

Equity Assessment & Framework Development Project – Historical Context Resources

Context: Mariposa Planning Solutions (MPS) conducted a literature scan of online resources at the intersection of social/racial equity, C/CAG's Program Areas, and San Mateo County and regional geographic scales. In conducting the literature scan, MPS also reviewed and included other notable elements of California's history related to genocide, dispossession of land, infringement of civil liberties, and other injustices towards racial and ethnic demographics. The resources below are divided into the following themes:

- California Native History
- Land Use & Housing Discrimination
- Environmental Justice & Energy Equity
- Transportation Injustice
- Additional Discriminatory Actions (Chinese Exclusion Laws and Japanese Internment)

Each synopsis describes state, regional, and local public and private actions that contributed to historical and current injustices, inequities, and trauma to Equity Priority Community demographics.¹

Take-aways:

- Before and after California's statehood, Spanish, Mexican, and American governments, and by extension their citizenry, dispossessed Native peoples of the vast majority of their land, subjugated and exploited them, practiced forced cultural and spiritual assimilation, and committed genocide on the land which we now inhabit. The development of the State's entire economy and settlement patterns are based on these historical facts. The State of California, the Bay Area, and San Mateo County have largely failed to rectify this historical stain in any meaningful way.
- White American settlers and political and business leaders infused California's laws, regulations, and actions with racist, exclusionary, exploitative, and discriminatory worldviews since the State's inception. At first, State discrimination and racialized capitalism was focused on Native Americans and Chinese citizens and migrants. Later, as populations shifted, the focus of those in power turned to other racial minorities, particularly people of African, Japanese, and Mexican ancestry.
- The literature on racist and discriminatory land use and housing actions is particularly deep. Land use and housing policy is an important part of the historical context because segregation, the wealth gap, environmental and economic justice, public health, energy equity, and transportation equity are all intertwined with the way our towns, cities, region, and state have been planned, including how much, where, and

¹ <https://bayareametro.github.io/Spatial-Analysis-Mapping-Projects/Project-Documentation/Equity-Priority-Communities/>

for whom housing has been built. Documented actions include forced dispossession of Native people from their lands (as noted above), exclusionary zoning, redlining, racial steering, blockbusting, racially restrictive covenants and homeowner association bylaws, and racialized public housing policies.

- The historical places of concentration of people of color in San Mateo County were typically redlined communities physically separated from White communities by space or infrastructure (such as Highway 101), located in flood prone areas or places less desirable for development, and/or unincorporated areas of the County without direct representation. These areas were susceptible to disenfranchisement in relation to surrounding cities and neighborhoods which, among other things, resulted in an oversupply of negative infrastructure and services and an undersupply of positive infrastructure and services. These inequities, in turn contributed to generational economic, environmental, health, and quality of life impacts for residents of these communities.
- The economic and political system has continued to reproduce unequal outcomes, and some, but not all, local, regional, and state governments are only relatively recently beginning to make meaningful commitments and attempting to make measurable progress in addressing these historical injustices and discriminatory actions. The result is today’s separate and unequal status quo in San Mateo County and across the State.

California Native History

Geo- graphy	Publisher	Title	Quotes / Excerpts
Berkeley, CA / Bay Area	East Bay Express	Living on Ohlone Land	<p>"In the mid 1700s, Ohlone people lived in a world of dizzying abundance. In the East Bay, there were vast marshes and lush meadows, wild salmon that swam up the creeks veining the hills to spawn and die, and grizzly bears that inhabited endless oak forests. Partly owing to the temperate climate and easy access to food sources, approximately one-third of all Native Americans in the United States were living in the area now known as California prior to contact with Europeans. In an area spanning from San Francisco to Big Sur, there were 50 documented villages and extended family groups who spoke at least eight distinct dialects and were loosely united by a similar language, often referred to as "Costanoan" but now more commonly known as "Ohlone."</p> <p>The arrival of Euro-American soldiers and missionaries, who commodified these lands by gridding and platting them with farms and ranches, marked the beginning of a period of gut-wrenching violence, dislocation, and erasure. Tens of thousands of indigenous people in coastal areas were brought to Catholic missions (that were essentially concentration camps), where they were beaten, whipped, burned, maimed, tortured, and killed. Within the missions, many of the so-called religious "converts" continued to worship their deities surreptitiously as well as conduct native dances and rituals in secret, and in some</p>

