

Appendix D Planning and Outreach Process

Outreach and Community Participation

A foundational first step in Resilient SLO's outreach and engagement strategy was to create a Community Outreach Plan (Exhibit A) that identified key stakeholders and population groups; established guiding principles, goals, and triggers; and outlined strategies and tactics that ensured the project was informed by community needs, priorities, and interests.

The Community Adaptation and Safety Element (CASE) reflects the community's vision for resilience to hazards and future disruptions. Community input shaped its development and was gathered through virtual community webinars, online surveys, "Stories of Resilience" submissions, a Resilience Roundtable, and working groups.

The Resilience Roundtable was an ad-hoc community advisory group of local experts that provided input on the City's approach to adapting to climate change. Community members were selected to serve on the Roundtable based on their traditional or non-traditional expertise in climate change resilience topics. The 14 Roundtable members represented a diversity of backgrounds and areas of expertise. The Roundtable met five times throughout the development of the CASE and provided critical input on key project deliverables to date.

The working groups were open to the public and led by Resilience Roundtable Members and project leads. Working groups provided additional community feedback on how climate change impacts to community resilience, the built environment, environmental justice, and the natural environment should be addressed.

Three community webinars were held to inform community members about the project, increase community knowledge of climate change adaptation and resilience topics, and gather feedback. Two separate surveys were also shared to gather community priorities, concerns, and feedback on actionable strategies for the city. Finally, community members were invited to share their experiences and lessons learned in overcoming disasters. These "Stories of Resilience" provide community perspectives on local resilience to historic disasters. Because of COVID-19 precautions, all community engagement occurred virtually.

- Online Survey – August through September 2020
- Stories of Resilience Submissions – December 2020 through December 2021
- Resilience Roundtable Meeting #1 – January 15, 2021
- Community Webinar – January 28, 2021
- Online Survey – February through March 2021
- Built Environment Working Group Meeting – March 2, 2021
- Natural Systems Working Group Meeting – March 4, 2021

- Community Resilience Working Group Meeting – March 4, 2021
- Resilience Roundtable Meeting #2 – March 11, 2021
- Community Webinar – May 13, 2021
- Community Resilience Working Group Meeting – July 12, 2021
- Natural Systems Working Group Meeting – July 13, 2021
- Built Environment Working Group Meeting – March 14, 2021
- Environmental Justice Working Group Meeting – July 19, 2021
- Community Strategy Workshop – July 22, 2021
- Resilience Roundtable Meeting #3 – August 13, 2021
- Community Education Event – January 24, 2021
- Resilient Roundtable Meeting #4 May 10, 2022
- Climate Party – August 13, 2022
- Resilient Roundtable Meeting #5 October 11, 2022

Stories of a Resilient SLO (community webinar) – January 28, 2021: This event introduced the Resilient SLO project and presented findings from the project’s Baseline Conditions Report. Speakers included Mayor Heidi Harmon; Chris Read, City Sustainability Manager; Adrienne Greve, Cal Poly Professor; Beya Makekau, Director of Student Diversity and Belonging, Cal Poly; John Lindsey, Marine Meteorologist for PG&E; and Kai Lord-Farmer, Consultant at Ascent Environmental.

Re-energizing SLO – Building an Energy Resilient Future (community webinar) – May 13, 2021: This community education webinar explored energy resilience and its connection with public safety, economic resilience, and disaster preparedness. Featured speakers included Tanya Barham, CEO and Founder of Community Energy Labs; Craig Lewis, Executive Director of the Clean Coalition; and Kajsa Hendrickson, representing the Solar on Multi-Family Affordable Housing Program.

Adapting to a Changing Climate Workshop – Strategies for a Resilient SLO (virtual community workshop) – July 22nd, 2021: This community workshop centered around a community discussion of adaptation strategies to address climate change impacts. The event also featured a short presentation of anticipated climatic changes by project consultant Kai Lord-Farmer from Ascent Environmental.

City Staff and Partner Agency Engagement

City staff from key departments provided input on the project through the City’s Green Team, an interdepartmental collaborative body of city staff. The Green Team focused on capacity building for the purposes of climate adaptation for three Green Team meetings which met on an ongoing basis to work on sustainability programs. Additionally, specific departments and outside agencies were consulted throughout the development of the CASE to support the development of the goals, policies, and programs that affect their areas of expertise and responsibility. Key departments and partner agencies consulted include:

- Community Development Department

- Office of Sustainability
- Public Works Department
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Utilities Department
- Caltrans District 5
- San Luis Obispo County

Surveys

Six surveys were shared to gather community priorities, concerns, and feedback on actionable strategies for the city. In addition to more traditional surveys, community members were invited to submit “Stories of Resilience” to share their experiences and lessons learned in overcoming disasters. These “Stories of Resilience” provide community perspectives on local resilience to historic disasters.

Community Priorities Survey – August 2020 – September 2020: This survey sought to gather broad input on overall community priorities, concerns related to climate change impacts, experience with past hazards and response efforts, and priorities for local action. Survey results informed the development of the Vulnerability Assessment and community outreach activities throughout the project. The survey, consisting of 19 questions, and had 328 responses. The survey results were used to inform the development of goals, policies and programs (Exhibit B).

Stories of Resilience Submissions – December 2020 – Present: Community members were invited to submit stories about how they had overcome past challenges. Stories were shared on the project website and used to understand and celebrate how our community has demonstrated resilience. The Stories of Resilience are available on the City’s website Resilient SLO (<https://www.slocity.org/government/department-directory/city-administration/office-of-sustainability-and-natural-resources/resilient-slo-2246>).

Climate Strategies Survey – February 2021 – March 2021: This survey invited the community to share ideas for strategies to increase the city’s long-term resilience to climate change impacts (Exhibit C)

Climate Change Impacts on Community Organizations Survey – June 2021: This survey asked community organizations how their operations were being affected by climate hazards and how they were preparing for the impacts of climate change. The results of the survey helped inform the project Vulnerability Assessment (Exhibit D).

Community Asset Mapping Survey – August 2021: This survey allowed the public to map community strengths that support social cohesion, wellbeing, and disaster resilience. The data gathered can help the city understand existing assets, what should be strengthened and invested in, and what resources are missing (Exhibit E).

Environmental Justice Survey for Community Organizations – August 2021: The Environmental Justice Survey for Community Organizations was intended to gather input on environmental topics from organizations that serve vulnerable and/or disadvantaged communities in the City of San Luis Obispo. The survey findings were used to inform the integration of environmental justice into the CASE (Exhibit F).

Resilient SLO Community Engagement Plan

The primary objective of *Resilient SLO* is to update the City of San Luis Obispo's Safety Element of their General Plan, which will guide policies, programs, and investments for future development. The Safety Element will be updated to consider current and future climate change risks and hazards, as well as strategies to mitigate, adapt, and build resilience to the worsening impacts of climate change. As a long-range planning document and the necessity for all stakeholders to be involved in building climate resilience, inclusive community engagement is critical to the overall success of this project.

This Community Engagement Plan outlines key stakeholders and population groups, guiding principles, goals and triggers, and strategies and tactics to ensure that the project is informed by community needs, priorities, and interests while educating community members about climate risks and adaptation strategies. Community participation will be incorporated into all stages of the adaptation planning process and input will directly impact the direction and prioritization of project outcomes.

Community engagement will fulfill three key purposes:

1. **Inform:** To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions. Community members will receive critical information on current and future climate risks, hazards, and vulnerabilities, as well as best practices for building individual and community resilience.
2. **Consult:** To gather input and obtain feedback on the direction of the project, adaptation options and alternatives, and adaptation strategies to include in the City's updated Safety Element. Community members will be consulted through a variety of means to gain insight into their perspective on adaptation strategies and priorities.
3. **Collaborate:** To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution. Community members will engage in dialogue and discussion with project partners and local stakeholders to evaluate best practices and inform the updated Safety Element.

It should be noted that the timeline for community engagement activities will incorporate a diversity of approaches and that opportunities for the community to collaborate (and directly contribute to the community resiliency vision) will be a key priority.

Stakeholders

Understanding who key stakeholders are in the city of San Luis Obispo will help to ensure community engagement activities are designed and implemented with the intended audience in mind. It will also help to determine if public input gathered is representative of the city's population and inform targeted outreach that may be needed to engage underrepresented and marginalized populations.

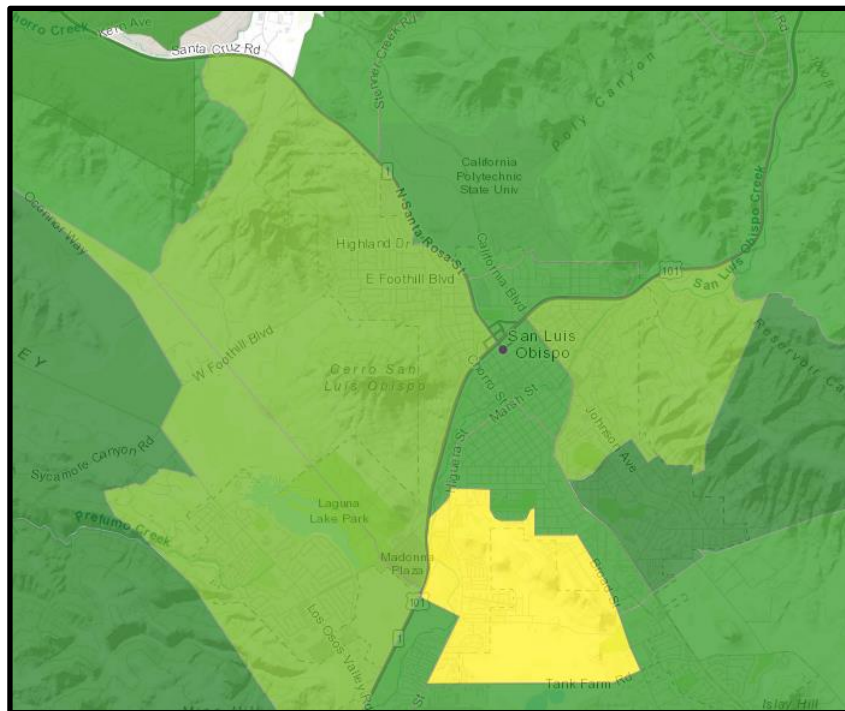
Community Profile

The City of San Luis Obispo has 46,548 inhabitants living on 13.2 square miles. Their three largest private employers are: PG&E, Tenet Healthcare, and Compass Health, Inc. Details on housing and household income are noted on their [website](#):

Total Housing Units	Properties	Median Home Price	Median Household Income
20,578	68% Owned	\$669,200	\$64,014
	vs.		
	32% Rented		

According to [Census Data](#), the majority of the population (~71%) is between the ages of 18 and 64. 12.5% of the population is 65 or older. 17% of the population speak a language other than English at home and 18.3% of the population is Hispanic or Latino. 94.4% of the households have a computer; 90.1% have a broadband internet connection. Land Use details can be found [here](#). Zoning details can be found [here](#).

CalEnviroScreen Results



EnviroScreen Results for City of San Luis Obispo

When engaging stakeholders, the project team will prioritize residents and neighborhood leaders in geographic areas most vulnerable to climate change based on initial findings from the vulnerability assessment. Results from CalEnviroScreen (CES) will also inform priority communities to engage based on those who face the most significant environmental hazards. CES scores for the census tracts within the city's boundaries range from 6.69 to 26.9. The hardest hit census tract -

6079011103 with a score of 26.9 - has a CES percentile of 53.69%. This means that it scores below 46.3% of all census tracts within the State. The city does not have any disadvantaged communities as designated by SB-535. It should also be noted that census tracts do not align with city boundaries, so isolating the target neighborhoods within the tract may pose a challenge.



CES Percentiles & Scores by SLO Census Tracts

San Luis Obispo also serves as an economic hub for the region. A wildfire or natural disaster could disrupt transportation routes and prevent commuters from traveling into the city. As such, commuters should also be seen as key stakeholders, in addition to residents. The initial community engagement survey conducted for *Resilient SLO* allowed both residents and non-residents who work in the city to provide input.

Potential Partners

In order to successfully reach stakeholders, particularly underrepresented and marginalized populations, the project team will identify, engage, and partner with trusted local organizations. Promotional partners will be recruited for each engagement activity to help amplify the project team’s outreach efforts. The project team intends to strengthen relationships with promotional partners throughout the course of the project to ideally sustain ongoing engagement in the City’s climate adaptation initiatives and future community engagement efforts. Co-sponsors may also be able to support the procurement of additional materials to maximize participation.

The project team compiled [a list](#) of potential partners to engage, which includes:

- Local and regional nonprofit organizations including those focused on environmental issues, as well as housing, food, economic development, transportation, agriculture, civic engagement, arts and culture, and other social services
- Neighborhood associations
- Cultural centers
- Professional associations
- Business associations
- Media outlets
- Schools, colleges, and universities
- Organizations serving SLO's Latinx communities

This list also includes partners that can be engaged through different platforms, such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. The project team will continue building this list throughout the course of the project.

Guiding Principles

All community outreach and engagement activities will be designed and implemented in a manner that upholds the following guiding principles, which are described in further detail in [Participation Tools for Community Planning](#).

PRINCIPLE	DEFINITION	ACTION ITEM
Inclusiveness	Events are inclusive to all members of the community and include strategies to engage marginalized populations.	The unique needs of community populations will be considered in developing engagement strategies and the project will provide a diversity of opportunities to participate.
Respect	Community members are acknowledged for their unique perspectives and knowledge of local community issues	Community members are thanked for their contributions after every engagement activity.
Relevance	Issue areas align with community values and shared needs and aspirations	Partners will incorporate community values and needs into any community outreach or engagement activities.
Clear Purpose and Scope	A roadmap of the project is available from the beginning and all participants have a clear understanding of how their input will be utilized and what future deliverables they can expect to see.	Details of Resilient SLO are publicly available and contact information is provided for any individual with questions about the project.

Knowledge	Community members have access to the necessary tools and technical information to share useful insights.	Community members are provided with sufficient background information and resources to fully participate in the engagement activity.
Trust	Community members can trust project leads and community partners to utilize feedback and incorporate into project deliverables.	Community members are provided with the details on how their comments will be translated into project deliverables.
Sustained Engagement	Relationship-building with the community continues beyond the project timeline and provides an ongoing means to support concerns and aspirations	Project partners will provide an open line of communication for project participants and detail pathways to address ongoing issues.
Results	Community members are provided with public evidence that their input has been valued and incorporated into project outcomes.	When deliverables are drafted or finalized from engagement activities, respondents will receive a follow-up email outlining what has been accomplished.

Additionally, the project team will consider the following key questions when conducting community outreach and engagement, which are further described in the City’s [Public Engagement and Noticing Manual](#)).

1. What is the action/program/project you need to communicate?
2. Who makes the final decision on the item, is this a staff decision? Subject to advisory body review? Will City Council ultimately receive the item for action?
3. What type of community interaction is desired?
4. Who needs to/wants to be informed?
5. When does the outreach need to happen?
6. What needs to be done?
7. What does success look like?

Cultural Considerations

It is also important to consider cultural factors when conducting community engagement activities to ensure that all communities are given equal access to opportunities to participate and that participants feel inspired to participate due to their unique contributions.

The Greenlining Institute’s [Making Equity Real: Community Benefits & Engagement Guide](#) details key cultural considerations to prioritize when conducting community engagement, which will serve as guiding principles for the project team.

CULTURAL FACTORS	HOW TO ADDRESS CULTURAL CONSIDERATION FACTORS IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Literacy Level	It may be more difficult to reach out to Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals, immigrant communities, or people with lower educational attainment. Project leads should design materials and events for community engagement to accommodate different literacy levels and provide background information when referring to complex concepts. Avoid the use of acronyms where possible.
Socioeconomic Status	Groups with lower socioeconomic status are often disproportionately affected by environmental hazards while facing greater barriers to participation in engagement efforts to remediate them. These barriers may be addressed when considering factors such as the location and timing of activities, accessibility by public transportation, availability of childcare, and availability of food.
Language	All communication should be done in the major languages spoken in the community. This includes written background materials, live interpretation at key public events and captioned videos. Interpreters should be available at meetings when it is clear that non-English speaking members of the community will be present.
Local History	<p>Certain communities may have participated in previous engagement efforts that did result in change. Over time, either not being included or participating and/or not feeling utilized may affect future participation.</p> <p>Understanding the local context is helpful prior to beginning engagement. Engaging with local CBOs that understand local history may help advance community participation in engagement activities. We strongly recommend ongoing information sharing to insure transparency, help maintain community relationships and build trust in the process.</p>
Competing Interests and Limited Time	<p>Community members may have many competing interests and limited time. Allowing different levels and types of involvements in the process can help foster participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Going to places where people already gather to allow community members to give input without a large time commitment at a time that is convenient for them. ● Other more time-intensive activities, such as focus groups, charrettes, and workshops, can be made available for stakeholders who are interested in providing more in-depth input.

Goals and Triggers

Effective adaptation requires broad engagement. As such, participant demographics will be captured for each engagement activity and the project team will work to ensure representation from key demographic groups within the city. The following minimum response targets, informed by 2018 Census and American Community Survey results, will serve as response and participation goals. If these goals are not met, the project team will conduct targeted outreach efforts and engage with appropriate partners to engage underrepresented segments of the city’s population. The timeline for

targeted outreach, specifically when addressing the digital divide, may also need to be reviewed more in-depth to ensure that there is sufficient time for such populations to participate.

DEMOGRAPHIC	ACCEPTABLE RANGE (PERCENT)	MINIMUM RESPONSE		
		10%	15%	20%
Housing Situation				
Homeowner	63% - 73% (68%)	2971	4457	5942
Renter	27% - 37% (35%)	1273	1910	2547
Age				
Under 18	8.1% - 18.1% (13.1%)	382	573	764
18 - 24	29.9% - 39.9% (34.9%)	1410	2115	2820
25 - 34	8.6% - 18.6% (13.6%)	406	608	811
35 - 44	3.3% - 13.3% (8.3%)	156	233	311
45 - 54	3.7% - 13.7% (8.7%)	174	262	349
55 - 64	3.9% - 13.9% (8.9%)	184	276	368
Above 65	7.5% - 17.5% (12.5%)	354	531	708
Ethnicity				
American Indian or Alaskan Native	.3%	14	21	26
Asian	.6% - 10.6% (5.6%)	28	42	57
Black or African American	2.0%	94	141	189
Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin	13.3% - 23.3% (18.3%)	627	941	1254
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	.1%	5	7	9
White or Caucasian	65.7% - 75.7% (70.7%)	3098	4648	6197
Other	.2%	9	14	19
Household Income				

Less than \$10,000	6.6% - 16.6% (11.6%)	311	467	632
\$10,000 - \$14,999	2.3% - 12.3% (7.3%)	108	163	217
\$15,000 - \$24,999	6.2% - 16.2% (11.2%)	292	439	585
\$25,000 - \$34,999	1.3% - 11.3% (6.3%)	61	92	123
\$35,000 - \$49,999	6.2% - 16.2% (11.2%)	292	439	585
\$50,000 - \$74,999	10.2% - 20.2% (15.2%)	481	722	962
\$75,000 - \$99,999	5.8% - 15.8% (10.8%)	274	410	547
\$100,000 - \$149,999	7.8% - 17.8% (12.8%)	368	552	736
\$150,000 - \$199,999	.8% - 10.8% (5.8%)	38	57	75
\$200,000 or more	2.8% - 12.8% (7.8%)	132	198	264

Strategies and Tactics

Due to public health concerns and public gathering restrictions due to COVID-19, community engagement events for Resilient SLO will be virtual. This does not preclude eventual in-person engagement at a later date; however this plan focuses on virtual activities.

Virtual engagement activities present unique opportunities and challenges. As a consequence of COVID-19, many individuals are working remotely and can more easily incorporate virtual engagement activities into their schedule. Community members are also likely to be more familiar with online platforms and tools. Virtual engagement can also attract individuals who would otherwise not attend an in-person event due to space constraints, transportation challenges, or child care needs.

At the same time, virtual activities can pose a technical barrier for certain community groups as participation can be hindered by a slow internet connection and/or limited knowledge about how to use the tools provided. Virtual engagement can also be impersonal and participants may not receive the full benefits of in-person events, particularly networking and relationship-building. The project team will identify and employ strategies to address challenges resulting from virtual engagement activities.

Outreach Strategy

To reach a broad audience, the project team will employ a variety of tactics to promote community engagement and education activities, including:

- Postcards to residents,
- E-notification,
- Website posting,
- Social Media,

- Utilities billing insert,
- Community Calendar,
- Signage,
- Paid media (newspaper, radio, outdoor/transit),
- Press Release,
- Neighborhood meetings, and
- Mailed Announcement.

Types of Activities

The following virtual engagement activities are divided based on their capability to inform, consult, or collaborate with the general public. All types of engagement activities will need to be considered in order to ensure this process is as equitable and accessible as possible.

