

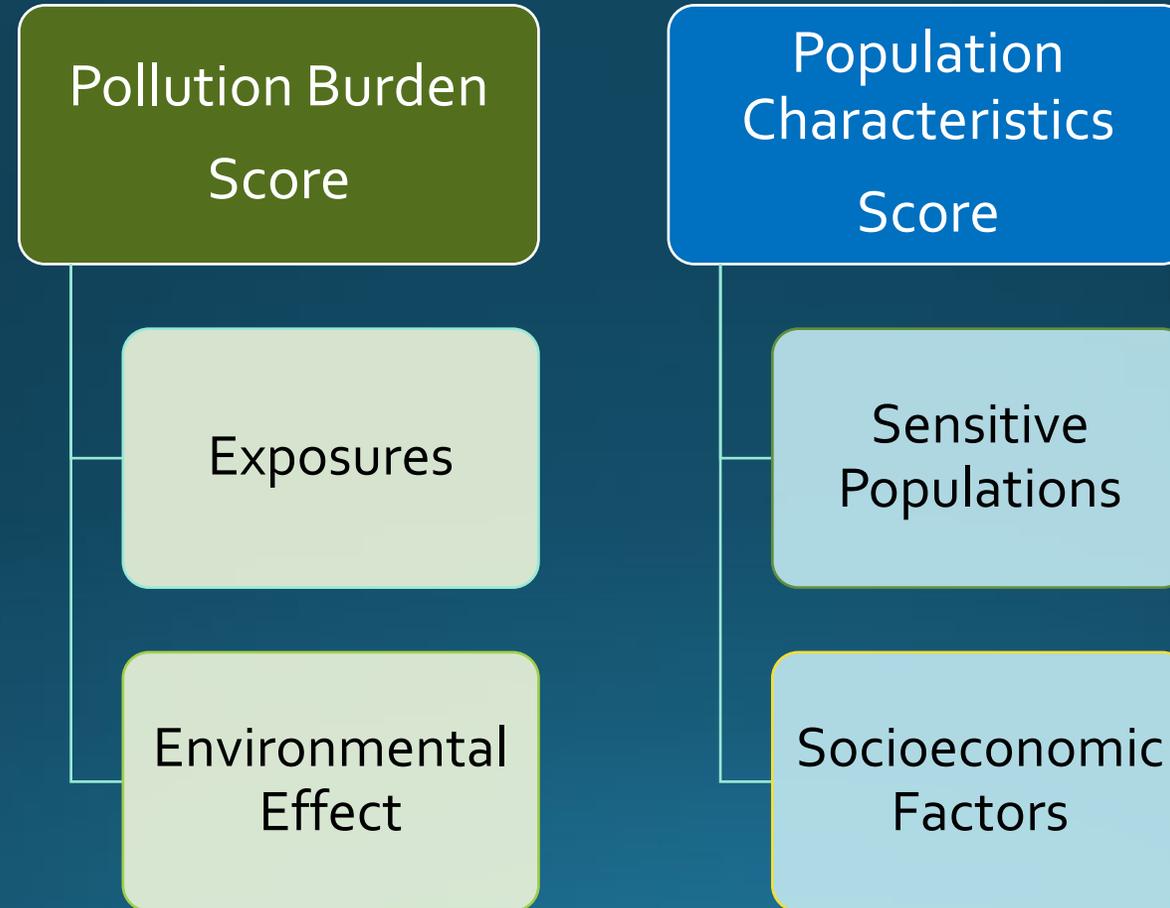
Presentation to the
Contra Costa County
Sustainability
Committee
March 9, 2026

Draft CalEnviroScreen (CES) 5.0 Analysis

What is CalEnvrioScreen?

- CalEnviroScreen (CES) is a mapping tool that provides an analysis of the impact of both pollution and socioeconomic factors at the census tract level.
- CES was first released in 2012 and has been updated 3 times.
- CES is used to identify “Disadvantaged Communities” per Senate Bill 535.

