



# Community Resilience Yes, Junkyards No!

Ashley Valentin Gonzalez  
Dr. Alberto Pulido, Ethnic Studies Department



## Background:

**Environmental Racism:** The practice of implementing policies based on race and socio-economic background that results in disadvantages to marginalized communities in relation to their emotional and physical well-being (Cutter, 1995)

- During the 1950's Logan Heights was transformed from residential into residential mixed-use zoning:
  - By the 1960's, Interstate 5 and Coronado Bridge was constructed and 75% of the community was forced to move
  - Over 100 auto junkyards, industrial plants, and other outside businesses entered the community
  - There was a sense of displacement and uprootedness by the people of Logan
  - Many residents did not know that they had the power and right to protest against these new developments as they were not informed that this was happening

To this day, there exists an antagonistic relationship between those affiliated with the polluting industries and the residents of Logan Heights

Figure 1 shows the Barrio Logan 1978 Community Plan Land Use Map

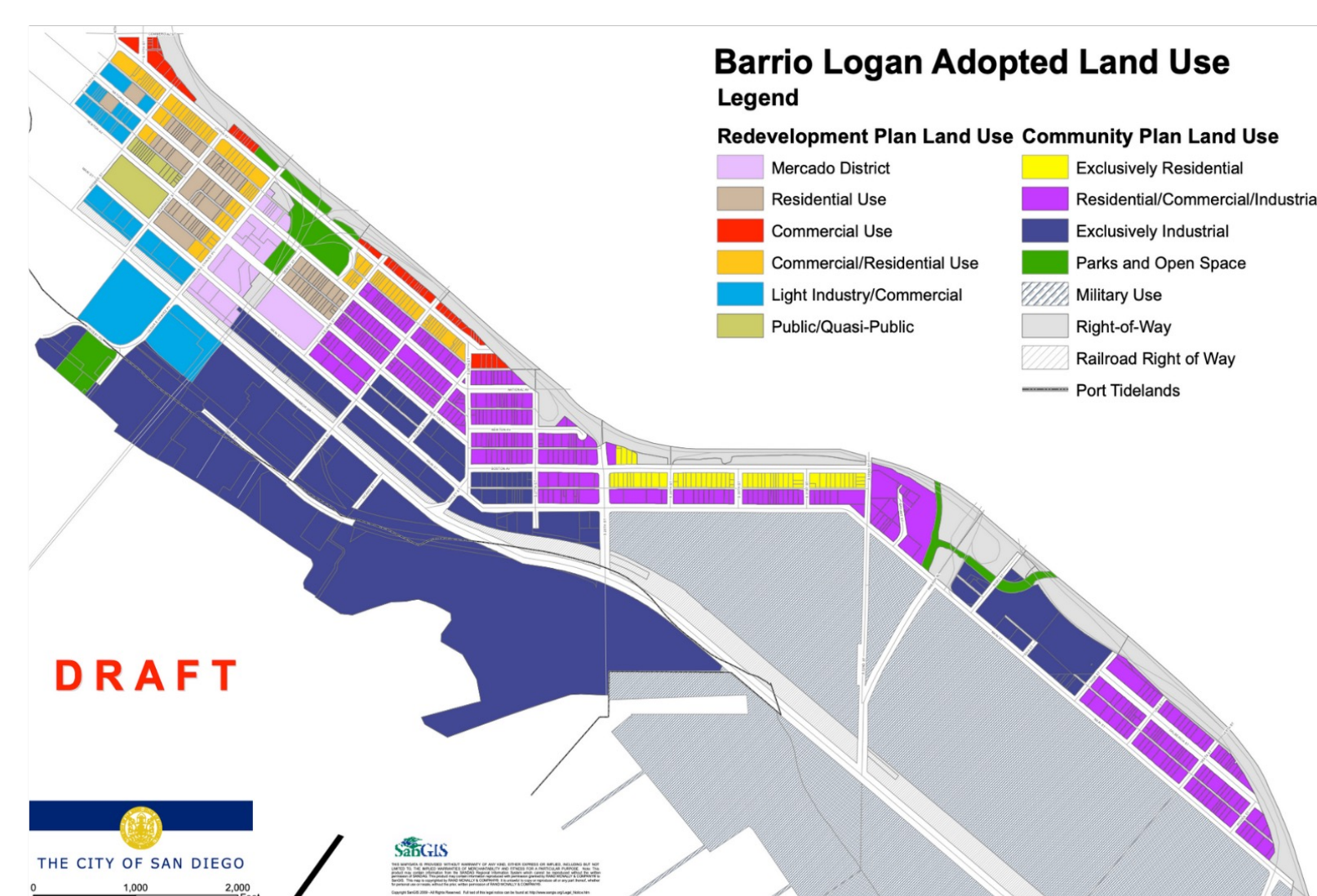
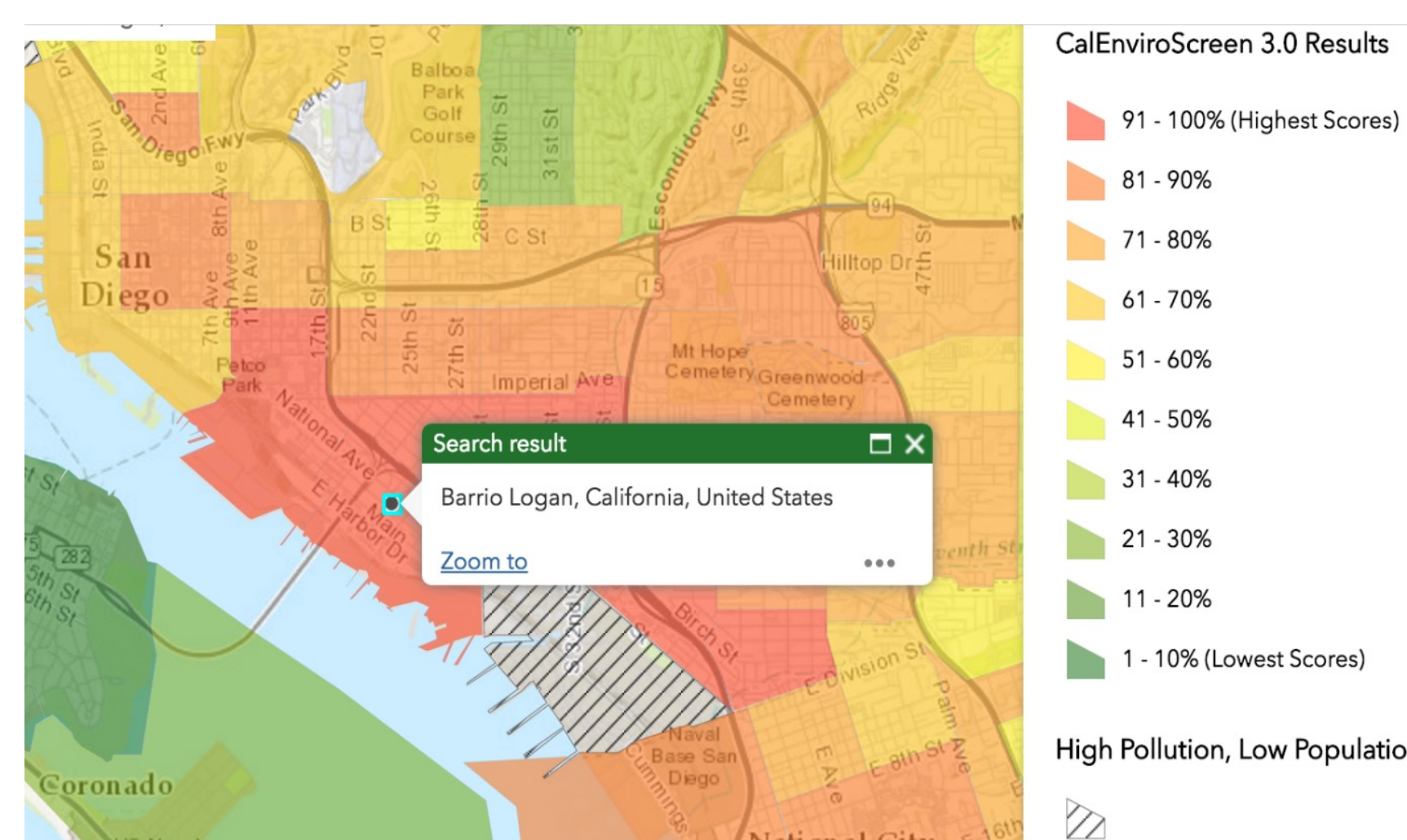


Figure 2 shows the air pollution in San Diego County



## Objective:

Discover how and why issues of environmental justice have been at the center of community mobilization in Logan Heights for over 50 years

- Historical Connection:

Between the battle over greenspace between the Chicano Park takeover and the junkyard

- Recovering History:

Understand the complexity of the junkyard history as part of the Chicano Park takeover and learn from community members

- Community Mobilization:

Will result in re-building and pressuring the neighborhoods that were destroyed and disregarded by policymakers

