



Healthy Parks, Schools and Communities: Green Access and Equity for the San Diego Region

Robert García and Seth Strongin

The San Diego Foundation
The City Project



Play ~ Learn ~ Work ~



Connect ~ Diversity ~ Health



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The City Project would like to thank The San Diego Foundation, the Fletcher Family Fund, the Hattie Ettinger Conservation Fund, and REI for their generous support of this work. In particular, we thank Dr. Emily Young, Senior Director of the Environment Program, and Marisa Aurora Quiroz, Manager of the Environment Program, for their guidance and hard work to make this report a reality. We would also like to express our gratitude to all of the members of the San Diego Green Access Working Group for reviewing this report and for their input, suggestions, and insights into many of the issues surrounding access to green space in the San Diego region. Additionally, we are grateful for the comments and feedback from each of the other individuals and organizations that reviewed prior drafts of this report.

Amanda Recinos, Associate Director of Green Info Network, and her team of GIS experts created maps, charts and demographic analyses used in this report. The contributions of Green Info Network are integral to the work of The City Project, and this report would not be possible without them.

Key Terms

The following are key terms used throughout this report. “Green space” refers to all parks, natural open spaces, beaches, playing fields, trails, and recreational facilities. This term is applied broadly even though some of these areas may not have much greenery, such as the desert or beaches. Various authorities often use different definitions of what constitutes green space. For example, some cities consider municipal golf courses public parks and apply the acreage of the golf course to its total quantity of managed green space but others do not.

Although beaches are an important recreational resource, municipal governments and the state do not calculate the acreage of their beaches or consider that land public park space. One reason may be because the land area of the beach varies with the tide. Authorities do typically count playgrounds or picnic areas adjacent to beach areas as green space, however. As a result, some coastal cities with extensive public beaches but few parks may be considered park poor.

This report uses publicly available data, and is burdened by some inconsistencies in the definition and quantification standards for green space. Future research would benefit from a universally accepted standard for identifying and counting green space.

The term “people of color” refers to people who identify as Latino/Hispanic, African American/black, Asia/Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans. These categories and terms come from the U.S. Census.

“Park poor” means less than three acres of green space per thousand residents. “Income poor” refers to a geographic area in which the median household income is below \$47,331. These terms are based on Proposition 84, AB 31, and state park guidelines, as discussed below.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Overview	4
II. Values at Stake: Why Parks and Recreation Matter.....	6
A. Simple Joys.....	7
B. Physical and Social Health	7
C. Climate Justice, Environmental Services and Conservation.....	9
D. Spiritual Values and Cultural Heritage.....	10
E. Economic Vitality	11
F. Equal Justice and Democracy	12
III. Measuring Green Access and Equity	12
A. Standards	12
B. Patterns of Racial and Ethnic Disparities	13
C. Distance to the Park	13
E. Safety and Perceptions of Safety	14
F. Cultural Diversity in Parks and Recreation.....	14
IV. The People of San Diego County	14
A. Demographics.....	14
B. Overweight and Obesity	17
C. Physical Fitness	19
D. Physical Education, Student Health and Equal Justice.....	19
V. Green Access and Equity in the San Diego Region	20
A. Proximity to Green Space.....	20
B. Urban Parks	21
C. Beaches.....	22
D. Forests and Mountains.....	22
VI. Understanding Disparities in Land Use, Housing, and Park Access	23
VII. Legal Justifications for Equal Access to Parks and Recreation.....	24
VIII. Park Victories and Opportunities in San Diego	26
A. Park Victories	26
B. Opportunities to Improve Green Access and Equity	27
IX. Recommendations for Green Space and Equal Justice.....	33
X. Conclusion	34
Appendix A.....	36
Appendix B	37
References.....	38

Robert García and Seth Strongin *
 The San Diego Foundation
 The City Project

* Robert García is Executive Director and Counsel of The City Project, and Seth Strongin is Policy and Research Manager. Amanda Recinos and GreenInfo Network prepared the maps and demographic analyses. This Report is made possible by the generous support of the San Diego Foundation, REI, and donors to the Foundation including the Fletcher Family Fund and the Hattie Ettinger Conservation Fund.

The City Project’s work on green access and equity in Southern California generally is made possible in part by the generous support of the California Endowment, Gilbert Foundation, Haynes Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Kresge Foundation, Union Bank of California Foundation, Whole Systems Foundation, individual donors and others.

I. OVERVIEW

The San Diego region is home to a large and diverse population, as well as a wealth of green space.¹ From its coastline to its deserts and mountains and everything in between, the region's broad range of geography and diversity of people present a wide variety of recreational, conservation, cultural, spiritual and economic opportunities – and challenges. With a comfortable year-round climate, conditions in San Diego are ideal for residents to take advantage of the multiple benefits of green space.

Green space provides many important benefits for physical and social health, the natural environment, and social well-being. The presence of green space alone, however, is not enough. In order to truly benefit from these resources, San Diego residents must enjoy equal access to green space. Many factors -- including the proximity of green space to where people live, the location of natural geographic features, transportation or the lack of it, real and perceived park safety, and planning for parks -- impact green access and equity.

While regional authorities, such as the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), have mapped the region's green space, not as much is documented about who has access to this green space. The San Diego Foundation and The City Project have partnered on this Policy Report to engage, educate and empower the people to support green access and equity.² This report uses geographic, demographic, economic, and historical data to map and analyze green access and equity.³ The report examines green access by race, color, national origin, and income or poverty. The report presents policy recommendations for improving green access and equity.

The study area is the San Diego region, which encompasses the 18 incorporated cities in San Diego County, unincorporated areas, and Native American tribal lands within the county's borders. An astonishing 1,225,488 acres of land are dedicated to parks and recreational areas in San Diego, approximately 45% of the total land area of the county.⁴ The overwhelming majority of this land, 97%, is found in open space parks, state and federal parks, and nature preserves that are used mostly for passive recreation, such as family gatherings, hiking, observing nature, and camping. Three percent of the total green space in San Diego is dedicated to active recreation, such as athletic fields, ball courts, playgrounds, and running tracks.⁵

Each of the 18 incorporated cities maintains public green space. Cumulatively, the cities own 44,000 acres of parks and open space, with nearly 40,000 owned by the City of San Diego alone.⁶ In addition, the County of San Diego maintains more than 44,000 acres of parks and open space and over 300 miles of trails.⁷ This land is divided among local and regional parks, recreation centers and sports complexes, campgrounds, lakes and fishing areas, ecological preserves, and open space preserves.

The state and federal governments manage the vast majority of public green space in San Diego County. The State of California Department of Parks and Recreation has the largest holdings of parks and open space in the county, with 589,384 acres. Much of this land is either in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park or Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, which cover much of the eastern and central portions of the county.⁸ In addition to these parks, there are state beaches, ecological or nature preserves, and other state parks.

The U.S. Forest Service has the largest share of federally owned land in the county, with 287,500 acres, almost all of which is in the Cleveland National Forest.⁹ There are also several National Wildlife Refuges in the county, collectively comprising the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and the Cabrillo National Monument, which is managed by the National Park Service.

* * *

This report and the maps and analyses below present a pattern for the San Diego region that is true throughout Southern California and beyond: Children of color living in poverty with no access to a car have the worst access to parks and places for physical activity, and have the highest levels of childhood obesity.



Park Access for Children of Color Living in Poverty with No Access to a Car

San Diego County



73 Assembly District Number

Park Access:

- Existing Park/Green Space*
- Over 1/2 from a Park

Block group status, in relation to San Diego County Averages, for:

- Youth - Poverty
- Race/Ethnicity - Lack of Car Access

Exceeds San Diego County Average

Below San Diego County Average

Within San Diego County Average

District	Youth	Of Color	Living In Poverty	Lack of Car Access
66*	32.6%	43.8%	11.4%	1.5%
73*	26.0%	35.6%	8.7%	1.6%
74	26.3%	35.0%	10.1%	2.1%
75	25.3%	35.6%	6.9%	1.5%
76	18.7%	38.3%	14.7%	5.2%
77	25.9%	25.4%	9.8%	2.6%
78	27.8%	60.7%	13.3%	2.5%
79	20.7%	76.3%	20.7%	4.6%

*Percent youth, of color, living in poverty, and lack of car access represent total population for each assembly district split at the county line. Districts 66 and 75 extend beyond the San Diego County line.

*All parks/green space are shown, including forest service, Bureau of Land Management and lands with restricted public access.

Park Access for Children of Color Living in Poverty with No Access to a Car is a project of The City Project - www.cityprojectco.org. Map created by GreenInfo Network, July 2010 www.greeninfo.org. Data Sources: Demographics - Census 2000, Existing Park/Green Space - California Protected Areas Database - 12 March 2009, www.cahwd.org. Native American Reservation areas identified, where possible. The data should not be considered complete. This work is made possible in part by the generous support of the Haynes Foundation.

Despite this pattern – or perhaps because of it – voters of color and low income voters have been the biggest supporters of ballot measures that support state parks and resources over the past ten years. This experience offers important lessons for diversifying support for and access to green space.

In 2002, for example, diverse California voters passed Proposition 40, which was then the largest resource bond in United States history. Prop 40 provided \$2.6 billion for parks, clean water and clean air. Prop 40 passed with the support of 77% of Black voters, 74% of Latino voters, 60% of Asian voters, and 56% of non-Hispanic White voters. 75% of voters with an annual family income below \$20,000, and 61% of voters with a high school diploma or less, supported Prop 40 – the highest level of support among any income or education levels.¹⁰

People of color were also crucial to the passage of Proposition 84, a \$5.4 billion park and water bond that included \$400 million for parks in 2006. Only 45% of non-Hispanic whites favored Prop 84. Latinos supported Prop 84 by nearly 80%, or nearly 616,000 votes, accounting for Prop 84's margin of victory. The margin of victory for Prop 84 was 488,016 votes. Without this Latino vote in favor, Prop 84 would have failed.¹¹

To ensure that park funds under Prop 84 reach underserved communities, the California legislature enacted AB 31. AB 31 and its guidelines define the criteria of park poverty (less than three acres of parks per thousand residents) and income poverty (median annual household income below \$47,331) to be used in distributing Prop 84 park funds.¹²

The California park bond experience provides valuable lessons. First, people of color and low income communities will support properly framed investments that include the values of green space in communities of color and low income communities. Second, people of color and low income people must receive their fair share of the benefits of green space.

Part II of this report discusses the values at stake in promoting equal access to green space. Part III analyzes ways of measuring green access and equity. Part IV looks at the people of San Diego County. Part V looks at access to parks, beaches, mountains and forests in more detail. Part VI reviews the history of why access to green space in San Diego is the way it is, and how green access could be better. Part VII analyzes legal justifications for equal access to parks and green space. Part VIII reviews great park victories, and presents specific opportunities for improving park access for all. Part IX presents concluding principles for green space and equal justice.

This report is driven by a vision for a comprehensive web of parks, school fields and beaches for all, inspired in part by the work of Frederick Law Olmsted — the person who designed Central Park, created the field of landscape architecture, and was passionately committed to equal justice through the abolition of slavery — and his sons.¹³ The firm started by Frederick Law Olmsted's sons issued a report in 1930 that provided a vision for a green, prosperous, and culturally rich Southern California. That vision has yet to be realized but hope has not been lost. This report is a starting point to support equal justice, democracy and livability for all in the San Diego region.

II. VALUES AT STAKE: WHY PARKS AND RECREATION MATTER

Parks, school fields, beaches, rivers, mountains, forests, and other green spaces offer many potential benefits to the residents of the San Diego region. These benefits include the simple joys of playing in the park or school field; improved physical, psychological, and social health; youth development and improved academic performance; positive alternatives for at risk youth; violence, gang and crime prevention; social cohesion, or bringing people together; economic vitality for all; environmental services, climate justice and conservation; art, culture and historic preservation; indigenous values and rights including protection of Sacred Sites; spiritual values in protecting the earth and its people; and sustainable regional planning. Fundamental principles of equal justice and democracy cut across these other values.

A. Simple Joys

Fun is not frivolous. Children have the right to the simple joys of playing in safe parks and green spaces. The United Nations recognizes the right to play as a fundamental human right.¹⁴ The United States was founded in part for the pursuit of happiness.¹⁵

B. Physical and Social Health

1. Physical Activity and Prevention of Obesity and Diabetes

This is the first generation in the history of the country in which children could have a lower life expectancy than their parents if obesity is not reversed.¹⁶ It is estimated that the combined cost to California of overweight, obesity, and physical inactivity is estimated to be \$41.2 billion annually.¹⁷ The cost of obesity in the United States is \$117 billion annually, including health care costs and lost productivity.¹⁸ Regular physical activity, along with a healthful diet, is key to preventing obesity and many chronic health conditions associated with obesity. Insufficient physical activity contributes to obesity and to risk of complications and death from chronic conditions, such as Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, and some cancers.¹⁹

Organizations such as the California Endowment,²⁰ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation²¹ and the Trust for America's Health²² recognize that access to safe and healthy places to live, work, learn, and play is vital in the fight against obesity. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the President's Council on Fitness and Sports have announced a goal of increasing the proportion of adolescents who engage in moderate physical activity for at least 30 minutes five days a week by 2010.²³

Evidence-based research illustrates the profound health implications of the lack of parks and recreation. The precipitous decline in children's physical activity levels, and escalating rates of childhood obesity and diabetes, are alarming national epidemics.²⁴ More than one out of every four adolescents in California (29%) -- nearly one million teenagers -- get less than the recommended levels of physical activity.²⁵ Inactivity and obesity are even more significant among people of color and low-income communities. Physical activity can help prevent childhood obesity and related health problems including diabetes. Physical education quality and quantity are particularly deficient for less affluent students and those in racial and ethnic groups at high risk for overweight and obesity.²⁶

Increasing physical activity among children, teens, and adults is a critical element in the fight against overweight and obesity. A growing body of evidence shows that children and adults that live in communities with parks, athletic fields, nature centers and other recreational facilities are more physically active than children who lack access to these resources.²⁷ This is particularly true for low income communities. One study found that people in low income areas who live within one mile of a park exercised 38% more than people who lived farther away.²⁸ Unfortunately, low income areas often lack sufficient park space. This is one reason that a lower percentage of low income children and teens and children of color are physically active and, in part as a result, suffer disproportionately from obesity and related diseases.²⁹

Access to safe parks or other places for physical activity, along with other characteristics of the neighborhoods where adolescents live, have an important effect on whether teens meet recommendations for physical activity, and whether they get any activity at all.³⁰ In California, the percent of teens engaging in regular physical activity is higher when teens have access to a safe park than when they have no access. In addition, the percentage of teens that get no physical activity at all is higher among those with no access to a safe park.³¹ Perceived park aesthetics, condition and safety may be associated with park visitation and physical activity levels within parks.³²

Physical activity is generally beneficial to overall health. Green space can provide health benefits to all people, from young children to senior citizens. Many researchers consider providing safe parks and other recreation spaces as a primary form of preventive medicine.³³

2. Personal Development, Academic Achievement, and Violence Prevention

Recent studies on the impact of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 on progress in the work place and human health found that equal access to sports makes a long-term difference in a person's life. "It's not just that the people who are going to do well in life play sports, but that sports help people do better in life," according to the author of the report. "While I only show this for girls, it's reasonable to believe it's true for boys as well."³⁴

A large body of research shows that sports are associated with all sorts of benefits, like lower teenage pregnancy rates, better grades and higher self-esteem. But until now, no one has determined whether those improvements are a direct result of athletic participation. . . . Now, separate studies from two economists offer some answers, providing the strongest evidence yet that team sports can result in lifelong improvements to educational, work and health prospects.³⁵

Using a complex analysis, one study showed that increasing girls' sports participation had a direct effect on women's education and employment. The changes set in motion by Title IX explained about 20% of the increase in women's education, and about 40% of the rise in employment for 25-to-34-year-old women. The study untangles the effects of sports participation from other confounding factors — school size, climate, social and personal differences among athletes — and comes closer to determining a cause and effect relationship between high school sports participation and achievement later in life.³⁶ A separate study found that the increase in girls' athletic participation following the enactment of Title IX was associated with a seven percent lower risk of obesity 20 to 25 years later, when women were in their late 30s and early 40s.³⁷

Studies by the California Endowment show that children who are physically fit perform better in school.³⁸ After engaging in physical activity, children perform better on tasks requiring concentration.³⁹ Several studies have found that school children that regularly participate in physical activity, whether during or outside of school hours, perform better academically than their peers that do not.⁴⁰ Further studies involving elementary school students found that regular physical activity breaks during the school day improved the students' cognitive performance and promoted on-task classroom behavior.⁴¹ Moreover, in an era when shrinking school budgets and increased pressure to meet academic standards measured by standardized tests is leading to a decline in physical education classes and school-sponsored athletic programs, research indicates that students who take physical education classes perform just as well academically as their peers who have been forced to sacrifice physical education for more time in the classroom.⁴²

Another way in which green spaces can have a positive influence on social development is through youth-oriented green jobs programs. For teenagers and young adults, jobs creating, maintaining, and improving green space can provide a source of income and professional experience from which to grow, ultimately helping keep students in school. Publicly funded youth recreational programs, including active recreation and team sports, promote positive choices and help reduce youth violence, crime, drug abuse, and teen pregnancy.⁴³ Sports and recreation provide life-long lessons in teamwork and help to build character.⁴⁴

3. Psychological Health

In modern cities, green spaces provide needed reprieve from the everyday stressors. This can improve the health of adults and children by reducing stress and depression and improving focus, attention span, productivity, and recovery from illness.⁴⁵ Evidence shows that spending time in parks can reduce irritability and impulsivity and promote intellectual and physical development in children and teenagers by providing a safe and engaging environment to interact and develop social skills, language and reasoning abilities, as well as muscle strength and coordination. Researchers have found associations between contact with the natural environment and improvements in the functioning of children with

Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).⁴⁶ Contact with natural environments, such as trees, has also been found to be associated with increases in the psychological resources of individuals living in public housing to make changes that will improve their lives.⁴⁷

Parks also provide a place for social support and an opportunity for self-determination, both important factors in reducing stress, lowering anxiety, and improving a person's overall mood. This is true for children and adults, including older adults.⁴⁸ Social support is derived from the friendship or companionship that comes from the shared experience of participating in activities in a park with other people. The psychological benefits of self-determination come when a person voluntarily chooses to visit a park. By being in a recreational setting, that person is exercising the freedom to decide for themselves how they want to spend their time. People that lack easy access to a park do not have the same opportunities for social support and self-determination as people who have access to parks.

Parks and green space have direct healing effects. A classic study demonstrated that views of trees enhance the recovery of surgical patients and shortens the duration of hospitalizations.⁴⁹ Living in greener environments reduces the number of health complaints.⁵⁰

4. Social Cohesion – Bringing People Together

Parks and recreation programs that serve the diverse needs of diverse users bring people together in the public commons for the public good. Numerous studies document how people attach different values to green space and use green space differently, both in urban and non-urban contexts.⁵¹

Green spaces and parks satisfy needs for interaction by enticing residents into public spaces. Parks become a source of community pride and inspiration. Social interaction and neighborhood spaces have been identified as key facets of healthy communities supporting social networks, social support, and social integration.⁵² Sociability may contribute to a sense of belonging and community. In a study conducted at a large public housing development in Chicago, Illinois, significantly more people used vegetated areas, and those individuals were more likely to be engaged in social activities than similar areas without vegetation.⁵³

C. Climate Justice, Environmental Services and Conservation

Green spaces also play an important role in combating climate change, as well as in improving the quality of the local environment. One way green spaces, particularly those in urban settings, help prevent climate change and benefit the local environment is by reducing urban heat island effects. Asphalt, concrete, and other man-made building materials trap heat, making these areas less comfortable for people.⁵⁴ In turn, people are more likely to stay inside, less likely to walk or bicycle between destinations, and more likely to run air conditioners and keep lights on. The result is that people are less physically active and consume more fossil fuel-based energy. Green spaces, on the other hand, work to actively avoid urban heat effects while also promoting physical activity and reducing the need to consume fossil fuel energy.⁵⁵

Another way parks help stop climate change is by occupying the space that would otherwise be used to construct and operate buildings, which generate global warming-causing greenhouse gases. Open space allows a community to avoid having more buildings and the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases those buildings emit.

