



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
T: (213) 236-1800  
www.scag.ca.gov

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## SPECIAL MEETING

# SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

### REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

*Thursday, September 24, 2020*  
*3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.*

#### *To Watch or View Only:*

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<https://scag.zoom.us/j/95001689639>

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**Call-in Number: 1-669-900-6833**

**Meeting ID: 950 0168 9639**

***Please see next page for detailed  
instructions on how to participate in the meeting.***

### **PUBLIC ADVISORY**

Given recent public health directives limiting public gatherings due to the threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor's recent Executive Order N-29-20, the meeting will be held telephonically and electronically.

If members of the public wish to review the attachments or have any questions on any of the agenda items, please contact Rachel Wagner at (213) 236-1960 or via email at [wagner@scag.ca.gov](mailto:wagner@scag.ca.gov). Agendas & Minutes are also available at: [www.scag.ca.gov/committees](http://www.scag.ca.gov/committees).

SCAG, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will accommodate persons who require a modification of accommodation in order to participate in this meeting. SCAG is also committed to helping people with limited proficiency in the English language access the agency's essential public information and services. You can request such assistance by calling (213) 236-1960. We request at least 72 hours (three days) notice to provide reasonable accommodations and will make every effort to arrange for assistance as soon as possible.



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2. Enter the **Meeting ID: 950 0168 9639**, followed by #.
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4. Remain on the line if the meeting has not yet started.

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The public is encouraged to submit comments by sending an email to: [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov). All written comments received before and during the Public Comment period will be read by SCAG staff (up to 3 minutes) and included as part of the official record of the meeting. The Chair has the discretion to reduce the time limit based upon the number of e-comments received and may limit the total time for all public comments to twenty (20) minutes.

## To view past meeting videos: <http://scag.iqm2.com/Citizens/>

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#### **OUR MISSION**

*To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.*

#### **OUR VISION**

*Southern California's Catalyst for a Brighter Future*

#### **OUR CORE VALUES**

*Be Open | Lead by Example | Make an Impact | Be Courageous*



## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

### SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Southern California Association of Governments  
Remote Participation Only  
**Thursday, September 24**  
**3:00PM**

#### **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** *(The Honorable Rex Richardson, Chair)*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

The public is encouraged to submit comments by sending an email to [ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ePublicComment@scag.ca.gov). Written comments will be read by SCAG staff up to three (3) minutes and included as part of the official record of the meeting. The Chair has the discretion to reduce the time limit based upon the number of e-comments received and may limit the total time for all public comments to twenty (20) minutes.

#### **REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice Overview 15 Mins.  
*(The Honorable Rex Richardson, Chair)*
2. SCAG Overview and Work Program 20 Mins.  
*(Kome Ajise, Executive Director)*
3. Defining Equity 10 Mins.  
*(Dorothy Le Suchkova, Senior Regional Planner)*
4. Arrested Mobility 45 Mins.  
*(Charles T. Brown, Founder/Managing Principal, Equitable Cities, LLC)*
5. Equity Inventory Report and Framework Development 20 Mins.  
*(Courtney Aguirre, Program Manager, and Anita Au, Associate Planner)*

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT** *(The Honorable Rex Richardson, Chair)*

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM/S**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT/S**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**



# AGENDA ITEM 2 REPORT

Southern California Association of Governments  
Remote Participation Only  
September 24, 2020

**To:** Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
APPROVAL**

**From:** Kome Ajise, Executive Director,  
(213) 236-1890, AJISE@scag.ca.gov

**Subject:** SCAG Overview and Work Program

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Information Only; No Required Action

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

*In July, SCAG's Regional Council passed a landmark resolution, [Resolution No. 20-623-2](#), on racial equity and committed to meaningfully advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion through the agency's work. The resolution called on the President to form an ad hoc Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice to further develop SCAG's response to advancing social justice and advise the Regional Council on policies and practices to:*

- end racial and social disparities internal to the agency*
- strengthen the way it engages and convenes to protect and expand community voice and power*
- work in partnership with others to close the gap of racial injustice and better serve our communities of color, and in so doing, serve all the people of the region.*

*As a foundation for the work of the Special Committee, SCAG Executive Director Kome Ajise will provide a presentation on SCAG, its mission and major work products, as well as review and facilitate a discussion with the members of the Special Committee on the intended purpose, proposed activities and draft work program for the Special Committee as outlined in Resolution No. 20-623-2.*

**BACKGROUND:**

Over the course of the past few months SCAG has been considering how we, as a metropolitan planning organization, can do more to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion in our region. Our region's greatest asset is its diversity, particularly in its people. People of color currently represent

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more than 68 percent of the region's population and our diversity is only expected to increase as we move towards 2045, when people of color will represent nearly 80 percent of our population. Our region's residents have among the most geographically diverse origins of any metropolitan region in the nation. There is a disproportionate burden of poverty on people of color relative to their white counterparts. Black (21.5%), American Indian/Alaskan Native (19.4%), and Hispanic (19%) communities experience the highest rates of poverty in our region compared to the white population (13.5%). A range of economic and social impacts such as health outcomes, education, employment, housing conditions, the likelihood of incarceration, and life expectancy, vary vastly in this region based on race, income and census tract. Across the region, life expectancy ranges drastically, from 68 to 93 years, depending on where you live. Below are some demographic statistics that convey the disadvantages in Environmental Justice Areas.

