



April 30, 2021

Sofia Mitchell  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment  
P. O. Box 4010  
Sacramento, California 95812-4010

**Re: TreePeople's Comments on the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's Draft CalEnviroScreen 4.0**

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of TreePeople, I am writing to submit comments on the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's Draft CalEnviroScreen 4.0 revisions.

TreePeople is an environmental non-profit organization based in Los Angeles. TreePeople unites the power of trees, people, and nature-based solutions to grow a more climate-resilient city as the region faces historic drought and a hotter, drier future. Our mission is to inspire, engage and support people to take personal responsibility for the urban environment, making it safe, healthy, fun and sustainable and to share our process as a model for the world. In the past 45 years, we have engaged more than 3 million people in planting and caring for more than 3 million trees throughout Los Angeles County.

TreePeople applauds the State of California's leadership in taking this critical step to provide tools to work towards a more just response to climate change and community environmental hazards.

**General Comments:**

- In general, TreePeople is supportive of the draft changes to CalEnviroScreen 4.0 and appreciates the inclusion of further indicators in measuring environmental threats to disadvantaged communities.
- TreePeople is eager to support updates to the groundwater threats indicator (to include data on dairies and feedlots) in an effort to promote [Smart Water Solutions](#) around Los Angeles County.

**Specific Comments:**

- Tree canopy coverage as a possible indicator: According to TreePeople's published report "[Rx for Hot Cities: Climate Resilience Through Urban Greening and Cooling in Los Angeles](#)," tree canopy coverage can reduce temperatures and heat-related illness and death which are more common in communities of color, and among the youngest and oldest people, outdoor workers, and the homeless. As such, we strongly recommend the inclusion of this measure as related to CalEnviroScreen's goals.
- Acknowledging CalEnviroScreen's recognition of the significance of soil in measuring combined effects of environmental pollution and population characteristics, TreePeople further recommends greater attention to the status of soils as a possible future indicator in recognition of findings from TreePeople's "[Healthy Soils for Healthy Communities](#)" report.



Thank you again for providing this opportunity to provide public comments on this critical issue. As a leader in the field of urban forestry, community engagement, and climate resilience, we are very excited about this plan and are ready to work with you to accelerate climate resilience in the region.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Manny Gonez".

Manny Gonez  
Director of Policy Initiatives  
TreePeople