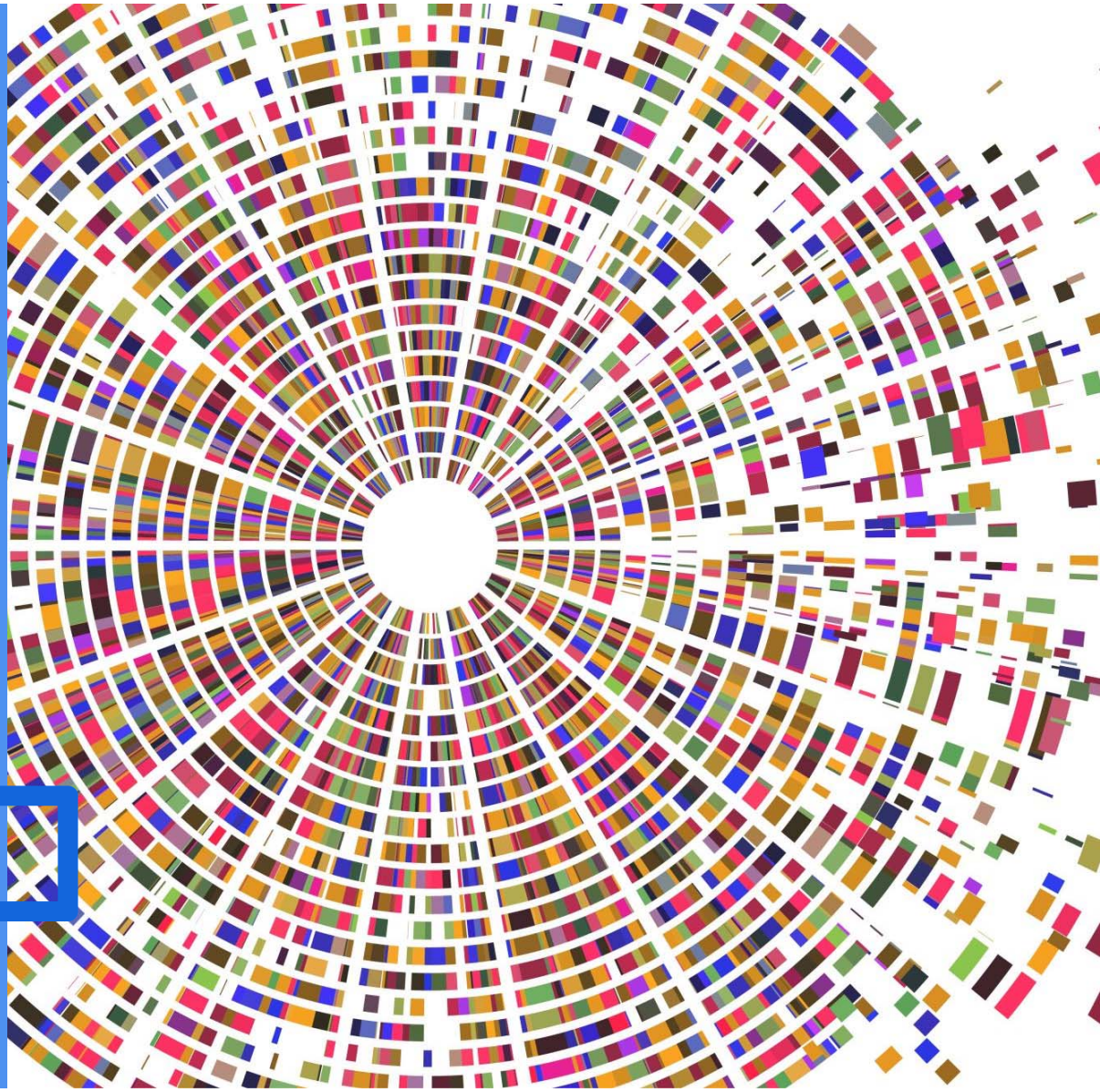
Prioritizing for Equity

Identifying “Socially Vulnerable Areas” in the City of Alameda



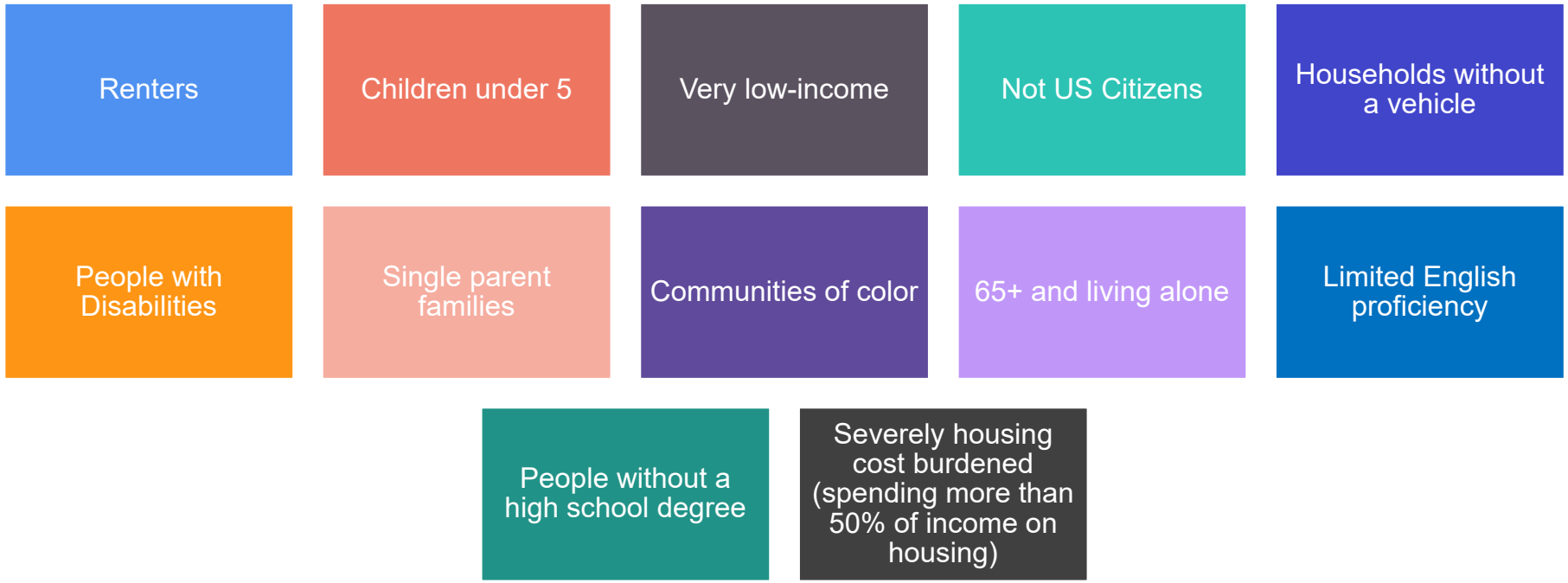