Overview of CES Model - Inputs



Overview of CES Model – Cumulative Score

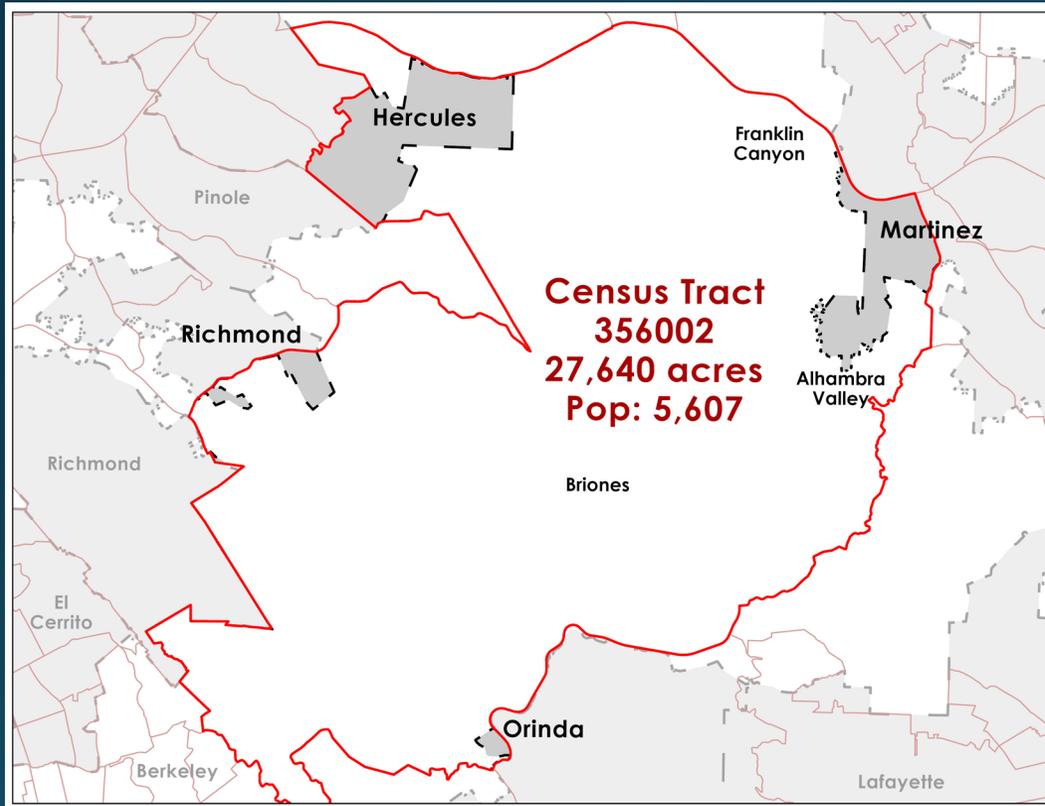


Draft CES 5.0 Analysis Overview

Reasons why score may have changed between CES 4.0 and Draft CES 5.0.

