



www.scag.ca.gov/environmentaljustice

Environmental Justice Considerations in Regional Planning

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

The concept of environmental justice is about equal and fair access to a healthy environment, with the goal of protecting minority and low-income populations from incurring disproportionate environmental impacts, with respect to development.

BACKGROUND

A 1994 presidential executive order directed every federal agency to make environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing the effects of all programs, policies and activities on minority and low-income populations. Reinforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which addresses minority populations, this executive order ensures that every federally funded project nationwide consider the human environment when undertaking the planning and decision-making process.

SCAG'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for six Southern California counties, SCAG is responsible for the development of the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), and the Federal Transportation Improvement Program. SCAG has developed a policy to ensure that environmental justice principles are an integral part of the transportation planning process, including in our RTP/SCS. To implement this policy, SCAG:

- Analyzes its transportation plan to determine its impact on the environment, health, safety and economy of all the region's residents
- Provides early and meaningful public participation in decision-making processes
- Seeks out and considers input from minority and low-income populations
- Considers alternative approaches or proposes mitigating measures when disproportionately high and adverse impacts on low-income and minority populations are identified
- Evaluates and responds, as needed, to environmental justice issues that arise during the implementation of regional plan

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE 2016 RTP/SCS

SCAG is committed to addressing environmental justice in its transportation planning and programming processes. To this end, on-going outreach efforts are underway for reaching environmental justice communities during development of the 2016–2040 RTP/SCS. As is consistent with federal policies and past practices, the 2016 RTP/SCS environmental justice analysis will document these outreach efforts and analyze the 2016 RTP/SCS in terms of impacts to minority and low-income populations in the SCAG region.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit the SCAG website at www.scag.ca.gov/EnvironmentalJustice. For questions, please email EnvironmentalJustice@scag.ca.gov or contact **Ma'Ayn Johnson** at (213) 236-1975.

“ Each federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.”

– Executive Order 12898 of February 11, 1994

2012-2035 RTP/SCS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ANALYSIS

SCAG evaluated the 2012–2035 RTP/SCS to determine if implementation would result in disproportionate adverse impacts on low-income and minority populations. SCAG also conducted an outreach program, soliciting input and feedback from all parts of the region.

Areas analyzed include:

- ▶ Historical and projected population
- ▶ Benefits & burdens
- ▶ Travel time & person-mile benefits
- ▶ Accessibility to work and shopping opportunities
- ▶ Accessibility to parks
- ▶ Gentrification & displacement
- ▶ Regional emissions (existing and projected)
- ▶ Localized emissions & noise

For the complete Environmental Justice Analysis Report, please see: <http://bit.ly/EJReport2012>.