



6. Equitable Public Facilities

The adequate provision of public facilities is a critical component to the current and future prosperity of a community. Under State law (SB 1000), “public facilities” is an umbrella term that includes “public improvements, public services, and community amenities.” This covers a wide spectrum of publicly provided uses and services including infrastructure, school facilities, parks, transportation, and emergency services. These amenities and services improve the health, safety, and well-being of a community by either enhancing the public sphere or providing services that are available to every resident.

Distribution and investment in a City’s public facilities shapes residents’ access to services and resources to fulfill their needs and wants. Because of past discriminatory land use policies, there are parts of Oakland that have been overlooked for public investments and development of new amenities. Delayed investments and programs can perpetuate current disparities in the built environment, access to opportunity and resources, and other social determinants of health – significantly prolonging these inequities and their corresponding outcomes in health and wellbeing. As part of SB 1000, environmental justice elements must ensure

that EJ Communities receive priority for City investment and programs that are implemented in a timely fashion. Investments in public systems can include park improvements, transportation infrastructure improvements, upgrades to public facilities, and other systems.

More information on financing public facilities will be available in the new Infrastructure and Facilities Element in Phase 2 of the General Plan Update.

Building Resilience: Friends of the Hoover Durant Public Library

Founded in 2006, the Friends of the Hoover Durant Public Library (FOHDPL) is grassroots, volunteer-run nonprofit working to bring a public library branch back to West Oakland’s Hoover, Durant, McClymonds and Clawson neighborhoods. The North Oakland and Telegrove libraries previously serving these areas were closed in 1950 and 1980 respectively, targeted for closure as a result of historic patterns of racially motivated, systemic disinvestment and institutional redlining. Their closures have since reduced accessibility to these vital public spaces, especially as the next closest library branches require crossing major roads and highways. FOHDPL seeks to close this gap and, in the meantime, act as an intermediary providing community events and services such as their Street Corner Library.

Thanks to the efforts of FOHDPL, the City issued a feasibility study for a new 12,000 square-foot library facility that will likely be completed by early 2024.



6.1 ISSUES AND DISPARITIES

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Public Facilities

Community facilities in Oakland include a wide range of places that provide valuable amenities to the community. These include public libraries and community centers, which offer a variety of educational and recreational programs, community gathering spaces, access to information and technology, and opportunities to participate in a neighborhood's cultural, political, and social life.

Childcare and early education facilities keep children safe and healthy, help them develop skills they will need for succeeding in and out of school, and create better, more equitable long-term outcomes for children. Free or subsidized childcare programs provide much-needed support for working families. Head Start programs promote the school readiness of infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children from low-income families. Head Start programs in Oakland are shown in **Figure EJ-20**. There are 17 Head Start locations across the city, mostly clustered in central and East Oakland. Five Head Start facilities are located near the Lower San Antonio and Fruitvale census tracts in central Oakland, while six Head Start facilities are located near the New Highland and Arroyo Viejo census tracts in East Oakland. There are no Head Start locations west of the I-580 or California State Route 24.

A healthy community also has convenient access to medical services. When health care facilities are accessible via public transit, medical care is more readily accessible to those who do not drive or own cars. As shown on **Figure EJ-21**, there are multiple medical facilities located within the city, ranging from large hospitals and medical complexes, such as Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, Kaiser Oakland Medical Center, and Highland Hospital. There are also 79 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), or community-based health care providers and critical community development facilities that provide primary care services in underserved areas, in Oakland. Most healthcare locations are concentrated in certain census tracts such as Bushrod near the Children's Hospital, Pill Hill near Summit Campus of Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, and Fruitvale near a cluster of healthcare

facilities. Distribution of healthcare facilities in Oakland is not uniform; most clusters are in North Oakland and Downtown, in contrast to the few in West and East Oakland.

As part of the Land Use and Transportation Element (LUTE) update, the City will explore strategies to incentivize additional childcare locations and healthcare facilities in areas of need, prioritizing EJ Communities.

PUBLIC ART AND CULTURAL FACILITIES

Sustaining and celebrating Oakland's cultural and creative diversity can initiate opportunities for artistic engagement, which has the potential to have significant positive effects on health, including decreased anxiety, stress, and mood disturbances. Music engagement, visual arts therapy, movement-based creative expression, and expressive writing have demonstrated positive outcomes for promoting healing as shown in a study from the American Journal of Public Health.⁶¹ The study underscores that this more holistic approach to public health could also help to alleviate the burden of chronic diseases like heart disease and diabetes which are associated with depression and chronic stress.