1. Variability in Geographic Attribution and Data Collection
2. Geographic Updates
3. Evolving Methodology

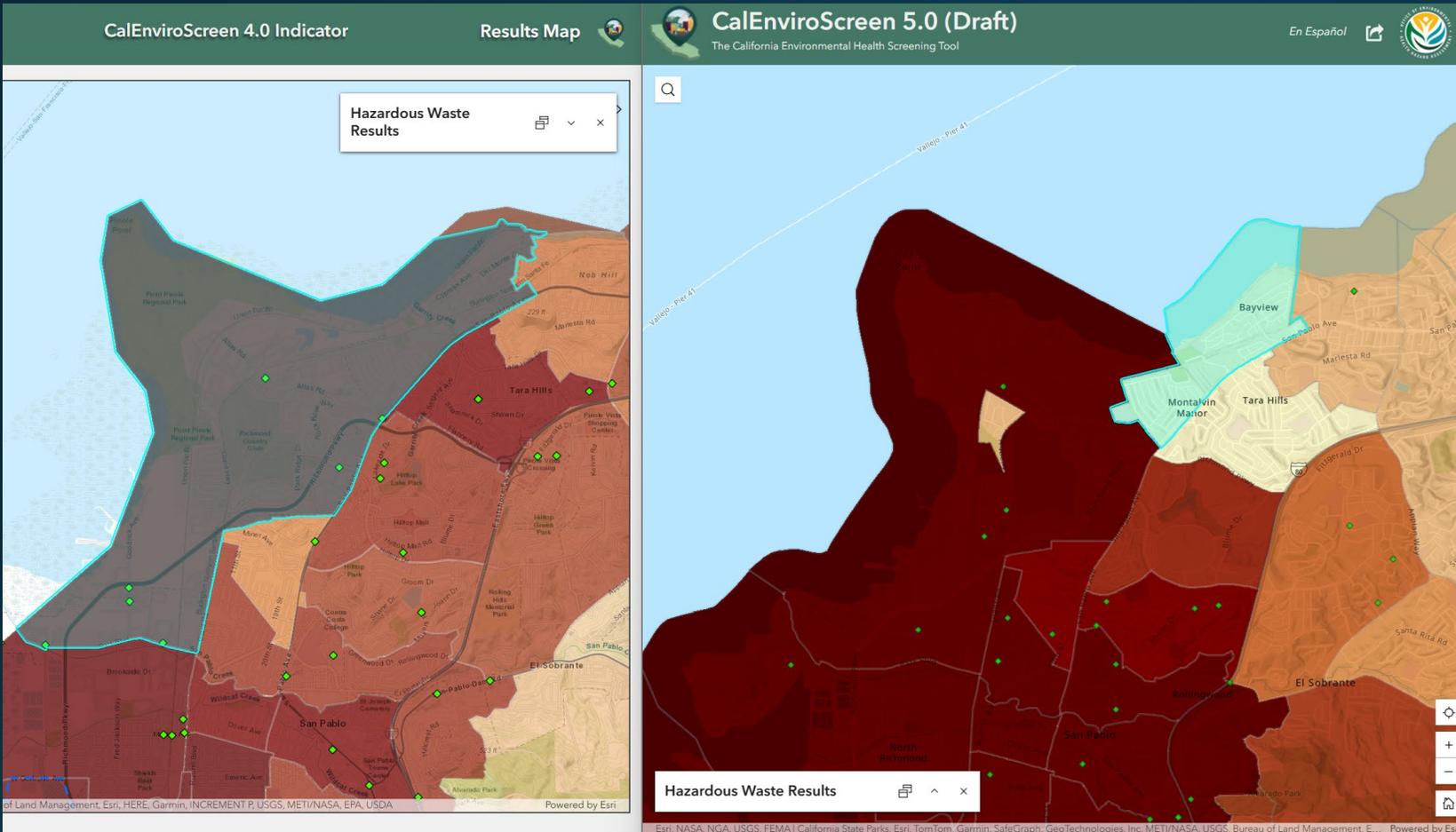
Analysis: Variability in Data Collection and Geographic Attribution



- Some Census Tracts are large and contain portions of multiple communities.
- If a pollution source such as a landfill or a congested freeway is located on one side of the census tract, the entire tract receives the score – even if they don't experience the impact.

Analysis: Geographic Updates

- Census tracts are updated every ten years prior to the decennial census.
- Census tract splits can result in lower pollution score if a facility is no longer in the vicinity of the new boundaries
- Census tract splits can result in different population score if the socioeconomic characteristics vary between the two new census tracts



