RANCHO CORDOVA
CALIFORNIA

Environmental Justice Focus Group Meeting

October 8, 2024



RANCHO CORDOVA
GENERAL PLAN 2050

Introductions

With support from:

Ascent, Inc.

Plan to Place

Participation Guidelines

- Speak to each other respectfully
- Help us gather meaningful input by staying on topic
- Be honest, fair, and as candid as possible
- Make room for everyone to share
- Have fun!

Tonight's Meeting Objectives

- Provide information about the General Plan Update.
- Provide information about the Environmental Justice Element.
- Gather input to confirm proposed Environmental Justice communities.
- Listening session to understand the issues affecting your communities.

Agenda

01 Introductions

02 What Is The General Plan?

03 Environmental Justice Overview

04 Determining EJ Communities

05 Mapping Exercise

06 Discussion

07 Next Steps

What is the General Plan?

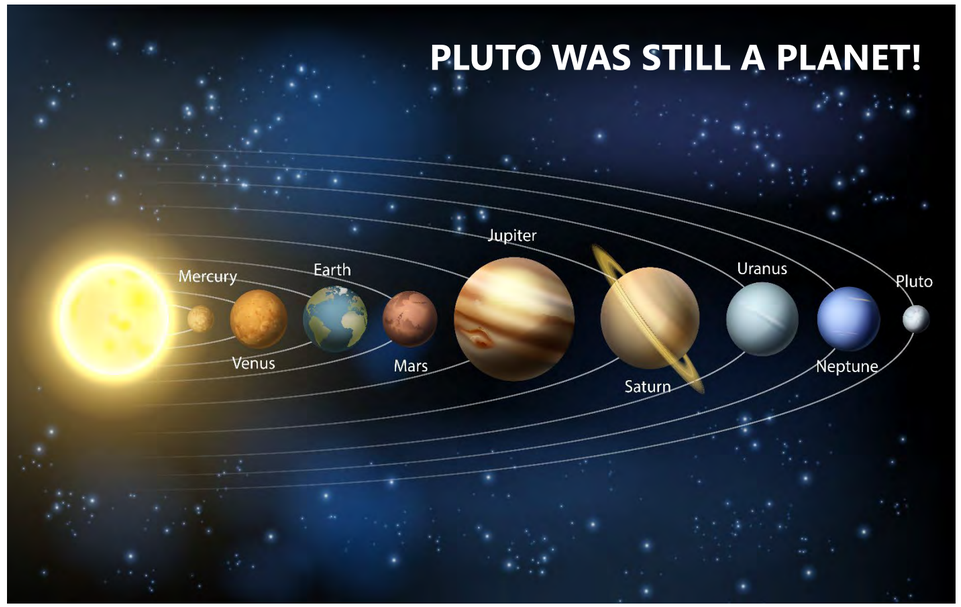
- **Required** by State Law for every City and County in California
- Sometimes called a City's "**constitution**" of **“blueprint”** for the future
- Establishes a **vision** for the City for a 20–25 year horizon
- Guides local **decision-making** about how and where the City will grow

Every city is CA is required to adopt a General Plan. You can think of it as the City’s local constitution or the blueprint or roadmap for how the city will grow in the future. It establishes a vision for the future of the City looking out about 20 years or so. And it contains a set of goals, policies, and implementation programs to guide decision-making about where and how the city will develop, and invest, and grow.

Our General Plan Was Adopted in 2006

The City's current General Plan was adopted in 2006, just 3 years after the City incorporated. A lot has changed in the 20 years since Rancho Cordova became a city.

Where were you in 2006?





Our new plan will.....

The general plan update is an opportunity to take a fresh look at things



Create a vision for 2050

We’ll work with the community to set a new vision for the City looking to the year 2050



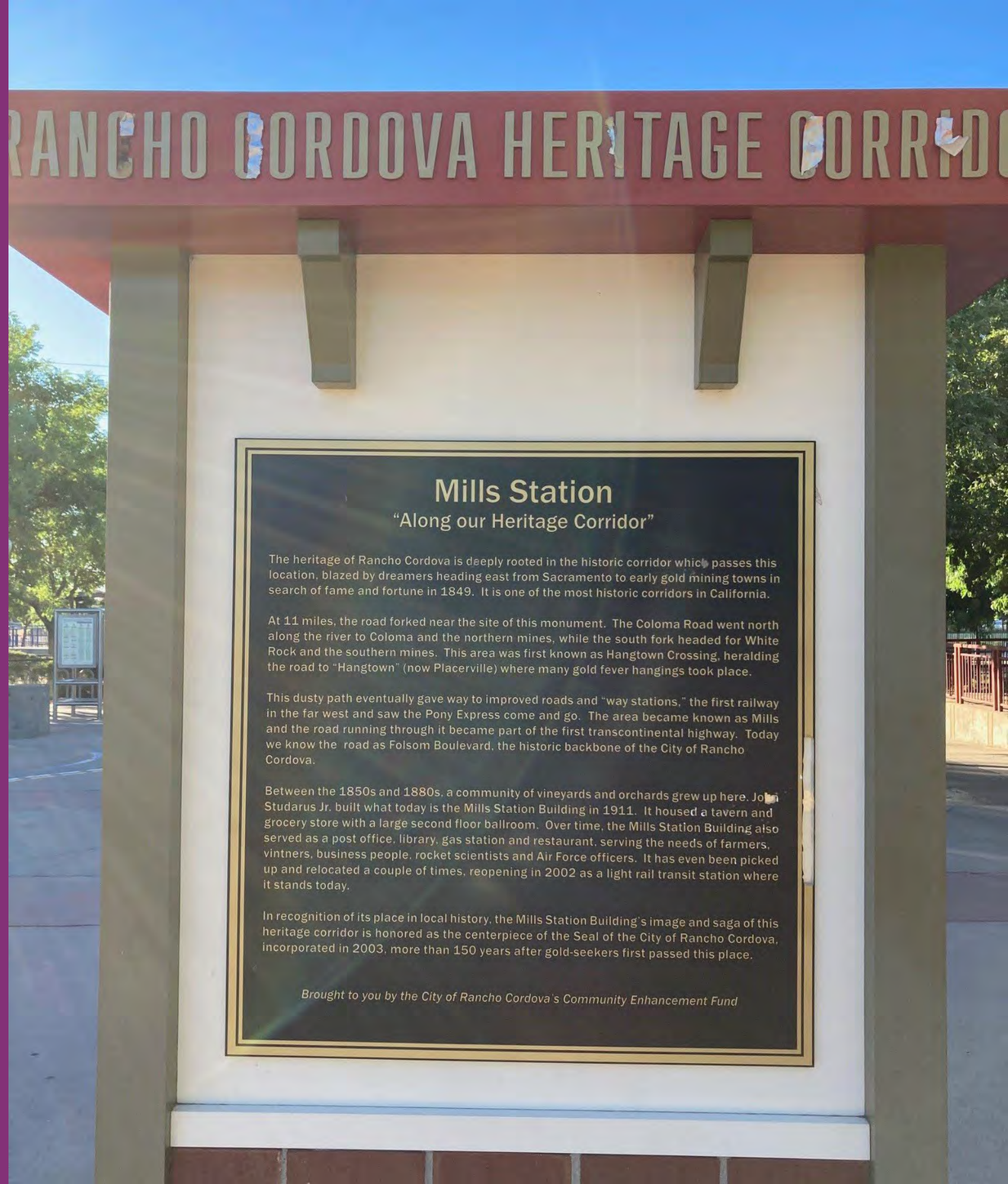
Address important community issues & new laws

We can address issues that are important to community members today and changes in state law



Reflect current views & values

The City's population has grown from 50,000 to 80,000 since the last GP was adopted. What are the opinions and values of today's residents?



Guide new development

One of the key aspects of the General Plan is that it sets land use rules for every parcel of land in the City. So this new general plan will guide how the city grows i n the future.

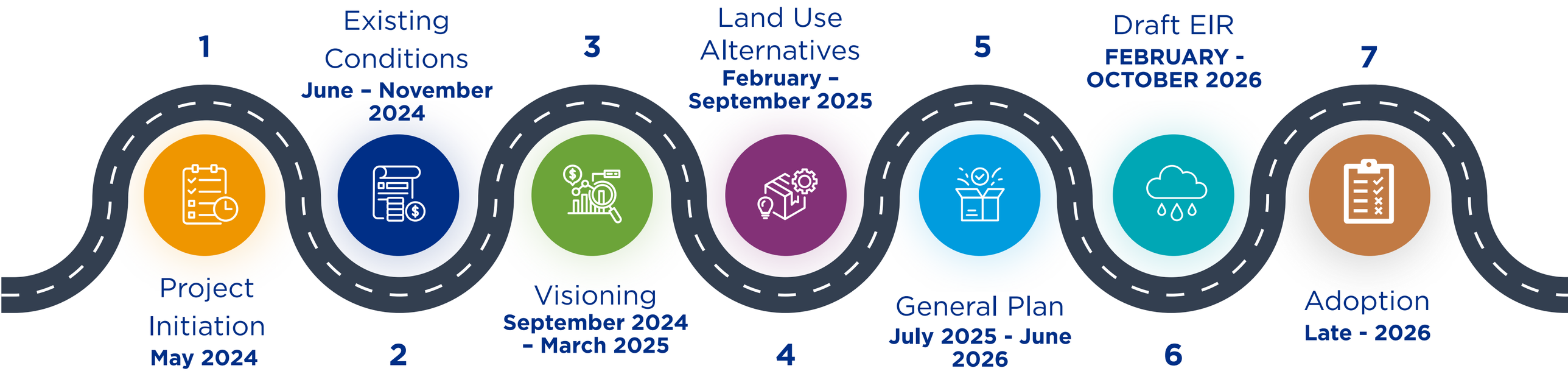


What makes up a General Plan?