Green space can also play a key role in facilitating active transportation and walkable communities. Networks of trails allow people to move from one point to another without having to get in a car. This has the double benefit of reducing harmful fossil fuel emissions while also getting people physically active. In the San Diego region there are many canyons that cut through neighborhoods. By restoring these canyons and developing trails, residents will have more options for getting around without needing a car and will be able to reduce their travel time required to walk along city streets.

A fourth way parks help stop global warming is by actively taking greenhouse gases and other local air pollutants out of the air. Trees, grass, and other plants require carbon dioxide to grow and literally

remove these gases from the air for their own use, therefore preventing those gases from contributing to climate change. These plants also filter other emissions that cause local air pollution, such as nitrogen and sulfur oxides.

Climate justice and global warming is fundamentally an issue of human rights that connects the local to the global. With rising temperatures, human lives—particularly in communities of color, low-income, and indigenous communities—are affected by compromised health, financial burdens, and social and cultural disruptions. Many times, those who are most affected are least responsible for the greenhouse gas emissions that cause the problem—both globally and within the United States. These communities are the least able to bear the burdens of correcting global warming absent appropriate conservation, economic, and equitable measures.⁵⁶

Green space provides other important environmental services, as well. One service provided by green space is the absorption and natural filtration of storm water.⁵⁷ This can help reduce flooding while also improving water quality. Developing flood control basins as parks and athletic fields can yield the dual benefits of preventing floods and providing space for residents to recreate. Careful attention must be paid, however, to ensure the safety of all users of park space that has been developed on flood control basins.

Another critical ecosystem benefit of green space is habitat for plants and animals. As the amount of available and viable habitat for many species continues to decrease as a result of development and other factors, preserving green space takes on added importance. Additionally, well planned green space systems that are linked together may serve as corridors that further increase the amount of available habitat and can make certain species more resilient to climate change by providing a means for that species to migrate in the event that its former habitat is no longer suitable.⁵⁸

Green spaces also promote conservation values including the protection of habitat and clean air, water, and ground. Parks and open spaces allow people to interact with nature and to take value from being in a natural setting. These interactions take on additional importance as more and more people are living in urban settings.

For many individuals, particularly in low income urban areas, parks and open space represent their only opportunity to escape the built environment, play on grass, and experience a diversity of wildlife. The bottom line is that parks can make San Diego more livable, and people in livable communities are more likely to live efficiently and thus reduce their impact on the environment.⁵⁹

D. Spiritual Values and Cultural Heritage

Social justice and stewardship of the earth motivate spiritual leaders to support parks, green space and equal justice. The United Church of Christ has published the environmental justice studies on toxics in 1987 and 2007 discussed above.⁶⁰ Protecting the earth and its people bears a special meaning in the values of indigenous people around the world.⁶¹ Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchú has praised work to promote equal access to parks and recreation as a way of giving children hope and saying no to violence.⁶² In 2004, the Nobel Committee awarded the Peace Prize to Kenyan woman Wangari Muta Maathai for planting trees and speaking out for women.⁶³ The award is an explicit recognition that there is more at stake in caring for creation than mainstream environmental values.

The Native American Acjachemen Sacred Site of Panhe, is located in present day San Onofre State Beach and discussed in more detail later in this Report. The struggle to save Panhe highlights the important role that green spaces can have in indigenous cultures.⁶⁴

Parks provide important places to celebrate diverse culture, heritage, and art. Research has shown differences in the way that people from different cultures make use and take value from green space. Cultural, historical and artistic monuments should reflect the diversity of a place and its residents. People of color have played a vital role in making the San Diego region what it is today. The park and open space system should reflect this. There are already several best practice examples in the San Diego region of parks that provide cultural value. Chicano Park in Barrio Logan, which came into existence the same day as the first Earth Day, is home to a collection of Chicano murals and is a great example of how parks can provide a place for people to celebrate and share diverse cultures. People embrace their common heritage

through this magnificent display of public art, and use the murals to learn and to teach others about diverse cultures.⁶⁵

E. Economic Vitality

When cities create urban parks property values rise, local businesses benefit, and jobs are created, contributing to the local, state and national economies. Open space has also been shown to have a beneficial effect on home values. One recent study of the San Diego region found that being located near open space adds between five and ten percent to the total value of a home, in both high income and low income communities.⁶⁶ Many high income communities in San Diego County are located in close proximity to parks and open spaces and the homes in these communities have increased values as a result. For example, the study found that in La Jolla, which had a median home price of \$1.1 million at the time of the study and has a relatively large amount of open space, being located near green space added as much as \$110,000 to the average home value.⁶⁷ Many low income communities do not enjoy such economic benefits because there is an insufficient amount of safe and/or accessible green space nearby. Paradise Hills, in the southeastern part of the City of San Diego, has very little accessible green space, yet the study found that if there were nearby green space the value of the surrounding homes would increase by at least \$21,150.⁶⁸ Creating new parks and improving green access, therefore, offers economic benefits for low income residents in San Diego.

Other places across the United States have seen economic benefits as well. Examples include:

- Chattanooga, Tennessee replaced warehouses with an eight-mile greenway and property values increased by 127% while the number of businesses and full time jobs in the city more than doubled.
- San Antonio, Texas revitalized the San Antonio River and the river park became the most popular attraction in the city's \$3.5 billion tourist industry.
- After expansion and restoration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, in Atlanta, Georgia, the predominantly African-American neighborhood of Sweet Auburn was revitalized, with dozens of new homes, 500,000 annual visitors boosting local business, and a decrease in crime.⁶⁹

Green space provides economic stimulus beyond real estate values. Parks and recreation help strengthen and stimulate the economy through sports and recreation-related sales of clothing, equipment, fees and services and the revenues generated from the tourism and hospitality industries. A recent study by researchers at Sacramento State University found that visitors to state parks in California spend \$4.32 billion in park-related expenditures per year statewide. The study also found that each visitor spends an average of \$57.63 per visit, including \$24.63 within the park and \$33 outside the park.⁷⁰ In New York State, researchers found that the economic benefits exceed the direct costs of the state park system by a benefit-to-cost ratio of more than five to one. In other words, the park system generates more than \$5 in benefits for every \$1 in costs. The annual economic impact of the park system is close to \$2 billion in output and sales for private businesses, in addition to 20,000 jobs.⁷¹ Another recent progress report provides a suggested methodology for measuring the economic value of a city park system based on seven factors that can be more or less quantified, including property value, tourism, direct use, health savings, and the value of volunteer work, clean water, and clean air.

Advocates and activists need to ensure that these economic benefits are distributed equitably through such avenues as jobs for local workers and affordable housing to avoid gentrification. Moreover, it is important that residents who already live in the community but do not live in affordable housing are not forced to move because of increases in property tax for homeowners or increased rent for renters.

Green infrastructure projects, such as developing, expanding, and enhancing parks, can be a source of green collar jobs for local workers in San Diego. Local small businesses, particularly those which are woman-owned, veteran-owned, or owned by disadvantaged community members, should be given

priority in contract selection to help ensure benefits are fairly distributed. Contract awards should also require businesses to hire people from the community where the project is located. This is particularly important for green space projects in low income areas or communities with disproportionately large populations of color. Training investments, bridge programs, and apprenticeship programs should focus on creating career ladders that allow workers to access higher-skilled jobs and transition to more modern technologies.⁷²

Access to existing green spaces can often be improved by providing transportation options beyond cars, such as public transit accessibility or walkways and bicycle paths. Developing infrastructure that people can use to get to parks without a car creates jobs, reduces transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, improves local air quality, and improves access to green spaces. Public transportation and the Regional Transportation Improvement Program are ongoing topics of debate in the San Diego region.⁷³ As the region moves forward with planning its transportation future, it is important that access to green space is factored into decisions regarding the expansion of public transit services. New bus lines, light rail stations, and transit routes should be designed to reach the region's existing green space resources.

Federal, state, and local governments should take lessons from the New Deal on the importance of including parks and recreation in economic stimulus activities.⁷⁴ New Deal projects included 8,000 parks and 40,000 schools. The Civilian Conservation Corps expanded open space⁷⁵ and part-time jobs kept high school and college students in school and out of regular markets. The New Deal created work for artists, musicians, actors, and writers. Painters taught high school classes and painted murals on public buildings depicting ordinary life. 15,000 musicians gave 225,000 performances in symphony orchestras, jazz groups, and free concerts in parks. Classics and contemporary works staged for 30 million viewers included productions with mixed and black casts. Writers wrote popular guides to each state, major cities, and interstate routes.⁷⁶

California took the lessons of the New Deal to heart when the state launched a pilot green collar jobs program. California Green Corps used federal stimulus funding and financial resources from public-private partnerships to create a green jobs program for 1,000 at risk youth.⁷⁷ This program should be expanded and similar initiatives should be implemented on the local or regional level.

F. Equal Justice and Democracy

Fundamental principles of equal justice and democracy underlie each of the other values above. The maps and demographic analyses in this Policy Report document unfair disparities in access to natural public places. As a matter of simple justice, parks, school fields, and other natural public places are a public resource, and the benefits and burdens should be distributed equally.⁷⁸ Those who lack adequate access to these resources are disproportionately at risk for health problems and face more challenges to enjoying the quality of life associated with parks and open spaces.

III. MEASURING GREEN ACCESS AND EQUITY

A. Standards

Access to green space can be measured a number of ways, including acres of parks per thousand residents, quarter- or half-mile access, and access to school fields. Additionally, physical fitness levels and rates of overweight and obesity are indicators of whether or not a community is engaging in physical activity. Though many elements factor into physical activity, access to green space is a primary factor with a direct effect on physical activity levels. Therefore, rates of overweight and obesity and physical fitness levels are used as indicators of equity in green access.

In 2008, the California legislature enacted AB 31 to create legislative criteria for investing funds for local and state parks in communities that are “park poor” and “income poor.” This law and applicable guidelines define “park poor” as areas with fewer than three acres of park land for every thousand residents. “Income poor” is defined as areas where the median household income is at or below \$47,331.

Though these criteria are not binding, they serve as relevant standards to measure progress and equity and to hold public officials accountable.⁷⁹

This Policy Report analyzes “total” and “net” acres of green space to give a more comprehensive representation of green access in the San Diego region. Land that is protected or managed as green space but is not open to the public or restricts public access is excluded from calculations of “net acres.” Additionally, land that is not permanently protected as green space, such as U.S. Forest Service land or Bureau of Land Management land, is also excluded from “net” acreage calculations. Alternatively, “total” acreage of green space accounts for everything counted as “net” acres, as well as those lands that are excluded from those calculations. By analyzing both “net” and “total” green space acreage this Policy Report presents multiple perspectives on the quantity of green space within the San Diego region.⁸⁰

These standards are used throughout this report. Simply stating that efforts are underway to improve green access is not enough to guarantee that underserved communities actually gain better access to green space. Standards offer a way to determine which projects should be prioritized and where, and offer a method for holding public officials accountable when they pledge to improve green access.⁸¹

B. Patterns of Racial and Ethnic Disparities

This report evaluates disparities in green access for specific population groups, such as racial or ethnic groups and income categories. These groups are analyzed by using county averages or region-wide totals. Examples of these categorizations are whether a certain city or neighborhood has more or fewer people of color than the county average or whether a certain group of people has a lower median household income than the countywide median household income. When a geographic location has a particular population that exceeds the county average, that area is characterized as being “disproportionately” populated by that group.

Appropriate measures examine where green space is located in relation to population groups, as well as assessing whether certain population groups are more or less adversely affected by conditions that are known to result from lack of physical activity, such as obesity and poor physical fitness. These measures are relevant to assess discriminatory impacts under civil rights laws, to define equity standards, and to determine whether the benefits and burdens of park and resource bonds are distributed fairly.⁸²

C. Distance to the Park

There is no “correct” distance to evaluate fair access to green space. Any distance in the abstract, such as half-mile or quarter-mile access, walking distance, driving distance, or other distance types, can be arbitrary and misleading. The optimal distance depends on the needs of the community, the type of green space, and access to transportation, such as transit or cars. Ultimately the question is whether the parks are meeting the needs of the community.

Smaller parks and elementary school playgrounds within walking distance can serve the needs of younger children. Larger parks and playing fields at schools can provide places for physical activity and team sports for older children and adults, and can be within driving or busing distance rather than walking distance. At the same time, a pocket park may not adequately serve the needs of the community even if it is within walking distance if the park does not have enough room for playing. Even a large park may not adequately serve the community if the population and use density is so high that demand exceeds available park space.

Some green space advocates call for a park within walking distance of each residence, typically considered to be a quarter mile or less. While this is an admirable goal, it is not realistic. In comparison, bus stops are commonly more than a quarter mile from a residence. It is unrealistic to expect more parks than bus stops.

E. Safety and Perceptions of Safety

Whether or not a park is safe, or is perceived to be safe, is another factor impacting green access. Research has shown that fear of crime can be a major deterrent to the use of parks.⁸³ The physical appearance and condition of green space also influences usage. Studies show that parks in poor condition are more likely to be located in neighborhoods with poor health, suggesting that people are less likely to access poorly maintained green space.⁸⁴ Further evidence indicates that parents who perceive their neighborhoods as unsafe in general are less likely to encourage their children to use local playgrounds.⁸⁵ Residents do not benefit from parks that they are unwilling to visit. Safety and perceptions of safety can be difficult to quantify, yet are significant barriers to green access that must be addressed. Safety can be improved through better maintenance and upkeep, the visible presence of security officers, and targeted enforcement of drug dealing and gang activity. In densely populated urban areas that may lack space for creating new parks, making existing parks safer may be one of the best ways to improve green access.

F. Cultural Diversity in Parks and Recreation

People are entitled to equal access to public green space that serves the diverse needs of diverse users. People from different racial and ethnic groups use green space differently, constructing meanings for natural space based on their own values, cultures, histories, and traditions. This is particularly significant in San Diego, which is home to a wide range of different cultures and racial and ethnic groups. According to a study of cultural differences in the use of urban parks, Latinos tend to use parks primarily as social gathering places. African Americans, more than any other racial group, tend to engage in sports in parks. Non-Hispanic whites are more likely to value a park solely for its passive qualities, such as its greenness, landscaping, and natural elements, and engage in solitary, self-oriented uses. Asian-American (specifically, Chinese) families were rare in parks studied. This does not mean that Asians do not value parks; this may reflect the failure of the parks to meet the needs of the Asian-American community.⁸⁶

It is important to take these diverse cultural interests into account when considering planning, design, and funding options for parks and recreation programs. In order for everyone in San Diego to enjoy the maximum benefits from green spaces, it is necessary to achieve a balanced park and recreation system that considers the needs of each group of people.

IV. THE PEOPLE OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

A. Demographics

San Diego County is home to a diverse population, ranging from native San Diegans to transplants from all over the United States to immigrants from around the world. With an official population of 2,813,835 as of the 2000 U.S. Census,⁸⁷ and an estimated current population of more than 3,000,000, San Diego has the third highest population of any county in California.⁸⁸

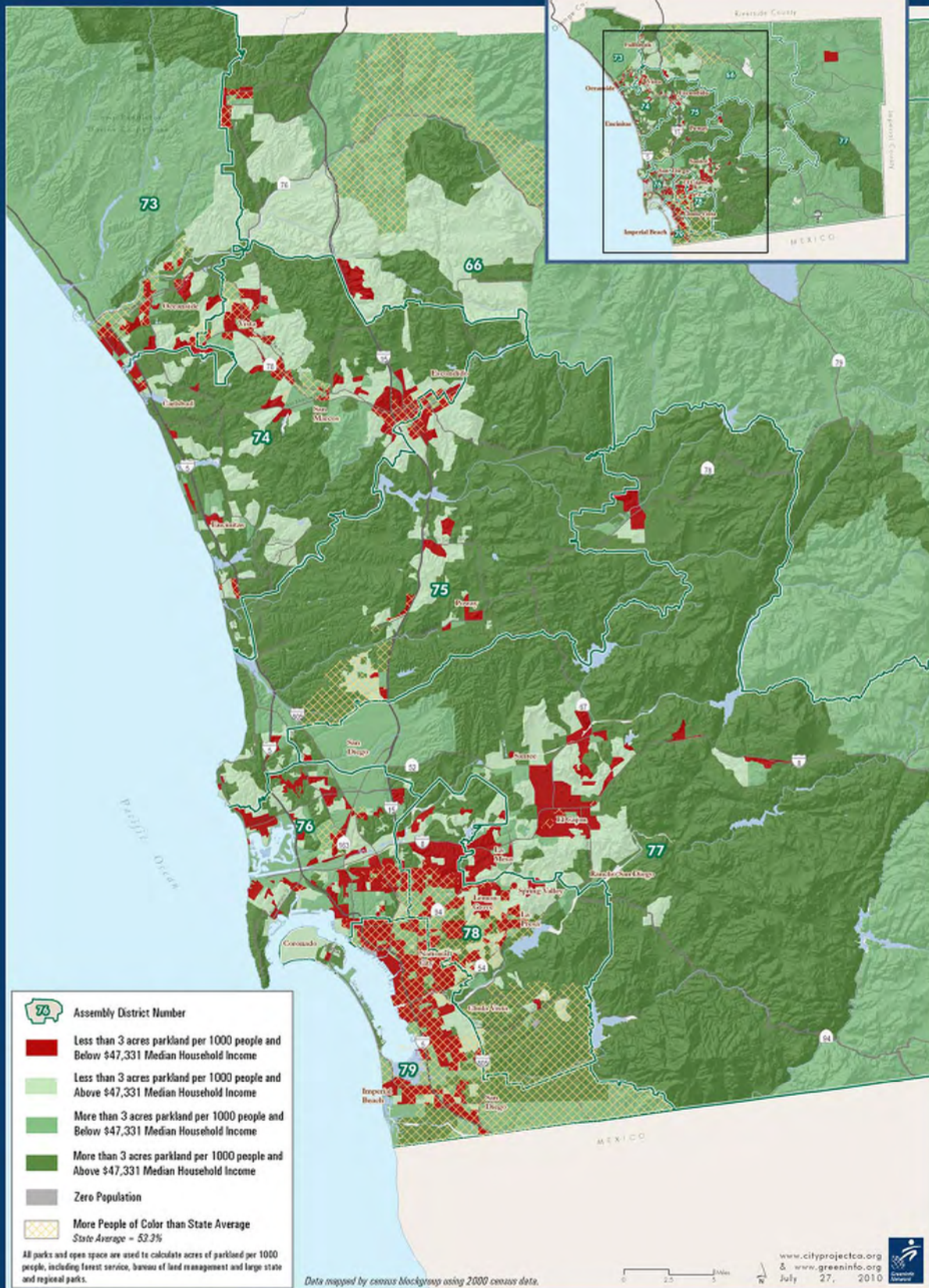
Though San Diego County is spread across 4,261 square miles of land, an area roughly the size of the state of Connecticut,⁸⁹ most of the county's residents are packed into the western third of the county. The City of San Diego is home to more than 40% of the county's residents, making it the second largest city in the state and the hub of activity for the San Diego region.⁹⁰

The San Diego region has experienced significant population growth over the past few years. Latinos have accounted for the overwhelming amount of this growth. There has also been a substantial increase in the number of Asians living in the county. On the other hand, there are fewer non-Hispanic white residents in San Diego County now than there were in 1990.⁹¹ If current trends continue, a majority of San Diegans will belong to a racial or ethnic group typically defined as "minority" within the next few years. San Diego will consist of a majority of minorities. Table 1 shows the demographic distribution of San Diego residents.



