

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY IMPLEMENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Commission's EJ Policy highlights 12 key goals in the service of advancing environmental justice, climate resilience, and equitable public access. Since adoption of the policy in 2018, Commission staff have made critical steps in implementing these goals, which are highlighted below.

Promoting Equity and Enhancing Meaningful Community Engagement

Our EJ Policy recognizes the importance of ensuring all voices are heard and emphasizes the need for meaningful and effective community engagement. Ensuring that staff have access to resources and training related to facilitating meaningful community engagement enables the Commission to advance the following goals: Promote Equity (Goal 1); Increase Awareness About the Commission's Work (Goal 2); Identify and Engage with Impacted Communities (Goal 4); and Increase Public Participation (Goal 11).

The Commission has supported these efforts by:

Facilitating a Community Outreach and Engagement Workshop

This interagency initiative educated over 100 staff across seven agencies on best practices and principles for meaningful community outreach and engagement for environmental justice.

Engaging in Equitable Project Outreach

We prioritized meaningful community engagement in several projects, including a vehicle triage center in San Francisco, the Long Beach Unit Annual Plan, oil and gas lease assignments, and the state offshore wind energy strategic plan.

We also expanded community outreach:

- 13 lease applications, 100 outreach letters (2023).
- 13 lease applications, 200 outreach letters (2021).
- 21 lease applications, 590 outreach letters (2020).

Expanding Language Accessibility

The Commission entered into a language access contract and can now offer translation services. We also incorporated CNRA's language access best practices by advertising the availability of language access services and including instructions on our website for how to access services.

Establishing an Environmental Justice Database

We established and expanded a database of individuals and organizations interested in lease or permit applications that may impact their community. This will help ensure our outreach is targeted and meaningful.

Increasing Awareness about the Commission's Work

Increasing awareness about the Commission's Work (Goal 2) can empower members of the public to more effectively engage with the Commission and advocate on issues related to the Commission's work. Commission staff are committed to continually improve the accessibility of our public outreach through our website, social media, and other activities, including:

Created a GIS Story Map and updated website information

Our Story Map illustrates case studies prepared by an EJ working group for the Commission's Policy.

Determining Environmental Justice Impacts and Potential Benefits

A critical element to advancing environmental justice is understanding how to identify and analyze project/activity impacts and benefits, how to reduce impacts, and how to increase and promote benefits (Goals 5 and 6). We have conducted the following activities to help enable staff to identify and assess impacts and potential benefits:

Conducted Staff Training

- All staff Environmental Justice Training
- CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Training
- Implicit Bias Training

Developed Outreach Worksheet

We created a worksheet that our Land Management and Mineral Resources Management Divisions use to determine when environmental justice outreach is necessary.

Conducted Site Visits

Examples include the City of National City, the Port of San Diego, and the Long Beach oil islands.

Supporting Clean Energy and Climate Equity

The Commission's EJ Policy emphasizes the importance of supporting clean energy (Goal 9) and advancing climate equity (Goal 10). We support these goals by engaging in the following efforts:

Issued Geothermal Leases that Account for Environmental Justice

- Staff assessed [these clean energy projects](#) for potential disproportionate environmental impacts on communities.
- Staff contacted 45 environmental justice representatives and 28 tribal representatives for comment about the projects.

Offshore Wind Energy Strategic Plan Focus on Equity

- Staff worked closely with the California Energy Commission and sister agencies to develop a strategic plan for offshore wind energy off the California coast.
- Staff engaged in environmental justice outreach meetings and tribal consultation to ensure equity is a focal point in the development and deployment of offshore wind.

Honoring the importance of tribes' ancestral homelands

The EJ Policy acknowledges the critical importance of uplifting and respecting the voices of California Native American Tribes and Native Nations in managing lands and resources that include their ancestral homelands (Goal 7). In support of this goal, the Commission has engaged in the following:

Ancestral Land Return

The Commission returned 38.75 acres of state-owned land to the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation.

Lease Terms

We incorporated updated lease terms resulting from tribal consultation.

Maintaining Accountability

Adopting the EJ Policy was an important milestone for the Commission, and we have made several critical strides in advancing the goals of the Policy, but there is also still much progress to be made. Ensuring accountability is a core tenet of the Policy (Goal 12). The Commission's accountability has been seen through its participation in the following:

Establishing a JEDI Team

We created a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) team to promote equity, inclusion, and diversity, and address environmental justice within the Commission's work. The team is not currently active, but in the coming months, we hope to prepare a plan to restart the team to advance priorities that staff identify through this year's survey and discussions.

Interagency Working Group Participation

- We participate in monthly coordination meetings with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Ocean Protection Council, Coastal Conservancy, and Coastal Commission.
- Agencies learn from one another, evaluate the effectiveness of their EJ work, and share resources.

Co-planned CNRA's Environmental Justice Summit

We were part of a multi agency planning team that convened the Agency's first ever environmental justice summit. The summit brought together EJ advocates, tribal members, and state leadership to discuss the state of environmental justice and equity in California's natural resource management. The Summit was a space to build relationships, mutual understanding, and inform a new EJ and equity policy across the California Natural Resources Agency.

Moving Our EJ Policy Forward

Some examples of upcoming projects and endeavors involving environmental justice include onshore and offshore renewable energy projects, port expansion and redevelopment projects, implementation of our Shoreline Adaptation Report, leveraging our new communications platform (Govdelivery) and social media, the Tijuana River pollution crisis, water supply and transfer projects, the Rincon Island Decommissioning Project, abandoned vessel removal, geothermal and lithium capture projects, implementation of the \$22 million Methane Emission Reduction Program Grant, and all projects involving oil and gas production and transportation, including marine oil terminals, pipelines, and processing facilities.