

Interagency Working Group
Washington, D.C.

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Goals

1. How are healthy parks and schools civil rights and environmental justice issues?
2. Five point plan to distribute benefits and burdens and avoid discrimination
3. The values at stake
4. Community strategies



We heard from the community. Too many children, especially children of color, don't have access to parks where they can run free, breathe fresh air, experience nature, and learn about their environment.

This is an issue of social justice.

Because it's not enough to have this awesome natural wonder within your sight—you have to be able to access it.

President Barack Obama
San Gabriel Mountains
National Monument Dedication
October 2014

My commitment to conservation . . . is about working with communities to open up our glorious heritage to everybody — young and old, black, white, Latino, Asian, Native American — to make sure everybody can experience these incredible gifts.

President Barack Obama
San Gabriel Mountains
National Monument Dedication
October 2014



Civil rights and environmental justice compliance plan

Applies to recipients of federal funding, public and private

1. Describe what do you plan to do

2. Analyze benefits and burdens on all people

Statistical and anecdotal evidence

GIS mapping and demographics

Define standards to measure progress and hold officials accountable

3. Analyze alternatives

4. Include people of color and low-income people

5. Implement a plan to distribute benefits and burdens fairly and avoid discrimination: both intentional discrimination, and unjustified discriminatory impacts.

L.A. River US Army Corps of Engineers Best Practice Revitalizing the L.A. River

LA River Alternative 20





USACE L.A. River final plan \$1.4 billion

- 1. There are not enough parks, especially for people of color and low income people.**
- 2. This contributes to health disparities based on race, color, national origin, and income.**
- 3. Civil rights and environmental justice requires agencies to alleviate these disparities.**