Public art is a major public value in Oakland. As noted in Oakland's 2018 Culture and Belonging Report⁶², community input indicated that cultural organizations face issues related to shrinking investments in arts and culture, retaining cultural spaces in a highly competitive real estate market, lack of adequate performance venues, and a need for more equitable funding. The East Oakland Neighborhood Initiative Plan also emphasized a desire to more arts hubs in local warehouses, creative activation of vacant lots, and the purchasing of foreclosed spaces for these purposes. The East Oakland creative community anchors the character of the neighborhoods, and there is a growing interest in elevating the creative community through development and funding for the arts. In West Oakland, the West Oakland Cultural

Action Network is exploring ways to foster art and preserve cultural spaces that showcase community creativity and artistry, particularly through mural projects.

Policies in the EJ Element give direction to address equitable distribution and access to community and cultural facilities as part of the LUTE. Policies related to facility maintenance and improvement will be addressed as part of the Infrastructure and Facilities Element developed as part of Phase 2.

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2019, the City introduced a new process to better reflect public input into the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) budget, which is the City's plan for investments over the next three years. This methodology was further refined for the current (fiscal years 2021-2023) budget to capture more equitable representation of requests and projects in East Oakland. Generally, there is an equal geographic distribution of existing CIP and non-CIP projects throughout Oakland. Many new CIPs have also been recommended, including a number in Brookfield Village, Sobrante Park, and Stonehurst neighborhoods in East Oakland, Coliseum Industrial Complex area, and Ralph Bunche and Oak Center neighborhoods in West Oakland.

New CIPs will bring public improvements to street and road conditions, facilitated by the recently proposed 5-Year Paving Plan, which will direct more equitable investment in priority neighborhoods including those with higher concentrations of BIPOC and low-income residents. Policies in the General Plan seek to continue equity-focused Capital Improvement Projects, which will be carried forward in the new Infrastructure and Facilities Element of the General Plan.

61 Stuckey, H. and Nobel, J. The Connection Between Art, Healing, and Public Health: A Review of Current Literature. *Am J Public Health*. 2010 February; 100(2): 254–263. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2804629/> Accessed Dec 30, 2022.

62 City of Oakland Cultural Affairs Division, *Belonging in Oakland: A Cultural Development Plan*, 2018, <https://cao-94612.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/Cultural-Plan-9.24-online.pdf>, accessed February 23, 2023.

