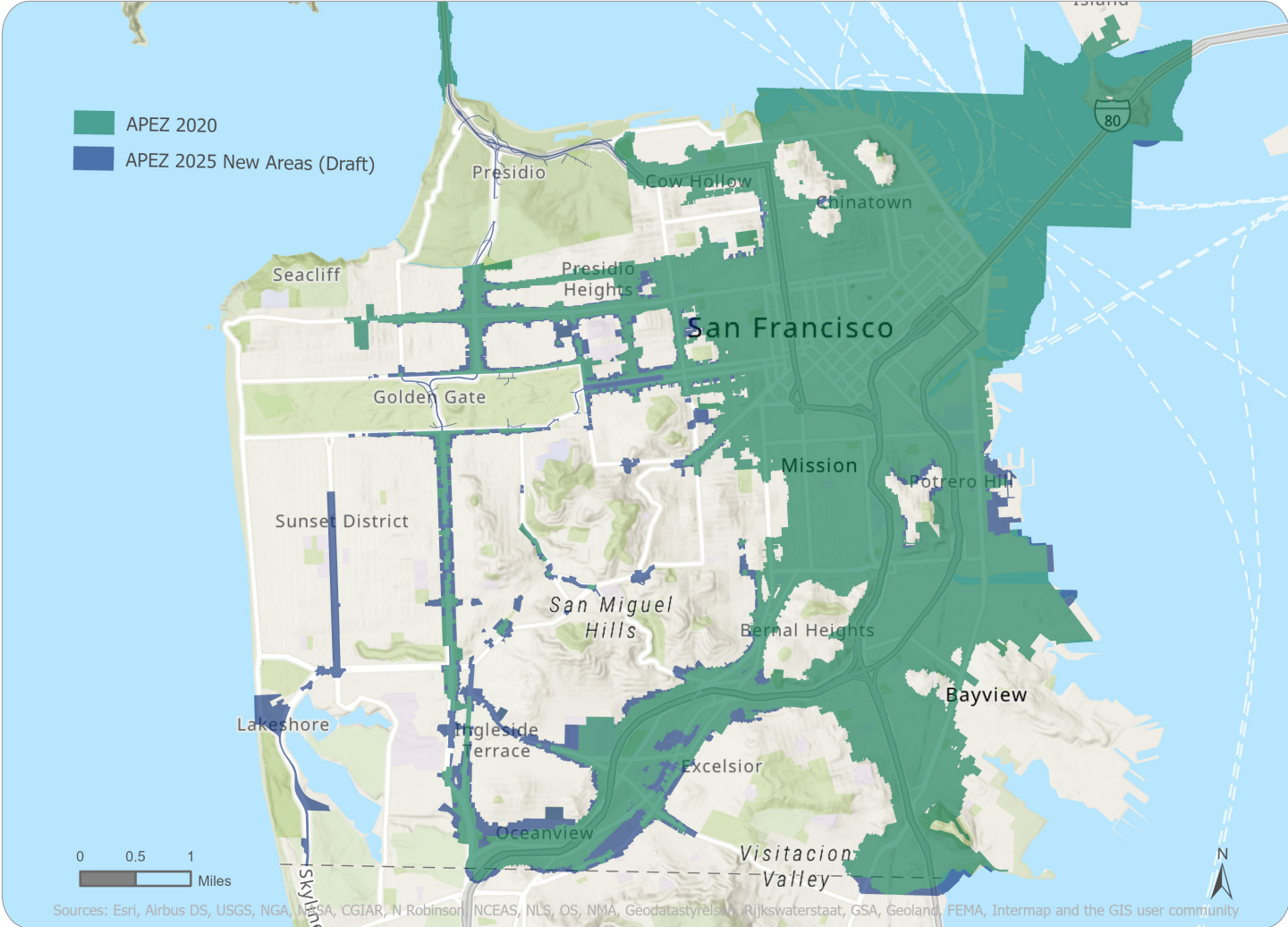


Proposed 2025 Update to the 2020 Air Pollutant Exposure Zone



What is being proposed?

The City of San Francisco is proposing an update to the Air Pollutant Exposure Zone (APEZ), which is required every five years by Article 38 of the health code. The update would reflect a new federal standard for air quality and enhance health protection for San Francisco residents.

In February 2024, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) announced its decision to lower the current PM_{2.5} standard of 12 µg/m³ to 9 µg/m³ to provide increased public health protection, consistent with the available health science. Currently, the City and County of San Francisco identifies PM_{2.5} health risk at 10 µg/m³ citywide, and 9 µg/m³ within health vulnerable zip codes, as areas with elevated air pollution.

What would change?

Health Code Article 38 would implement the following air pollutant exposure zone criteria beginning in January 1, 2025:

- where particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) is greater than or equal to 9 µg/m³ or where the risk of cancer from air pollutants is greater than or equal to 100 in a million.

As a result of this proposed update, more areas of San Francisco would be included in the APEZ map. Current criteria that would stay the same include:

- in health vulnerable ZIP codes (94102, 94103, 94110, 94124, and 94134), where the risk of cancer from air pollutants is greater than or equal to 90 in a million; or
- locations within 500 feet of any freeway.

