Screening for Justice: Data and Mapping to Inform Decision Making

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USC Program for Environmental & Regional Equity

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Our mission is to conduct research and facilitate discussions on issues of environmental justice, regional equity, immigrant integration—and the social movements that drive them.

Our work is rooted in the three R's: Reach, Relevance, and Rigor

USC Program for Environmental & Regional Equity

We seek direct collaborations with community-based organizations in research and other activities, trying to forge a new model of how university and community can work together for the common good.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCREENING METHOD

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCREENING METHOD (EJSM)

We can only make progress on what we can measure...but how do you measure environmental justice?

To do this, we created the Environmental Justice Screening Method, which uses a "Cumulative Impact" approach examine multiple environmental and social stressors and links to environmental health disparities.

Principle Investigators: Rachel Morello-Frosch (UC Berkeley), Manuel Pastor (USC), and Jim Sadd (Occidental College)

EJSM DEVELOPMENT

EJSM was contracted by CA Air Resources Board and co-created with stakeholder input (scientific review committee, regulatory scientists from different agencies, decision-makers, and community organizations):

- Helped identify indicators and priorities
- Participated in an iterative process of review and methodological improvements
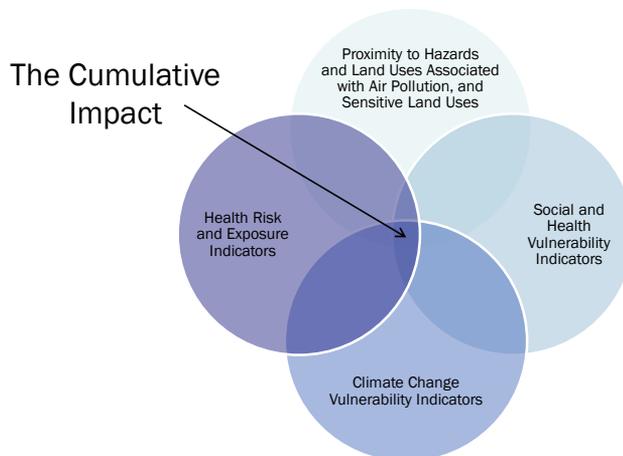- Engaged in "ground-truthing" interim results and government databases
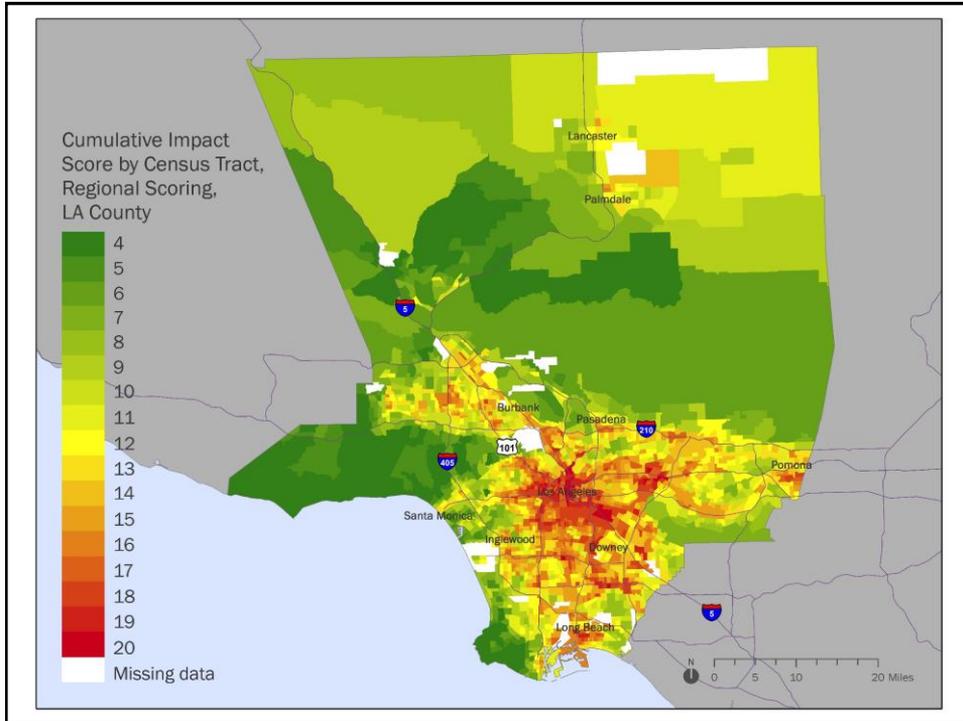
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EJSM OVERVIEW

- Maps where people are exposed
- Measures the "cumulative impact" of a variety of factors
- All underlying data is public
- All mapping done at the Census tract level
- Scoring system based on rankings: each tract receives "points" related to indicators
- Statewide coverage, REGIONAL scoring


EJSM OVERVIEW

4 Categories of Indicators

The Cumulative Impact

Cumulative Impact Score by Census Tract, Regional Scoring, LA County

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17
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19
20
Missing data

APPLICATION OF EJSM: CLEAN UP, GREEN UP

*"Clean Up, Green UP" Ordinance here in Los Angeles*

- Ordinance provide special assistance to prevent new siting while also helping businesses convert to safer, cleaner processes

- EJSM helped identify environmentally overburdened and socially vulnerable communities

- Researchers have also trained and collaborated with community on data gathering, analysis, and presentation