			<p>cases became fugitives who allied with the indigenous people of the state's interior to fight back in armed uprisings.</p> <p>The United States' conquest of California in the Mexican-American War greatly hastened indigenous people's destruction. "The handiwork of ... well armed death squads combined with the widespread random killing of Indians by individual miners resulted in the death of 100,000 Indians in the first two years of the gold rush," retired Sonoma State University Native American Studies Professor Edward Castillo has written of the initial years of the California Gold Rush. "Nothing in American Indian history is even remotely comparable to this massive orgy of theft and mass murder."</p> <p>Under the laws of the new state, native people were denied rights such as the ability to vote or testify in court. Many indigenous people became migrant farmworkers. Others, including Ohlone people, survived by hiding out and concealing their identities...</p> <p>Ohlone people have continuously fought to protect their cultural connection to that homeland whenever circumstances have allowed. The late-1960s brought a nationwide resurgence of indigenous cultural pride, including in 1969, when "Indians of All Tribes" initiated a nearly 19-month occupation of Alcatraz Island to demand that the U.S. honor its treaties with indigenous nations. During this period of increased indigenous political struggle, Ohlone people made several stands to protect sacred places. In a little-known 1975 stand-off in Watsonville, Calif., for example, dozens of indigenous people established an armed fortification within a partially bulldozed Ohlone cemetery where a warehouse was to be built, and successfully negotiated to preserve the half that had not yet been destroyed...</p> <p>Because indigenous cultures are inextricably linked to the lands they have historically inhabited, their survival necessarily depends on preserving those lands, which face countless threats at any given time. In California and beyond, contemporary indigenous people are engaged in battles over mineral rights, water rights, federal recognition, honoring of treaties, repatriation or honorable treatment of sacred sites, health care, language preservation, and more."</p>
<p>Bay Area, including South San Francisco</p>	<p>Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society, University</p>	<p>roots, race, & place - A History of Racially Exclusionary Housing in</p>	<p>"Historian Benjamin Madley describes early California as "a thriving, staggeringly diverse place," with "dense webs of local and regional cultural exchange." Indigenous groups including the Ohlone (Costanoan), Coast Miwok, Wappo, Patwin, and Pomo inhabited the land that is now the nine-county Bay Area.</p> <p>Under the Spanish, Mexican, and US governments, the forced dispossession of land from Native peoples followed a logic of economic profit and racial hierarchy that became institutionalized through law,</p>

	of California, Berkeley	the San Francisco Bay Area	<p>establishing a thread of racial capitalism... For Spain, the establishment of 21 missions across California, including five in the Bay Area, was not just a “spiritual conquest” of Native Americans... It was a strategic maneuver to preempt expansion by other colonizers and establish a protective buffer zone for its valuable silver mines in northern Mexico. The missions held Native people in forced labor and operated in concert with the Spanish military, which carried out violent attacks on Native communities.</p> <p>The California Constitutional Convention laid the foundation for exclusion and dispossession under US law when delegates denied California Indians the right to vote. Following this decision and through a series of new laws, Madley explains, “legislators slowly denied California Indians membership in the body politic until they became landless noncitizens, with few legal rights and almost no legal control over their own bodies.”</p> <p>In the 1850s, under threat of violence, at least 119 California tribes signed treaties with US Special Commissioners in which they surrendered the vast majority of their land. In return, the Commissioners promised to provide for basic needs, protection and education, as well as designate land for 19 reservations. However, the US Senate rejected the treaties, and instead later authorized just five military reservations that comprised less than one-sixtieth of the acreage negotiated in the treaties, and provided no protection or any of the other promises made, leaving California’s Native populations extremely vulnerable to acts of violence by vigilantes and militias... Under US rule... the Bay Area... Ohlone population plummeted to 2,000 by 1830, just 13 percent of the population 60 years prior” (pg. 16-17).</p>
State of California	Executive Department	Executive Order N-15-19	<p>“In the early decades of California's statehood, the relationship between the State of California and California Native Americans was fraught with violence, exploitation, dispossession and the attempted destruction of tribal communities, as summed up by California's first Governor, Peter Burnett, in his 1851 address to the Legislature: “[t]hat a war of extermination will continue to be waged between the two races until the Indian race becomes extinct must be expected... The State of California's laws and policies discriminating against Native Americans and denying the existence of tribal government powers persisted well into the twentieth century... Despite these wrongs, California Native Americans resisted, survived and carried on cultural and linguistic traditions defying all odds”</p>
Bay Area	Bay Area Equity Atlas	Indigenous Populations in the Bay Area	<p>“The latter half of the 20th century saw many different tribes from across the country coming to the Bay Area as one of the several relocation sites where the U.S. government promised, and failed to delivery on, training, housing, and jobs as part of the Indian Relocation Act. The Bay Area has since become one of the largest populations of Intertribal Indians in the country with people coming from communities in the Southwest, Great Plains, and Eastern Woodlands areas. Now, California is home to close to 200 tribes with only 109 of them recognized by the U.S. federal government.”</p>

State of California	Native American Heritage Commission	Short Overview of California Indian History	<p>A historical overview of California Native American history, including land dispossession, genocide and other injustices perpetrated by Spanish, Mexican, US, Californian, and local governments as well as private and individual actors. The article also documents the long history of Native peoples resistance and survival within this context.</p>
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Land Use & Housing Discrimination

Geo-graphy	Publisher	Title	Quotes / Excerpts
Bay Area, including South San Francisco	Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society, University of California, Berkeley	roots, race, & place - A History of Racially Exclusionary Housing in the San Francisco Bay Area	<p>Introduction: “In 1952, Sing and Grace Sheng, a Chinese American couple living in San Francisco’s Chinatown district, decided to move out of the crowded apartment they shared with their extended family and... they looked for a home near his work in San Mateo County. They found a house in Southwood, a subdivision of South San Francisco, and signed a purchase agreement for \$12,300. When white neighbors learned that a Chinese American family planned to move to Southwood, they protested the purchase. The South San Francisco city manager, Emmons McClung, also a Southwood homeowner, orchestrated a community meeting in which Mr. Sheng was confronted by 75 white homeowners opposed to his family moving into their neighborhood. They conveyed to Mr. Sheng that they... feared that their property values would decrease if the neighborhood lost its status as “restricted”—or, for whites only.</p> <p>The Southwood subdivision’s builder, American Homes Development Company, had stoked their fear, sending a letter to homeowners that urged them to protect their private property rights and the original restrictive covenants, despite the 1948 US Supreme Court decision that ruled them legally unenforceable. The company also reportedly attempted to intimidate the prior owner of the residence, J. H. Denson, who made the sale to the Shengs. Denson stated in an interview that the company called him and explained that “the whole neighborhood could bring suit” against him and that his business could be “blackballed.” Mr. Sheng responded by proposing a neighborhood vote on his purchase and promised he would not move in if the community voted against it. The city paid for and printed ballots to vote on the Shengs’ purchase. Southwood voted to exclude the Shengs...</p>