The General Plan Update will address a broad range of topics. We organize the General Plan by what's called "Elements" – these are essentially topics or sections of the general plan. This shows all the elements that we are planning to prepare. Land use and urban design, circulation or transportation, economic development, open space, conservation, and safety. The environmental justice element is a new requirement of state law, and because this will be the City's first environmental justice element, it's going to be a big focus of the general plan update.That's what we're here to talk about tonight.



Project Roadmap



WE ARE HERE

Updating the GP is about a 2 and a half year process. We start by gathering information on existing conditions. Which includes gathering data, but also talking with the community to understand the issues that are important to them. We also start by establishing the vision – an image of the future we wish to create – we want it to reflect the core values of the community. The land use alternatives phase comes next and is an important one. One of the key aspects of the GP is developing the land use diagram – the map that designates land use for all properties within the planning area. We will develop a few different land use scenarios and get feedback from the community. Once the CC selects the preferred alternative, that becomes the basis for preparing the General Plan. The drafting of the general plan itself will start about a year from now. Once we have a complete draft, our team will prepare an environmental impact report to analyze the impacts of the plan. We'll then take the Plan and the EIR to the PC and CC for adoption. We're targeting late 2026 for adoption.

Upcoming Engagement Activities

We are going to be conducting a lot of public engagement throughout this project.
We'll be doing a lot of community workshops, pop up events out in the community, online surveys, and focus group meetings.
Our first set of engagement events are focused on identifying community priorities for issues and opportunities and on visioning.



PC/CC STUDY SESSIONS & HEARINGS

TAC MEETINGS

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

POP UP EVENTS

ONLINE FEEDBACK FORM

STAKEHOLDER/ FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

Upcoming Engagement Activities

We're envisioning meeting two more times with this group, once during the visioning, and once when we're drafting the Environmental Justice Element.



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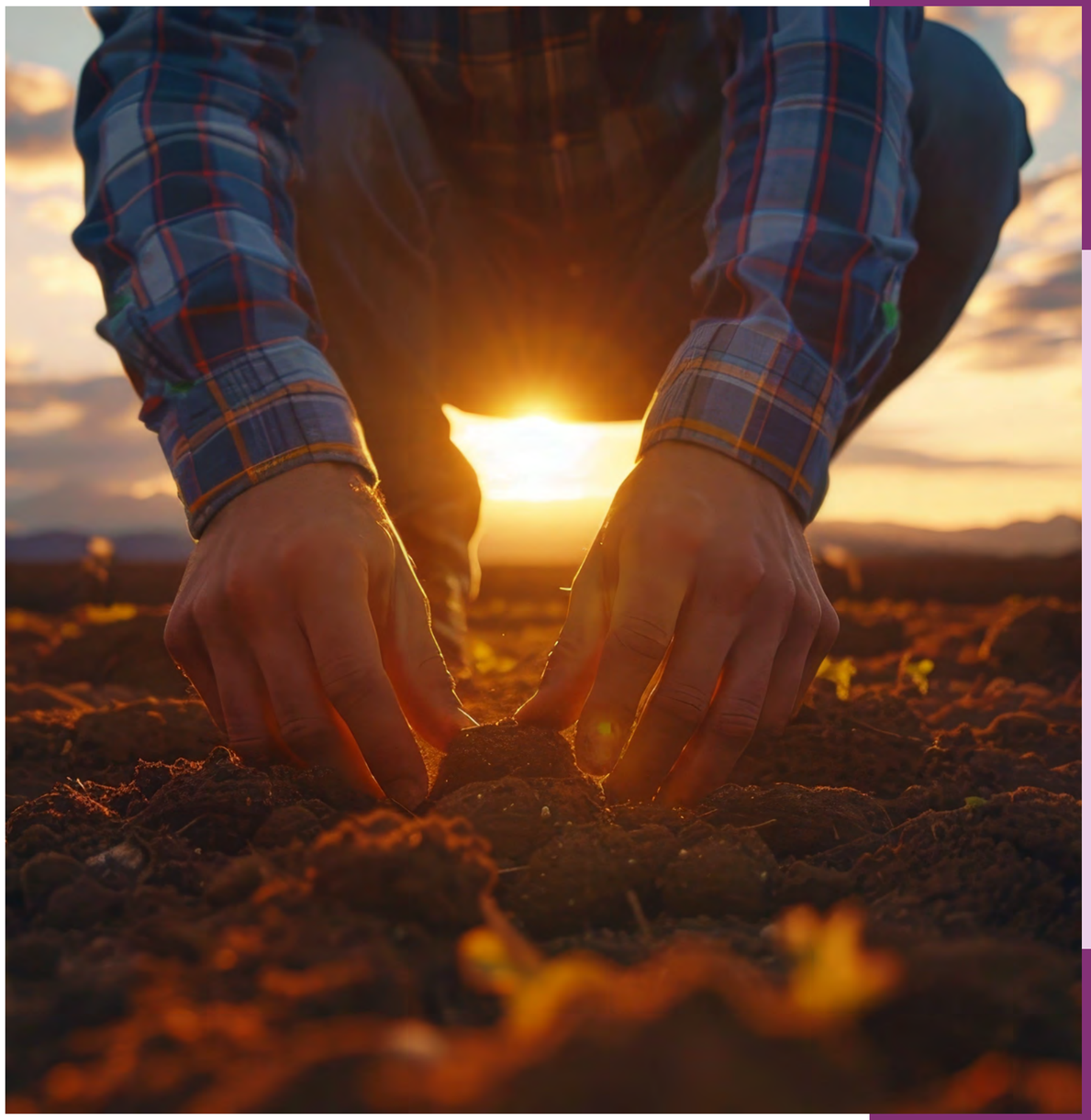
ONLINE FEEDBACK FORM

STAKEHOLDER/ FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS



Environmental Justice Overview

We’ve been using the term “Env Justice” a lot so let’s define that.



What is Environmental Justice?

The **fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes** with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies *(CA Government Code Section 65040.12).*

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regulations, and policies



Senate Bill 1000

Requires cities with **disadvantaged communities** to address **Environmental Justice (EJ)** in the General Plan.

State law requires cities that contain “disadvantaged communities” to address environmental justice in their general plans.

Pollution Exposure, including Air Quality Improvement

What does this actually mean… it means reducing exposure to pollution and improving air quality.



Public Facilities

It means working to provide equal access to public facilities



Physical Activity

parks, and open space



Food Access

access to healthy food options



Safe and Sanitary Homes

safe homes for our families



Civic Engagement

opportunities for civic engagement



Environmental Justice Communities Will...

The goal is for all communities to have access to a healthy environment.



Experience Improved Access to a Healthy Environment

The Environmental Justice Element Will...



So that Rancho Cordova is a healthy community for all residents, regardless of what neighborhood you live in.

Strive to Ensure a Healthy Community for All

Process for Developing the Environmental Justice Element

1



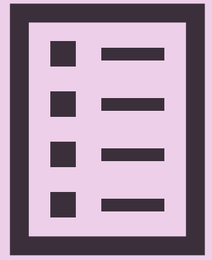
Analysis: Identify EJ Communities, including unique or compounded health risks

2



Engagement: Engagement with the community, especially in EJ Communities

3



Policy Development: Include goals, policies, and programs in the General Plan to address the needs of EJ Communities

There are three key parts of the process to developing the EJ Element. We start by identifying the focus areas or EJ communities and doing research to understand the existing conditions around pollution and health risks, access to amenities, and the issues facing residents of Rancho Cordova. An important part of that is community engagement. The data only tells us so much about the conditions in neighborhoods. We want to talk to residents to understand what people are experiencing in their neighborhoods. Based on our research and engagement, we'll prepare the environmental justice element, which will include goals, policies, and programs to address the needs and concerns of residents.

Determining Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities

We want to talk now about our focus areas for the EJ Element, which we're referring to as EJ communities.

What is a Disadvantaged Community?

Defined as a **low-income** area that is **disproportionately affected** by environmental pollution and other hazards.

