member-led policy change efforts.

#### **3.2. Support other County departments with incorporating environmental justice and climate health into their policies and practices.**

- 3.2.1. Conduct a landscape scan of environmental justice and climate health policy developments locally, statewide, and nationally to inform the development of successful policies locally.

- 3.2.2. Conduct a climate policy gap analysis for all County departments using an environmental justice lens in partnership with the Chief Sustainability Office (CSO).
- 3.2.3. Develop tailored environmental justice and climate health policy issue briefs for departments (and jurisdictions at large), community-based organizations, and the public that provide a summary of the best available evidence and potential policy implications.
- 3.2.4. Participate in key existing inter-agency workgroups around specific environmental justice and climate health issues, such as urban heat, to inform countywide policies and programs.
- 3.2.5. Develop and maintain partnerships with county departments and cities in LA County to inform and advise on local environmental justice and climate health planning and policy developments, including those offices that engage with specific vulnerable sub-populations, such as unhoused community members.

**3.3. In collaboration with Government Affairs, establish and maintain relationships with all Board of Supervisor offices to identify opportunities for collaboration and partnership on environmental justice and climate health issues.**

- 3.3.1. On a quarterly basis, keep Board office staff apprised of emerging policy issues and provide them with expertise and guidance for environmental justice and climate health-related Board motions and directives.

**3.4. Establish the OEJCH as a thought leader and essential voice on land use policy decisions.**

- 3.4.1. Work with the Department of Regional Planning (DRP), the Office of Oil and Gas, and other relevant agencies to ensure OEJCH input on

environmental justice-related land use planning and climate health issues.

3.4.2. Work with the Department of Regional Planning (DRP) and other relevant agencies to develop land use policy, make recommendations, and provide guidance on topics such as the reuse of contaminated sites, climate health, and urban heat islands across LA County.

3.4.3. Develop and support land use policy and guidance to mitigate the health effects of polluting industries on residential areas, such as creating residential buffer zones, consistent truck routes, and caps on diesel emissions.

### **3.5. Inform local, state, and federal environmental justice and climate health policies and investments.**

3.5.1. Regularly engage with Chief Executive Office (CEO) Legislative Affairs through Public Health Government Affairs to develop analyses and input into environmental justice and climate health-related bills at the local, state, and federal levels.

3.5.2. Use the OEJCH priorities and the insights of those living closest to the challenges to develop an annual policy agenda.

## **4. Data: Collect, interpret, and share accessible, actionable environmental justice and climate health data and information with partners and the public to highlight emerging issues and trend analyses to actively inform policies and programs.**

The OEJCH will collaborate with partners to source and share up-to-date, accessible, and actionable environmental justice and climate health data. This data may be utilized for purposes of County reporting, policy development, public health advocacy, and more.

## *Strategies & Actions*

### **4.1. Assess data needs and establish data sharing and reporting protocols.**

4.1.1. Conduct a landscape analysis, within year 1, of existing data, tools, dashboards, and data sources held by Public Health as well as other regional, state, and federal agencies, and other interested parties, entities and institutions, related to climate, health, and environmental justice.

- Special emphasis is placed on data related to community-identified climate and environmental priority issues.

4.1.2. Building on the landscape analysis from 4.1.1, conduct a needs assessment to determine the technology, people, and processes needed to better improve the OEJCH's ability to execute data analysis, collection, communication, storytelling, and visualization.

4.1.3. Participate in existing Public Health data and technology governance bodies to address OEJCH technology and staffing needs.

4.1.4. Analyze past data requests from public agencies, community, and press inquiries, and systematize statutory data reporting requirements to proactively collate data for future requests and reporting.

4.1.5. Detail OEJCH protocols for responding to internal and external data requests, including identification of roles, data ownership, and expertise.

### **4.2. Share environmental justice and climate health data with the public in an accessible, accurate, and useful manner.**

4.2.1. As part of Strategy 1.2, continue to maintain and update websites related to the OEJCH's projects, including data on impacted communities.

- 4.2.2. As part of Strategy 1.2, develop a public-facing online mapping tool and dashboards with climate, health, and environmental justice data.
- 4.2.3. Host trainings, community events, and workshops to educate community members on how to access, interact with, interpret, and use data.
- 4.2.4. Ensure that data can be used to drive solutions to environmental justice and climate change challenges.
- 4.2.5. Develop data briefs, as needed, to inform policy actions and advance knowledge of the health impacts associated with environmental and climate justice issues.
- 4.2.6. Participate in a data-focused, internal department-wide working group in partnership with the Public Health Chief Science Office to share data between Public Health Offices.
- 4.2.7. Develop a workplan in collaboration with partners to prioritize topics for data collection and dissemination according to trends and emerging issues.

## **5. Accountability and Communication: Develop and foster communications to keep the community and partners informed of the roles, responsibilities, and progress of the OEJCH.**

The OEJCH will hold itself accountable for implementing its purpose and focus on the areas listed by monitoring progress, developing annual reports for stakeholders, and sharing successes with other health jurisdictions and the public. Externally, it will create informative documents and communications plans, train staff as spokespeople, and build social media campaigns that respond to community-identified concerns. Internally, the OEJCH will use existing communication channels for updates, engage in relevant workgroups, define key terms, and create educational materials on environmental justice and climate health.

### *Strategies & Actions*

## **5.1 Support the implementation of the OEJCH’s purpose, result, and areas of focus.**

- 5.1.1. Create an internal Strategic Plan Working Group to assign ownership of Strategic Plan strategies and actions, including tracking, updating, and adjusting actions based on Strategic Plan implementation progress.
- 5.1.2. Develop and share an annual progress report on Strategic Plan areas of focus, strategies, and actions with the Board of Supervisors, Department-wide, and with the public.
- 5.1.3. Develop and communicate the OEJCH successes and innovative models with other local health jurisdictions, public health practitioners, and the public.