Park Poor, Income Poor, and People of Color

San Diego County



73 Assembly District Number

- Less than 3 acres parkland per 1000 people and Below \$47,331 Median Household Income
- Less than 3 acres parkland per 1000 people and Above \$47,331 Median Household Income
- More than 3 acres parkland per 1000 people and Below \$47,331 Median Household Income
- More than 3 acres parkland per 1000 people and Above \$47,331 Median Household Income
- Zero Population
- More People of Color than State Average
State Average = 52.3%

All parks and open space are used to calculate acres of parkland per 1000 people, including forest service, bureau of land management and large state and regional parks.

Data mapped by census blockgroup using 2000 census data.



www.cityprojectca.org
& www.greeninfo.org
July 27, 2010

Table 1. San Diego County Demographic Distribution

Race/Ethnicity	Population	Percent of Total Population (%)
White, Non-Hispanic	1,548,833	55.0
Hispanic/Latino	750,965	26.7
Asian and Pacific Islander	257,461	9.1
Black/African American	154,487	5.5
Native American	15,253	0.5
Other	86,834	3.1

Source: US Census Quickfacts, *San Diego County, California*, (2008)

The San Diego region is also home to 17 federally-recognized sovereign tribal nations of Native Americans, the most of any county in the United States.⁹² Tribal reservations account for approximately four percent of the land within the county’s geographical borders and are located throughout the entire San Diego region. Most Native Americans in the region are from one of four distinct cultural ethnic groups, the Kumeyaay/Diegueno, the Luiseño, the Cupeño, or the Cahuilla.⁹³ In addition, there are other groups of Native Americans in San Diego that are seeking federal recognition, including the Acjachemen/Juaneño people.

Even though a significant number of San Diegans are people of color, the population of the county is not evenly distributed. People of color tend to have lower incomes, tend to be concentrated in certain communities, tend to have less access to parks and recreation, and tend to have higher levels of obesity and diabetes (see Maps SD-1 and SD-2). The cities of Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, and National City are each disproportionately Latino and are all located south of Interstate 8, in close proximity to the border with Mexico. Many of the cities north of the City of San Diego, including Del Mar, Encinitas, Poway, and Solana Beach, have disproportionately fewer Latinos.

The City of San Diego accounts for a large proportion of the total population of the county and its overall ethnic breakdown is similar to the county as a whole. But there is considerable ethnic clustering in certain neighborhoods. Many of the neighborhoods with highest concentrations of people of color are located south of Interstate 8.⁹⁴ For example, the neighborhoods in the central, southeastern, and far southern parts of the city, such as City Heights and Barrio Logan, have a much higher percentage of Latino residents than the city average, while neighborhoods in the western portion of the city, such as La Jolla and Pacific Beach, have a lower percentage of Latino residents than the city average.

The highest concentrations of black residents are in the southeastern neighborhoods of the City of San Diego and the City of Lemon Grove, which is directly to the south-east of the City of San Diego. Meanwhile, black residents make up less than one percent of the population of several northern coastal cities, including Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, and Solana Beach. Asian populations also tend to be clustered, though the highest concentrations of Asians are in the City of San Diego’s northern neighborhoods, such as Mira Mesa and Sorrento Valley, while there are far fewer Asians living in the city’s southern neighborhoods.

On the other side, there are also several cities in the county which are disproportionately non-Hispanic white. Del Mar is over 90% non-Hispanic white and has the lowest percentages of every other racial and ethnic group of any city in San Diego County. Despite the fact that on a countywide basis 55% of the region’s residents are non-Hispanic white, 77% or more of the population is non-Hispanic white in seven cities in San Diego County.⁹⁵

Similar to the population clusters of racial and ethnic groups in the San Diego region, there is an uneven distribution of households by income level in the region. According to income brackets defined by SANDAG and the U.S. Census, nearly 40% of all households in the San Diego region are classified as Extremely Low Income, Very Low Income, or Low Income.⁹⁶ These income brackets are determined by

the amount of household income and the number of people in the household so there is not a definitive dollar amount that defines any of the low income categories.

Most of the cities south of Interstate 8, including Chula Vista, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, Lemon Grove, and National City, have a median household income below the countywide median household income of \$52,192.⁹⁷ Conversely, many of the cities to the north of Interstate 8, such as Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Poway, Santee, and Solana Beach, have median household incomes that exceed the countywide average.

Map SD-2 shows correlations between income and race or ethnicity. There is considerable overlap in patterns of clustering by income level and racial or ethnic group. For example, many of the cities with the highest percentages of people of color are also cities that have low median household incomes. National City, which has the highest percentages of Latinos and Asians and the lowest percentage of non-Hispanic white residents of any city in San Diego County, also has the lowest median household income (\$33,439) of any city in the county.⁹⁸ Alternatively, the City of Del Mar, which has the highest percentage of non-Hispanic whites and the lowest percentage of Latino residents, has the highest median income (\$87,982) of any city in the county.⁹⁹

Of the seven cities in San Diego County that have a median household income that exceeds the countywide median household income, each of these cities is disproportionately non-Hispanic white. Conversely, each of the eight cities in San Diego County that are disproportionately Latino has a median household income that is below the countywide level. Similarly, the three cities with higher percentages of black residents than the county average and the three cities with higher percentages of Asian residents than the county average each have a lower median household income than the countywide figure.

B. Overweight and Obesity

Fully 31% of children in San Diego are overweight or obese.¹⁰⁰ Simply stated, overweight and obesity are part of a health crisis in San Diego. One common measure of weight status for children is Body Mass Index (BMI) in the 95th percentile or higher on the pediatric growth chart. This is particularly significant because 70% of overweight adolescents go on to become overweight adults, with increased risk for a variety of diseases and ailments that diminish quality of life and could lead to premature death.¹⁰¹

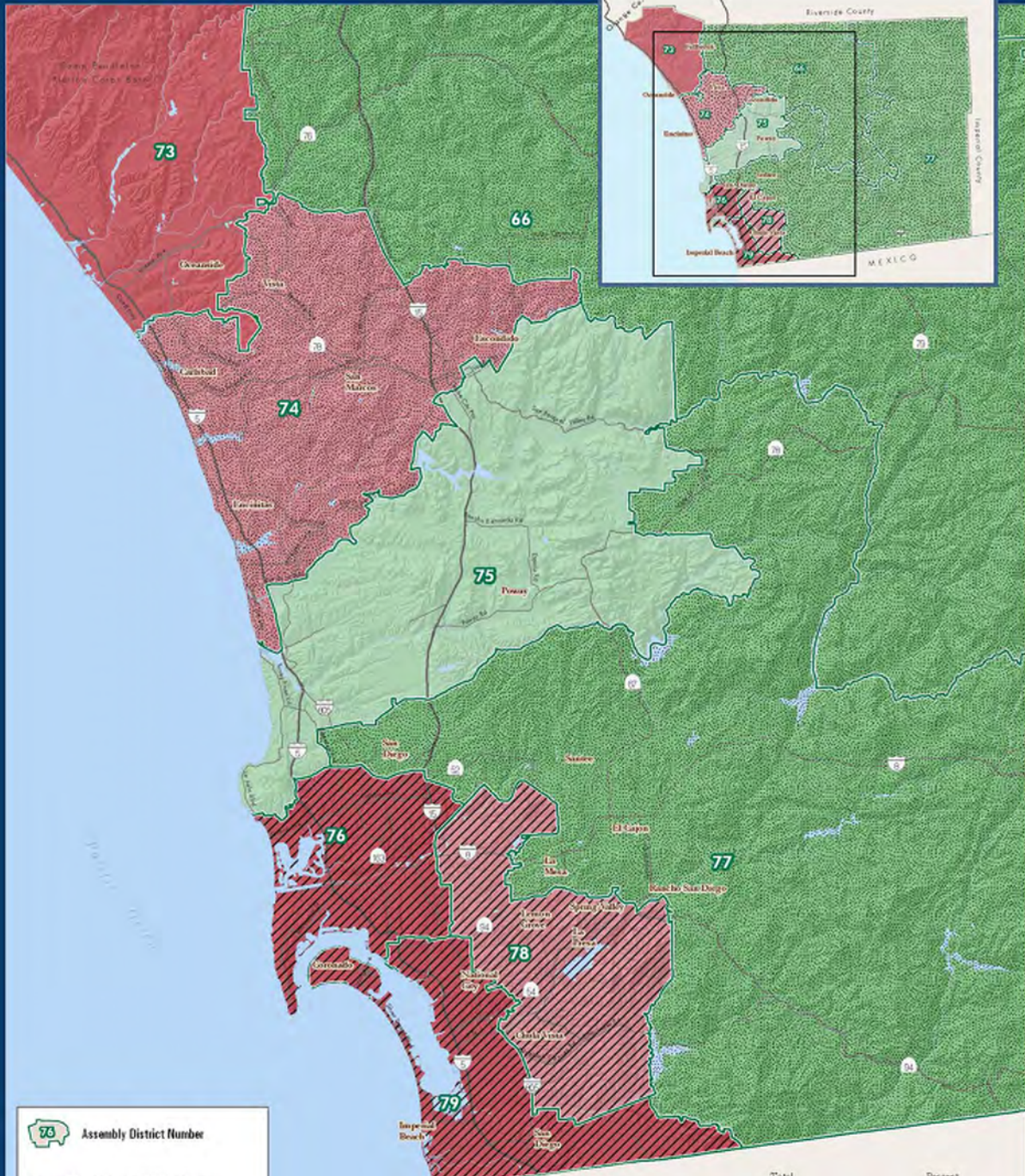
Map SD-3 shows that low income children of color disproportionately lack access to parks and green space and suffer from the highest levels of child obesity. Rates of child obesity are high throughout the San Diego region. The highest concentrations of obese children are in the southwestern portion of the county, which is also one of the most park poor areas, and the area with the highest concentrations of low income households and people of color. Though the rates of child obesity are still too high in the northern coastal cities, this relatively park rich area has lower child obesity rates than the park poor areas south of Interstate 8.

Weight management is also a problem among adults in San Diego, with 54.7% of adults (age 18 and older) in the county being overweight or obese.¹⁰² The magnitude of this crisis is heightened among certain racial and ethnic groups. The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency points out in its Healthy People 2010 San Diego report significant disparities in the prevalence of obesity between non-Hispanic whites and people of color.¹⁰³ People of color are particularly vulnerable because they often live in communities that do not have enough green space for physical activity and/or lack access to healthy food. Rates of overweight and obesity in San Diego County are particularly high for Latinos and African Americans, at 64.5% and 66.2%, respectively. Asian and Pacific Islanders had the lowest rates of overweight and obesity of all ethnic groups. Figure 1 shows the percentage of overweight and obese adults for each racial or ethnic group in San Diego.



Park Access and Child Obesity by State Assembly District

San Diego County



Assembly District Number

Acres of Parks Per 1,000 Residents

- Under 20
- 20 - 50
- 50 - 100
- Over 100

Percent of Obese Children*

- 18% - 23%
- 23% - 27%
- 27% - 34%

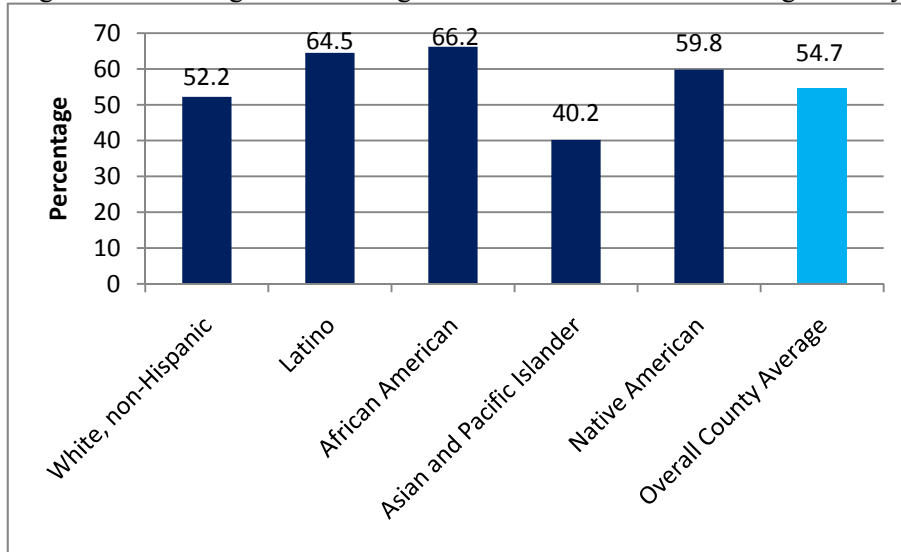
District	Total Population*	Total Population Of Children*	Percent Children*	Percent of Obese Children
66	77,020	20,425	26.5%	26.1%
73	194,956	52,113	26.7%	20.4%
74	422,855	111,180	26.3%	23.0%
75	424,145	107,274	25.3%	18.2%
76	420,041	78,513	18.7%	27.9%
77	419,351	108,892	26.0%	24.3%
78	426,460	118,747	27.8%	28.0%
79	419,530	124,855	29.8%	33.4%

*Total population, total population of children, and percent children represent total populations for each assembly district split at the county line. Districts 66 and 73 extend beyond the San Diego County boundary and therefore may have lower totals than other sources of assembly district demographics.

Source: California Center for Public Health Advocacy, "The Growing Epidemic: Childhood Obesity Rates on the Rise in California Assembly Districts," "Change in Percentage of Overweight Children by California Assembly District, 2001-2004" (2005) available at http://www.publichealthadvocacy.org/policy_briefs/docs/pokowes.pdf



Figure 1. Percentage of Overweight and Obese Adults in San Diego County



Source: California Health Interview Survey, *AskCHIS: San Diego County Health Regions*, (2009)

C. Physical Fitness

The health implications of the lack of places to play are profound. In San Diego County, 67% of fifth, seventh, and ninth graders failed to achieve minimum physical fitness standards during the 2007-2008 school year.¹⁰⁴ This number is on par with state averages of 68% of fifth, seventh, and ninth graders not meeting these standards.¹⁰⁵

There was a wide disparity in fitness rates between racial and ethnic groups. Latino and African American children were far less physically fit than their non-Hispanic white and Asian classmates for all grade levels assessed. For example, 40.5% of non-Hispanic white and 40.7% of Asian fifth grade students in San Diego County achieved physical fitness standards, while only 20.8% of Latino and 26.4% of African American fifth graders were physically fit. Table 2 shows the percentage of San Diego County students that achieved physical fitness standards by ethnicity.

Table 2. Percentage of Physically Fit Students in San Diego County by Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	5 th Grade (%)	7 th Grade (%)	9 th Grade (%)
White, non-Hispanic	40.5	42.6	45.2
Latino	20.8	27.4	26.4
African American	26.4	27.7	27.3
Asian and Pacific Islander	40.7	48.7	45.4
All San Diego County Students	29.8	34.7	34.9

Source: California Department of Education, *Physical Fitness Testing Results for San Diego*, (2009)

D. Physical Education, Student Health and Equal Justice

In California, public schools are legally required to provide physical education.¹⁰⁶ The California Department of Education regularly audits select school districts to monitor their compliance with this state law. Over half the school districts audited between the 2004 and 2009 academic years (94 out of 188) did not enforce physical education laws.¹⁰⁷ San Diego City Unified, the only school district to be audited in San Diego County between 2004 and 2009, was found to be noncompliant during the 2004-2005 school year.¹⁰⁸ With 75% of the student population being children of color and nearly 64%

qualifying for free or reduced meals, the implications of insufficient physical education in school are significant. Many low income children and children of color do not have access to parks and green space in their neighborhoods and physical education represents the best opportunity for these children to be physically active.

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) recently adopted an implementation plan to enforce physical education and civil rights laws that provides a best practice example for other school districts across the state. Working together with LAUSD administrators, diverse allies waged a successful campaign to enforce physical education and civil rights requirements. The campaign included five elements. First, the teachers' union, United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA), organized a public campaign to support physical education. Second, The City Project filed administrative complaints under education and civil rights laws to require the school district to enforce physical education requirements. Third, the school board unanimously adopted a resolution to enforce physical education and civil rights laws. Fourth, the district staff adopted the implementation plan. Fifth, the campaign relied on social science research published by the California Endowment and others highlighting the relationship between physical education, obesity, and health disparities based on race, ethnicity, and income.¹⁰⁹ The plan will ensure that schools provide properly credentialed physical education teachers, meet the physical education minute requirements, maintain reasonable class size averages, and provide quality facilities for physical education.¹¹⁰

A similar strategy could be effective to ensure that all districts in San Diego County provide students with the physical education and equal justice they are entitled to under law. Good schools and a good education include physical education in the curriculum.¹¹¹ If children of color and low income children do not receive physical education in school, they often do not engage in physical activity, because they have no place to play where they live.

V. GREEN ACCESS AND EQUITY IN THE SAN DIEGO REGION

The maps of green access and equity show that not all San Diegans have equal access to parks and open spaces (see Map SD-1, SD-2, and SD-3). There are over 1.2 million total acres of publicly owned green space in the San Diego region and 2,813,835 residents. This equates to 415 total acres per thousand residents of publicly owned park and open space land in the county, far greater than the three acres per thousand resident threshold of park poverty. Though this ratio is extremely high, statistics alone does not tell the whole story.

The majority of San Diego's residents live within the densely populated western third of the county. Most of the green space, however, is found in the middle and eastern portions of the county. Large state parks and national forests cover much of this area. Access to these large parks is mostly limited to cars or other private vehicles. Within the heavily populated western portion of San Diego County, there is considerable variability in the levels of park access among different areas.

A. Proximity to Green Space

The parts of the San Diego region that have the most acres of green space, the middle and eastern portions of the county, are the places where the fewest people live. These parts of the county are home to several large open space parks, including Cleveland National Forest, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. These large parks are tremendous green space assets and provide immense benefits to those who are able to access them, but are difficult to reach for many residents. Because these parks are located a considerable distance from the region's major population centers, accessing these parks requires a car, planning, and significant amounts of time. For residents without access to a car, it is extremely difficult to reach these parks.

The majority of the San Diego region's residents live within the western portion of the county. There are fewer large open space parks in this part of the San Diego region, though there are exceptions such as Mission Trails Regional Park. In general, there are far fewer acres of green space and far more people in

the western portion than elsewhere in the county (see Map SD-1). A closer examination reveals that there is a high level of variability in regard to available green space within this densely populated part of the San Diego region.