We use the term "EJ Communities"

For the purpose of the EJ Element, state law defines a disadvantaged community as a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards. We're using the term "EJ Communities"

Process for Developing the Environmental Justice Element

1



Analysis: Identify EJ Communities, including unique or compounded health risks

2

Engagement: Engagement with the community, especially in EJ communities

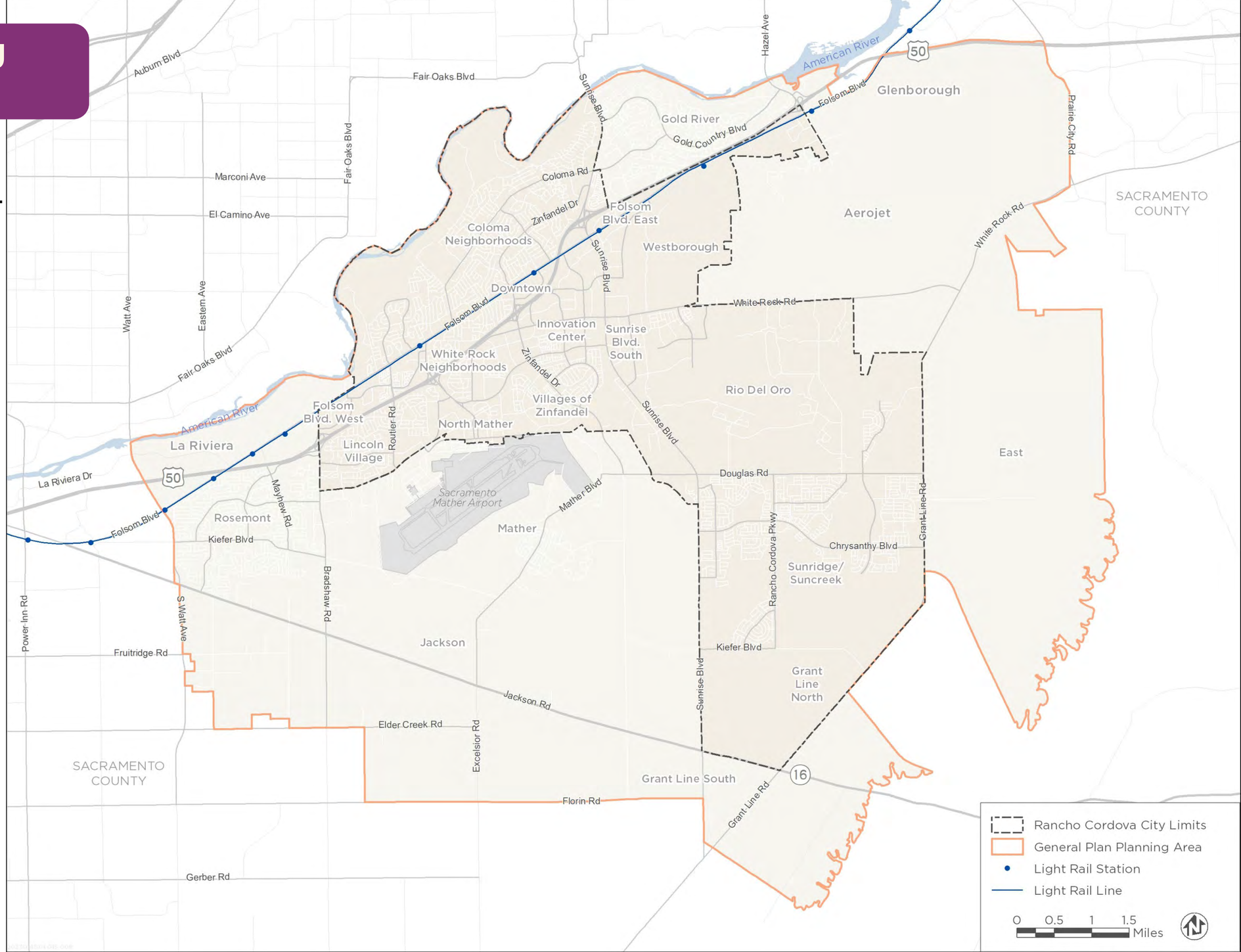
3

Policy Development: Integration of goals, policies and programs into the General Plan to address EJ priorities

Step 1 in preparing the EJ element is identifying the EJ communities.

General Plan Planning Area

This is the General Plan planning area. It includes the City limits as well as areas of the unincorporated county that surround the city that have an impact on how the city grows in the future.

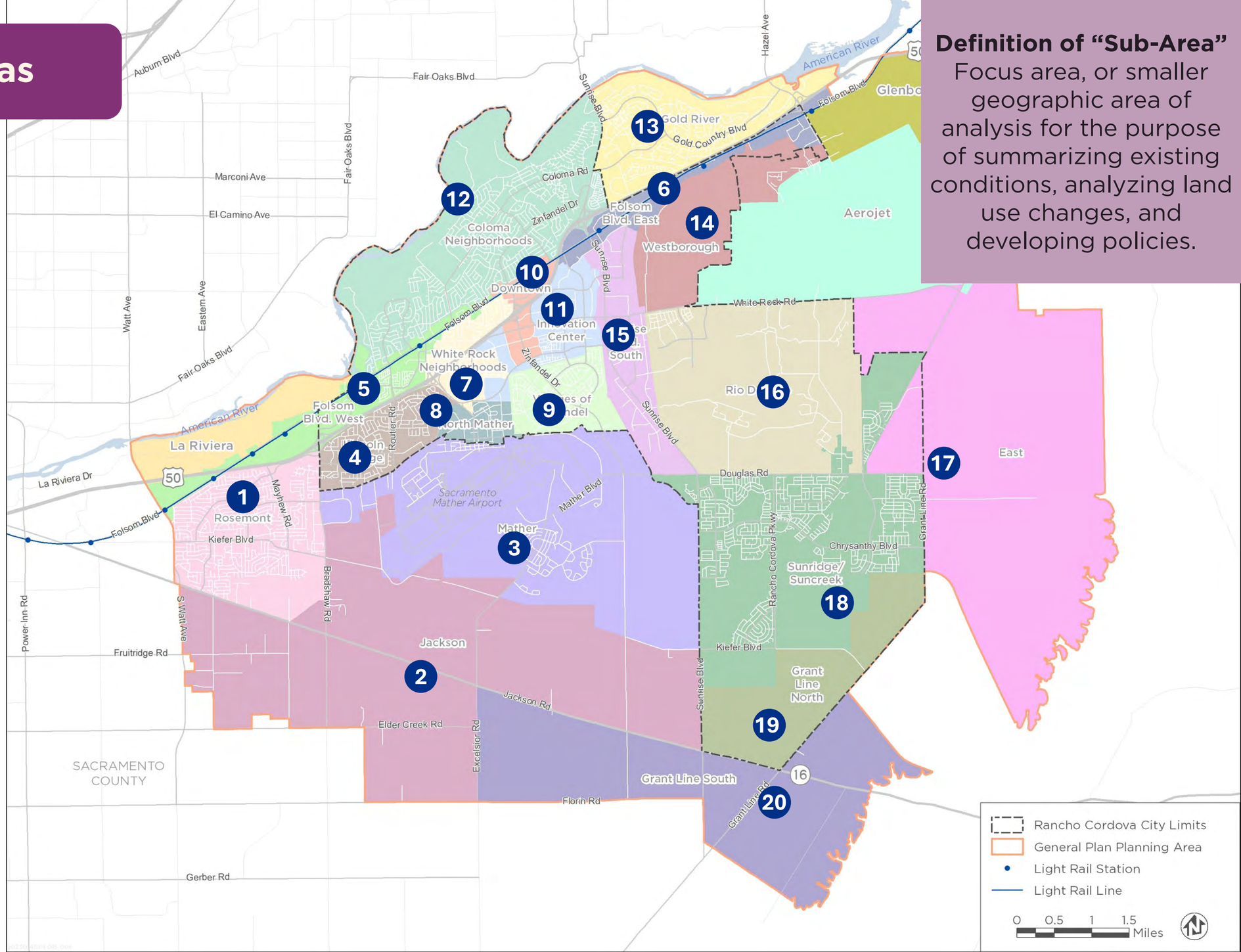


General Plan Sub-Areas

1. Rosemont
2. Jackson
3. Mather
4. Lincoln Village
5. Folsom Blvd. West
6. Folsom Blvd. East
7. White Rock Neighborhoods
8. North Mather
9. Villages of Zinfandel
10. Downtown
11. Innovation Center
12. Coloma Neighborhoods
13. Gold River
14. Westborough
15. Sunrise Blvd. South
16. Rio Del Oro
17. East Area
18. Sunridge / Suncreek
19. Grantline North
20. Grantline South

