

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SAN FRANCISCO



DANIEL LURIE
MAYOR

August 14th, 2026

Secretary Yana Garcia
California Environmental Protection Agency
P. O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812

Re: City and County of San Francisco Comments on CalEPA's 2026 Disadvantaged Communities Designation

Dear Secretary Garcia,

On behalf of the City and County of San Francisco, I want to thank the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) for its continued commitment to investing in communities that need resources most. The State's Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) designation plays a critical role in determining where investments are directed and it is essential that these designations fully reflect the challenges facing communities across California.

At the same time, I am concerned that CalEPA's preliminary 2026 DAC designations do not reflect the needs of San Francisco's Environmental Justice communities that local data and lived experience demonstrate. In the final version, census tracts incorporating San Francisco's Chinatown and Tenderloin neighborhoods were eliminated, in large part due to the methodology used in the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's CalEnviroScreen 5.0 tool.

This has important consequences. In 2025, the State allocated \$2.57 billion in California Climate Investment funding with nearly half of those funds going to support DACs. We strongly support the State's commitment to prioritizing DACs but are concerned that the current designations do not accurately reflect conditions in dense urban areas. As a result, communities already experiencing significant inequities could lose access to critical resources intended to address those disparities.

Thank you again for your commitment to California communities. I echo and support the detailed recommendations submitted by San Francisco departments, which provide specific pathways for strengthening the designations to better reflect the needs of our communities. We look forward to your continued partnership to ensure California's DAC designations serve those with the greatest need and do not leave San Francisco's communities behind.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lurie", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Lurie
Mayor of San Francisco