The problem

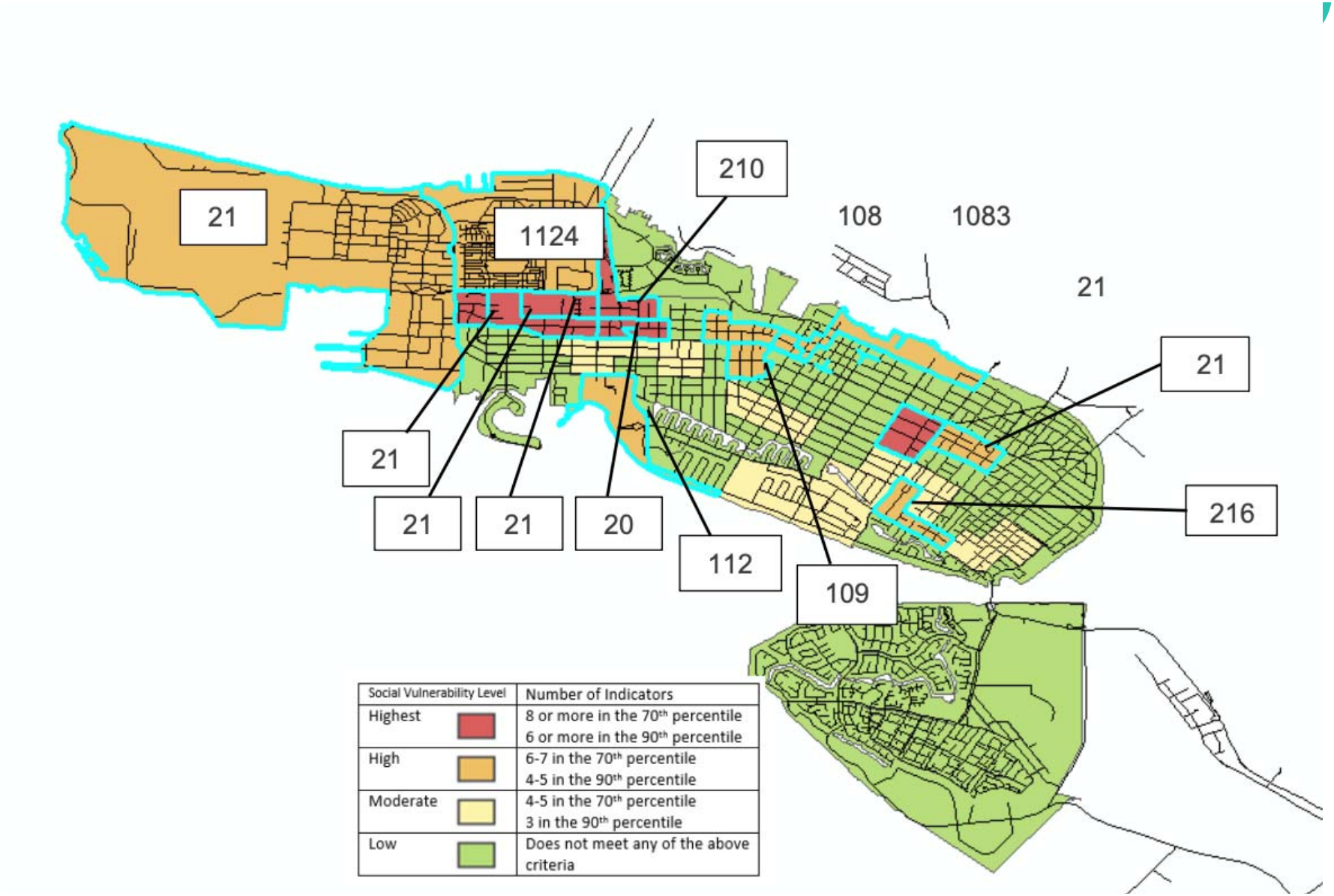
What map resource would best help the City of Alameda prioritize resources for climate resilience, transportation & planning work?