## **5.2. Develop and strengthen an external communications strategy with translation into multiple languages.**

- 5.2.1. Create an “About Us” document (with logo and branding) clarifying the OEJCH roles, responsibilities, and frequently asked questions, to be distributed widely among local agencies through multiple platforms (online, print, etc.).
- 5.2.2. Develop a communications plan to present the finalized the OEJCH Strategic Plan to the public using simple and accessible branding.
- 5.2.3. In collaboration with the Public Health Office of Communications and Public Affairs (OCPA), the OEJCH will identify and train staff to serve as spokespeople, to build awareness, clarify complex data, navigate sensitive topics, and highlight County achievements in environmental justice and climate health to diverse audiences.
- 5.2.4. Create resources in response to frequently asked community questions using plain language and in the designated threshold languages in the County.

- 5.2.5. Build engaging and informative social media content and campaigns and work with community to develop resources.
- 5.2.6. Evaluate and strengthen communication channels between the OEJCH, community-based organizations, and the public.

### **5.3. Develop and strengthen an internal communications strategy.**

- 5.3.1. Leverage the existing Public Health internal communication channels to publicize the OEJCH announcements, achievements, programmatic or data updates, and Strategic Plan progress.
- 5.3.2. Participate in existing Public Health workgroups relevant to the OEJCH's work to increase internal department communications across the OEJCH's functions.
- 5.3.3. Define key terms like "environmental justice", "climate health", "frontline communities", and "sustainability" in a public health context and publicize these within the department and publicly.
- 5.3.4. Develop internal educational materials to increase knowledge of environmental justice and climate health and issues within Public Health and environmental health programs.

## **IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION**

The Strategic Plan is a living document that lays a course for the future, with the areas of focus, strategies, and actions serving as the overarching targets for the OEJCH. The OEJCH will coordinate a systematic implementation and evaluation framework to continuously monitor and update the Plan's strategies as they are enacted, ensuring that the Strategic Plan remains relevant, dynamic, and responsive while adapting to changing circumstances in the service of achieving the result. The Plan allots five years for implementation of the strategies and actions, with regular opportunities to examine progress, measure achievements, identify barriers, and consider mid-course adjustments.

# GLOSSARY

The following key terms and definitions provide readers with a shared understanding on how these terms are defined for the purpose of this document.

## **1. California Native American Tribe:**

California Native American Tribe refers to both federally recognized and non-federally recognized California Native American tribes that are on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission.

## **2. Climate Health:**

Climate Health refers to the intersection between climate change and human health. It encompasses how changes in climate—such as rising temperatures— affect physical and mental health.

## **3. Environmental Justice:**

As defined by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, environmental justice is "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."

## **4. Frontline Communities:**

Communities that are environmentally and economically stressed that experience environmental health inequities which contribute to persistent health disparities.

## **5. Resilience:**

Resilience refers to a community's ability to withstand and recover from climate and environmental justice risks.



## **6. Sustainability:**

Sustainability means meeting the needs of current generations without impairing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Sustainability is an important strategy for the long-term health of the people, economy, and environment of California.

## **7. Toxic Exposure:**

Toxic exposure refers to contact with substances that can cause harm to human health due to their chemical properties or biological effects. These toxins can be found in various forms including solids, liquids, and gases. The impact of toxic exposures can vary based on the substance, the duration of exposure and individual health factors such as age, health status, and genetic predisposition. Health effects can range from mild symptoms like headaches or skin irritation to severe conditions like organ damage or cancer.

## **8. Tribal Organization:**

A recognized governing body of any tribe or a legally established organization which serves Native Americans.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors**

Hilda L. Solis, 1st District  
Holly J. Mitchell, 2nd District  
Lindsey P. Horvath, 3rd District  
Janice Hahn, 4th District  
Kathryn Barger, 5th District

### **Los Angeles County Partners**

LA County Chief Executive Office  
LA County Chief Sustainability Office  
LA County Department of Regional Planning  
LA County Department of Public Works  
LA County Fire - Health Hazardous Materials Division

### **Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Key Interviews**

Dr. Barbara Ferrer - Director, Department of Public Health  
Dr. Muntu Davis - Health Officer  
Dr. Rashmi Shetgiri - Chief Science Officer  
Sonya Vasquez - Director, Center for Health Equity  
Tiffany Romo - Director, Engagement Unit, OPIE  
Dr. Nichole Quick - Deputy Director, Health Protection Bureau  
Liza Frias - Director, Environmental Health Division  
Charlene Contreras - Director, Community Protection Branch, Environmental Health Division  
Cristin Mondy - Regional Health Officer  
Dr. Alicia Chang - Regional Health Officer  
Jose Escobar - Regional Health Officer  
Dr. Jan King - Regional Health Officer  
Dr. Seira Kurian - Regional Health Officer

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### **Community-Based Organization Partners**

Central City Neighborhood Partners  
Day One  
Del Amo Action Committee  
Pacoima Beautiful  
Southeast Los Angeles Collaborative

### **Partner Agencies**

Alameda County Public Health Department  
California Department of Public Health, Climate Change & Health Equity Branch  
San Diego County Office of Health Equity and Climate Change  
South Coast Air Quality Management District  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Climate Change and Healthy Equity

### **Stakeholders and Partners**

Fernandeño Tataviam Tribe  
Liberty Hill Foundation  
Public Health Alliance of Southern California  
Sacred Places Institute  
Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy

**Consultant Team**

Estolano Advisors

Better World Group

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