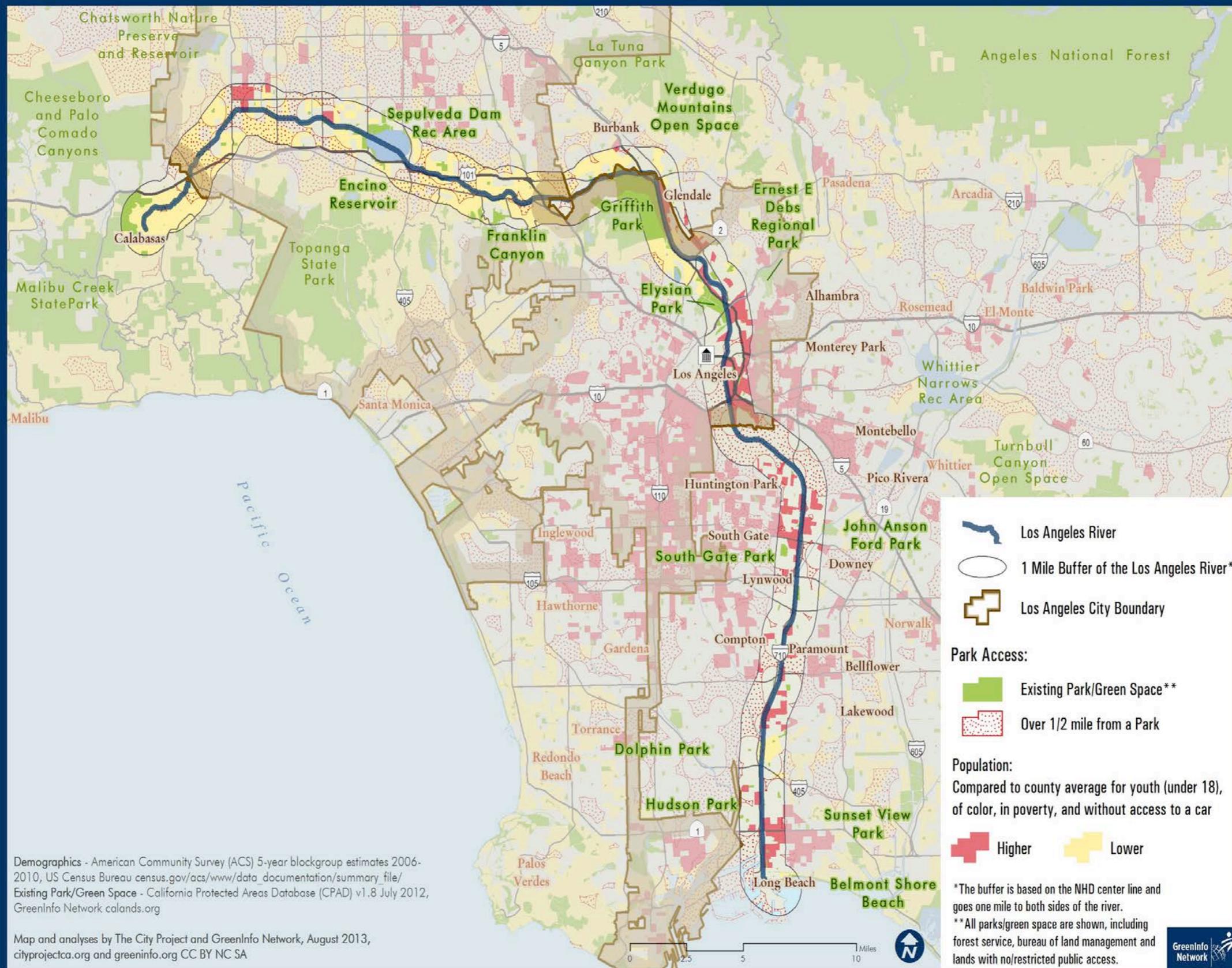
President's Executive Order 12898

Title VI Civil Rights Act 1964



Park Access for Children of Color Living in Poverty with No Access to a Car

Los Angeles River



Demographics - American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year blockgroup estimates 2006-2010, US Census Bureau census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/summary_file/
Existing Park/Green Space - California Protected Areas Database (CPAD) v1.8 July 2012, GreenInfo Network calands.org

Map and analyses by The City Project and GreenInfo Network, August 2013, cityprojectca.org and greeninfo.org CC BY NC SA





Agree:

President Obama

USACE L.A. River Plan

NPS plan Santa Monica Mountains ROTV

NPS plan San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

HUD L.A. State Historic Park

President's Executive Order 12898

Title VI Civil Rights Act 1964

Los Angeles State Historic Park Best Practice HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo

Community agitation

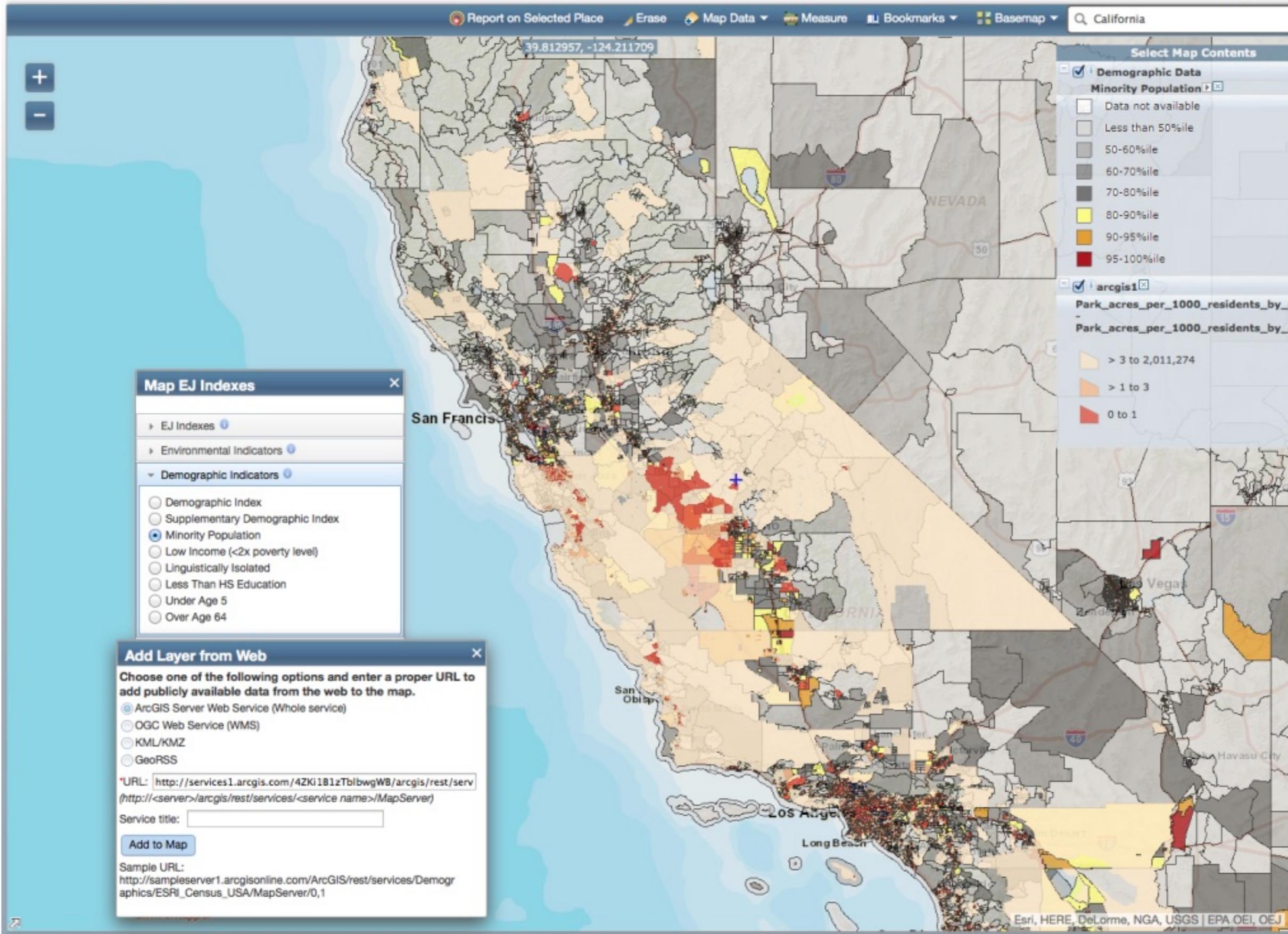
People, planning, and environmental justice

L.A. River

Title VI Civil Rights Act 1964

President's Executive Order 12898





CA Prop 84 and AB 31 need not greed

88% of funds invested in **park poor, income poor** communities that are disproportionately **of color**

AB 31 worked

Vague standards like “local parks and urban greening” don’t work: 69% invested in disproportionately white, wealthy, park rich areas.

That’s backwards



GROWING A HEALTHIER CALIFORNIA

- WITH -

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

FOR ALL!

The **PEOPLE** have spoken



97% of California voters agree students need more physical activity in school

The **LEGISLATURE** has spoken



An average of at least



of physical education is required by law

The **COURTS** have spoken



Physical education is a **right!**

Science has spoken and the benefits are clear

Studies show:

Physical education:

- Enhances academic performance, graduation rates, & attendance
- Increases skills, knowledge, & confidence to be healthy throughout life
- Lowers risk of obesity, diabetes, & heart disease
- Promotes emotional well-being



Obesity & physical inactivity cost CA \$41 billion per year, \$20 billion due to inactivity.

NEVERTHELESS

Schools are not meeting physical education requirements, and civil rights disparities persist

50% of school districts did not meet physical education requirements between 2005 and 2009, and the problem continues.



Elementary school students in districts that did not meet physical education requirements were more likely to be Hispanic or black, while districts that did included fewer low-income students.

