



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



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CalEnviroScreen  
c/o Carolyn Flowers  
Office of environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)  
P.O. Box 4010  
Sacramento, CA 95812-04010

October 20, 2016

Dear Ms. Flowers

The City of Long Beach appreciates the opportunity to provide comments for the State's process for identifying disadvantaged communities. We are a full service City providing both traditional municipal services through departments such as police, fire, public works development services, library and parks, recreation and marine. In addition, the city offers non-customary municipal services including enterprises operations form the Port of Long Beach, offshore and onshore production, a gas utility, a water utility, a commercial airport and one of the three cities in California with a public health department.

We are pleased to see the positive changes and improvements from the CalEnviroScreen (CES) 2.0 to CES 3.0, particularly in addition of two new indicators – cardiovascular disease and rent-adjusted income. We also satisfied that CES 3.0 used more recent and updated data, and accounted for variations in the cost of living around the state. However, there are still areas of concerns such as insufficient inclusion of social and economic indicators such as income, education and employment. These indicators are common economic and social drivers having a direct bearing on health. Additional recommendation include developing guidance and increasing interactive training opportunities for government agencies, academia and the general public to increase knowledge and application of CES 3.0

The State's process for identifying disadvantaged communications is of significant importance to us because our city is home to 474,354 people covering 52 square miles. It is ethnically diverse with no majority population: Hispanics comprise 41.% of the population; Whites – 28.6%, African American – 12.9%; Asian – 12.5%; Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander – 0.7%; American/Indian Native Alaskan – 0.3%; and other/multi – 3.7%. Our city has distinct neighborhoods and many communities that should be identified as "disadvantaged." Taking into account the above comments will assist us in accurately identifying communities with significant pollution burdens and vulnerabilities not just in long beach, but throughout California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nelson Kerr".

Nelson Kerr, Environmental Health Bureau Manager  
City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services