INFORM

ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	CONSIDERATIONS
Website Hub	A central website where residents and stakeholders can visit to see updates from the project, view upcoming events, and provide input through a comment form or survey. The project's website has been created: https://www.lgc.org/resilient-slo	Ensure that the website is easy to navigate and is ADA-compliant.
Resource Library	Articles, podcasts, and other media linked as a resource to help residents learn more about climate change risks and adaptation strategies.	Example: City of Culver City General Plan Planning Library
Informational Webinar	A webinar can be organized to share information with a public audience. Including a Q&A opportunity can help to create a more engaging experience. Webinars can be easily recorded and added to the project website. Webinars can also be used to organize speaker series.	Provide participant guidance to help address potential technical issues in advance
Social Media Campaign	A coordinated social media campaign that includes local partners can help to inform the public of climate risks, hazards, vulnerabilities, adaptation solutions, and resources available in an engaging format that can help to build momentum. The campaign can be conducted through multiple platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and more.	Early engagement with local partners

CONSULT

ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	CONSIDERATIONS
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Online Survey	Surveys will be helpful to gather input from a broad audience, especially over time. Surveys can also be more accessible compared to scheduled events, but should be balanced with other activities that are more engaging.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keep survey brief ● City uses OpenGov for public surveys
Mapping Survey	In addition to traditional surveys, different tools can be used to gather input on specific geographic locations within the city.	Tool: https://maptionnaire.com/
Mailed or Telephone Survey	Mailed or telephone surveys can be used to help address the digital divide.	
Video-guided Questionnaire	A set of short videos can be created to provide additional context for public members to complete targeted questionnaires. Residents can watch the videos at their own pace and then respond to a survey to give their thoughts and suggestions on each one.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Example: City of Sacramento 2040-General Plan Workshop
App-based Engagement	Different app-based engagement tools can be used to solicit comments, ideas, and suggestions from community members that can then be upvoted by other participants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tool: MindMixer.com ● Example: Inspire Boulder
Interactive Webinar	Webinars can also be designed to be more interactive by utilizing polling and breakout room features.	If breakout rooms are used, need to identify a sufficient number of facilitators

COLLABORATE

ACTIVITY	PURPOSE	CONSIDERATIONS
Virtual Roundtable Discussions	Small group discussions can be organized to engage key stakeholders in a dialogue to gather input and/or reach consensus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aim for max of x participants ● Tools: Zoom ● PollEverywhere can be used to create more interactive polling than the options already in Zoom
Virtual Public Workshop	A series of live webinars where project leads can give updates on the findings of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Current and Future Hazards Assessment ● Vulnerability Assessment ● Hazards and Vulnerability Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tools: Zoom, GoogleMeet ● Considerations: Advertising the event to broad audiences ● Digital Divide

	Community members can ask questions and give feedback in real time.	
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IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES

If in-person activities are able to be conducted during the project term, different tactics will be employed, such as the following. In such an event, this plan will be updated to expand on in-person activities, opportunities, and best practices.

- Utilizing a train-the-trainer approach to equip community leaders and community-based organizations with the tools and resources to educate and/or engage their constituents.
- Organizing community design charrettes to engage community members in location-specific planning exercises.
- Organizing workshops and pop-up events to engage and educate the public.
- Leveraging existing meetings, such as neighborhood association meetings.
- Community bike parties, trivia nights, and other opportunities to reach the public in engaging and interactive ways.

Community Engagement Roadmap

Each component of the community engagement process will have its own roadmap. Staging the planning process will allow the project team to remain responsive and adaptive. Each roadmap will contain most, if not all, of the following categories:

- Purpose
- Timeline
- Guiding Principles
- Promotional Language
- Promotional Partners
- Addressing the Digital Divide
- Goals and Triggers

A draft list of community engagement and education activities is listed below.

ACTIVITY	PURPOSE & FORMAT	TIMING
A	Community Priorities Survey To gather broad input on overall community priorities, concerns related to climate change impacts, experience with past hazards and response efforts, and priorities for regional action. Results will inform the vulnerability assessment and future community engagement and education activities.	Completed in October 2020
B	Climate Risks and Vulnerabilities Webinar To increase public understanding of current and future climate change risks, hazards, and vulnerabilities. Video recordings will be produced to serve as ongoing educational resources.	January 2021
C	Vulnerability Assessment Input Platform	January - February 2021

	To solicit community input and feedback on the draft vulnerability assessment to identify and address gaps and inconsistencies. An online platform will be created, which may include video-guided and/or map-based questionnaires.	
D	Adaptation Strategies Input Platform To gather stories of resilience and ideas for adaptation strategies from San Luis Obispo stakeholders. An online platform will be used to allow community members to provide input over an extended period.	January - February 2021
E	Vulnerability Assessment Webinar To present the finalized vulnerability assessment as an educational opportunity for community members and stakeholders. Breakout discussions may be organized to further engage participants.	April - May 2021
F	Adaptation Strategies Prioritization Platform To consult the public on the prioritization of adaptation strategy options, which will also include strategies identified through Activity D. An online platform will be used to allow community members to provide input over an extended period.	June - July 2021
G	Draft Safety Element Presentation To provide the public with the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Safety Element prior to finalization. Breakout discussions may be organized to further engage participants.	October 2021
H	Community Capacity Building Discussions To engage community members in adaptation solutions by providing trainings, connections, and guidance to increase and sustain their engagement. These may be organized in partnership with local organizations and segmented by population group to provide more targeted guidance.	January 2022

1 RESILIENT SLO COMMUNITY PRIORITY SURVEY: RESULTS SUMMARY

1.1 PURPOSE

Resilient SLO, an initiative of the City of San Luis Obispo, will result in an update to the City's General Plan to include strategies for building community resilience to the impacts of climate change. The project team consists of the Local Government Commission as the project managers and Ascent Environmental, Inc. as the lead technical consultant. Resilient SLO is designed to be a comprehensive, innovative, and inclusive planning process – one that elevates community voice in decision-making, utilizes best-available science and practices, and focuses on the real challenges that individuals face in the city of San Luis Obispo: climate change, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and economic uncertainty. The Community Priority Survey is one means of the inclusive planning process. This survey sought to gather broad input on overall community priorities, concerns related to climate change impacts, experience with past hazards and response efforts, and priorities for local action. Results will be utilized in the short-term to inform the vulnerability assessment and future community engagement and education activities. Long-term outcomes from the larger Resilient SLO project include educational activities to ensure San Luis Obispo residents and businesses are equipped with the information and strategies to prepare and build resilience to climate change risks and hazards, a comprehensive vulnerability assessment of the city's physical assets, and infrastructure, an updated Safety Element of the General Plan with identified adaptation strategies across key sectors, an implementation guide that translates strategies into detailed work plans and model policies to catalyze action, trainings for City staff and supporting organizations to build collective capacity to respond to climate change hazards and disasters, and an Implementation Guide with work plans and model policies to catalyze action.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

This survey was the first opportunity for community members to give feedback on their concerns related to climate impacts, hazards, and vulnerabilities to be addressed in the larger Resilient SLO initiative. To inform the updates to the hazard mitigation plan and Safety Component of the General Plan, the project team was interested in hearing from community members on their climate impact experiences and their priorities, in order to incorporate effective planning measures. The climate impacts mentioned in the core questions came from impacts identified for the region in California's 4th Climate Change Assessment. Other priority areas were sourced from current events and stressors, such as COVID-19. The project team began drafting the survey in July 2020. Team leads on the project from the City, the Local Government Commission, and Ascent Environmental, Inc. met bi-weekly on project deliverables.

1.3 QUESTIONS

The survey consisted of 19 questions, including 13 multiple-choice and 6 open-ended. The survey included 4 demographic questions to evaluate whether respondents reflected the diversity of the local community. Respondents were also asked the zip code of both their residence and employment to gauge whether they lived or worked in the City. The remaining questions evaluated community priorities, concerns over climate hazards and impacts, experiences with hazards, evaluation of the City's response to past hazards, and interest in further information on resilience and adaptation topics. The survey opened on August 31st, 2020.

The scale and categories for each core multiple-choice question are noted below:

Question	Scale	Categories
Which of the following issues are you currently concerned about?	Level of Concern: ▶ Not at all ▶ Somewhat ▶ Very	▶ Access to Healthy Food ▶ Affordable Housing ▶ Air Pollution ▶ COVID-19 ▶ Earthquakes ▶ Job Security and Economic Vitality ▶ Social Equity and Justice ▶ Transportation affordability and accessibility ▶ Tree health and maintenance ▶ Water Pollution/ Stream health
Which of the following climate change impacts are you concerned about?	Level of Concern: ▶ Not at all ▶ Somewhat ▶ Very	▶ Drought and Decreased Water Supply ▶ Flooding and Storm Damage ▶ Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves ▶ Sea Level Rise ▶ Wildfires ▶ Wildfire Smoke
How concerned are you that climate change will impact any of the following areas?	Level of Concern ▶ Not at all ▶ Somewhat ▶ Very	▶ Access to Beaches and Open Space ▶ Community Culture ▶ Employment and Job Security ▶ Evacuations ▶ Property Value ▶ Public Health and Safety ▶ Transportation Disruptions ▶ Utility Disruptions and Power Outages
Which of these hazards have you been personally affected by in the past 1-3 years in the City of San Luis Obispo?	Level of Impact ▶ Not at all ▶ Somewhat ▶ Significantly	▶ Air Pollution ▶ Drought and Water Supply ▶ Erosion ▶ Extreme Rainfall ▶ Flooding ▶ Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves ▶ Tule Fog ▶ Wildfires ▶ Wildfire Smoke
For each hazard that you were affected by, please rank your level of satisfaction with the City's response.	Level of Satisfaction ▶ Not at all ▶ Somewhat ▶ Very	▶ Air Pollution ▶ Drought and Water Supply ▶ Erosion ▶ Extreme Rainfall ▶ Flooding ▶ Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves ▶ Tule Fog ▶ Wildfires ▶ Wildfire Smoke
How would you prioritize the following actions in the city of San Luis Obispo?	Rank Order (1-7)	▶ Parks ▶ Public transportation ▶ Housing ▶ Trails

Question	Scale	Categories
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Space for Businesses ▶ Land Preservation ▶ Agricultural Land Preservation

1.4 DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

The city sought to reach out to respondents that were representative of the diverse population of the City of San Luis Obispo. Respondents were given the option of providing key demographic details respondents or declining to answer. The questions included in this section are detailed below:

[Age] What is your age?

- ▶ Under 18
- ▶ 18 - 24
- ▶ 25 - 34
- ▶ 35 - 44
- ▶ 45 - 54
- ▶ 55 - 64
- ▶ Above 65
- ▶ Prefer not to say

[Race/Ethnicity] How would you describe yourself? Please select all that apply.

- ▶ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ▶ Asian
- ▶ Black or African American
- ▶ Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- ▶ Middle Eastern or North African
- ▶ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ▶ White or Caucasian
- ▶ Other (please specify)
- ▶ Prefer not to say

[Household Income] What was your total household income before taxes in 2019?

- ▶ Less than \$30,000
- ▶ \$30,000- \$39,999
- ▶ \$40,000 - \$59,999
- ▶ \$60,000 - \$79,999
- ▶ \$80,000 - \$99,999
- ▶ \$100,000 or more
- ▶ Prefer not to say

1.5 OUTREACH

Original plans for survey outreach included in-person events and in-person survey opportunities to complement online and phone surveys. Due to COVID-19 and quarantine restrictions, these forms of outreach could not take place; outreach had to be fully remote. The primary form included an online survey on the city's OpenGov web portal which also regularly hosts surveys for other city initiatives outside this project and for regularly scheduled city meetings that are broadcast on the website. In an effort to bridge the digital divide, the project team worked with the city to establish a phone line for respondents to call in their responses. However, no respondents utilized the phone line to respond. In-person events would have reached more respondents who do not have internet access but the inability to hold in-person events affected the ability to fulfill that form of engagement.

To promote the phone-line and online survey, the project team reached out over e-mail or social media to organizations, businesses and agencies that serve populations who live, work, or go to school in San Luis Obispo. These promotional partners were asked to share the survey with their audiences and were given a promotional toolkit with sample email language and social media posts. A wide variety of organizations were contacted (approximately 126), in the hopes of reaching the diverse composition of the local community. Organizations contacted included local educational institutions, non-profits, coalitions, professional associations, cultural organizations, and businesses. Most outreach was conducted by email; 115 organizations were contacted via email. Highly trafficked social media accounts were also contacted. 11 organizations and/or individuals were contacted via social media. Promotional partners received a promotional kit, which included sample e-mail language, sample social media posts plus photo postcards, and a high level overview of key details, to share with their constituents. The survey deadline, originally the end of September, was extended to October 11th to give more time for responses. Once the deadline was extended, organizations were notified of the extension. In addition to outreach through promotional partners, the survey was also shared on 1-2 times per week on City's social media accounts.

On September 17th, a Spanish version of the survey was created on Survey Monkey. On September 29th, the entire promotional kit was translated to Spanish to conduct more outreach to the Spanish speaking community and shared with promotional contacts. Promotional asks to Latino, Hispanic, and Spanish-speaking cultural groups primarily went through Cal Poly students. Despite reaching out to organizations, the Spanish language survey posted on Survey Monkey did not receive any responses.

1.6 PROCESS OF ANALYSIS

1.6.1 Core Questions

Responses for each multiple-choice core question were analyzed to reveal the following:

- a. Areas of Highest Concern/Impact/Satisfaction (for all Respondents)
- b. Areas of Highest Concern/Impact/Satisfaction (for key Demographic Groups)

In evaluating the areas of highest concern/impact/satisfaction for all Respondents, we included all relevant measures for the specific category (ex. "Not at all", "Somewhat", "Very/ Significantly"). Responses are shown as absolute numbers (total counts) unless otherwise indicated.

In evaluating the Highest Concern/Impact/Satisfaction for select demographic groups, we chose to only focus on "Very" or "Significant" responses. Although a "somewhat" response indicates some level of concern/impact/satisfaction (as compared to a "not at all"), it was decided that a "Very" or "Significant" response was more indicative of a respondent's paramount concern. Thus, all responses for select Demographic Groups represent the percentage or total of respondents indicating "Very or "Significant" for the specific category.

Additionally, further grouping was performed on both Household Income and Race/Ethnicity for the ease of analysis and interpretability.

Household Income was re-structured into the following three groups:

- ▶ Less than \$50,000
- ▶ \$50,000 - \$100,000
- ▶ \$100,000 +

Race/Ethnicity was re-structured into the following two groups:

- ▶ White or Caucasian
- ▶ All other Races/Ethnicities

1.6.2 Open-Ended Questions

The survey contained six open-ended questions. Open-ended responses were categorized by topic area and analyzed for emerging themes. A word cloud has also been created to highlight key categories. The full text of responses will be available in the Appendix.

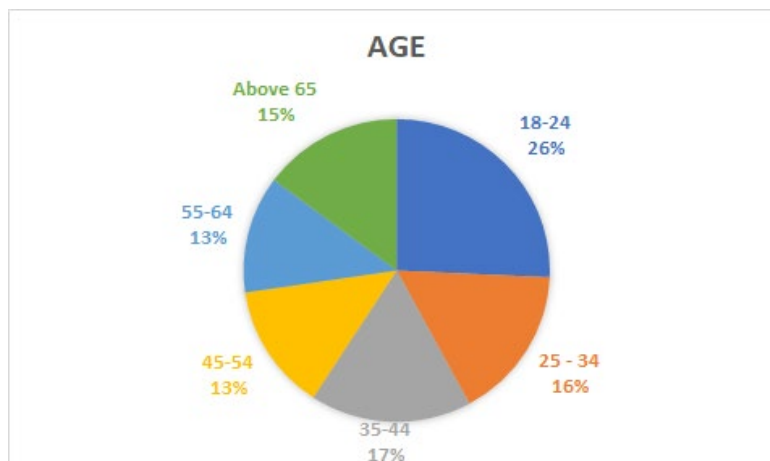
1.7 RESULTS

1.7.1 Overview

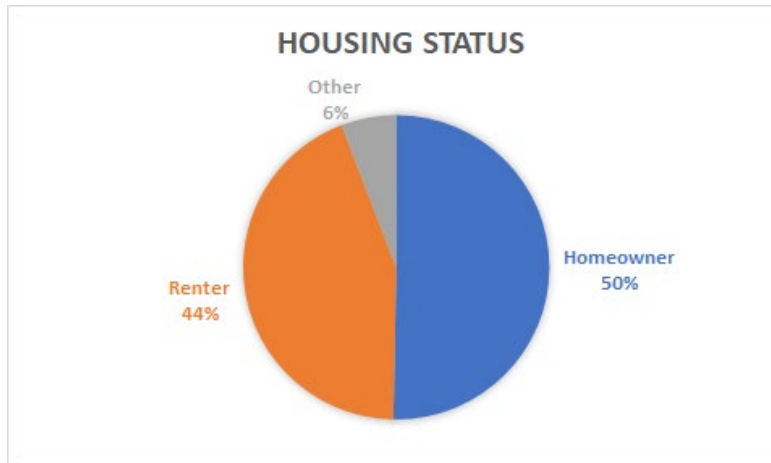
The English version of the survey was initiated on August 31st and closed on October 11th. The English version of the survey had 413 visitors and 331 responses. However, because of duplicate responses, only 328 responses were included in the analysis. Engagement with the survey generated over 16 hours of public comment. 290 of the respondents indicated that they lived or worked in a City zip code, while 41 responses came from a zip code outside of City limits. All responses, both in-City and out of City zip codes were analyzed. The Spanish Version of the survey, published two weeks after the English survey, had no respondents. The phone-in option was not utilized either.

1.7.2 Demographics

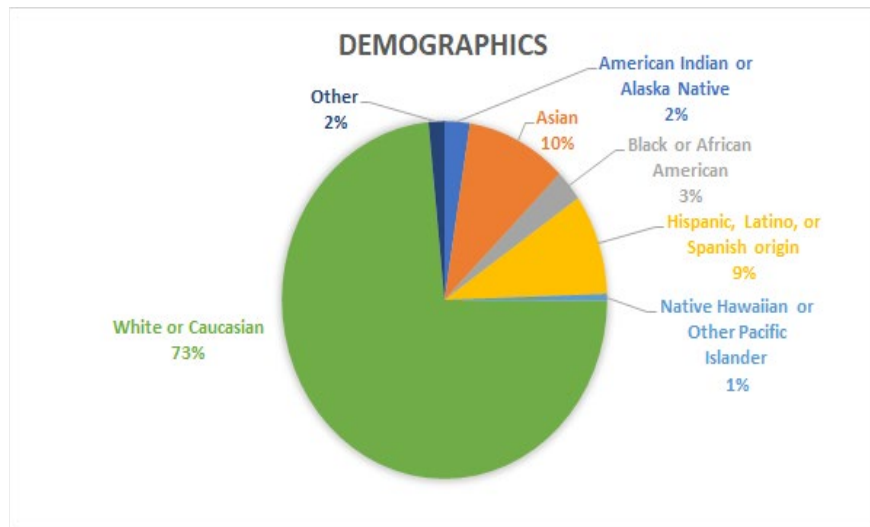
Respondents were asked to answer basic demographic information including age, housing status, income and ethnicity. These questions were asked to assess how well the survey respondents reflected the actual community make-up of San Luis Obispo. Respondents were asked to identify what 10-year age block they belonged to. The highest percentage of respondents were 18-24 (26%), followed by 25-34 (16%), 35-44 (17%), above 65 (15%), 45-54 (13%), and 55-64 (13%).



Half of respondents were homeowners (50%), 44% were renters, and 6% selected "other".



The most common household income selected by respondents was \$100,000-149,000 (58), followed by 200,000 or more (33). In contrast, 30 respondents selected the lowest income bracket (less than 10,000), and 14 selected the second lowest income bracket: \$10,000-14,999.



Respondents most commonly described themselves as White or Caucasian (234), followed by Asian (32), Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin (29), Black or African American (9), American Indian or Alaskan Native (8), and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (2). It is worth noting that 42 respondents chose "prefer not to say" when describing their racial identity.

As a reference point, Demographic results from the survey were compared with the 2018 American Community Survey to determine if the survey respondents over or under represented the demographics of SLO residents. Details on representation are noted below.

Demographic	2018 American Community Survey (%)	Community Priority Survey Results (#, %)	Over or Under Represented?
Housing Situation			
Homeowner	68%	164, 49.5%	Under
Renter	35%	146, 44%	Over
Age			
Under 18	13.1%	0, 0%	Under

Demographic	2018 American Community Survey (%)	Community Priority Survey Results (#, %)	Over or Under Represented?
18 - 24	34.9%	80, 25%	Under
25 - 34	13.6%	51, 16%	Over
35 - 44	8.3%	53, 16%	Over
45 - 54	8.7%	42, 13%	Over
55 - 64	8.9%	40, 12%	Over
Above 65	12.5%	46, 14%	Over
Ethnicity/Race			
American Indian or Alaskan Native	.3%	8, 2%	Over
Asian	5.6%	31, 9%	Over
Black or African American	2.0%	5, 2%	Equal
Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin	18.3%	23, 7%	Under
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	.1%	2, 1%	Over
White or Caucasian	70.7%	237, 72%	Over
Other	.2%	3, 1%	Over
Household Income			
Less than \$10,000	11.6%	30, 9%	Under
\$10,000 - \$14,999	7.3%	15, 5%	Under
\$15,000 - \$24,999	11.2%	9, 3%	Under
\$25,000 - \$34,999	6.3%	15, 5%	Under
\$35,000 - \$49,999	11.2%	17, 5%	Under
\$50,000 - \$74,999	15.2%	30, 9%	Under
\$75,000 - \$99,999	10.8%	29, 9%	Under
\$100,000 - \$149,999	12.8%	59, 18%	Over
\$150,000 - \$199,999	5.8%	32, 10%	Over
\$200,000 or more	7.8%	33, 10%	Over

Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin were the most underrepresented when compared to the 2018 American Community Survey. The survey respondents were also younger than the 2018 American Community Survey results. The two youngest age groups were underrepresented, especially those under 18 whom were not represented at all. All other age groups were slightly overrepresented. 12 respondents chose "prefer not to say" on this demographic question. Otherwise, all results were within 4 percentage points of the 2018 American Community Survey showing a successful sample of SLO demographics.