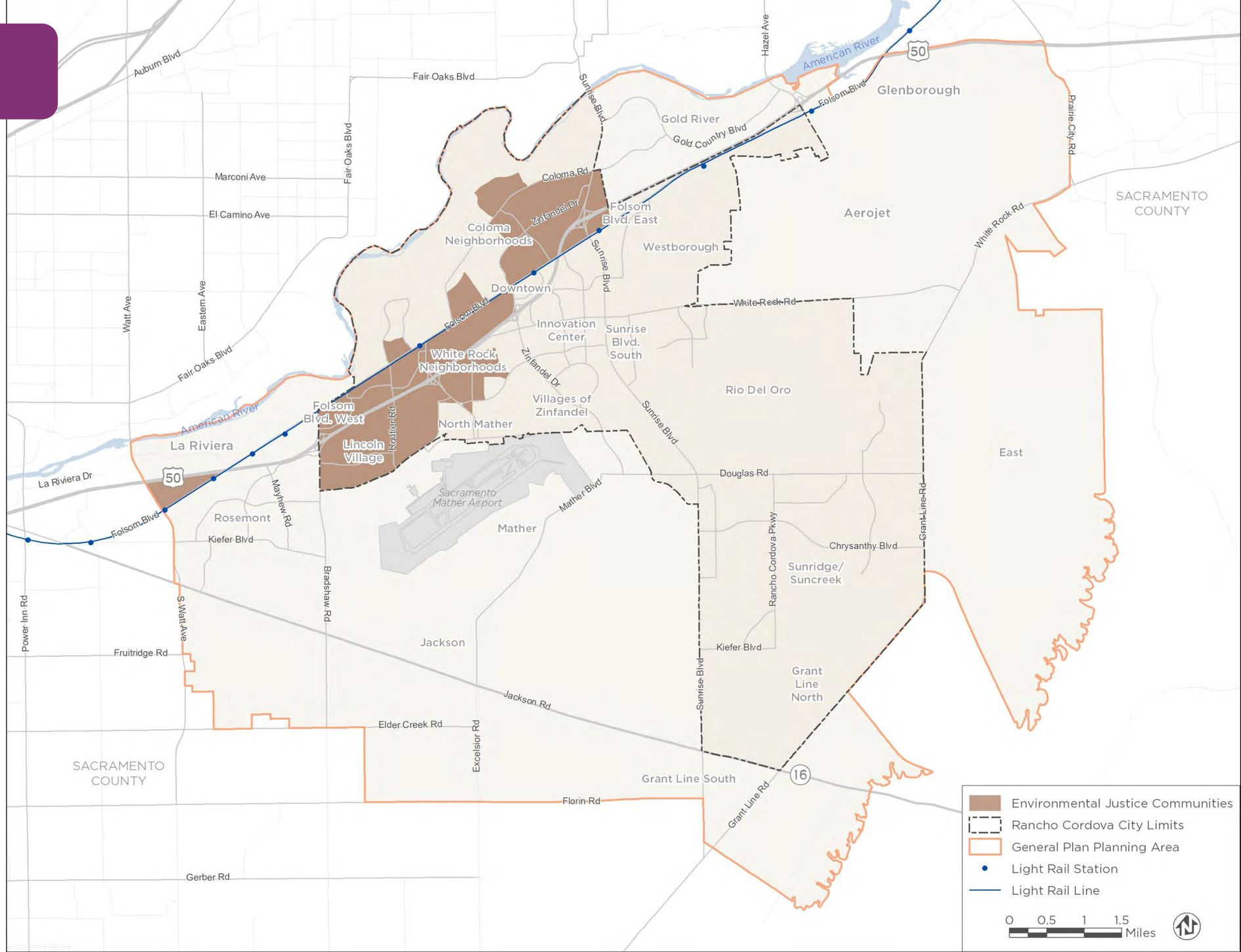
For the purpose of our analysis, we've divided the city into 20 subareas. These don't necessarily follow neighborhood boundaries, which are much smaller. Group some neighborhoods together.

Definition of "Sub-Area"
Focus area, or smaller geographic area of analysis for the purpose of summarizing existing conditions, analyzing land use changes, and developing policies.



Proposed EJ Communities

Based on our initial analysis, we've identified the areas shown here as the EJ communities. And I'll explain a little more about what led us to identifying these areas.



Determining Environmental Justice Communities

High Rates of Pollution Exposure

Population Characteristics

Community Specific Conditions

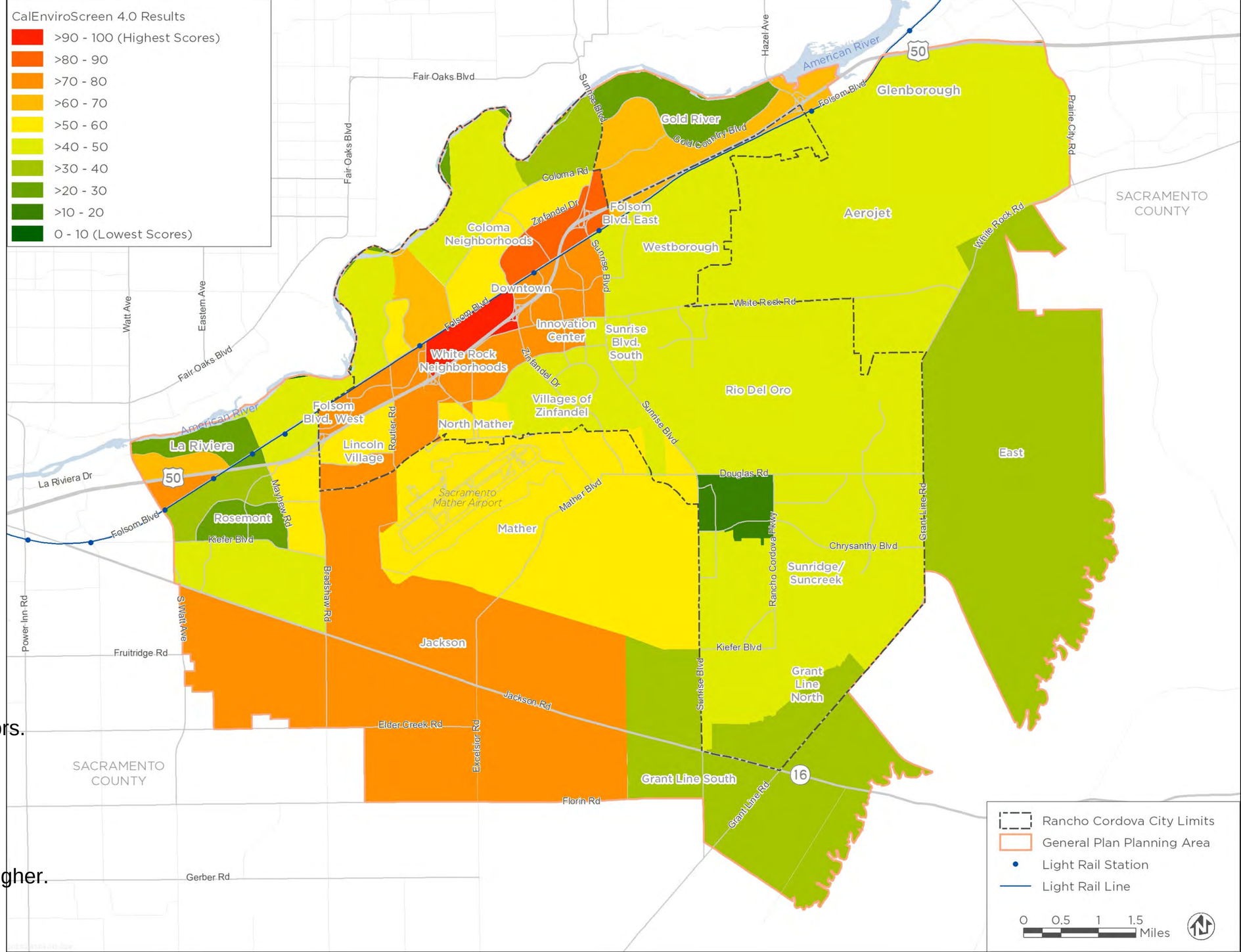
State law requires us to identify EJ communities as those areas that have high rates of pollution exposure where the population is lower-income or has other characteristics that make it especially vulnerable to the effects of pollution. We have to look at different data sources, but then look beyond the data and think about local conditions.

CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Scores

- CalEPA defines EJ Community as those with CalEnviroScreen score of 75% or higher

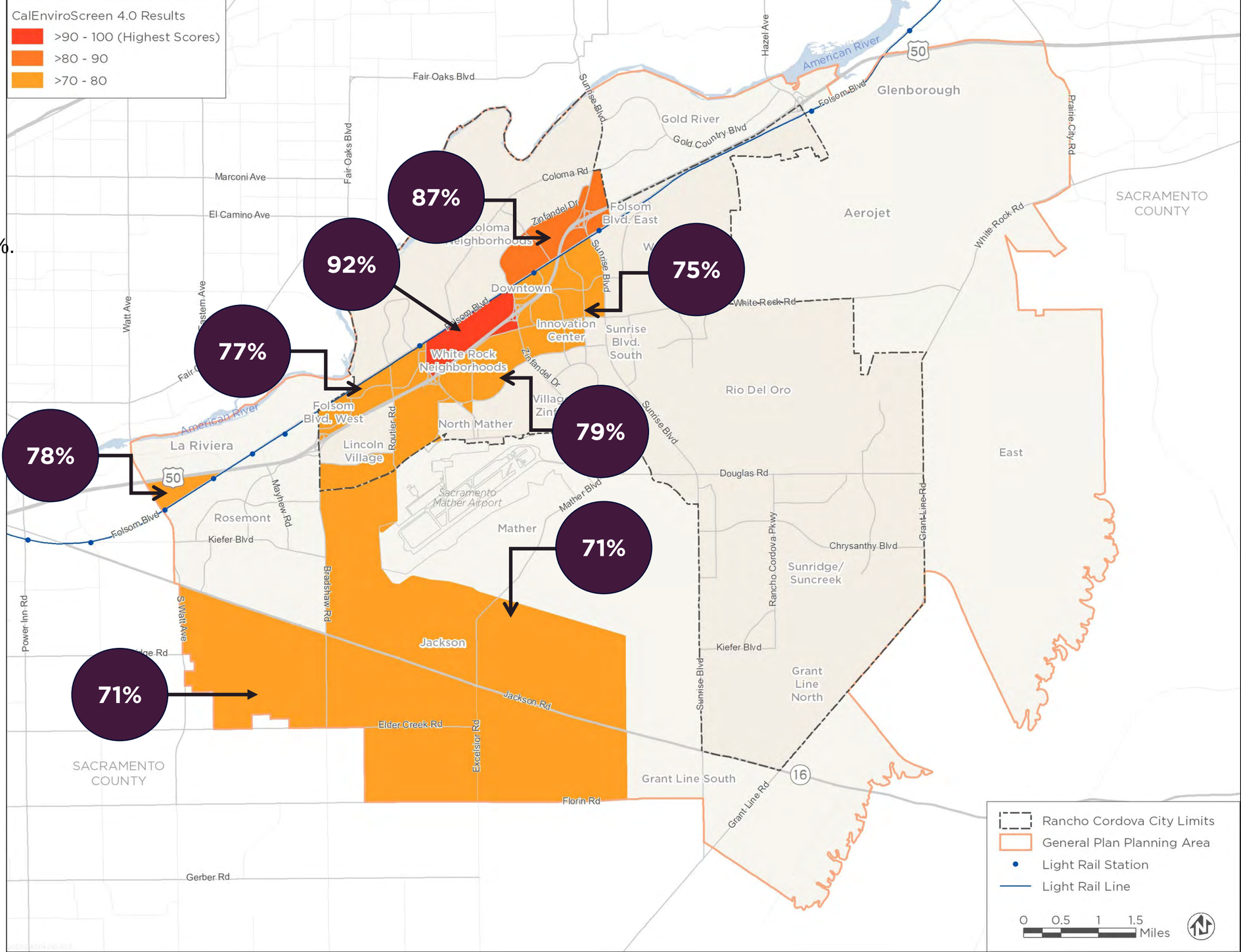
- Rancho Cordova local methodology = census tracts with score of 70% or higher

The primary data source for identifying disadvantaged communities or EJ communities is a state database called CalEnviroscreen. The database contains all sorts of data layers on pollution (air quality, groundwater, hazardous materials) and different population characteristics (poverty, unemployment) and ranks each area (Census tract) based on these different indicators. The areas in green have the lowest combination of pollution burden and vulnerable populations, which the areas in orange and red rank high on pollution burden and vulnerable populations.
The state defines disadvantaged communities as areas with a score of 75% or higher.



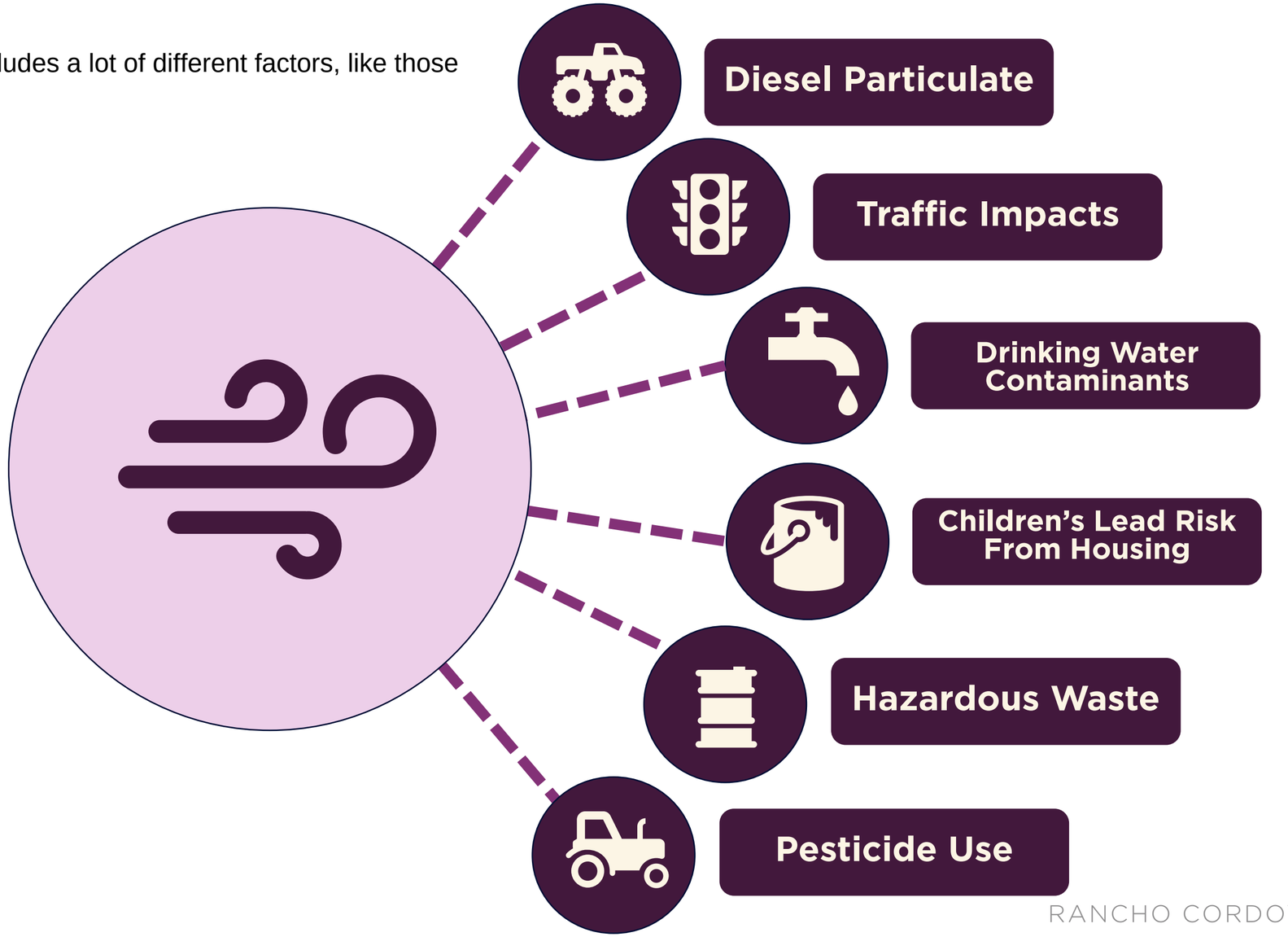
CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Scores

These census tracts within the City generally rank in the top 75% on CalEnviroscreen, with one additional census tract along Jackson Road that includes part of Lincoln Village ranking at 71%.