		<p>The rampant displacement seen today in the San Francisco Bay Area is built upon a history of exclusion and dispossession, centered on race, and driven by the logic of capitalism. This history established massive inequities in who owned land, who had access to financing, and who held political power, all of which determined—and still remain at the root of deciding—who can call the Bay Area home. While systems of exclusion have evolved between eras, research indicates that “it was in the early part of the twentieth century that the foundation for continuing inequality in the twenty-first century was laid” ... The lasting impact of these historic processes is clearly evident in the Bay Area, where racial residential segregation levels have persisted and, by some measures, even worsened since the 1970s...</p> <p>Individuals and communities have resisted racial exclusion in housing through organizing, legal challenges, individual acts, and other means... Yet despite the progress... the region has failed to undo racial inequities entrenched in earlier eras and is now perpetuating new ones” (pg. 7-9).</p> <p>Local Expressions of Broader Systems – “Segregation extracts wealth and creates barriers that exclude people of color from various resources. It functions to hoard these resources among the groups that are included and restrict the access of the excluded groups. Segregation meant that African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinx people, Native Americans, and other people of color were excluded from access to economic and educational opportunities, public investment, and other resources essential for building wealth, owning land, and attaining equitable economic power. Combined with forces such as overpolicing and fiscal austerity more broadly, it meant that historically segregated neighborhoods that confined people of color were undervalued, and their residents, who tended to be either low-income renters or highly indebted homeowners, were more likely to face unstable housing conditions.</p> <p>Segregation is simultaneously a cause of racial inequity and an effect of broader racialized systems of dispossession, including predatory investment (such as urban renewal) and disinvestment (such as white flight) that allowed for capital accumulation for some through the extraction of wealth from others. Financial benefits of racial residential segregation accrued not only to white residents with concentrated resources in their neighborhoods, but to the local real estate developers, agents, and investors who employed lucrative strategies such as blockbusting, racially restrictive subdivisions, demolition and redevelopment, and expropriation of land” (pg. 9-10).</p> <p>Local Actors and Tactics - Much has been written about the federal government’s role in the New Deal Era of identifying majority-white areas as sound and profitable real estate investments and heavily subsidizing them through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) while simultaneously depriving majority-Black neighborhoods of similar assistance through a practice known as redlining. The</p>
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<p>Bay Area & East Palo Alto, CA</p>	<p>Tech Crunch+</p>	<p><u>East Of Palo Alto's Eden: Race And The Formation Of Silicon Valley</u></p> <p>“California was never as overt or horrific as the Jim Crow South. But the Californian way worked tacitly through housing, jobs and education policies. On top of racially restrictive covenants, realtors around the San Francisco Bay Area were engaged in a practice called blockbusting... By the mid-1960s, East Palo Alto had gone from being almost all white to being majority black. Then when the federal government widened Highway 101, the main artery between San Francisco and what would become the rest of Silicon Valley, that deepened both the physical and cultural divide between the two areas.</p> <p>To top it off, Palo Alto annexed the lands directly to the south of East Palo Alto for a golf course and an airport. East Palo Alto would instead end up with the Romic waste management facility, which opened in 1964. It would process hazardous chemicals from semiconductor and hardware production in Silicon Valley for decades, sometimes leaching cyanide into the city’s sewage water and spraying chemical mists above the city during periodic accidents...</p> <p>The new black community forming in East Palo Alto had little in resources, but residents did what they could to build their own institutions.</p> <p>An unincorporated zone of San Mateo County, the area had just a fraction of the tax revenues per capita that the surrounding cities did, as wealthier, middle-class whites fled and took their incomes and capital elsewhere...</p> <p>In a 1968 application that San Mateo County wrote for a grant from President Lyndon B. Johnson’s Model Cities program, it said: “The adjacent cities do not desire to annex East Palo Alto with all of its costly problems such as unemployment, low level of income, overcrowded housing, low education attainment, high number of welfare recipients (highest in the County), drainage, street repair, and lack of certain facilities...”</p> <p>In spite of the lack of resources, East Palo Alto community members and blacks across the San Francisco Bay Area pushed back against discriminatory housing practices, built schools and lobbied for access to jobs at the peak of the Civil Rights era... But even if blacks started to find good, higher-paying</p>

