



CALENVIROSCREEN 1.1: A TOOL FOR EVALUATING COMMUNITIES IN CALIFORNIA

January 16, 2014

Green Jobs Council, California Workforce Investment Board



CALENVIROSCREEN 1.1

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
SCREENING TOOL, VERSION 1.1
(CALENVIROSCREEN 1.1)

GUIDANCE AND SCREENING TOOL



September 2013 Update

Matthew Rodriguez, Secretary
California Environmental Protection Agency

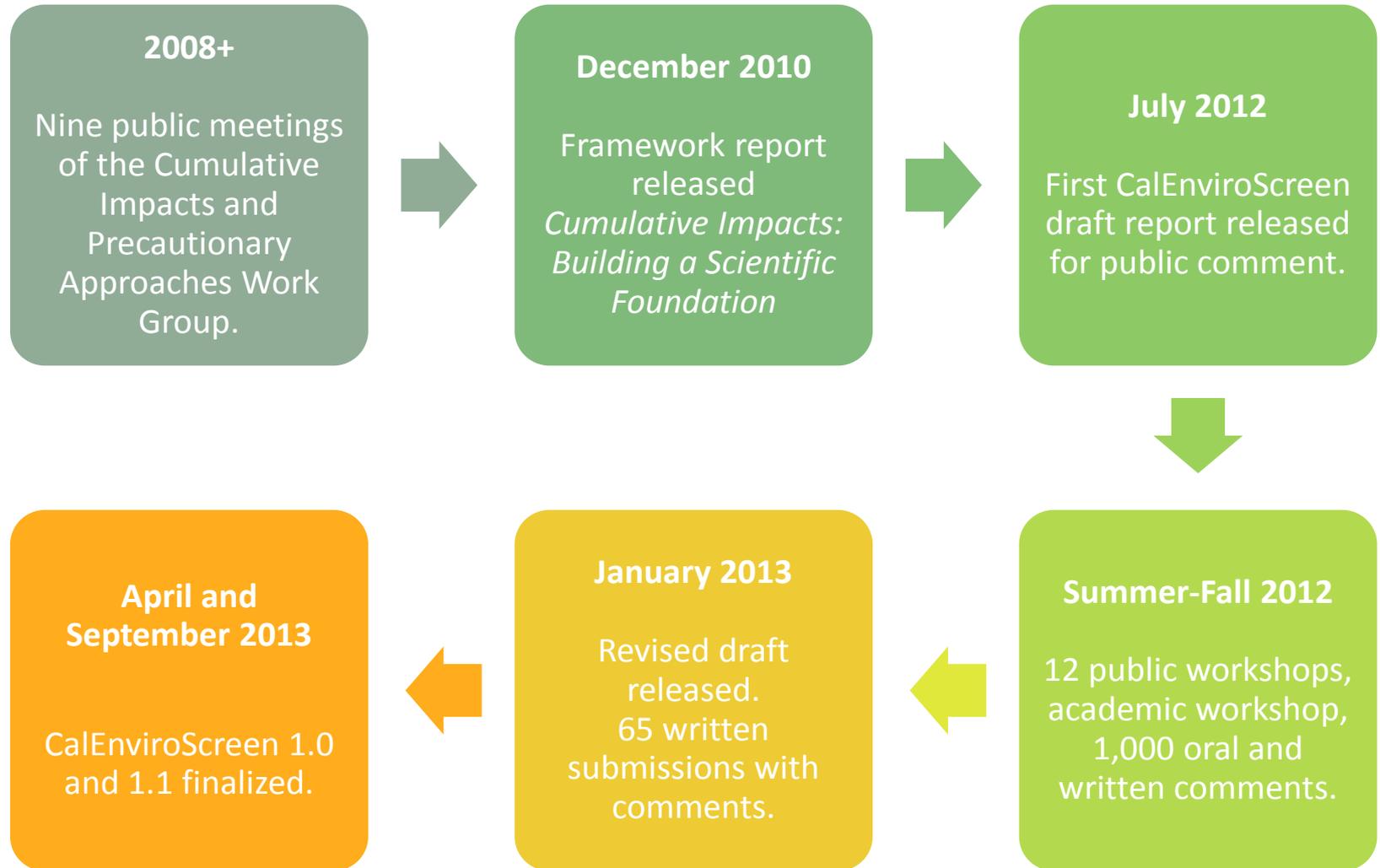


George V. Alexeeff, Ph.D., Director
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment



- Presents a broad picture of the relative burdens California communities face from environmental pollution
- Identifies 17 indicators of environmental and socioeconomic conditions
- Provides guidance on potential uses of tool

DEVELOPMENT OF CALENVIROSCREEN 1.1



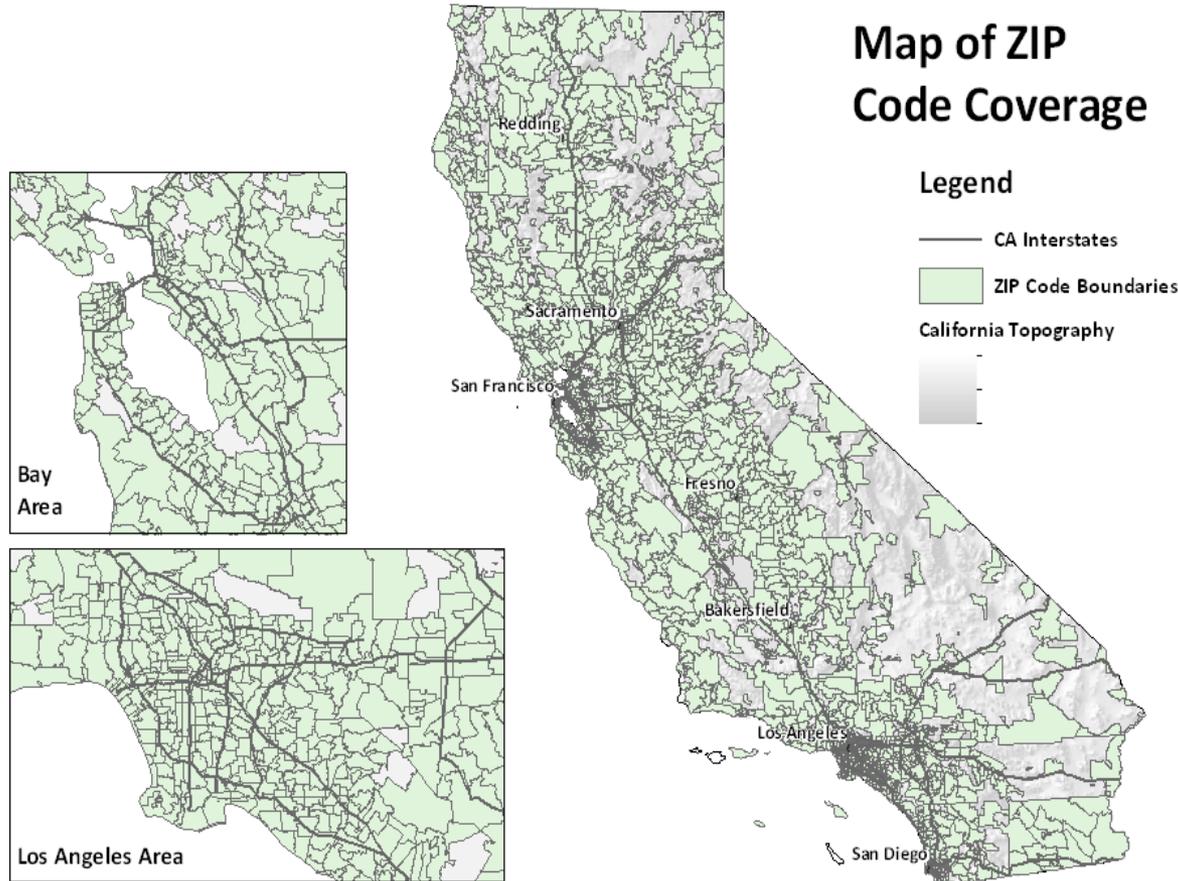
FOCUS OF CALENVIROSCREEN

“...**exposures, public health or environmental effects** from the combined **emissions and discharges** in a **geographic area**, including environmental **pollution** from all **sources**, whether single or multi-media, routinely, accidentally, or otherwise released. Impacts will take into account **sensitive populations** and **socioeconomic factors**, where applicable and to the extent data are available.”