The demographic question that most respondents declined to answer was about total household income with 57 choosing "prefer not to say." The highest three income brackets were overrepresented while lower income brackets were underrepresented compared to the 2018 American Community Survey results. This could be correlated with the higher percentage of survey respondents in younger age groups, who tend to make less money than older Americans later in their careers.

All respondents had to choose an answer when asked about their housing situations. The options included "Homeowner, Renter, and Other." Homeowners were under represented by respondents while renters were over represented. 19 chose "Other" to specify their housing situation. Some of them were students living at home or in student housing.

1.7.3 Open-Ended Questions

Details for each open-ended question are provided below:

- ▶ Of the open-ended questions, Question 5, “If there are other community issues not listed above that you are concerned about, please provide them here,” had the most responses (153).
- ▶ Question 16, “What climate change adaptation and community resilience topics are you interested in learning more about?” had the 2nd highest number of responses (105).
- ▶ Question 14 garnered the third most responses (95), and asked “Do you have suggestions for how the City of San Luis Obispo can improve response efforts (to hazards)?”
- ▶ Question 13 had the 4th most respondents (83) and “Do you have any comments to share regarding how you were affected by past hazards and/or city response efforts?”
- ▶ Question 7, “If there are other climate change impacts not listed above that you are concerned about, please provide them here,” had 77 responses.
- ▶ Questions 9 and 11 had the lowest number of respondents (54) and (37) respectively. Question 9 asked for additional areas impacted by climate change of concern. Finally, question 11 asked for additional hazards that respondents have been personally affected by over the past 1-3 years.
- ▶ Responses to key open-ended questions are discussed in detail in the results below.
- ▶ There were 604 total responses to open-ended questions.

Question	Number of Responses
5: “If there are other community issues not listed above that you are concerned about, please provide them here”	153
16: “What climate change adaptation and community resilience topics are you interested in learning more about?”	105
14: “Do you have suggestions for how the City of San Luis Obispo can improve response efforts (to hazards)?”	95
13: “Do you have any comments to share regarding how you were affected by past hazards and/or city response efforts?”	83
7: “If there are other climate change impacts not listed above that you are concerned about, please provide them here”	77
9: “If there are other areas impacted by climate change not listed above that you are concerned about, please provide them here.”	54
11: “If there are other hazards that you have been personally affected by in the past 1-3 years in the City that are not listed above, please provide them here.”	37

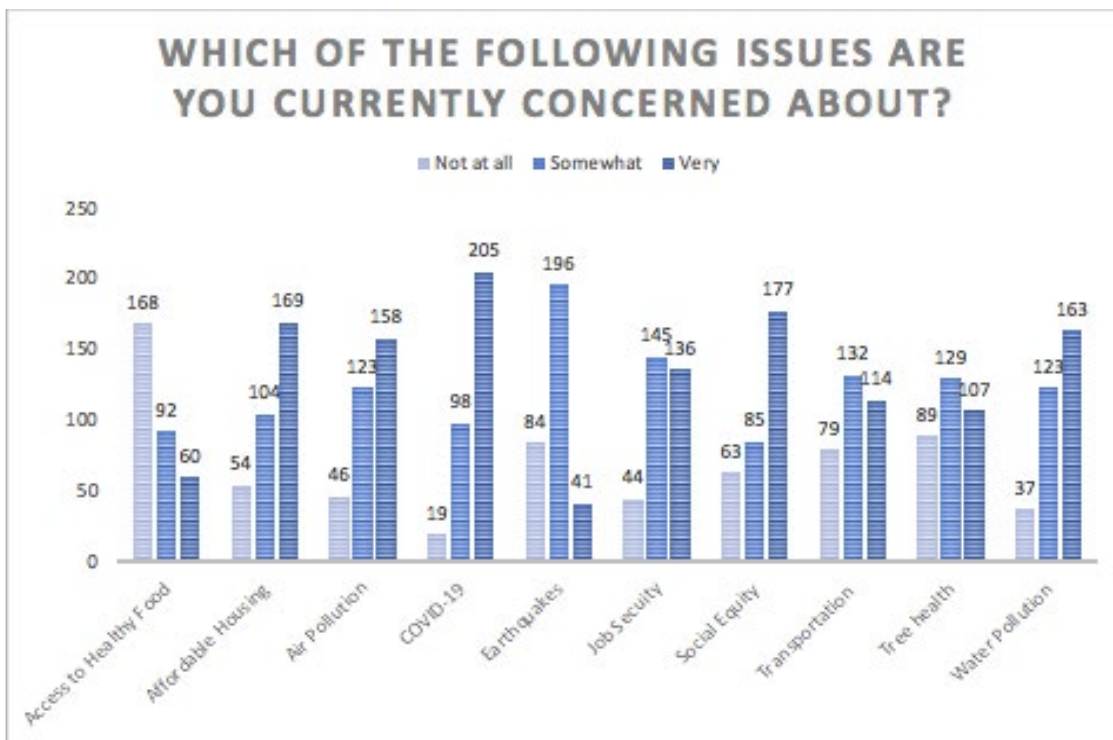
1.7.4 Core Questions

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ISSUES ARE YOU CURRENTLY CONCERNED ABOUT?

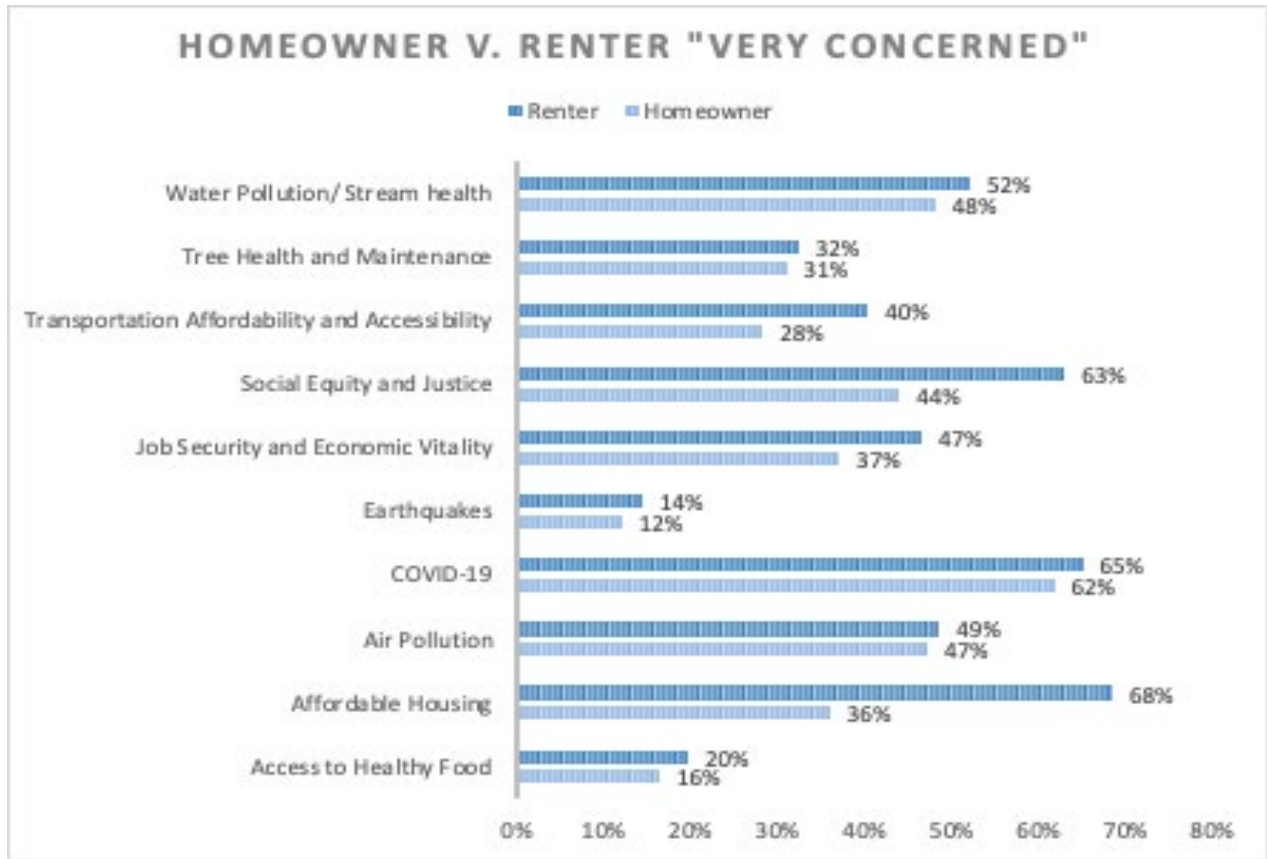
Overall Results

Level of Concern	Not at all	Somewhat	Very
Access to Healthy Food	168	92	60
Affordable Housing	54	104	169
Air Pollution	46	123	158
COVID-19	19	98	205
Earthquakes	84	196	41
Job Security	44	145	136
Social Equity	63	85	177
Transportation	79	132	114
Tree health	89	129	107
Water Pollution	37	123	163

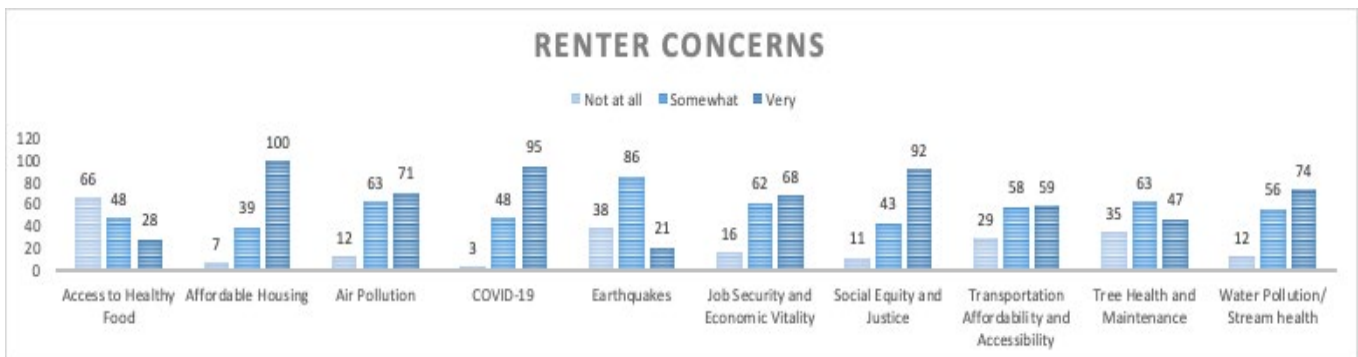
Respondents were most concerned about issues that are affecting their day-to-day life in 2020. As noted on the Figure above, this includes COVID-19, Air Pollution, Job Security, Social Equity and Affordable Housing. The strong concern for COVID-19 is not surprising; during the time period the survey was open, COVID-19 still had California counties in various stages of quarantine/lockdown. Additionally, the already competitive housing market in the state went through changes as some cities saw rents shift unpredictably. Furthermore, the summer saw high periods of social unrest as cases of police brutality and racial injustice were brought to the national spotlight. Beginning in August, wildfires broke out across the state following dry conditions, lightning, high-winds, and extreme heat. 2020 has also seen the largest wildfire in California’s history, and the multiple fires occurring caused poor air quality for wide swaths of the state including the central coast.



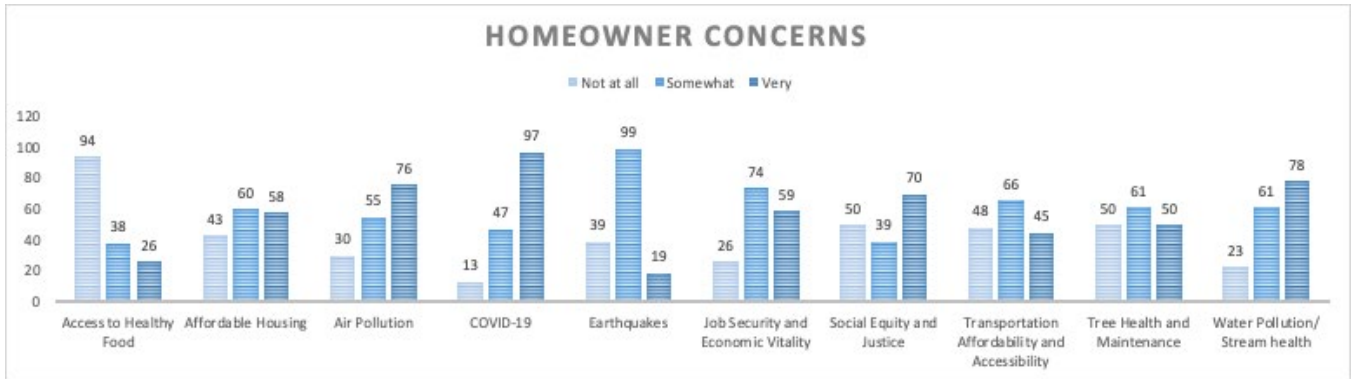
Variation by Housing Situation



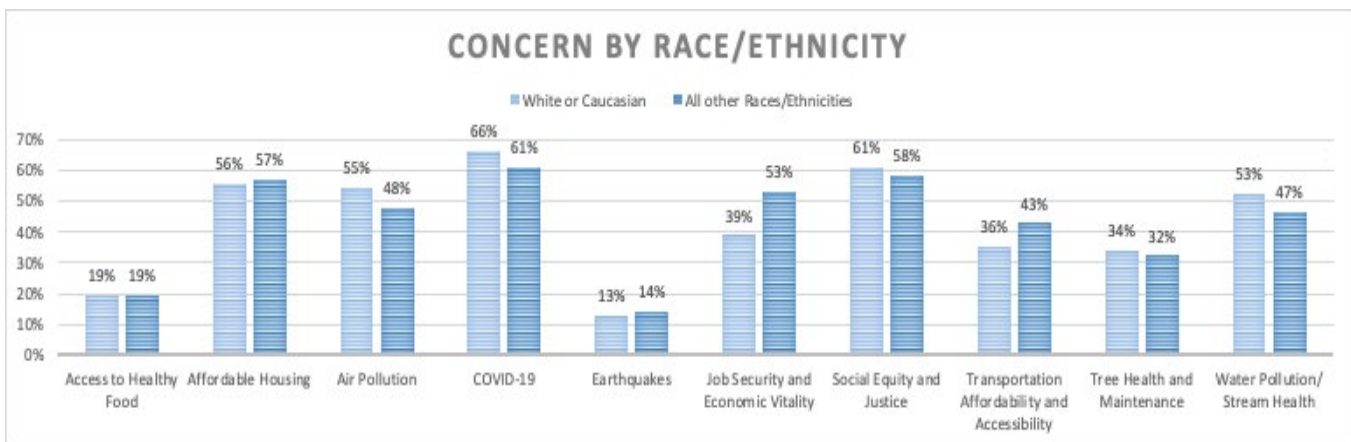
As noted in the graph above], renters and homeowners shared a similar amount (+/- 1 - 4%) of concern for a variety of key issues - Water Pollution, Tree Health, COVID-19, Healthy Food, Earthquakes, and Air Pollution. The three areas of greatest misalignment were Affordable Housing (68% v. 36%); Social Equity and Justice (63% v. 44%); and Transportation Affordability and Accessibility (40% v. 28%). The variation in Affordable Housing is understandable given the status of the respondents as "renters"; homeowners are likely to be less concerned about housing affordability due to already owning a home. The variation in Social Equity and Justice is unclear, but could be connected to the age of the respondents (i.e. a correlation between age and homeowner status) or another unifying variable. The same could be said for Transportation Affordability and Accessibility with the added caveat for income.



Overall, the top three concerns for homeowners are COVID-19 (62%), Water Pollution/Stream Health (48%), and Air Pollution (47%). The top three concerns for renters are Affordable Housing (68%), COVID-19 (65%) and Social Equity and Justice (63%).

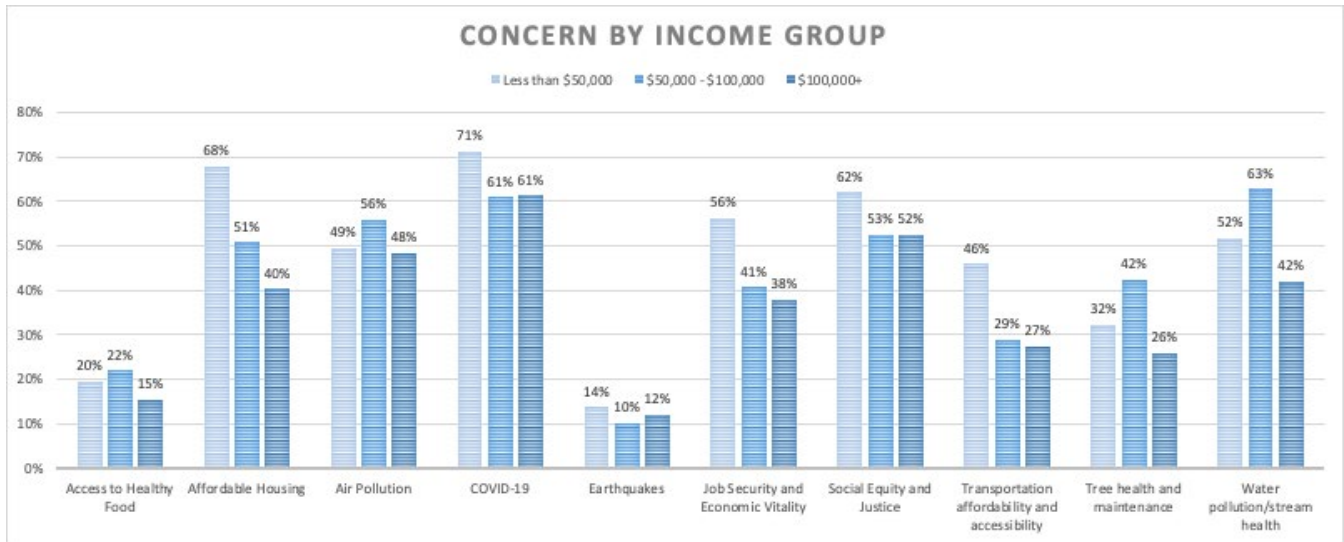


Variation by Race/Ethnicity



Level of climate concern between different racial and ethnic groups (in this case, Caucasian v. All other Races/Ethnicities) was fairly uniform on most key issues. The largest divergence occurred for Job Security and Economic Vitality (39% v. 53%); Air Pollution (55% v. 48%); and Transportation Affordability and Accessibility (36% v. 43%). Overall, the top three concerns for White or Caucasian respondents are COVID-19 (66%), Social Equity and Justice (61%) and Affordable Housing (56%). For participants identifying as one or more other races, their top three concerns are identical with some variation in level of concern (61%; 58%; 57% respectfully).

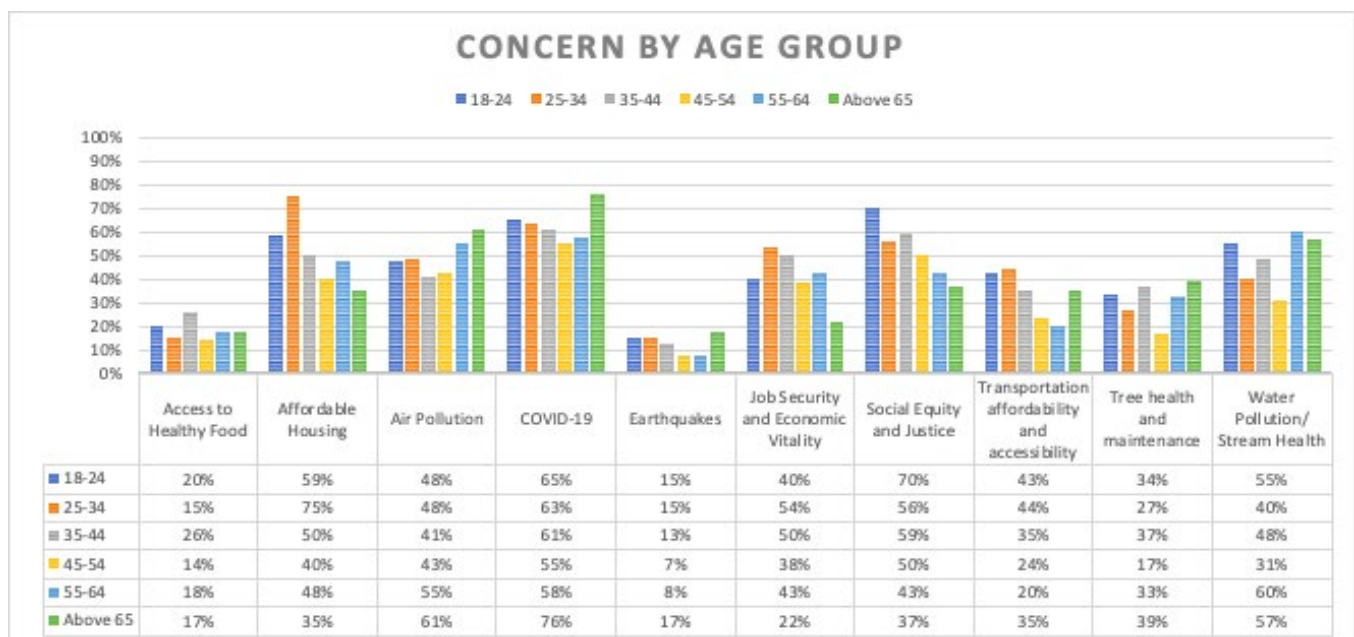
Variation by Income Group



Responses by income group are noted in the figure above. There is great variability in the level of concern Individuals have for key climate and adaptation subjects. The one exception to this observation is a clear concern for COVID-19 across all income groups. Unsurprisingly, individuals within the lowest household income group ("Less than \$50,000), expressed a much higher level of concern for Affordable Housing (68% v. 51%, 40% respectfully); Job Security and Economic Vitality (56% v. 41%, 38%); and Transportation Affordability and Accessibility (46% v. 29%, 27% respectfully). Individuals within the other two income groups (\$50,000 - \$100,000 and \$100,000 +) were more aligned in their levels of concern; the one main exception for this is concern for Water Pollution/ Stream Health (63% v. 42%).