Current map: Social Vulnerability Index Map

- Created by Marisa Johnson, Sustainability & Equity Fellow with Alameda Public Works in 2018-2019 for the Climate Action Resilience Plan
- Used ACS data to provide information on **12 indicators** at the block group level
- Mapped community assets within highest vulnerability blocks

12 Indicators




21
1124
210
108
1083
21
21
21
21
21
20
112
109
216
Social Vulnerability Level
Number of Indicators
Highest
8 or more in the 70th percentile
6 or more in the 90th percentile
High
6-7 in the 70th percentile
4-5 in the 90th percentile
Moderate
4-5 in the 70th percentile
3 in the 90th percentile
Low
Does not meet any of the above criteria

Why should we move away from this approach?

Out of date: New Census data from 2020

Time-intensive to maintain a custom map of Socially Vulnerable Areas

Unnecessary: other viable, publicly accessible mapping resources exist

The solution

City of Alameda can use BCDC Community Vulnerability map to support equity prioritization.

Why?

- Provides continuity of approach
- Detailed geographic information
- Many indicators included
- Updated consistently

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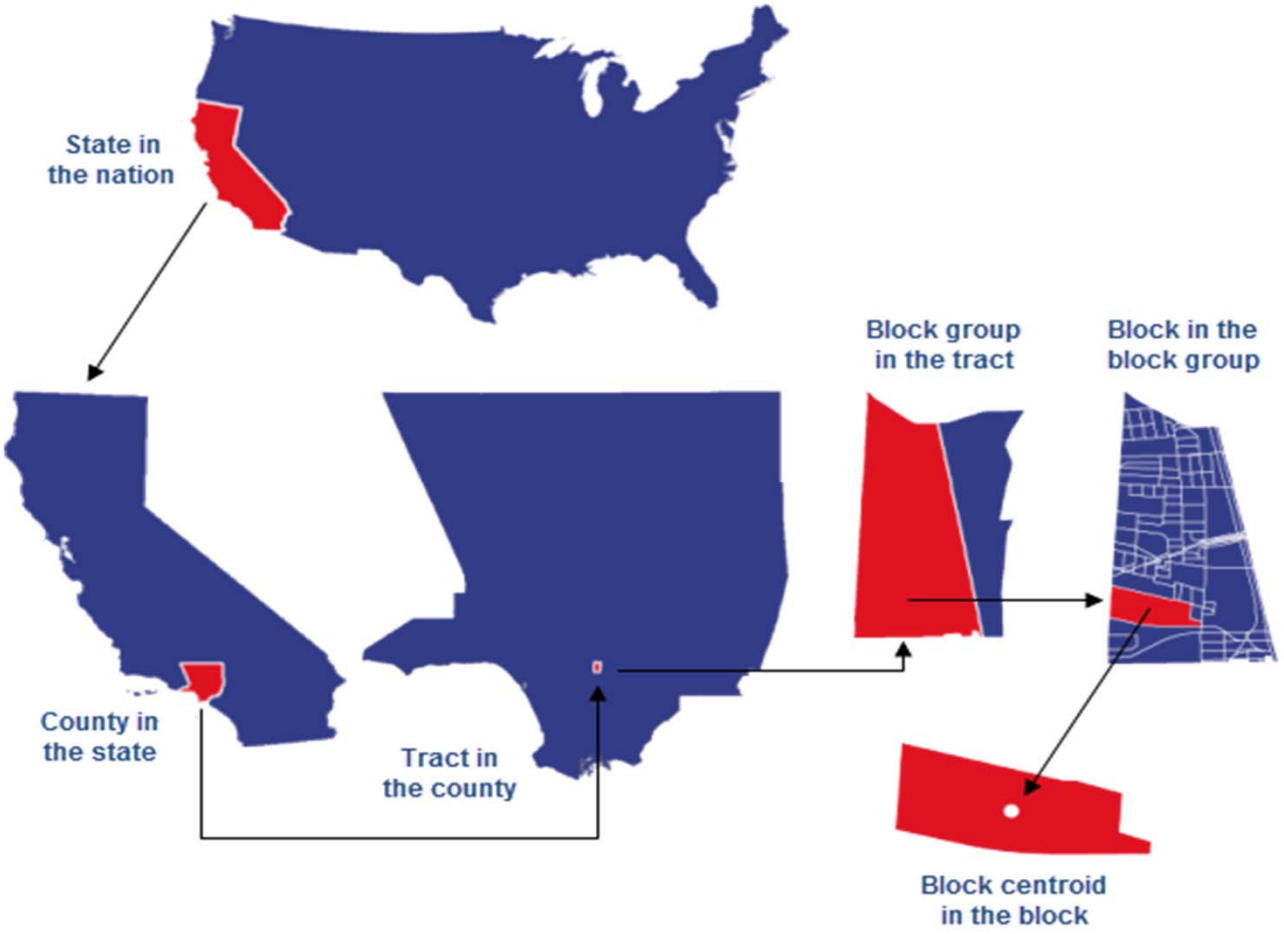
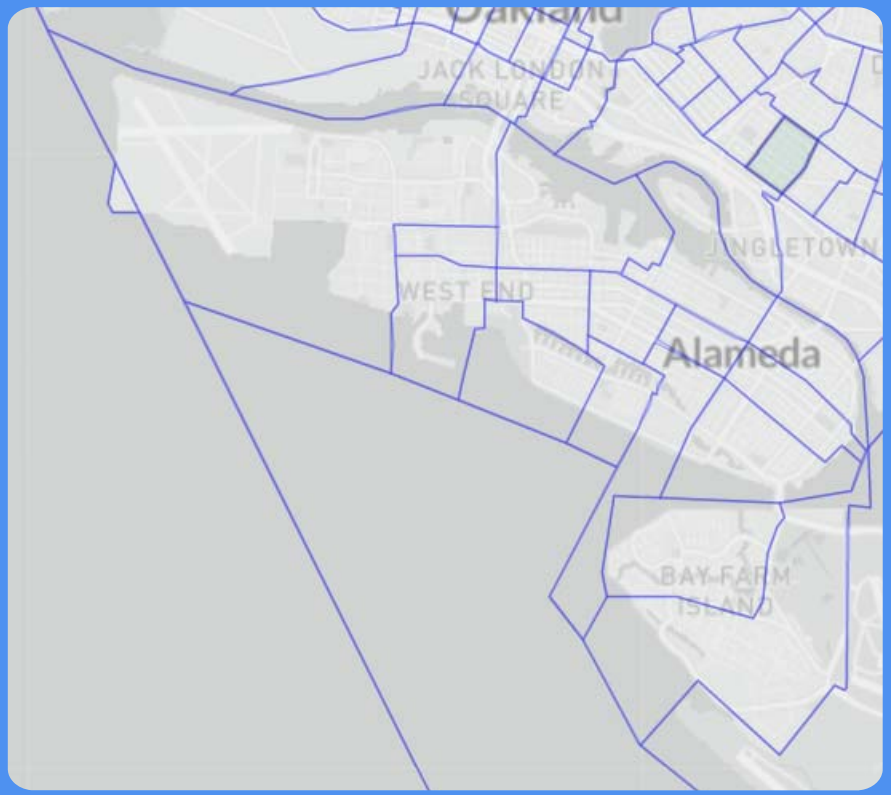
Maps considered

- MTC/ABAG Equity Priority Communities
- Cal Enviro Screen 4.0
- BCDC Community Vulnerability Mapping
- Redlining Map
- Environmental Justice 40 Initiative
- UC Berkeley Urban Displacement Project