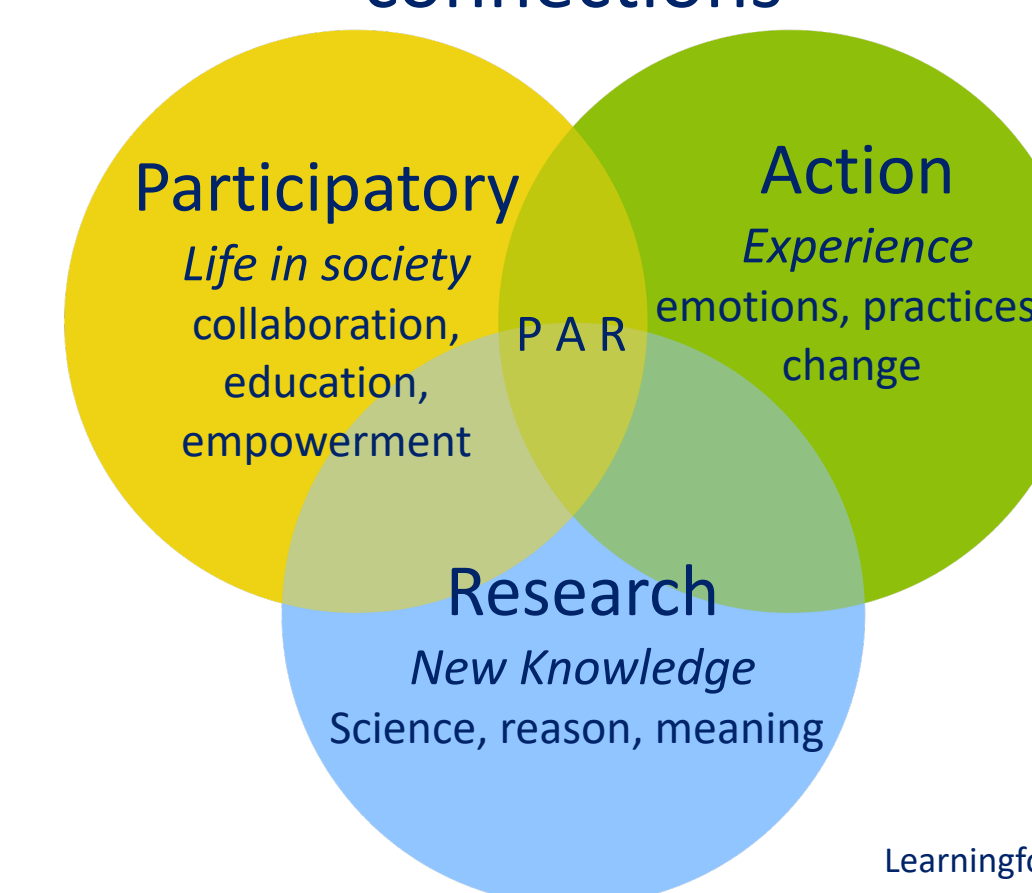


## Methods:

Planning to adopt a Participatory Action Research Approach (PAR) and Community Epistemology:

- Analyze data from the CalEnviro 3.0 and Census Tract to understand environmental effects indicators and pollution burden indicators
- Collect historical data from the Logan Heights community

