

# **Chapter 1 – Community Profile**

## **Overview**

The Portside Environmental Justice Community (Portside community) comprises the neighborhoods of Barrio Logan, Logan Heights and Sherman Heights in the City of San Diego, and West National City within National City. This community was selected as an AB 617 Monitoring Community in 2018 and as an Emission Reduction Community in 2019. The Community Steering Committee (CSC) was formed in 2018.

## **Portside Community Description**

(The following Information in italics was provided by the Environmental Health Coalition)

*“National City is the poorest city in San Diego County. It is a community of color with significant challenges including language barriers, insufficient access to reliable transportation and healthy food, and high exposure to pollutants. Notably, 22% of residents live below the federal poverty line and 35% of the population has less than a high school education<sup>1</sup>. The majority of residents are people of color (88%) with Latinos constituting the greater share of the population (63%) and Asian-American/Pacific Islanders following with 20%<sup>1</sup>. The community is also quite young with approximately 26% of residents under the age of 18.”*

*Logan Heights is similar in its demographic makeup. An estimated 86% of residents are Latino with Black and Whites constituting the secondary and tertiary largest ethnic groups<sup>2</sup>. Among Logan Heights’ residents, approximately 50% have less than a high school diploma and 30.8% live below the federal poverty line<sup>3</sup>. At the last census, 34% of Logan Heights’ residents were under the age of 18<sup>4</sup>.*

*Barrio Logan is a mixed-use neighborhood south of downtown San Diego. Its bayfront is highly industrialized. In the period between the 1920s and 1950s, Mexican American, African American and Asian residents as well as Mexican immigrants moved into Logan Heights/Barrio Logan because of its proximity to the bay front and railroad jobs and the availability of affordable housing<sup>5</sup>. The community was heavily residential and continued to be so as multi-family units were developed throughout the neighborhood to house the continuous influx of immigrant labor.*

*The neighborhood of Barrio Logan achieved its current identity as a consequence of its separation from Logan Heights due to the construction of Interstate 5 in 1963 and the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge in 1969, as well as the rezoning of the area from strictly residential to mixed use. Although it is considered a cultural gem of the county as San Diego’s original Mexican-American neighborhood and a landmark site of the 1960s Chicano rights movement, the community still faces significant challenges: 78% of residents are characterized as low-income, 32% of the population is*

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<sup>1</sup> “Demographic and Socioeconomic Profile 2010, Zip 91950”. San Diego Association of Governments.

<sup>2</sup> 2016 ACS 5-Year Estimates. “Selected Characteristics of the Total and Native Populations in the United States”.

<sup>3</sup> “Greater Logan Heights: Five Neighborhoods, One Community”.

<<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/planning/community/profiles/southeasternsd/pdf/greaterloganheightsfiveneighborhoodsonecommunity.pdf>>.

<sup>4</sup> 2010 Decennial Census. “Sex by Age”.

<sup>5</sup> Smith, Brian F. and Associates and the City of San Diego City Planning and Community Investment/Planning Divisions. “Barrio Logan Historical Resources Survey”. 1 February 2011.

<<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/planning/programs/historical/pdf/2013/201304blhistoricsurvey.pdf>>.

linguistically isolated, and 42% of the population has less than a high school education<sup>6</sup>.” The neighborhood of Barrio Logan achieved its current identity as a consequence of its separation from Logan Heights due to the construction of Interstate 5 in 1963 and the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge in 1969, as well as the rezoning of the area from strictly residential to mixed use. Although it is considered a cultural gem of the county as San Diego’s original Mexican-American neighborhood and a landmark site of the 1960s Chicano rights movement, the community still faces significant challenges: 78% of residents are characterized as low-income, 32% of the population is linguistically isolated, and 42% of the population has less than a high school education<sup>7</sup>.”

Barrio Logan’s rate of asthma-related hospital visits is higher than 92.9 percent of census tracts throughout the state, with about 81 visits per 10,000 people. Cancer is also a major health hazard for residents. Barrio Logan’s cancer risk is in the 80<sup>th</sup>- 90<sup>th</sup> percentile nationally<sup>6</sup>.

Sherman Heights is a high-density urban neighborhood that has a similar immigrant history and make up as Logan Heights<sup>8</sup>. As the northernmost neighborhood in the Portside Community, it is just south of downtown San Diego.

The Portside Community includes the following 12 census tracts: 6073005000; 6073004900; 6073003902; 6073003601; 6073003901; 6073005100; 6073003603; 6073004000; 6073003502; 6073021900; 6073004700; 6073011602.

A map of the Portside Community, by census tracts, is shown below.



<sup>6</sup> “EJSCREEN Report (Version 2016) Block group: 060730050001”. EJSCREEN Tool. US Environmental Protection Agency.

<sup>7</sup> “EJSCREEN Report (Version 2016) Block group: 060730050001”. EJSCREEN Tool. US Environmental Protection Agency.

