

Proudly consists of:

APA Family Support Services
APA Heritage Foundation
API Cultural Center
API Legal Outreach
Asian Law Caucus
Asian Pacific American Community Center
ASIAN, Inc.
Bayanihan Equity Center
Brightline Defense Project
Center for Asian American Media
Charity Cultural Services Center
Chinatown Community Children's Center
Chinatown Community Development Center
Chinatown Media and Arts Collaborative—
Edge on the Square
Chinatown YMCA
Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Chinese Historical Society of America
Chinese Newcomers Service Center
Chinese Progressive Association
Coalition for Community Safety and Justice
Community Youth Center
Donaldina Cameron House
Filipino Community Center
Filipino-American Development Foundation
First Voice
Foundation for Filipina Women's Network
Gum Moon/Asian Women Resources
Center
Japanese Community Youth Council
Japantown Task Force
Kai Ming Head Start
Kimocho, Inc.
Kultivate Labs
Manilatown Heritage Foundation
National Japanese American Historical
Society
NICOS Chinese Health Coalition
Nihonmachi Street Fair
On Lok
Richmond Area Multi-Services
Samoan Community Development Center
Self-Help for the Elderly
SF Community Health Center
SF Hep B Free
Southeast Asian Community Center
Southeast Asian Development Center
West Bay Pilipino Multi-Service, Inc.
Wu Yee Children's Services

April 01, 2026

Secretary Yana Garcia
California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Draft CalEnviroScreen 5.0

Dear Secretary Yana Garcia,

On behalf of the API Council of San Francisco, representing more than 50 community-based organizations serving Asian and Pacific Islander communities, I write to express our strong support for critical reforms to the CalEnviroScreen (CES) mapping tool to ensure it accurately reflects the realities facing our communities.

State leadership is needed to address unique socio-economic and environmental burdens facing Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities. API communities make up nearly 40% of San Francisco's population. While prior versions of CES made improvements in collecting data and identifying vulnerabilities, the newly proposed Draft CES 5.0 continues to overlook key frontline communities in the Bay Area. The API Council, which represents 57 nonprofit organizations serving API communities, calls upon the California Environmental Protection Agency and California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to improve Draft CES 5.0 to accurately reflect the unique vulnerabilities in our neighborhoods.

The proposed Draft CES 5.0 excludes key neighborhoods with significant API populations—including in SoMa (41.8%), the Mission (14.5%), and Chinatown (82.4%)—from the “Disadvantaged Community” (DAC) classification despite worsening environmental and pollution burdens. In SoMa, only one out of seven census tracts meet this threshold despite ranking in the top quartile for cleanup sites, diesel particulate matter, hazardous waste, impaired waters, low birth weight, small toxic air sites, and traffic impacts. None of the 17 census tracts in the Mission reach the threshold despite increases in clean-up sites, low birth weight, and unemployment since CES 4.0. Only one out of six in San Francisco Chinatown makes the threshold despite ranking in the upper quartile for several socioeconomic and environmental factors including housing burden, educational attainment, and hazardous waste. Draft CES 5.0 fails to bring visibility to the historical and persistent issues faced by these neighborhoods.

Excluding underserved API communities hinders California's ability to distribute investments equitably, and meet the diverse and unique needs of our communities. CES 5.0 has the potential to give visibility to unique issues that API communities face including climate and pollution burdens as well as barriers to healthcare, housing, food, and other resources. As conditions worsen on the ground, OEHHA and CalEPA should comprehensively reform the CES mapping tool to ensure it captures frontline communities that need state support.

We respectfully urge CalEPA and OEHHA to revise Draft CES 5.0 to ensure that it accurately captures the cumulative environmental and socioeconomic burdens facing API communities, and to work in partnership with community-based organizations to refine the methodology and data inputs before finalization.

Sincerely,



Cally Wong
Executive Director
API Council
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¹ API Council. State of Asian and Pacific Islanders in San Francisco: Executive Summary. San Francisco, CA: API Council, January 2025.
<https://apicouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/State-of-APIs-Exec-Summary-FINAL-1.24.25.pdf>.

² OEHHA, "Draft CalEnviroScreen 5.0," OEHHA, January 14, 2026,
<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/draft-calenviroscreen-50>.

³ California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, "Draft CalEnviroScreen 5.0," CA.gov, January 28, 2026 <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/draft-calenviroscreen-50>

⁴ API Council, *State of APIs Executive Summary*