Overall, individuals with a household income of less than \$50,000 were most concerned about COVID-19 (71%); Affordable Housing (68%); and Social Equity and Justice (62%). Individuals with a household income between \$50,000 - \$100,000 were most concerned with Water Pollution/ Stream Health (63%); COVID-19 (61%); and Air Pollution (56%). Individuals with a household income of \$100,000 or more were most concerned with COVID-19 (61%); Social Equity and Justice (52%); and Air Pollution (48%).

Variation by Age



When evaluated on the dimension of age, individuals expressed some similar concerns. COVID-19 continues to be a trend with the majority (50% +) of individuals expressing a high level of concern. More specifically, individuals above the age of 65 were most concerned with COVID-19 (76%); individuals between the ages of 45 and 54 were the least concerned with COVID-19 (55%).

Aside from COVID-19, other top concerns included Social Justice and Equity – a first or secondary concern for individuals within the following age groups: 18 - 24; 35 - 44; and 45 - 54. Individuals between the ages of 25 and 34 are also concerned about Social Justice and Equity (56%), but their paramount concern is Affordable Housing (75%). Individuals above the age of 65, on the other hand, are the least concerned about Social Equity and Justice (37%); after COVID-19, they are most concerned about Air Pollution (61%).

Open-Ended Responses

Question: If there are other community issues not listed above that you are concerned about, please provide them here.

Respondents were also able to write in other concerns that were not addressed above. 153 respondents wrote in a concern. The most repeated write-in concern involved homelessness. Selected responses include:

- ▶ "Homelessness and the lack of focus our city official have on dealing with the issue."
- ▶ "How is the community taking care of the House-less population?"
- ▶ "What are the options for those that do not have homes during the pandemic and unhealthy air conditions due to natural disasters (i.e. fires)"
- ▶ "The growing number of homeless in our downtown open spaces and doorways. Downtown is the heart of SLO and central to its vibrancy."
- ▶ "Homelessness is impacting the waterways & Spot fires. Hard facts to face but true."
- ▶ "providing services from homeless and mentally ill persons in the county"

Concerns that were repeated by multiple respondents include issues of police brutality and police funding. Select responses:

- ▶ "Systemic racism and our bloated county Sheriff's budget,"
- ▶ "Racism, police brutality, republican takeover using big money for our local candidates which will diminish the focus on environmental and justice concerns,"
- ▶ "Addressing and defunding workplaces and laws that uphold systemic racism. Defund the police in order to allocate funds towards issues like the ones listed above."
- ▶ "Overfunding on police--defunding is necessary."
- ▶ "I live by Santa Rosa Park and the homeless population is very disrespectful of our property. The creek that runs through our backyard is littered with their trash and they are constantly stealing things out of our yard. The police are not helpful with the issue whatsoever. The police are an entirely useless organization and are especially terrible here in SLO."
- ▶ "Police Department suppressing free speech rights by tear gassing people, over-charging protest organizer, failure to files charges against individuals who drove cars into pedestrians."

Other concerns that were repeated multiple times include cycling and transportation issues.

Selected responses:

- ▶ "Walkability"
- ▶ "Stop wasting money on changing roads to accommodate bike lanes. Instead (*sic*) focus on adding busses and repairing our streets. Do not take away our street parking to make a bike lane.
- ▶ "Infrastructure and road building"

The graphic (shown below) is a word cloud generated from responses to the open-end question. As the Word Cloud illustrates, housing and homelessness were two salient topics for respondents.

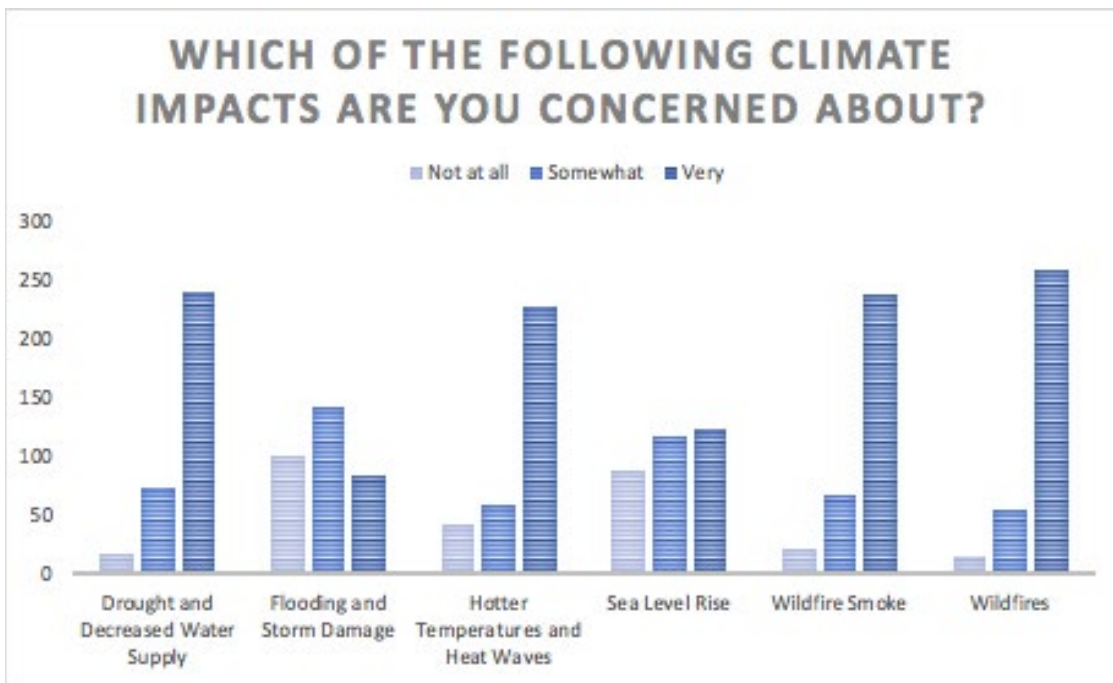


Which of the following climate change impacts are you concerned about?

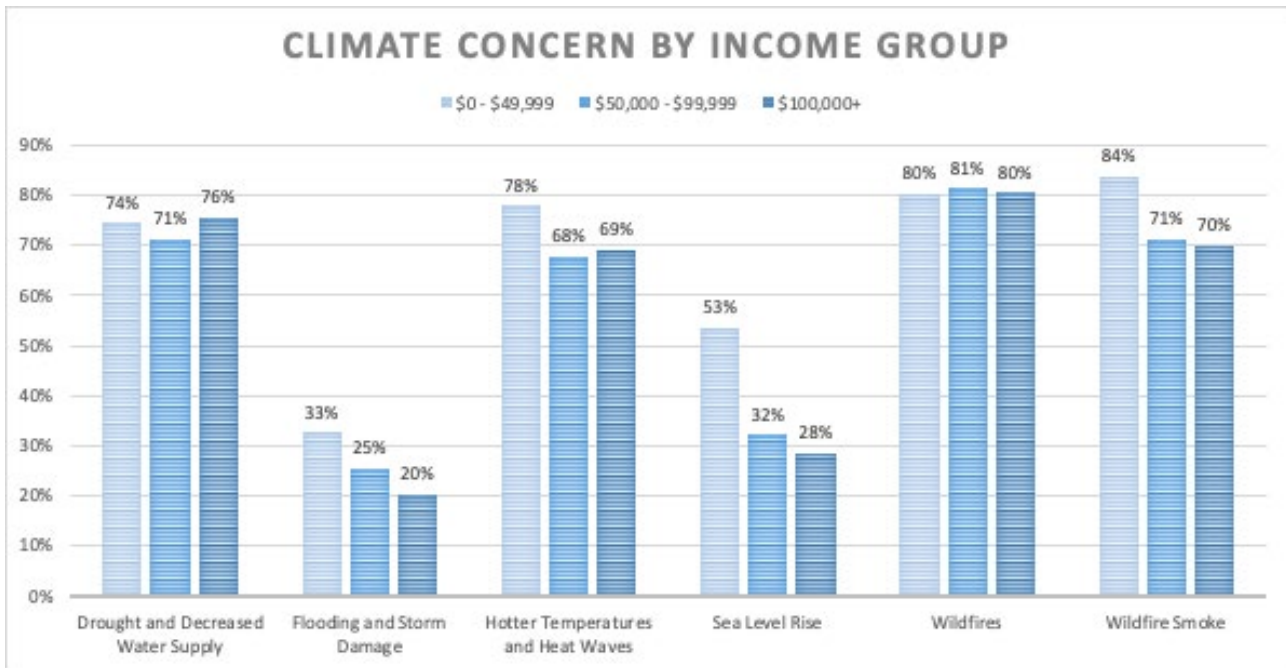
Overall Results

Level of Concern	Not at all	Somewhat	Very	
Drought and Decreased Water Supply		16	72	240
Flooding and Storm Damage		100	141	84
Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves		41	59	227
Sea Level Rise		87	117	122
Wildfire Smoke		20	66	238
Wildfires		15	53	259

Respondents were very concerned about most of these climate impacts. Only Flooding and Storm Damage saw more respondents choosing “Not at all” or “Somewhat”. Wildfires and Wildfire Smoke had the most concern, likely related to the volatile 2020 wildfire season in California that brought that state’s largest wildfire to date and many days of unhealthy air quality.

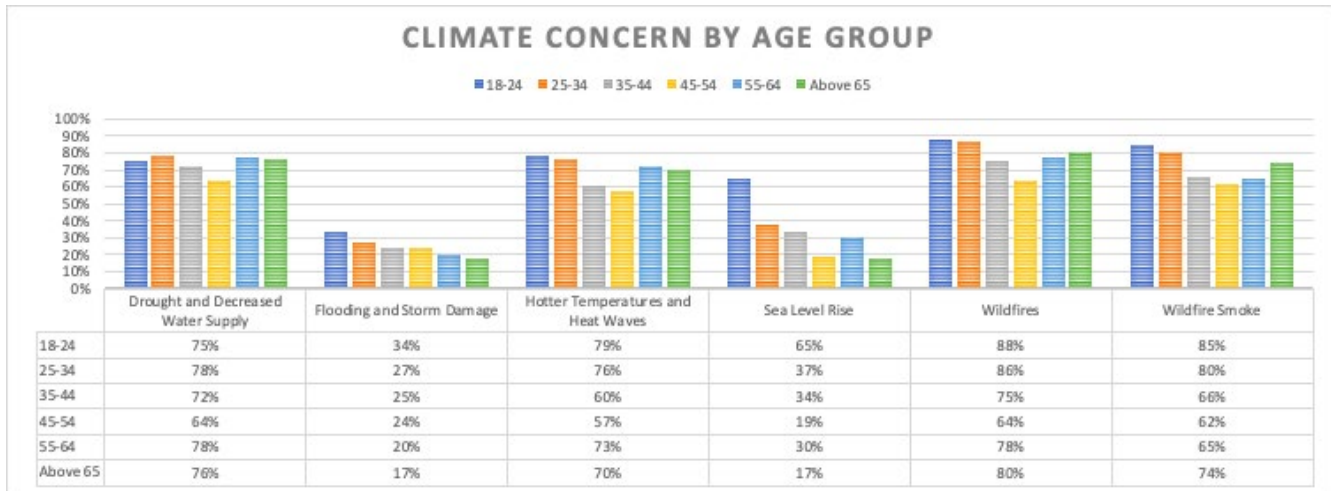


Variation by Income Group



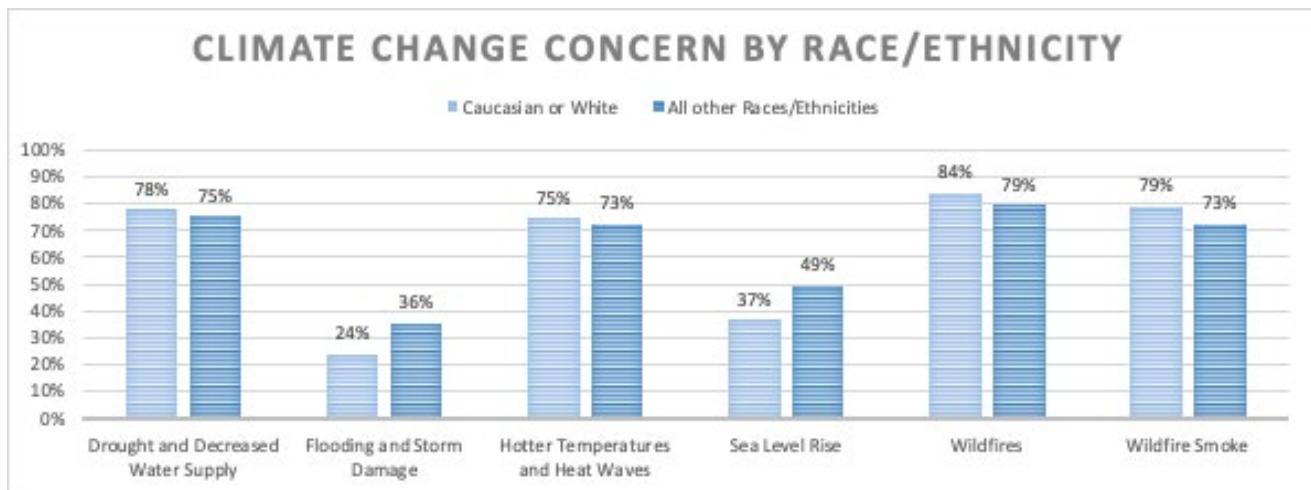
When evaluated by income group, all groups, regardless of income, expressed strong concern about Wildfires (80%, 81%, 80% respectfully); however, it is interesting to note that individuals in the lowest income group are more concerned with Wildfire Smoke than Wildfires as a climate category (80% v. 84%). Individuals within the lowest income group are also most concerned about Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves (78%) and are significantly more concerned about Sea Level Rise than individuals in other income categories. In comparison, individuals within the highest income group are most concerned about Drought and Decreased Water Supply (76%); their tertiary concern is Wildfire Smoke. Individuals within the middle-income group share similar concerns with some variation in percentage (71% for both).

Variation by Age Group



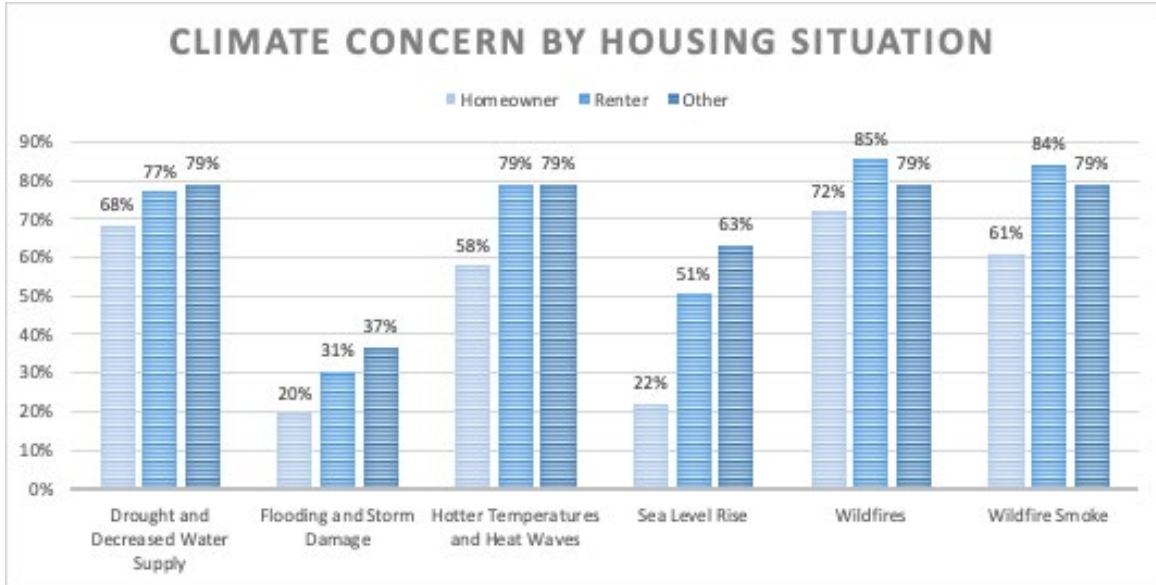
When evaluating climate concern by age, a few patterns emerge. Across the board, individuals are most concerned about Wildfires. Within that category, individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 are most concerned (88%), followed by individuals between the ages of 25 and 34 (86%). There is greater variation when evaluating individual’s secondary concerns. Wildfire smoke is the second highest concern for individuals between the ages of 18 – 24 and 25 – 34. For all other age groups, their second highest concern is Drought and Decreased Water Supply. The greatest variance in concern among age groups is with Sea Level Rise. Individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 have the highest level of concern (65%), with individuals above the age of 65 expressing the least amount of concern (17%).

Variation by Race/Ethnicity



Climate concerns between different racial and ethnic groups (in this case, Caucasian v. All other Races/Ethnicities) was fairly uniform on a majority of issues (+/- 6%) – Drought and Decreased Water Supply (78% v. 75% respectfully); Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves (75% v. 73%); Wildfires (84% v. 79%); and Wildfire Smoke (79% v. 73%). The largest divergences occurred for Flooding and Storm Damage (24% v. 36%) and Sea Level Rise (37% v. 49%). Regardless of racial or ethnic identify, all individuals noted the same top concern: Wildfires. Secondary and tertiary concern varied slightly – Wildfire Smoke (79%) and Drought and Decreased Water Supply (78%); vs. Drought and Decreased Water Supply (75%), Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves (73%), and Wildfire Smoke (73%).

Variation by Housing Situation



Climate concerns among individuals in different housing situations varied slightly. The top concern for Homeowners and Renters is Wildfire (72% v. 85% respectively). Secondary concern for these two groups deviated; renters are more concerned about Wildfire Smoke (84%); homeowners are more concerned about Drought and Decreased Water Supply (68%). Individuals identifying their housing situation as “Other” had four competing interests at 79% - Drought and Decreased Water Supply, Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves, Wildfires, and Wildfire Smoke. The greatest divergence on level of concern occurred between Homeowners and Renters on the issue of Sea Level Rise: 51% of renters expressed concern versus only 22% of homeowners.

Open-Ended Responses

Question: If there are other climate change impacts not listed above that you are concerned about, please provide them here.

There were 77 responses to this question. Answers were categorized by topic area. The four most prevalent themes discussed by respondents were:

- 1) Biodiversity and Health of Inland and Marine Ecosystems
- 2) impacts to Agriculture & Food Systems
- 3) Water Supply
- 4) Social Inequality.

Biodiversity and impacts to wildlife and their habitats were key concerns for respondents. Concerns were raised about both inland and marine ecosystems. Key concerns for marine ecosystems included plastic pollution and ocean acidification. Respondents were also concerned with the impacts of climatic changes on agriculture and how agricultural changes might impact food supply and access. Water supply was also frequently mentioned. Over half of comments related to water discussed over-building and the impacts of new development on water supply. Comments also mentioned modified agricultural practices, water conservation, use of non-potable water and desalinization as potential solutions. Social inequality was another key issue. Comments in this category mentioned social justice, systemic and environmental racism, environmental justice, issues of representation, impacts to low income communities, and wealth inequality.

Subject Area	Issue	Frequency of Mentions
Environmental impacts	Biodiversity and Health of Inland and Marine Ecosystems	22
	Pests and Diseases	4
	Negative Environmental Impact of Development	2
Water	Water Supply	8
Agriculture	Agriculture & Food Systems	11
Human Systems	Social Inequality	7
	Economy	4
	Public Health	3
Energy & Infrastructure	Energy	4
	Transportation	4
Natural Disasters	Extreme Weather	5
	Mudslides/Mudflows	3
	Wildfire or forest management	3
	Temperature	2
Other	Climate Change is not occurring or should not be addressed by City	6

Responses to the open-ended question were also used to generate a Word Cloud (shown below). The Word Cloud illustrates the prevalence of words such as water, agriculture, environment, native, wildfire, food, etc. The frequency of these themes indicates that topics related to environment, water and agriculture are common concerns for respondents.

