



Equity Working Group Meeting

March 9th, 2023

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference. A video recording of the meeting is available upon request. The meeting presentations are available [here](#).

ATTENDEE LIST

SCAG Staff:

Anita Au (Presenter)
Annaleigh Ekman (Presenter)
Diego Jimenez
Huixin Zheng
Javier Silva (Presenter)
Jeannie Ma
Jennifer Martinez
Leslie Cayton (Presenter)
Sergio Heredia-Melchor

Webinar:

Adam Vega, Port of Hueneme
Alexander Caro, Community Action Partnership
Alyssa Murakami, Caltrans D12
Angel Garfio, Orange County Transportation Authority
Caitlin Brooks, Ventura County Transportation Commission
Cameron P. Carrasquillo, Los Angeles City Planning
Cesar Aranguri, Indigenous Ark Urban Technologies
David Green, Wellbeing Economy Alliance California
Dike Ahanotu, CPCS
Edwin Peart, LeSar Development Consultants
Emily Rotman, City of West Hollywood
Emma Swanson, County of Ventura

Webinar (cont'd):

Erica Phillips, St. Mary Medical Center-Apple Valley
Gail Shiimoto-Lohr, City of Mission Viejo
Helen Torres, Cal Poly
Jessica Nguyen, County of Ventura
Jessica Schumer, Long Beach Department of Health & Human Services
John Kindred, Long Beach Environmental Alliance
Joseph Cabral, Clean Power Alliance
Joseph Jamoralin, Caltrans
Jude Miranda, Caltrans District 12
Julie Moore, LA County Department of Regional Planning
Justina Equina, City of Irvine
Karen Reside, Long Beach Gray Panthers
Mairany Anaya, SBCTA
Marven Norman, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice
Miguel Vazquez, Riverside University Health System
Pedro Spindler-Ruiz, AECOM
Serena Liu, Caltrans
Sirinya Matute, City of Hermosa Beach
Steven Auclair, County of Ventura
Tedi Doychinova, San Diego Regional Policy and Innovation Center
Tiffany Lin, City of Irvine
Wajiha Ibrahim, Los Angeles Department of City Planning



MEETING SUMMARY

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Anita Au, Planning Supervisor, SCAG | au@scag.ca.gov

Anita welcomed all participants and, as we're entering the third year of this working group, sought input on the direction for EWG.

Questions and Comments:

Comment: I work in health and equity and understand how these efforts align with state efforts and sometimes we do not see action elsewhere, but we are aware there are many levels of governments and recognize that SCAG is a big part of them. We want to see the progress of cities and the region as a whole and how they are in alignment with the work of SCAG and other regions such as if they are doing similar landscape analyses or taking the same efforts. We want to see how the state works with something tangible as SB 1000.

Response: SCAG is a liaison between state, cities, and counties and we will look into the landscaping scene where we need to go and what other resources SCAG can provide. SCAG shared other implementations and practices from cities regarding SB1000 so that other agencies can learn.

Comment: SCAG should take the lead on identifying and providing visualizations of those cities implementing certain policies.

Response: Equity in Action shares what other cities are doing and invites them to present on how they are accomplishing certain goals and policies.

Comment: Looking for ways to further expand State and Federal funding to go beyond designated, "Disadvantaged Communities." For instance, expand on funding for low-income designations.

Comment: We wanted to express that older adult residents living in Long Beach are a growing population and require unique transportation solutions.

Response: Older adults are something we look into for our Connect SoCal 2024 Equity Analysis.

Comment: I have found the case studies and projects presented by the guest speakers at EWG to be insightful and have tried to apply what I learned from those speakers in my work.

Comment: One potential priority for future EWG meeting topics is the implementation of the Digital Action Plan. Having high speed internet access seems to be a fundamental tool in addressing equity in education, healthcare, jobs, etc. and would be good to keep apprised on any state and regional efforts.

Comment: It would be very helpful to put together a table of all the case study examples that have been presented to the Equity Working Group, perhaps categorized by subject area and then meeting date, so that stakeholders/jurisdictions can see what has been presented and then reviewing the applicable meeting summaries. The case study examples have been very helpful and insightful.

Response: After the meeting, SCAG staff compiled the following table of presentations made at EWG meetings since June 2021. This table will be posted and updated regularly on the EWG webpage: <https://scag.ca.gov/post/equity-working-group-ewg>