Physical education is good policy and required by law

TAKE ACTION

Write to your school board, share with your state legislators, and make sure your children receive the physical education they deserve. **Even one teacher or parent per district can make a difference!**



The L.A. County Department of Public Health has a physical education Checklist and MAP (Model Action Plan) for school and community leaders to make sure children receive quality physical education. Visit goo.gl/qe8JUY.



Based upon: LACDPH, California Physical Education MAP (Model Action Plan) and Checklist (2015); Choose Health LA: Physical Education (LACDPH 2015); Choose Health LA: Parent's Guide to Physical Education (LACDPH 2015); The City Project policy brief, Physical Education for All California Public School Students (2015).



THE VALUES AT STAKE

FUN,
HEALTH, AND
HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT

EQUAL
JUSTICE,
DEMOCRACY, AND
LIVABILITY FOR
ALL

ART,
CULTURAL,
SPIRITUAL,
AND NATIVE
AMERICAN
VALUES



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HEALTHY
PARKS HEALTHY PEOPLE EGUIDE...

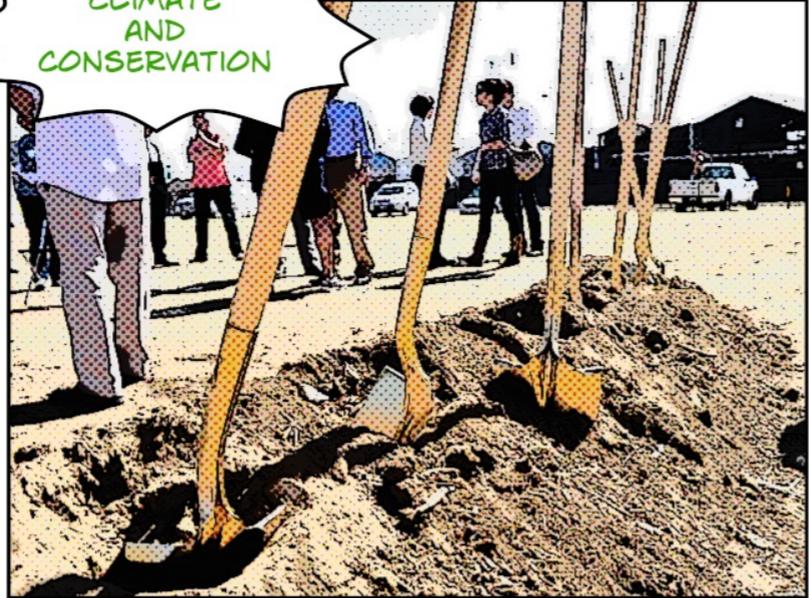
THE GREAT WALL OF LOS ANGELES
IS A PROJECT OF SPARC, A NONPROFIT MULTICULTURAL
ART CENTER. TO MAKE A DONATION OR TO PURCHASE
WALKING TOURS, POST CARDS, SLIDES, T-SHIRTS OR TO
ARRANGE A GUIDED TOUR, CONTACT

SPARC: Creating Sites of Public Memory
685 VENICE BLVD.
VENICE, CA 90231
(310) 522-9667
SPARCVLRALS.ORG

ECONOMIC
VITALITY

CONNECT PEOPLE ON DEEP LEVELS...

CLIMATE
AND
CONSERVATION



CHILDREN WHO ARE PHYSICALLY FIT
TEND TO DO BETTER ACADEMICALLY.
PARKS AND SCHOOL FIELDS CAN
CREATE COMMUNITY AND DRIVE OUT
CRIME...

PARKS AND SCHOOLS CAN CREATE
LOCAL **GREEN** JOBS AND
CONTRACTS FOR DIVERSE
ENTERPRISES, **BUT** WE MUST AVOID
GENTRIFICATION AND DISPLACEMENT
AS COMMUNITIES BECOME GREENER,
MORE DESIRABLE, AND MORE
EXPENSIVE...