Pollution Exposure

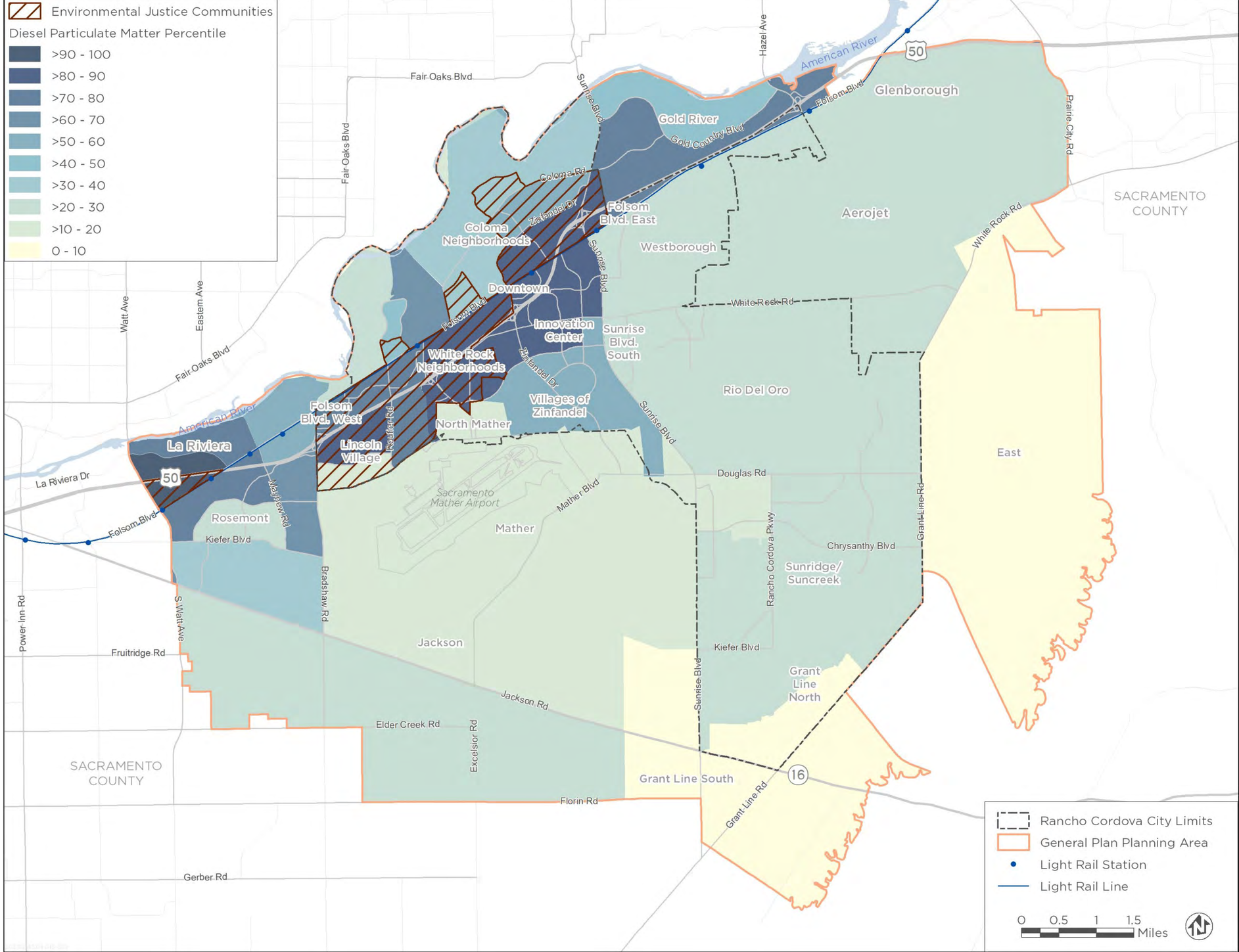
Pollution burden includes a lot of different factors, like those listed here.



Diesel Particulate Matter

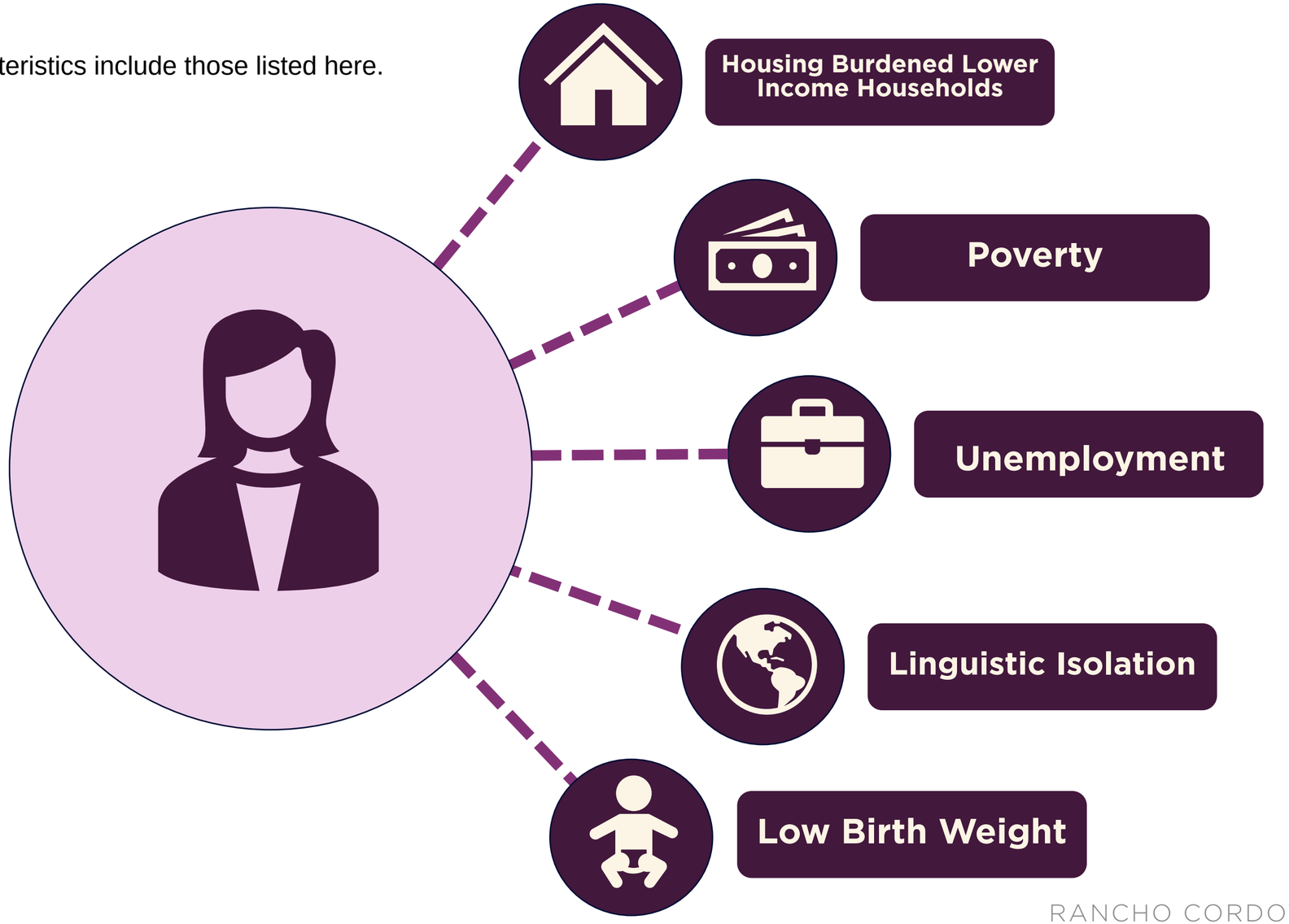
- Emitted by diesel-powered trucks, buses, cars, etc.
- Concentrated near freeways
- Linked to respiratory and cardiovascular health issues

One of the biggest sources of pollution in Rancho Cordova is Highway 50 and the diesel particulate matter and other air pollutants released from cars and trucks. So the areas surrounding the highway tend to rank high on pollution burden.



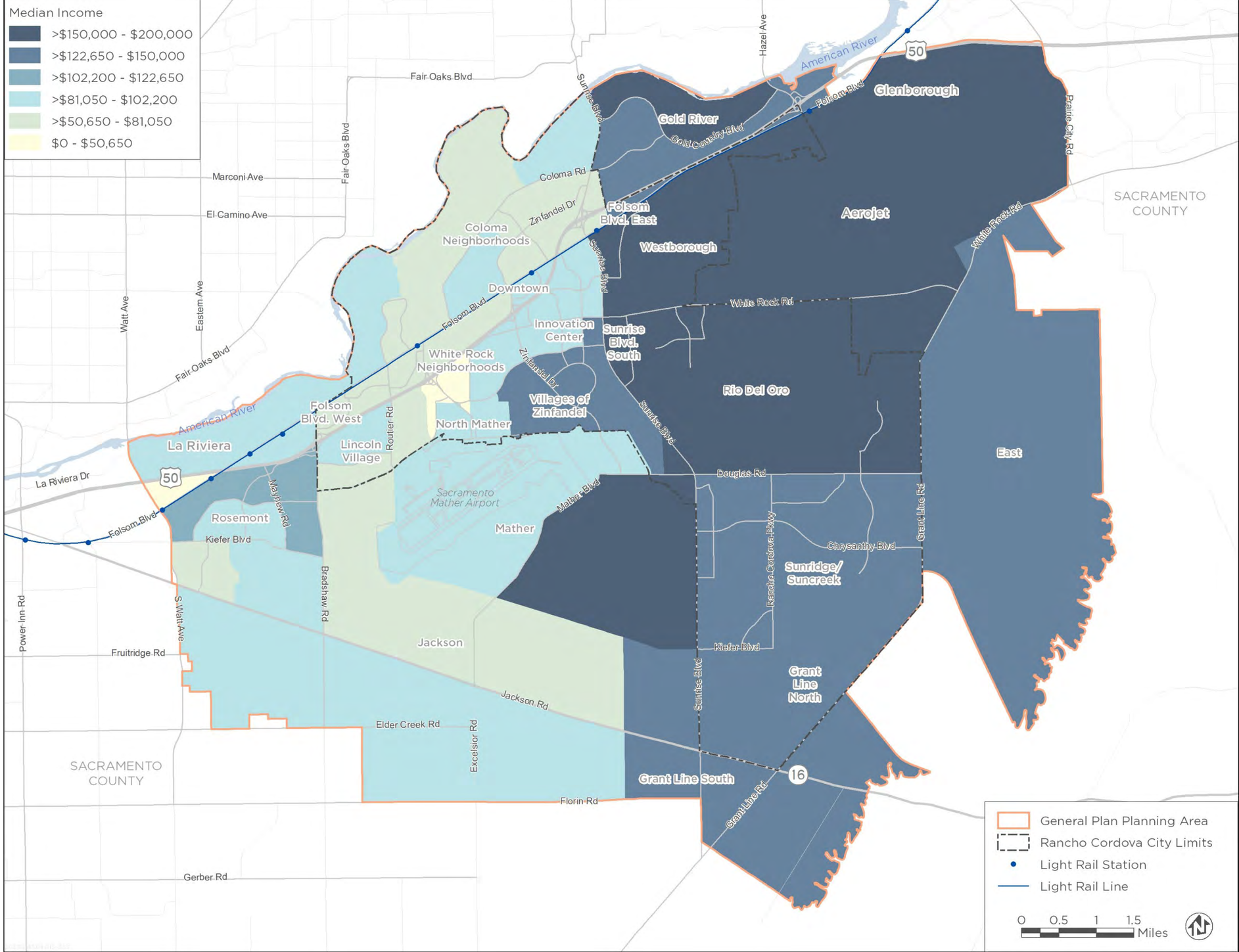
Population Characteristics

Population characteristics include those listed here.