		<p>tech jobs or get into universities in the late 1960s, housing discrimination still deeply impacted their ability to find homes...</p> <p>California got its first statewide fair housing law passed in 1963 with the help of Northern California's first black legislator William Byron Rumford. But it was soon overturned by a ballot initiative, which Ronald Reagan praised in his gubernatorial re-election campaign.</p> <p>"If an individual wants to discriminate against Negroes or others in selling or renting his home, it is his right to do so," Reagan said in a press release at the time.</p> <p>Finally a week after King's death in 1968, the federal government passed its own fair housing law...</p> <p>The legal victories around fair housing and school desegregation gave way to the more difficult reality of actually implementing these gains...</p> <p>In 1970, the Office for Civil Rights found that the school district covering East Palo Alto was in violation of desegregation laws. The district had three months to desegregate all six of its high schools or face the loss of federal funding... but the overall forces of white flight and declining enrollment were too powerful, so the district shut down the school in 1975. The same year, the two Nairobi schools got fire bombed and burned down... Today, East Palo Alto's high school students get bussed to some 18 different schools outside the city...</p> <p>For several decades, the Federal Housing Administration and private banks engaged in a practice of redlining, where they would back mortgage lending to certain neighborhoods that happened to be predominantly white and excluded others that housed minorities... In effect, redlining meant that these neighborhoods... could not secure comparable or sometimes any access to mortgages or capital. That in turn capped property values and revenues for public services.</p> <p>The availability of capital drove differentials in property values between neighboring communities, making it harder to jump from one to the next... This practice basically left out entire groups of people from capital accumulation. On top of discriminatory job practices from decades ago, it has lingering effects to this day; last year, the median net worth of a white household in the United States was \$141,900, compared to \$11,000 for blacks and \$13,700 for Hispanics.</p> <p>The federal government tried to put an end to redlining through the Community Reinvestment Act in</p>
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<p>Southwest San Mateo County</p>	<p>USC Annenberg Center for Health Journalism</p>	<p>Uneven Ground: Part 1 - How unequal land use harms communities in San Mateo County</p> <p>The year was 1957, and two women, one white and one black, set out on an undercover investigation in Menlo Park and Palo Alto.</p> <p>Their task was to investigate the hypothesis that real estate agents were conspiring to sell homes in certain neighborhoods to white people, and homes in certain other neighborhoods to black people.</p> <p>They developed a plan that would ultimately prove their hypothesis all too correct: The black woman, who was not named in the study, would approach a real estate agent and express interest in purchasing a home in a predominantly white area. Then the white woman, researcher Elaine Johnson, would follow afterward, saying she was interested in buying a home in East Palo Alto or the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, whose population had by then become predominantly black. Johnson would play naive, and record what she heard.</p> <p>Over the course of 19 interviews the duo conducted... the agents nine times explicitly refused to sell the white researcher an East Palo Alto or Belle Haven home, said the area was not desirable, and stated that it was not desirable because the area had African American people living there... Below is an excerpt of one of the 1957 interviews the two women conducted with a Menlo Park real estate agent... It demonstrates that the agent and his colleagues clearly knew the laws regarding segregation and discrimination and flagrantly disregarded the intent of those laws to discourage community segregation.</p> <p>The black woman reported that during her interview, she was treated well by the agent, who said he had lots of listings to show her. Johnson, the white interviewer, got a more extensive response.</p>