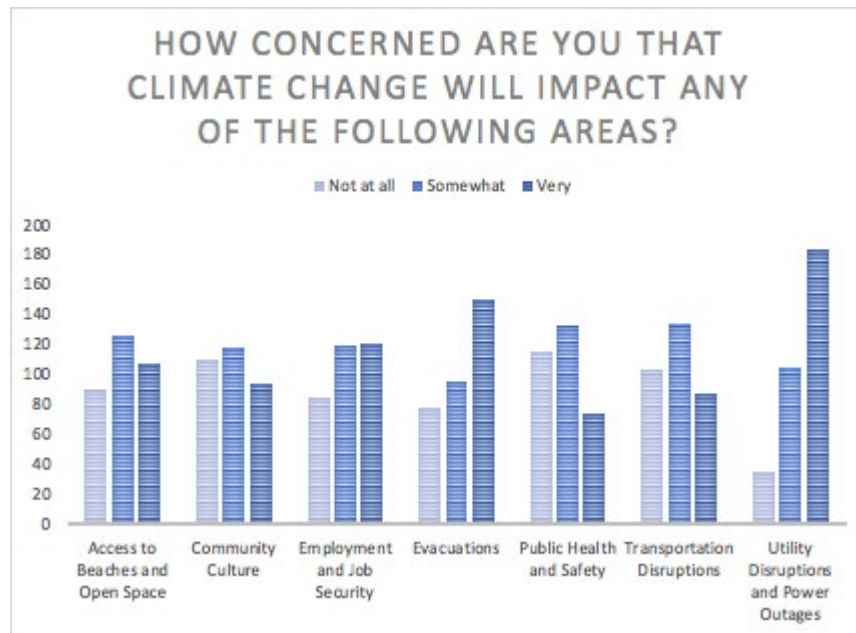


HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU THAT CLIMATE CHANGE WILL IMPACT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS?

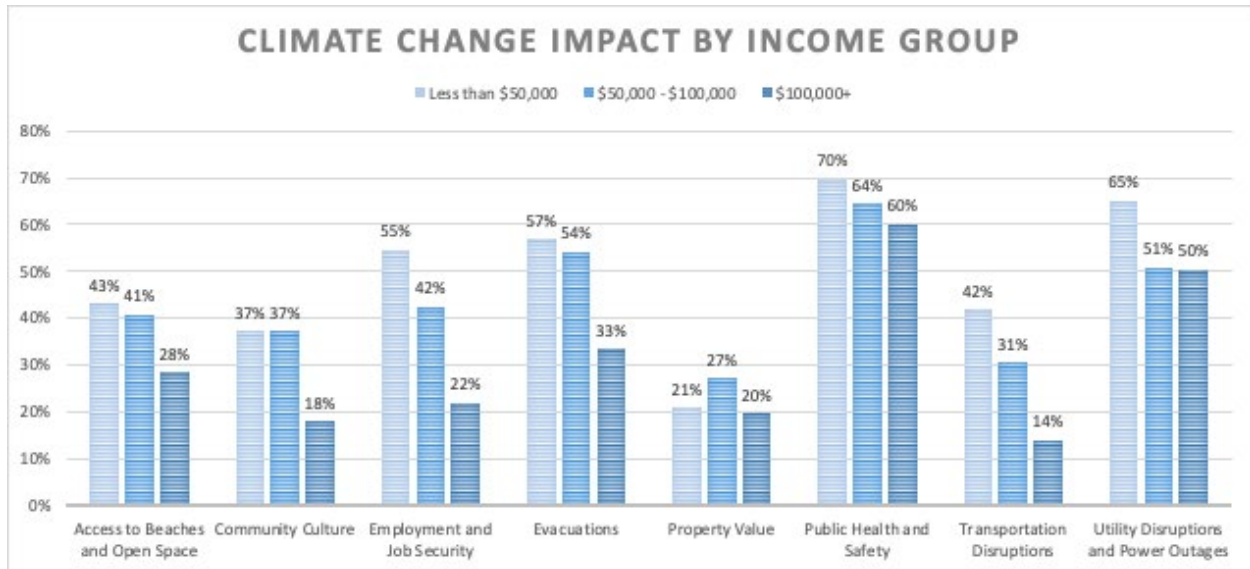
Overall Results

Row Labels	Not at all	Somewhat	Very
Access to Beaches and Open Space	90	126	107
Community Culture	110	118	94
Employment and Job Security	85	119	120
Evacuations	77	95	150
Public Health and Safety	115	133	74
Transportation Disruptions	103	134	87
Utility Disruptions and Power Outages	35	104	184

Respondents chose “Very Concerned” with less frequency for this question than previous questions. There is high concern about Utility Disruptions and Power Outages which aligns with the context of this survey’s timing. Summer 2020 brought extreme heatwaves in the state and the California Independent System Operator issued multiple “flex warnings” statewide to conserve energy and blackouts occurred as demand for electricity to combat extreme heat increased. Customers in Northern San Luis Obispo county experienced outages in August 2020. Additionally, Pacific Gas & Electric has also participated in Public Safety Power Shutoffs as a wildfire prevention tool that also created utility disruptions. High concern around Employment and Job Security and Evacuations also fits trends seen in earlier questions and align with later concerns about Wildfires and Wildfire Smoke.

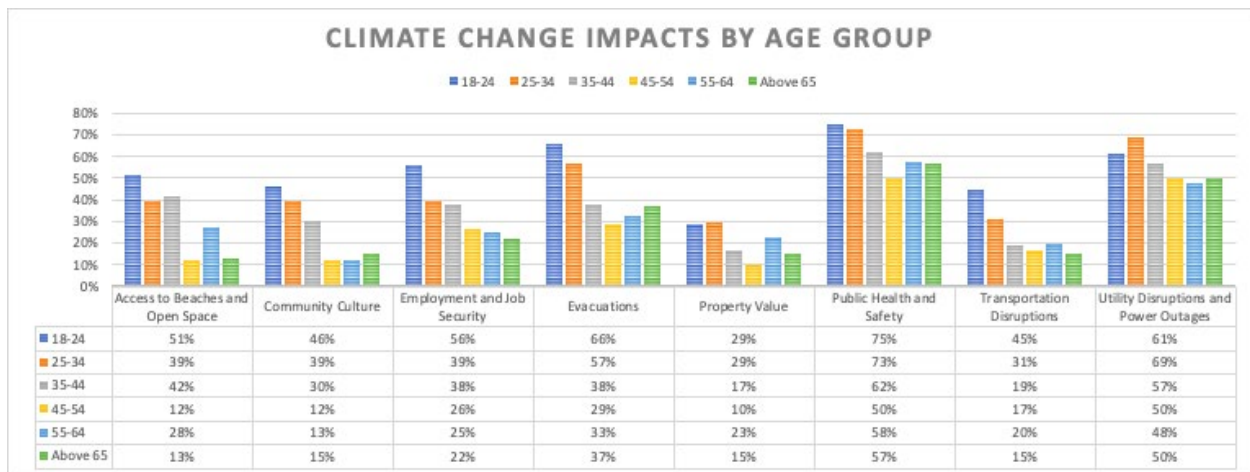


Variation by Income Group



As noted on the graph above, regardless of income, all individuals expressed the highest level of concern for Public Health and Safety (70%, 64%, 60% respectively). Secondary concern varied slightly. After Public Health and Safety, individuals with household incomes of less than \$50,000 or more than \$100,000 were most concerned with Utility Disruptions and Power Outages. In comparison, individuals in the middle-income group (\$50,000 - \$100,000) had a secondary concern of Evacuations. The greatest divergence in level of concern occurred between individuals with a household income of less than \$50,000 and more than \$100,000 on the issue of Transportation Disruptions. Individuals within the lower income group had the highest level of concern among the three groups for this category - 42%. On the other end of the spectrum, the opposite was true: individuals within the highest income group had the lowest amount of concern - 14%.

Variation by Age Group

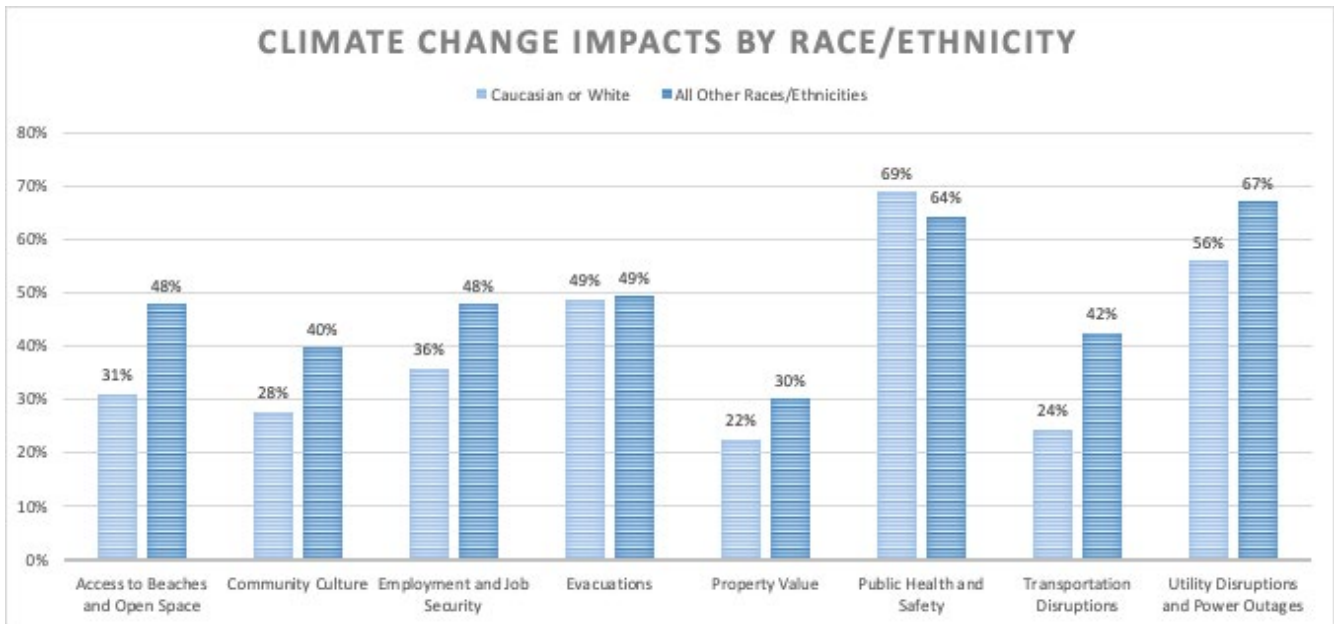


When viewing concern for climate change impacts by age, a few patterns emerge. Across the board, individuals are most concerned about climate’s potential impact on Public Health and Safety. Within that category, individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 are most concerned (75%), followed by individuals between the ages of 25 and 34 (73%). Utility Disruptions and Power Outages are also a common concern among the age groups, with at least 50% of individuals in five age groups (all except individuals between the ages of 55 and 64) expressing concern.

Omitting Public Health and Safety, individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 are most concerned about climate’s potential impact on Evacuations (66%); and Utility Disruptions and Power Outages (61%). Individuals between the

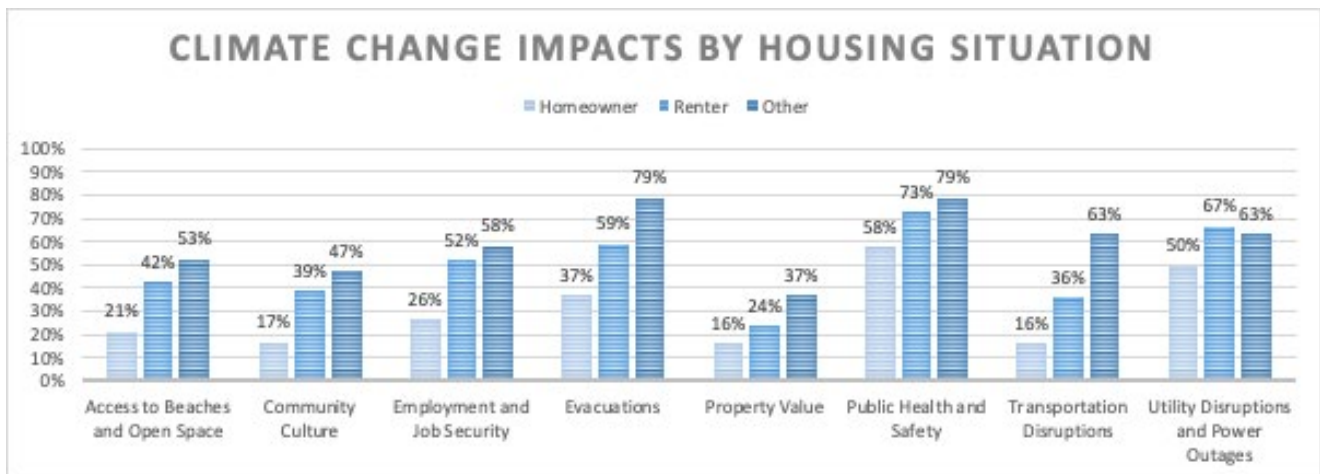
ages of 25 and 34 are also concerned about the same two categories with some variation in level of concern (57% and 69% respectively). Individuals between the ages of 35 and 44 share a similar level of concern for Utility Disruptions and Power Outages (57%); they are also concerned about Access to Beaches and Open Space (42%). Individuals between the ages of 45 and 54 are concerned about Utility Disruptions and Power Outages (50%), followed by Evacuations (29%). Individuals between the ages of 55 and 64 are also concerned about Utility Disruptions and Power Outages (48%), in addition to Evacuations (33%). Finally, individuals above the age of 65 are concerned about Utility Disruptions and Power Outages (50%) and Evacuations (37%).

Variation in Race/Ethnicity



Regardless of racial or ethnic identify, individuals expressed similar levels of concern for two potential climate change impacts: Public Health and Safety (69% v. 64%, respectfully) and Utility Disruptions and Power Outages (56% v. 67% respectfully). Tertiary concerns were also the same – Evacuations (49% for both). The greatest divergence between groups occurred for Transportation Disruptions; only 24% of White or Caucasian respondents expressed concern compared with 42% of respondents identifying as all other races and ethnicities.

Variation by Housing Situation



When viewed through a housing situation lens, a few patterns emerge. Despite the variability, all respondents regardless of housing situation are concerned about Public Health and Safety, with individuals in the “Other” category reporting the highest level of concern at 79%. This same group expresses the same level of concern for Evacuations. Both renters and homeowners also list Utility Disruptions and Power Outages as a secondary concern (50% and 67% respectfully). This is a tertiary concern for individuals in “Other” alongside Transportation Disruptions. In terms of priority, homeowners and renters share a similar view on their concern for Evacuations (37% v. 59% respectfully). Of all the questions so far, this answer elicited the highest level of variability in level of concern; the smallest variation among levels of concern is for Utility Disruptions and Power Outages at 4%.

Open-Ended Responses

Question: If there are other areas impacted by climate change not listed above that you are concerned about, please provide them here

Respondents were also able to write in other concerns that were not addressed above. 54 respondents wrote in a concern.

6 of the respondents brought up concerns over how marginalized communities would feel climate impacts first. Selected responses:

- ▶ “I am concerned about how climate change will impact low income communities and communities of color first.”
- ▶ “Health effects upon the poor and elderly, especially during the summer.”
- ▶ “We need a community plan to support frail elders and people with chronic illness who are reliant on electricity, and cannot be without power. Example: people w/ lung disease, who use oxygen, electric beds, breathing assist machines. The rolling blackouts that are happening in CA (due to fire and maxing out of the power grid) are devastating for this portion of our community. We need an organized, local government plan to identify and support these folks.”

8 Respondents brought up concerns about biodiversity, natural resources, and wildlife. Selected responses:

- ▶ “Access to food and use of agricultural resources, impacts to marine life and fisheries (including for food)”
- ▶ “Again, that we are not considering the impact on local wildlife” or preparing to create safe zones for animals (inland & marine)
- ▶ “Natural resource conservation is being impacted by the lack of regional consensus about conservation and habitat restoration goals as the climate changes. SLO has an opportunity to build on leadership and successes from within City government to emphasize natural resource conservation measures in a changing climate.”
- ▶ “Loss of biodiversity, climate refugees, natural resources”

8 Respondents brought up concerns about agriculture and/or local food access:

- ▶ “Weather patterns, heat waves, and quality of air and water affecting the ability to grow food.”
- ▶ “crop yield and tourism”

Remaining responses ranged from denying the city’s role in responding to climate change, concerns over utilities or utility shut offs, concerns over evacuations, from where evacuees can go to how to handle refugees coming to the SLO region. A few respondents brought up concern for “hope” in the future.

Open-ended responses were used to generate a Word Cloud (shown below). The words shown were frequently used by respondents.

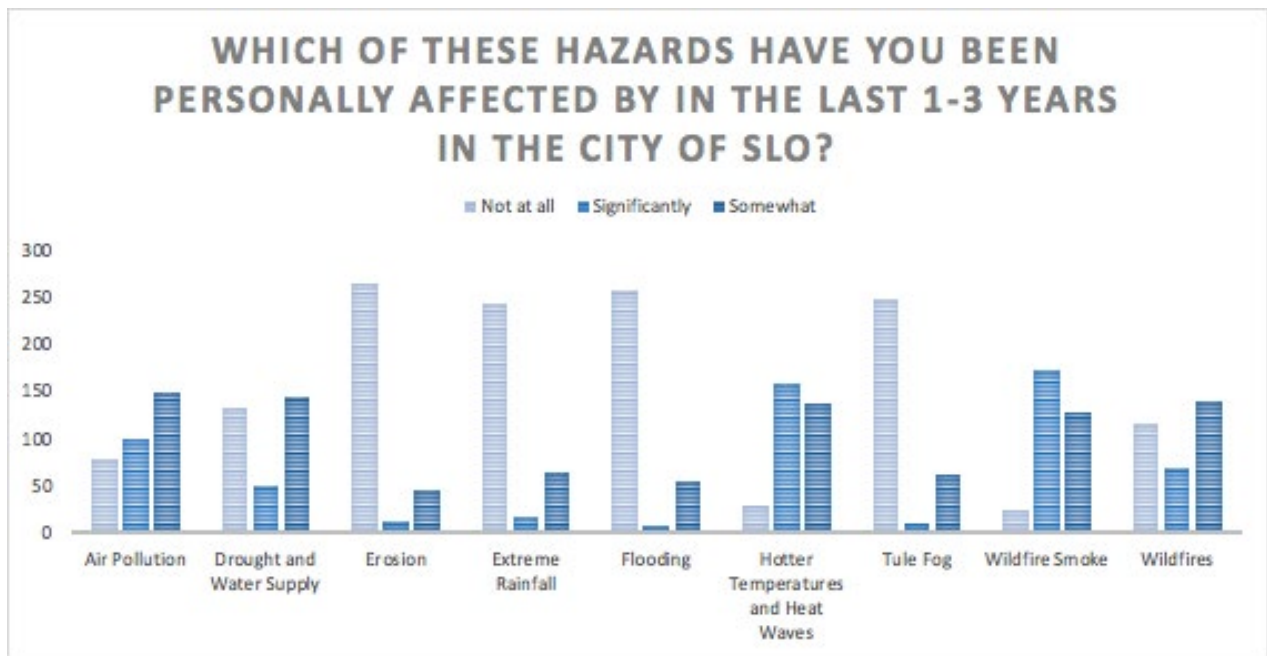


WHICH OF THESE HAZARDS HAVE YOU BEEN PERSONALLY AFFECTED BY IN THE LAST 1-3 YEARS IN THE CITY OF SLO?

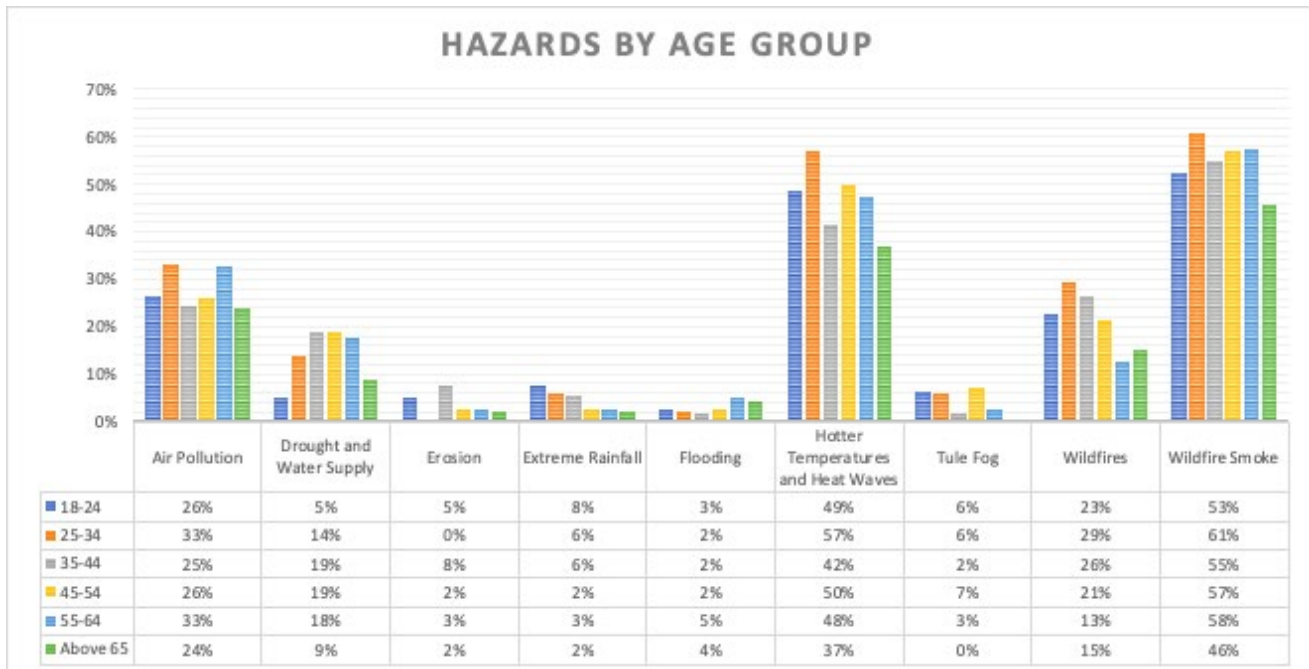
Overall Results

Impact in Last 1-3 Years	Not at all	Significantly	Somewhat
Air Pollution	79	100	148
Drought and Water Supply	133	50	144
Erosion	265	13	45
Extreme Rainfall	244	17	64
Flooding	257	9	54
Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves	30	158	138
Tule Fog	247	11	62
Wildfire Smoke	24	173	127
Wildfires	117	68	140

This question has more respondents reporting they have not been personally affected by about half of these impacts in the last 1-3 years. The most significantly reported impacts were of Wildfire Smoke, Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves, and Air Pollution which matches the trends in other questions and references the context of events in 2020 (i.e. wildfire and extreme events). Even when wildfires do not occur in the city boundaries, impacts of wildfire smoke and air pollution affect many residents somewhat or significantly which explains why “Wildfire” has less significant direct impact for respondents than “Air Pollution” and “Wildfire Smoke.”