Maps SD-1 and SD-2 show that the most park poor areas of the region are also the areas with the highest concentrations of low income households and people of color. Many of these areas are in the southwestern portion of the region, south of Interstate 8, though there are also pockets in places such as Escondido, Vista, and Oceanside in the northern part of the county.

B. Urban Parks

Each of San Diego's incorporated cities owns and operates some amount of park and recreation land, in addition to any county-, state-, or federally-operated green space within that city's borders. Though the amount of city-owned green space in each municipality varies, most cities do not offer very much. Among the 18 cities, 13 are park poor: these 13 cities provide less than three acres of green space per thousand residents. Three of the remaining five cities are on the cusp of being park poor, each offering approximately three acres per thousand residents. Only the cities of San Diego and Encinitas offer significantly more than three acres per thousand residents.¹¹²

The City of San Diego is one exception to the lack of city-operated green space in the densely populated portion of the county. With 39,737 acres of dedicated park and open space land, the city offers approximately 32.5 acres of parks per thousand residents. In addition, the city maintains over 100 joint use agreements with the San Diego Unified School District, allowing recreational use of school facilities by the public outside of school hours.¹¹³

Large urban parks are a particularly noteworthy aspect of the City of San Diego's park system. Covering 1,172 acres, Balboa Park is the largest urban cultural park in the country.¹¹⁴ In addition to active and passive recreation, Balboa Park is home to botanical gardens, 15 museums, the Old Globe Theatre, and the San Diego Zoo. Most importantly, Balboa Park is centrally located and easy to access via public transit. As a result of its range of recreation options and its location, Balboa Park is widely accessible to many San Diegans and serves as one of the most important green space resources in the region.

Mission Trails Regional Park and Mission Bay are other examples of large urban parks within the City of San Diego. Mission Trails Regional Park is a 5,800-acre open space preserve located just a few miles outside of downtown San Diego. While it is possible to access this park via public transit, the trip requires several bus transfers from the region's most park poor areas and can be quite time consuming.¹¹⁵ Mission Trails Regional Park is highly utilized, especially on weekends, but San Diegans who do not have a car have a difficult time reaching the park. Improving transit options to the park will allow a diversity of users to access the park and can also help moderate traffic congestion and reduce transportation-related emissions that impact local air quality, as well as climate change.

Mission Bay is another one of San Diego's unique recreational resources. With over 4,000 acres of land and water, Mission Bay offers a mix of active and passive recreation that is both land- and water-based. This park is the largest man-made public aquatic recreation center in the world and is also home to Sea World.¹¹⁶ Mission Bay offers recreational opportunities that are not available anywhere else in San Diego. The park is accessible via public transit, allowing a much larger segment of the population to access the park.

Even though the City of San Diego does provide sufficient green space on average, the distribution of that green space is not even. With large open space parks like Mission Trails Regional Park in close proximity, the northern neighborhoods have so much available green space that the overall city average far exceeds three acres per thousand residents. Map SD-2 shows that residents of the central, southeastern, and far southern neighborhoods of the City of San Diego, however, do not have enough available green space. The map also shows that many of these park poor neighborhoods are also income poor and have high concentrations of people of color.

C. Beaches

San Diego County is home to 70 miles of coastline along the Pacific Ocean. There are dozens of city and state beaches throughout the county offering a diverse range of recreational opportunities. Beaches are important recreational resources that offer significant benefits, including physical activity, relaxation, economic vitality, and environmental services.¹¹⁷ Though the beaches are open to everyone, accessing the beach is not always easy for residents who do not live near the coast. As a result, not all San Diego residents have equal access to the beach.

Eight cities within San Diego County are located on the coast. The population of most of these cities is disproportionately non-Hispanic white. Carlsbad, Coronado, Del Mar, Encinitas, and Solana Beach each have non-Hispanic white populations that exceed the county average by 20% or more. Moreover, while the City of San Diego's ethnic mix is similar to the county average, the neighborhoods along the coast, including La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Sunset Cliffs, and several others, are all disproportionately non-Hispanic white.

Table 3. Population of San Diego County Cities with Coastal Access by Racial and Ethnic Group

City	Total Population	White, non-Hispanic (%)	Latino (%)	Asian and Pacific Islander (%)	Black (%)	Native American (%)
Carlsbad	78,247	80.5	11.7	4.4	0.9	0.3
Coronado	24,100	78.6	9.8	3.9	5.0	0.5
Del Mar	4,389	90.9	3.9	2.9	0.3	0.3
Encinitas	58,014	79.0	14.8	3.2	0.5	0.3
Imperial Beach	26,992	43.5	40.1	6.8	5.0	0.7
Oceanside	161,029	53.6	30.2	6.6	5.9	0.4
San Diego	1,223,400	49.4	25.4	13.9	7.6	0.3
Solana Beach	12,979	79.0	14.8	3.4	0.5	0.2
County Average	2,813,833	55.0	26.7	9.1	5.5	0.5

Source: SANDAG, *Population by Race and Hispanic/Latino Origin (2000)*

The two cities that are exceptions are Imperial Beach and Oceanside. Similar to many of the cities in the southern part of the county, Imperial Beach has a disproportionate number of Latino residents. This is likely due to the fact that it is adjacent to the U.S.-Mexico border. With its proximity to Camp Pendleton, Oceanside is home to many military personnel and their families. As a result, many of its residents are originally from other parts of the country and the population is more ethnically and racially diverse than other parts of San Diego County.¹¹⁸ Military pay also tends to lower the average income in Oceanside compared to other beachfront communities.¹¹⁹ Table 3 shows the racial and ethnic composition of the San Diego County cities with coastal access.

D. Forests and Mountains

The mountains are a well-known feature of the San Diego region, including the Laguna Mountains, Cuyamaca Mountains, Palomar Mountains, parts of the Peninsular Ranges and several others. The majority of the mountains in San Diego County are in the sparsely populated central and eastern portions of the county. While the region's mountains offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities, accessing these resources can be difficult because they are located far distances from the major population centers in the San Diego region and transit options are limited.

San Diego County is also home to 287,500 acres of the Cleveland National Forest, including the Descanso Ranger District and part of the Palomar Ranger District. Cleveland National Forest supports many forms of recreation, including camping, hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, hunting, and fishing.¹²⁰ There are also four wilderness areas in the Cleveland National Forest, including three wilderness areas covering a total of 37,000 acres within the portion of Cleveland National Forest in San Diego County. Although the forest accounts for a large portion of the open space within San Diego County, accessing Cleveland National Forest requires long drives for many San Diego residents.

VI. UNDERSTANDING DISPARITIES IN LAND USE, HOUSING, AND PARK ACCESS

The history of San Diego is relevant to understand how disparities in green access within the region came to be and what opportunities exist for making green access more equitable. The reality that low income people of color disproportionately lack equal access to parks, beaches, trails, and forests is not an accident of unplanned growth, and not the result of an efficient free market distribution of land, but the continuing legacy of a history and pattern of discriminatory land use, housing and economic policies and practices. While this history might be viewed as controversial, the intention in presenting it is not to be confrontational or divisive. Instead, the intention is to understand the root of green access disparities in order to find solutions to overcome these inequities.¹²¹

San Diego is blessed with a diverse array of people and cultures. Native Americans have inhabited the area for more than 10,000 years.¹²² The first Europeans to set foot in the region were Spanish explorers that arrived in 1542, though Europeans did not settle in the region until 1769.¹²³ In 1850, San Diego became one of the state's original counties when California was ceded to the United States by Mexico.¹²⁴

Immigration to San Diego increased in the late 1800's with the arrival of Chinese and Japanese workers.¹²⁵ Almost as soon as these new residents arrived, they faced discrimination. Laws were passed banning both groups from owning land and forcing them to live only in certain areas.¹²⁶ An Anti-Chinese Club formed to protest that Chinese workers were taking jobs building the railroads from white people.¹²⁷ Japanese residents faced continued segregation and discrimination until all people of Japanese ancestry in San Diego County south of the San Dieguito River were sent to internment camps as part of the federal government's forced relocation program during World War II.¹²⁸

At the time San Diego became part of the United States, some of the land remained in the hands of Mexican landowners. As more and more non-Hispanic white settlers came to the area, the Mexican landowners became increasingly marginalized.¹²⁹ Ironically, as the new white residents developed businesses and farms throughout San Diego, they became increasingly dependent on a Mexican work force. The non-Hispanic white landowners sought to maintain their political, social, and economic power by forcing the Mexican and Mexican-American workers to live in colonias and barrios and by passing discriminatory policies such as "greaser laws," which permitted the harassment of Mexicans.¹³⁰ During the Great Depression in the 1930s, many Mexicans and Mexican-Americans were forced out of San Diego and repatriated back to Mexico¹³¹ based on unsubstantiated claims that they were taking jobs and using scarce welfare resources.¹³²

Real estate agents played a proactive role enforcing residential segregation through their practices.¹³³ In 1907, the San Diego Chamber of Commerce rejected the sale of a large plot of land to a real estate developer who wanted to build housing for African American workers because of fear over "negro colonization."¹³⁴

Racially restrictive housing covenants were used against people of color throughout the first half of the 20th century. The California Supreme Court sanctioned restrictive covenants in 1919 and California courts continued to uphold them as late as 1947. The Federal Housing Authority not only sanctioned racially restrictive housing covenants, but also developed a recommended formula for their inclusion in subdivision contracts.¹³⁵ Restrictive city ordinances, housing covenants, and other racially discriminatory measures dramatically limited access by people of color to housing, jobs, schools, playgrounds, parks, beaches, restaurants, transportation, and other public accommodations.¹³⁶

The landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *Shelley v. Kramer*¹³⁷ in 1948 and *Barrows v.*

*Jackson*¹³⁸ in 1951 made racially restrictive housing covenants illegal and unenforceable. Even after those decisions, however, blacks and other people of color were excluded from white neighborhoods.¹³⁹ After the end of World War II, many individual white homeowners, and public and private institutions in the housing market, continued to prevent African Americans from living in communities that were not already black.¹⁴⁰ Even as the black population grew around the war industry during the 1940s, some of the area's major employers, such as Vultee Aircraft, had publicly known policies of not employing people of color.¹⁴¹

Discrimination in housing continued through the late 1960s in San Diego. State laws in California continued to go back and forth in their prohibition of housing discrimination during this time. Laws such as the Unruh Civil Rights Act¹⁴² and the Rumford Fair Housing Act¹⁴³ represented progress in guaranteeing that no one could be discriminated against on the basis of their ethnicity, gender, or family status for housing and employment.

Conversely, laws such as Proposition 14 sought to permit housing discrimination in California. This law, which was approved by nearly 65% of California voters in 1964, allowed the seller of a property to deny the right to buy, lease, or rent that property to anyone they did not want to live there,¹⁴⁴ effectively nullifying the Rumford Act.¹⁴⁵ The San Diego Realty Board, through its Committee on Home Protection, publicly advocated for the passage of Proposition 14, which had been placed on the ballot by the California Real Estate Association. It was not until the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 1967 in *Reitman v. Mulkey*,¹⁴⁶ a case originating in neighboring Orange County that Proposition 14 was found to violate both the California and United States constitutions and set aside.

Prof. Ira Katznelson's book *When Affirmative Action Was White* documents how racial inequities were aggravated by economic policies dating back to the Great Depression, New Deal and World War II that had the impact of excluding blacks and increasing income, wealth, and class disparities. These laws and policies that perpetuated and aggravated racial inequalities were shaped by Southern Congressmen to ensure that state and local officials would retain their discretion to invest economic recovery dollars in line with discriminatory laws, policies and practices based on the unequal distribution of public and private resources based on race. This includes, for example, discriminatory housing subsidies and Social Security, which did not cover domestic workers or agricultural workers who were disproportionately black. A continuing legacy of discriminatory economic policies is that the average black family in the United States holds just 10% of the assets of the average white family.¹⁴⁷

Though segregated housing and discriminatory employment practices are no longer legal in San Diego, inequalities in park access and recreation that exist in San Diego today are, in part, a legacy of such laws, policies and practices.

VII. LEGAL JUSTIFICATIONS FOR EQUAL ACCESS TO PARKS AND RECREATION

Advocates in the urban park movement have creatively combined strategic campaigns including a variety of legal theories to create new great urban parks and to protect public access to public lands, including state and federal civil rights and environmental laws and First Amendment rights to freedom of association and expression in parks and beaches.¹⁴⁸ San Diego faces the opportunity to affirmatively comply with these laws.

Federal and state laws prohibit both intentional discrimination and unjustified discriminatory impacts for which there are less discriminatory alternatives in the provision of public resources, including access to parks and other public lands.

Recipients of public funds, such as the County of San Diego and the region's incorporated cities, are prohibited from engaging in practices that have the intent or the *effect* of discriminating based on race or ethnicity. Title VI of the Civil Rights of 1964 and its implementing regulations prohibit both (1) intentional discrimination based on race, color or national origin, and (2) unjustified discriminatory impacts for which there are less discriminatory alternatives, by recipients of federal financial assistance.¹⁴⁹ An important purpose of the statutory equal justice framework is to ensure that recipients of

public funds do not maintain policies or practices that result in discrimination based on race, color or national origin.¹⁵⁰

Stated in positive terms, government officials, park planners and advocates in the San Diego region should analyze green space access and equity in planning for and investing in parks and recreation. Recipients of federal financial assistance under civil rights laws and principles must prepare an equity analysis and plan that includes the following elements:

- (1) A clear description of what is planned;
- (2) An analysis of the impact on all populations, including minority and low income populations;
- (3) An analysis of available alternatives;
- (4) The documented inclusion of minority and low income populations in the study and decision-making process; and
- (5) An implementation plan to address any concerns identified in the equity analysis.

This equity plan is consistent with the equity analysis and plan that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has required the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) to conduct as a condition of receiving federal funds under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and its regulations.¹⁵¹

This equity plan is consistent with the requirements for federal funding imposed by then-Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Andrew Cuomo on the City of Los Angeles for the site that is now the Los Angeles State Historic Park at the Cornfield. Secretary Cuomo withheld federal funds for a proposed warehouse project at the site unless there was a full environmental impact statement including an environmental justice analysis that considered the park alternative and the impact on people of color. Secretary Cuomo acted in response to a campaign by community advocates including The City Project based on civil rights and environmental laws.¹⁵² As a result of this action, the 32 acre abandoned rail yard -- the last vast open space in downtown Los Angeles -- could have been warehouses. Instead, it's a park. The Los Angeles Times called the community victory "a heroic monument" and "a symbol of hope."¹⁵³ As reported in the Times, advocates "organized a civil rights challenge that claimed the project was the result of discriminatory land-use policies that had long deprived minority neighborhoods of parks."¹⁵⁴

The regulations that every federal agency has enacted pursuant to Title VI bar criteria or methods of administration by recipients of federal funds that have the effect of subjecting persons to discrimination because of their race, color, or national origin, or have the effect of defeating or substantially impairing accomplishment of the objectives of a program with respect to individuals of a particular race, color, or national origin.¹⁵⁵ These regulations embody the discriminatory impact standard. Intent to discriminate is not required under this standard.

To receive federal funds, a recipient must certify that its programs and activities comply with Title VI and its regulations.¹⁵⁶ In furtherance of this obligation, recipients of federal financial assistance such as the county must collect, maintain, and provide upon request timely, complete, and accurate compliance information.¹⁵⁷

The Office of Management and Budget has circulated guidance specifying that recipients of federal funds, including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), are to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as well as other equal opportunity laws and principles.¹⁵⁸ The United States Department of Justice under President Obama has re-emphasized the need for federal agencies to enforce, and recipients of federal funds to proactively comply with, equal justice laws and principles including Title VI.¹⁵⁹ The Ninth Circuit has recently condemned the United States Environmental Protection Agency for its pattern of failing to investigate Environmental Justice complaints.¹⁶⁰

California law also prohibits both intentional discrimination and unjustified discriminatory impacts under Government Code section 11135 and its regulations, which are analogous to Title VI and its regulations.¹⁶¹ The regulations pursuant to 11135 bar criteria or methods of administration that have the purpose or effect of subjecting a person to discrimination on the basis of ethnic group identification or color. Intent to discriminate is not required under the discriminatory impact standard.¹⁶² In addition,

California law defines environmental justice as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”¹⁶³

The inquiry under the disparate impact standard is: (1) whether a practice has a disproportionate impact based on race, color or national origin; (2) if so, the recipient of public funds such as the County bears the burden of proving that such action is justified by business necessity; and (3) even if the action would otherwise be justified, the action is prohibited if there are less discriminatory alternatives to accomplish the same objective.¹⁶⁴

The following is evidence of intentional discrimination: (1) the impact of the action and whether it bears more heavily on one group than another; (2) a history of discrimination; (3) departures from substantive norms; (4) departures from procedural norms in reaching a decision; (5) whether the decision maker knows of the harm its decision will cause; and (6) a pattern or practice of discrimination.¹⁶⁵

SANDAG addresses environmental justice and social equity as a chapter in its Regional Comprehensive Plan.¹⁶⁶ This planning document not only calls for equal justice in regard to a healthy environment, economic prosperity, and housing, but also in terms of public facilities, urban form, and transportation. Further, SANDAG calls for the participation of all residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, or income status, in the community planning process.¹⁶⁷ These directives can help promote improved access to existing green space for all San Diego residents, as well as the preservation and maintenance of urban green spaces in the San Diego region.

The City of San Diego addresses equal access to green space as an environmental justice issue in its General Plan.¹⁶⁸ Updated in 2008, the Land Use and Community Planning Element includes a section on Environmental Justice that includes 16 policies that fall under the categories of Planning Process, Public Facilities, Transportation, and Environmental Protection. The Environmental Justice section of this General Plan Element states the city’s goal of providing “equitable distribution of public facilities, infrastructure, and services throughout all communities.”¹⁶⁹ Further, the policies for implementing the environmental justice goals for public facilities¹⁷⁰ explicitly call for public facilities, infrastructure, and services to benefit communities in need and for planning decisions to include all community residents.¹⁷¹

The California Coastal Commission adopted a local coastal plan requiring maximized public access to the beach while ensuring the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes in 2002.¹⁷² This was the first time an agency implemented the statutory definition of environmental justice under California law. Though this coastal plan was specific to Malibu, the Commissioner Pedro Nava expressed a desire that the ruling would set a precedent for other communities, ensuring that visitors are not excluded because of their income or race.¹⁷³ The Commission adopted the provision in response to the advocacy of The City Project on behalf of a diverse alliance.¹⁷⁴

Planning and administrative processes are available to achieve compliance with civil rights laws and overcome discriminatory impacts. Elected officials should be increasingly sensitive to, and held accountable for, the impact of their actions on communities of color and low income communities, especially now that people of color are in the majority in forty-eight out of the 100 largest cities in the country.¹⁷⁵ Voluntary compliance is the preferred method of applying the civil rights laws.

VIII. PARK VICTORIES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN SAN DIEGO

A. Park Victories

1. Panhe and San Onofre State Beach

The northern-most part of the San Diego coastline is a 3.5-mile stretch of beach known as San Onofre State Beach Park. This 3,000 acre state park is not only the site of Trestles Beach, one of the most famous surfing beaches in the entire world, but is also a popular destination for families, hikers, bird watchers, sunbathers, and campers. Its 2.7 million visitors per year make San Onofre the fifth most popular state

park in California. San Onofre is also considered an environmentally sensitive area that provides critical habitat to a number of rare animals and plants including the pocket mouse.¹⁷⁶

San Onofre is the location of Panhe. Panhe is the site of a 9,000-year old village that is still a sacred, ceremonial, cultural, and burial site for the Native American Acjachemen people. Panhe has historical significance as the site of the first baptism in California and the first close contact between Spanish explorers, Catholic missionaries, and Native Americans in Southern California. The Acjachemen people built Mission San Juan Capistrano.¹⁷⁷

A public-private toll road agency in Orange County has sought to build a toll road called the Foothill-South Toll Road through the park and Panhe.