- Environmental Justice Areas have 12.2 million people (65% of the region's population). Of the people who live in these areas, 82% is minority and 20% of the households are in poverty
- In 2016, a family of three earning less than **\$19,105** was classified as living in poverty. <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>
- SB 535 Disadvantaged Areas has 6.4 Million people live in these areas (34% of the region), 88% of these residents are minority, and 23% of all households are at or below the poverty level
- Communities of Concern has 3.9 million people live in these areas, which represents 21% of the region. 92% of the residents in Communities of Concern are minority and 25% of the households are at or below the poverty level
- EJ communities have much higher concentration of minority population as compared to the SCAG region. At least 10% higher.
- Similarly to the households in poverty, these EJ communities have higher share than the region. At least 5%.
- Similar to minority population, the share of households in poverty has increased slightly 1% from 2012 to 2016 in the SCAG region. It also increased in all EJ communities, except for DAC

As a public agency focused on regional planning, SCAG has the opportunity, to analyze and address inequities. While we consider low income families and communities of color impacts in our regional growth, transportation, and economic development planning and analysis, we recognize that more affirmative approaches that seek to counter the effects of historic practices, like those being pursued through state housing law (including AB 686) to overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities, are needed to advance equity and social justice across the region.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice was formed in an effort to implement the Regional Council-adopted resolution that affirms SCAG's commitment to addressing longstanding issues related to equity and social justice in the agency's planning efforts by incorporating equity awareness into every aspect of work guided policy. The Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice, comprised of members representing public and private industries spanning economic, education, healthcare, technology, and social services, will recommend policies and any necessary bylaw changes to the Regional Council and General Assembly. The work of the committee may include, but not be limited to:

- Establishing an agency-wide definition of "equity" to have a shared understanding of it.
- Providing guidance on the development of SCAG's internal Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion work plan that prioritizes, supports, and invests in equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Reviewing SCAG's public participation plan and stakeholder engagement strategies to lift up voices of communities of color and other disadvantaged communities to ensure meaningful engagement and capacity-building opportunities for communities most impacted by racial and social injustice.
- Developing an Equity Inventory Report, which would catalogue the existing equity-related activities throughout SCAG's departments.
- Establishing an Equity Framework containing quantitative and qualitative indicators of existing inequities and disparities that exist in the region, and how communities and people in the region experience SCAG's desired outcomes.
- Preparing a set of policies and recommended changes to SCAG bylaws as necessary to guide and sustain SCAG's regional leadership in service of equity and social justice.

To ensure progress, SCAG staff plans to report back on the work of the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice at regular intervals - 3 months, 6 months, and 9 months, with the expectation that a final set of recommendations will be prepared, including any recommendations to SCAG's Bylaws within 9 months, for consideration by the Regional Council and General Assembly in May 2021.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Funding for staff work on this issue is included in the Project 21-050.0169.08.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Resolution No. 20-623-2
2. PowerPoint Presentation - SCAG Overview and Work Program

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Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro

RESOLUTION NO. 20-623-2

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS (SCAG) STATING  
CONVICTION THAT SYSTEMIC RACISM IS A HUMAN RIGHTS  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS WHICH RESULTS IN DISPARITIES IN FAMILY  
STABILITY, HEALTH AND MENTAL WELLNESS, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT,  
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION,  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INCARCERATION AND HOUSING AND REAFFIRMING  
ITS COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND  
INCLUSION IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**WHEREAS**, SCAG is the largest metropolitan planning organization (MPO) in the United States covering six counties (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura), and serving 19 million people pursuant to 23 USC § 134 et seq. and 49 USC § 5303 et seq. subject to the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1994 Presidential Executive Order No. 12898 on Environmental Justice; and

**WHEREAS**, SCAG is responsible for bringing Southern California's diverse residents and local partners together with unifying regional plans, policies, and programs that result in more healthy, livable, sustainable, and economically resilient communities; and

**WHEREAS**, communities across Southern California and nationwide continue to show their pain, anger, and calls for action over the senseless and violent deaths of Tony McDade, Elijah McClain, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, among others, as well as the systemic injustice in our society that led to these deaths and of too many more people of color; and

**WHEREAS**, SCAG acknowledges the historic role government and the planning profession have played in systemically driving and perpetuating societal inequities along racial lines that have resulted in vastly different living and social conditions and access to opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, the compounding effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic disruption have exposed the gross inequities that exist in our society; and

**WHEREAS**, SCAG recognizes that systemic racism resulting from the inherent biases and prejudices within social and political organizations, groups, or institutions continue to create barriers to success for people of color; and

**WHEREAS**, systemic racism negatively impacts the social determinants of health, such as socioeconomic status, education, neighborhood and physical environment, employment, and social support networks, as well as access to health care; and

**WHEREAS**, SCAG seeks to lead and/or join efforts to reverse the effects of the inequitable policies, processes, and practices of the past, and recognizes that it has a role to play in understanding and communicating the impacts that planning decisions have on low income families, communities of color and other disadvantaged communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments, that;

1. SCAG stands in solidarity with those working toward a fair and just society, and with those calling for systemic change to eliminate all barriers that reduce opportunity and undermine Southern California's shared values and ability to thrive; and SCAG affirms its commitment to meaningfully advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion; and SCAG declares its intent to end racial and social disparities internal to the agency, strengthen the way it engages and convenes to protect and expand community voice and power, and work in partnership with others to close the gap of racial injustice and better serve our communities of color, and in so doing, serve all the people of the region.
2. Furthermore, based upon this affirmation, an ad hoc Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice shall be established by the President to further develop SCAG's response to advancing social justice throughout the agency's activities, and advise the Regional Council on policies and practices to advance its resolved intentions. Regular reports shall be provided to the Regional Council on the work of the committee and a final set of recommendations shall be prepared, including any recommendations to amend SCAG's bylaws within 9 months, for consideration by the Regional Council and General Assembly in May 2021.

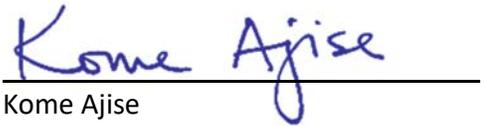
**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments at its regular meeting this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2020.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]



Rex A. Richardson  
President, SCAG  
Councilmember, City of Long Beach

Attested by:



Kome Ajise  
Executive Director

Approved as to Form:



Justine Block  
Acting Chief Counsel

# SCAG Overview and Work Program

Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice

Thursday, September 24, 2020

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

[www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov)



## SCAG Facts



**191**

Cities

**6**

Counties

**19.1**

Million People

**48.5%**

State Population

**15th**

Largest Economy in the World

**\$1.2T**

Regional GDP

**67%**

State's Disadvantaged Communities' Population



### VISION

Southern California's Catalyst for a Brighter Future

### MISSION

To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.