Figure EJ-20: Head Start Locations

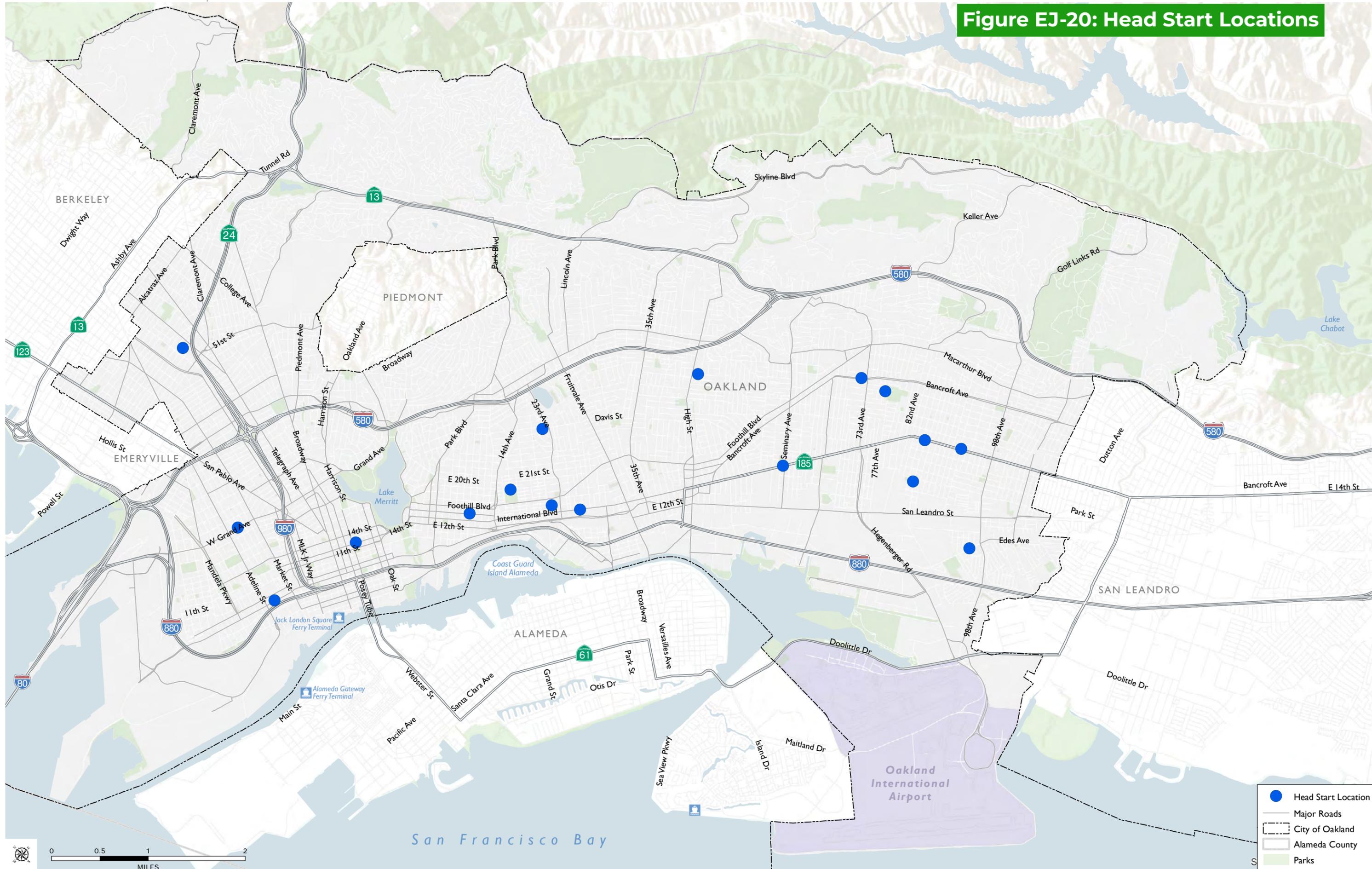
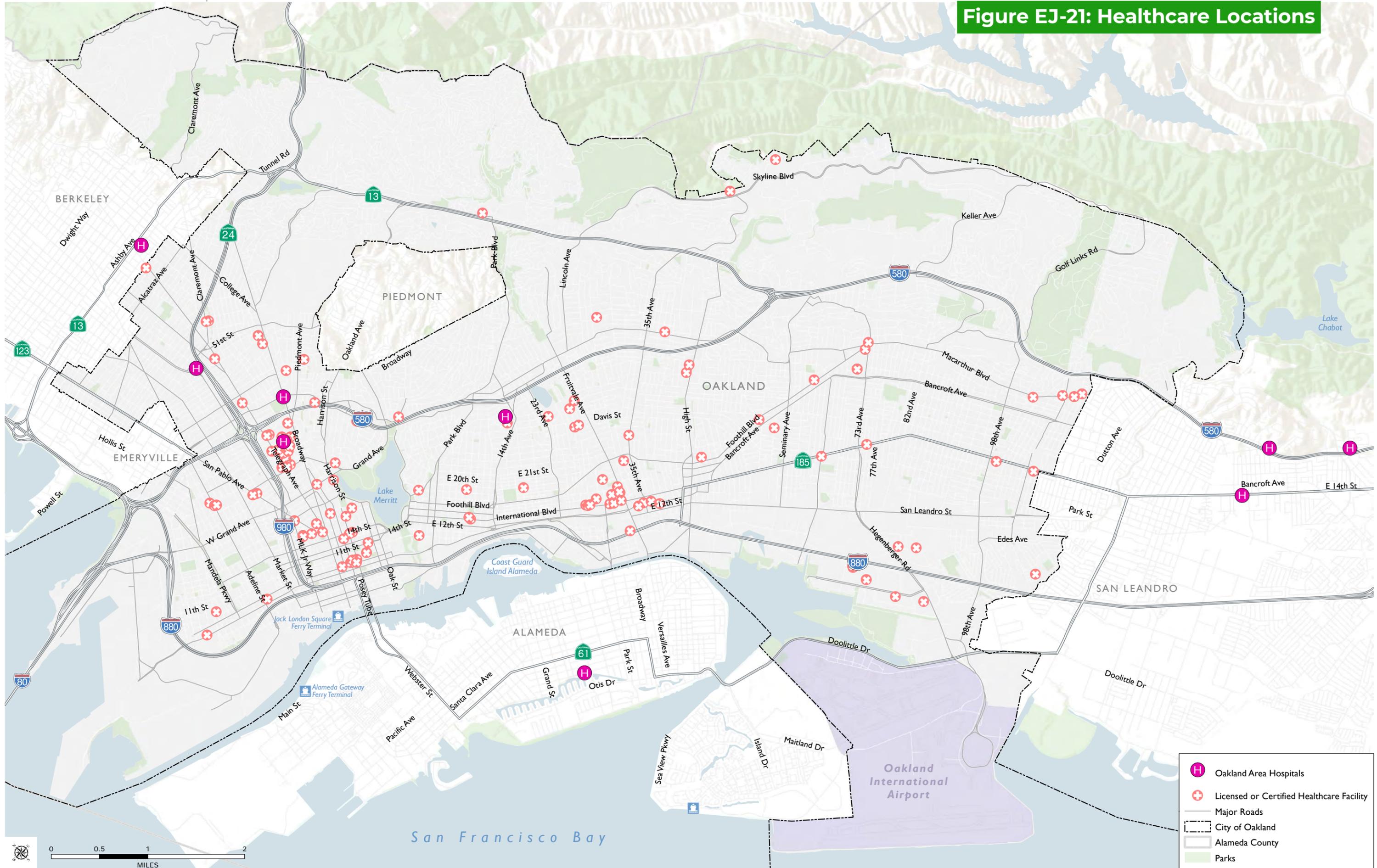