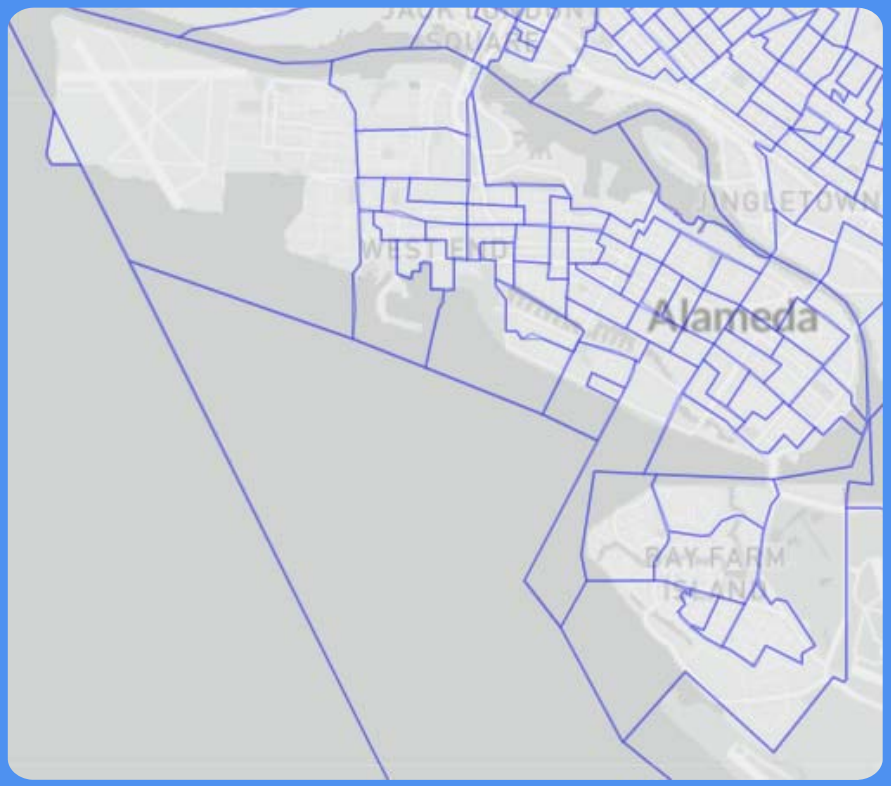
Census geographic hierarchy diagram

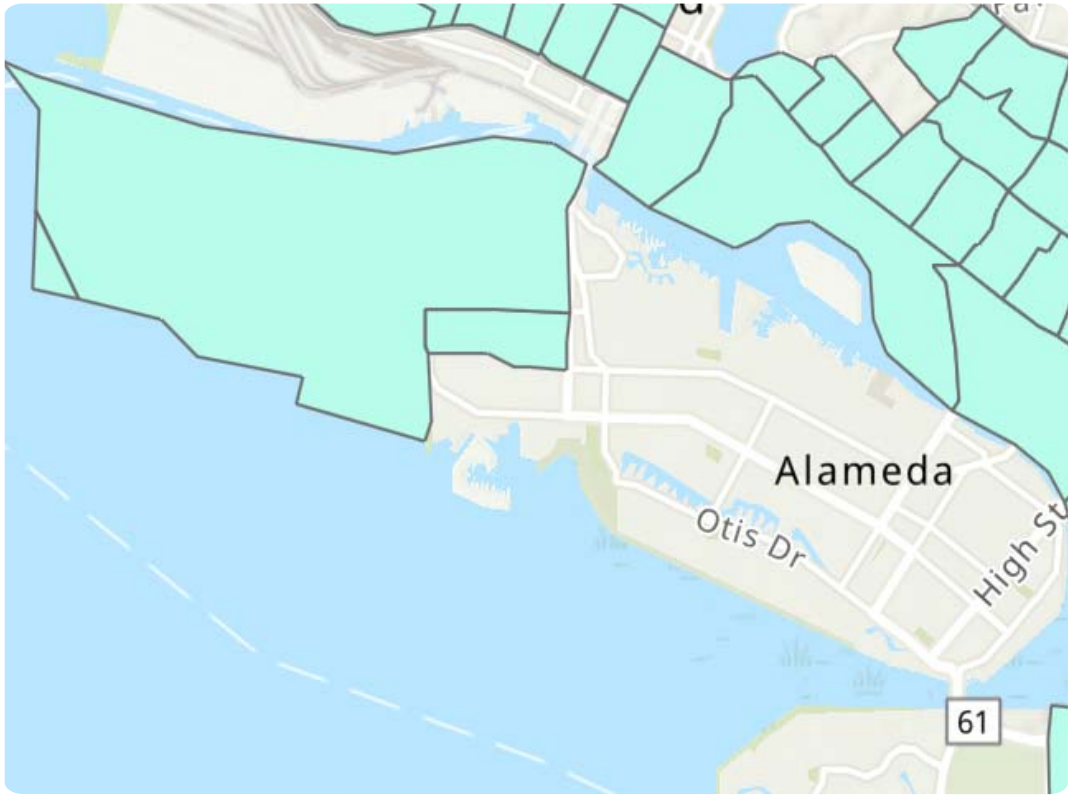


City of Alameda tracts



City of Alameda block groups





MTC Equity Priority Communities

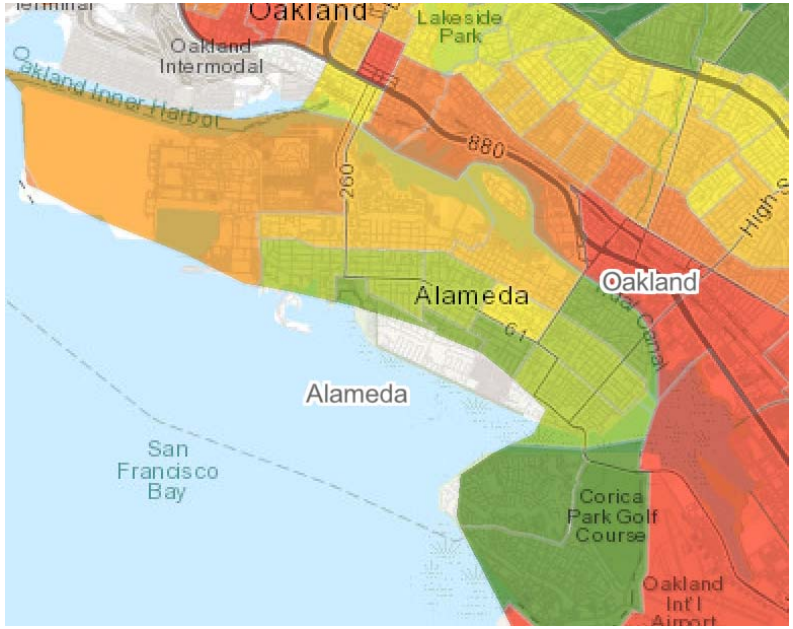
Benefits

- 8 indicators
- High threshold for inclusion

Gaps

- Tract-level data
- Hard to prioritize relative need within the city

Cal Enviro Screen 4.0 (Cal OEHHA)