Median Income

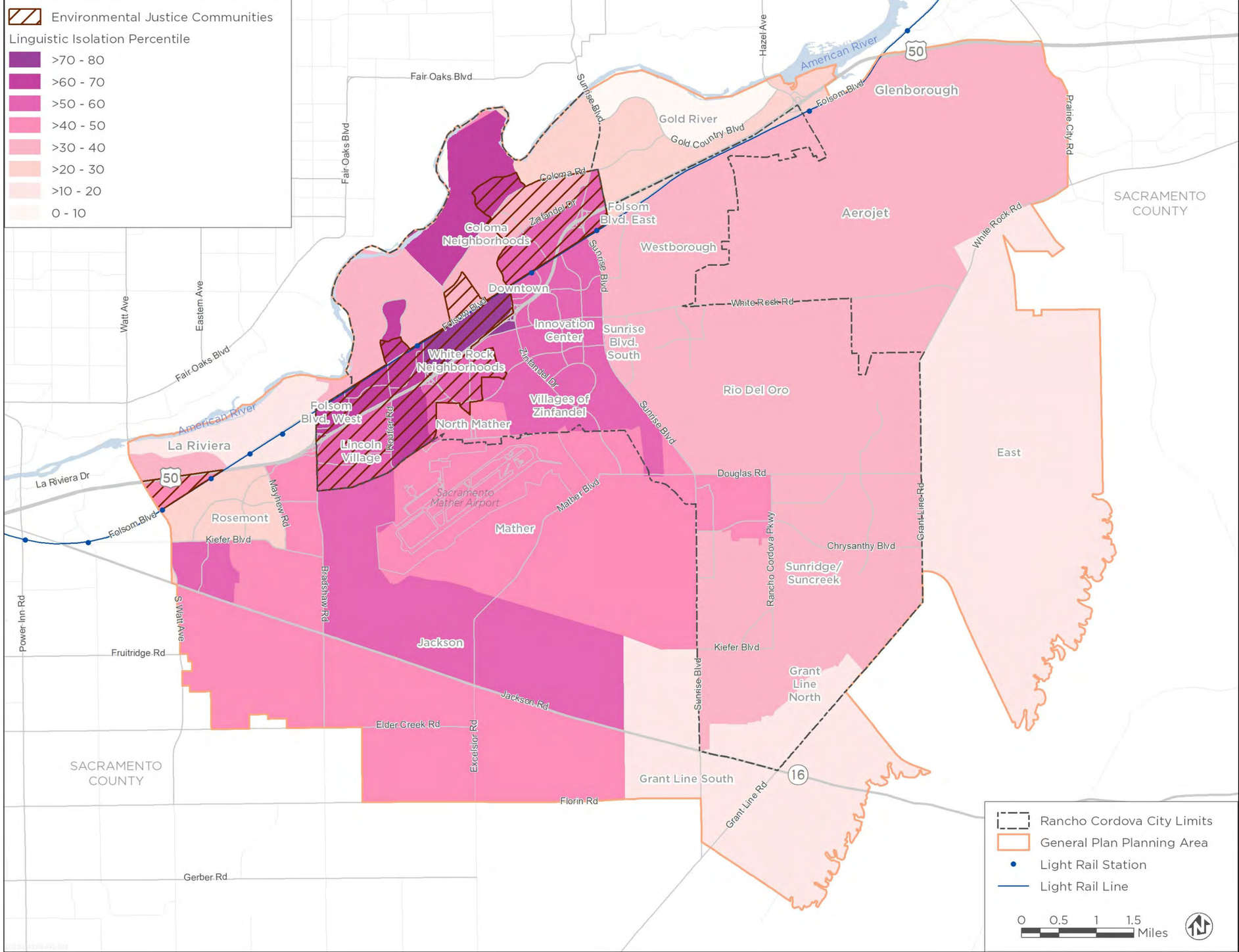
The green and light blue areas are relatively lower income.
What you can see is that the older, more established neighborhoods tend to be lower income relative to the newer neighborhoods.
(A lot of that dark blue area is undeveloped …no one lives there).



Linguistic Isolation

- Higher concentration of households where no adults speak English North of Coloma Road, between Folsom Boulevard and Highway 50

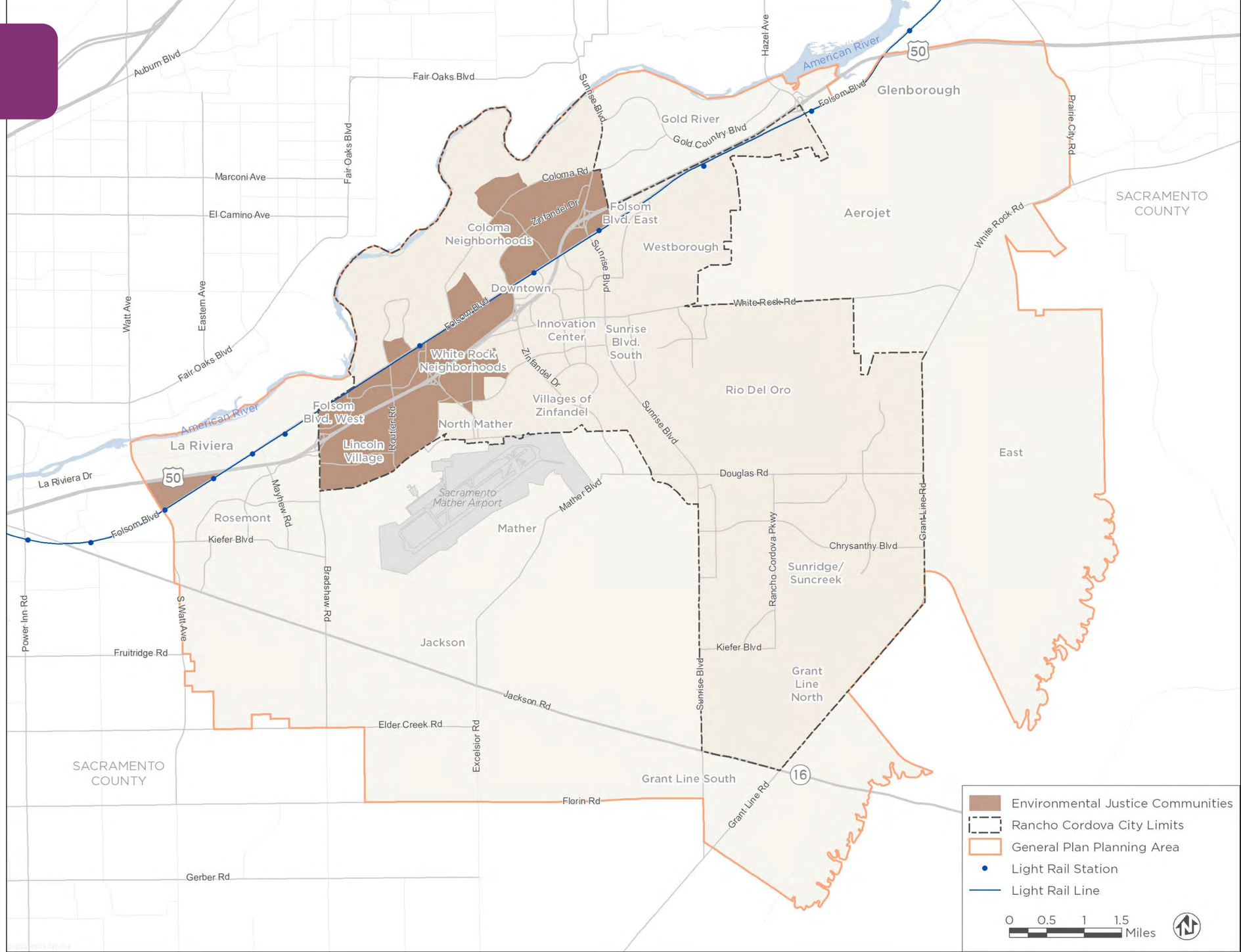
Map shows areas with higher concentrations of households where no adult speaks English. We'll be preparing an existing conditions report on Environmental Justice where we'll dive deeper into all these different maps and indicators…



Proposed EJ Communities

1. Do you agree with staff's recommendations for **Environmental Justice (EJ) Community areas**?
2. Do you agree with the proposed EJ Community **boundaries**?
3. Are there **other areas** that you would propose to be included as an EJ Community?