In one of the greatest victories for Sacred Sites and the environment in California, a diverse alliance including United Coalition to Protect Panhe, The City Project, surfers, and mainstream conservationists have saved Panhe and San Onofre and stopped the toll road. After the largest hearing in its history, the California Coastal Commission voted 8-2 against the toll road in February 2008. Commissioner Mary Shallenberger said the impact on Native Americans was reason enough to stop the toll road. The U.S. Department of Commerce upheld the Coastal Commission in December 2008 after a ten-hour public hearing. Recently, the United States Navy and the Marines have vetoed an alternative route through Camp Pendleton that would risk the lives of Marines heading into battle.¹⁷⁸

2. Chicano Park

Barrio Logan, in central San Diego, traditionally has been underserved by the city park system. By the 1940s, Barrio Logan had developed into one of the largest Mexican-American residential communities on the West Coast, boasting as many as 20,000 residents.¹⁷⁹ Following the end of World War II, the city began rezoning the area to allow industrial operations and junkyards into the neighborhood and next to schools, slowly causing many residents to leave the community. A series of other events, such as the construction of Interstate 5 in 1963 and the construction of the Coronado Bay Bridge in 1969, caused further migration out of the neighborhood.¹⁸⁰

The neighborhood's residents organized and persuaded the City of San Diego to preserve the land underneath Coronado Bay Bridge as a 1.8-acre public park. Despite the city's promises, on April 22, 1970 -- which coincidentally is also the date of the first Earth Day -- the residents of Barrio Logan found construction crews beginning work on a new headquarters and parking lot for the California Highway Patrol on the site of the planned park. Community members organized as the Chicano Park Steering Committee and demonstrated on the site in protest, ultimately halting construction of the CHP facilities.¹⁸¹ After months of negotiation, on June 30, 1970, the city and state officially authorized the construction of a park on the site.

The park is now known as Chicano Park and represents a victory for green access, cultural preservation, and the people of Barrio Logan. To further demonstrate the park's significance to the local community, a group of artists led by Salvador Torres painted giant murals celebrating Chicano history and culture in and above the park on the pylons supporting the bridge. These works of art are the largest set of Chicano murals in the world. The park is designated as a San Diego Historical Site and remains an integral part of the social fabric of not only the residents of Barrio Logan but of the entire San Diego community.¹⁸²

B. Opportunities to Improve Green Access and Equity

Despite the abundance of green space in the San Diego region, not all of the region's residents enjoy sufficient access to these resources. Fortunately, there are opportunities to correct the existing inequities. Projects recommended below can improve future access to green space in the San Diego region. Some are already being implemented by dedicated coalitions of concerned citizens, community groups, and government agencies. They are presented here because they are either still in the planning phase or are only partially completed. Other ideas have not yet been implemented in the San Diego region but offer

hope that green access can be improved for all.

Opportunities to improve park access should be prioritized in the most park poor and income poor areas in the San Diego region, such as the southwestern portion of the county that also has disproportionate number of people of color. Some of these opportunities below apply to the entire San Diego region, but should be prioritized in these park poor and income poor areas.

1. Transit to Trails

San Diego should develop and implement a strategic plan for a “Transit to Trails” program to take children and their families and friends on fun, educational and healthy outings to parks, beaches, forests, mountains, lakes, deserts, and other public green spaces. A Transit to Trails program could serve all the people of the region, but would be particularly useful if targeted towards low income families with limited or no access to cars, who are also disproportionately people of color.¹⁸³

A Transit to Trails program provides green access for people who otherwise would not have choices. Program participants are transported to these green spaces via public transportation, such as busses. The trips are led by experienced nature guides and offer participants the chance to not only experience and connect with nature but also to learn about physical activity, healthy eating, and cultural and historical resources. Transit to Trails provides a way for these residents to access more of San Diego’s green spaces.

Implementing Transit to Trails requires relatively low levels of oversight and administrative support. Coordinating trips requires little more than willing participants, guides, equipment and supplies, and transportation. Community groups can work with guides to design a series of programs that caters to the local community. As a public service program, Transit to Trails administrators can seek donations or discounts on equipment and supplies from local retailers. Likewise, transportation can be coordinated with municipal transit operators when possible or through school districts that have school buses available for trips on weekends or over the summer.

A successful pilot Transit to Trails program has been implemented in Los Angeles County through a creative partnership between Anahuak Youth Association, Mountains and Recreation Conservation Authority, National Park Service, and The City Project. Inner city youth who live within an hour of the mountains and beaches have gone on trips to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, a vast green space resource that most had never visited before.¹⁸⁴

The Southern California Association of Governments (“SCAG”) addresses the need to improve access to parks and recreation for all, particularly low-income communities, in the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Environmental Justice Report. According to SCAG:

Public parks serve all residents. . . . However, not all neighborhoods and people have equal access to these public resources,” including local, state, and national parks. A multi-agency effort must be undertaken in order to further address and remedy the issue of inequity of park access.¹⁸⁵

Transit to Trails is one remedy for inequitable park access. San Diego is a prime candidate for a Transit to Trails program because there is so much open space land within close proximity of a large population base. San Diego rightly takes much pride in its natural environment. Transit to Trails would help ensure that everyone in San Diego has the opportunity to access green space.¹⁸⁶

2. Canyons and Interconnected Regional Canyon Park System

Protecting and restoring the San Diego region’s canyons is another opportunity to improve access to green space throughout the entire region. San Diego County’s unique geography with steep hillsides, canyons, and narrow, intermittent streams has resulted in hundreds of islands of natural open space. There are 20,000 acres of canyons that are distributed throughout the San Diego region,¹⁸⁷ including many in

neighborhoods that are currently underserved by the existing park system. Canyons offer a way for San Diego's residents to access nature and open space within their own local communities. They provide many important social and environmental benefits, such as opportunities for physical activity and recreation, educational opportunities for learning about the local environment, visual and psychological relief from the urban environment, community pride, and active transportation routes that people can use to walk throughout the community. Additionally, canyons provide vital environmental functions like filtering urban runoff and serving as critical habitat for plants and wildlife.

Unfortunately, many of San Diego's canyons have been neglected or taken for granted over the years and, as a result, have become inaccessible and unwelcoming, and are perceived as unsafe. A large number of canyons have become overgrown with weeds and other non-native vegetation, making the land difficult to walk through and have also suffered from erosion and landslides. Many canyons are littered with trash or are home to encampments of illegal activity or vagrants. Another significant issue is that urban development has led to individual canyons becoming isolated from each other, creating islands of green space instead of an interconnected, open space system. The effect has been to severely reduce access to canyons and many of the recreational opportunities they provide.

There is a great opportunity to transform these neglected open space canyons and creeks into healthy natural green spaces that local residents can access and benefit from. This is a particularly promising opportunity for improving green access because restoring and protecting the region's canyons provides benefits to the entire breadth of the San Diego region. Over the past few years a movement to restore many of San Diego's canyons has steadily grown.¹⁸⁸ Networks of concerned citizens organized into friends groups are supporting a significant number of individual canyons¹⁸⁹ and momentum has increased for the establishment of a regional park system connecting San Diego's canyons.¹⁹⁰

There is evidence of the positive impact from reclaiming canyons from sites such as Swan Canyon in City Heights, where residents are taking ownership of their neighborhood open spaces and a sense of community pride is building while they are also being physically active as they convert an economic and social liability into a cherished community asset. Because of existing inequities in access to green space, it is particularly important that canyons in communities with large numbers of people of color, such as Swan Canyon, are the focus of such restoration and protection efforts. Successfully restoring and protecting the San Diego region's canyons to improve green access for all San Diegans requires the participation of local community members. Community participation helps ensure that restoration activities support the needs of local residents. These local groups must continue to be supported, both physically and financially, and efforts should be made to bring these groups together under larger coalitions.

At the same time as the local restoration activities are taking place, these broader coalitions should continue to work for the creation of an interconnected regional canyon park system. Realizing the full potential of the benefits that canyons can provide to the people of San Diego requires the canyons to be linked to one another. Moreover, connecting the canyons will physically and symbolically connect all San Diegans and exponentially increase opportunities to access green space within the county.

3. Community Gardens

Community gardens are a great way to get community members outdoors and interacting with the environment while also providing a local source of healthy food. These benefits apply to everyone in San Diego but are particularly helpful to low income communities where green space is scarce and healthy food options are limited. Community gardens also offer the opportunity for local residents to take pride in their community, provide a venue for community relationship building, serve as educational forums, beautify neighborhoods, and provide physical, visual, and psychological relief from the urban environment.¹⁹¹ For residents with roots in other countries, community gardens present the opportunity to grow vegetables from their native country that may not be available at local markets. This can be especially important in neighborhoods like City Heights that are home to not only a diversity of cultures but also many recent immigrants. The best part is that community gardening is an activity that anyone,

from children to senior citizens and everyone in between, can participate in.¹⁹²

First Lady Michelle Obama has made community gardens a top priority in her campaign to reduce obesity, increase healthy living, and empower low income families to eat more fruits and vegetables. She is leading by example by creating a food garden at the White House.¹⁹³ In April 2010, Mrs. Obama visited New Roots Community Farm in City Heights to demonstrate to the entire country how community gardens in the San Diego region are improving the lives of local residents.¹⁹⁴ With her ability to influence federal policy to support such initiatives, in addition to funding from a \$16 million grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention intended to support nutritious eating and physical activity,¹⁹⁵ the San Diego region's community gardening and urban farming movement is primed to really take off.

There are currently over 30 community gardens throughout San Diego, but there is the potential for many more.¹⁹⁶ Of the gardens currently in existence, different gardens cater to different needs. Gardens vary in size from very large to very small. Some are completely open to the public while others have waiting lists or have restrictions that only local community members can have plots. Developing more community gardens will help ensure that everyone in San Diego has the opportunity to grow their own food if they want to. Maintaining community gardens at schools and incorporating them into the curriculum is a particularly effective way to improve green access for youth while also teaching them the importance of eating a balanced diet and providing the foods they need to eat well.

Starting a community garden requires only a small plot of land, seeds, a minimal amount of gardening equipment, and the expertise of an experienced gardener.¹⁹⁷ Funding requirements are small and gardens in low income communities where residents can not afford dues for upkeep can appeal to local businesses, public health organizations, or community benefit organizations for funding to keep the garden in order. There are many experienced gardeners in San Diego and an active community gardening movement already exists in many communities.¹⁹⁸

Unfortunately, in many places in the region, including the City of San Diego, the process for acquiring the necessary permits to create a community garden is burdensome and expensive. Local governments should work to streamline the permitting process so that the region's residents can benefit from these resources. Efforts should be made to expand the reach of community gardens and to ensure that traditionally underserved neighborhoods are targeted as sites for new gardens.

4. Otay River Valley and Otay Valley Regional Park

The area extending from the south of San Diego Bay down to the US-Mexico border is one of the most park poor areas in the San Diego region. Much of this disproportionately Latino part of San Diego County also lies in the Otay River Valley. The County of San Diego and the cities of San Diego and Chula Vista have entered into a multijurisdictional agreement to create the Otay Valley Regional Park in an effort to improve green access in the area.¹⁹⁹ There are plans to create a nearly 9,000 acre park and open space which will include playing fields, picnic areas, bicycle trails, and horse riding trails, as well as hiking trails and open space.²⁰⁰ These plans also call for the preservation of Native American archaeological sites and other historically relevant resources.²⁰¹ The park will also create trails to connect the watersheds of the Otay River, Tijuana River, and Sweetwater River. These trails serve the vital function of providing active transportation routes for the area's residents, as well as avenues for recreation.

At this time, only a small portion of the planned park is open for public use.²⁰² At first, awareness of the park was limited but recent efforts to publicize the park in both English and Spanish have helped increase the number of park visitors.²⁰³ Developing the rest of the planned park will greatly improve the green access for local residents. It is also important that the local communities continue to be informed about the park and future plans for its completion. Park officials should take into account that English is not the primary language for many of the area's residents and distribute all information about the park in Spanish, as well as English. Additionally, efforts should be made to allow participation by Spanish speakers in planning and implementation activities. Funding for translation services for park materials should be included in future budgets and translation should be made a priority.

Otay Valley Regional Park has the potential to become one of San Diego's next great green spaces. By balancing active and passive recreation with large open space preserves, this park will be able to meet multiple green access needs in an area of San Diego that is home to many low income people of color. Communicating with the local community about ongoing planning and implementation activities is critical to the park's success in improving green access for these residents.

5. Chollas Creek Restoration

Chollas Creek is a 32-mile creek and watershed area that runs through many of the most ethnically and racially diverse parts of the San Diego region, including the neighborhoods of City Heights, Barrio Logan, and Encanto in the City of San Diego and the City of Lemon Grove.²⁰⁴ Unfortunately this waterway, which drains to San Diego Bay and eventually into the ocean, has been severely neglected and has become highly polluted, overrun with non-native vegetation, and drastically altered by urban development over the course of many years.²⁰⁵ The restoration of Chollas Creek has been discussed for decades and enhancement activities are currently underway on parts of the creek through the Chollas Creek Enhancement Plan.²⁰⁶ Much of the part of the creek that is being restored is currently protected by the City of San Diego as open space. The goal is to eventually develop this area into a linear park based around a well-functioning creek and wetlands that can potentially be a site for both active and passive recreation.²⁰⁷ Ongoing projects are helping to cleanup and prevent future illegal dumping and remove non-native plants but significant work remains. Meanwhile, other parts of the creek and watershed are not being protected at all and are less frequently targeted for cleanup projects.²⁰⁸

Restoring the entire length of Chollas Creek and creating an urban park designed to meet the needs of the diverse communities that live in the area is a great way to improve green access for local residents, including many people of color, who currently lack adequate access to parks and open spaces. The vision laid out in the Chollas Creek Enhancement Plan presents a framework for creating much needed green space in this park poor area. Restoration plans should be expanded to cover the entire length of the creek. Ensuring that a new park system along Chollas Creek meets the green space needs of the people who live near it will also require including local community members in all planning activities and decision making.

6. San Diego River Revitalization

The San Diego River flows for 52 miles from its headwaters in the Cuyamaca Mountains in eastern San Diego County all the way to the Pacific Ocean. The river has been home to human inhabitants for over 8,000 years and provides significant recreational, cultural, ecological, and educational value.²⁰⁹ Unfortunately, after years of serving as an illegal trash dump and having polluted urban runoff drain directly into its waters, the health of the San Diego River and its watershed has declined severely.²¹⁰

In response, concerned citizens, the cities of San Diego and Santee, the County of San Diego, and the state came together in hopes of developing a plan to restore the health of the river. As a result, several intergovernmental and citizen groups dedicated to the restoration, revitalization, and enhancement of the San Diego River and the recreational opportunities associated with the river were formed.

Working individually and in collaboration, these organizations have developed a vision for a San Diego River Park that goes beyond ecology and hydrology to incorporate the human element into the revitalization of the river. The proposed San Diego River Park will be an interconnected system of parks, trails, open spaces, public places, and community facilities supporting active and passive recreation along the length of the river.²¹¹

This project is currently in the planning phase. A San Diego River Park Draft Master Plan has been created and is currently in the process of being reviewed and revised.²¹² Once the Master Plan is finalized and adopted, Specific Plans for the individual parks and open spaces that will collectively make up the San Diego River Park must be approved. Making this vision a reality will also require the acquisition of

some land from private owners. A timeline for completion of this project has not been set but community support for the San Diego River Park is high.²¹³

The creation of the San Diego River Park system will greatly improve green access for all San Diegans and particularly for those who live along the river corridor. There is a wide range of cultures and ethnic and racial groups living in proximity to the San Diego River. With plans calling for a large and interconnected park system, there is a tremendous opportunity for an inclusive park that satisfies all the needs and desires of its diverse set of users. In order for this to happen, local communities must be included in all of the planning activities and the parties responsible for creating the park should proactively seek input from local community members.

The City of Los Angeles published the report *Los Angeles River Access and Use: Balancing Equitable Actions with Responsible Stewardship* (the River Report) in 2009, which could serve as a best practice example for the greening of the San Diego River. As noted in the River Report:

Numerous . . . organizations have stressed the importance of making sure that the River's revitalization addresses environmental justice issues (See, e.g., the City Project's work at: www.cityprojectca.org). Of key concern in Los Angeles is the growing disparity of access to and use of open space resources, including parks, ball fields, and natural areas by those living in low income communities of color. Whole generations are growing up in Los Angeles without any meaningful relationship to the natural environment. . . . The River offers an opportunity to redress environmental justice problems by not only providing numerous new green spaces, but also by ensuring free access to them.

The River Report emphasizes the need, for example, for compliance with equal justice laws and principles as one of the six major goals for River revitalization; ensuring Environmental Justice along the River; Transit to Trails; addressing human health and childhood obesity as part of River revitalization; and providing economic justice and local green jobs for all along the River.²¹⁴

Creating the San Diego River Park can represent a landmark river revitalization project that can serve as a best practice example for other rivers throughout California and the United States. A project of this magnitude requires significant political will and substantial funding. It is therefore critical that government and community groups work together to make this dream a reality. It is essential that community members and political leaders are aware of the many benefits that the San Diego River Park will bring to San Diego and its people.

7. Saving California's Endangered State Parks for All

State officials have been playing political football with the state park system for years, especially during the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression. In 2009, for example, the governor and the legislature proposed closing up to one out of every three state parks to "save money," even though state parks generate over \$4 billion per year. As the *New York Times* recognized in an Editorial on endangered state parks, including California's, "It is critical to keep the parks open for the health of their lands and for the well-being of the citizens who use them — all of us."²¹⁵ The National Trust for Historic Preservation has listed state parks, including California's, on the list of the eleven most endangered historic places in the United States.²¹⁶ The *Sacramento Bee* in an Editorial asks: "Who will step up for state parks?"²¹⁷ The *Bee* published an investigative article about reduced access, budget cuts, the closure of areas within state parks, reduced hours, reduced staffing, reduced services, and \$1.3 billion in deferred maintenance.²¹⁸

Advocates are working to save state parks for all through various means. For example, Proposition 21 on the November 2010 ballot would impose an annual \$18 per vehicle fee that would be dedicated to state parks, generating about \$500 million per year forever. It is necessary to ensure that the benefits and burdens of state parks are distributed fairly for all through an equity plan if Prop 21 passes, and certainly if Prop 21 does not pass.

Diverse allies filed an administrative complaint to save California's endangered state parks for all with the United States Department of Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Justice Civil Rights Division in August 2009. The complaint asks that the California Department of Parks and Recreation adopt an equity plan to distribute the benefits and burdens of state parks fairly for all as a condition of receiving federal financial assistance. The administrative complaint is pending.²¹⁹

8. America's Great Outdoors

President Obama announced the America's Great Outdoor Initiative as a 21st century strategy for conservation and encouraging physical activity.²²⁰ The initiative is meant to leverage the support of the federal government to help community-driven efforts to reconnect Americans to green space. One of the Initiative's stated goals is to "reconnect Americans, especially children, to America's ... great parks, and coasts and beaches by exploring a variety of efforts, including promoting community-based recreation and conservation ... advancing job and volunteer opportunities related to conservation and outdoor recreation; and ... educat[ing] and engag[ing] Americans in our history, culture, and natural bounty."²²¹ In announcing the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, the White House is sending a clear signal that green access is critical to the well being of all Americans.

