



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

April 18, 2019
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Policy B Committee Conference Room
SCAG’s Main Office
900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017

MEETING SUMMARY

1. WELCOME AND SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Ping Chang, Manager of Compliance and Performance Monitoring Department at SCAG, welcomed all participants.

SCAG Headquarters:

*Jean Armbruster, LA County Dept. of Public Health
Robyn Chaconas, Placeworks
Carolyn Coleman, CAP-OC
Curtis Gibbs, CAP-OC
Shirley Medina, Riverside County Transportation
Commission
Mercedes Meneses, LA Metro
Janet Scully, LA County Dept. of Public Health
Gail Shiimoto-Lohr, City of Mission Viejo
Jessica Wuyek, Placeworks*

SCAG Staff:

*Anita Au
Ping Chang
Carolyn Camarena
Kimberly Clark
Ma’Ayn Johnson
Mengdi Li
Tom Vo*

Webinar:

*Deborah Allen, City of Rancho Cucamonga
Jason Douglas, LADCP
Demi Espinoza, SRTS National Partnership
Victor Ferrer, City of South Gate
Oliver Gaskell, IBI Group
Charles Guiam, City of Anaheim
Natalie Hernandez, Climate Resolve
Jazmine Johnson, PSR-LA
H.P. Kang, City of Hemet
Serena Liu, Caltrans District 12
Claudia Manrique, City of Moreno Valley
Richard Marshalian, LA County Dept. of Regional Planning
Steve Masura, Willdan
Melanie McCann, City of Santa Ana
Wayne Morrell, City of Santa Fe Springs
Adam Orta, City of Barstow
Marika Poynter, City of Irvine
Adam Rush, City of Banning
Rick Schroeder, Many Mansions
Lea Short, Cal State Fullerton
Carolyn Sims, Southern California Edison
Rebecca Zaragoza, Leadership Council for Justice &
Accountability*

2. EJWG JANUARY MEETING SUMMARY

Anita Au, Associate Regional Planner, SCAG

The summary for the Environmental Justice Working Group meeting held on January 24, 2019 is available and has been sent out via email. Please send any revisions or corrections to Anita Au at au@scag.ca.gov

3. SCAG COMMENTS ON OPR'S UPDATED EJ CHAPTER IN GENERAL PLAN GUIDELINES

Anita Au, Associate Regional Planners, SCAG

Document Summary:

- SCAG staff provided four (4) comments on OPR's environmental justice chapter in the general plan guidelines that recommend OPR includes:
 - Additional information to the "Healthy and Environmentally Just Communities" document
 - Recommendations from OPR on screening Disadvantaged Communities
 - Additional topics for analysis such as accessibility to employment, jobs/housing mismatch, and climate vulnerability
 - Additional data sources for equity and EJ
- SCAG staff will provide more updates on this as it becomes available.

4. EJ REPORT UPDATE

Tom Vo and Anita Au, Senior/Associate Regional Planners, SCAG

Presentation Summary:

- SCAG staff presented an update on the re-categorization of the EJ Performance Measures by a three-tier approach: applicable questions, general plan elements, and types of analysis.
- SCAG staff provided information on additional meetings and workshops and Connect SoCal draft and final report release dates.
 - Subregional Meetings & Connect SoCal Public Workshops: May - June 2019
 - Connect SoCal Draft EJ Report Release: Fall 2019
 - Connect SoCal Final EJ Report Adoption: April 2020

Comments and Questions:

- Question: Will freight emission impacts be included in the analysis? I would like to see disaggregated freight data if possible.
Answer: SCAG currently does an emission impact analysis on the regional level of highways and highly traveled corridors and freight may be included in some of that analysis. However, SCAG staff will look into refining our analysis specifically on goods movement data.
- Question: CARB recently released the Cap & Trade Report. Does SCAG track where pollution credits are being audited off or have any regional Cap & Trade Data from CARB? It would be good to include in the EJ report because it helps us better understand what the reality is for EJ communities.
Answer: SCAG does a system-wide benefits and burdens analysis for the SCAG region, which is somewhat related. This comment will be forwarded to our technical staff to see if we can address it.

- Question: Can you provide information on how communities of concern will be highlighted in the EJ Update? Will it be the same as last time?
Answer: SCAG will be using the most recent census data, the 2013-2017 ACS, to update the communities of concern areas. We will be using the same information to update the EJ areas and Disadvantaged Communities. You can also use this site to search for specific communities: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535>.

5. REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY AND SOCIAL EQUITY

Ma'Ayn Johnson, Regional Planner Specialist, SCAG

Presentation Summary:

- SCAG staff presented on the RHNA process, objectives, and methodology, including the RHNA Survey Packet which was sent to current planning directors and was due on April 30, 2019.
- SCAG staff also provided information on the draft Social Equity Adjustments and provided a potential implementation recommendation to the working group.
- Please see meeting presentation for further information or email housing@scag.ca.gov with any questions.