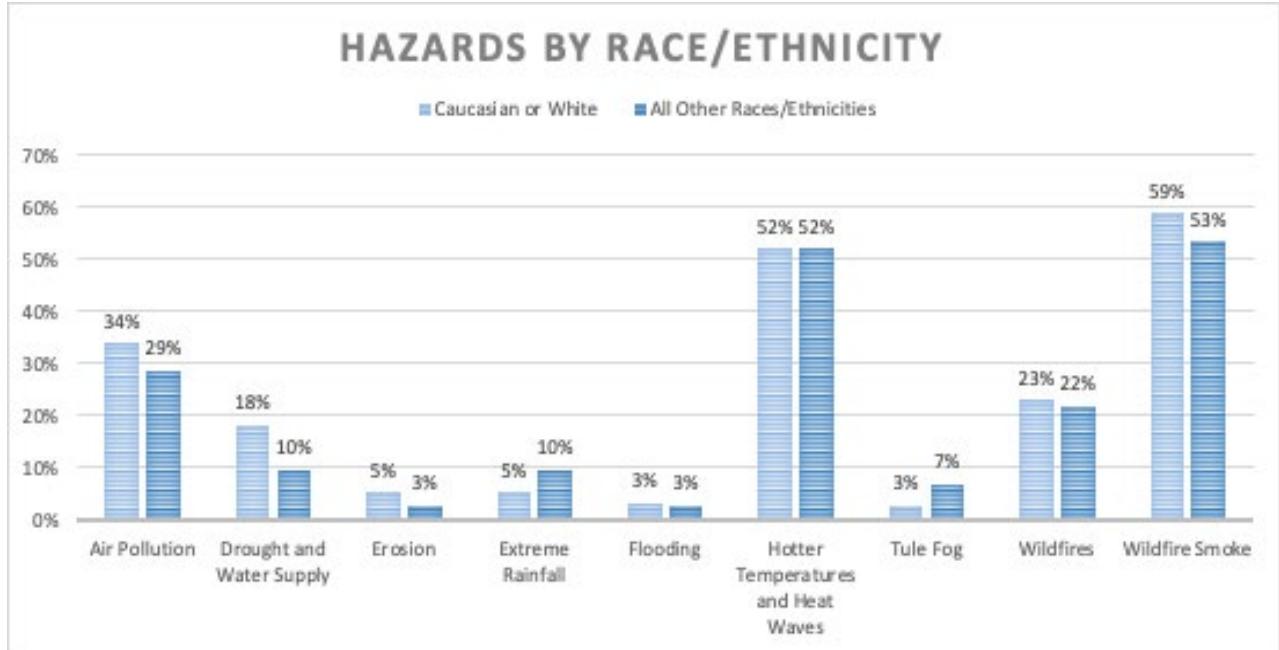


Variation by Age Group



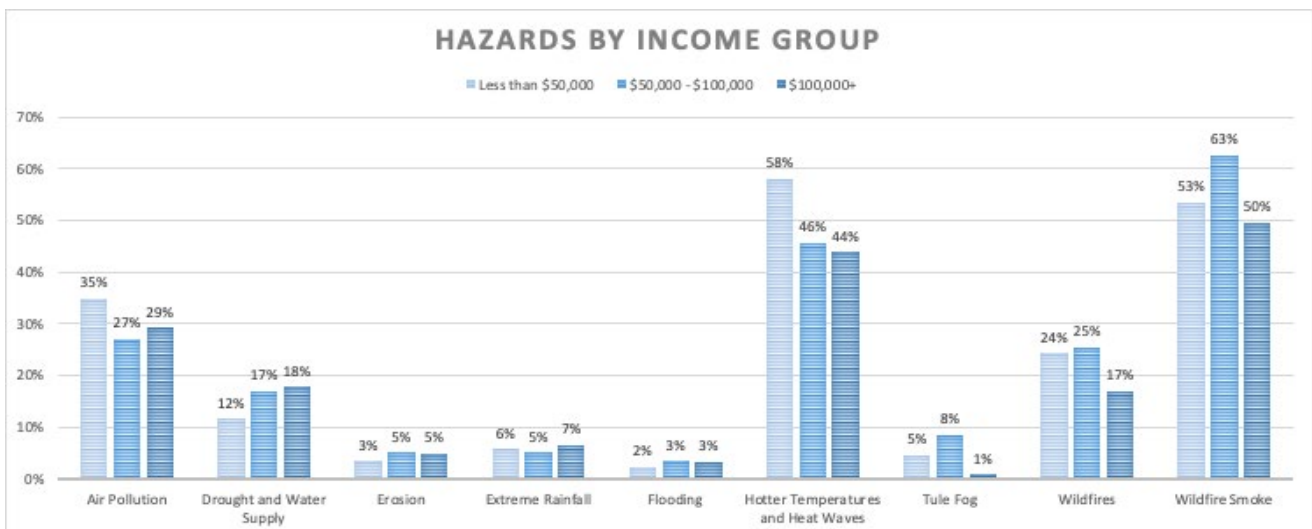
In terms of Hazards, all age groups have been quite impacted by Wildfire Smoke and Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves. Within these two categories, individuals between the ages of 25 and 34 were most impacted (61% and 57%, respectively). Individuals above the age of 65 indicate the lowest level of impact for these two categories (46% and 37%, respectively). Other impactful hazards include Wildfires - with individuals between the ages of 25 and 34 reporting the highest level of impact at 29%, followed by individuals between that ages of 35 and 44 at 26% - and Air Pollution – with individuals between 25-34 and 55-64 each expressing the highest impact – at 33%. Erosion, Extreme Rainfall, Flooding, and Tule Fog were very rarely listed as a high impact for individuals across the age groups.

Variation by Race/Ethnicity



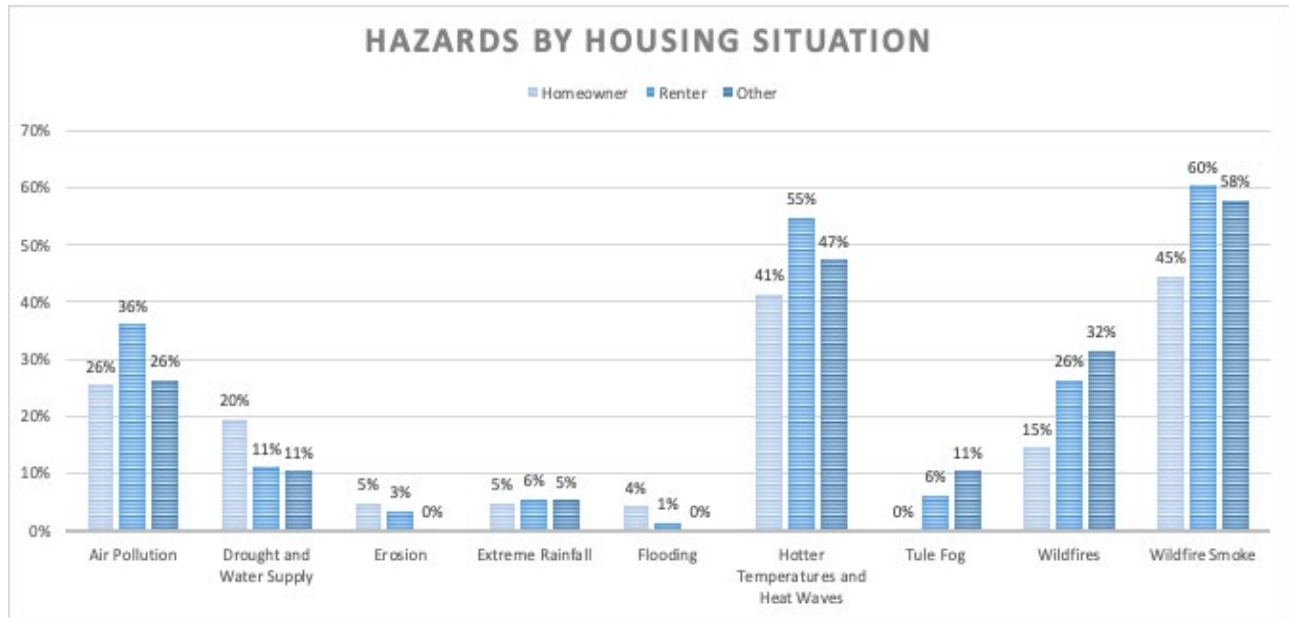
In terms of racial and/or ethnic identity, all groups expressed a high level of impact for Wildfire Smoke (59% and 53% respectively) and for Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves (52% for both). A tertiary concern was Air Pollution (34% and 29%). Similar to the other analyses for this question, respondents did not express high levels of impact for Erosion, Flooding, Extreme Rainfall or Tule Fog. The greatest divergence between groups occurred for Drought and Water Supply; Caucasian or White respondents reported a higher level of impact – at 18% - than individuals of other races/ethnicities – at 10%.

Variation by Income Group



From an income perspective, individuals within the lower income bracket were most impacted by Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves (58%), followed by Wildfire Smoke (53%). Individuals in the other two categories expressed a similar level of impact for Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves (46% and 44% respectively), with a higher level of impact for Wildfire Smoke (63% and 50%). In fact, individuals in the middle-income group express the highest level of impact for Wildfire Smoke. Other shared impacts include Air Pollution (35%, 27%, and 29% respectively) and Wildfires (24%, 25% and 17%).

Variation by Housing Situation



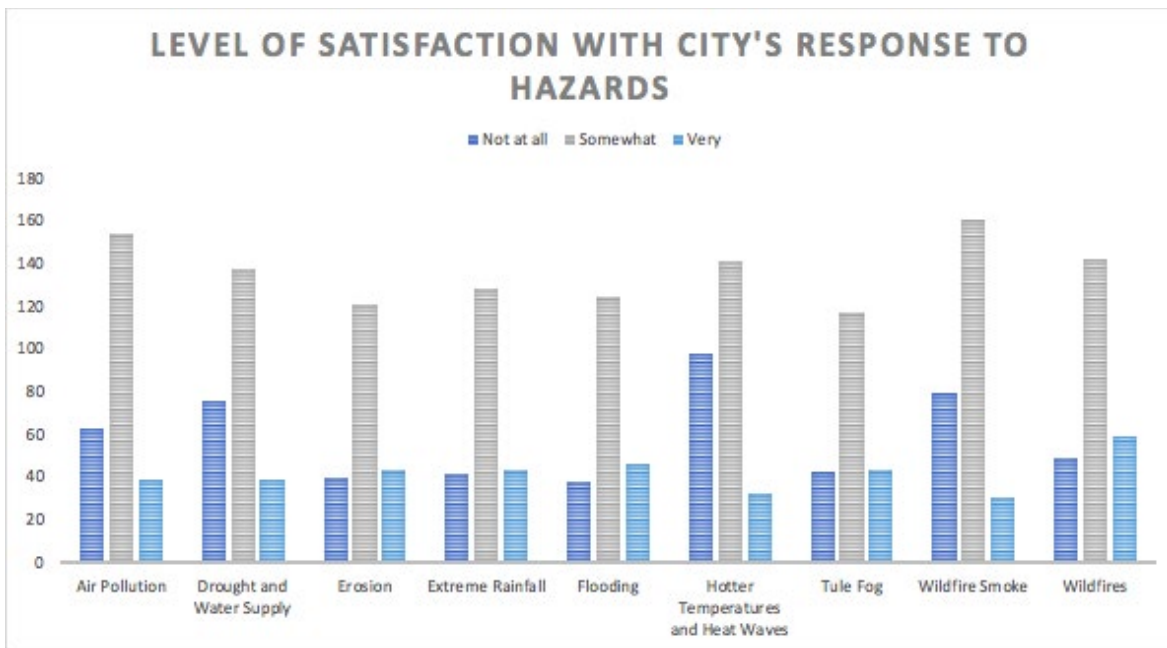
Homeowners, renters, and individuals indicating “Other” report being most impacted by Wildfire Smoke (45%, 60%, and 58%, respectively), followed by Hotter Temperatures and Heat Waves (41%, 55%, and 47%, respectively). Aside from these two categories, renter and homeowners report being more impacted by Air Pollution than Wildfires (26% v. 36%; 15% v. 26%); individuals indicating “Other” report the opposite (26% v. 32%).

Open-Ended Responses

Question: If there are other hazards that you have been personally affected by in the past 1-3 years in the City that are not listed above, please provide them here.

There were 37 responses to this question. Of those responses, 10 discussed climate related hazards. The remaining 27 discussed other community issues not directly applicable to climate change. Related responses discussed the following:

- ▶ Mortality of trees that were weakened by drought. Tree caused damage to the home and increased cost of air conditioning due to loss of canopy.
- ▶ Extreme 116 degree heat
- ▶ Nearby wildfires and the impacts of smoke on an asthmatic
- ▶ Experience with Lyme Disease
- ▶ Landslide from extreme rainfall
- ▶ Air pollution that lead to the development of asthma
- ▶ Dust
- ▶ Power outages
- ▶ Invasive species
- ▶ Loss of biodiversity affecting people psychologically and economically.



Open-Ended Responses

Question: Do you have any comments to share regarding how you were affected by past hazards and/or city response efforts? Please describe specific hazard, location, and response

Write-in answers to this question demonstrate that respondents are either not clear on how much the city can do in responding to climate impacts, don't believe the city can respond to impacts that they few as "natural" or at the state/federal scale or they do not know how the city responded and wish for more publicity about city response efforts. Because of these frequently cited opinions, multiple respondents indicated they used "Not at all satisfied" to indicate "not applicable" or they skipped responding at all. For these reasons, write-in responses are a more useful analysis than the absolute numbers. 83 respondents wrote in a short answer.

Select responses that express doubt or confusion about the city's ability to respond:

- ▶ "Several of the above items are caused by nature and the city can't do anything about them so they should not even have been included."
- ▶ "I cannot see how the city could do anything about fires, floods, fog and rain. The city can and should focus on eliminating trash and waste in our local parks and waterways. That will have a huge impact on its citizens' outlook on our government taking care of the city."
- ▶ "Let's act now to reduce the burnable debris around out (sic) homes and stream beds."
- ▶ "I don't think the city can do anything to control or improve these items except for provide infrastructure that allows emergency responders to quickly and safely access the entire population. In that regard the city has actively made response times and access to core populations worse by converting roadways to bicycle paths and failing to add lanes to major thoroughfares. I think the city really needs to reassess its willingness to sacrifice human lives in the name of environmentalist ideals. When someone has a stroke every minute of delay in transport to the hospital costs that person brain function and treatment options. Additionally these alternative modes of transportation have no ability to help facilitate business growth or commerce, and as such provide no return on the funds the city invests in them."
- ▶ "I really don't see how the City can "respond" to some of these. Air pollution from what? If wildfires, not much the City can do apart from abatement and building codes already in place. Auto pollution is minimal. And City Hall cannot dictate the weather."

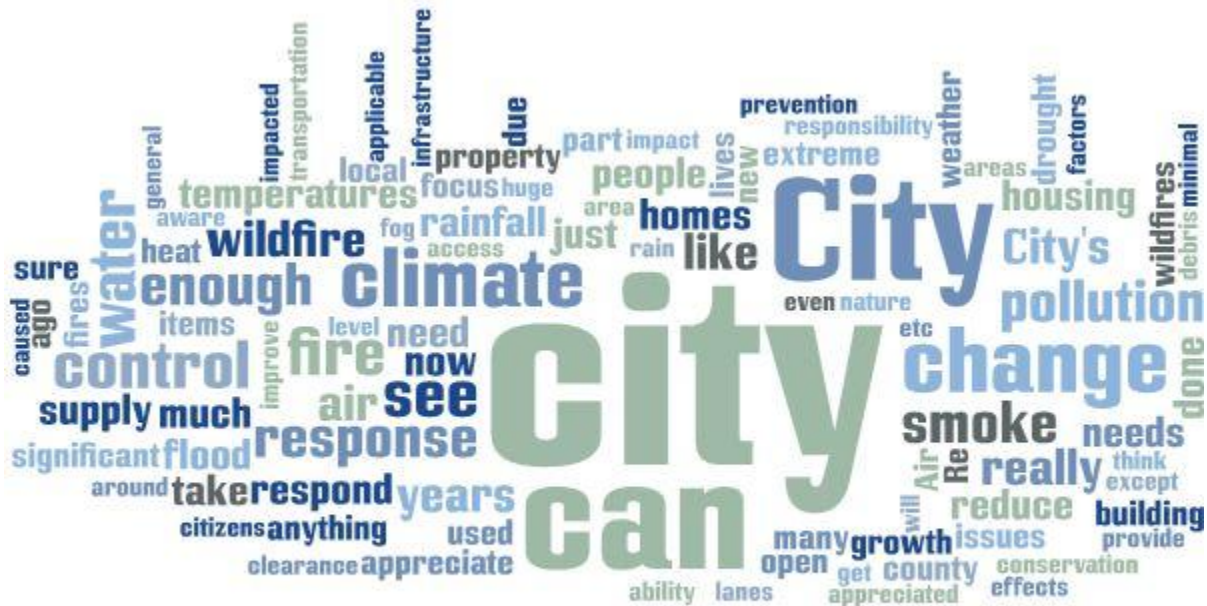
- ▶ "I'm not aware of the City's response to any of the above listed items except to say the more growth, housing, etc. that occurs the more air pollution and lack of water supply will be factors in everyday life. As well as infrastructure that cannot support the housing growth all around the city."
- ▶ "I used "Not at all satisfied" to indicate more of "not applicable" Air pollution is being worked upon by the City, and awareness of the need for conservation of water was an ad campaign and a hotline, both appreciated. The effects of the others I cannot see the City's responsibility to. In my case only."
- ▶ "I only rated a few factors because many of these issues are not truly under local influence/control. The City has done a good job addressing our flood control system. More needs to be done about wildfire prevention but a significant challenge is the amount of overgrown vegetation on private property or land just outside the City's footprint."
- ▶ "In general, I feel the city hasn't really acknowledged it's general resident experiences with climate change. Too much focus on bike lanes and ignoring the less glamorous/ youth-focused, and middle/upper class side of being impacted by climate change."
- ▶ "I'm not sure how to respond to some of these questions where I do not have a direct experience, and as a result don't have a level of satisfaction to report. I believe the City leadership's push for climate action, sustainable transportation, affordable housing, and protection of open space are all in the right direction."
- ▶ "You should have had a "not applicable" column. There is little the City can do about hot temperatures or wildfire smoke drifting into the area. Drought and water supply is something the City can control. Constantly raising water rates while allowing hundreds of new homes it NOT the way to respond."
- ▶ "What is the city doing for any of these? If they are doing something, they sure aren't doing a good job publicizing what they are doing."

Select responses that offer more concrete feedback:

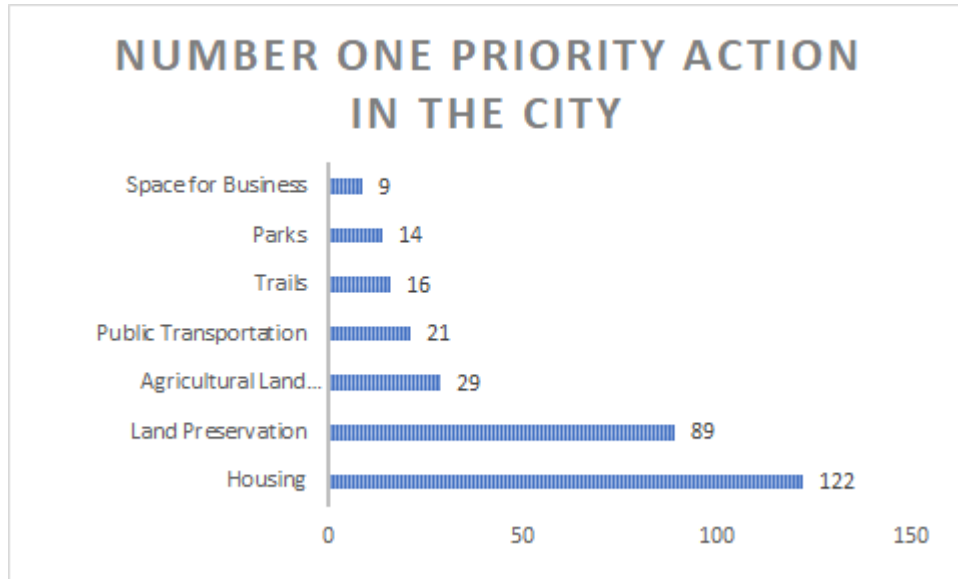
- ▶ "Storm drain clearance especially on the north end of the city near Loomis Street is sometimes lacking and more frequent patrols by city personnel to this area would be appreciated."
- ▶ "Appreciate the notifications we get through Twitter and other platforms."
- ▶ "Address fire prevention like the Native Americans and how we used to. Prevent forest fires."
- ▶ "City could do more to reduce water use - encourage lawn reduction, including on City properties."
- ▶ "The city has used a wide brush to paint very high fire hazard and should be more specific/precise in classifying fire hazard. A city perimeter approach would be more effective and appropriate. Over-classifying can have dire effects on residents ability to obtain fire insurance. Just like keeping areas in flood zones that have been mitigated is a problem."
- ▶ "The potential for water shortage is ignored when the city approved extensive new housing. Otherwise these developments would have been disapproved. The city says one thing but does another with respect to this topic."
- ▶ "While the firefighters have indeed been heroes in this scenario, the city need to undertake extreme conservation measures, plant more trees to increase air quality, install solar throughout the town, enforce xeriscaping and the like. I do appreciate the city/county air report."
- ▶ "Stonewalling on the Lake Dredging project is unacceptable."
- ▶ "Keep beaches open for locals during heat waves."
- ▶ "I actually was not aware of the City's response at all to any of these issues."
- ▶ "Last winter when highway 5 was closed due to snow. The freeways and highways were blocked for HOURS and HOURS because we only have one or two routes to use in Southern California and the Central Coast."