We are looking for your feedback.



Environmental Justice Focus Group Discussion

- What issues do you and/or your neighbors experience?
- Are there amenities that are lacking in certain areas of the city?
- What ideas do you have for improving conditions in your neighborhood?
- How can we engage with you and your neighborhoods on the General Plan and EJ Element?

Next Steps



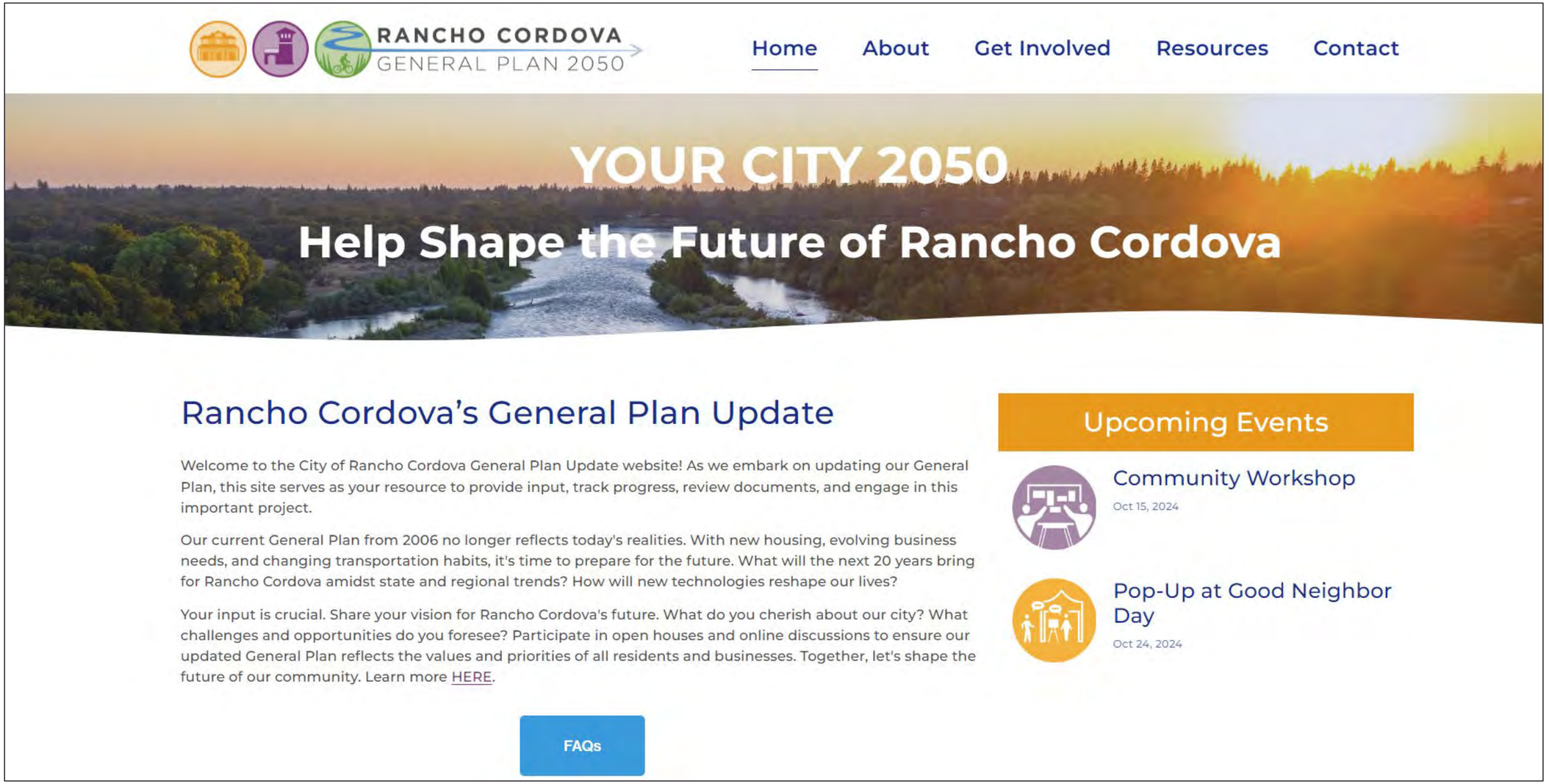
Community Workshop

October 15, 2024

5:30 PM at City Hall



www.cityofranchocordova.org/gpu2050





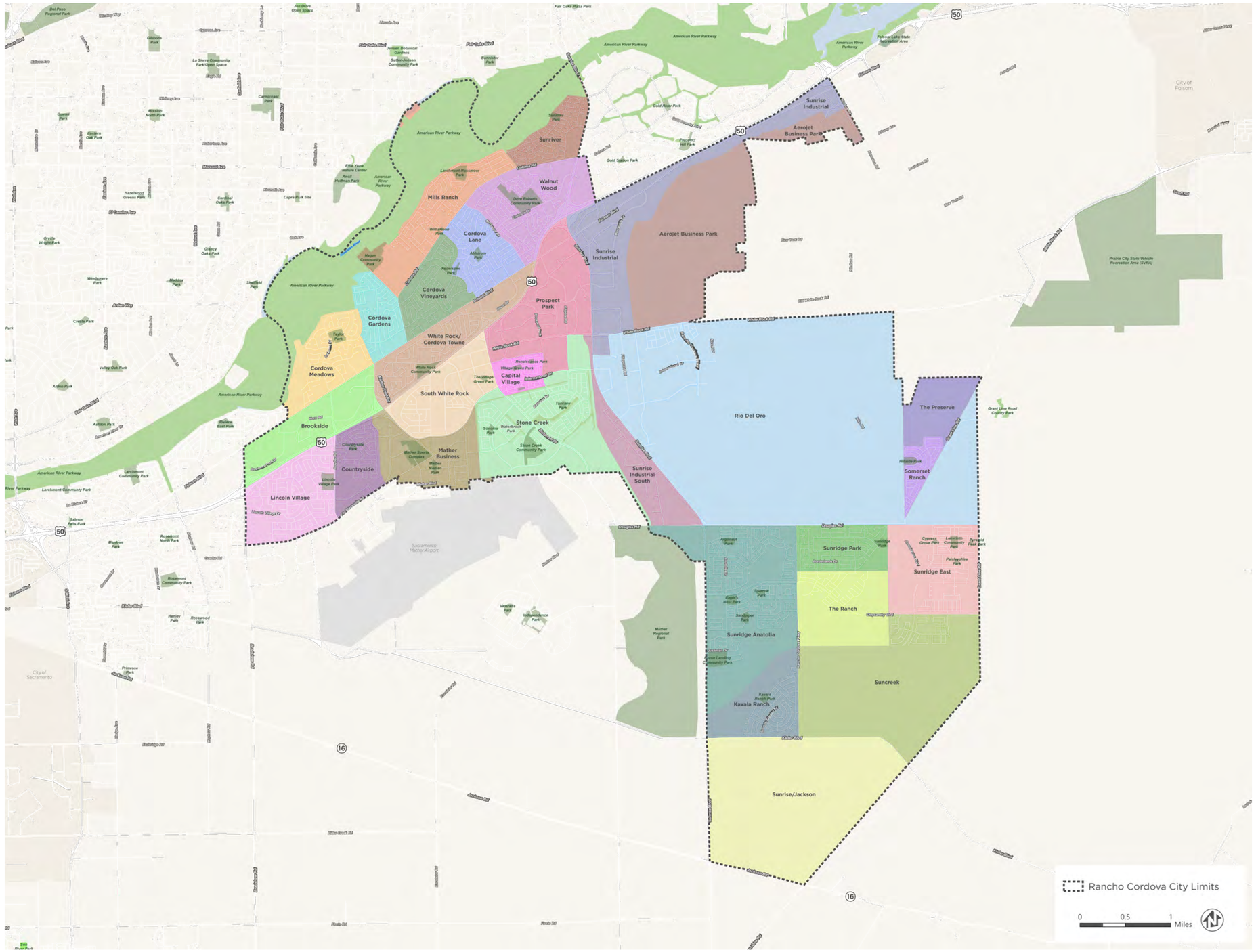
THANK YOU!

If you have questions, please send an email to:

generalplan@cityofranchocordova.org

Or visit:

www.cityofranchocordova.org/gpu2050


Rancho Cordova City Limits
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Miles