## What Does SCAG Provide?

- A Regional Voice
- A Unique Regional Forum
- Advocacy
- Assistance in Achieving Local Objectives
- Regional Plans, Tools, Data & Training
- Conferences & Events



## Primary Roles & Responsibilities

Regional Transportation  
Plan/Sustainable Communities  
Strategy

Federal Transportation  
Improvement Program

Regional Growth Forecast



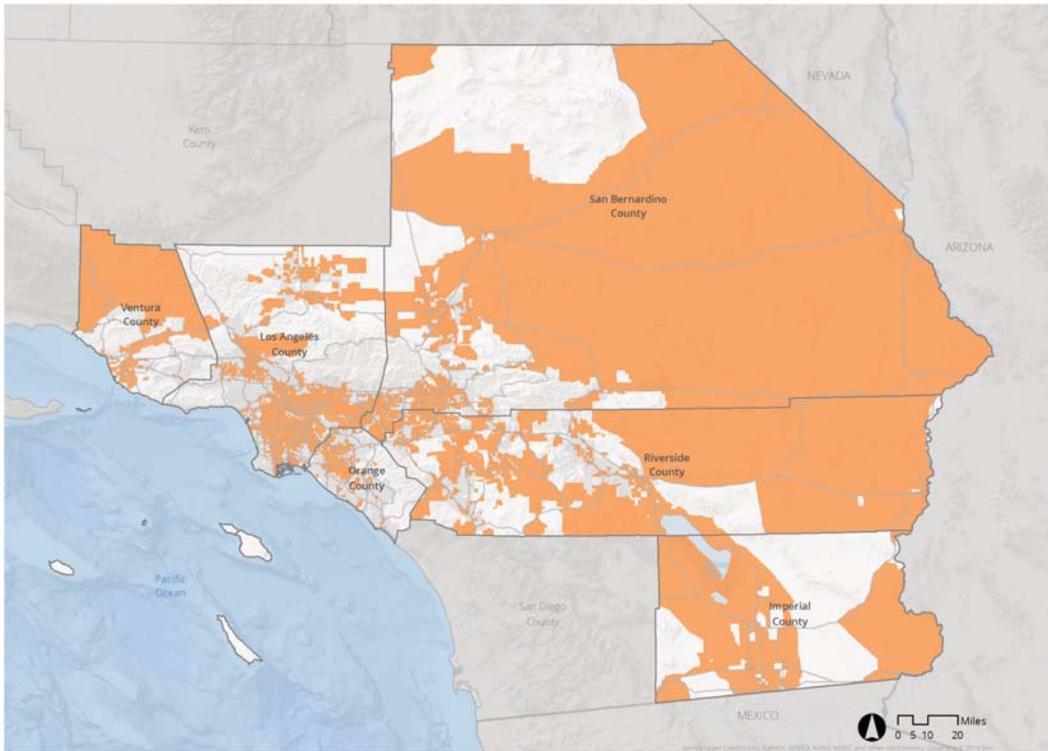
Regional Housing Needs  
Assessment

Regional Data & Information  
Center

Forum for Issues of Regional  
Significance

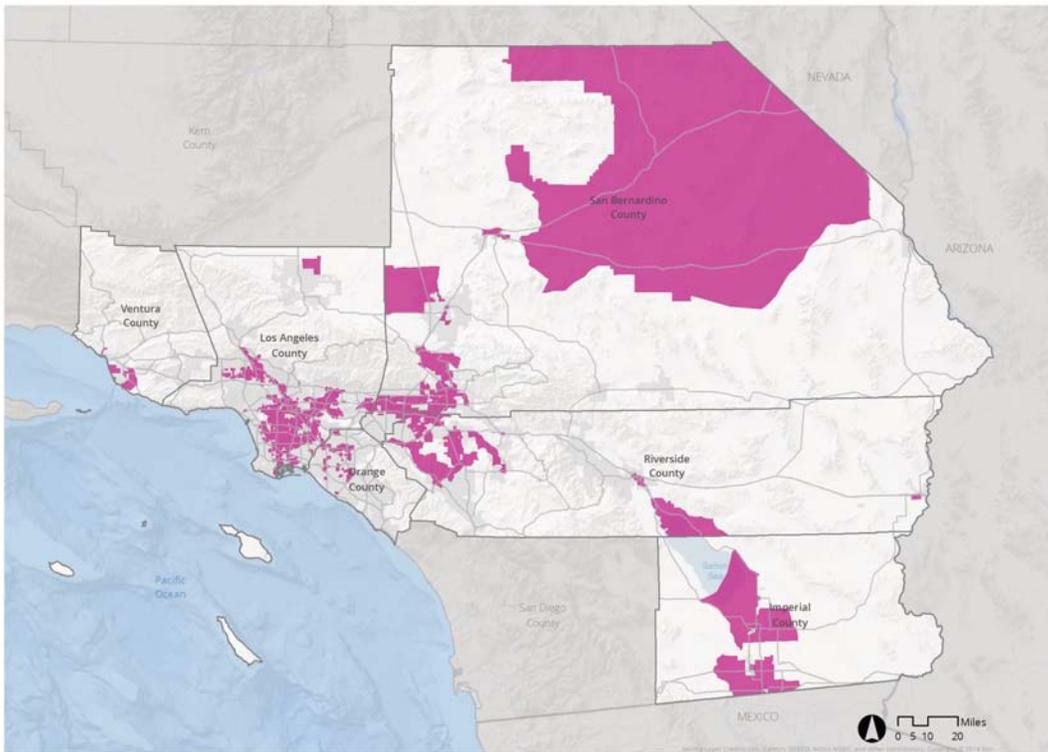
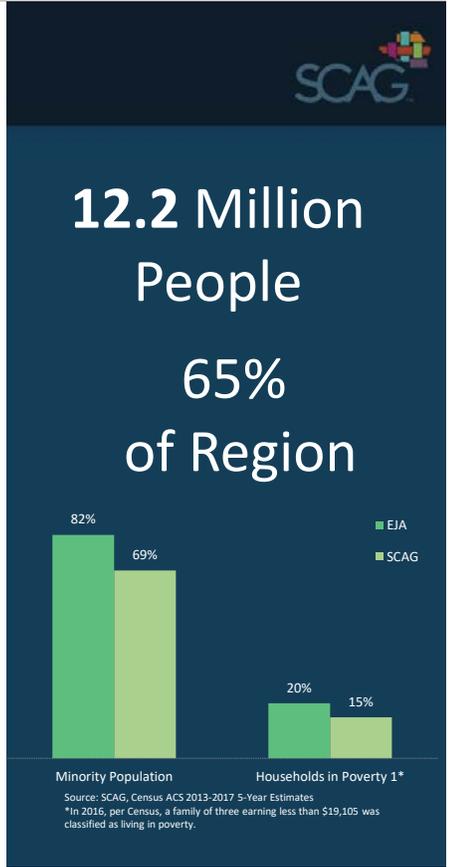
## Connect SoCal: Analyzing Inequities in the Region

