

13.8. [POLICY][AMBRIZ/HILL/INOUYE] Limited MVCC English - Proficiency Policy – Discussion and possible action regarding a limited English - proficiency policy for the Mar Vista Community Council.

Background:

In the report [L.A. Speaks: Language Diversity and English Proficiency by Los Angeles County Service Planning Area](#), it is stated that:

“Los Angeles County is home to more immigrants than any other county in the nation. Nearly one in three persons countywide have Limited English Proficiency, or face some difficulty communicating in English that impacts their ability to access critical services delivered only in English. Asian and Latino residents are more likely than other residents to face language barriers; 48% of Latinos and 43% of Asians in Los Angeles County are LEP.”

This report broke down US Census Data on LEP for each of the Service Planning Areas (SPAs) in Los Angeles County (attached). The MVCC in is SPA 5 (West). This information shows that:

- Spanish is the second most common language spoken in SPA 5. There are 82,905 Spanish speakers, 14.2% of the population.
- The Latino number 98,310, or 16% of the total area population. Of that group, 36,420 or 40% are considered LEP.

Among their policy recommendations:

- Develop and implement a written policy addressing how the agency will meet oral and written language needs of clients.
- Outreach to LEP communities about their right to linguistically appropriate services and how to obtain them.

More recent data from the [Know Your Community LA Hub](#) specifically for the Mar Vista Community Council catchment area (attached) shows that:

- Spanish is the second most common language spoken by people living in Mar Vista. There are a total of 9,592 Spanish speakers, which is 20% of the total population surveyed by the American Community Survey for their language preferences.
- Of those who speak Spanish, 1,875 or 20% are considered LEP.

Additionally, between 2017 and 2019, the [Advancement Project California](#), worked to establish a Los Angeles City Office of Civic Engagement with several community partners.

On their website they state:

“In Los Angeles, significant racial and socioeconomic disparities exist in voting and other forms of public participation. Generally, Whites, individuals with higher incomes, and older individuals are overrepresented and participate at higher rates than low-income, people of color, and their younger counterparts. This is problematic because it results in policy decision-making that is uninformed by

*and thus inadequately responsive to the interests and needs of all residents. The underlying factor is not apathy, but barriers, such as lower levels of income and education, **limited English proficiency**, and inaccessible participation processes. Low-income communities of color care AND want to be involved, but multiple barriers hinder their ability to participate.”*

Their efforts resulted in (1) the release of the report [Making Public Participation Equitable](#) and (2) the establishment of an Office of Community Engagement (OCE) within the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. They state that the City is currently working on the implementation of the OCE.

Motion

The Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC) recognizes that the two most common languages spoken, written and read by our stakeholders are English and Spanish.

The MVCC acknowledges even if a stakeholder is able to speak (some) English, they may still have Limited English Proficiency (LEP) when it comes to reading and writing English.

The MVCC is aware that the issue of LEP has been cited as a reason some members of our community do not participate in our Neighborhood Council, City government or vote.

To increase civic engagement, the Mar Vista Community Council adopts the following Limited English Proficiency policy.

- 1) The MVCC will make its website accessible to all stakeholders in the language in which they are most proficient via the use of a translate button.
- 2) The MVCC will post its Board and Committee agendas and minutes in both written English and Spanish. Other languages may be available upon request.
- 3) The MVCC will provide all meeting handouts and supplemental materials in both written English and Spanish. Other languages may be available upon request.
- 4) For items 2) and 3) above, it will be the responsibility of the committee chairs/Board Secretary to obtain the translations of materials and post them on the MVCC website.
- 5) The MVCC will conduct all of its outreach in both English and Spanish. Other languages may be available upon request. It will be the responsibility of the Outreach Committee chairs to obtain the translations of the outreach materials.
- 6) The MVCC will utilize the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and City resources available to it for translation services. The costs associated with these services will appear as a standing line item on the MVCC budget.
- 7) The MVCC will assess the language capacity of the Board by creating and maintaining a list of Board members who speak languages other than English. However, it is at the discretion of each individual Board member whether they are willing to provide translation services.
- 8) If possible, practical and/or feasible, the MVCC can recruit and utilize volunteers to help with translation services. The volunteers will be supervised by the Board. All written materials translated by volunteers will be submitted to DONE for approval before they are distributed to stakeholders.

Los Angeles County Service Planning Area 5 West

L.A. SPEAKS: LANGUAGE DIVERSITY AND ENGLISH PROFICIENCY BY LOS ANGELES COUNTY SERVICE PLANNING AREA

TABLE SPA5-1: PRIMARY LANGUAGE*

	Primary Language	Number	Percent
1	English only	381,403	65.2
2	Spanish	82,905	14.2
3	Persian (Farsi)	26,002	4.4
4	Chinese	12,993	2.2
5	Japanese	9,445	1.6
6	French	8,951	1.5
7	Korean	7,644	1.3
8	German	5,051	0.9
9	Tagalog	5,049	0.9
10	Hebrew	4,980	0.9

*For the population 5-years-of-age and older.