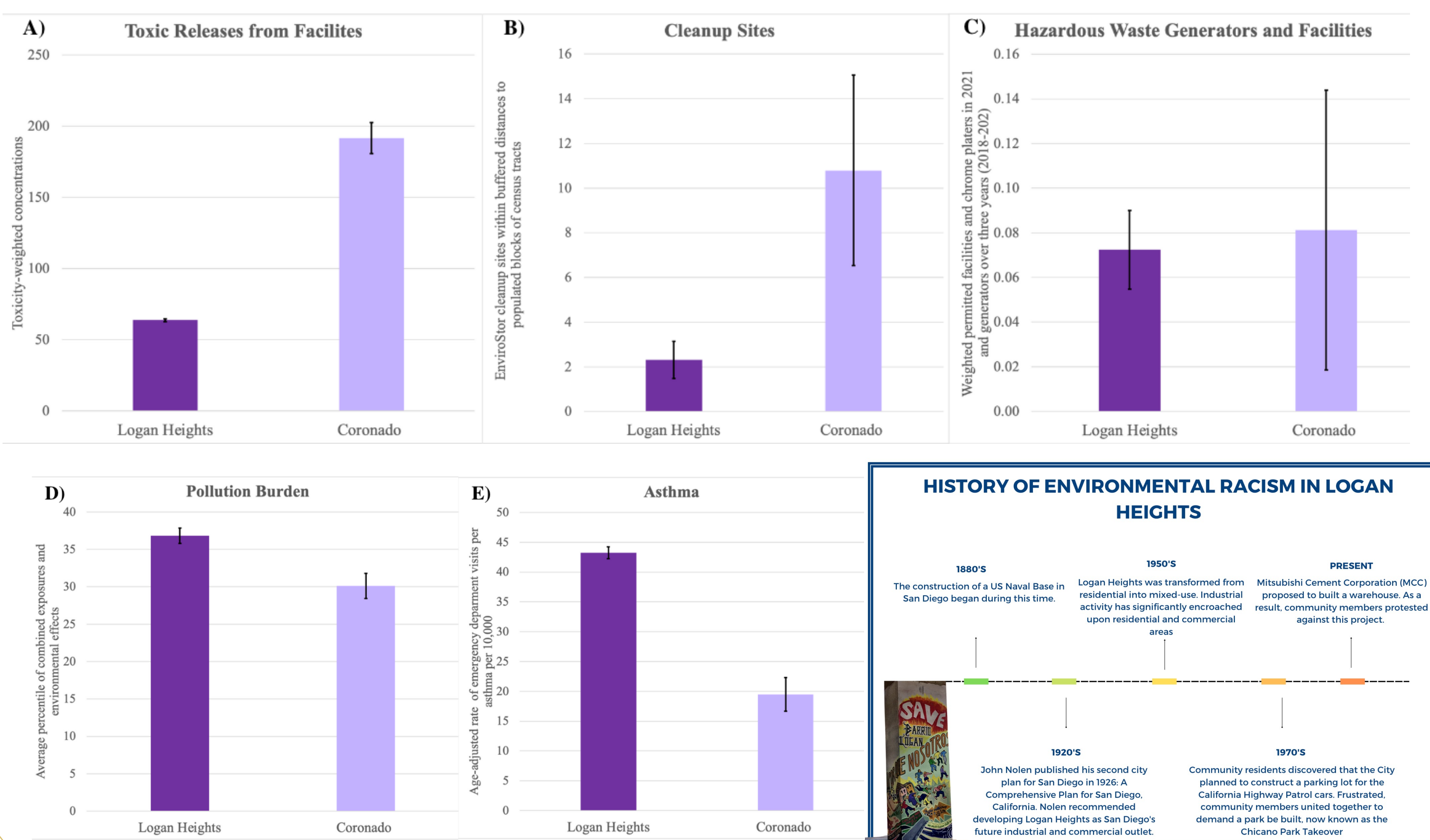
The goal is to integrate the current struggles for green space into current and historical connections



Learningforsustainability.net

## Results:

Figure 3A-4E compares the pollution burden and environmental effects indicators in Logan Heights and Coronado



## Discussion:

- Compared to national and regional trends, San Diego has poorer air quality
- Children in Logan Heights have 3-5 times more asthma hospitalizations compared to other communities in San Diego (Takvorian 2020)
- San Diego County, including Logan Heights rank in the top 25% for overall hazards in California (Takvorian 2020)
- Information from toxic cleanup sites and facilities not made public by the private sector or Navy bases

## Future Directions:

- Study additional sources of pollution and factors that contribute to air pollution
- Sample at other sites in District 8 and 9
- Connect the history of the battle over greenspace in Logan Heights (ex: Mitsubishi Cement Company)

Scan here to learn how to get more involved:



## References

"Barrio Logan." *Environmental Health Coalition, CDC (2009) Health Effects on Gentrification.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Childs Josh, Jafolla Caitlin (2011) *Greater Logan Heights: Five Neighborhoods, One Community.* Mirle Rabinowitz Bussel Urban Studies and Planning 193.

"Community Profiles: Barrio Logan." *The City of San Diego, The City of San Diego.*

Delgado, Kevin (1998) *A Turning Point- San Diego History Center: San Diego, CA: Our City, Our Story.* San Diego History Center, *Our City, Our Story.* Logan, City of San Diego, California (2001)." *The Public Historian*, vol. 23, np. 4, pp. 91-111.

Smith, Brian (2011). *Barrio Logan Historical Resources Survey*, City of San Diego City Planning & Community Investment Community Planning & Urban Form Divisions. *The Takeover of Chicano Park.* Chicano Park, The History of Chicano Park.

## Acknowledgments

I want to acknowledge the McNair Program and Turning Wheel for their mentorship and funding. I also want to thank and honor Dr. Alberto Pulido, my parents, elders and community members from Logan Heights for their guidance, love and support through this entire process.