Benefits

- Identify areas where environmental injustice/pollution burdens are greatest (PM 2.5, diesel particulate, waste, threats to water, etc.)
- Have separate maps for most indicators

Gaps

- Based on exposure levels rather than demographics→ Less actionable for traffic safety planning

BCDC Community Vulnerability map

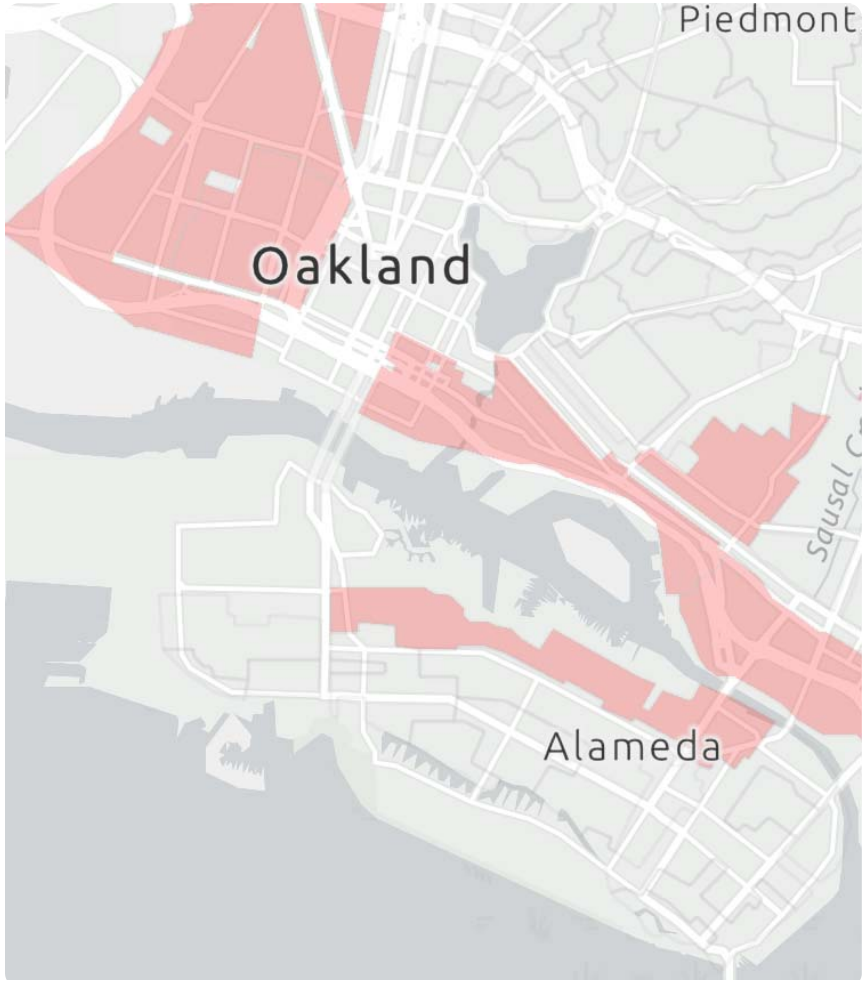
Benefits

- Block- group level data, many indicators (all from the CARP tool)
- Integrates several data sources
  - Social Vulnerability- ACS data
  - Contamination Vulnerability
  - Exposure to Sea Rise
  - Cal Enviro Screen
  - MTC/ABAG Equity Priority Communities
  - UC Berkeley Displacement Project

Gaps

- Can't filter by one indicator → Made a separate GIS map to enable this decision-making

Supplemental Maps



HOLC 1937 Redlining Map

Benefits

- Identifies areas that historically have received less investment due to structural racism