<sup>8</sup> City of San Diego Community Description

<<https://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd8/communities/shermanheights>>

Figure 1 - Community of Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhoods (Census Tracts)

## Portside Community Impacts

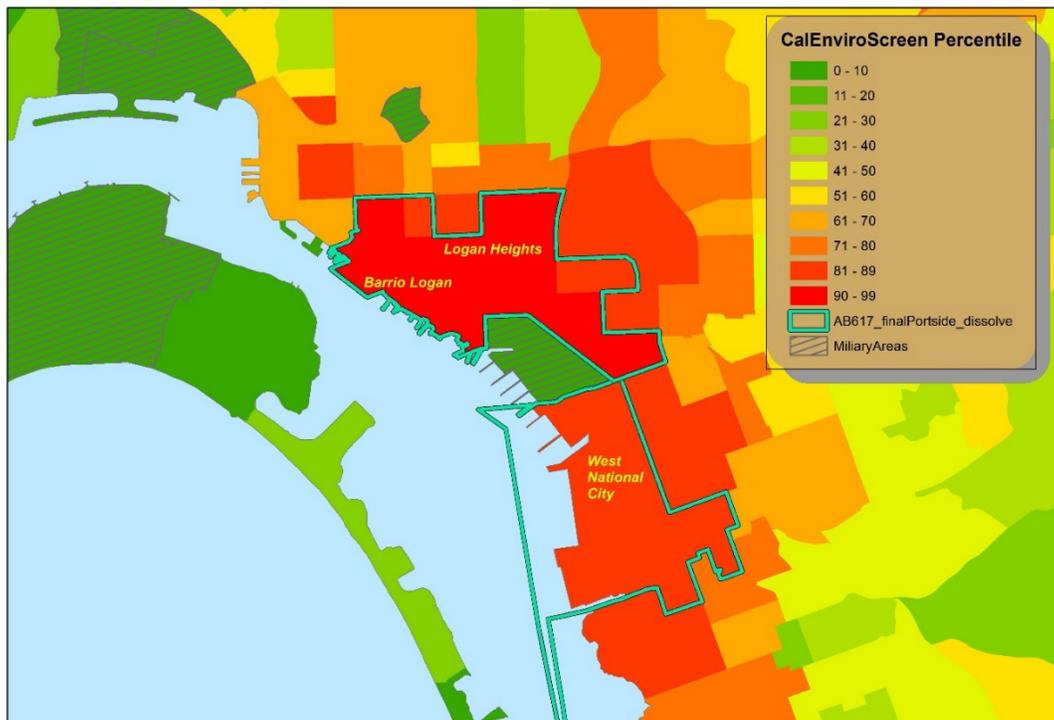
Several of the census tracts within the Portside Community have very high CalEnviroScreen 3.0 (CES 3.0) ratings (Table 1). Specifically, it has four census tracts that are in the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile for CES 3.0 and another eight that are in the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile. Over 50,000 San Diegans (Table 1) reside in this area and are subject to significant pollution exposure.

*Table 1- Portside Community Census Tracts*

SD Rank	Census Tract	Total Population	ZIP	City	CES 3.0 Pctl	CES 3.0 Pctl Range	Pollution Burden Pctl	Population Char Pctl
1	6073005000	2227	92113	San Diego	99.42	96-100%	95.81	97.39
2	6073004900	5028	92113	San Diego	99.00	96-100%	94.19	97.23
3	6073003902	4927	92113	San Diego	98.95	96-100%	94.49	96.63
4	6073003601	3250	92113	San Diego	98.73	96-100%	92.50	97.45
5	6073003901	4241	92113	San Diego	96.17	96-100%	81.28	97.63
6	6073005100	7140	92113	San Diego	95.79	96-100%	91.28	89.42
7	6073003603	4228	92113	San Diego	90.26	91-95%	82.04	86.29
8	6073004000	5160	92102	San Diego	89.68	86-90%	70.30	93.68
9	6073003502	4946	92113	San Diego	88.55	86-90%	69.66	92.23
12	6073021900	6816	91950	Nat City	87.55	86-90%	94.66	65.82
13	6073004700	1858	92102	San Diego	86.72	86-90%	81.54	79.57
14	6073011602	3228	91950	Nat City	86.40	86-90%	63.91	92.24

A CES 3.0 map of the Portside Community is show below.

CalEnviroScreen Final Version3 and AB617 Portside Communities



Sources:  
CalEnviroScreen: OEHHA, 2017  
Map base layers: SANGIS,  
EHC, 2018.

CalEnviroScreen3Final.mxd

Diesel particulate matter (DPM), which is a known carcinogen and the greatest toxic air pollutant risk in the County, is one of the challenges the community faces. Eleven of the twelve census tracts (over 45,000 people) have an exposure risk greater than the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile. Four of the census tracts (over 15,000 people) are in the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile for DPM as shown in Table 2.

There are also significant environmental effect indicators including groundwater threats, hazardous waste, solid waste, and impaired water bodies. Several of the census tracts have pollution effects in the 95<sup>th</sup>+ percentile (Table 2).

The Community of Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhoods is a very sensitive population as evidenced by its CES 3.0 indicators. The asthma indicator, with five census tracts (20,000 residents) in the 95<sup>th</sup>+ percentile (Table 2), raises concerns. With the high asthma indicator and significant pollution exposure, residents are very vulnerable to effects of asthma.

