

# DEPUTY DIRECTIVE

Number: DD-63

Refer to  
Director's Policy: 21 - Environmental  
Justice

Effective Date: 11-05-01

Supersedes: New

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**TITLE** Environmental Justice and Civil Rights in Transportation  
Decision-Making

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## POLICY

The Department of Transportation (Department) will:

- Avoid, minimize, or mitigate any disproportionate adverse impacts of plans and projects on minority and/or low-income populations.
- Provide equitable transportation services to the public, including minority and low-income populations.
- Strive for a balance of transportation investments, economic prosperity, and environmental protection.
- Include the public, including minority and low-income populations, in transportation investment decision-making from the early planning stages through construction, operations and maintenance.

## DEFINITION/ BACKGROUND

“Environmental Justice” is defined in California law as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and income with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies” (Government Code Section 65040.12 and Public Resources Code Section 72000).

In federal law, the principles behind Environmental Justice can be traced to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Presidential Executive Orders 12898 and 13166 (Environmental Justice and Limited English Proficiency, respectively), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and other laws concerning nondiscrimination, equitable treatment, and environmental protection.

The intent of Environmental Justice is to address the potential impact of plans and projects on communities by having agencies fully consider these impacts from the early planning stages through construction, operation, and maintenance.

It is the long-standing policy of the Department to ensure that transportation plans and programs are consistent with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes that prohibit discrimination.

### *RESPONSIBILITIES*

#### Deputy Directors, District Directors, Division Chiefs and Program Manager:

- Promote awareness of Environmental Justice.
- Ensure that departmental policies, procedures, programs, products, and services are consistent with federal and State laws, regulations, and requirements and reflect the principles of Environmental Justice, Title VI, and related nondiscrimination requirements.
- Provide appropriate resources, time, and training to deliver products and services consistent with this Deputy Directive.

#### Deputy Director, Civil Rights:

- Provides guidance for developing policies and programs to promote and implement Environmental Justice in the Department.
- Reviews, enforces, and certifies departmental; Business, Transportation and Housing Agency; and any other third party programs for compliance with Environmental Justice, Title VI, and related nondiscrimination requirements.

#### Deputy Director, Planning and Modal Programs:

- Oversees the development of Environmental Justice policies and assistance programs related to transportation planning; mass transportation, aeronautics and rail programs; local assistance; and transportation system information.

- Ensures that transportation and planning processes and products comply with Title VI, Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination requirements.

Chief Engineer (Deputy Director, Project Delivery): Ensures that procedures and processes for project delivery reflect the principles of Environmental Justice, Title VI, and related nondiscrimination requirements.

Deputy Director, Maintenance and Operations: Ensures that processes and services related to the maintenance and operation of State transportation facilities reflect the principles of Environmental Justice, Title VI, and related nondiscrimination requirements.

Chief, Division of Transportation Planning:

- Develops policies and programs to implement Environmental Justice in statewide planning.
- Develops strategies to improve the participation of underrepresented groups in transportation investment decision-making.
- Provides analysis, technical assistance, and training to address and promote Environmental Justice.

Chief, Division of Environmental Analysis:

- During project development, ensures compliance with Environmental Justice principles, Title VI, and related nondiscrimination requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Conducts project level and community impact assessments concerning adverse environmental, economic, health, and social issues.
- Provides, to those involved with environmental analysis, guidance and training on ways to understand, measure, avoid, or minimize adverse project impacts on the human environment.

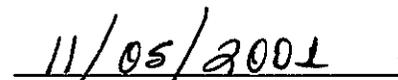
Deputy District Directors, Planning and Environmental Planning: Work with local, regional, and transit planning agencies to coordinate efforts and information for addressing Environmental Justice issues.

Employees: Understand and comply with departmental policy and federal and State laws and regulations when making decisions and arrangements regarding transportation and Environmental Justice.

*APPLICABILITY*

All who work for the Department in any capacity.

  
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TONY V. HARRIS  
Chief Deputy Director

  
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Date Signed