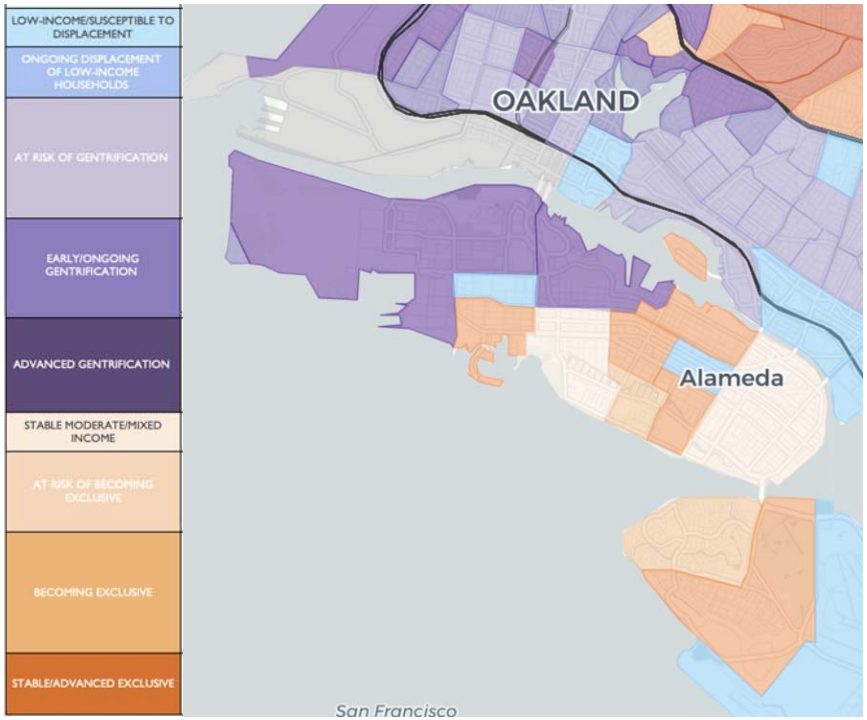
Gaps & Challenges

- Lack of alignment to some degree with areas currently identified as socially vulnerable by other maps
- Less vulnerability through a sea-level rise lens

Recommendation

- May be helpful frame to consider for infrastructure planning

UC Berkeley Displacement Project



Benefits

- Identifies characteristics of census blocks according to likelihood for low-income residents to be displaced due to housing costs and neighborhood change

Gaps & Challenges

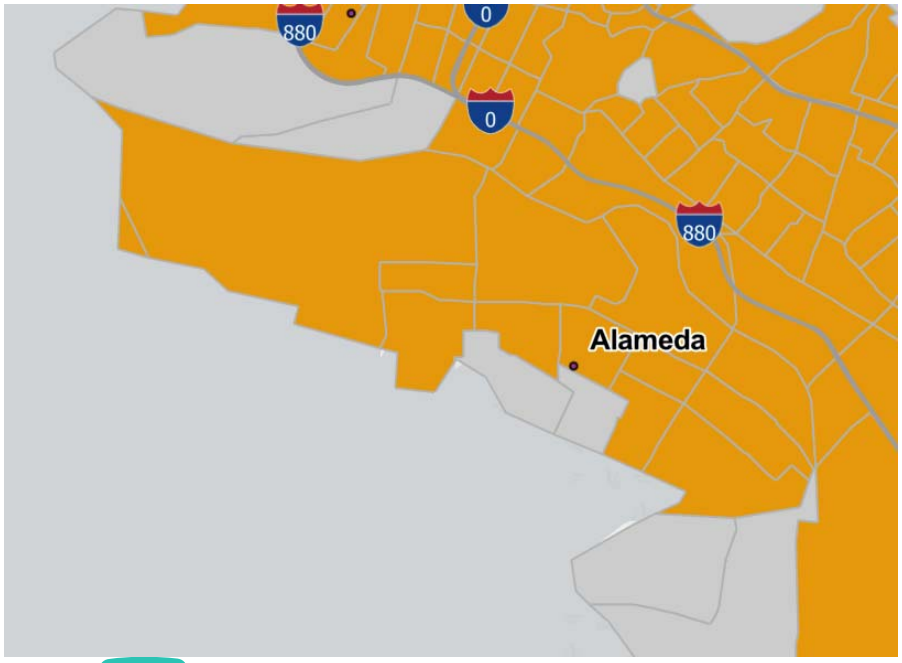
- Primarily looking at housing costs, demographic change but does not provide granular detail on needs of those present in a given tract

Recommendation

- Use as additional source to BCDC to consider impact of infrastructure projects & guide community engagement

Justice 40
initiative
JUSTICE
40

DOT Justice 40- Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts (Historically Disadvantaged Communities)