		<p>“Requested homes in my price range. Mentioned I had seen two homes I liked in the East Palo Alto... Realtor said, “I don’t like to say this, and I don’t want you to misunderstand, but we have a problem in that area.” I asked what the problem was... He said, “It is a Negro problem. There is a very high percentage there”... I told him I liked some of the homes there and asked if he could sell me one. He replied, “Yes, but I want you to be happy and I must be honest with you... property values drop when they [African Americans] enter a neighborhood.” “What causes that?” “Well, so many white families get scared and so many houses go on sale at one time that values drop.” “Is it the entrance of the Negro family in the area that brings about this property devaluation, or that so many white families sell in panic?” “Both; it is the fact that the Negro buys in a white neighborhood that causes the whites to worry and sell.”</p> <p>She [the realtor] then mentioned a Palo Alto home she’d seen that had dropped \$700 over the weekend. The realtor said, “That is a sign they are getting scared, for they are so near the Negro area of East Palo Alto, which is just on the other side of Bay Shore. Here you don’t have to worry too much, for you have a fence on the west side, then Bay Shore Highway, then a high fence on the east side of the highway. This gives you a good barrier... to separate you from the colored area.” He then gave me another listing in Palo Alto, and I asked if that was in a “restricted area.” He said, “Yes; it is on the west side of Bay Shore, and... so far the Negro people there have kept strictly within their lines.” I asked, “How do you keep them in that area...?” The realtor answered, “One Negro family moves into an area; then others follow. Of course, we realtors have been accused by Nak-Kap of promoting segregated areas along the peninsula.” I asked, “What is Nak-Kap?” “That is the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Why, just today I had a Negro woman looking for homes in this area, but we don’t show them any property this side of Bay Shore.” The realtor gave me another listing - this in Menlo Park. I asked whether it was in a “restricted area.” He answered, “Of course, there is no restriction anymore because the Supreme Court says that we cannot restrict areas on the basis of color or creed any more. However, property owners can keep an area all white by banding together and agreeing to refuse to sell to orientals or Negroes.”</p> <p>This practice, called “blockbusting,” the researchers found to be widespread across the Peninsula...</p> <p>Building on this research, a 1961 report by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission on housing found that “In the Palo Alto area ... only 3 of the 600 real estate brokers and salesmen show property on a nondiscriminatory basis.” According to the commission report, many families in Belle Haven and the nearby Palo Alto Gardens, which were also subject to blockbusting, wished to buy homes in other</p>
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			<p>neighborhoods, but were “blocked in their efforts by the concentrated efforts of peninsula realtors to keep them within these clearly defined areas east of Bayshore Highway.”</p>
<p>East Palo Alto & Daly City</p>	<p>Palo Alto Online - Charles Russo / TheSixFifty.com</p>	<p>Un-forgetting the segregatio nist history of Palo Alto (and Daly City, and San Francisco, and...)</p>	<p>Interview with Richard Rothstein - "The biggest single cause of racial inequality in this country is the ongoing enormous wealth gap between African Americans and whites. African Americans have household wealth that is 5% on average of white household wealth. And that enormous disparity is largely attributable to the fact that African Americans have been restricted to neighborhoods where if they own homes at all they don't appreciate in the same way that homes in white neighborhoods do, and that African Americans in the 20th century were prohibited from moving into neighborhoods where appreciation was rapid. So the wealth gap, and all of the other social inequalities that stem from the wealth gap, they all are continuations of residential segregation."</p> <p>The suburbanization of the country that took place in the late 1940s and through the 1950s that was underwritten by the Federal Housing Administration was created on a racial basis. So you talk about the Bay Area, talk about Westlake in Daly City, a development that was financed by the Federal Housing Administration. The developer of that project, Harry Doelger, could never have generated the capital to build in Daly City on his own. No bank would have been crazy enough to lend somebody the money to build 15,000 homes which had yet to have any buyers. The only way you could do it was to go to the Federal Housing Administration and make a commitment to never sell a home to an African American, to concede to the Federal Housing Administration's requirement that every deed in the home prohibit resale or rental to African Americans. And on that basis, Daly City was built on a racially segregated, exclusively white basis. The homes at the time were relatively inexpensive... African Americans could have afforded to move to Westlake, but they were prohibited from doing so by the Federal Housing Administration and were instead concentrated in government created ghettos...</p> <p>"East Palo Alto was transformed from a white to a black neighborhood through blockbusting that was led by a realtor who was the head of California's realtor association.... Every real estate agent in California is licensed by the state, and (the realtor's association) did not pull the license of the real estate agent who led that effort in East Palo Alto, which means the licensing agency was violating the 14th Amendment... The National Association of Realtors had a code of ethics which prohibited the sale of homes in white neighborhoods to African Americans families. Every real estate agency in the country was obligated to subscribe to that code of ethics."</p>

Daly City, CA	KQED - Bay Curious	How Daly City Became One of the Most Densely Populated Cities in the Country	<p>"The federal government required... a clause in every deed that prohibited... [an] owner from reselling to African Americans or renting to African Americans... But in Daly City, and across the Bay Area, it wasn't just African Americans who were excluded — it was anyone who couldn't pass as white. That included Filipinos... as well as Latinos and Asians... Racist policies not only kept families of color out of suburban neighborhoods like Westlake [in Daly City], they blocked families of color from one of the most consistent ways to build wealth in America. Eventually, in 1968, the Fair Housing Act outlawed denying housing to someone based on their race."</p>
Daly City, CA	KQED, Bay Curious	In Daly City, the Bayanihan Spirit Is Alive and Well	<p>"[Filipinos] started moving out to Daly City as early as the mid and late '50s, but they were relegated to the area to the east of Junipero Serra [Boulevard]... Those older homes were often owned by Italian immigrants and were not part of redlined developments like Westlake where racial covenants prevented Filipinos or anyone of color from buying.</p> <p>As those first families left Daly City for jobs and homes further down the peninsula, they often sold their homes to other Filipino families. This likely established the roots of Daly City's Filipino American population...."</p>
San Mateo County	Reimagine, RP&E Journal	Segregation Shaped the San Mateo Housing Crisis	<p>"Housing availability in San Mateo County has never been determined solely by the market; decades of public policy decisions have excluded poor people and people of color. By making it almost impossible to meet housing needs, these same decisions have propelled the current crises.</p> <p>Early development in San Mateo County was shaped by segregation, as it was in many places across the U.S. Homeowners' associations and individual property owners attached restrictive covenants to their land deeds... The last restrictive covenant in San Mateo County wasn't voided until 2007...</p> <p>The U.S. government also actively promoted housing segregation through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), which financed the bulk of private home construction during World War II and helped fuel the suburban housing boom. On the pretext that segregated neighborhoods posed lower insurance risks, the FHA required covenants on property deeds where it guaranteed loans... The US Supreme Court ruled in 1948 that racial covenants couldn't be enforced (Shelley v. Kraemer). But "...the FHA and VA continued to promote racial restrictions in their loan insurance programs until the 1960s," wrote Richard Rothstein in The Making of Ferguson.</p>