Analysis: Evolving Methodology

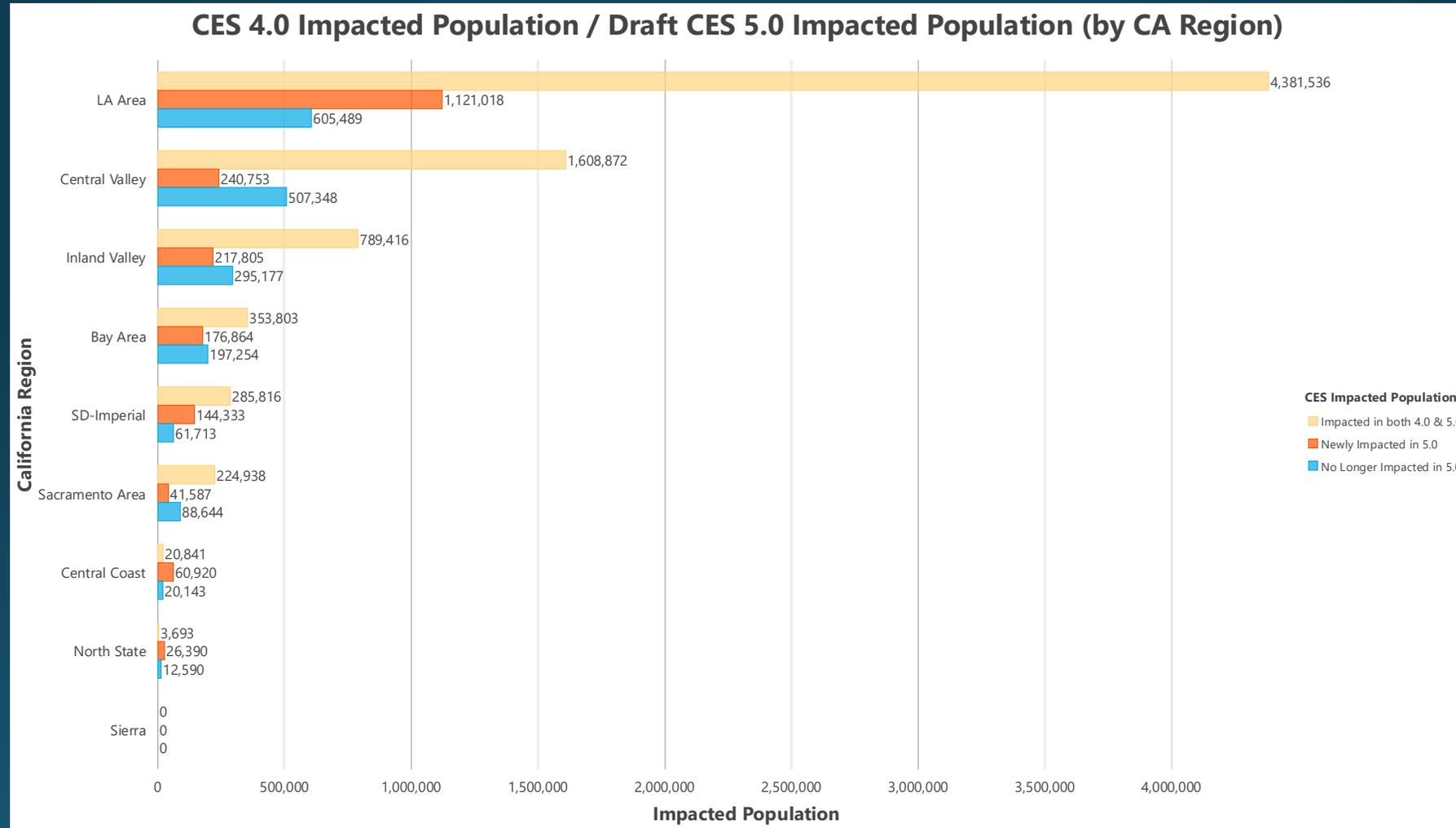
CalEPA worked with various community organization to refine the CalEnviroScreen Methodology including:

- Two New Indicators: Diabetes Prevalence and Small Air Toxic Sites (like gas stations and dry cleaners)
- Refined criteria for
 - Hazardous Waste by increasing the buffer from 1 km to 4 km
 - Drinking Water Contaminants by addition water quality data for Tribal areas
 - Children's Lead Risk from Housing by including children's blood level data.

