

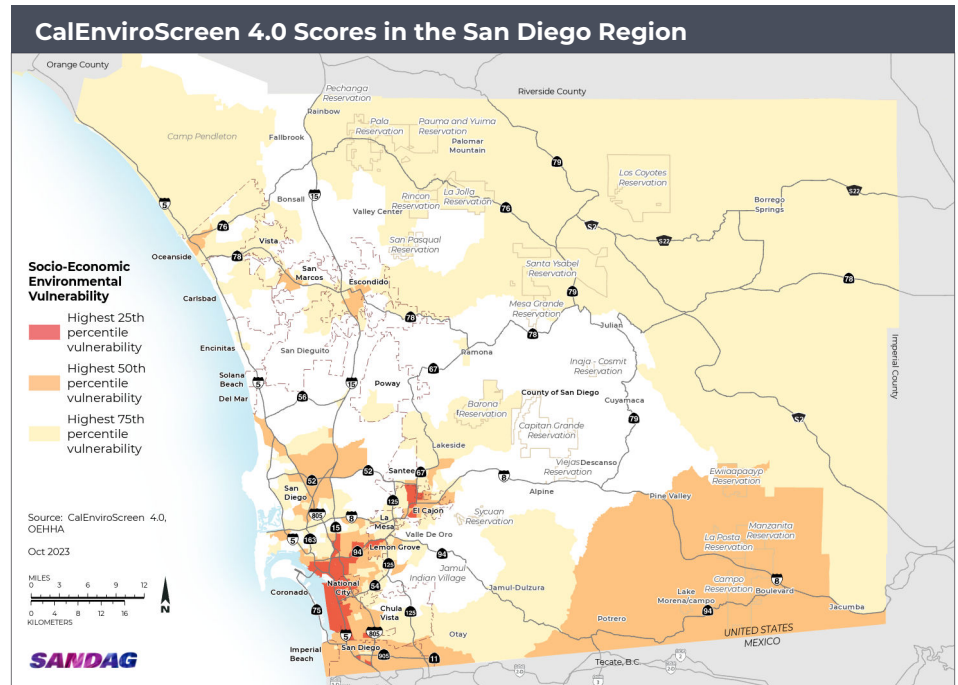
2025 REGIONAL PLAN Policies and Programs

Health



People in the San Diego region have suffered the health impacts of a car-centric transportation system for too long. Our region has the 8th worst ozone air quality and 18th worst particulate matter air pollution in the country.¹ At the same time, decades of underinvestment has limited access to sustainable transportation choices like biking and walking in underserved communities.

Our Regional Plan seeks to address this by reducing pollution and expanding access to clean transportation and safe bikeways and walkways. We do this while prioritizing projects in communities that face health issues due to disproportionately poor air quality and who lack active transportation opportunities.



Why is reducing air pollution so urgent?

Exposure to tiny particles from diesel pollution and from tire and brakes wear can build up over time in people's lungs and cause many long-term health problems, including heart and lung disease. Kids, older adults, and people with certain chronic illnesses are most at risk for these types of health problems.

As people in our region live, work, and play near highways, the Port, warehouse distribution centers, and other sources of transportation pollution, research shows that they will have a far higher rate of asthma, cardiovascular disease, and cancer risk.²

As we transition to using more zero-emission vehicles by 2050, reports estimate that our state will see \$120 billion in health benefits, avoid more than 10,000 premature deaths, prevent 312,000 asthma attacks, and avoid 1.54 million lost workdays.³

Policy and Program Connections



Climate



Digital Equity



Fix It First



Housing & Land Use



TDM



Vision Zero

¹ American Lung Association. [2024 State of the Air Report](#).

² [CalEnviroScreen 4.0](#).

³ American Lung Association. [Driving to Clean Air: Health Benefits of Zero Emission Cars and Electricity](#). July 2023



How does SANDAG know which communities are most impacted by pollution?

We use data from a state tool called **CalEnviroScreen (CES)** to identify these communities. A community's CES ranking is based on different types of environmental impacts, health issues, and social factors (such as income level, housing hardships, language isolation, unemployment rate, education access, and more).

Our state specifically sets aside funding for investments in areas with high CES rankings to improve public health, quality of life, and economic opportunity, while also reducing pollution that contributes to climate change.

What has SANDAG been working on and what are we considering next?

Emission Reduction Programs

- Developing and implementing our regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CAP).
- Establishing an **Electric Vehicle (EV) rebate program**.
- Launching a **Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) incentive program**.
- Publishing a **Military Installation Resilience Framework**.
- Preparing a **Regional ZEV Blueprint**.

Public Transit

- Bringing 37 new Rapid bus routes to the region by 2035.
- Increasing bus frequency to every 10 minutes all day and introducing new circulator routes.
- Extending the **Youth Opportunity Pass** and exploring free or discounted transit options for low-income communities.
- Increasing transit service on key routes in underserved communities (midday, evening, and weekends).
- Developing a **transit connection** to the San Diego International Airport.
- Investing in a second track so the COASTER, Metrolink, Amtrak Pacific Surfliner, and BNSF Trains can run more often (four times an hour by 2035).

Shuttles and Active Transportation

- Analyzing crash data to recommend projects and policies that expand safe options for people to walk, bike, and roll.
- Adding neighborhood shuttle service to 17 areas, starting with Oceanside, Pacific Beach, and Southeast San Diego and helping local cities and the County develop more of these programs.

Goods Movement

- Researching ways to transition the freight sector to sustainable technologies through our **Sustainable Freight Implementation Strategy**.

- Future efforts include:
 - Constructing the **Harbor Drive 2.0** project that will provide truck-only lanes and freight signal priority to facilitate efficient truck travel.
 - Identifying suitable sites for publicly accessible, zero-emission truck charging/fueling infrastructure in the region using **ZEV Blueprint siting criteria**.
 - Including funding for zero-emission truck and cargo bike incentive programs, especially in areas with high air pollution exposure.
 - Implementing **technology and operational improvements** at land ports of entry (POE) and marine ports to improve efficiency and reduce idling.

Policy and Studies

- Developing community-led solutions to remove transportation barriers and increase accessibility, safety, resiliency, and economic opportunities through our Reconnecting Communities Studies.
- Studying the relationship between our region's transportation infrastructure and its environmental and health impacts on various communities, considering race and ethnicity.

Learn more

Visit [SANDAG.org/climate](https://www.sandag.org/climate) and [SANDAG.org/airqualityplanning](https://www.sandag.org/airqualityplanning) for more information.

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