THE CITY PROJECT SUPPORTS
CLIMATE JUSTICE AND SAFE, GREEN
RESOURCES ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.

GREAT WALL OF LOS ANGELES © JUDITH BACA + SPARC



Two Legal Frameworks for Reviewing Title VI Claims



- **Disparate Treatment Discrimination**
 - Similarly situated persons treated differently based on their race, color, or national origin
 - Action was, at least in part, based on race, color, or national origin
- **Disparate Impact Discrimination**
 - Policy or practice that is neutral on its face, but has a disproportionate adverse impact on persons of a particular protected class

*Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
v. Inclusive Communities Project, SCOTUS, 2015*

Discriminatory impact standard regardless of intent is necessary to overcome legacy of residential segregation

Move the nation toward equal opportunity for all

Counteract unconscious prejudice, disguised animus, and implicit bias that escape easy classification as intentional discrimination



Fisher v University of Texas, SCOTUS, 2016

Data analysis race, color, and national origin

Ensure public benefits and burdens promote racial justice, human dignity, and diversity

The value of diversity:

Ending stereotypes

Promoting cross-racial understanding

Preparing for increasingly diverse workforce and society

Cultivating leaders with legitimacy in the eyes of the public

Socioeconomic status not good enough

Transit to Trails & Every Kid in a Park

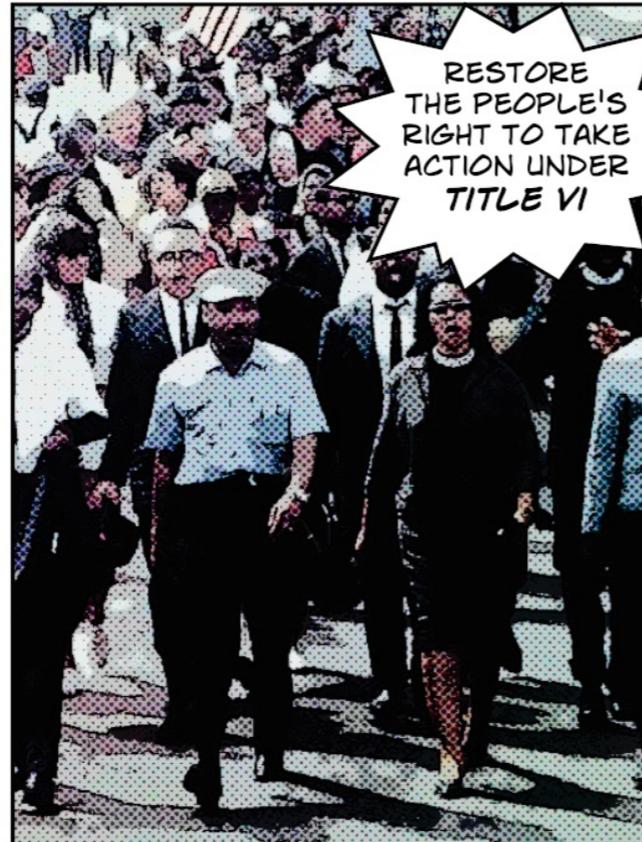


Climate is a civil rights issue, as well as a health, economic, and environmental issue



CELEBRATE THE CIVIL RIGHTS REVOLUTION

STRENGTHEN, DON'T ROLL BACK, CIVIL RIGHTS...