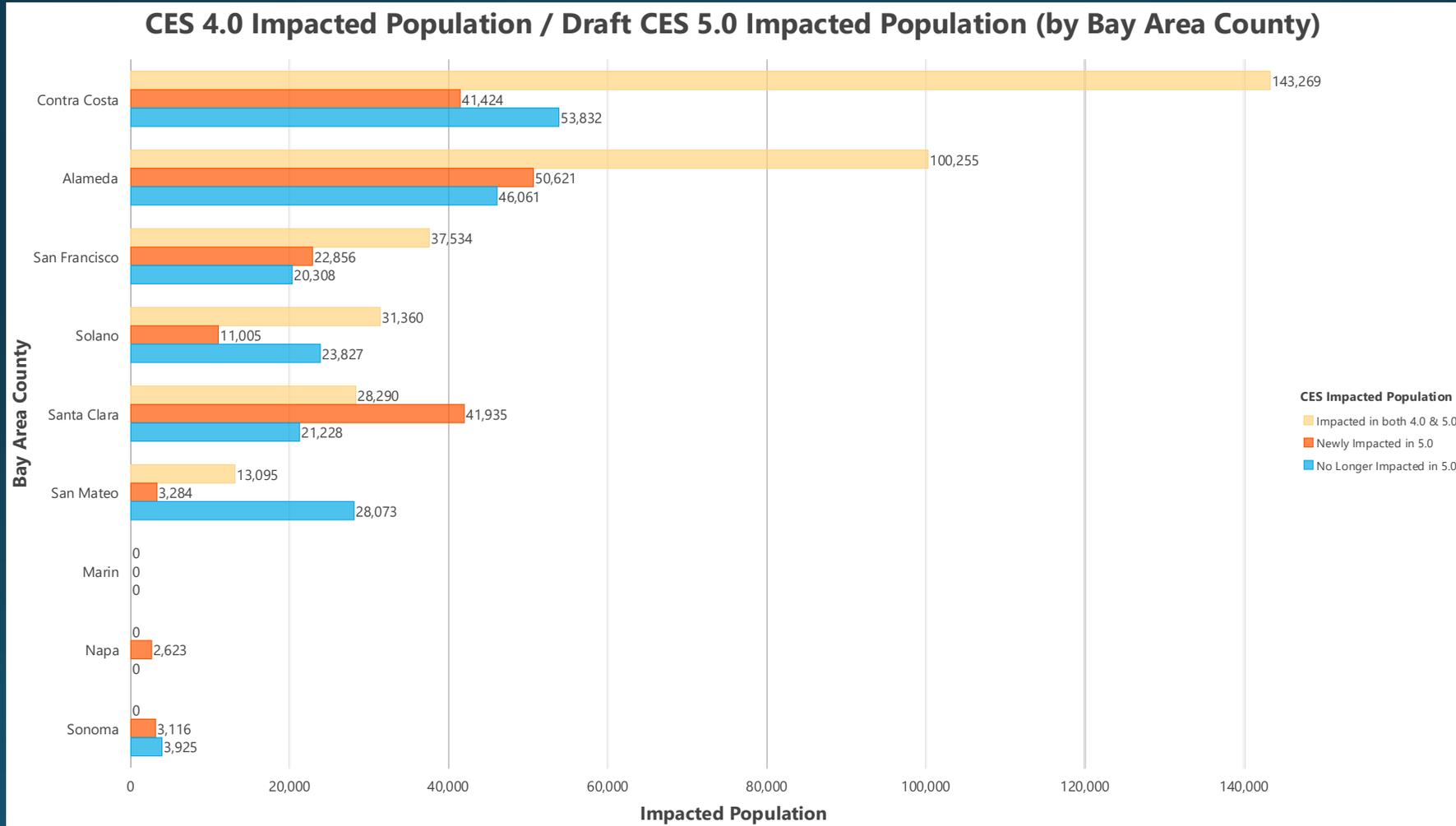
Draft CES 5.0 Impact on Communities

- Census Tracts with a CES Score in the top 75% are considered Disadvantaged Communities by the State of California.
- The Disadvantaged Community designation is used by various agencies and entities to identify where to direct resources to mitigate impacts of pollution and environmental hazards faced by the most vulnerable populations in the state.
- Overall Draft CES 5.0 shows a 20% swing in the population in the top 75%