- **Environmental Justice Areas (EJA)** – Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs), which are similar to block groups, that have a higher concentration of minority **OR** low income households than is seen in the region as a whole.
- **SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities (DAC)** – Census tracts that have been identified by Cal/EPA as Disadvantaged Communities (top 25% of CalEnviroScreen) based on the requirements set forth in SB 535
- **Communities of Concern (COC)** – Census Designated Places (CDPs) and City of Los Angeles Community Planning Areas (CPAs) that fall in the upper 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of all communities in the SCAG Region for having the highest concentration of minority population **AND** low income households



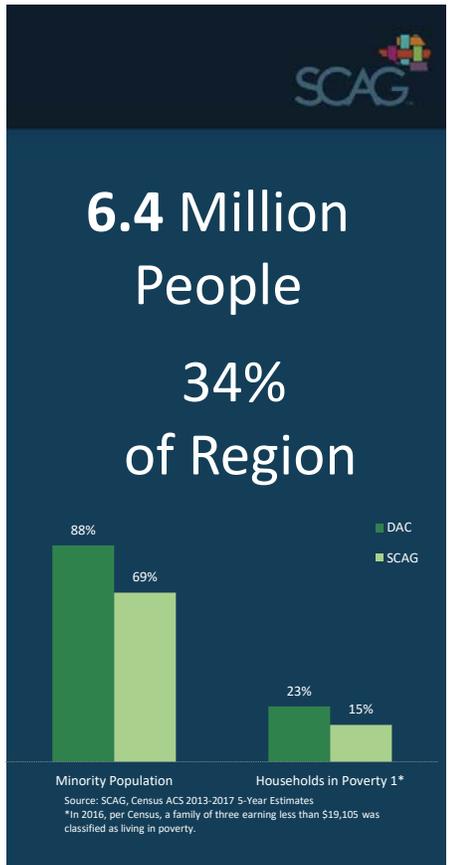
Map Title: EJ\_areas

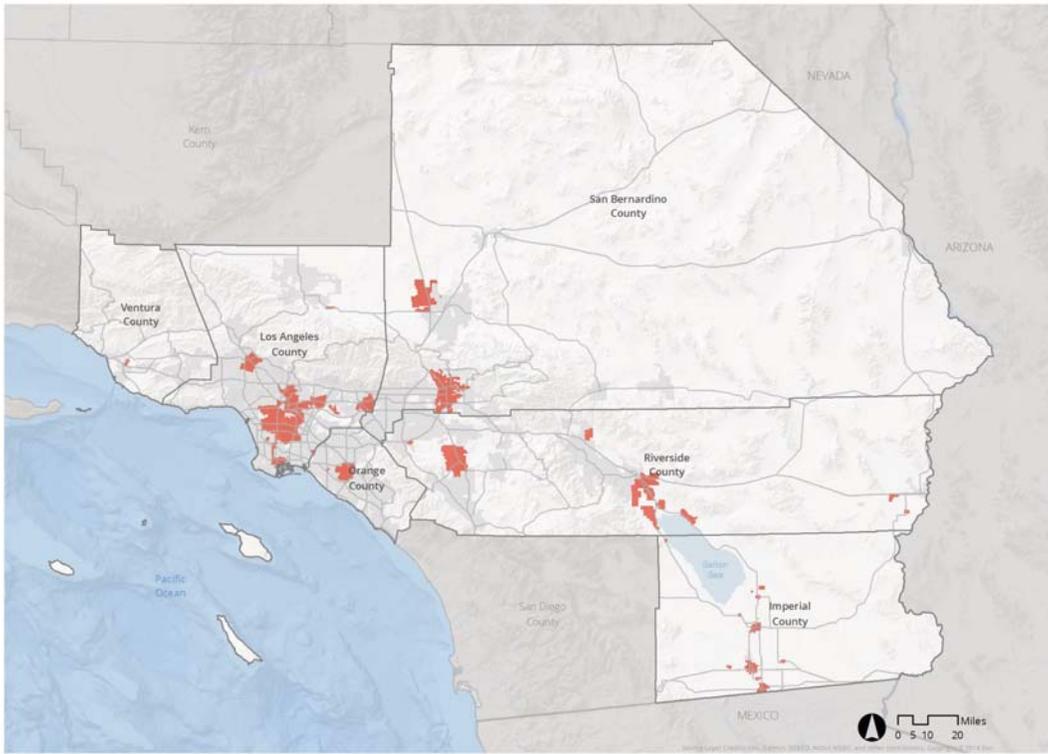
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Map Title: SB535\_Disadvantaged\_Communities

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■ Communities of Concern 
  County Boundaries 
  City Boundaries 
  Freeway

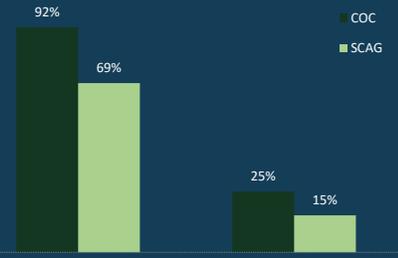
Source: 2013-2017 ACS 5 Year Estimates, City of Los Angeles Community Planning Area, SCAG, 2019