		<p>After the federal Fair Housing Act passed in 1968, communities turned to planning and zoning to perpetuate segregation. While it was no longer legal to deny housing on the basis of race, cities could simply zone for large, single-family homes with spacious lawns and exclude the smaller homes and apartment buildings that low- and moderate-income people could afford... Whatever the motivation, the result has been... little housing has been produced, and most neighborhoods have stayed wealthy and white...</p> <p>San Mateo County as a whole has consistently failed to meet its obligations to provide affordable housing. From 1988 to 2014, the county issued permits for only 34 percent of the low- and very low-income housing required. Several cities issued no permits at all for housing in those brackets. Menlo Park didn't even submit the required housing action plan to the state Department of Housing and Community Development and was sued in 2012...</p> <p>Excluded from wealthy suburbs by covenants, redlining and zoning, low-income people and people of color were forced to stay out of the Peninsula entirely, or crowd into a few dilapidated neighborhoods. Many found their way north to Daly City and South San Francisco, or south to East Palo Alto, Menlo Park (Belle Haven) and North Fair Oaks."</p>
<p>Redwood City, North Fair Oaks, CA</p>	<p>Climate Redwood City</p>	<p>Rooted and uprooted in North Fair Oaks</p> <p>"North Fair Oaks, often referred to as NFO, has never been incorporated as a city with its own government, nor has it been annexed to any of the neighboring cities. This makes it the responsibility of the County of San Mateo and the five members of the Board of Supervisors. Lack of city government services also has fostered and exacerbated the contrasts between NFO and the cities that surround it, contrasts in affluence, infrastructure, public services, ethnicity and commerce...</p> <p>Of all the factors that helped make it what it is, the official U.S. guest worker policy of the 1940s, 50s and 60s, the Bracero program, was the most influential. Faced with a shortage of workers after World War II, the U.S. and Mexico negotiated agreements to bring Mexican braceros...</p> <p>"Cheap labor"... saved the American economy. But it created a massive, complicated immigration problem, of which North Fair Oaks is the exemplar. For three-quarters of a century NFO has thrived, in its own way, because of Mexican immigration. And it has suffered by the unique challenges of the complicated aftermath of official and unofficial immigration...</p> <p>The historical record contains no legitimate or even seriously-proposed idea of North Fair Oaks either becoming a city or getting city services by annexing. The reticence of the residents is one reason. Annexation requires voting, and the voting history of renters of any economic status is problematic —</p>

		<p>more than half its residential properties are rentals. 1/4 of the population does not speak English. The poor state of its public works, its infrastructure, is the big impediment...</p> <p>The county's Local Agency Formation Commission has designated Redwood City as North Fair Oaks' annexing city... but Redwood City has never undertaken the task and shows little sign that it will..."</p>
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Environmental Justice & Energy Equity

Geo-graphy	Publisher	Title	Quotes / Excerpts
Southwest San Mateo County	USC Annenberg Center for Health Journalism	Uneven Ground: Part 1 - How unequal land use harms communities in southern San Mateo County	<p>"For many years, Belle Haven was the closest neighborhood to the city's dump, now Bedwell Bayfront Park; many of the region's dumps ringed the Bay. And just across University Avenue along Bay Road in East Palo Alto, Romic Chemical Corporation began operations in 1964 and was a significant source of pollution in the community for many years. Later, community pressure and a series of environmental violations forced its shutdown in 2007.</p> <p>The corporation had a decades-long history of leaking pollutants into the community. In 1995 it was cited for discharging cyanide into the sewer lines; there were fires there in 1989 and 1993; earlier that year a worker was injured when his safety equipment leaked while he was cleaning toxic residue out of a railroad tank car. In 1999, it was cited for failing to notify the Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant when it detected a compound in its wastewater discharge known to cause cancer. In 2005, the company agreed to pay \$849,500 for violations between 1999 and 2004 such as storing waste in the wrong containers, according to the San Mateo County Times.</p> <p>It wasn't until May 2007 that the chemical recycling operation was ordered to shut down, following incidents in May 2004 and March 2006 when two employees were seriously burned, as well as in June 2006, when 4,000 gallons of solvents were released at the facility. Youth activists involved with East Palo Alto-based Youth United for Community Action are credited for their petitions, marches and rallies that pressured the operation to shut down... As of February 2018, the site was still closed due to subsurface contamination, according to the California Department of Toxic Substances."</p>
East Palo Alto, CA	Shelterforce	The Nexus between Rent Control	<p>"Because of its unincorporated status, East Palo Alto relied wholly upon San Mateo County for services. Instead of representing specific locales or districts, San Mateo supervisors were chosen through countywide elections. As a result, no supervisor specifically represented East Palo Alto. Nor did the votes of East Palo Alto residents carry sufficient weight to ensure political clout. As a result, the</p>

