

# A HEALTHY DOWNEY FOR ALL

California cities use zoning to regulate where and how different uses of properties can occur. A primary goal is to protect residential neighborhoods from potentially adverse conditions associated with heavier commercial and industrial businesses.



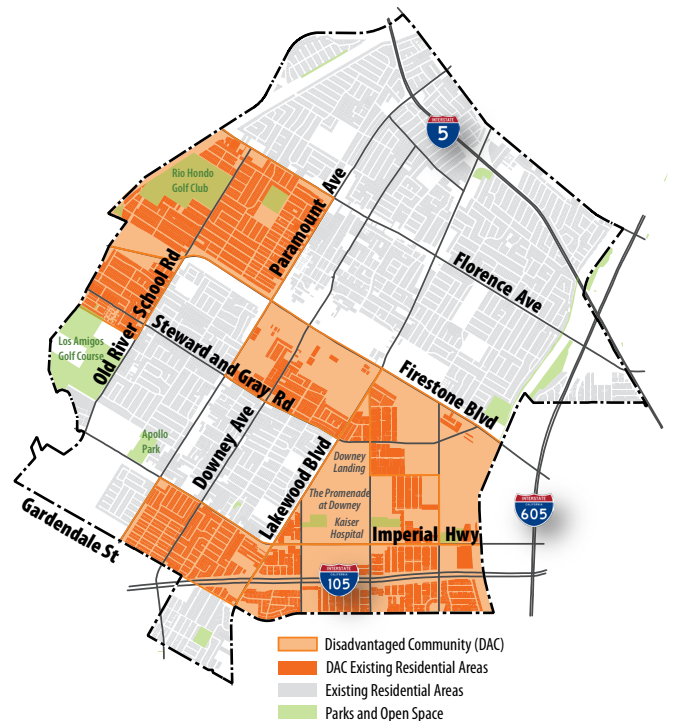
Unfortunately, for many vulnerable populations—especially people of color, children and seniors, and low-income communities—the history of zoning practices in California is also a history of inequity.

**These groups have had to bear the burden of land use decisions that have created unhealthy environments.**

From building freeways through poor neighborhoods to locating industry near minority populations, many land use decisions have had a negative impact on public health and quality of life.

The term “disadvantaged communities” is often used to refer to areas that suffer disproportionately from a combination of economic, social, health, and environmental burdens.

## DOWNEY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES



### VULNERABLE POPULATIONS



PEOPLE OF COLOR AND IMMIGRANTS



LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES



CHILDREN AND SENIORS

**California cities are required to identify and address these inequities in their long-range plan, known as the general plan. The term “environmental justice” collectively describes general plan initiatives aimed at solving conditions that contribute to the inequities.**

**This means that all future planning decisions must take into account potential impacts to the environment and public health in disadvantaged communities—with the goal of improving the quality of life among for all Downey residents.**

## **How Is the City Addressing Environmental Justice?**

As part of our General Plan Update process, the City of Downey is analyzing specific neighborhoods to determine current conditions and assess the level of environmental health risks. Health risks can be a result of many factors, including pollution, traffic, income and language barriers, and lack of recreational and community facilities.

Downey can better serve disadvantaged communities with policies that reduce pollution, improve access to quality food and public services, increase connectivity and mobility, and create better opportunities for physical activity.

## **You Can Help!**

Addressing environmental justice will be most effective with participation from community members. The City will host varied events to engage residents in this discussion and find ways to improve conditions in neighborhoods citywide.



**Focus Group Meetings**



**Community Workshops**



**Newsletters, Fact Sheets, and Flyers**



**Social Media Posts and Email Blasts**



**Environmental Justice Survey**



**Webpage and Interactive Maps**



**Learn more by visiting Downey's Environmental Justice Webpage**

*Scan the QR Code with your smart phone or visit:*

<https://www.downeyca.org/our-city/departments/community-development/planning>



**City of Downey  
Environmental Justice Element**