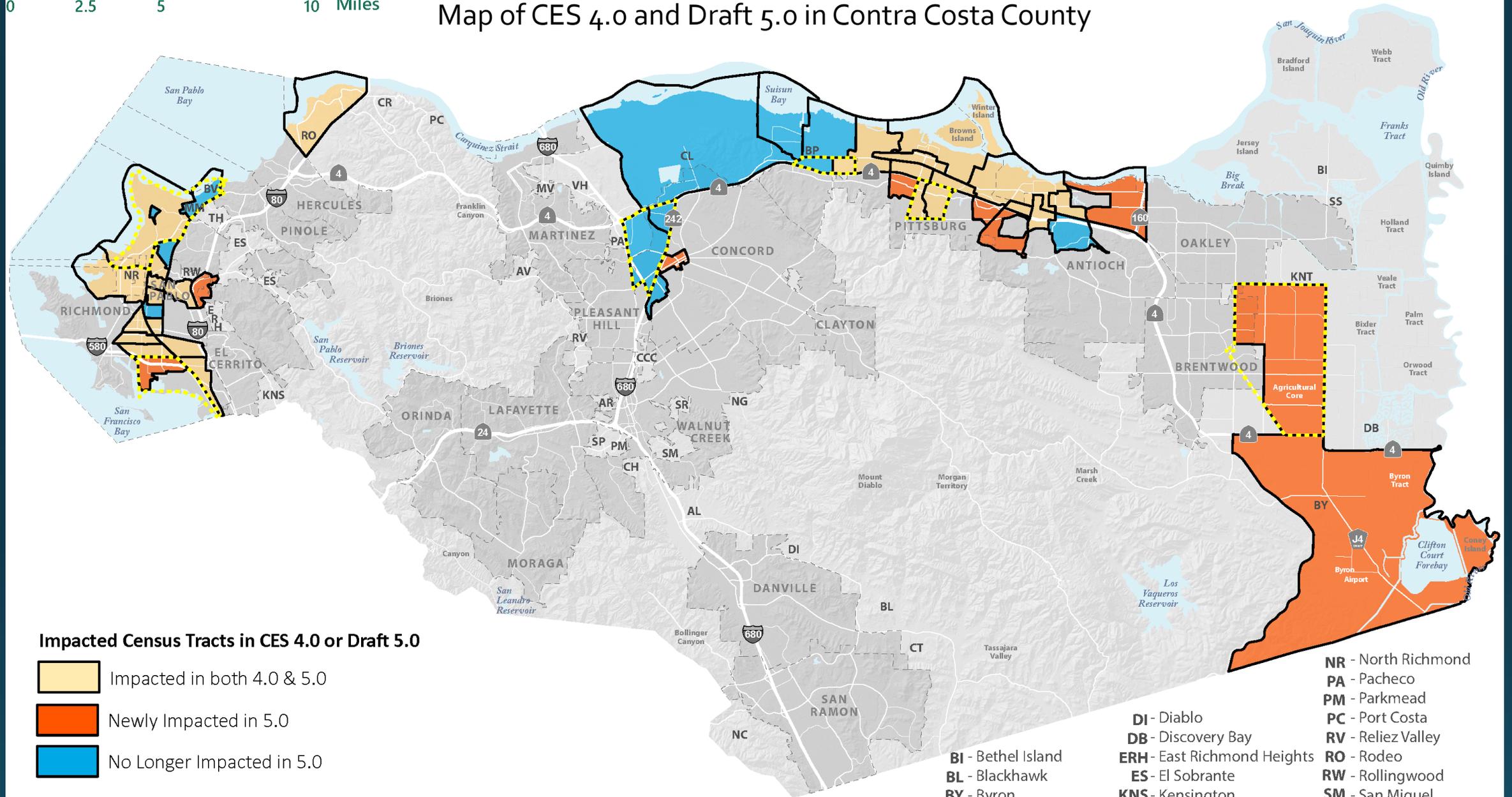
How CES 4.0 and Draft 5.0 Differ by California Regions



How CES 4.0 and Draft 5.0 Differ by Bay Area Counties



Map of CES 4.0 and Draft 5.0 in Contra Costa County



Impacted Census Tracts in CES 4.0 or Draft 5.0

- Impacted in both 4.0 & 5.0
- Newly Impacted in 5.0
- No Longer Impacted in 5.0
- Census Tracts split in 2020

- AR - Acalanes Ridge
- AL - Alamo
- AV - Alhambra Valley
- BV - Bayview
- BP - Bay Point
- DI - Diablo
- DB - Discovery Bay
- ERH - East Richmond Heights
- BY - Byron
- CT - Camino Tassajara
- CH - Castle Hill
- CL - Clyde
- CCC - Contra Costa Centre
- CR - Crockett
- NR - North Richmond
- PA - Pacheco
- PM - Parkmead
- PC - Port Costa
- RV - Reliez Valley
- RO - Rodeo
- RW - Rollingwood
- SM - San Miguel
- SS - Sandmound Slough
- SP - Saranap
- SR - Shell Ridge
- TH - Tara Hills
- VH - Vine Hill



Draft Comment Letter to CalEPA – (Future CES Criteria)

The following outlines potential topics for a comment letter to the CalEPA from the Board of Supervisors.

