
CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

POLICY

POLI-1089

TITLE: Environmental Justice Policy

POLICY

It is the policy of the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) to promote Environmental Justice in its programs, policies, and activities. As part of existing planning and project delivery processes, the Authority effectuates Environmental Justice through conducting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Justice analysis, and identifying and addressing, as appropriate and when practicable, disproportionately high human health and environmental effects on minority or Low-Income populations.

The Authority is committed to the fair and meaningful involvement of all affected populations, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the planning and development of the high-speed rail project. Through outreach and engagement activities, the Authority gathers information and input from affected minority and Low-Income populations to inform key agency-wide environmental decisions.

Consistent with applicable California Air Resources Board Greenhouse Gas Reporting Fund requirements, the Authority identifies disadvantaged communities that are impacted by the high-speed rail system and determine ways to maximize benefits to such communities through its delivery activities. The Authority uses the California Environmental Protection Agency's CalEnviroScreen Program to identify disadvantaged communities as directed by [California Senate Bill 535](#).

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Environmental Justice Policy is to state the Authority’s commitment to Environmental Justice in its programs, policies, and activities.

This policy supersedes the Environmental Justice Policy, POLI-SB-02, approved and adopted in 2012.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all Authority employees (i.e., state staff) and to the Authority’s integrated team, per contract-specific requirements (herein collectively referred to as “Authority Staff”).

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Below are key terms that pertain to the purpose of this policy:

Term	Definition
CalEnviroScreen	<p>Program used in conjunction with California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA) guidelines in the identification of communities in California eligible for an investment of 25% of the state’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund proceeds, also referred to as the Cap-and-Trade program. CalEPA defines these communities in part as the top 25% most pollution-impacted census tracts in the state and releases maps identifying their locations.</p> <p>Certain Low-Income communities outside these designations, also qualify for a smaller increment of prioritized cap-and-trade investments. These additional communities are also mapped by CalEPA.</p>
Environmental Justice	<p>The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins, with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.</p>
Low-Income	<p>A person whose median household income is at or below poverty guidelines for the applicable geographic area.</p>

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Below are roles and responsibilities of Authority staff as it relates to Environmental Justice:

Director of Environmental Services

- Oversees the conformance of the environmental review process with Environmental Justice guidance; and
- Coordinates Environmental Justice compliance with relevant Authority staff.

Authority Title VI Coordinator

- Oversees and administers the Title VI Civil Rights Program, inclusive of Environmental Justice coordination with relative Authority program areas;
- Reports directly to the CEO; and
- Provides point of contact for Title VI, Limited English Proficiency, and Environmental Justice related inquiries.

Director of Planning and Sustainability

- Coordinates the benefits tracking for program implementation in disadvantaged communities among various agency offices;
- Delivers Greenhouse Gas Reporting Fund reporting to the California Air Resources Board that is inclusive of benefits of the program implementation in disadvantaged communities; and
- Oversees station site and station area planning activities and confirms consultation and inclusion of minority, Low-Income, and disadvantaged communities in the station planning process.

Authority Small Business/Title VI Program Manager

- Oversees the day-to-day operations of the Title VI Civil Rights Program including Environmental Justice coordination; and
- Oversees the Small and Disadvantaged Business Program as the Small Business Advocate.

Title VI Program Manager

- Provides technical expertise and support to the Authority;
- Reviews required reports and procedures for regulatory agencies; and
- Manages and implements the Title VI Civil Rights Program, inclusive of Environmental Justice coordination.

Title VI Technical Associate

- Provides support to the Title VI Civil Rights Program;
- Provides technical expertise and support to the Authority;
- Prepares required reports and procedures for regulatory agencies;
- Implements the Title VI Civil Rights Program; and
- Provides support for the day-to-day activities of the Title VI Civil Rights Program.

Chief of Strategic Communications

- Provides resources to support the engagement of minority and Low-Income communities in Authority activities; and
- Manages staff delivering engagement and communication with minority and Low-Income communities.

Regional Directors

- Implements engagement and consultation with minority and Low-Income communities relative to program delivery.

SOURCES OF AUTHORITY

The laws, regulations, and direction for this policy are cited in the following:

- [California Senate Bill 535](#); and
- [Federal Executive Order 12898](#).

REFERENCES

Authority Document Control Number	Document Title
PLAN-1014 (Pending Approval)	Title VI Civil Rights Program Plan

CONTACT

For questions regarding this document, please contact the Environmental Services Director and the Title VI Coordinator at EnvironmentalJustice@hsr.ca.gov.