The San Diego region has an opportunity to lead by example in regard to accessing America's great outdoors. The region is endowed with a wealth of green space and the people of San Diego appreciate the value of green space. The missing element is the opportunity for everyone in San Diego to access the region's green space. The America's Great Outdoors Initiative provides a potential vehicle for improving green access. There are likely to be federal funding opportunities available to local governments and nonprofit organizations for projects that improve green access. Individuals and organizations throughout the San Diego region should leverage this momentum to fund projects such as the opportunities for improving green access discussed above.

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GREEN SPACE AND EQUAL JUSTICE

Green spaces, including parks, school fields, rivers, beaches, forests, mountains, and trails, are a necessary part of any infrastructure for healthy, livable, and just communities. The following recommendations for equitable development would help ensure that everyone, especially children and youth of color and others in low income communities, benefits equally from infrastructure investments.

1. *Implement the Opportunities for Improving Green Access presented in this report.* Some of these projects are currently underway but are either still in the planning phase or are only partially completed. Other ideas have not yet been implemented in the San Diego region but offer hope that green access can be improved for all.
2. *Prioritize green space projects in communities that are both park poor and income poor.* The California legislative criteria for investing park funds in park poor and income poor communities under Prop 84 and AB31 is a best practice example for prioritizing investments in parks and green space.
3. *Prioritize projects that address physical, psychological, and social health needs, including childhood obesity and diabetes levels.* Applying public health criteria to infrastructure investments could improve health and the quality of life in communities.²²² Green space in parks and schools can provide opportunities for physical activity to reduce obesity, improve academics, bring people together and provide positive alternatives to gangs, crime and violence.
4. *Prioritize projects that involve the joint use of parks, schools and pools to make optimal use of scarce land, money, and public resources, and expand open space opportunities in densely*

developed communities. The joint use of parks, schools, and pools and other multi-benefit green spaces can clean the air and water, provide flood control, promote climate justice, and convert toxic sites and brownfields to green fields.

5. *Fund Conservation Corps and Youth Job Programs.* Conservation Corps and youth job programs should be strengthened and expanded to create green jobs and to keep young people in school, physically active and healthy, and out of gangs. Youth programs also lead to permanent jobs and careers as stewards of the environment.
6. *Prioritize cultural, historical, and public art projects that celebrate diversity, democracy and freedom parks and other public places. Native American sites and rights must be preserved and respected.*
7. *Fund Transit to Trails.* Transportation funding should support transit to trails as alternatives to single occupancy vehicles in order to provide access to parks, mountains, beaches and rivers.
8. *Infrastructure projects should create green collar jobs for local workers, small and disadvantaged business enterprises, and youth.*
9. *Funding agencies should ensure compliance with civil rights laws guaranteeing equal access to public resources including parks and recreation programs.* Compliance with civil rights laws should be combined with other laws including environmental and education laws, as discussed in the economic stimulus guidelines published by the Office of Management and Budget.
10. *Projects should implement principles of equitable development: invest in people, invest in stronger communities, invest in the open, and invest in justice.*²²³

X. CONCLUSION

The San Diego region is as diverse as its people. From its beaches to its canyons to its rugged forests and deserts, the San Diego region offers a wealth of green space. In addition to its intrinsic value, green space provides many important benefits to the people of San Diego and to the natural environment.

With 45% of the total land in the county dedicated to parks and recreation, on the surface there seems to be enough green space for all San Diego residents. Unfortunately, not all San Diegans have equal access to these green spaces. This Policy Report shows that in the San Diego region, low income communities and communities of color suffer first and worst in park access and related human health disparities.

The goal of this Policy Report is to engage, educate and empower stakeholders to achieve equal justice, democracy and livability for all by promoting equity in access to green space in the San Diego region. The City Project has relied on a five-part strategy to improve green access and equity in communities throughout California. First, coalition building brings people together to meet the needs of the community as defined by the community. Second, multidisciplinary research and analyses underlies work like this report, including GIS mapping, demographic analyses, and historical research. Third, strategic media campaigns, including traditional and new social media, help focus public attention. Fourth, policy and legal advocacy outside the courts can promote equitable infrastructure results through the planning process. Finally, access to justice through the courts can be a profoundly democratic means of ensuring equal access to public resources within a broader campaign if other alternatives fail. These strategies helped produce the results in defining park poor and income poor under Prop 84, AB 31, and the applicable guidelines for investing park funds in underserved communities throughout California. These strategies helped save the sacred Native American site of Panhe and San Onofre State Beach, and stop the toll road that would devastate both. These strategies resulted in the enforcement of physical

education requirements in public schools in Los Angeles. These strategies are likely to be replicable in the San Diego region.

The road must be found from hope to change. Opportunities exist to create new green spaces and improve access to existing green spaces within the San Diego region. Several exciting projects are already underway, including the rehabilitation of the Otay River Valley and creation of Otay Valley Regional Park, the restoration and preservation of Chollas Creek, the transformation of the region's canyons into an interconnected system of usable open space parks, and the revitalization of the San Diego River. Community gardens and urban farms are thriving throughout the San Diego region and the success of these gardens may well lead to the creation of more community gardens. A Transit to Trails program for the San Diego region can provide green access for people who have none.

The people of San Diego clearly recognize the importance and value of green space. But the presence of green space is only part of the equation. It is imperative that all San Diegans are equally able to access this green space. Achieving equitable green access throughout the San Diego region is not only possible but also necessary for realizing equal justice, democracy, and livability for all.

APPENDIX A

SAN DIEGO COUNTY			CALIFORNIA	
	COUNT	PERCENT	COUNT	PERCENT
Total Population	2,813,833	-	33,871,648	-
Children (under 18)	720,751	26%	9,221,463	27%
Seniors (65 and over)	313,702	11%	3,586,794	11%
Race / Ethnicity*				
Non- Hispanic White	1,544,484	55%	15,771,163	47%
Hispanic	750,991	27%	10,969,132	32%
African American	158,371	6%	2,219,190	7%
Native American	23,513	1%	312,215	1%
Asian Pacific Islander	262,135	9%	3,796,833	11%
Other Race	362,705	13%	5,725,844	17%
2 or more races	139,772	5%	1,694,607	5%
Income / Poverty				
Median Household Income	\$47,067	-	\$42,896	-
In Poverty	338,399	12%	4,706,130	14%
Percent of people in poverty under 18 years of age	119,704	35%	1,757,100	37%
Percent of people in poverty over 65 years of age	20,561	6%	280,411	6%
Rent / Own				
Own	551,489	55%	6,546,237	57%
Rent	443,188	45%	4,956,633	43%
Transportation				
No Car Access	79,978	8%	1,091,214	9%
Health				
% of Overweight and Obese Children*	-	26%	-	27%
Passed 5 of 6 Physical Fitness Exams**	29,095	26%	366,228	27%
Passed 6 of 6 Physical Fitness Exams**	37,246	33%	443,504	32%
Students Enrolled in Free and Reduced Lunch Program**	222,362	46%	3,152,330	51%
Parks and Open Space***				
Acres of Green Space	1,294,419	-	48,490,056	-
Acres of Bureau of Land Management land	183,689	-	15,117,778	-
Acres of Forest Service land	289,756	-	20,695,282	-
Total Acres of Green Space Per 1,000 Residents	460	-	1,432	-
Acres of Green Space Per 1,000 Residents (w/o BLM)	395	-	985	-
Acres of Green Space Per 1,000 Residents (w/o FS)	357	-	821	-
Green Space Per 1,000 Residents (w/o BLM & FS)	292	-	374	-

* Race/ethnicity figures will not add up to 100%. Census 2000 allowed respondents to mark multiple races in addition to being Hispanic/Latino.

**County obesity figures are derived from assembly district data. A weighted average was run based on population.

http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/gls_calworks.asp

*** All parks and open space data has been calculated from GreenInfo Network's California Protected Areas Database (CPAD) version 1.2, March 2009 www.calands.org



7/30/2010 www.cityprojectca.org

APPENDIX B

Park Acreage for San Diego County by Assembly District					
A District	B Total Population	C Total Acres of Parks	D Total Acres of Parks per 1,000 Residents	E Net Acres of Parks, Without National Forest Service Land, U.S. Bureau of Land Management Land, and Parks with restricted access	F Net Acres of Parks per 1,000 Residents
01	217,055	26,964	123.79	123,790	14.18
02	324,641	35,414	109.08	109,080	12.65
03	407,222	54,792	134.53	134,530	15.84
04	424,126	46,933	110.66	110,660	12.89
05	420,041	6,252	14.89	6,252	14.47
06	415,931	808,243	1,943.26	808,243	1,943.26
07	426,485	16,725	39.21	39,210	45.46
08	413,202	5,719	13.84	13,840	17.18
TOTAL	2,804,281	1,278,419	455.83	1,278,419	281.22

This Chart shows acres of parks per thousand residents for the County of San Diego as a whole, and in each State Assembly District. Parks with National Forest Service Land, BLM (with restricted) access lands excluded, and then without them. The Chart breaks down this information as follows:

Column A shows the total population in the County and in each Assembly District, including all parks.

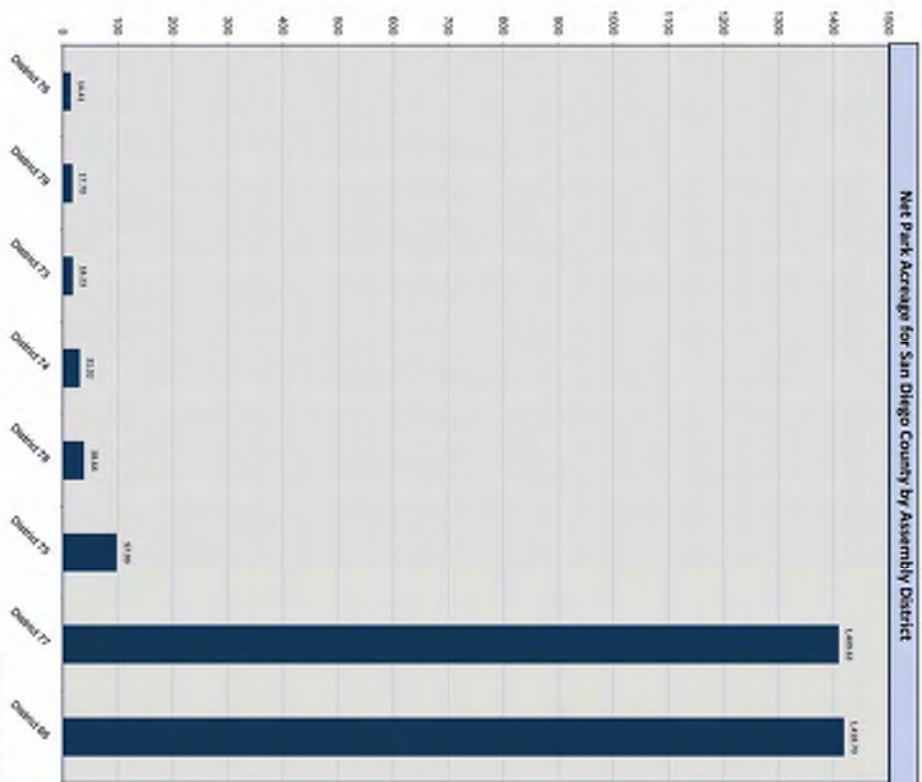
Column B shows the total acres of parks per thousand residents in the County and in each District, including all parks.

Column C and D show the acres of U.S. BLM and U.S. FS land that actually lie within each District but are not included. For example, the Cleveland National Forest covers 808,243 acres in District 06, but only 269,459 acres that actually lie within the County and each District are included.

The acreage for the Cleveland National Forest and each large park that is subtracted in Column E is as follows:

- Cleveland National Forest 269,459 acres
- Other USFS Land 217 acres
- BLM Land 103,089 acres
- Nonrestricted public access 22,477 acres

Based on these subtractions, 11% of all land in San Diego County is in the Cleveland National Forest. Only 22% of all park space in the County is in the Cleveland Forest.



REFERENCES

¹ “Green space” refers to parks, beaches, playing fields, trails, recreational facilities and natural open space. There is no generally accepted definition of what constitutes green space. For example, some government authorities include golf courses and cemeteries, others may or may not include beaches. This Report uses publicly available data and is sometimes burdened by these inconsistencies at the margin.

² The City Project has worked and published extensively on equal access to parks, school fields, rivers, beaches, forests, transportation, and related issues at the intersection of equal justice, democracy, and livability. *See generally* The City Project, *Healthy Parks, Schools, and Communities: Mapping Green Access in Southern California*, (2010), in draft, The City Project, *Economic Stimulus, Green Space, and Equal Justice*, (2009), <http://www.cityprojectca.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/stimulus-green-space-justice-200904294.pdf>, The City Project, *Healthy Parks, Schools, and Communities: Mapping Green Access and Equity for the Los Angeles Region*, (2007), <http://www.cityprojectca.org/ourwork/mappinggreenaccess/index.html#HPSCPpolicyReport>, Robert García and Erica Flores, *Anatomy of the Urban Park Movement: Equal Justice, Democracy and Livability in Los Angeles [hereinafter Urban Parks Movement]*, in *THE QUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE POLITICS OF POLLUTION* 145 (Robert Bullard, ed., 2005); Robert García et al., *We Shall Be Moved: Community Activism As a Tool for Reversing the Rollback [hereinafter We Shall Be Moved]*, in *AWAKENING FROM THE DREAM: PURSUING CIVIL RIGHTS IN A CONSERVATIVE ERA* 329 (Denise C. Morgan et al., eds., 2005); Robert García and Thomas A. Rubin, *Crossroad Blues: The MTA Consent Decree and Just Transportation*, in *RUNNING ON EMPTY: TRANSPORT, SOCIAL EXCLUSION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE* 221 (Karen Lucas, ed., 2004); Robert García and Erica Flores Baltodano, *Free the Beach! Public Access Equal Justice, and the California Coast*, 2 *STANFORD JOURNAL OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES* 142 (2005) [hereinafter *Free the Beach!*]; Robert García and Erica Flores Baltodano, *Healthy Children, Healthy Communities, and Legal Services*, published in a special issue on Environmental Justice for Children in the *Journal of Poverty Law and Policy* by the National Center on Poverty Law and the Clearinghouse Review (May-June 2005) [hereinafter *Healthy Children, Healthy Communities, and Legal Services*]; *Healthy Children, Healthy Communities: Schools, Parks, Recreation, and Sustainable Regional Planning*, 31 *FORDHAM URB. L.J.* 101 (2004) (Symposium on Urban Equity); ROBERT GARCÍA, ERICA S. FLORES, JULIE EHRlich, POLICY REPORT, *THE CORNFIELD AND THE FLOW OF HISTORY* (2004), available at www.cityprojectca.org/publications/index.html; *See generally* ROBERT GARCÍA, ET AL., *DREAMS OF FIELDS: SOCCER, COMMUNITY, AND EQUAL JUSTICE* 17 (2002); available at www.cityprojectca.org/publications/index.html.

³ Note: Unless otherwise noted, demographic data in the report are from the 2000 U.S. Decennial Census. These data are used for accuracy and consistency because they are the most recent official counts. While various projections of current populations do exist, there is variability between projections and it is not possible to verify that one projection is more accurate than another.

⁴ San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), *Land Use and Land Ownership in the San Diego Region* at 3, (2004), http://www.sandag.org/uploads/newsid/newsid_287_3892.pdf.

⁵ *Id.* at 8.

⁶ City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, *Fast Facts*, (2009), <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/pdf/fastfacts.pdf>.

⁷ County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, *About Us*, (2009), <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/parks/aboutus.html>

⁸ *Id.* at 6.

⁹ *Id.* at 6.

¹⁰ L.A. Times, *How Propositions 40 and 45 Fared Among Voters*, Mar. 7, 2002 (statewide exit poll).

¹¹ Exit poll and turnout study by the William C. Velazquez Institute, www.wcvi.org/press_room/press_releases/2006/exitpoll_caProp842006.htm.

¹² *See generally* Robert García et al., *Healthy Parks, Schools and Communities for All: Park Development and Community Revitalization* (The City Project Policy Report 2009), available at www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/1332; Robert García and Aubrey White, *Healthy Parks, Schools, and Counties: Mapping Green Access and Equity for California* (The City Project Policy Report 2007); available at www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/362.

¹³ See, e.g., Olmsted Brothers and Batholomew and Associates, *Parks, Playgrounds and Beaches for the Los Angeles Region* (1930), reprinted in Greg Hise & William Deverell, *Eden by Design* at 92 (2000).

¹⁴ *Declaration of the Rights of the Child*, Proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 1386 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, Principle 7; *United Nations' Convention on the Right of the Child*, General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, Article 31.

¹⁵ U.S. Declaration of Independence. *See also* Cal. Const., art. I, § 1.

¹⁶ S. Jay Olshansky, et al., *A Potential Decline in Life Expectancy in the United States in the 21st Century*, 352 *New England Journal of Medicine* 1138-45 (2005).

¹⁷ California Center for Public Health Advocacy, *The Economic Costs of Overweight, Obesity, and Physical Inactivity Among California Adults - 2006*, (2009), <http://www.publichealthadvocacy.org/costofobesity.html>

¹⁸ U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity* at 9-10, (2001).