Map Title: Communities\_of\_Concern

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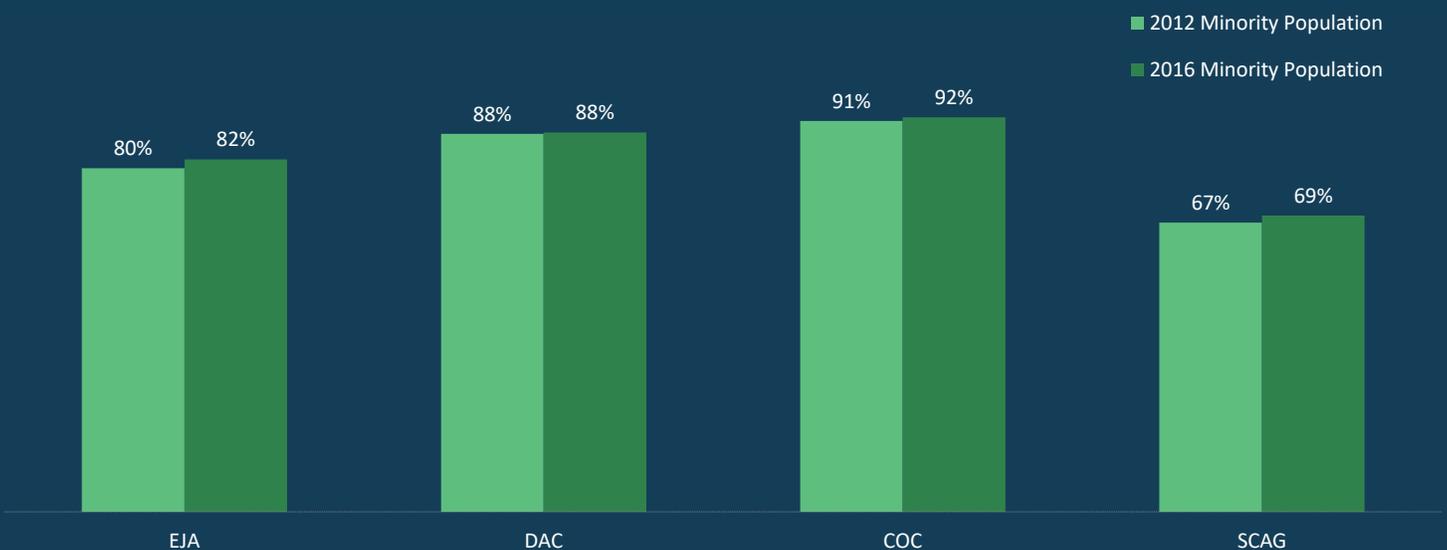
**3.9 Million**  
**People**  
**21%**  
**of Region**



Minority Population Households in Poverty 1\*

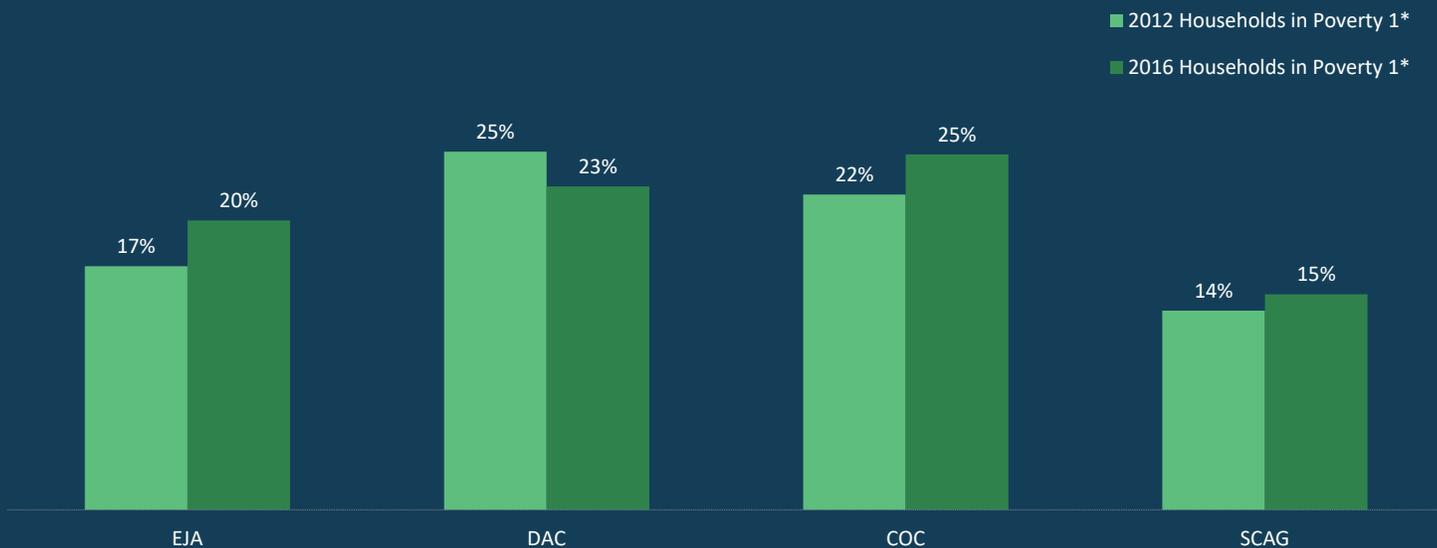
Source: SCAG, Census ACS 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates  
 \*In 2016, per Census, a family of three earning less than \$19,105 was classified as living in poverty.

## Minority Population in EJ-Related Boundaries



Source: SCAG, Census ACS 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates  
 \*In 2016, per Census, a family of three earning less than \$19,105 was classified as living in poverty.

# Households in Poverty in EJ-Related Boundaries



Source: SCAG, Census ACS 2013-2017 5-Year Estimates  
 \*In 2016, per Census, a family of three earning less than \$19,105 was classified as living in poverty.