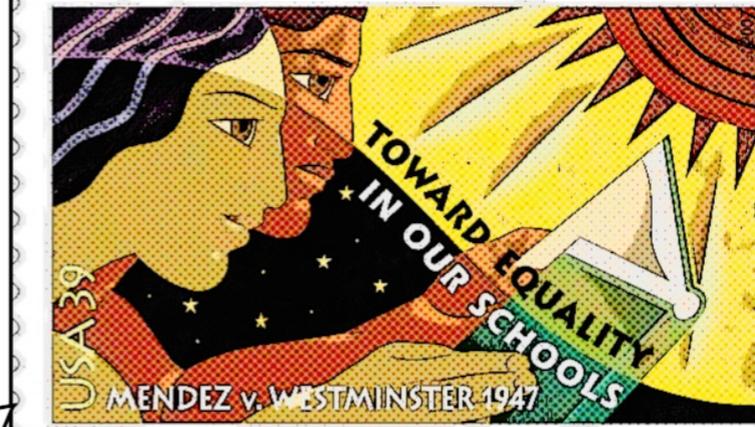


RESTORE
THE PEOPLE'S
RIGHT TO TAKE
ACTION UNDER
TITLE VI

THE SELMA TO MONTGOMERY MARCH
PHOTO TILE IN CIVIL RIGHTS PARK,
LOS ANGELES



THE NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE FUND (LDF) WON
BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION IN 1954



THE CITY PROJECT FIGHTS
TO UPHOLD PEOPLE'S RIGHTS UNDER
THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964,
THE FAIR HOUSING ACT OF 1968,
THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, AND
EXECUTIVE ORDER 12898 ON
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND HEALTH...

THE CIVIL RIGHTS REVOLUTION INCLUDES
ATTORNEYS WORKING IN AND OUT OF COURT,
COURAGEOUS JUDICIAL DECISIONS,
GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZING,
LEGISLATION BY CONGRESS AND THE STATES,
PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP,
IMPLEMENTATION BY AGENCIES,
AND THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO **VOTE**.



FIGHT
UNJUSTIFIED
DISCRIMINATORY
IMPACTS!

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES...

Strategies for Success

The City Project works with diverse allies to implement strategies to improve green access for all through: (1) community organizing and coalition building; (2) translating research into policy, law and systemic change; (3) strategic media campaigns, including new social media; and (4) policy and legal advocacy outside the courts. (5) When necessary, we also seek access to justice through the courts.





Using Civil Rights Tools to Address Health Disparities

Michael Rodriguez, MD, MPH; Marc Brenman;
Marianne Engelman Lado, JD; and Robert García, JD



Policy Report
The City Project

2014



“Simple justice requires that public funds, to which all taxpayers of all races contribute, not be spent in any fashion which encourages, entrenches, subsidizes, or results in racial discrimination.”

President John F. Kennedy, message to Congress on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

**"We do not have to be lawyers to understand,
'Do unto others as you would have them do unto
you'"**

Senator Hubert Humphrey,
Senate Debate on Civil Rights Act of 1964

Environmental Justice Principle



- **Environmental justice embraces the principle that all people and communities are entitled to equal protection of our environmental, health, employment, education, housing, transportation, and civil rights laws**





Unjustified Discriminatory Impacts Title VI and Regulations

1. Are there numerical disparities?

Statistical studies, anecdotal evidence

Data collection and analysis

GIS mapping, demographics and census data

Standards to measure progress, hold officials accountable

2. Are the disparities justified by business necessity?

3. Are there less discriminatory alternatives to accomplish similar goals?



Intentional Discrimination

Circumstantial evidence

1. Numerical disparities
2. History of discrimination
3. Substantive irregularities
4. Procedural irregularities
5. Pattern and practice
6. Knowledge of impacts



Who is covered by Title VI?

Applies to **any recipient of federal funding**

States, cities, universities, private corporations,
individuals

Applies to **all programs or activities of recipients**

**No intentional discrimination and no unjustified
discrimination based on race, color, or national
origin**



How can federal agencies ensure compliance with Title VI?

Collect, analyze, and publish data on park and health disparities

Teaching materials

Funding requirements

Planning

Regulations and guidance

Complaint investigations

Require civil rights analysis if evidence of disparities

Justice Department access to justice through courts

How is Title VI enforced by the people?

Recipients of federal funding compliance analysis and plan

Collect, analyze, publish data on park and health disparities

Take part in funding, planning, public comment process

Administrative complaints

Access to justice through the courts

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Donations are tax deductible!

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