¹⁹ *See generally* Neal Kaufman et al., *Evidence-based Programs to Promote Physical Activity Among Youth* (UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Sept. 9, 2005); U.S. Dep't. of Health and Human Services, *Physical Activity Fundamental to Preventing Disease* 9 (June 20, 2002); U.S. Dept. Health & Human Services, *The Surgeon General's Call to Action To Prevent and Decrease*

-
- Overweight and Obesity* 9-10 (2001); U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Education, *Promoting Better Health for Young People Through Physical Activity and Sports*, available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/presphysactrpt> (Fall 2001); U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, *Physical Activity and Health: A Report of the Surgeon General* 200 (1996); Policy Link, *Regional Development and Physical Activity: Issues and Strategies for Promoting Health Equity* 9-12 (Nov. 2002); Gangs, *Crime and Violence in Los Angeles: Findings and Proposals from the District Attorney's Office* (1992).
- ²⁰ The California Endowment, *Building Healthy Communities: The California Endowment Approach to Improving Food and Physical Activity Environments* (2009).
- ²¹ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Active Living Research, *Designing for Active Living among Children*. Fall 2007 Research Summary (2007).
- ²² Trust for America's Health and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, *F as in Fat: How Obesity Policies Are Failing in America* (2009), <http://www.leadershipforhealthycommunities.org/images/stories/obesity2009report.pdf>.
- ²³ Centers for Disease Control and President's Council on Fitness and Sports, *Healthy People 2010*, www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/22Physical.htm#_Toc490380803.
- ²⁴ UCLA Center to Eliminate Health Disparities and Samuels & Associates, *Failing Fitness: Physical Activity and Physical Education in Schools*, Policy Brief funded by The California Endowment, (2007), www.calendow.org/uploadedFiles/failing_fitness.pdf.
- ²⁵ Susan H. Babey, Allison L. Diamant, E. Richard Brown, and Theresa Hart, *California Adolescents Increasingly Inactive: Policy Brief*, (2005), <http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/Publication.aspx?pubID=137>.
- ²⁶ San Diego State University, *Physical Education Matters for California Kids*, Policy Brief funded by The California Endowment, (2007), www.calendow.org/uploadedFiles/physical_education_matters.pdf.
- ²⁷ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Leadership for Healthy Communities, *Action Strategies for Healthy Communities: Open Spaces, Parks & Recreation*, (2009), <http://www.leadershipforhealthycommunities.org/content/view/298/129/>.
- ²⁸ Deborah A. Cohen, Thomas L. McKenzie, Amber Sehgal, Stephanie Williamson, Daniela Golinelli, & Nicole Lurie, *Contribution of Public Parks to Physical Activity*, 97 *American Journal of Public Health* 509-514 (2007).
- ²⁹ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Active Living Research, *Designing for Active Living among Children*. Fall 2007 Research Summary, (2007).
- ³⁰ Susan H. Babey et al., *Teens Living in Disadvantaged Neighborhoods Lack Access to Parks and Get Less Physical Activity* (UCLA Center for Health Policy Research 2007).
- ³¹ Susan H. Babey et al., *Access to Safe Parks Helps Increase Physical Activity Among Teenagers* (UCLA Center for Health Policy Research 2006).
- ³² Andrew J. Mowen, *Parks, Playgrounds and Active Living*, *Active Living Research Synthesis*, (Feb. 2010), www.activelivingresearch.org/files/Synthesis_Mowen_Feb2010.pdf.
- ³³ Trust for America's Health, *Prevention for a Healthier California: Investments in Disease Prevention Yield Significant Savings, Stronger Communities*, (2008), <http://healthyamericans.org/assets/files/CaliforniaROIReport1008.pdf>.
- ³⁴ Tara Parker-Pope, *As Girls Become Women, Sports Pay Dividends*, N.Y. Times, Feb. 15, 2010, nyti.ms/a7gWcp.
- ³⁵ *Id.*
- ³⁶ Betsey Stevenson, *Beyond the Classroom: Using Title IX to Measure the Return to High School Sports*, NBER Working Paper No. 15728 (Feb. 2010), <http://bit.ly/a9kSC1>.
- ³⁷ Robert Kaestner & Xin Xu, *Title IX, Girls' Sports Participation and Adult Female Physical Activity and Weight*, 34 *Evaluation Review* 52-78 (2010), <http://bit.ly/9RKswO>.
- ³⁸ UCLA Center to Eliminate Health Disparities and Samuels & Associates, *Failing Fitness: Physical Activity and Physical Education in Schools*, Policy Brief funded by The California Endowment, (2007), www.calendow.org/uploadedFiles/failing_fitness.pdf.
- ³⁹ San Diego State University, *Physical Education Matters for California Kids*, Policy Brief funded by The California Endowment, (2007), www.calendow.org/uploadedFiles/physical_education_matters.pdf.
- ⁴⁰ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Active Living Research, *Active Education: Physical Education, Physical Activity, and Academic Performance*. Summer 2009 Research Summary at 1-4, (2009).
- ⁴¹ *Id.* at 3.
- ⁴² *Id.* at 2.
- ⁴³ Tara Parker-Pope, *As Girls Become Women, Sports Pay Dividends*, N.Y. Times, Feb. 15, 2010, <http://nyti.ms/a7gWcp>.
- ⁴⁴ See generally Russell R. Pate et al., *Sports Participation and Health-Related Behaviors among US Youth*, *Archives Pediatrics & Adolescent Med.* (Sept. 2000); U.S. Dep't of Health and Human Services, *Physical Activity Fundamental to Preventing Disease* 9 (June 20, 2002); Ca. Dep't of Ed., Press Release, Dec. 10, 2002; Gangs, *Crime and Violence in Los Angeles: Findings and Recommendations from the District Attorney's Office* (1992); Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris & Orit Stieglitz, *Children in Los Angeles Parks: A Study of Equity, Quality, and Children Satisfaction with Neighborhood Parks*, 73 (4) *Town Planning Rev.* 1-6 (2002); William G. Bowen & Sarah A. Levin, et al., *Reclaiming the Game: College Sports and Educational Values* (2003).
- ⁴⁵ C. Maller et al., *Healthy Nature Healthy People: 'Contact With Nature' as an Upstream Health Promotion Intervention for Populations*, 21 *Health Promotion Int'l* 45-53 (2005).
- ⁴⁶ A.F. Taylor et al., *Coping with ADD: The Surprising Connection to Green Play Settings*, 33 *Environment and Behavior* 54-77 (2001).

-
- ⁴⁷ F.E. Kuo, *Coping with Poverty Impacts of Environment and Attention in the Inner City*, 33 *Environment and Behavior* 5-34 (2001).
- ⁴⁸ Ching-Hua Ho, Laura Payne, Elizabeth Orsega-Smith, and Geoffrey Godbey, *Parks, recreation, and public health*, 38 *Parks and Recreation*, 18, 26 (2003).
- ⁴⁹ R.S. Ulrich, *View through a Window May Influence Recovery From Surgery*, *Science* 421 (1984).
- ⁵⁰ S. de Vries et al., *Natural Environments - Healthy Environments? An Exploratory Analysis of the Relationship Between Green Space and Health*, 35 *Environment and Planning* 1717-31 (2003).
- ⁵¹ See, e.g., Alison H. Deming & Lauret E. Savoy, ed., *The Colors of Nature: Culture, Identity, and the Natural World* (2002); Setha Low, Dana Taplin, & Suzanne Scheld, *Rethinking Urban Parks: Public Space and Cultural Diversity* 40-43 (2005); M.K. Cronan et al., *Physical Activity Patterns and Preferences among Latinos in Different Types of Public Parks*, 5 *Journal of Physical Activity and Health* 894 (2008); Deborah J. Chavez, *Adaptive Management in Outdoor Recreation: Serving Hispanics in Southern California*, 17 (3) *West. J. Applied Forestry* 132 (July 2002); Patrick T. Tierney, et al., USDA, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, *Cultural Diversity of Los Angeles County Residents Using Undeveloped Natural Areas* 5 (1998); Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, *Urban Form and Social Context: Cultural Differentiation in the Uses of Urban Parks*, 14 *J. Planning & Ed. & Research* 89, 100-02 (1995); Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris & Orit Stieglitz, *Children in Los Angeles Parks: A Study of Equity, Quality, and Children Satisfaction with Neighborhood Parks*, 73 (4) *Town Planning Rev.* 1-6 (2002).
- ⁵² L.F. Berkmana et al., *From Social Integration to Health: Durkheim in the New Millennium*, 51 *Social Science and Medicine* 843-57 (2000).
- ⁵³ W.C. Sullivan et al., *The Fruit of Urban Nature: Vital Neighborhood Spaces*, 36 *Environment and Behavior* 678-700 (2004).
- ⁵⁴ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Heat Island Effect*, (2010), <http://www.epa.gov/hiri/>.
- ⁵⁵ U.S. Green Building Council, *Green Building and LEED Core Concepts*, (U.S. Green Building Council 2009).
- ⁵⁶ See generally the recommendations of the World Peoples' Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, pwccc.wordpress.com; James Barret, Earth Day Network Conference for People of Color and Spiritual Leaders, Washington, D.C. April 17, 2007; Redefining Progress, *Climate Justice, The Time Is Now*, www.ejcc.org/; letter from the Alianza de los Pueblos del Río, May 31, 2007 re: Support AB 31, available at www.cityprojectca.org.
- ⁵⁷ San Diego Civic Solutions, *Canyonlands: The Creation of San Diego Regional Canyonlands Park*, (2006), <http://sdccanyonlands.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/canyonlandswhitepaper.pdf>.
- ⁵⁸ *Id.*
- ⁵⁹ See generally Sustainable Cities Initiative, *Guidelines and Performance Benchmarks* (Draft 2008) (sustainable land practices will enable natural and built systems to work together to protect and enhance the ability of landscapes to provide services such as climate regulation, clean air and water, and improved quality of life), available at www.sustainablesites.org/report/SSI_Guidelines_Draft_2008.pdf.
- ⁶⁰ Robert D. Bullard et al., *Toxics Waste and Race at Twenty 1987-2007: A Report Prepared for the United Church of Christ Justice & Witness Ministries* (2007), available at www.ucc.org/justice/pdfs/toxic20.pdf.
- ⁶¹ See generally the recommendations of the World Peoples' Conference on Climate Change and Global Warming, pwccc.wordpress.com.
- ⁶² See video of Ms. Menchu on The City Project's YouTube website at www.youtube.com/profile?user=CityProjectCA.
- ⁶³ Patrick E. Tyler, *Kenyan Environmentalist Wins Nobel Prize for Peace*, *N.Y. Times*, Oct. 8, 2004.
- ⁶⁴ Karin Klein, *The Achachemen's Victory*, *The Los Angeles Times*, (December 27, 2008), <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/editorials/la-ed-panhe27-2008dec27,0,5171692.story>.
- ⁶⁵ Mike Davis, Kelly Mayhew, and John Miller, *Under the Perfect Sun: The San Diego Tourists Never See* at 230, (New Press, 2003).
- ⁶⁶ The 32nd Street Task Force, *Canyon Policy Portfolio: Our Financially Rewarding Natural Wildlands* at 20, (2009), <http://sites.google.com/a/32ndstreetcanyon.org/www/home2>.
- ⁶⁷ *Id.* at 20.
- ⁶⁸ *Id.* at 20.
- ⁶⁹ See, e.g., Steve Lerner & William Poole, *The Economic Benefits of Parks and Open Spaces* 12, 13, 17, 20, 26 (1999).
- ⁷⁰ The City Project, *California State Park Visitors Spend \$4.32 Billion Per Year*, (June 9, 2009), <http://www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/1533>.
- ⁷¹ James Heintz et al., *The NYS Park System: An Economic Asset to the Empire State*, Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts Amherst (March 2009), available at www.ptny.org. Another study provides a suggested approach for measuring the economic value of a city park system, but the methodology is questionable. Peter Harnik, *Measuring the Economic Value of a City Park System* (2009), available at www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=22879&folder_id=3208.
- ⁷² See generally California Green Stimulus Coalition Principles, available at <http://californiagreenstimulus.org/our-principles>.
- ⁷³ SANDAG, *2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program*, (2010), <http://www.sandag.org/index.asp?projectid=363&fuseaction=projects.detail>.
- ⁷⁴ The City Project, *Economic Stimulus, Green Space, and Equal Justice*, (2009), <http://www.cityprojectca.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/stimulus-green-space-justice-200904294.pdf>.
- ⁷⁵ Neil M. Maher, *Nature's New Deal: The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Roots of the American Environmental Movement* (2008).

-
- ⁷⁶ David Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945* 251-56 (1999); Neil Maher, *Nature's New Deal* at 43-76, 110, and 11-12 (2008), www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/5392.
- ⁷⁷ See Office of the Governor, *Fact Sheet: California Green Corps*, available at <http://gov.ca.gov/fact-sheet/11753>.
- ⁷⁸ See generally García and White, *Healthy Parks, Schools, and Communities for the Los Angeles Region*, *supra*, at 8-19, 21-24; Regina Austin, "Not Just for the Fun of It!: Governmental Restraints on Black Leisure, Social Inequality, and the Privatization of Public Space," 71 S. Cal. L. Rev. 667, 711-12 (1998).
- ⁷⁹ The City Project, *AB 31 Targets Park Poor Communities*, (2008), <http://www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/1051>.
- ⁸⁰ The classic Olmsted report distinguished between large "reservations" and areas adapted for more intensive recreational use for these reasons. Olmsted Brothers and Batholomew and Associates, *Parks, Playgrounds and Beaches for the Los Angeles Region* 10 (1930), reprinted in Greg Hise & William Deverell, *Eden by Design* at 92 (2000).
- ⁸¹ The City Project, *Economic Stimulus, Green Space, and Equal Justice*, (2009), <http://www.cityprojectca.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/stimulus-green-space-justice-200904294.pdf>.
- ⁸² The City Project, *Healthy Parks, Schools, and Communities: Mapping Green Access and Equity for the Los Angeles Region*, (2007), <http://www.cityprojectca.org/ourwork/mappinggreenaccess/index.html#HPSCPolicyReport>.
- ⁸³ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, *Parks, Playgrounds, and Active Living*, (2010), http://www.activelivingresearch.org/files/Synthesis_Mowen_Feb2010.pdf.
- ⁸⁴ *Id.*
- ⁸⁵ *Id.*
- ⁸⁶ Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, *Urban Form and Social Context: Cultural Differentiation in the Uses of Urban Parks [hereinafter Urban Form and Social Context]*, 14 J. PLANNING & ED. & RESEARCH 89, 100-02 (1995). See also Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris & Orit Stieglitz, *Children in Los Angeles Parks: A Study of Equity, Quality, and Children Satisfaction with Neighborhood Parks*, 73 (4) TOWN PLANNING REV. 1-6 (2002).
- ⁸⁷ SANDAG, *info: Mapping the Census: Race and Ethnicity in the San Diego Region*, (2002), http://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_722_1120.pdf.
- ⁸⁸ U.S. Census Quickfacts, *San Diego County, California*, (2008), <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06073.html>.
- ⁸⁹ SANDAG, *Land Use and Land Ownership in the San Diego Region* at 1, (2004), http://www.sandag.org/uploads/newsid/newsid_287_3892.pdf.
- ⁹⁰ U.S. Census Quickfacts, *San Diego (city), California*, (2008), <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/0666000.html>
- ⁹¹ Nancy McArdle, *Race, Place and Opportunity: Racial Change and Segregation in the San Diego Metropolitan Area: 1990-2000*, (2002).
- ⁹² SANDAG, *SANDAG and Tribal Governments Working Together: Fact Sheet*, (2010), http://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_1309_6930.pdf.
- ⁹³ *Id.*
- ⁹⁴ SANDAG, *info: Mapping the Census: Race and Ethnicity in the San Diego Region*, (2002), http://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_722_1120.pdf.
- ⁹⁵ SANDAG, *info: San Diego Region Demographic and Economic Characteristics*, (2006), http://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_1232_5564.pdf.
- ⁹⁶ SANDAG, *info: Low and Moderate Income Households*, (2008), http://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_1379_8380.pdf.
- ⁹⁷ SANDAG, *info: San Diego Region Demographic and Economic Characteristics*, (2006), http://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_1232_5564.pdf.
- ⁹⁸ *Id.*
- ⁹⁹ *Id.*
- ¹⁰⁰ Community Health Improvement Partners. *Charting the Course V: 2007 San Diego County Health Needs Assessment Health Issue Profile – Overweight, Obesity, Physical Activity, and Nutrition* (2007), www.sdchip.org/publications/needs_assessment/pdfs/5k-Overweight-and-obesity-profile.pdf.
- ¹⁰¹ U.S. Surgeon General. *Overweight in Children and Adolescents* (2000).
- ¹⁰² California Health Interview Survey, *AskCHIS: San Diego County Health Regions*, (2009), www.chis.ucla.edu/main/DQ3/geographic2.asp?page=sd.
- ¹⁰³ County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency. *Healthy People 2010 San Diego: Health Indicators for San Diego County* at 184, (2009).
- ¹⁰⁴ Note: Physical fitness is measured by the 2007-2008 California Fitnessgram examination. Children deemed as physically fit have met 6 of 6 fitness criteria. For more information see <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/pf/pftprogram.asp>.
- ¹⁰⁵ California Department of Education, *Physical Fitness Testing Results 2007-2008*, (2009), www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/pf/pftresults.asp.
- ¹⁰⁶ See Los Angeles Unified School District, *Policy Bulletin: Physical Education Programs – Grades K-12*, Bulletin BUL-2528.1, (December 21, 2009), <http://www.cityprojectca.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/lausd-phys-ed-civil-rights-plan.pdf>.
- ¹⁰⁷ Data obtained by The City Project from the California Department of Education under the California Public Records Act, February 18, 2010.

- ¹⁰⁸ California Center for Public Health Advocacy, *District Compliance Summary in California Elementary School PE Requirements 2004-05/2005-06*, (2006), www.publichealthadvocacy.org/_PDFs/DistrictComplianceChart.pdf.
- ¹⁰⁹ Robert García and Chad Fenwick, *Social Science, Equal Justice, and Public Health Policy: Lesson from LoS Angeles*, *Journal of Public Health Policy* (2009) 30, S26-S32, available at <http://www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/1293>; The City Project, *Physical Education, Student Health and Civil Rights: LA Public Schools Adopt Implementation Plan*, Policy Brief (2010), www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/3341.
- ¹¹⁰ Los Angeles Unified School District, *Policy Bulletin: Physical Education Programs – Grades K-12*, Bulletin BUL-2528.1, (December 21, 2009), <http://www.cityprojectca.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/lausd-phys-ed-civil-rights-plan.pdf>.
- ¹¹¹ Good schools and a good education include physical education in the core curriculum. See, e.g., Diane Ravitch, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System* 231-32, 236 (2010). Ms. Ravitch critiques the San Diego school district at 47-67. See also Kaiser Group, Inc., *Los Angeles Unified School District Norwood Street Elementary School: Student Fitness and Academic Performance Report 2008-09* (California Endowment February 2009); Kristine A. Madsen, Wendi Gosliner, Gail Woodward-Lopez, & Patricia B. Crawford, *Physical Activity Opportunities Associated With Fitness and Weight Status Among Adolescents in Low-Income Communities*, 163 *Archives of Pediatric Adolescent Medicine* (November 2009).
- ¹¹² Note: Throughout this report, beaches are considered separately from other types of park and recreational land uses. Statistics on acreage of beaches is not factored into calculations of available open space.
- ¹¹³ City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, *Fast Facts*, (2009), <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/pdf/fastfacts.pdf>.
- ¹¹⁴ Balboa Park Foundation, *Balboa Park: A Landscape of Art and Culture*, (2009), <http://www.balboapark.org/>.
- ¹¹⁵ SANDAG, *OTIS – Online Transit Information System*, (2010), <http://www.sdcommute.com/TripPlanner/index.asp>.
- ¹¹⁶ City of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation, *Mission Bay Park*, (2010), <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/missionbay/>.
- ¹¹⁷ Robert García and Erica Flores Baltodano, *Free the Beach! Public Access, Equal Justice, and the California Coast*, (2005), 2 *Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties* 143, <http://www.cityprojectca.org/ourwork/documents/StanfordFreetheBeach.pdf>.
- ¹¹⁸ SANDAG, *info: Mapping the Census: Race and Ethnicity in the San Diego Region*, (2002), http://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_722_1120.pdf.
- ¹¹⁹ Mike Davis, Kelly Mayhew, and John Miller, *Under the Perfect Sun: The San Diego Tourists Never See* at 48, (New Press, 2003).
- ¹²⁰ U.S. National Forest Service, *Cleveland National Forest*, (2009), <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland/>.
- ¹²¹ The City Project recommends that academics, experts, students and foundations provide additional studies on race and place in San Diego County. In the past 20 years, the Los Angeles region has benefited from the rise of such studies. The City Project has found the following works especially useful, in addition to the others cited throughout this Report: Mike Davis, *City of Quartz* (1990); Mike Davis, *Ecology of Fear: Los Angeles and the Imagination of Disaster* (1998); William Devereill & Greg Hise, *A Companion to Los Angeles* (2010); William Estrada, *The Los Angeles Plaza: Sacred and Contested Space* (2008); Douglas Flamming, *Bound for Freedom: Black Los Angeles in Jim Crow America* (2005); Blake Gumprecht, *The Los Angeles River: Its Life, Death and Possible Rebirth* (1999); Dolores Hayden, *The Power of Place: Urban Landscapes as Public History* (1995); Darnell Hunt and Ana-Christian Ramon, *Black Los Angeles: American Dreams and Racial Realities* (2010); Carey McWilliams, *Southern California: An Island on the Land* (1973); Leonard Pitt and Dale Pitt, *Los Angeles A to Z: An Encyclopedia of the City and County* (1997); Allen Scott and Edward Soja, *The City: Los Angeles and Urban Theory at the End of the Twentieth Century* (1996); Josh Sides, *L.A. City Limits: African American Los Angeles from the Great Depression to the Present* (2003); Edward Soja, *Seeking Spatial Justice* (2010); Kevin Starr, *Coast of Dreams: California on the Edge, 1990-2003* (2004). And works that go beyond Los Angeles: Robert Bullard, *The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution* (2005); Robert Caro, *The Power Broker* (1974); Karen Lucas, *Running on Empty* (2004); Denise C. Morgan, *Awakening from the Dream: Pursuing Civil Rights in a Conservative Era* (2006); Jeff Wiltse, *Contested Waters: A Social History of Swimming Pools in America* (2007).
- ¹²² San Diego Historical Society, *Timeline of San Diego History*, (2009), <https://www.sandiegohistory.org/timeline/timeline1.htm#1760>.
- ¹²³ *Id.*
- ¹²⁴ *Id.*
- ¹²⁵ Mike Davis, Kelly Mayhew, and John Miller, *Under the Perfect Sun: The San Diego Tourists Never See* at 166-167, (New Press, 2003).
- ¹²⁶ *Id.* at 166-167.
- ¹²⁷ *Id.* at 166.
- ¹²⁸ *Id.* at 167.
- ¹²⁹ *Id.* at 164.
- ¹³⁰ Richard Griswold del Castillo, Isidro Ortiz, and Rosalinda Gonzalez, *San Diego's Mexican and Chicano History*, (2009), <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/mas/chicanohistory/>.
- ¹³¹ Kevin Starr, *Golden Dreams: California in an Age of Abundance, 1950-1963* at 74-75, (Oxford University Press, 2009).
- ¹³² Richard Griswold del Castillo, Isidro Ortiz, and Rosalinda Gonzalez, *San Diego's Mexican and Chicano History*, (2009), <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/mas/chicanohistory/>.