# Connect SoCal – Equity Resources



Environmental Justice Technical Report and Toolbox

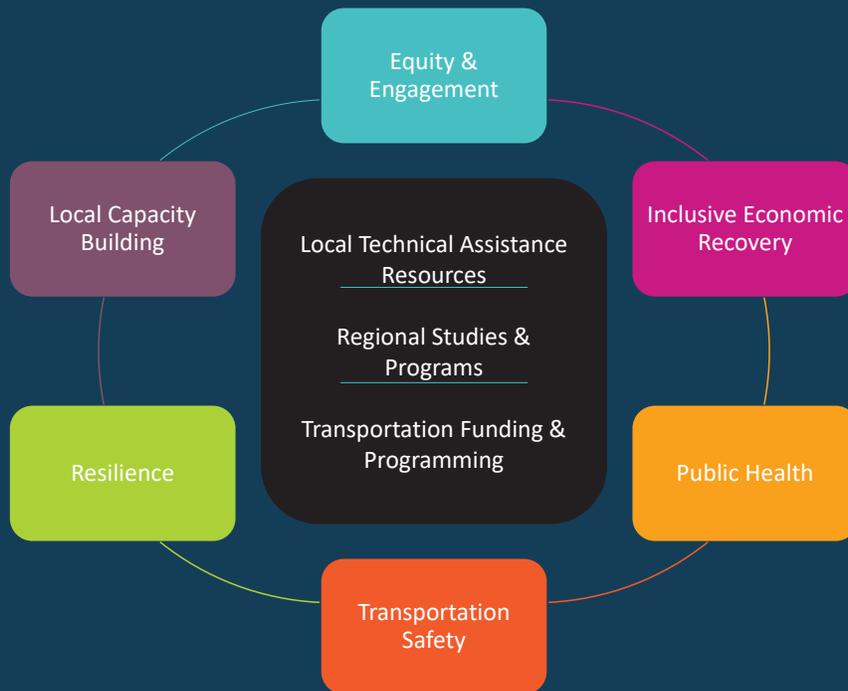


Public Health Technical Report



Program Environmental Impact Report including Mitigation Measures

# Connect SoCal Implementation Strategy



# Connect SoCal Implementation Strategy Local Technical Assistance Resources



Sustainable Communities Program



Housing Program



Call for Collaboration



Go Human

# Connect SoCal Implementation Strategy Regional Studies & Planning Programs



## CORE VISION



COMPLETE STREETS INVESTMENT



DEMAND & SYSTEM MANAGEMENT



GOODS MOVEMENT



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



SYSTEM PRESERVATION & RESILIENCE



TRANSIT BACKBONE

## KEY CONNECTIONS



SHARED MOBILITY & MOBILITY AS A SERVICE



SMART CITIES & JOB CENTERS



ACCELERATED ELECTRIFICATION



GO ZONES



HOUSING SUPPORTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

# Regional Economic Recovery Strategy



## Equity Resolution 20-623-2

- Approved in July 2020 by SCAG's Regional Council
- Affirms SCAG's intent to stand side-by-side with those working toward a fair and just society, and with those calling for systemic change and for the breaking down of barriers that reduce opportunity and undermine Southern California's shared prosperity
- Outlines SCAG's intentions to consistently incorporate equity awareness into every aspect of its work guided by a Regional Council policy statement on equity and social justice.

## Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice

Purpose Statement:

Advise the Regional Council on policies and practices to:

- end racial and social disparities internal to the agency
- strengthen the way it engages and convenes to protect and expand community voice and power
- work in partnership with others to close the gap of racial injustice and better serve our communities of color, and in so doing, serve all the people of the region.

## Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice

### Proposed Activities:

- Establish an agency-wide definition of “equity” to build shared understanding.
- Provide guidance on the development of SCAG's internal Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion work plan.
- Review SCAG’s public participation plan and stakeholder engagement strategies.
- Develop an Equity Inventory Report, which would catalogue SCAG's existing equity-related activities.
- Establish an Equity Framework containing quantitative and qualitative indicators of existing inequities and disparities that exist in the region.
- Prepare a set of policies and recommendations to guide and sustain SCAG’s regional leadership in service of equity and social justice.

## Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice

### Proposed Work Plan:

Meeting Date	Focus Areas
September	Kick-Off, Committee Goals and Equity Definitions
November	SCAG Equity Initiatives & Practices
January	Regional Equity Framework
March	Discussion & Recommendations to Regional Council and General Assembly

Questions?  
Comments?

[www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov)





**AGENDA ITEM 3**  
**REPORT**

Southern California Association of Governments  
Remote Participation Only  
**September 24, 2020**

**To:** Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
APPROVAL**

**From:** Dorothy Le Suchkova, Senior Regional Planner,  
(213) 236-1932, Suchkova@scag.ca.gov

**Subject:** Defining Equity

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Information Only - No Action Required

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

*SCAG staff has developed a draft working agency-wide definition of equity to build a shared understanding, in implementing SCAG Resolution No. 20-623-2. Staff will provide a presentation on the draft working agency-wide definition for review and discussion. Next steps will include working with the Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice to define equity and equitable outcomes in the context of the region as a whole. This work will be incorporated into the Regional Equity Framework.*

**BACKGROUND:**

On July 2, 2020, SCAG's Regional Council adopted Resolution 20-623-2, affirming its commitment to meaningfully advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and declaring its intent to end racial and social disparities internal to the agency, strengthen the way it engages and convenes to protect and expand community voice and power, and work in partnership with others to close the gap of racial injustice and better serve the region's communities of color. The resolution called for the formation of an ad hoc Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice to further develop SCAG's response to advancing social justice throughout the agency's activities and advise the Regional

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Council on policies and practices to advance its resolved intentions. The staff report accompanying the resolution outlined work for the Special Committee, including:

- Establishing an agency-wide definition of “equity” to build a shared understanding;
- Developing an Equity Inventory Report, which would catalogue the existing equity-related activities throughout SCAG’s departments; and
- Establishing an Equity Framework containing quantitative and qualitative indicators of existing inequities and disparities that exist in the region, and how communities and people in the region experience SCAG’s desired outcomes.

### Equity Definition Research

In formulating a working definition of equity, SCAG convened a cross-functional working group of SCAG staff to undertake a data and research driven approach, utilizing best practices of equity definitions and related terms from across the region, statewide and nationwide. The working group scanned for equity definitions from peer agencies within the state, including:

- Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LA Metro [2020 LRTP](#))
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC-ABAG [Equity Platform](#))
- Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG [Equity, Race, & Inclusion Working Group](#))
- San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, San Bernardino Council of Governments, & San Bernardino County (SBCTA, SBCOG, & SB County [Equity Ad Hoc Committee](#) & [Equity Element in Countywide Vision](#))

The scan also included other national Metropolitan Planning Organizations, such as Oregon Metro (Portland Area MPO) and Metropolitan Council (Twin Cities MPO).

Key concepts and ideas generated through this research to feed into SCAG’s equity definition, included:

- Being action-oriented and beyond a dictionary definition
- Reflecting equity as an outcome, based in process
- Acknowledgement of current and historically systemic racism, power, and privilege
- Addressing and ultimately preventing disparities
- Access to opportunities, essential services, housing, quality jobs, mobility, healthy places
- Equity as an economic driver and growth model
- Unique demographics and attributes of Southern California
- An intentional focus on most impacted, marginalized, disinvested communities

### Draft Working Equity Definition

At SCAG, equity is the identification, acknowledgement, mitigation and ultimately, the elimination of barriers that historically and systemically marginalized groups face in achieving socio-economic

success, and commitment to expanding opportunities to gain power, prosperity, wealth, and privilege for those groups as central to SCAG's work and influence in Southern California.