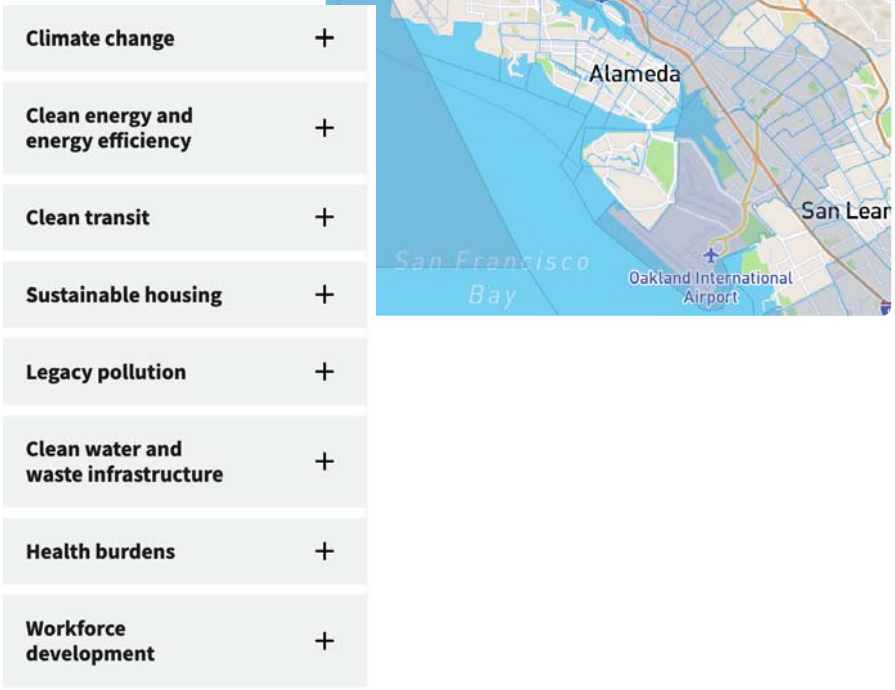


Benefits

- Based off national data sets

Gaps & Challenges

- Beta mode
- Hard to prioritize within city, tract level
- May be politically vulnerable



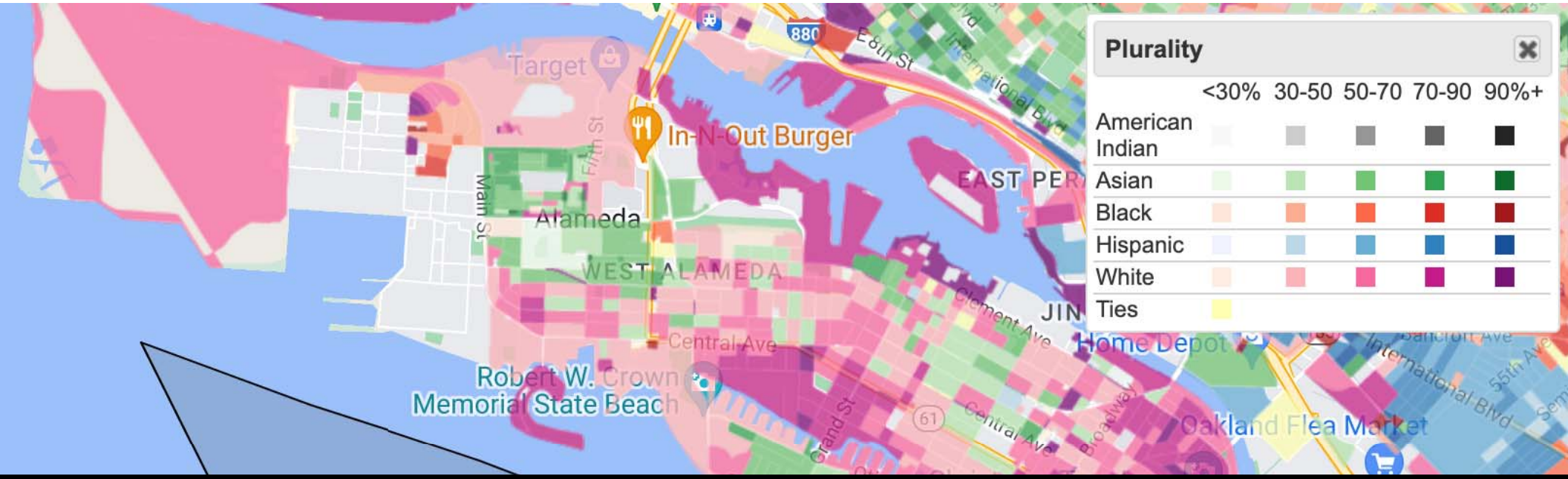
Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)- Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool

Benefits

- Unique indicators
- Based off national data sets

Gaps & Challenges

- Beta mode
- National percentiles
- May be politically vulnerable



Energy Justice Network

Map Overlay

Purple: BCDC
Blue: MTC
Red: Formerly redlined areas with "Hazardous Rating"

Note: Bay Farm Island was not included in screenshot as no areas were identified as high-need.

Other Recommendation

Change “**Socially Vulnerable Areas**” to “**Equity Priority Areas**”

- Empowering
- Shows action orientation aligned with values
- In line with other cities in the region that are changing to this terminology

Questions

Thank you!

Feel free to reach out with any questions
at emilyeveclaytonwood@berkeley.edu

Additional Resources

- CARP Map & Literature Review → See Appendix G p 55-67
- Overlay Map
  - Best to open in Google Chrome, may not work on Firefox
- BCDC Community Vulnerability Mapping
  - Methodology and Detailed Appendix
- BCDC Indicators Map
  - Need to turn layers on and off on the left-hand side to display each indicator, best to open in Google Chrome, may not work on Firefox
- MTC Equity Priority Communities Map
- Cal Enviro Screen 4.0 Map
- Justice 40 Initiative- DOT
- US DOT Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts
- Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool
- UC Berkeley Gentrification & Displacement Project Map
- HOLC 1937 Redlining Map (see Oakland)
- San Francisco's Approach to Equity Mapping
- Oakland Equity Toolkit