-- Working definition of
“cumulative impacts” by
Cal/EPA Interagency
Working Group on
Environmental Justice



GEOGRAPHICAL UNIT: ZIP CODE



- Familiar scale
- Publicly established
- Public recognition
- Not too large
- Not too small



INDICATORS USED

<i>Pollution Burden</i>		<i>Population Characteristics</i>	
Exposures	Environmental Effects	Sensitive Populations	Socioeconomic Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> PM 2.5 concentrations <input type="checkbox"/> Ozone concentrations <input type="checkbox"/> Diesel PM emissions <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide use <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic releases from facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic density 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup sites <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater threats (Leaking underground tanks and cleanups) <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired water bodies <input type="checkbox"/> Solid waste sites and facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous waste facilities and generators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Prevalence of children and elderly <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma emergency department visit rate <input type="checkbox"/> Rate of low birth weight births 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty (Percent residents below 2x poverty level) <input type="checkbox"/> Educational attainment <input type="checkbox"/> Linguistic isolation



CRITERIA FOR INDICATOR SELECTION

- Provide a good measure of the contribution to the component
- Pollution burden indicators should relate to issues that may be actionable by Cal/EPA
- Population characteristic indicators should relate to demographic factors that may influence vulnerability to disease
- Publicly available
- Statewide and location-based information
- Good quality data



RELATIVE SCORING OF ZIP CODES

- Calculate relative score for each indicator (percentiles)
- Combine 17 indicators together to calculate overall CalEnviroScreen score
- CalEnviroScreen scores allow comparison of relative scores between ZIP codes

