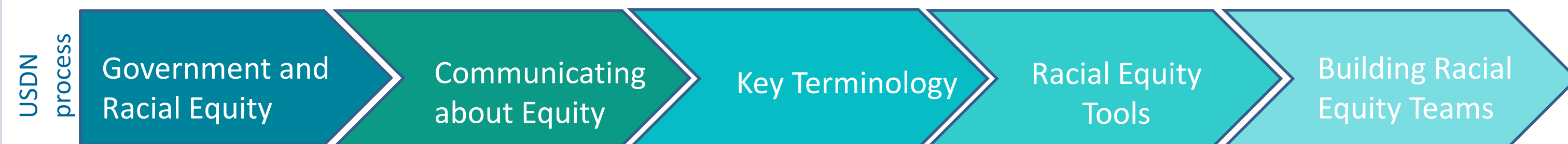


### Planning for a Resilient County



#### Equity Foundations Program

Racial equity is essential to climate adaptation; climate change is affecting low income communities of color first and worst. I initiated and facilitated a five-part equity training for the Sustainability Office, designed for local governments by the Urban Sustainability Director's Network.

#### Why do local governments need to consider racial equity?

Local governments have historically played a key role in upholding racial inequities. Race is still a determinant of health, financial and other outcomes in Alameda County. In order to counteract these structures of inequity, jurisdictions need to be explicit about promoting equity.

#### Outcomes:

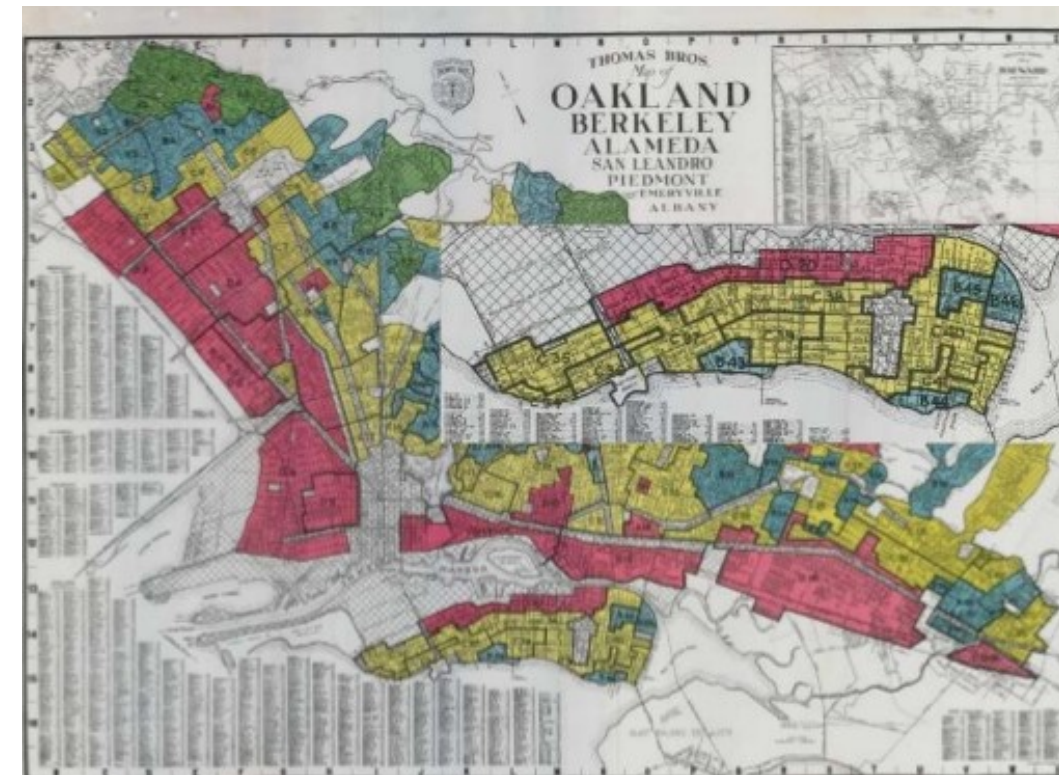
- 11 staff completed the training sequence
- 90% of participants surveyed felt better prepared to choose projects that advance equity
- Explicit racial equity lens applied to ongoing, cross-agency heat mapping project