- ▶ “What is the city doing to capture and utilize the very little rain we get each year? How much of it are we losing to runoff in our ocean? What is the city doing to implement a carbon free grid by 2030? How can we take wisdom and advice from our local indigenous people to better understand working with the environment?”
- ▶ “My property is located within a flood zone. Mitigations, such as creek debris clearance, have been successful (so far!). Though many residential neighborhoods back up to steep, somewhat denuded hills, there have not been any significant mudflows (so far!). There is an inadequate supply of N95 masks which are necessary when doing errands during periods of hazardous air quality.”
- ▶ “Allowing 75 foot buildings downtown adds to the heat zone of the downtown corridor”
- ▶ “I'm glad a notice has been put out about the air pollution hazards. We need strong messaging from our leadership to help us through challenges.”
- ▶ “heat mitigation in low income housing is not being taken seriously.”
- ▶ “I do not think, in a town where the majority do not have AC, we (the city) are ready for extreme heat.”
- ▶ “It wasn't apparent to me that the homeless had options to shelter in a cool/clear air space”
- ▶ “Hotter temperatures, but the city does not have shade structures in many areas.”
- ▶ “Flooding. If we and our neighbors didn't go out and clean the storm drains when it rains hard, multiple yards would be underwater.”
- ▶ “Wildfires: Reverse 911 works really well but most of my friends didn't know about it so trying to get the word out better. The Reverse 911 message also needs to be more clear including identifying the threat.”

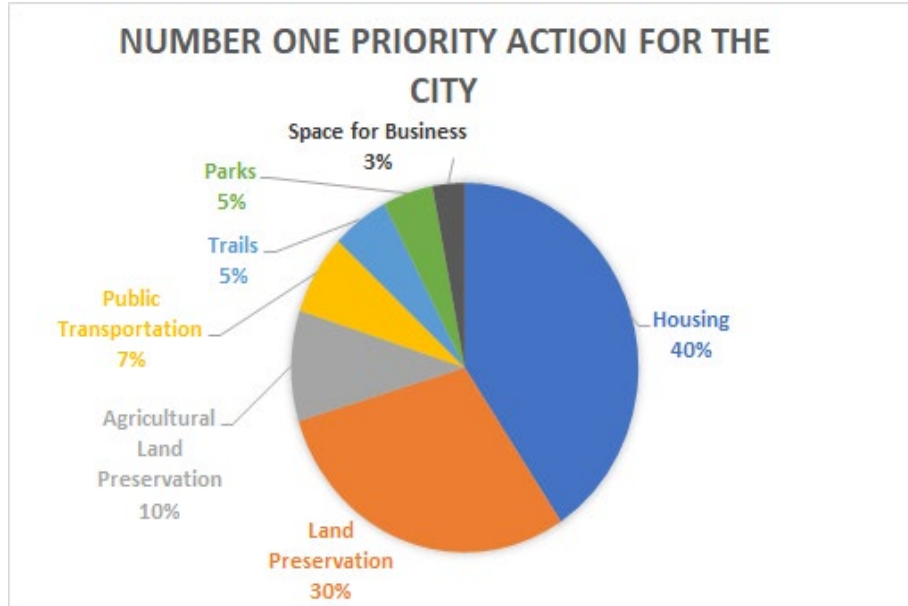
Responses to this question were used to generate a word cloud (see below).



HOW WOULD YOU PRIORITIZE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS IN THE CITY OF SLO?



Respondents were asked to prioritize actions in the City of San Luis Obispo. Housing was most frequently listed as a number one priority; housing was chosen as the top priority 122 times or by 40% of respondents. Land Preservation, another priority topic, was selected as the number one priority 89 times or by 30% of respondents. Selected as the number one priority less frequently were Agricultural Land Preservation (selected 29 times or by 10% or respondents), Public Transportation (21 times or 7%), Trails (16 times or 5%), Parks (14 times or 5%), and Space for Business (9 times or 3%).



WHAT CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TOPICS ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT?

There were 104 responses to this question. The most common topical areas mentioned by respondents were transportation, energy, and the environment. Water, wildfire, housing and social issues were also prevalent topics, in addition to agriculture, temperature changes, development, and emergency management. Issues related to climate change mitigation, waste and pollution and the economy were also mentioned. Multiple comments indicated interest in any topic related to climate adaptation and resilience. There were also several comments that the City should not be pursuing this topic. The table below summarized the approximate number of mentions for each topical area and topics suggested by respondents.

Topical Area	Topics	Mentions
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Electric vehicles and charging ▶ Public transportation ▶ EV charging for apartment renters ▶ Active Transportation/bikeability/walkability ▶ Reducing emissions from transportation ▶ Traffic reduction ▶ Walkable neighborhoods with access to services ▶ Pro Con approach to transportation decisions 	19
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Solar, wind and renewable energy sources ▶ Solar for residential & existing homes ▶ Require rooftop solar ▶ Microgrids, batteries, & energy reliability ▶ Affordable energy ▶ Alternate technology such as trash to energy ▶ Preventing early close of Diablo Canyon ▶ Eradication of gas burning engines 	15
Environmental Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Open Space/land preservation ▶ Wildlife conservation ▶ Air pollution ▶ Urban forestry and trees to for urban cooling and societal benefits ▶ Ecosystem-based adaptation ▶ Saving beaches ▶ Natural landscaping 	15
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Water conservation ▶ "Integrated water resource management (intersections of flood management, water supply, watershed/habitat/GW protection, and water quality protection)." ▶ Drought and water supply ▶ Increasing infiltration ▶ Community outreach on water conservation 	11
Wildfire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ City wildfire mitigation efforts ▶ Fire prevention & planning ▶ Outreach to property owners at the wildland urban interface ▶ Native land management practices and knowledge 	10

Topical Area	Topics	Mentions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Fire safe building ▶ Wildfire smoke ▶ Prescribed burns ▶ Fire response 	
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Balancing housing needs with land preservation ▶ Affordable housing ▶ Tiny homes ▶ Housing for Cal Poly students ▶ Repurposing existing developed land for housing ▶ Off-grid housing ▶ How climate change will impact housing prices 	9
Social Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How can the City encourage residents to contribute more? ▶ Homelessness ▶ Mass migration into City ▶ How can the City avoid an increase in the wealth gap and unequal burden of climate change on marginalized communities? ▶ Social equity and justice ▶ Community outreach regarding personal actions such as water conservation, wildfire mitigation, carbon footprint reduction, etc. ▶ How can the government better understand community wants and needs? ▶ Covid-19 	9
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Community gardens ▶ Healthy food access ▶ Local food ▶ Soil health ▶ Regenerative agriculture and permaculture 	7
Temperature Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Extreme heat leading to AC installation and impacts on grid ▶ AC for schools and senior centers ▶ Alternatives to AC 	7
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How can we accommodate growth in a less dense format? ▶ Environmentally friendly development/ how can growth contribute to resilience? ▶ Encouraging businesses and government to be environmentally conscious ▶ Analysis of environmentally damaging industries and promoting more sustainable industrial practices ▶ Resilient construction materials and landscaping 	5
Emergency Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Faster warning systems for natural disasters ▶ Planning for compound hazards ▶ Pandemic and epidemic planning ▶ Disaster preparedness and planning ▶ Neighborhood resilience ▶ Resilience 	5
Climate Change Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ City efforts to plan for and combat climate change 	4

Topical Area	Topics	Mentions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Transitioning to a fossil fuel free society 	
Waste & Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Waste in parks and open spaces ▶ Recycling and composting programs ▶ Compost use in community gardens ▶ Noise and light pollution 	3
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Job security ▶ Diversifying employment from tourism 	2

Responses to this were also used to generate a Word Cloud. As the Word Cloud highlights, water, transportation, energy, housing and land were among the frequently used words.





Survey Strategies for Resilience

August 26, 2021, 11:41 AM

Contents

i.	Summary of registered responses	2
ii.	Survey questions	4
iii.	Individual registered responses	5

Survey Strategies for Resilience

Suggest strategies for long-term community resilience in the face of climate change

Summary Of Registered Responses

As of August 26, 2021, 11:41 AM, this forum had:		Topic Start
Attendees:	51	January 29, 2021, 2:31 PM
Registered Responses:	2	
Minutes of Public Comment:	12	

QUESTION 1

What qualities of the SLO community most support long-term resilience? For example, social networks, maintained infrastructure, local farms and food, creeks and flood control, adequate water supplies, air quality, fire protection, etc.

Answered	2
Skipped	0

better community improved infrastructure more

QUESTION 2

We have heard community stories about what is needed to make our community strong. For example, neighborhood food pantries, climate education, preparedness training, social cohesion, and air conditioning during extreme heat. What ideas or strategies do you have for making our city more resilient?

Answered	2
Skipped	0

- energy implemented more other show

QUESTION 3

How can we protect the community members that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts? How do we ensure that our process is equitable?

Answered	2
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Survey Strategies for Resilience

Suggest strategies for long-term community resilience in the face of climate change

Skipped

0

may **more need** people

Survey Strategies for Resilience

Suggest strategies for long-term community resilience in the face of climate change

Survey Questions

QUESTION 1

What qualities of the SLO community most support long-term resilience? For example, social networks, maintained infrastructure, local farms and food, creeks and flood control, adequate water supplies, air quality, fire protection, etc.

QUESTION 2

We have heard community stories about what is needed to make our community strong. For example, neighborhood food pantries, climate education, preparedness training, social cohesion, and air conditioning during extreme heat. What ideas or strategies do you have for making our city more resilient?

QUESTION 3

How can we protect the community members that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts? How do we ensure that our process is equitable?

Survey Strategies for Resilience

Suggest strategies for long-term community resilience in the face of climate change

Individual Registered Responses

Name not shown

inside Neighborhood 1

January 30, 2021, 12:46 PM

Question 1

Since I moved to SLO in the mid-60's, I've observed that our City has generally done an excellent job of governance. Infrastructure is constantly being evaluated and improved as needed. City programs are varied and serve the broad needs of the community. With community input, Standards and Guidelines (although seemingly more and more unwieldy), have been improved over time to protect our unique resources and guide our physical development.

Question 2

Most of the above mentioned ideas sound very worthwhile. During this Covid adventure, the efforts shown by the City, DowntownSLO, other local community organizations and individuals, have greatly impressed me as to the actual RESILIENCE of our amazing City. Continuing education surrounding important issues is one of the key elements of continued future success. Energy policies that have been implemented show bold leadership that may show the way to other communities. We can certainly look to other countries who have implemented forward-thinking strategies for Resiliency. There are many great examples.

Question 3

Continue and expand educational information and outreach programs. Maintain a budget item for emergency services for those that may be most vulnerable as a result of climate change impacts. There may be the need for a citizen advisory body to help determine priorities and thresholds for support.

Name not available

inside Neighborhood 11

February 24, 2021, 12:13 PM

Question 1

existing infrastructure must be improved, better electricity, more natural gas, sweep and clean the streets/gutters/sidewalks and bike paths, more parking, better lighting, more police, trim trees

Question 2

More energy - keep the electricity on - back-up power when PSPS happen, more natural gas for cooking/heating. Homeless are too aggressive.

Question 3

keep people healthy with better diets and more exercise, promote "rugged individualism", people need to more self-sufficient.

Climate Change Impacts on Community Organizations Survey Summary

Relation to the Safety & Community Resilience Element Update:

Traditionally, the General Plan had a Safety Element, with this update we are re-envisioning the document as the Safety and Community Resilience element. The intention is to take a more holistic approach by integrating community wellbeing and resilience in addition to the traditional lens of public safety.

To integrate community resilience and wellbeing, we are reaching beyond a narrow focus on physical infrastructure to consider **social infrastructure** – organizations and places that support the networks of relationships in a community, social cohesion, and connectedness. There is growing recognition that social capital – connectedness and trust within a community - is important for building resilience to disasters and disruptions.^[1] As the city prepares for an increasingly unpredictable future, with greater incidence of disasters due to climate change, social capital and the infrastructure that supports it becomes increasingly important.

The Climate Change Impacts on Community Organizations Survey will be used to include a discussion of social infrastructure and community assets in the Safety and Community Resilience Element, and a map of community assets.

Survey Purpose:

The survey is designed to help the city understand what parts of the community support social cohesion, wellbeing, and disaster resilience. This information will inform the Safety and Community Resilience Element update.

The survey can be used to understand:

- Well-trusted community spaces and organizations that the city can consider partnering with in the future
- Resources that are missing that would support social cohesion and disaster resilience
- Resources/Assets that should be strengthened and invested in to improve social cohesion, wellbeing, and disaster resilience

Survey Promotion

The survey was advertised through a press release, social media posts, flyers, and email outreach. Flyers were posted on city transit and in city hall and were distributed at the downtown Farmers' Market.

Survey Participation

The survey was open from June 16th through June 17th. There were 7 responses to the survey.

The 7 organizations to respond to the survey were the SLO FoodBank, CAPSLO, The Salvation Army, Jewish Community Center-Federation of San Luis Obispo, SLO Food Co-op, SLO Chamber of Commerce, and Transitions-Mental Health Association.

Questions

The survey consisted of 6 questions, 4 of which were written response and 2 multiple choice.

Written Response/Open Ended

Question 1: What is the name of your organization?

Question 4: If your organization was impacted by one of the hazards listed above, how have these impacts affected your operations and/or the population you serve?

Question 5: Does your organization have any emergency planning practices or protocols in place to mitigate impacts on your operations during these events?

Question 6: Do you have any recommendations on how the City can help community organizations become resilient to impacts to climate change?

Multiple Choice

Question 2: Which of the following climate change impacts are you concerned about affecting your organization and/or the populations you serve?

Question 3: Which of the above-mentioned climate-related hazards has your organization been personally affected by in the past 1-3 years?

Results

Overview

The objective of the questions asked was to gather information from core community organizations in SLO City about the risk climate change poses to their organization and operation.

Common Themes:

1. Community organizations are most concerned about the effects of:

- Wildfire and associate impacts
- Increased Temperatures and extreme heat
- Large Storm Events and Flooding
- Long Term Drought

2. All 7 organizations have personally been affected in the last 1-3 years by wildfire and associate impacts.

Responses to question 3: If your organization was impacted by one of the hazards listed above, how have these impacts affected your operations and/or the populations you serve?

- “Many of our direct distributions, and distributions hosted by our agency partners are held outdoors. This means our clients, volunteers, and staff have little to no protection against extreme heat and poor air quality. We are also very concerned about PSPS events and both our vulnerability as a food storage facility and the community's vulnerability. We luckily received a grant to fund the addition of a generator to our main warehouse, which will help us greatly in the event of a PPS. But, we are still concerned about how we will prepare ourselves to serve the community if/when it is hit with one.”
- Other impacts on operations that were cited were:
 - Closure of children’s centers
 - Aging adults needs support
 - Homeless shelters
 - Long term drought causing stress on water supply on property
 - Work with local farmers to source fresh produce
 - Increased housing costs

3. Many of the community organizations have an emergency planning practice or protocols in place to help mitigate impacts on operations.

- These range from high level organization protocols to placing disaster and emergency supplies in buildings and program sites.

4. In terms of recommendations for how the City can help community organizations become resilient to impacts of climate change, organizations listed

- Education
- Creation of a general safety guide for natural disasters that businesses, non-profits, and other organizations can utilize
- Supporting local sourcing and organic practices
- Communication

The survey was open from August 12th through August 30th. There were 266 responses to the survey.

Common Themes:

Community Strengths - Across all four scenarios, these assets were frequently mentioned:

1. Public Information (Disaster Information, Social Media, News)
 - a. 47 mentions accounting for 20% of responses.
 2. Medical/Emergency Services (Public Safety)
 - a. 41 mentions accounting for 17% of responses.
 3. Open Space/Trails
 - a. 31 mentions accounting for 13% of responses.
- Asset 1: Public Information (Disaster Information, Social Media, News) On average this asset was rated as Very Important respondents listed receiving support from this asset in the following types:
 - Access to accurate and understandable information
 - Informs about the current state of situation
 - Enhances ability to prepare and mobilize
 - Provides direction and recommendation
 - Connects community members to resources
 - Asset 2 Medical/Emergency Services on average this asset was rated as Very Important respondents listed receiving support from this asset in the following types:
 - Vaccines, injuries, aid
 - Provides reassurance and "peace of mind" when services are well staffed, present, and equipped.
 -
 - Asset 3 Open Space/Trails on average this asset was rated as Very Important/ Important. Respondents listed receiving support from this asset in the following types:
 - Improves Mental and Physical Health
 - Outlet for activity or Relaxation
 - Overall Fitness and Well being are supported

In addition to these specific assets, respondents frequently listed these assets:

- Community Service Centers (i.e.: Library, Cal Poly Campus, Churches, Pride and Diversity Center etc.)
 - 30 mentions, about 12%
- Multimodal Transit (bike lanes/ parking, pedestrian access, traffic control etc.)
 - 25 mentions, about 10%
- Recreational Facilities (i.e.: Parks, Athletic Facilities, etc.)

- 16 mentions, about 7%
- Local Economy/Business: 13 mentions, 5%
- Local Government: 10 mentions 4%

Types of Support Received - Across scenarios the types of support most frequently listed were:

- Emotional and physical security
- Opportunity to coordinate, prepare, and appropriately react
- Direction and recommendation on how to respond before, during, and after.