Figure EJ-21: Healthcare Locations



Building Resilience: Oakland 2022 5-Year Paving Plan

The 2019 3-Year Paving Plan (3YP) guided citywide pavement prioritization between July 2019 and June 2022. On December 21, 2021, the City adopted the 2022 5-Year Paving Plan (5YP), which builds on the accomplishments of the 3YP to continue to invest in the care and maintenance of Oakland’s streets. Both of these plans leverage repaving to make safety improvements and are center equity in service provision, with a new focus on neighborhood streets.

The 5YP prioritizes \$225 million (\$45 million a year) toward local streets, and 76 percent of this budget is programmed in consideration of equity factors to provide greater benefit to underserved populations—including people of color, low-income households, people with disabilities, households with severe rent burden, people with limited English proficiency, and youth and older adults (ages 65 and older)—and in geographic areas of greatest needs. Overall, the 5YP represents 350 miles of streets that will receive accessibility improvements including curb ramp improvements, sidewalk repairs, and crosswalk marking upgrades prioritized in local streets and underserved communities.

Source: City of Oakland, 5-Year Paving Plan, 2022

PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

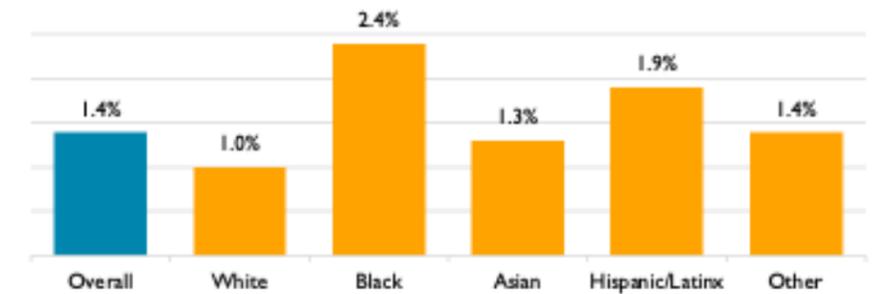
Public services in Oakland include water and sewage, electricity and gas, and solid waste services. Oakland’s water supply, treatment facilities, and distribution systems are operated and managed by the East Bay Municipality Utility District (EBMUD). The City provides citywide sanitary sewer collection services while EBMUD provides sewage transport, treatment, and discharge services. Sewer discharge from buildings within Oakland flows

through approximately 930 miles of the City’s sewer network and ultimately deposits at the Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant located in West Oakland. Solid waste services in Oakland are provided by Waste Management of Alameda County, which collects residential and business trash and compost. Residential recycling services are provided by California Waste Solutions.