		and Incorporation in East Palo Alto	community’s interests were routinely ignored... San Mateo County treated East Palo Alto as a dumping ground for the county’s problems as exemplified by the siting of a waste treatment plant and the country landfill in East Palo Alto.”
East Palo Alto, CA	Silicon Valley Community Foundation	From Crisis to Solutions: A Case Study of East Palo Alto’s Water Supply	<p>“San Mateo County sited a disproportionate number of harmful industrial projects in East Palo Alto, including the county landfill, the regional hazardous waste recycling plant, auto dismantling facilities and pesticide and herbicide producers. These activities benefitted the county but imposed substantial local economic and environmental burdens on East Palo Alto. For example, the Romic hazardous waste plant operated in East Palo Alto from 1964 until 2007, when it was shut down in response to community pressure... Soil and groundwater contamination from the plant extended 80 feet below ground level; it was one of the most contaminated sites in the city.</p> <p>These land use decisions were inextricably connected to race. After World War II, the predominantly white cities that surrounded East Palo Alto used property tax rates, land use laws, municipal services and racial covenants to facilitate development of Silicon Valley’s tech industry, “clean” manufacturing and high-end suburbs, while excluding “undesirable” populations and land uses. In addition, the redevelopment of “blighted areas” of San Francisco resulted in the “expulsion of Blacks” from its small neighborhoods. However, because they lived in an unincorporated area, East Palo Alto residents were not able to make social and economic choices. The county, not the residents, controlled land use decisions. While some white East Palo Alto residents attempted to shut Black and Asian Pacific American families out of East Palo Alto, they did not have the power to enshrine their biases in local law. As a result, many of the people and the industries excluded from neighboring cities settled in East Palo Alto” (pg. 4).</p>
East Palo Alto, CA	Silicon Valley Community Foundation	From Crisis to Solutions: A Case Study of East Palo Alto’s Water Supply	<p>“East Palo Alto’s history of inadequate resources is grounded in racial, economic and political factors that disadvantaged East Palo Alto throughout the 20th century. Early land use decisions in San Mateo and neighboring counties directed toxic industrial uses to East Palo Alto, while neighboring jurisdictions captured the lion’s share of the region’s economic development. As a result, East Palo Alto has struggled for decades to build a sustainable tax base and establish a healthy jobs-housing balance. Water allocations dating back to the middle of the 20th century exacerbated these problems by limiting the city’s capacity to support economic development” (pg. 3).</p> <p>“In the six decades since its first incorporation efforts in the 1920s to its incorporation in 1983, the area that is now East Palo Alto lost important resources to state development projects and neighboring cities. In the early 1930s, a new state highway that would become Highway 101 cut through East Palo Alto,</p>

		<p>dividing the community... Neighboring cities... selectively annexed virtually all of the region’s industry by the early 1960s, decreasing East Palo Alto’s population and property values” (pg. 4).</p> <p>“In the early 20th century, the area that is now East Palo Alto largely relied on individual wells and tanks for water. However, in the mid-1920s, as individual wells went dry or suffered from saltwater contamination, neighborhoods began to form their own water districts. Thus, the East Palo Alto County Waterworks District (EPACWD) formed in 1927. EPACWD merged with a neighboring district... and served most of the area that would become East Palo Alto, as well as part of Menlo Park, until it dissolved in 2000.</p> <p>East Palo Alto was still unincorporated and served by the EPACWD when SFRWS became the area’s primary water source. San Francisco began to develop a municipal water system in 1900, pursuant to the city’s new charter... As San Francisco’s water supply grew, it began to sell water wholesale to other municipal water suppliers...</p> <p>In the 1960s, San Francisco entered into the first round of long-term agreements with many of its wholesale customers, including EPACWD, in order to ensure that it had a sufficiently stable customer base to fund planned expansions of the SFRWS... East Palo Alto has grown significantly since the 1960s... and yet, SFRWS’ water allocation to East Palo Alto changed little” (pg. 5-6).</p>
US	<p>American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy</p>	<p>How High Are Household Energy Burdens?</p> <p>“Household access to energy is central to maintaining health and well-being, yet one in three U.S. households reported difficulty paying their energy bills in 2015. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities often experience the highest energy burdens when compared to more affluent or white households. These communities often experience racial segregation, high unemployment, high poverty rates, poor housing conditions, high rates of certain health conditions, lower educational opportunity, and barriers to accessing financing and investment. Many of these characteristics are due in part to systemic racial discrimination, which has led to long-standing patterns of disenfranchisement from income and wealth-building opportunities for BIPOC communities as compared to white communities.</p> <p>Policies and practices that have led to economic and/ or social exclusion in BIPOC communities include neighborhood segregation and redlining, lack of access to mortgages and other loans, mass incarceration, employment discrimination, and the legacy of segregated and underfunded schools. These types of systemic exclusions, underinvestments, discriminative lending practices, and limited housing choices have also limited BIPOC communities’ access to efficient and healthy housing. In addition, Black communities are 68% more likely to live within 30 miles of a coal-fired power plant, and</p>

		properties in close proximity to toxic facilities average 15% lower property values than those in other areas. Black children are three times as likely to be admitted to the hospital for asthma attacks than white children. According to a study by the American Association of Blacks in Energy, while Black households spent \$41 billion on energy in 2009, they held only 1.1% of energy jobs and gained only 0.01% of the revenue from energy sector profits.” (pg. 2-3).
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Transportation Injustice

Geo-graphy	Publisher	Title	Quotes / Excerpts
East Palo Alto, CA	Shelterforce	The Nexus between Rent Control and Incorporation in East Palo Alto	“In 1958... the expansion of the Bayshore Freeway... led to the erasure of East Palo Alto’s main business district and the closure of over 50 shops, only a few of which relocated within the community. Appeals by local residents to shift the route to spare the business district were rejected. Freeway construction also prompted neighborhoods to the west of the Bayshore to leave Ravenswood School District, which served East Palo Alto and parts of Menlo Park, and to join the Menlo Park School District, thereby worsening existing patterns of racial segregation in schools”.