Comments and Questions:

- Question: There are some HQTAs where the assumption is that it is lower income community, but that is not always the case. Will you be evaluating HQTAs on a case-by-case basis?
Answer: SCAG can look into how we could approach a more in-depth assessment. Currently, there is no differentiation between HQTAs based on how the income categories are distributed. It is not one size fits all and it is one of the many limitations of this process.
- Question: When the RHNA 2020 is completed, will there be explicit housing requirements for each jurisdiction? Would each jurisdiction have to adopt a new housing element that is complying with their RHNA allocation?
Answer: Yes. There is a lot of work to be done by local jurisdictions after the 2020 RHNA is completed to ensure they meet their RHNA requirement in their housing element.
- Question: How is existing housing stock that is starting to degrade addressed in the RHNA allocation process?
Answer: Currently, the RHNA methodology does not directly address aging homes in need of rehabilitation. The Governor's proposed housing plan does allocate a lot more funding and rehabilitation could qualify for the funding.
- Question: Has SB 35 actually resulted in more housing being built? Where would you be able to find record of this?
Answer: SB 35 requires that jurisdictions that don't meet a percentage of their RHNA requirement, along with many other factors, to develop a streamlined process that can be used by project developers to help meet the jurisdiction's need. SCAG does not track these projects, but the feedback received from developers suggests that the parameters a project needs to have to gain allowance for the streamline process is very hard to meet. It is likely there are very few projects that have qualified and taken advantage of SB 35.

- Comment: Cities don't build housing, developers do. They need subsidies in order to build housing and be able to make a profit. You may see a lack of development on SB 35 because the cities just do not have the money.
- Question: Does the Social Equity Adjustment make it so that a higher income city should build more low-income housing and a lower income city should build more high- income housing?
Answer: SCAG staff referred commenter to the "Social Equity Adjustment" slide. SCAG looks at the percentage of the city's existing distribution for each income category and compares it to the county's. What the social equity adjustment percentage tries to do is compare the jurisdiction's current distribution to the county and then moves beyond that point by a certain percentage. At 100%, it would be the county's existing percentage for each income category. The Social Equity Adjustment would meet the county's distribution and then goes beyond that difference by 10%. The goal is to provide social equity to jurisdictions in comparison with the county to prevent the overcrowding of income groups.
- Question: Will SCAG provide any recommendations or guidance on implementation of redevelopment funds in order to build affordable housing and low-income housing?
Answer: We do not currently have the information to answer that question, but there is dedicated staff working on this topic. There are two (2) pilot projects currently, and we will put the person overseeing the projects in touch with you. They will be able to answer any follow-up questions that you have.
- Question: Do you think EIFDs/CRIAs will make it into the plan?
Answer: These tools could potentially be beneficial to include in the plan. The 2020 RTP/SCS will include information based on housing policy.
- Question: Is SCAG conducting a policy analysis of current incentive programs across each city to see what their current ability is to meet the allocation? Is there actually policy in place to achieve that goal?
Answer: The housing element is not to just zone the additional site, it is also to develop the policy and programs that incentivize more affordable housing. The survey also helps us to determine this information, especially in terms of infill capacity and sewer and water capacity. The State also is putting more emphasis on achieving RHNA goals both in terms of incentives and eligibility for funding from Statewide sources.
- Comment: There are cities that do and some that don't want to build affordable housing. It is going to take a lot more of cooperation beyond zoning and policy to increase affordable housing. We will need to make sure that the developers are included in the RHNA discussion.
- Comment: I want to make clear at aside from the RTP/SCS implementation mechanism, there needs to be an educational component that includes what programs are available to developers and detailed explanations for our elected officials who are an important part of achieving these RHNA numbers.
- Question: The Social Equity Adjustment could potentially spur gentrification if there are no protections put in place. What are the anti-displacement policies that would align with the distribution allocations?
Answer: Current there isn't a direct mechanism to address displacement and gentrification. We are required to publish at-risk units for losing their affordability, covenants, and other similar techniques. It is implied in regional planning, but the RHNA methodology doesn't explicitly address it. The AHFF survey asks jurisdictions about displacement patterns and asks them to compare them to the methodology that we are proposing. The anti-displacement policy is extremely important even though it is not a part of the RHNA process. We try to provide guidance on this topic to jurisdictions with the housing element update.

6. EJWG TOOLBOX DISCUSSION

Anita Au, Associate Regional Planner, SCAG

Presentation Summary:

- SCAG staff provided a presentation of specific mitigation and resources to address potential impacts to environmental justice communities. These mitigation techniques/resources are categorized based on CEQA Appendix G Topic Areas.
- **SCAG staff also provided areas for improvements and requested feedback from the working group on toolbox development by May 31, 2019.**
- Please see meeting presentation for further information on email Anita Au, au@scag.ca.gov, or environmentaljustice@scag.ca.gov with any questions

Comments and Questions:

- Comment: There was an anti-displacement strategy produced for Measure A for park development and housing. It would be beneficial to include within the resources section and I will email it to you
Answer: Thank you. Those types of strategies are exactly what we are looking for.
- Question: Do you use a SCAG model to determine noise impact? Will you be considering how the projection of an increased amount of electric vehicles will significantly affect noise impacts on communities? Will the model include this in the projection?
Answer: Our technical lead had to step out, but I will provide him with your question and he will get back to you.
- Comment: I would suggest changing the language from mitigation measures to best practice because otherwise it could be confused with CEQA language and the requirements of CEQA for mitigation. It may be confusing for jurisdictions.
- Comment: At the last EJWG meeting, CARB presented on many mitigation strategies to reduce air quality impacts for communities in close proximity to highways. It would be helpful to include CARB's documents in the resources. It would also be beneficial to include a map of EJ areas/census tracts.