Electricity and gas are provided by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), and Comcast (also referred to as “Xfinity”) and other companies provide internet service in Oakland. In 2018, Alameda County and 11 of its cities launched the East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) not-for-profit public power agency that governs Community Choice Energy service to help supply clean energy and create local green energy jobs, programs, and clean power projects. EBCE supplies electricity to residential, business, and municipal accounts that are delivered through PG&E.

A lack of essential services can have a significant impact on the daily lives of residents. Energy is one of these crucial services. High energy cost burdens can have several negative effects on households. Low-income households may have to make trade-offs between energy costs and the costs of other necessities such as food and medical care. Households that cut back on energy use due to high cost may experience negative health effects, including asthma and arthritis. High energy cost burden also creates a chronic source of stress, which negatively affects the mental health of household members. In addition, households of color experience greater energy cost burden compared to white households, as seen in **Chart EJ-4**. This is especially true for Black households in Oakland for which median energy cost burden is 2.34 times higher than for white households. Geographically, the census tracts that are most impacted by energy cost burden include Lockwood/Coliseum/Rudsdale, Lower San Antonio East, and Fitchburg, among others listed in **Table EJ-8**. Further analysis into public service infrastructure equity issues and financing options, including grants and assistance to lower income populations in EJ Communities, will be explored as part of the new Infrastructure and Facilities Element in Phase 2 of the General Plan Update.

Chart EJ-4: Median Percent of Household Income Spent on Energy Costs by Race, 2018



Source: Oakland Equity Indicators Report, City of Oakland, 2018.

Table EJ-8: Top 10th Percentile Tracts by Indicator — Equitable Public Facilities

ENERGY COST BURDEN	
Tract Name	Score
Lockwood/Coliseum/Rudsdale	1.00
Lower San Antonio East	0.99
Fitchburg	0.98
Castlemont	0.97
New Highland	0.96
Brookfield Village	0.96
Bancroft/Havenscourt East	0.95
Seminary	0.94
Stonehurst	0.93
Webster	0.92
Arroyo Viejo	0.91
Sobrante Park	0.90

Note: Bolded census tracts in blue are EJ Communities.

6.2 GOALS AND POLICIES

GOAL EJ-6 SUPPORT A NETWORK OF WELL-MAINTAINED COMMUNITY FACILITIES THAT ARE EASILY ACCESSIBLE, CULTURALLY SUPPORTIVE, AND RESPONSIVE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS.

Public Facilities

- EJ-6.1 Public Facilities Distribution.** Ensure the equitable distribution of beneficial public, civic, and cultural facilities, prioritizing new facilities and creative spaces in traditionally underserved areas.
- EJ-6.2 Childcare Facilities.** As part of planning efforts, ensure appropriate land use designations, zoning, and incentives to facilitate additional affordable and high-quality childcare facilities in areas without sufficient access, as shown in [Figure EJ-20](#).
- EJ-6.3 Healthcare Facilities.** As part of long-range planning efforts, ensure appropriate land use designations and zoning to facilitate additional healthcare facilities in areas without sufficient access, as shown in [Figure EJ-21](#).

EJ-6.4 Facilities Maintenance. Maintain and improve existing civic and public facilities to ensure safer, more attractive facilities that are responsive to community needs. Prioritize equitable capital improvements and maintenance projects and investments in public and community-driven social infrastructure in EJ Communities.

EJ-6.5 Public Service Coordination. Coordinate with the planning efforts of agencies providing public education, public health services, community centers, library services, justice services, flood protection, energy, and technology and communications services, as appropriate. Maintain interagency coordination agreements with neighboring jurisdictions and partner agencies that provide urban public facilities and services within the City/County to ensure effective and efficient service delivery.

EJ-6.6 Public Restroom Facilities. Access to safe, clean sanitation is globally recognized as essential for public health. Public toilets should be accessible to all Oaklanders, without social or physical barriers preventing usage. A public toilet facility's design and upkeep should offer privacy and safety, ensure cleanliness, provide required sanitation-related resources, and be gender equitable.