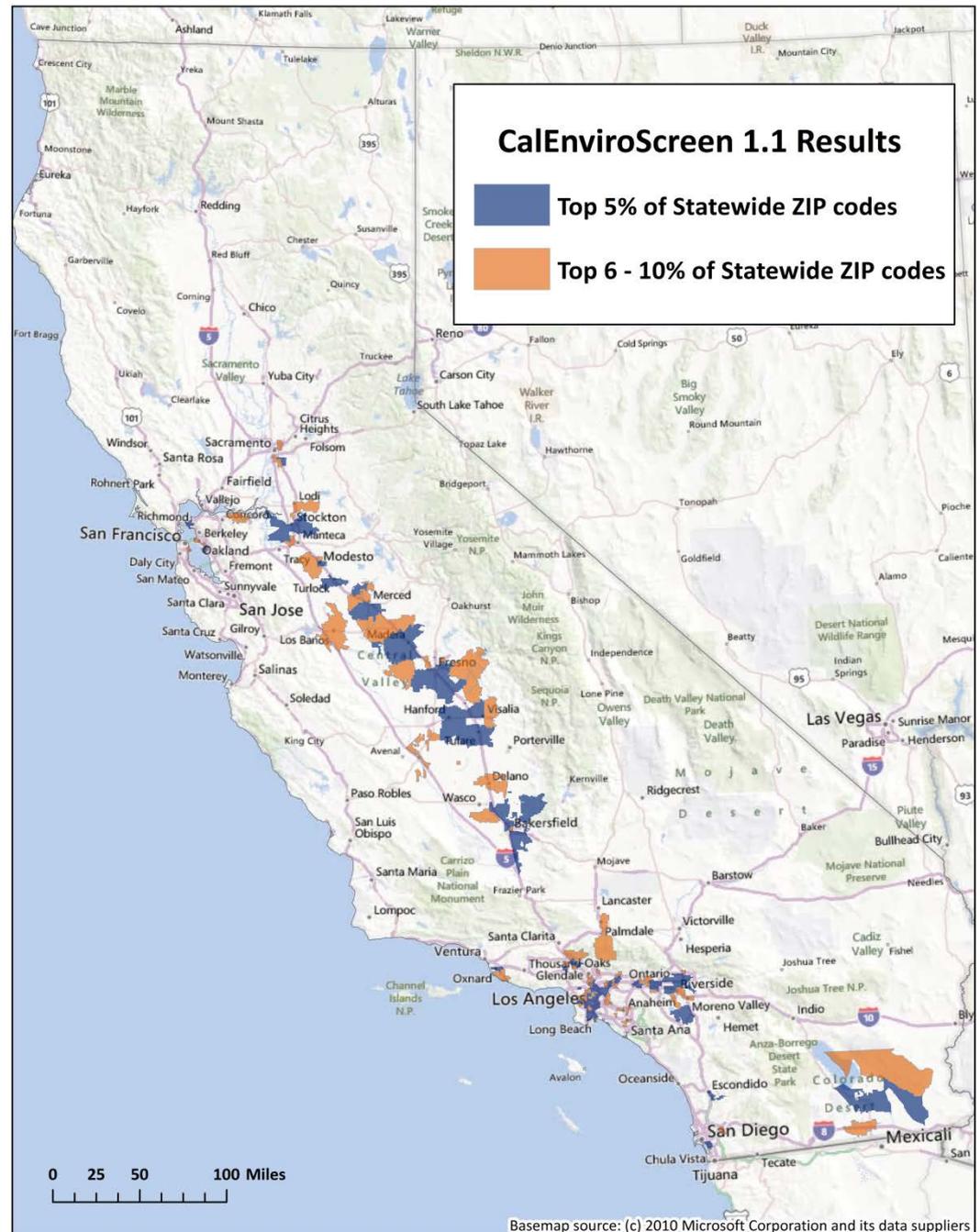
PUBLICLY AVAILABLE RESULTS

- CalEnviroScreen Report
 - ▣ Maps for individual indicators (small)
 - ▣ Description of each indicator
- Excel spreadsheet
 - ▣ “Raw” values and percentiles for each indicator
 - ▣ Overall CalEnviroScreen scores
 - ▣ Grouped scores (e.g., Top 5 and 10% scoring ZIPs, etc.)
- Google Earth results (overall; Top 5 & 10%)
- ArcGIS geodatabase
- On-line mapping tool (ArcGIS On-Line)