TABLE SPA5-2: POPULATION, POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS BY RACIAL (SUB)GROUP*

Selected Groups	Population		Limited English Proficient**		Foreign Born	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
African American	45,600	7	1,850	4	4,850	11
Asian	76,050	12	20,520	28	44,830	59
Asian Indian	8,430	1	1,110	15	5,690	67
Cambodian	200	0	100	53	110	55
Chinese, NT***	18,990	3	5,390	30	10,810	57
Filipino	10,780	2	1,670	17	6,830	63
Hmong	20	0				
Japanese	18,250	3	6,580	37	7,510	41
Korean	10,050	2	4,630	48	7,230	72
Vietnamese	2,830	0	1,190	47	1,760	62
Latino	96,310	16	36,420	40	48,500	49
Guatemalan	2,260	0				
Mexican	64,530	11	25,100	42	29,500	46
Salvadoran	3,940	1	2,120	55	3,240	82
NH White****	402,770	66	24,170	6	76,610	19
Armenian	2,980	0	800	28	1,680	56
Iranian	27,360	4	9,940	38	21,560	79
SPA5	613,191	100	81,160	14	172,990	28

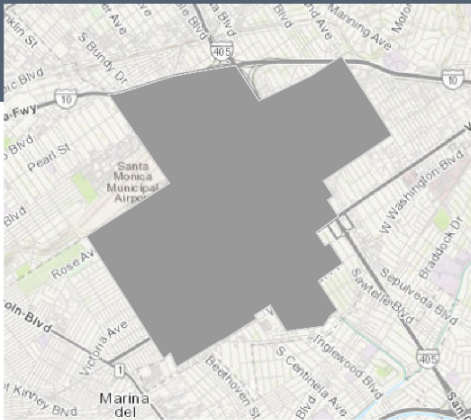
*Data by racial (sub)group are measured as alone or in combination and include overlap with other racial (sub)groups. All racial (sub)groups not shown. Figures rounded to nearest ten, will not sum to total or 100%.

**For the population 5-years-of-age and older.

***Chinese, non-Taiwanese.

****Non-Hispanic White

Technical note: Percent figures listed under primary language and population should be read as percent of column, or total population. Percent figures listed under limited English proficient and foreign-born should be read as percent of row, or racial group/racial subgroup.



AT RISK POPULATION PROFILE

Mar Vista



Mar Vista

50,833 Population **22,233** Households **2.27** Avg Size Household **38.4** Median Age **\$83,723** Median Household Income **\$1,168,123** Median Home Value **121** Wealth Index **42** Housing Affordability **76** Diversity Index

AT RISK POPULATION



3,636

Households With Disability



7,670

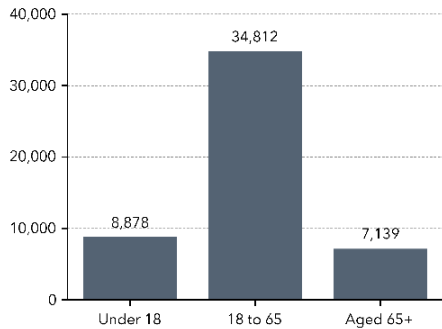
Population 65+



1,407

Households Without Vehicle

POPULATION BY AGE



POVERTY AND LANGUAGE



10%

Households Below the Poverty Level



2,247

Households Below the Poverty Level



49

Pop 65+ Speak Spanish & No English

POPULATION AND BUSINESSES



46,553

Daytime Population



1,567

Total Businesses



10,068

Total Employees

Language Spoken (ACS)	Age 5-17	18-64	Age 65+	Total
English Only	3,708	20,645	4,836	29,189
Spanish	1,511	7,052	1,029	9,592
Spanish & English Well	1,463	5,568	686	7,717
Spanish & English Not Well	48	934	294	1,276
Spanish & No English	0	550	49	599
Indo-European	361	3,243	623	4,227
Indo-European & English Well	352	3,215	472	4,039
Indo-European & English Not Well	9	28	116	153
Indo-European & No English	0	0	35	35
Asian-Pacific Island	295	3,738	658	4,691
Asian-Pacific Isl & English Well	269	3,542	352	4,163
Asian-Pacific Isl & English Not Well	26	111	243	380
Asian-Pacific Isl & No English	0	85	63	148
Other Language	35	768	144	947
Other Language & English Well	22	752	133	907
Other Language & English Not Well	13	16	11	40
Other Language & No English	0	0	0	0

Source: Esri forecasts for 2020; Census Bureau 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Data.

Links:

L.A. Speaks: Language Diversity and English Proficiency by Los Angeles County Service Planning Area

<https://advancingjustice-la.org/media-and-publications/publications/la-speaks-language-diversity-and-english-proficiency-los-angeles-county>

Know Your Community LA Hub

<https://know-your-community-lahub.hub.arcgis.com/pages/demographic-explorer>

Advancement Project California

<https://www.advancementprojectca.org/what-we-do/political-voice/public-participation-governance/los-angeles-office-of-civic-engagement>

Making Public Participation Equitable

<https://www.advancementprojectca.org/tools-we-use/publications/making-public-participation-equitable-recommendations-for-an-office-of-civic-engagement-in-los-angeles>