Additional Discriminatory Actions (Chinese Exclusion Laws and Japanese Internment)

Geo-graphy	Publisher	Title	Quotes / Excerpts
United States	National Archives	Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)	<p>“The Chinese Exclusion Act was approved on May 6, 1882. It was the first significant law restricting immigration into the United States... This act provided an absolute 10-year ban on Chinese laborers immigrating to the United States. For the first time, federal law proscribed entry of an ethnic working group on the premise that it endangered the good order of certain localities...</p> <p>The 1882 exclusion act also placed new requirements on Chinese who had already entered the country... Congress, moreover, refused state and federal courts the right to grant citizenship to Chinese resident aliens, although these courts could still deport them.</p>

			<p>When the exclusion act expired in 1892, Congress extended it for 10 years in the form of the Geary Act. This extension, made permanent in 1902, added restrictions by requiring each Chinese resident to register and obtain a certificate of residence. Without a certificate, they faced deportation...</p> <p>With increased immigration following World War I, Congress adopted new means for regulation: quotas and requirements pertaining to national origin... In 1943, when China was a member of the Allied Nations during World War II, Congress repealed all the exclusion acts. However, quotas remained [however] foreign-born Chinese [did win] the right to seek naturalization.</p> <p>The so-called national origin system, with various modifications, lasted until Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1965... The Immigration Act of 1990 provided the most comprehensive change in legal immigration since 1965.</p> <p>In 2011-2012, Congress condemned the Chinese Exclusion Act and affirmed a commitment to preserve civil rights and constitutional protections for all people."</p>
California	State of California	<p>1879 California State Constitutional Amendment (Article 19)</p>	<p>"ARTICLE XIX. CHINESE.</p> <p>SEC. 2. No corporation now existing or hereafter formed under the laws of this State, shall, after the adoption of this Constitution, employ directly or indirectly, in any capacity, any Chinese or Mongolian. The Legislature shall pass such laws as may be necessary to enforce this provision.</p> <p>SEC. 3. No Chinese shall be employed on any State, county, municipal, or other public work, except in punishment for crime.</p> <p>SEC. 4. The presence of foreigners ineligible to become citizens of the United States is declared to be dangerous to the well-being of the State, and the Legislature shall discourage their immigration by all the means within its power... All companies or corporations, whether formed in this country or any foreign country, for the importation of such labor, shall be subject to such penalties as the Legislature may prescribe. The Legislature shall delegate all necessary power to the incorporated cities and towns of this State for the removal of Chinese without the limits of such cities and towns, or for their location within prescribed portions of those limits, and it shall also provide the necessary legislation to prohibit the introduction into this State of Chinese after the adoption of this Constitution."</p>
Bay Area, including South San	Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society, University of	<p>roots, race, & place - A History of Racially Exclusionary</p>	<p>"California adopted alien land laws in 1913 and 1920 with the purpose of driving Japanese farmers out of California agriculture and undermining the economic foundation of Japanese immigrant society. The 1913 law prohibited "aliens ineligible to citizenship," which included all Asian immigrants, from purchasing agricultural land, restricted their leases to three years, and prohibited the sale or inheritance of land by one alien ineligible for citizenship to another. Japanese immigrant farmers were initially able to circumvent the law by purchasing land in the names of their US-born children or land companies until</p>

Francisco	California, Berkeley	Housing in the San Francisco Bay Area	<p>1920, when California voters approved a more stringent law proposed by the legislature that prohibited aliens ineligible for citizenship from leasing agricultural land altogether, buying and selling stock in land companies that owned or leased agricultural land, and appointing themselves as guardians of minors who held land in their names. The 1920 Alien Land Law was later amended to also fully prohibit the usage, cultivation, and occupancy of agricultural land for beneficial purposes to restrict Japanese American farmers from engaging in contract cropping agreements with landowners.</p> <p>Before the alien land laws were struck down, forced internment of people of Japanese descent during World War II resulted in a massive loss of property and community in the Bay Area. Over the span of a few months, Japanese Americans were rounded up by US soldiers and local police, assisted by local officials and business leaders. In May 1942, the San Francisco Chronicle reported: “For the first time in 81 years, not a single Japanese is walking the streets of San Francisco... Last night Japanese town was empty. Its stores were vacant, its windows plastered with “To Lease” signs.”</p> <p>All were required to sell or give away their belongings, and just weeks of notice provided insufficient time to get a fair price for farms, businesses, and homes. The economic loss has been estimated at \$1–\$3 billion nationally (not adjusted for inflation).</p> <p>During World War II, Californians aggressively sought to enforce the alien land laws to prevent interned Japanese Americans from returning. The laws remained in place until 1952, when they were overturned by a series of court cases (Oyama v. California, Fujii v. California, and Masaoka v. California) and furthermore made obsolete by the Immigration Act of 1952, which declared Japanese immigrants eligible for citizenship. They were officially repealed by a ballot proposition in 1956” (pg. 19-20)</p>
San Bruno, CA	Densho Encyclopedia	Tanforan (detention facility)	<p>“The Tanforan Assembly Center was located on the site of the Tanforan Racetrack in San Bruno, California. It was the second largest of the temporary WCCA camps, located... near the San Francisco International Airport. The camp was occupied from April 28 to October 13, 1942... All in all, 8,033 Americans of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated at Tanforan, 64 per cent of whom were U.S. citizens. About half of the inmates lived in former horse stalls. 98 per cent of the 7,824 Japanese Americans in Tanforan who were transferred to "relocation centers" were sent to the Central Utah WRA camp also known as Topaz...</p>