

Healthiest communities in San Diego

Coronado, Pine Valley among top environmentally healthy areas in state

By [Deborah Sullivan Brennan \(/staff/deborah-brennan/\)](/staff/deborah-brennan/) 5:54 p.m. July 12, 2013



[\(/photos/2013/jul/12/1059083/\)](/photos/2013/jul/12/1059083/)

Coronado Island was ranked as one of the healthiest communities in California by CalEnviroScreen.

A state environmental program that marks five San Diego communities as among the most compromised in the state also identifies three local areas as some of the healthiest.

The CalEnviroScreen, a new state program that rates communities by their environmental health, ranked the 92135 ZIP code of Coronado Island among the healthiest 10 percent of communities in the state, and the 92060 ZIP code of Mount Palomar, the 91962 ZIP code of Pine Valley and the 92147 ZIP code off Rosecrans Street as among the top 5 percent.

CalEPA rolled out the program in April to highlight areas most endangered by pollution. It analyzes the combined effects of toxics such as air and water pollution, diesel exhaust, pesticides and solid waste, along with population characteristics that increase vulnerability to pollution, such as education level, poverty and the number of asthma cases and premature births.

It identified Barrio Logan as among the top five most environmentally impaired areas of California, and parts of Escondido, Chula Vista, National City and El Cajon as among the worst 10 percent. Those are red-flagged as communities urgently in need of cleanup and sustainable development. State money from the Cap and Trade Fund was earmarked for their improvement, although the state borrowed half a billion dollars for the general fund.

Although two of the three healthiest communities are located on the San Diego Bay, four out of five of the worst are also on the Bay, showing that the factors influencing environmental health vary widely between adjacent areas. Indeed, although the part of Chula Vista fronting the Bay was ranked as one of the most impaired, an inland portion of the city, the 91914 ZIP code, was ranked as one of the healthiest 20 percent of California communities.

In contrast to the part of the city marked as polluted, which showed high levels of hazardous and solid waste, groundwater threats and air pollution, the healthier part of the community had low levels of ozone, with zero pesticides, cleanup sites, groundwater threats and solid waste.

Sunset Cliffs and a portion of San Diego south of Poway were ranked among the healthiest 15 percent. Other portions of Coronado, along with Camp Pendleton, and the rural communities of Descanso and Ranchita, ranked among the top 20 percent.

© Copyright 2013 The San Diego Union-Tribune, LLC. An MLIM LLC Company. All rights reserved.