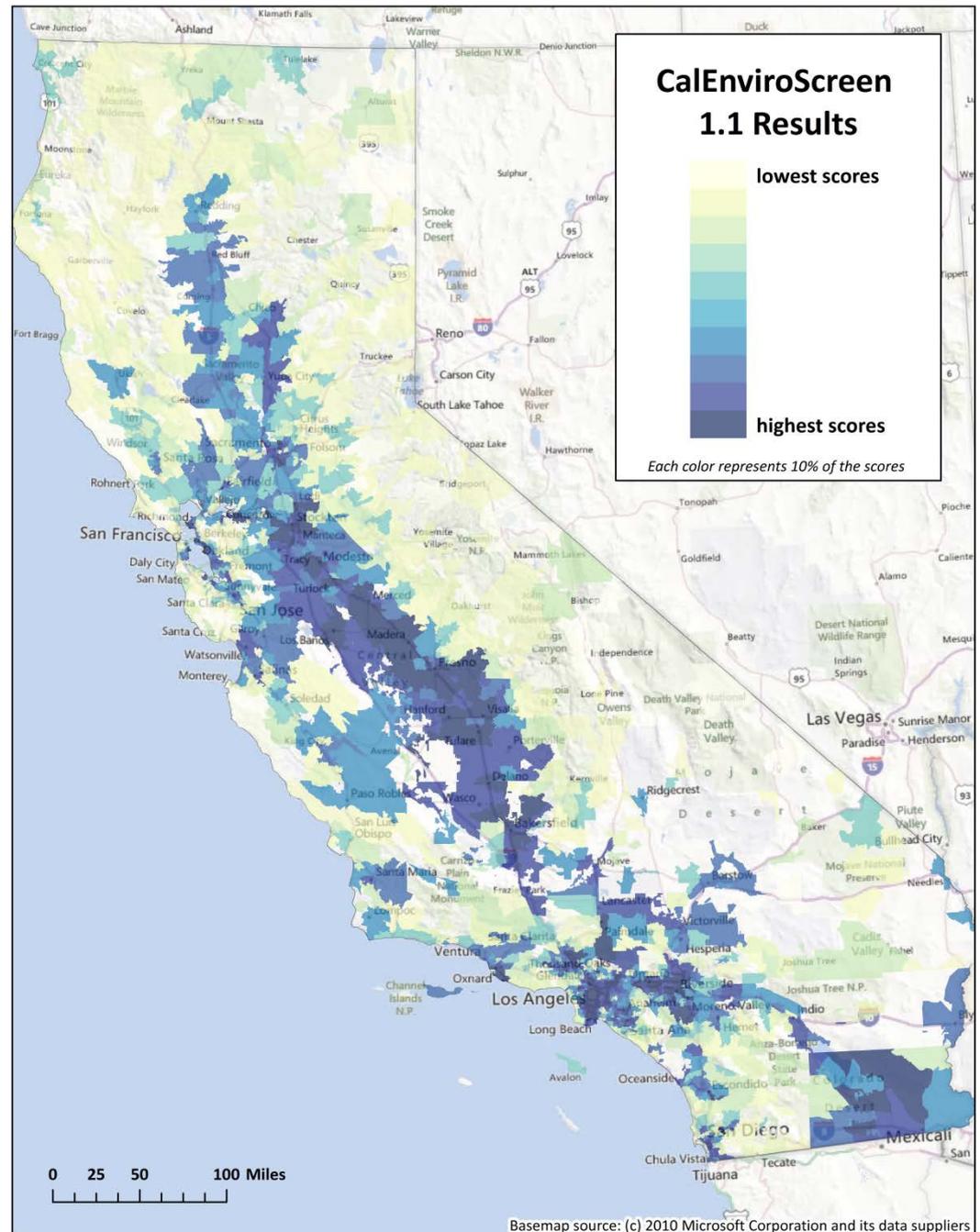
HIGHEST 10% CALENVIROSCREEN SCORES

- 176 of 1769 ZIP codes in California.
- Covers 7.7 million people (~21% of California's population).



CALENVIROSCREEN SCORES

- All 1769 ZIP codes in California
- Each color represents ~10% of all ZIP codes



SOME POTENTIAL USES OF TOOL

- To aid ongoing planning and decision-making within Cal/EPA
 - Environmental Justice Small Grant program
 - Promote greater compliance with environmental laws
 - Prioritize site-cleanup activities
- Strategic Growth Council
 - First use of CalEnviroScreen outside of Cal/EPA
- SB 535 (De Leon, 2012)
 - Cal/EPA shall identify “disadvantaged communities” for investment opportunities based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health and environmental hazard criteria.



CAUTIONS ABOUT THE TOOL

- Is not a health risk assessment
- Is not a substitute for a CEQA-required cumulative impacts assessment and does not determine whether a specific project's impacts are significant under CEQA



CHANGES IN CALENVIROSCREEN

- Adapt tool to census tract scale
- Develop drinking water quality indicator
- Reach out to interested local governments and others on potential uses of CalEnviroScreen
- Solicit suggestions for overall refinement and updating of tool (ongoing)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OEHHA :

John Faust
Laura Meehan August
George Alexeeff
Komal Bangia
Rose Cendak
Lara Cushing
Allan Hirsch
Tamara Kadir
Carmen Milanes
Shankar Prasad
Karen Randles
Robbie Welling
Walker Wieland
Lauren Zeise

Cal/EPA :

Miriam Barcellona Ingenito
Julian Leichty
Arsenio Mataka
Gina Solomon

Other thanks:

- Cumulative Impacts and Precautionary Approaches Work Group
- Cal/EPA Boards and Departments who provided comments and data; California Department of Public Health and the Public Health Institute
- Residents and stakeholders who participated in our regional workshops; Tara Zagofsky, consultant and facilitator, University of California, Davis, Common Ground: Center for Cooperative Solutions
- Dr. Rachel Morello-Frosch and academic colleagues at the University of California, Berkeley
- Academic expert panel who provided comments at a workshop in September 2012
- Graduate students assisting in the project

THANK YOU!

email: CalEnviroScreen@oehha.ca.gov
more info: www.oehha.ca.gov/ej