¹³³ Mike Davis, Kelly Mayhew, and John Miller, *Under the Perfect Sun: The San Diego Tourists Never See* at 164 quoting from Leroy Harris “On the Other Side of the Freeway”, (New Press, 2003).

¹³⁴ *Id.* at 164.

¹³⁵ For example, the Federal Housing Administration Manual of 1938 states: “If a neighborhood is to retain stability, it is necessary that properties shall continue to be occupied by the same racial classes. A change in social or racial occupancy generally contributes to instability and a decline in values.” See also Robert Liberty, “Abolishing Exclusionary Zoning: A Natural Policy Alliance for Environmentalists and Affordable Housing Advocates,” 30 Boston College Environmental Affairs Law Review 581 (2003); DAVIS, CITY OF QUARTZ, *supra*, at 160-64; Davis, *supra*, at 59-91.

¹³⁶ California Department of Parks and Recreation, *Five Views: An Ethnic Sites Survey for California* 68-69 (1988).

¹³⁷ 334 U.S. 1 (1948).

¹³⁸ 346 U.S. 249 (1953).

¹³⁹ JOSH SIDES, L.A. CITY LIMITS: AFRICAN AMERICAN LOS ANGELES FROM THE GREAT DEPRESSION TO THE PRESENT 101 (2003).

¹⁴⁰ *Id.* at 108.

¹⁴¹ Mike Davis, Kelly Mayhew, and John Miller, *Under the Perfect Sun: The San Diego Tourists Never See* at 164 quoting from Leroy Harris “On the Other Side of the Freeway”, (New Press, 2003).

¹⁴² Unruh Civil Rights Act, California Civil Code Division I, Part 2 § 51 et seq. (1959).

¹⁴³ Rumford Fair Housing Act, California Health and Safety Code §§ 35700-35744 (1963).

¹⁴⁴ Kenneth L. Karst and Harold W. Horowitz, *Reitman v. Mulkey: A Telophase of Substantive Equal Protection*, 1967 Supreme Court Review 39, 80 (1967).

¹⁴⁵ *Id.* at 41.

¹⁴⁶ 387 U.S. 369 (1967).

¹⁴⁷ See generally Ira Katznelson, *When Affirmative Action Was White* (2005).

¹⁴⁸ See generally Robert García et al., *Keep Baldwin Hills Clean and Green for Generations to Come* (Policy Report The City Project 2010); Robert García et al., *Economic Stimulus, Green Space and Equal Justice* (Policy Report The City Project 2009), bit.ly/btteQJ; Robert García & Aubrey White, *Healthy Parks, Schools, and Communities: Mapping Green Access and Equity for the City of Los Angeles* (The City Project Policy Report 2006); Robert García & Erica Flores Baltodano, *Free the Beach! Public Access, Equal Justice, and the California Coast*, 2 Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties 143 (2005); and *Leydon v. Town of Greenwich*, 257 Conn. 318 (2001).

¹⁴⁹ Title VI provides: “No person in the United States shall on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” 42 U.S.C. § 2000d (2004). Cf. 43 C.F.R. 7.30 (Title VI regulations from the Department of Interior, which has jurisdiction over National Parks and other public lands). See also Executive Order 12,898 on Environmental Justice (Feb. 11, 1994). The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and parallel state law also prohibits intentional discrimination. Cal. Const., Art. I § 7. See also Section 1983 of the Civil Rights Act of 1871.

¹⁵⁰ *Guardians Ass’n v. Civil Service Comm’n*, 463 U.S. 582, 629 (1983) (Justice Marshall, concurring in part and dissenting in part).

¹⁵¹ See letters from FTA to MTC and BART dated January 15, 2010, and February 12, 2010, available on the web at www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/4468.

¹⁵² See Letter from Secretary Andrew Cuomo to City of Los Angeles re: *Section 108 Application – Cornfields B-99-MC-06-0523* (Sept. 25, 2000), and the related Administrative Complaint (Sept. 21, 2000), both available at www.cityprojectca.org/ourwork/urbanparks.html#cornfield.

¹⁵³ James Ricci, A Park with No Name (Yet) but Plenty of History, L.A. Times Magazine, July 15, 2001.

¹⁵⁴ Jesus Sanchez, *L.A.’s Cornfield Row: How Activists Prevailed*, L.A. Times, April 17, 2001. See generally www.cityprojectca.org/ourwork/urbanparks.html#cornfield.

¹⁵⁵ See, e.g., 40 C.F.R. § 7.30 (nondiscrimination statement for recipients of federal funds from the Environmental Protection Agency); 43 C.F.R. § 7.30 (nondiscrimination statement for recipients of federal funds from the Department of Interior).

¹⁵⁶ *Guardians Ass’n v. Civil Service Comm’n*, 463 U.S. 582, 629 (1983) (Justice Marshall, concurring in part and dissenting in part).

¹⁵⁷ Cf. Executive Order 12,898 on Environmental Justice (Feb. 11, 1994).

¹⁵⁸ Peter R. Orszag, Director, Office of Management and Budget, *Memorandum re: Updated Implementing Guidance for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*, April 3, 2009, at page 2 and Guidance at page 6, available at http://www.recovery.gov/About/Documents/m09-15_April3.pdf.

¹⁵⁹ See July 10, 2009, Memo from Loretta King, Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, to Federal Agency Civil Rights Directors and General Counsels, *Strengthening of Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964*, available at www.justice.gov/crt/lep/titlevi_enforcement_memo.pdf;

Memorandum from Assistant Attorney General Bill Lann Lee to Executive Agency Civil Rights Directors, *Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in Block Grant-Type Programs* (Jan. 28, 1999), available at www.justice.gov/crt/cor/Pubs/blkgmnt.php.

¹⁶⁰ *Rosemere Neighborhood Ass’n v. United States Env’tl. Prot. Agency*, 581 F.3d 1169, 1175 (9th Cir. 2009). As part of the settlement in the *Rosemere* case, EPA has released a 23 page spreadsheet listing more than 300 Environmental Justice complaints dating back to 1993 that it has not investigated. The spreadsheet in PDF format is available on The City Project’s web site at

www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/4517. See generally Dawn Reeves, *New EPA Data On Civil Rights Backlog May Help Reshape Equity Agenda*, *Water Policy Report*, April 26, 2010, available at insideEPA.com.

¹⁶¹ See Cal. Gov. Code § 11135; 22 CCR § 98101(i) (2007).

¹⁶² See *Darensburg v. Metropolitan Transp. Comm'n*, No. C-05-01597 EDL, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 63991 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 21, 2008) (standing to sue publicly funded agency for discriminatory impacts on quality of life for people of color under 11135 and its regulations).

¹⁶³ Cal. Gov. Code § 65040.12.

¹⁶⁴ See, e.g., *Larry P. v. Riles*, 793 F.2d 969, 981-83 (9th Cir. 1984). Agencies are obligated to comply with the Title VI regulations, even though the regulations are no longer privately enforceable in court. *Alexander v. Sandoval*, 532 U.S. 275, 293 (2001). The 11135 regulations are privately enforceable in court. See *Darensburg v. Metropolitan Transp. Comm'n*, No. C-05-01597 EDL, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 63991 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 21, 2008) (standing to sue publicly funded agency for discriminatory impacts on quality of life for people of color under 11135 and its regulations).

¹⁶⁵ See *Village of Arlington Heights v. Metropolitan Housing Dev. Corp.*, 429 U.S. 252, 265 (1977); *Committee Concerning Cmty. Improvement v. City of Modesto*, 583 F.3d 690 (9th Cir. 2009) (statistical disparities in providing municipal services evidence of intentional discrimination under Title VI and 11135; U.S. Dep't Justice, Civil Rights Division, *Title VI Legal Manual (2001)*, available at <http://www.justice.gov/crt/cor/coord/vimannual.php>).

¹⁶⁶ SANDAG, *Regional Comprehensive Plan for the San Diego Region*, (2004), www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_1094_3362.pdf.

¹⁶⁷ *Id.* at 295.

¹⁶⁸ City of San Diego, *General Plan: Land Use and Community Planning Element*, (2008), www.sandiego.gov/planning/genplan/pdf/generalplan/adoptedluelemfv.pdf.

¹⁶⁹ *Id.* at LU-37.

¹⁷⁰ LU-I.4 – LU-I.6.

¹⁷¹ *Id.* at LU-38-39.

¹⁷² Local Coastal Plan, *supra*, at 9.

¹⁷³ Seema Mehta, *Land-Use Plan OK'd for Malibu*, L.A. TIMES, Sept. 14, 2002.

¹⁷⁴ See Letter to California Coastal Commission from Robert Garcia, et al., regarding Equal Access to California's Beaches (Sept. 12, 2002).

¹⁷⁵ Brookings Institution, *Racial Change in the Nation's Largest Cities: Evidence from the 2000 Census* (2001).

¹⁷⁶ The City Project, *Save Panhe and San Onofre*, (2008), <http://www.cityprojectca.org/ourwork/SavePanheSaveSanOnofre.html>.

¹⁷⁷ *Id.* Karin Klein, *The Acjachemen's Victory*, The Los Angeles Times, (December 27, 2008), <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/editorials/la-ed-panhe27-2008dec27,0,5171692.story>.

¹⁷⁸ *Id.*

¹⁷⁹ Kevin Delgado, *A Turning Point: The Conception and Realization of Chicano Park*, *Journal of San Diego*, (Winter 1998, 44(1)).

¹⁸⁰ Mike Davis, Kelly Mayhew, and John Miller, *Under the Perfect Sun: The San Diego Tourists Never See* at 230, (New Press, 2003).

¹⁸¹ Marco Anguiano, *The Battle of Chicano Park: A Brief History of the Takeover*, at <http://chicano-park.org/>.

¹⁸² Mike Davis, Kelly Mayhew, and John Miller, *Under the Perfect Sun: The San Diego Tourists Never See* at 230, (New Press, 2003).

¹⁸³ The City Project, *Transit to Trails*, (2010), <http://www.cityprojectca.org/ourwork/forests.html>.

¹⁸⁴ *Id.*

¹⁸⁵ SCAG RTP Environmental Justice Report 11-14, 20 (2008). The SCAG Environmental Justice report is available at <http://www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/750>.

¹⁸⁶ See more about Transit to Trails at www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/345.

¹⁸⁷ The 32nd Street Task Force, *Canyon Policy Portfolio: Our Financially Rewarding Natural Wildlands*, (2009), <http://sites.google.com/a/32ndstreetcanyon.org/www/home2>.

¹⁸⁸ San Diego Canyonlands, *History*, (2010), <http://www.sdcanyonlands.org/about/history.html>.

¹⁸⁹ San Diego Canyonlands, *San Diego Canyons Coalition*, (2010), <http://www.sdcanyonlands.org/the-canyonlands/san-diego-canyons-coalition.html>.

¹⁹⁰ San Diego Civic Solutions, *Canyonlands: The Creation of San Diego Regional Canyonlands Park*, (2006), <http://sdcanyonlands.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/canyonlandswhitepaper.pdf>.

¹⁹¹ American Community Gardening Association, *What is a Community Garden?*, (2010), <http://www.communitygarden.org/learn/>.

¹⁹² *Id.*

¹⁹³ Dan Shapley, *Michelle Obama's White House Garden*, The Daily Green on September 8, 2009, <http://www.thedailygreen.com/environmental-news/latest/michelle-obama-gardens-47022002>.

¹⁹⁴ Keith Darce, *Garden Produces Praise from Michelle Obama*, San Diego Union-Tribune on April 15, 2010, <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/apr/15/crowd-gathers-glimpse-michelle-obama/>.

¹⁹⁵ *Id.*

-
- ¹⁹⁶ For a list of community gardens in San Diego, see the San Diego County Master Gardener Association list at <http://www.mastergardenerssandiego.org/community/makepdf.php>.
- ¹⁹⁷ Victory Gardens San Diego, *From Neglected Parcels to Community Gardens: A Handbook*, (2004), <http://www.victorygardenssandiego.com/resources/CommunityGardenStart-upHandbook.pdf>.
- ¹⁹⁸ San Diego Roots, *Sustainable Foods Project*, (2010), <http://www.sandiegoroots.org/index.html>.
- ¹⁹⁹ County of San Diego, *Otay Valley Regional Park Open Space*, (2010), <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/parks/openspace/otay.html>.
- ²⁰⁰ County of San Diego, *Otay Valley Regional Park Design Standards & Guidelines*, (2005), <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/parkplanning/ovregpark.shtml>.
- ²⁰¹ County of San Diego, *Otay Valley Regional Park: Concept Plan*, (1997), http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/reusable_components/images/parks/doc/ovrpconceptplan.pdf.
- ²⁰² City of Chula Vista Department of Planning, *Otay Valley Regional Park*, (2010), http://www.chulavistaca.gov/City_Services/Development_Services/Planning_Building/Planning/Advance/OVRP.asp.
- ²⁰³ WiLDCOAST, *A Great 2009 and Starting an Even Better 2010*, (2010), http://www.wildcoast.net/site/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1040&Itemid=132.
- ²⁰⁴ Groundwork San Diego – Chollas Creek, *Our Creek*, (2010), <http://www.groundworksandiego.org/about-us/our-mission>.
- ²⁰⁵ *Id.*
- ²⁰⁶ City of San Diego, *Chollas Creek Enhancement Plan*, (2002), <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/pdf/chollasmaster.pdf>.
- ²⁰⁷ *Id.*
- ²⁰⁸ Friends of Chollas Creek, *How I Got Involved in Chollas Creek*, (2010), <http://home.pacbell.net/wa4lrm/chollas/main.htm>.
- ²⁰⁹ San Diego River Park Foundation, *San Diego River Park Conceptual Plan* at 21 and 35-37, (2006).
- ²¹⁰ City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, *Fast Facts*, (2009), <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/pdf/fastfacts.pdf>.
- ²¹¹ City of San Diego Planning Department, *San Diego River Park: City of San Diego 2005 Draft Master Plan*, (2005), <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/parkplanning/pdf/sdriverparkpdf/sdrpmpfv.pdf>.
- ²¹² City of San Diego Planning Department, *San Diego River Park: City of San Diego 2005 Draft Master Plan*, (2005), <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/parkplanning/pdf/sdriverparkpdf/sdrpmpfv.pdf>.
- ²¹³ San Diego River Park Foundation, *Accomplishments*, (2009), <http://www.sandiegoriver.org/accomplishments.php>.
- ²¹⁴ The City Project's public comments on the draft Report are available on the web at www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/1464.
- ²¹⁵ Editorial, *Endangered Parks*, N.Y. Times, May 28, 2010 (emphasis added). The editorial and related stories in the Times about state park closures are available on the web at www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/4892.
- ²¹⁶ See www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/4762.
- ²¹⁷ The Sacramento Bee article and editorial are on the web at <http://bit.ly/bFBln0> and <http://bit.ly/a0vCDq>, respectively.
- ²¹⁸ Marjie Lundstrom, "California State Parks Plagued by Decay," *Sacramento Bee*, June 27, 2010.
- ²¹⁹ Information about the complaint is available on the web at www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/4892.
- ²²⁰ *A 21st Century Strategy for America's Great Outdoors*, 75 Fed. Reg. 20,765 (April 20, 2010).
- ²²¹ See www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-memorandum-americas-great-outdoors.
- ²²² See Richard J. Jackson, MD, MPH & Chris Kochtitzky, MSP, *Creating a Healthy Environment: The Impact of the Built Environment on Public Health*, Sprawl Watch Clearinghouse Monograph Series, Public Health/Land Use Monograph 5, available at <http://www.sprawlwatch.org/Jackson>.
- ²²³ See generally California Green Stimulus Coalition Principles, available at <http://californiagreenstimulus.org/our-principles>.

MISSION OF THE CITY PROJECT

The mission of The City Project is to achieve equal justice, democracy, and livability for all.

We influence the investment of public resources to achieve results that are equitable, enhance human health and the environment, and promote economic vitality for all. Focusing on parks and recreation, schools, health, and transit, we help bring people together to define the kind of community where they want to live and raise children. The City Project works with diverse coalitions in strategic campaigns to shape public policy and law, and to serve the needs of the community as defined by the community.

The City Project

1055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1660

Los Angeles, CA 90017

Phone (213) 977-1035 Fax (213) 977-5457

Visit our web site and **blog** at www.cityprojectca.org Contributions are tax deductible

ABOUT THE SAN DIEGO FOUNDATION

Founded in 1975, The San Diego Foundation enhances the community by working with individuals, businesses and organizations to establish charitable funds. Grants from these funds support charitable groups and programs working to improve the quality of life in San Diego County and beyond. For additional information, please visit The San Diego Foundation at www.sdfoundation.org.

Cover photo credits:

Upper left and right: Robert Garcia, The City Project

Lower left: The San Diego Foundation. Lower right: San Diego Canyonlands.