#### Heat Vulnerability Mapping Project

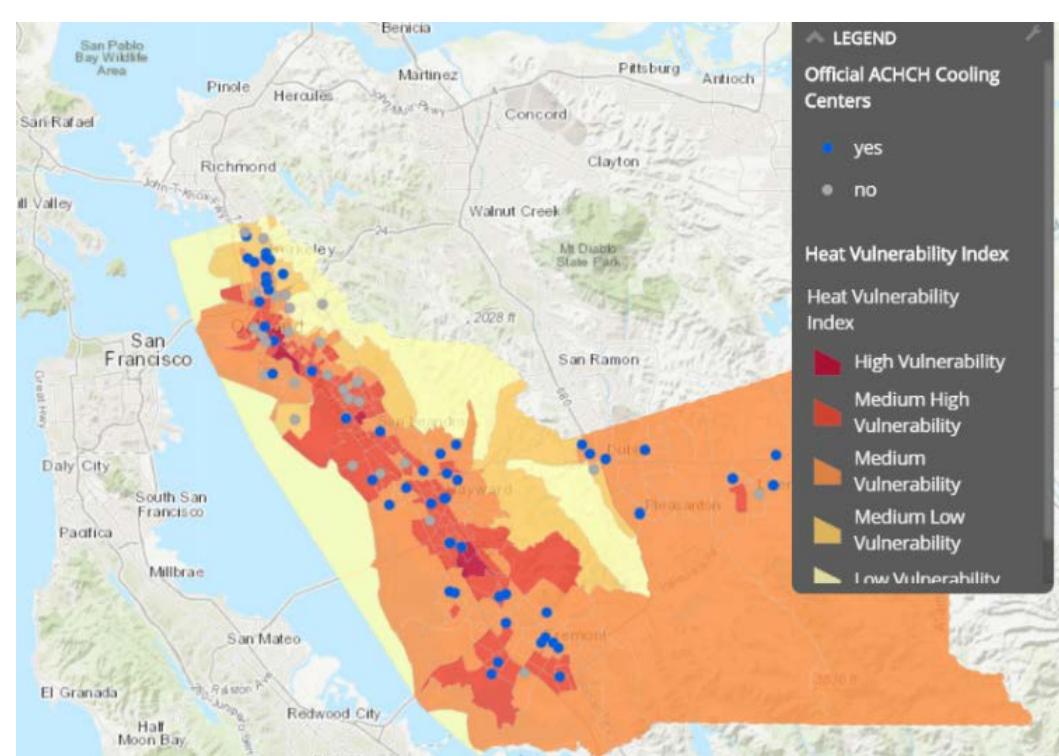
We worked with a consultant to create heat and vulnerability interactive story maps of Alameda County with cooling centers.

**Goal:** Identify most vulnerable areas to determine whether cooling centers are meeting community needs.

**Project partners include:** Alameda County Library, Health Care for the Homeless, Public Health, Community Development Agency.

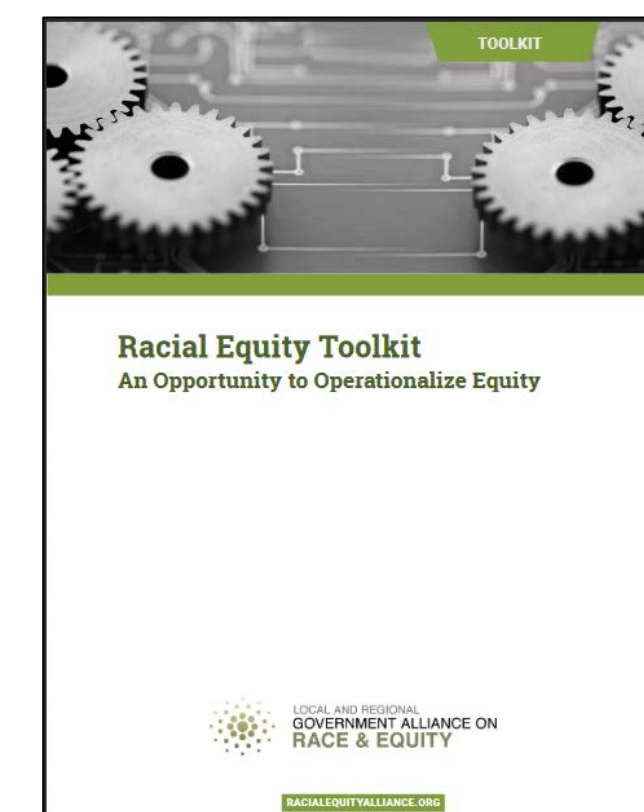


Redlined map of cities in Alameda County from the 1930s, which demonstrates a legalized system of discriminatory lending practices towards communities of color



Alameda County map of overall heat vulnerability, including social, environmental and other factors, and with cooling center locations included

### Working Towards Integration



Racial equity tool that I applied to the heat mapping project, from GARE (Government Alliance for Race and Equity)

#### Racial Equity in Project Planning: Considerations

- Clarifying the role of the Sustainability Office, which is operationally focused. Some options include:
  - Raising questions about equity in collaborative projects
  - Sharing equity examples across programs because we work with many county partners
  - Learning from other agencies and groups

#### Scaling the program

- Alameda County has been a member of the Government Alliance for Race and Equity (GARE) network since 2014, with representatives from different departments: this is a potential platform for sharing resources inside and outside the county

### What's Next?

#### Next steps:

- Equity orientation for new summer interns, based on USDN model and other research
- Case studies of current equity-focused projects including: initial vulnerability assessment, smoke communication designed to reach at-risk groups, tree planting in unincorporated areas of county
- Building capacity inside and outside the Sustainability Office through more trainings, discussion and implementation

#### Long-term goal:

Incorporation of racial equity and climate adaptation into county climate action plans and projects, to ensure that all of Alameda County is prepared for the climate challenges ahead

Take action NOW



Recognize and share decision making power



Equity and adaptation best practices from presentation I gave to 70 Climate Corps fellows

After graduating from Harvard with a degree in Environmental History, I wanted experience in implementation at the local government level. I'm interested in the intersection of climate adaptation, equity and justice, and the built environment—making cities more resilient for everyone.

Savannah Whaley

#### Acknowledgements:

Huge thanks to my supervisor, Emily Sadigh, the rest of the Alameda County fellows, Sustainability Office Staff, the Climate Corps cohort, and all of our great partners.