### **Towards an Equitable Region**

Under federal law, SCAG is designated as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and under state law as a Regional Transportation Planning Agency and a Council of Governments. The agency develops long-range regional transportation plans including sustainable communities strategy and growth forecast components, regional transportation improvement programs, regional housing needs allocations and a portion of the South Coast Air Quality management plans

While SCAG considers low income families and communities of color impacts in our regional growth, transportation, and economic development planning and analysis, SCAG recognizes that more affirmative approaches that seek to counter the effects of historic practices, including those being pursued through state housing law, including [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 686](#)<sup>1</sup>, to overcome patterns of segregation and foster inclusive communities, are needed to advance equity and social justice across the region.

An understanding of and vision for an equitable region is foundational to all of SCAG's work, and should guide all aspects of [Connect SoCal](#) implementation. Connect SoCal is the SCAG region's 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). The plan charts a path toward a more mobile, sustainable and prosperous region by making key connections: between transportation networks, between planning strategies and between the people whose collaboration can make plans a reality. Connect SoCal is also supported by 20 technical reports that provide additional data and material on all topics and concepts covered in the plan. Specifically, the Environmental Justice and Public Health [Technical Reports](#), which lay out a vision for pursuing environmental justice and public health in the SCAG region, amongst others, will serve as good resources for further defining equity and equitable region in context for regional planning.

As a part of building out the definition for an equitable region, staff plans to draft related terms and definitions which include and are not limited to:

- Health Equity
- Transportation Equity
- Housing Equity
- Broadband Equity

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<sup>1</sup>AB 686, Santiago. Housing discrimination: affirmatively further fair housing. For further information about AB 686 refer to: [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180AB686](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB686)

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**Next Steps**

SCAG staff plan to share the final agency-wide working definition of equity and related terms and definitions at the Special Committee's November meeting.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Funding for staff work on this issue is included in the Project 21-050.0169.08.

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. PowerPoint Presentation - Defining Equity

# Defining Equity

Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice

Thursday, September 24, 2020

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

[www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov)



## Equity Definition Background Research



- Equity Work Group scanned for equity definitions from peer agencies within the state.
  - LA Metro
  - MTC-ABAG (Bay Area MPO)
  - SACOG (Sacramento Council of Governments)
  - SBCTA, SBCOG, & SB County (San Bernardino County)
- Scan included other national agencies, such as Oregon Metro and Metropolitan Council (Twin Cities).



LA Metro  
[2020 LRTP](#)



MTC-ABAG  
[Equity Platform](#)



SACOG  
[Equity, Race, & Inclusion Working Group](#)



SBCTA, SBCOG, & SB County  
[Equity Ad Hoc Committee & Equity Element in Countywide Vision](#)

## Snapshot of Equity Efforts across California

	Los Angeles Metro	MTC-ABAG	SACOG	SBCTA, SBCOG, & SB County
<b>Statement on Racism</b>	<a href="#">Metro statement on Black Lives Matter and our commitment to fighting racial injustice</a>	<a href="#">MTC Resolution No. 4435.</a> "MTC's conviction that Black Lives Matter and reaffirming its commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in the nine-county Bay Area"	<a href="#">Statement from SACOG Board Chair and Vice-Chair.</a> Formation of Board Working Group on Race, Equity and Inclusion	<a href="#">Resolution No. 2020-103.</a> "Resolution Affirming that Racism is a Public Health Crisis that Results in Disparities in Family Stability, Health and Mental Wellness, Education, Employment, Economic Development, Public Safety, Criminal Justice, and Housing"
<b>Equity within Policy or Planning Document</b>	<a href="#">Equity Focus Communities in 2020 LRTP</a>	Equity assessment & strategic implementation plan identified as action in <a href="#">Equity Platform</a>	<a href="#">Our Path Forward: The Prosperity Strategy. A Bridge to Action for Inclusive Economic Recovery &amp; Growth</a>	Addition of "Equity" as eleventh element in Countywide Vision
<b>Action Plan</b>	LRTP Priority Area 4.1f. Develop and advance a Racial and Socio-Economic Equity Action Plan	<a href="#">Equity Platform Next Steps</a>	<a href="#">Equity, Race, &amp; Inclusion Working Group; Racial Equity Audit</a> performed by The McKensie Mack Group	Formation of Equity Element Group

## Equity Definition Working Draft

At SCAG, equity is the identification, acknowledgement, mitigation and ultimately, the elimination of barriers that historically and systemically marginalized groups face in achieving socio-economic success, and commitment to expanding opportunities to gain power, prosperity, wealth, and privilege for those groups as central to SCAG's work and influence in Southern California.

## Reference of Some Glossary Terms

- **Historically marginalized:** Being denied access and/or suffered past institutional discrimination in the United States. (Oregon Metro)
- **Systemically marginalized:** Socioeconomic condition of disadvantage created by socially constructed inequitable forces of bias. (Human Geography, 2000)
- **Privilege:** Refers to the unearned set of advantages, entitlements, and benefits bestowed by formal and informal institutions of society to all members of a dominant group. (City of Portland Office of Equity and Human Rights)
- **Socio-economic success:** Positive outcomes in both social and economic situations
- **Power (Institutional):** The social, political and economic power which provides access to resources. (Adapted from H.P. Newton, To Die for the People; The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond; and Asante, Adair, Aal, Tools for Change)

## Towards an Equitable Region

### SCAG’s Unique Role

- SCAG’s role to convene, collaborate and promote best practices as a regional forum
- SCAG’s legal designation as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and under state law as a Regional Transportation Planning Agency and a Council of Governments.

### Advance Equity and Social Justice Across the Region

- Analyze and address socio-economic and racial inequities resulting in disparate social conditions and access to opportunities.
- Understanding of and vision for an equitable region to guide all aspects of Connect SoCal implementation.