CALENVIROSCREEN 3.0

CALEPA'S CALENVIROSCREEN 3.0
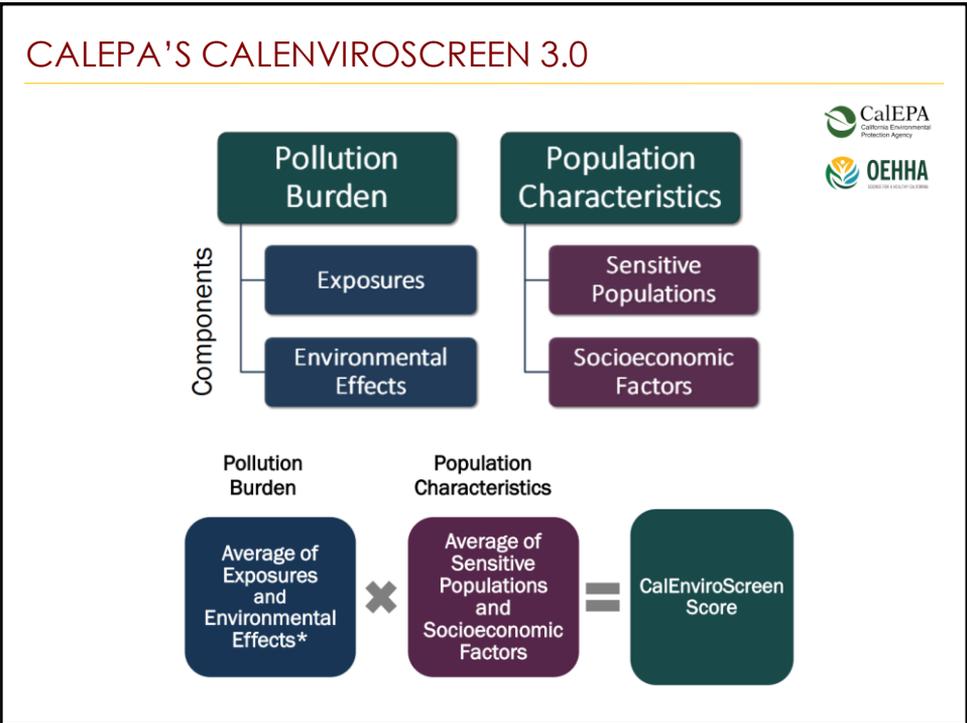
CALEPA'S CALENVIROSCREEN 3.0
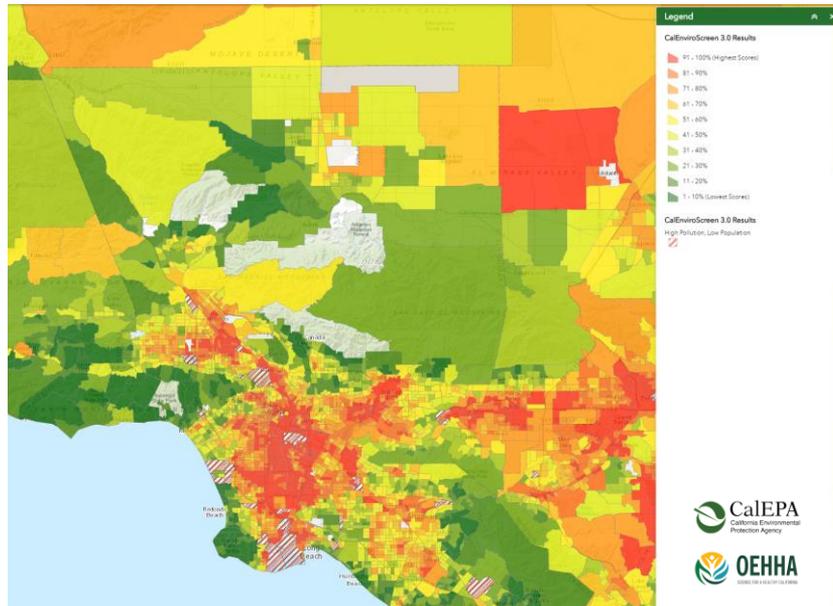
APPLICATION OF CALENVIROSCREEN

SB 535 mandates that at least 25% of cap-and-trade revenue goes directly to "disadvantaged communities" (DACs) and that at least 10% goes to benefit them. CalEnviroScreen is being used to identify DACs.

Revenue is being spent on projects like:

- Affordable housing
- Public transit
- Home weatherization
- Solar
- Urban greening
- And more!

Rolland Curtis, an affordable housing project in South L.A. next to the Expo Line, receiving cap-and-trade funding
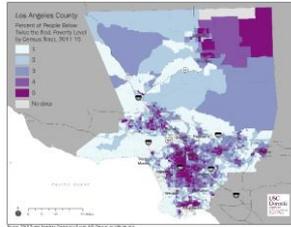
TRANSPORTATION EQUITY TECHNICAL WORK GROUP
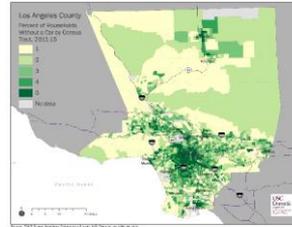
A TRANSPORTATION EQUITY INDEX

We're starting with the following transportation equity indicators to identify areas of historic disinvestment to prioritize for investment moving forward:
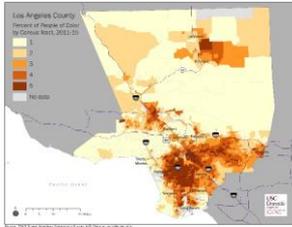
| Race / ethnicity | Poverty | Vehicle ownership |

THANK YOU!