



ASIAN AMERICANS AND ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE

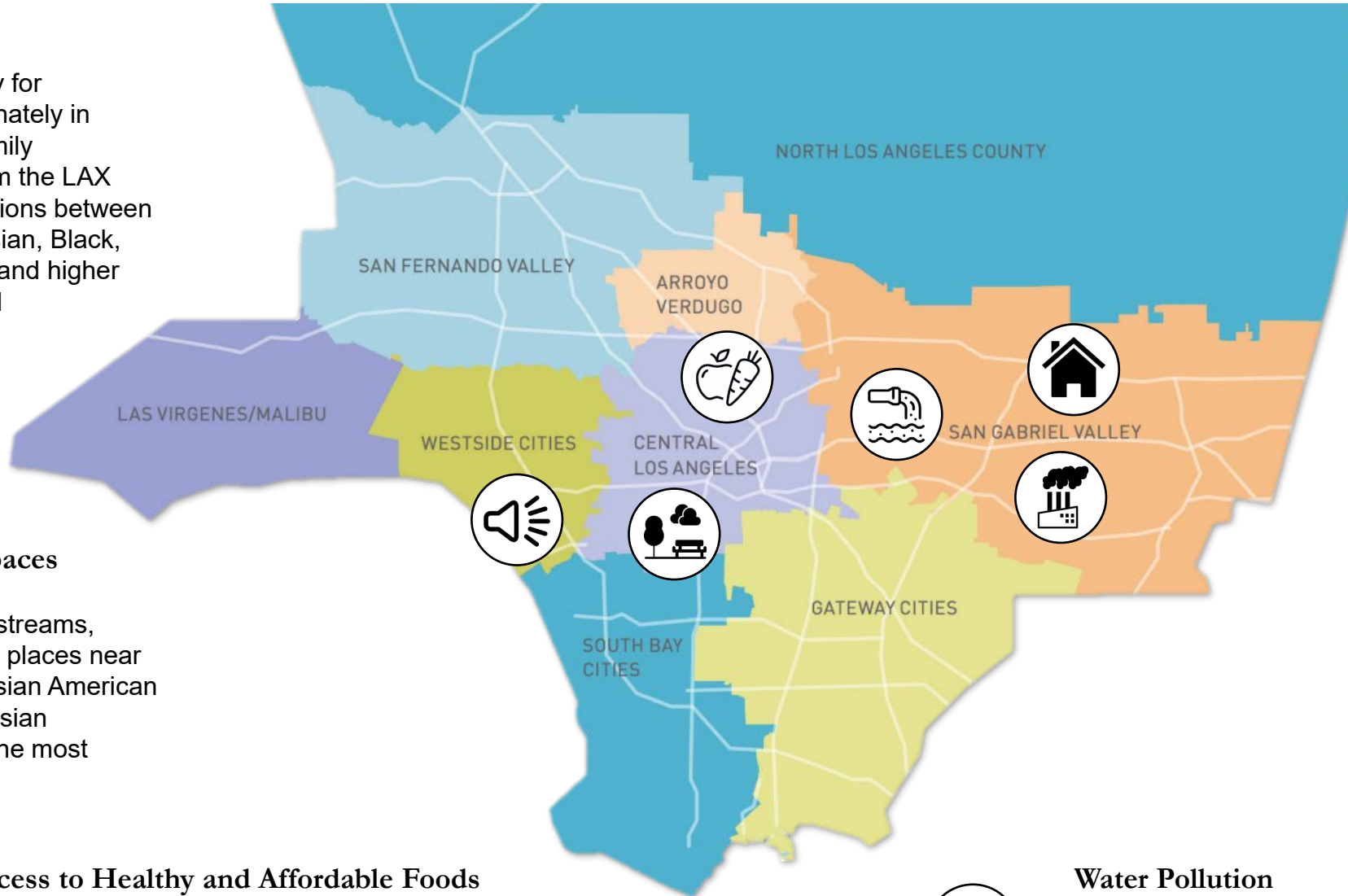
Environmental justice and environmental racism calls on the systemic roots that lead to inequality in our environments
Low-income immigrant communities of color are often the most impacted



Noise Pollution



Inglewood spent the money for soundproofing disproportionately in middle-class and single-family neighborhoods furthest from the LAX airport.¹ There are associations between increased proportions of Asian, Black, and Hispanic communities and higher levels of noise in urban and suburban/rural areas.²



Home Hazards



Local blood test data shows two neighboring San Marino are among the hotspots for childhood lead exposure.⁹ 80 percent of San Marino homes were built before 1960 and the community has a large Asian population.⁹

Open and Recreation Spaces



The US has fewer forests, streams, wetlands, and other natural places near where Black, Latino, and Asian American people live.³ In 16 states, Asian communities experienced the most nature deprivation.³

Air Pollution



Neighborhoods with higher proportions of Chinese, Korean, and South Asian residents have significantly greater cancer risk burdens relative to Whites.⁷ There are over 50 schools in the San Gabriel Valley located closer than the recommended 500 feet to a major roadway or freeway.⁸

Access to Healthy and Affordable Foods



1 in 4 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in California works but struggles with poverty.⁴ Some AAPI live in food deserts like Historic Filipinotown and lack access to the fresh and affordable produce like grocery stores.⁴

Water Pollution



Drinking water contamination is common in Alhambra, Arcadia, Monterey Park, Temple City, and West Covina.⁵ These cities are comprised of at least 26%, up to 60%, of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.⁶

References: [1] Smith, Doug (2019, May 23). Poor neighborhood endures worst LAX noise but is left out of soundproof programs. *Los Angeles Times*. [2] Casey, J.A., Morello-Frosch, R., Mennitt, D.J., Frstrup K., Ogburn, E.L., & James, P. (2017) Race/Ethnicity, socioeconomic status, residential segregation, and spatial variation in noise exposure in the contiguous United States. *Environmental Health Perspectives* 125 (7). <https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP898>. [3] Center for American Progress and Hispanic Access Foundation (2020, May 29). Analysis of the Disparities in Nature Loss and Access to Nature. [4] Weik, T. (2020, July 30). For Asian Americans, food deserts encompass both income and culture: How Asian American farmers are helping low-income and elderly AAPI access fresh food and culturally specific ingredients during the pandemic. *NBCNews*. [5] Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles (2018). A community of contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the San Gabriel Valley. [6] National Partnership.org, (2020, July). Clean water and reproductive Justice: Lack of access harms women of color. [7] Grineski, S.E., Collins, T.W., & Morales, D.X., (2017). Asian Americans and disproportionate exposure to carcinogenic hazardous air pollutants: A national study. *Social Science and Medicine*, 185, 71-80. [8] Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement (n.d.). Cleaning the San Gabriel Valley Air. [9] Schneyer, J. (2017, April 20). Across Los Angeles, toxic lead harms children in neighborhoods rich and poor. *Reuters Investigates: Lead's Hidden Toll*.