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL PLANNING WORKING GROUPS

Meeting Materials	Topic(s)	Speaker(s)
June 24, 2021 Agenda Presentation Summary	SCAG Racial Equity Early Action Plan	Courtney Aguirre, SCAG
	Equity in Action: Culver City	Serene Wright-Black and Lauren Marsiglia, Culver City
	Environmental Justice Elements: Port Hueneme and El Centro	Tony Stewart, City of Port Hueneme Lexi Journey, Rincon Consultants Angel Hernandez, City of El Centro
	Mobility Equity Framework	Hana Creger, Greenlining Institute
	SCAG Environmental Equity Definition	Emily Rotman, SCAG
September 23, 2021 Agenda Presentation Summary	Orange County Equity Map and Social Progress Index	Katie Kalvoda, Advance OC
	City of Los Angeles Equity Index	Chelsea Lucktenberg, City of Los Angeles
	Equity in Action: City of Long Beach	Katie Balderas, City of Long Beach
	SCAG Sustainable Communities Program Call for Projects 4: Civic Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice	Anita Au, SCAG
December 9, 2021 Agenda Presentation Summary	LA Metro Equity Tools	KeAndra Cylear-Dodds, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
	Equity in Action: City of Pomona Racial Equity StoryMap	Anita Gutierrez, City of Pomona
	Environmental Justice Elements: Palmdale and Santa Ana	Megan Taggart, City of Palmdale Melanie McCann, City of Santa Ana
	SCAG Equity Indicators	Anikka Van Eyl, SCAG
	SCAG SoCal Goods Movement Impacted Communities Assessment Study	Alison Linder, SCAG
March 24, 2022 Agenda Presentation Summary	Center for Social Innovation at UCR: Frameworks for Action on Inclusion and Engagement	Karthick Ramakrishnan, UC Riverside
	SCAG Equity Resource Guide	Courtney Aguirre, SCAG
	SCAG Connect SoCal Goals and Performance Measures	Anita Au, SCAG
	SCAG Baseline Conditions Update	
	SCAG Equity Analysis Update	Annaleigh Ekman, SCAG
June 16, 2022 Agenda Presentation Summary	Racial Equity Resource Hub	Kirin Kumar, California Strategic Growth Council
	Regional Climate Collaboratives Program	Emily Rotman, SCAG
	Healthy Places Index 3.0	Helen Dowling, Public Health Alliance of Southern California
	Central Coast Regional Equity Initiative	Marcos Vargas and Kathleen Knight, The Fund for Santa Barbara
September 22, 2022 Agenda Presentation Summary	Equity in Action: Port of Long Beach Community Grant Program	Morgan Caswell, Port of Long Beach
	Creating Equitable Change with GIS	Chloe Teraslinna, Esri
	SCAG Sustainable Communities Program Call 4: Civic Engagement, Equity, and Environmental Justice Update	Hannah Brunelle, SCAG
December 8, 2022 Agenda Presentation Summary	SCAG Digital Action Plan	Roland OK, SCAG
	A Discussion on Equity Issues in Broadband and the Digital Divide	Sunne Wright McPeak, California Emerging Technology Fund Selwyn Hollins, County of Los Angeles Shayna Englin, California Community Foundation
	SCAG Connect SoCal 2024 Update	Leslie Cayton, SCAG



2. UPDATE ON CONNECT SOCIAL 2024

Leslie Cayton, Associate Regional Planner, SCAG | cayton@scag.ca.gov

Presentation Summary:

SCAG staff provided an update on Connect SoCal 2024, including a recap on completed and upcoming milestones, an overview of the Joint Policy Committee Meeting and takeaways from the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee, and an update on the Policy Development Framework.

For more information, see these **Connect SoCal 2024 Resources:**

- Joint Policy Committee Info: <https://scag.ca.gov/joint-committee>
- Connect SoCal 2024 Policy Subcommittee info: <https://scag.ca.gov/subcommittees>
- Racial Equity & Regional Planning Subcommittee Final Agenda and Draft White Paper: <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/rerp011923fullagn.pdf?1673571909>
- Connect SoCal 2024 Page: <https://scag.ca.gov/connect-social>
- Email: ConnectSoCal@scag.ca.gov

Questions and Comments:

Question: Who is part of the Racial Equity and Regional Planning subcommittee?

Answer: A group of select elected officials from the three SCAG Policy Committees, chaired and sat on subcommittees. Members were selected to provide representative voices from the region.

Question: What are some considerations that you have heard from the members of the Racial Equity and Regional Planning when it comes to the push back?

Answer: In addition to the recommendations, further discussion on the need for education considerations and more is captured in videos and meeting minutes that are available on the Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee webpage: <https://scag.ca.gov/racial-equity-and-regional-planning-subcommittee>

Question: How do you see implementing the recommendations from Racial Equity and Regional Planning into Connect SoCal 2024?

Answer: The recommendations will guide policy discussions through the development of Connect SoCal 2024, including the Regional Planning Policies and Implementation Strategies. You will be able to follow these discussions through the Policy Committees and SCAG stakeholder groups in the coming months.

Question: When will the first draft of Connect SoCal 2024 be available?

Answer: Fall 2023. SCAG cannot provide a more specific month at this time but will continue communicating schedule updates to this group as they become available.

3. TECHNOLOGY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Javier Silva, Assistant Regional Planner, SCAG | silva@scag.ca.gov

Presentation Summary:

SCAG staff sought feedback on specific Technology Guiding Principles, which would be included in Connect SoCal 2024 to develop a foundation for the evaluation and implementation of new technologies and related policies. Staff presented the following draft equity principles for consideration:



- **Equity:** Technology should be designed to reduce disparities and barriers that may exist based on factors such as race, income, language barriers or geography.
- **Accessibility:** Technology should be designed to increase accessibility and reduce physical barriers, especially for people with disabilities or limited mobility.