*Table 2- CES 3.0 Data for Portside Community*

Census Tracts 6073005000 (SD Rank 1); 6073004900 (SD Rank 2); 6073003902 (SD Rank 3); 6073003601 (SD Rank 4); 6073003901 (SD Rank 5); 6073005100 (SD Rank 6); 6073003603 (SD Rank 7); 6073004000 (SD Rank 8); 6073003502 (SD Rank 9); 6073021900 (SD Rank 12); 6073004700 (SD Rank 13); 6073011602 (SD Rank 14)												
SD Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14
CA Rank	47	80	84	102	305	335	773	819	909	988	1054	1079
Total Pop.	2227	5028	4927	3250	4241	7140	4228	5160	4946	6816	1858	3228
Zip code	92113	92113	92113	92113	92113	92113	92113	92102	92113	91950	92102	91950
CES 3.0 Score	70.91	68.27	67.79	66.76	59.42	58.65	51.41	50.87	49.67	48.7	47.99	47.62
CES 3.0 Pctl	99.42	99	98.95	98.73	96.17	95.79	90.26	89.68	88.55	87.55	86.72	86.4
CES 3.0	96-	96-	96-	96-	96-	96-	91-	86-	86-	86-	86-	86-
Pctl Range	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	95%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
O3 Pctl	22.34	22.34	22.34	22.34	22.34	22.34	22.34	22.34	22.34	25.87	22.34	25.87
PM 2.5 Pctl	66.23	66.23	66.23	66.23	66.23	66.23	66.23	66.23	66.23	69.14	66.23	66.23
Diesel PM Pctl	99.65	99.65	97.08	94.52	97.98	99.65	97.24	98.56	87.28	95.49	99.65	97.24
Drinking Water Pctl	22.24	22.24	22.24	22.24	22.24	22.24	34.03	22.24	22.24	27.09	22.24	27.09
Pes. Pctl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tox. Release Pctl	61.84	53.75	78.14	58.76	56.14	44.49	55.7	50.19	50.09	56.5	44.16	52.81
Traffic Pctl	73.37	84.33	75.47	86.82	54.52	70.61	84.3	50.11	53.35	80.42	82.63	36.01
Clean up Sites Pctl	89.49	81.78	53.92	45.15	27.62	86.92	6.33	2.72	39.78	98.1	56.79	61.42
Groundwater Threats Pctl	96.79	96.24	80.8	94.36	74.91	99.55	90.75	79.18	39.42	99.67	96.97	41.19
Haz. Waste Pctl	97.37	95.92	98.37	95.27	82.35	95.48	46.52	57.13	90.7	85.19	92.4	65.56
Imp. Water Bodies Pctl	97.26	71.61	95.64	89.54	80.63	76.39	80.63	29.25	48.8	63.17	15.26	29.25
Solid Waste Pctl	93.61	92.38	96.39	84.51	84.77	73.54	73.54	75.64	52.84	91.7	65.24	70.29
Poll. Burden Pctl	95.81	94.19	94.49	92.5	81.28	91.28	82.04	70.3	69.66	94.66	81.54	63.91
Asthma Pctl	97.23	97.23	97.23	97.08	93.62	81	94.07	90.13	97.23	13.76	88.57	85.04
Low Birth Weight Pctl	63.17	68.47	51.34	70.24	83.21	93.13	26.44	84.06	24.98	83.21	50.72	82.81

<b>Cardio Disease Pctl</b>	70.78	70.78	70.78	69.53	50.8	44.11	55.75	49.35	70.78	56.84	45.01	77.04
<b>Edu Pctl</b>	90.79	96.14	98.2	97.12	97.45	66.19	91.16	93.05	97.72	45.6	90.95	86.35
<b>Ling. Iso. Pctl</b>	96.29	93.15	97.03	86.72	95.13	58.23	95.45	88.8	91.92	83.22	77.34	84.6
<b>Poverty Pctl</b>	99.02	94.7	97.25	95.9	97.57	91.41	85.72	95.84	97.49	84.34	87.59	87.94
<b>Unemp Pctl</b>	90.84	82.8	96.19	89.91	97.33	95.91	87.12	62.53	94.29	54.39	36.77	54.39
<b>Housing Burden Pctl</b>	97.68	95.71	91.18	96.89	98.07	92.36	90.42	96.99	91.5	81.7	97.3	73.17
<b>Pop Char Pctl</b>	97.39	97.23	96.63	97.45	97.63	89.42	86.29	93.68	92.23	65.82	79.57	92.24

There are very significant socioeconomic factor indicators that show how the Community of Portside Environmental Justice Neighborhoods residents are limited in overcoming the pollution exposure and environmental effects. Residents in seven of the census tracts (30,000 people) are in the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for poverty. The high poverty rate prevents residents from purchasing goods and services that would minimize any exposure. Ten of the census tracts (40,000+ residents) are in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for housing burden. With significant poverty levels and having much of their limited income going towards housing, their ability to protect themselves from pollution exposure is greatly limited and highlights the need for a Community Emission Reduction Plan.