- **Support integrating Climate Change Indicators for CES 6.o.**
CalEPA will be developing a strategy for integrating climate data for use in CES 6.o. Contra Costa County supports this process as a collaborative effort to ensure Climate Action and Resiliency continue to be a priority for the State while reflecting local community impacts.

Draft Comment Letter to CalEPA – (Data Swings)

- **Questions about why there are significant data shifts in some of the factors:** Often data for particular criteria may swing more than 50% in one direction or the other. For example, one census tract in Bay Point went from being in the top 76% for hazardous waste to the bottom 7%, with very little change on the ground.

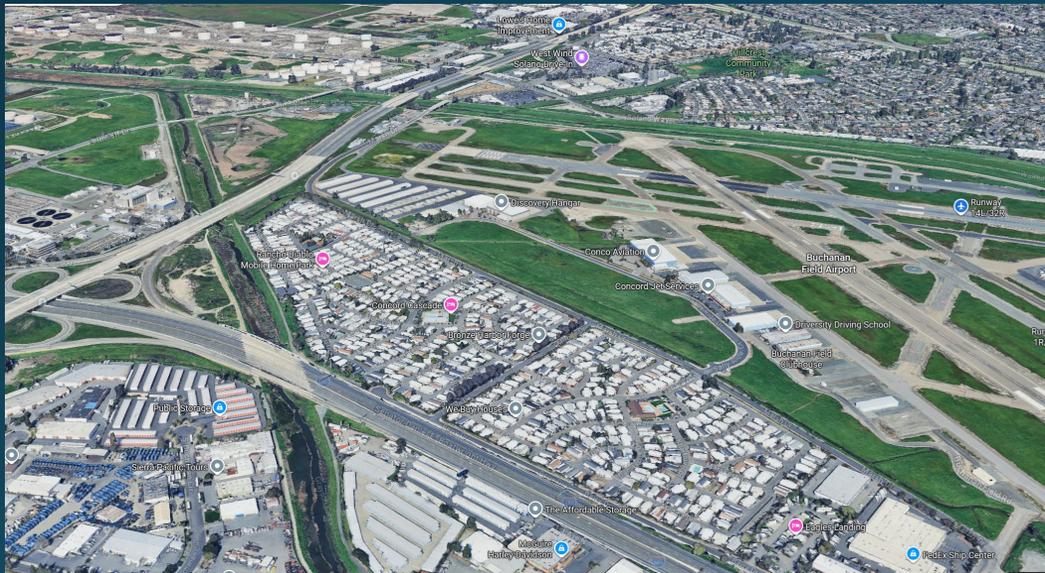
Draft Comment Letter to CalEPA – (Local Knowledge)

- **Questions about the overall impact not reflecting local knowledge on the ground.** For example, most of Bay Point is no longer disadvantaged while portions East Richmond Heights are now disadvantaged. Another example is the mobile home park in Pacheco with a low-income population and situated between a freeway and the airport, which is no longer a Disadvantaged Community, while a portion of Knightsen now meets the Disadvantaged Community designation.

Draft Comment Letter to CalEPA – (Local Knowledge - Images)

Mobile Home Park between the
Freeway: No Longer Disadvantaged

Gated Community with private lake in
Knightsen: Newly Disadvantaged



Draft Comment Letter to CalEPA – (Data Uncertainty)

- **Question about Data Reliability:** There appears to be significant variation in the hazardous material points between CES 4.0 and Draft 5.0, with an increased number of hazardous material identified in homes and removal of known facilities, including a landfill. A more in-depth analysis would be required to see if there are additional inconsistencies in the data.

Draft Comment Letter to CalEPA (Policy Impacts)

- **Balancing ongoing CES methodology with local planning efforts.** CES has evolved into a critical planning and financing tool. However, with a 20% swing in Disadvantaged Community designations it impacts planning efforts like the General Plan and the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan along with grant funding and project implementation timelines. This impacts communities that are “Transitional Disadvantaged” the most. Consider a multi-tiered system or other metric that designates communities that are previous disadvantaged or at risk of becoming disadvantaged.

Draft Comment Letter to CalEPA (State Funding)

- **Consider updating the Statewide Climate Funding Methodology:** The state could consider a block grant or similar method of allocating funding that would increase participation and accelerate progress toward statewide climate goals by simplifying access to funding.