Attendees of the meeting suggested the consideration of gender and particularly age, as older adults may not have the skills and background to know how to use technology apps and the internet.

These principles will be presented to the Regional Transit Technical Advisory Committee on March 30, 2023, where they will seek adoption in June 2023 from the Regional Council.

4. **EQUITY ANALYSIS APPROACH UPDATE**

Anita Au, Planning Supervisor, SCAG | au@scag.ca.gov

Annaleigh Ekman, Senior Regional Planner, SCAG | ekman@scag.ca.gov

Presentation Summary:

SCAG staff provided an update on the Connect SoCal 2024 Equity Analysis Approach Update focusing on the identification of Priority Equity Communities (PECs), which are census tracts in the SCAG region that have a greater concentration of populations that have been historically marginalized and are susceptible to inequitable outcomes based on several socioeconomic factors. SCAG staff sought feedback on the definition, criteria, and methodology for PECs and received the following feedback:

- Several attendees supported the inclusion of a single parent household criteria over female headed household, as single parents, regardless of gender, face similar issues (e.g., requested time off to care for their child/children).
- Two attendees commented that the effects of Climate Change and environmental vulnerabilities should be considered as potential indicators for PECs. Communities who fall in the populations of aging adults, low-income, people with disabilities, populations that live near fault lines or flood lanes, and environmental hazards will be disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change.
- An attendee suggested including life expectancy as a criterion for PECs and suggested the Robert Wood Foundation as a source.
- An attendee suggested using ESRI's Tapestry Segmentation to compile all the equity area definition maps that were presented.
- An attendee suggested distinguishing the extent to which a criterion exceeds the county average threshold.
- An attendee suggested including single women living on their own as an expanded criterion of the female headed households with the context that the City of Long Beach has a high percentage of low-income, older adult women who are living on their own (since women are living longer than men) and face unique transportation accessibility issues.
- An attendee suggested the consideration of different modes, like transit and bicycles, for the vehicle deficiency criteria.
- An attendee supported the zero-vehicle household approach in line with the reasoning that LA Metro found the criteria to be a key determining factor for Equity Focus Communities.

SCAG staff also provided a brief update on two of the Equity Performance Measures: Access to Everyday Destinations (adding health care center and school destinations, and access via walking/biking modes) and Resilience and Climate Vulnerabilities (adding analysis of extreme heat and cooling strategies, drought, and earthquakes).

In response to a question about why the Access to Everyday Measures were combined, staff clarified that due to the length of past Environmental Justice Technical Reports, they are trying to streamline the report by reducing the duplication of context and methodology to the greatest extent while maintaining the robust analysis that has been provided. The Equity Analysis will provide results disaggregated by race/ethnicity and other identifiers when feasible.

The next steps for the Connect SoCal 2024 Equity Analysis will be to present the update at TWG and the Energy and



Environment Committee in April 2023, engage stakeholders from April 2023 to June 2023, share updates with the Equity Working Group, and release the draft within Fall 2023.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERS, REQUESTS, AND CONNECTIONS

Annaleigh Ekman, Senior Regional Planner, SCAG | ekman@scag.ca.gov

United States Office of Management and Budget Race and Ethnicity Standards Revisions: <https://spd15revision.gov/>

- The Federal Government is proposing to revise the way the federal government maintains, collects, and presents data on race and ethnicity. Comments on the revisions are due April 12, 2023.

Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Justice Grants, Funding and Technical Assistance Programs:
<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-grants-funding-and-technical-assistance>

- **EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants** provides financial assistance to eligible organizations working to address local environmental or public issues in their communities. Applications for this program are due April 14, 2023.
- **EJ Government to Government Program** supports state, local, territorial, and tribal level governments in activities that lead to measurable improvements for communities disproportionately burdened by public health issues and environmental harm. Applications for this program are due April 14, 2023.
- **Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking (EJ TCGM)** is a competitive program pass through grant program to increase the accessibility and efficiency of federal and environmental justice grant applications processes. Applications for this program are due May 31, 2023.

Executive Order on Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/02/16/executive-order-on-further-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/>

- On February 23rd, 2023, President Biden issued an update to Executive Order 13895 designating senior leaders accountable for implementing equity, directing agencies to provide annual progress reports on their Equity Action Plans, improvements to community engagement, increasing share of federal contracting dollars awarded to small, disadvantaged businesses to 50% by 2025, and more.

Caltrans Reconnecting Communities: Highway to Boulevards (RC:H2B) Pilot Program: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/local-assistance/fed-and-state-programs/rc-h2b>

- A program that plans and funds conversions for underutilized highways in the state into multi-modal corridors to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure. The fourth Program Guidelines Workshop is expected to occur in April/May 2023. The project application deadline is expected to be scheduled for Late Summer/Early Fall 2023.

If you have questions about this meeting, please feel free to reach out to Anita Au (au@scag.ca.gov) or Annaleigh Ekman (ekman@scag.ca.gov). SCAG also encourages participants to reach out if you have a topic, project, program, tool, or resource that you think should be highlighted in a future meeting. The next Equity Working Group meeting will be held in June 2023.