Gaps and Key Needs - Across scenarios these assets were frequently listed as missing:

In general

- Clear and effective communication
- Dynamic Facilities/Open Spaces
- Proactive attitude

Scenario 1

- Improve recreational amenities
- Increase of accessible transportation (more parking, more bus stops, bike/walk friendly)
- Resource security and Protection

Scenario 2

- Disaster Preparedness Manager
- Accurate information

Scenario 3

- Citywide plan
- Outreach and training

Scenario 4

- Resource Access (food, shelter, medical, recreational)

Scenario One: Normal Life

The following assets were listed for scenario one:

1. Community Service Centers
 - a. SLO County Library
 - b. The Mission
 - c. SLO Newcomers Group
 - d. Bishop Peak Elementary
 - e. SLO Village
 - f. Gala Pride and Diversity Center

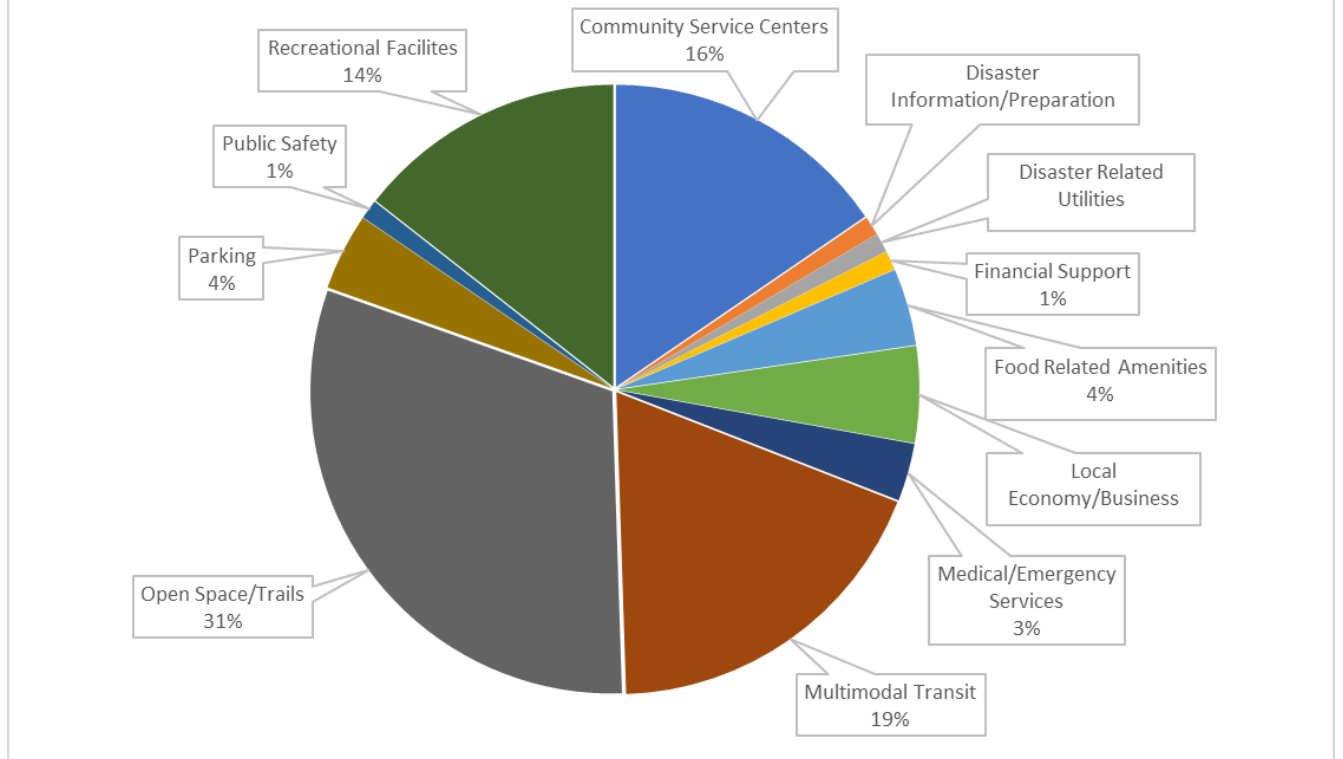
2. Disaster Information/Preparation
 - a. SLO Adult Education
3. Disaster Related Utilities
 - a. City Utilities/Infrastructure
4. Financial Support
 - a. SESLOC Federal Credit Union
5. Food Related Amenities
 - a. Farmers Market
 - b. Marigold Shopping Center
 - c. Trader Joes/Food 4 Less Shopping Center
6. Local Economy/business
 - a. Headstrong Fit
 - b. Equilibrium Fitness
 - c. Phoenix Books
 - d. Bang the Drum Brewery
 - e. Small Family-Owned Businesses
 - f. Bike Kitchen
7. Medical/Emergency Services
 - a. General Medical Care
 - b. Sierra Vista Medical Center
 - c. Up-to-date Hospitals
8. Multimodal Transit
 - a. Bike Paths
 - b. SLO Transit
 - c. Protected Bike Lanes
 - d. Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons
 - e. Pedestrian Oriented Sidewalks/Paths
 - f. Railroad Safety Trail
9. Open Space/Trails
 - a. Terrace Hill
 - b. Bowden Ranch
 - c. Cerro San Luis
 - d. West Cuesta Ridge
 - e. Laguna Lake
 - f. Bishop Peak
 - g. Feldsman Loop
 - h. Cuesta Park
 - i. South Hills Open Space
 - j. Edna Valley
10. Parking
 - a. Parking Garages

- b. Street Parking
 - c. Downtown Parking
 - d. Parking Accessibility throughout the City
11. Public Safety
- a. Streetlights/Well Lit Areas
12. Recreational Facilities
- a. SLO Swim Centers
 - b. Parks and Rec Kids Camp
 - c. City Parks
 - d. Damon Garcia Sports Fields

Results:

Scenario 1	
Asset Category	Count
Community Service Centers	15
Disaster Information/Preparation	1
Disaster Related Utilities	1
Financial Support	1
Food Related Amenities	4
Local Economy/Business	5
Medical/Emergency Services	3
Multimodal Transit	18
Open Space/Trails	30
Parking	4
Public Safety	1
Recreational Facilities	14
Total	97

Community Assets that Support Day to Day Wellbeing



Scenario Two: Disaster Preparation

The following assets were listed for scenario one:

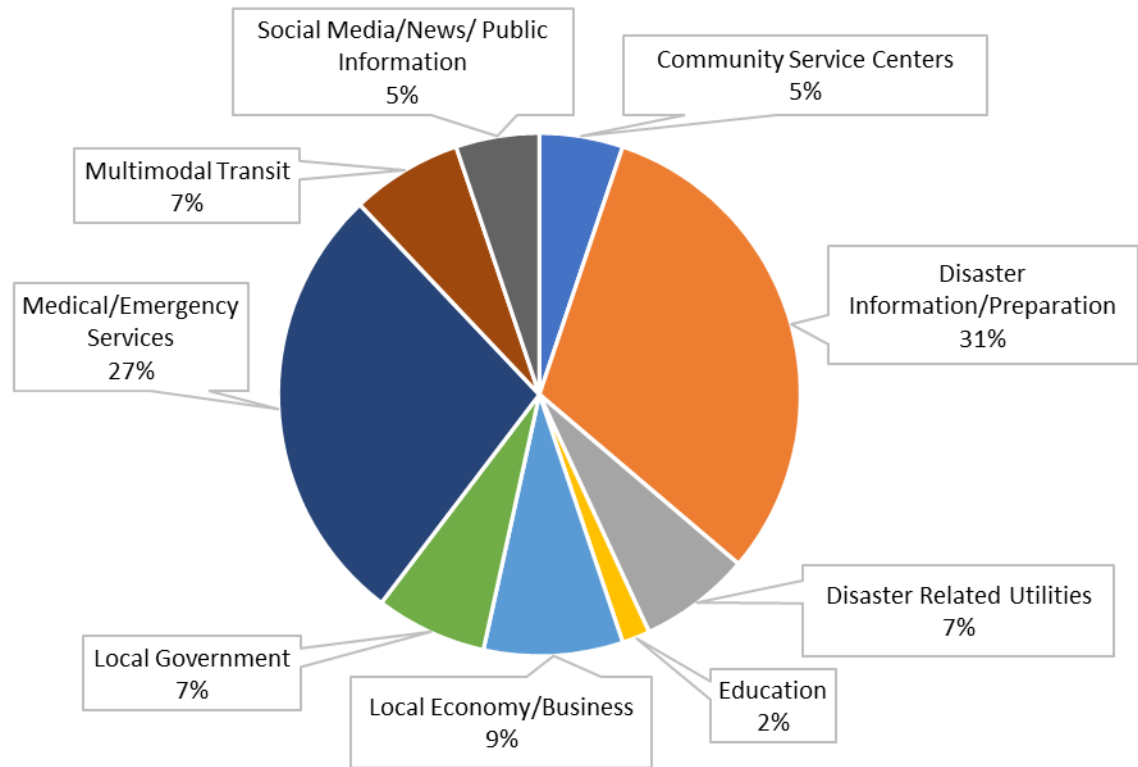
1. Community Service Centers
 - a. Community Centers
 - b. SLO County Library
 - c. Cal Poly University Campus
2. Disaster information/preparation
 - a. News
 - b. City Website, ReadySLO, EmergencySLO.org
 - c. Early Warning Systems (Sirens, Alerts)
 - d. Radio AM/FM Alerts
3. Disaster Related Utilities
 - a. Water Stations
 - b. Utilities
 - c. SLO Public Works
 - d. Mutual Aid
4. Education

- a. Soil and Regenerative AG Classes
- 5. Local economy/businesses
 - a. Target
 - b. The Mountain Air
 - c. Costco
 - d. Trader Joes
 - e. Miner's Ace Hardware
- 6. Local government
 - a. SLO City and County Officials
 - b. SLO City
 - c. SLO County
- 7. Medical/Emergency Services
 - a. Fire Departments
 - b. American Red Cross
 - c. Health Department
 - d. EMS
 - e. Hospitals
 - f. Cal Poly Health Center
- 8. Multimodal Transit
 - a. SLO Airport
 - b. Personal Vehicles
 - c. Emphasis on Public Transportation
- 9. Social Media/News
 - a. KCBX Radio
 - b. Online Presence of SLO Community Members

Results:

Scenario 2	
Asset Category	Count
Community Service Centers	3
Disaster Information/Preparation	18
Disaster Related Utilities	4
Education	1
Local Economy/Business	5
Local Government	4
Medical/Emergency Services	16
Multimodal Transit	4
Social Media/News/ Public Information	3
Grand Total	48

Community Assets that Help Prepare for Disasters



Scenario Three: During Disaster

The following assets were listed for scenario one:

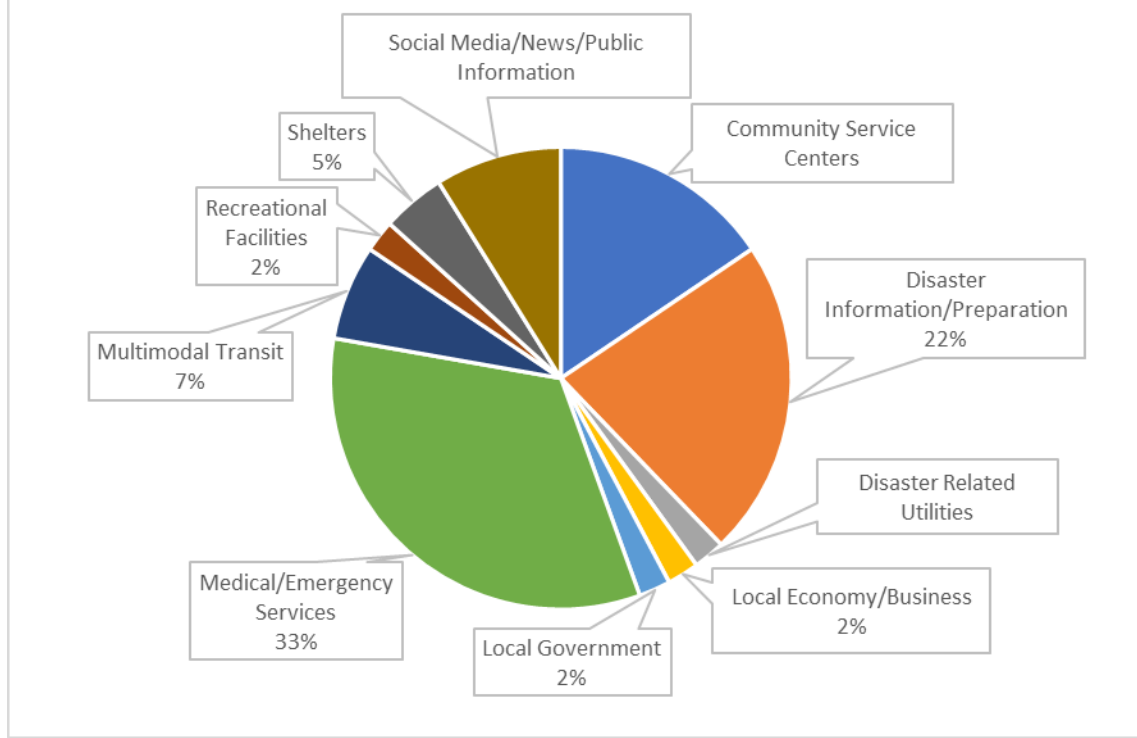
1. Community Service Centers
 - a. City Hall
 - b. Church
 - c. SLO Library
 - d. Veteran's Memorial Building
 - e. Schools
 - f. Ludwick Community Center
2. Medical/Emergency Services
 - a. SLO County and City Fire
 - b. SLO County and City Police
 - c. Search and Rescue
 - d. American Red Cross
 - e. Medical Reserve Corps
 - f. City Government
3. Social Media/news

- a. Social Media Groups
- b. KSBY
- 4. Disaster Information/Preparation
 - a. Early Warning System
 - b. Pulse Point
 - c. EmergencySLO.org
 - d. Public Communication
 - e. ReadySLO.org
 - f. City Emails
 - g. KSBY
- 5. Shelters
- 6. Multimodal Transit
 - a. Airport
 - b. US 101 and Roadway Accessibility
- 7. Local economy/business
 - a. Costco
- 8. Local Government
 - a. SLO County and SLO City

Results:

Scenario 3	
Community Asset	Count
Community Service Centers	7
Disaster Information/Preparation	10
Disaster Related Utilities	1
Local Economy/Business	1
Local Government	1
Medical/Emergency Services	15
Multimodal Transit	3
Recreational Facilities	1
Shelters	2
Social Media/News/Public Information	4
Grand Total	45

Community Assets that Help During Disasters



Scenario Four: Post Disaster

The following assets were listed for scenario one:

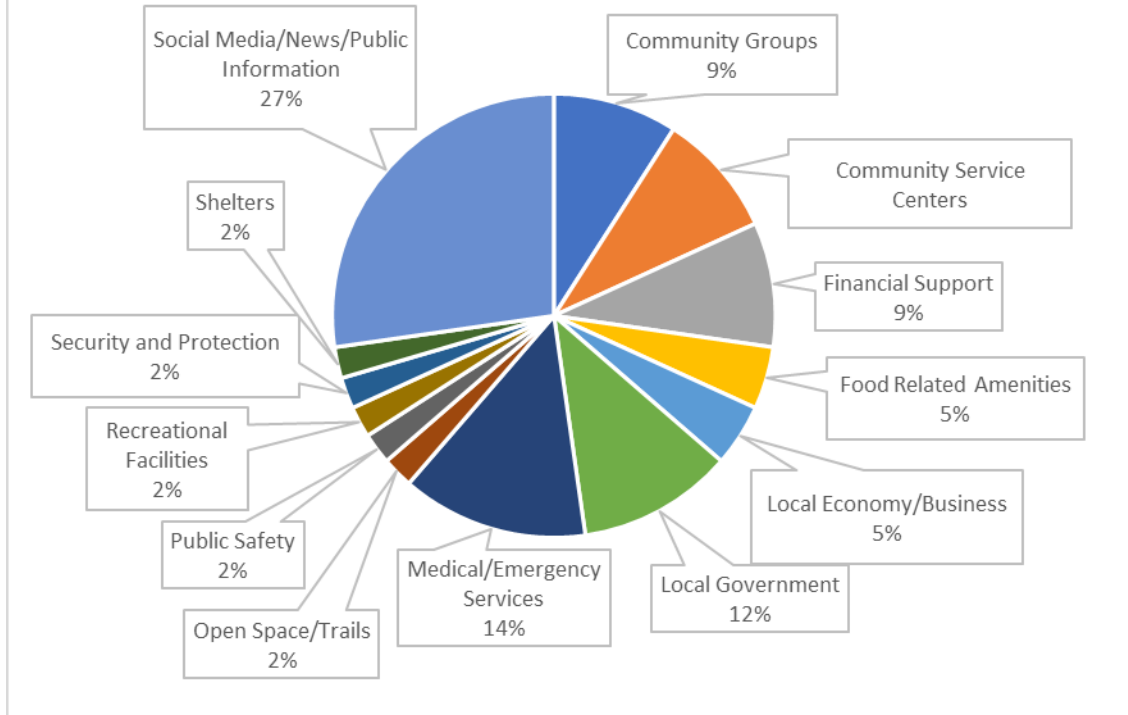
1. Local Economy/Business
 - a. Target
 - b. Small Business Development Center
2. Food Related Amenities
 - a. Grocery Stores
 - b. Pharmacy
 - c. Water and Food Supply
3. Recreational Facilities
 - a. The Pad Climbing
4. Local Government
 - a. SLO County Administration
 - b. City Government
 - c. County OES, City Manager, and Mayor
 - d. City of SLO
5. Social Media/News/Public Information

- a. City Agency Responsible for Disseminating Information
 - b. Timely Access to Service Providers
 - c. Newspapers
 - d. ReadySLO.org
 - e. SLO City Hall
 - f. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook
 - g. City Website
6. Community Groups
- a. Local Non-Profit Organizations
 - b. Mutual Aid
 - c. Food Banks
7. Open Space/Trails
- a. General Open Space
8. Financial Support
- a. Workforce Recovery Grants
 - b. EDD
 - c. Insurance Companies
 - d. FEMA
9. Security and Protection
- a. National Guard
10. Community Service Centers
- a. Salvation Army
 - b. Churches/Religious Centers
 - c. The Center
 - d. SLO County Veteran’s Hall

Results:

Scenario 4	
Community Asset	Count
Community Groups	4
Community Service Centers	4
Financial Support	4
Food Related Amenities	2
Local Economy/Business	2
Local Government	5
Medical/Emergency Services	6
Open Space/Trails	1
Public Safety	1
Recreational Facilities	1
Security and Protection	1
Shelters	1
Social Media/News/Public Information	12
Grand Total	44

Community Assets that Help to Recover from Disasters



Overview:

The Environmental Justice Survey for Community Organizations was intended to gather input on environmental topics from organizations that serve vulnerable and/or disadvantaged communities in the City of San Luis Obispo. More specifically, the survey gathered input on how the city can better support disadvantaged communities by reducing environmental pollution, identifying key community needs, and increasing the voice of marginalized groups in the City's decision-making process. The survey findings will support the integration of environmental justice into the City's General Plan Safety and Community Resilience Element.

The survey was open for two weeks from August 12th, 2021 to August 26th 2021. The survey was sent via email to 59 staff members at local organizations or agencies that work with disadvantaged communities or focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The survey was also shared with participants of the Environmental Justice Working Group.

Participation:

The survey received 7 responses from the following organizations:

- Diversity Coalition San Luis Obispo County
- SLO Food Bank
- HASLO
- United Way of San Luis Obispo County
- Lumina Alliance
- CAPSLO
- Habitat for Humanity SLO County

Populations Served:

All respondents indicated that they serve populations that live, work, and/or go to school in the City of San Luis Obispo. All organizations reported that they serve low-income, non/limited English speakers. Also, all organizations serve young children and youth within SLO. The majority (6/7) of responses showed to support those who are unhoused, unemployed, and uninsured. People without vehicle access, undocumented individuals and families, people with disabilities, and outdoor workers are also served by a majority of organizations. About half of respondents show support for people with chronic health conditions and people with severe mental illness.

Only one organization (Diversity Coalition SLO County) indicated that they aid racial and ethnic people of color and faith-based communities, this same organization specifically supports BIPOC populations. One individual organization described that they serve "low income residents of SLO County who lack the resources to purchase or obtain enough food for themselves or their families" while another organization noted they assist those with affordable housing ownership. One other organization serves victims of violence particularly.

Environmental Pollutants Adversely Impacting Vulnerable Populations

Types of environmental pollutants (all listed frequently among the respondents)

- Exhaust and traffic pollution from living in proximity to major roadways
- Contaminated drinking water
- Lead paint or pipes in housing
- Pesticide pollution from agriculture
- Living/working near environmental clean-up sites
- Smoke from wildfires

Populations are affected mostly by living and working near the environmental pollutants listed.

Farmworkers are at risk to greater pesticide exposure and are also impacted more by wildfire smoke as they are working outdoors.

Low income housing are often based in areas that are more impacted by pollutants such as noise and exhaust from higher traffic volumes.

Due to insufficient resources and low level priorities from local governments, vulnerable populations are subject to substandard living conditions, lack of proper education/recognition, and are of a low priority for remediation.

Recommendations for how the City can Help Protect Vulnerable Populations from Environmental Pollutants, Hazards and Climate Change Impacts

- Host listening sessions inside of affected communities.
- Devote new human and material resources to investigate and remedy environmental injustices.
- Identify and appoint leadership from within the affected communities
- Provide monetary or other basic needs support to farmworkers when their work is disrupted by unusual or dramatic climate events
- Incorporate greater city plans to clean up pollutants and test for pollutants in soil and other locations
- Provide access to resources, education, funding, and create platforms/events where community members may share their experiences and be intentionally listened to

Community Improvements to Protect the Wellbeing and Safety of Vulnerable Populations

1. Better transit services (more routes, more stops, shorter wait times).
2. Low income housing.
3.
 - Cooling Centers.
 - Broadband access.
 - Cooling/heating for homes and apartments (air conditioning/heat pumps).
4.
 - Park access.
 - Address food deserts by providing farmers markets and such in low income areas.
 - Street Trees.
 - Translation Services.

- Safe parking/ camping areas for the unhoused population that includes services and resources.
- Community gathering places.

“Real, tangible short and long-term, result driven solutions that are not based in politically motivated rhetoric and empty promises”

A general consensus shows these needs are anticipated to change beside one organization which does not think community needs will change as impacts increase. It was noted that better public transportation and cooling centers will rise in importance. Additionally, heightened rates of demographic change will increase need for affordable housing, educational resources, and access to broadband.

Important Public Services and Amenities

- Access to safe living conditions, legal services, and affordable child care.
- Libraries, bus transit, bicycling paths, safe overnight parking, public bathrooms, programs specifically targeted towards low-income housing.
- Living wage jobs and access to affordable housing.
- Access to public parks and recreation
- Transit improvements for senior and disabled populations.

Specifically for disaster situations

- Cooling centers, clean and safe shelters
- Access to food, clean water, electricity, and transportation
- Translation services and assistance for those with mobility issues
- Temporary housing for displaced individuals

Healthy Food Access

- Increase support for food banks
 - Partner with SLO Food Bank to determine regional gaps in service.
 - Create opportunities for food distributions, pantries, free farmer’s markets in underserved communities.
- Improve public transportation to super markets and farmers markets
- Support food banks, farms, and gardens for low income neighbors

Participation in the Public Decision-Making Process

Barriers

- Language barriers seem to be most prevalent.
- Lack of trust also drives participation downward.
- Don’t hear about opportunities (e.g not well connected to the City communication channels)
- Seems to be inaccessible to many people:
 - Too little time to engage (when struggling to put food on table, dealing with violence, engagement in public government not on radar.

- Inaccessible meeting times
- Disconnection between members of the public and government body
 - Topics of city meeting not relevant
 - Lack of interest
 - Lack of knowledge on government processes.

Recommendations for improved involvement and communications

- Ensure affected communities have opportunities to create agendas, not simply respond to agendas.
- Incentivize participation
- Consider alternative meeting times outside of work week/hours
- Collaborate with trusted partners/agencies within different communities to spread information (specific recommendation to use CAPSLO to disseminate info of interest to civilians.
- "Prioritize and focus on real life, basic needs that enhance and sustain"

Additional Comments

- "Further reduce jobs/housing imbalance in order to reduce job commute times and all things associated with them (reduced air quality, decreased quality of life etc.)
- Please sustain our work making environmental justice a core priority in the city's service to all its citizens, don't allow to fall between the cracks... Thank you.