## Next Steps on Definitions

- As a part of building out the definition for an equitable region, staff plans to draft related terms and definitions which include and are not limited to:
  - Health Equity
  - Transportation Equity
  - Housing Equity
  - Broadband Equity



**AGENDA ITEM 5  
REPORT**

Southern California Association of Governments  
Remote Participation Only  
**September 24, 2020**

**To:** Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
APPROVAL**

**From:** Courtney Aguirre, Program Manager,  
(213) 236-1990, aguirre@scag.ca.gov  
Anita Au, Associate Planner,  
(213) 236-1874, au@scag.ca.gov

**Subject:** Equity Inventory Report and Framework Development

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This item supports the following Strategic Plan Goal 1: Produce innovative solutions that improve the quality of life for Southern Californians.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

*The Equity Inventory Report will document how SCAG's Planning Division currently incorporates equity considerations into its activities or where equity considerations can be incorporated into existing or future activities. This Equity Inventory is functioning as a first step towards conducting an organizational self-assessment. Future efforts could include surveys, interviews, or focus groups with policymakers, partners, and community stakeholders. Ultimately, the Equity Inventory will serve as a platform which would contribute significantly to SCAG's Equity Framework and would be a part of developing an intentional strategy to advance SCAG's equity practices going forward.*

**DISCUSSION:**

In July SCAG's Regional Council, as part of a resolution, made a commitment to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout Southern California. SCAG recognizes that for the region to become healthy, livable, sustainable, and economically resilient, it needs to dramatically improve outcomes for low income families and communities of color. To that end, SCAG's core function, its planning work, must directly address the long-standing systemic and institutional barriers that have fostered inequities in health, wealth, and opportunities. Over the course of the next several months, SCAG staff will develop an Equity Framework to help facilitate the consistent integration of equity into its planning work. The Equity Framework will provide the structure and guidance for Planning

**OUR MISSION**

*To foster innovative regional solutions that improve the lives of Southern Californians through inclusive collaboration, visionary planning, regional advocacy, information sharing, and promoting best practices.*

**OUR VISION**

*Southern California's Catalyst for a Brighter Future*

**OUR CORE VALUES**

*Be Open | Lead by Example | Make an Impact | Be Courageous*

Division staff to be well equipped to work towards ending the legacy of inequity that exists within the region. However, before developing the Equity Framework, SCAG leadership and staff need to have a better understanding of current agency practices around equity.

As a first step towards developing the larger strategic approach, SCAG staff have initiated work on an Equity Inventory, which will catalogue existing Planning Division work that considers equity and identify additional areas where equity could be integrated. The Equity Inventory will provide a holistic snapshot of how the Division currently integrates equity considerations into its practices and policies. The Equity Inventory objectives include:

- Helping SCAG gather baseline data and information in order to self-identify areas for change and improvement, including specific actions and targets that will lead to improved outcomes for low income families and communities of color;
- Spurring dialogue within SCAG's Planning Division that leads to greater understanding and commitment to address issues of equity;
- Facilitating the sharing of information, resources, mutual support, and improvement tools;
- Building shared accountability across the SCAG Planning Division; and
- Developing a baseline assessment that can be used to evaluate where SCAG is in its progress towards integrating and advancing equity.

All SCAG Planning Division staff will be engaged in this effort, including those working on active transportation, goods movement, housing, performance monitoring, programming, public health, public participation, sustainability, transit/rail, transportation finance, and transportation safety. The Equity Inventory will include input from each major program area, including information on what is being done or could be done to advance equity, whether coordination or collaboration with others is occurring, why the work is being done (e.g., federal or state requirements), and how equity is being considered within the context of each unique program or project. As staff assess their current work, they will be asked to consider:

- **Place:** Is the policy, initiative, program, or budget benefitting low income and/or communities of color as defined by Environmental Justice Area, Communities of Concern, and Senate Bill 535 Disadvantaged Areas<sup>1</sup> included in the Connect SoCal Environmental Justice Technical Report?
- **People:** Which vulnerable populations are impacted by or are benefitting from the policy, initiative, program or budget? Have we identified these populations based on population characteristics, location, or both?
- **Process:** Does the work involve intentional collaboration with vulnerable populations? Which best practices for meaningful engagement have we been implementing? Are we already or

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<sup>1</sup> Per California Senate Bill 535 (2012), disadvantaged communities are defined as the top 25% scoring areas from CalEnviroScreen, a mapping tool that helps identify California communities that are most affected by many sources of pollution and where people are often especially vulnerable to pollution's effects.

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have we considered sharing as much decision-making power as feasible? Are there formal agreements to define collaboration?

- **Impact:** How may the policy, initiative, program or budget increase equity? How may the policy, initiative, program or budget decrease inequality in income or wealth? How may the policy, initiative, program or budget ensure safety and improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities?

In reviewing the compiled information from all teams, SCAG staff anticipate assessing:

- What are the existing definitions of equity being used throughout the Planning Division? How are they similar or different?
- What are the existing equity goals, objectives, outputs, or outcomes?
- Which program areas are monitoring equity indicators? Which should?
- Where is coordination or collaboration occurring? Where is it not?
- Are there current limitations or barriers (e.g., need for tools or resources)?
- Where are there opportunities for improvement or areas for future implementation considerations?
- Are the types of activities we are pursuing addressing key areas to move us toward greater equity?

SCAG staff understand that this Equity Inventory may become a part of a phased approach, with later efforts incorporating surveys, interviews, or focus groups with policymakers, partners, and community stakeholders. This Equity Inventory is functioning as a first step towards conducting an organizational self-assessment. As mentioned earlier, once the Equity Inventory is completed, an Equity Framework will be developed, and then specific actions will be identified that we can take together to advance equity across the region. The work is significant and will require that organizations across the region undertake similar work, which SCAG can help facilitate through support for activities such as: 1) adoption of public statements and commitments to equity and social justice; 2) self-assessments of current work as it relates to equity; and 3) building a plan to strengthen and improve in areas that they self-identify, with support from those who are also engaged in equity work.

### Next Steps

SCAG staff plan to share a verbal update on the Equity Inventory Report at the Special Committee's November meeting, and will return with a draft Equity Inventory Report at the Committee's January meeting.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for staff work on this issue is included in the Project 21-050.0169.08.



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**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. PowerPoint Presentation - Equity Inventory Report and Framework Development

# Equity Inventory & Framework Development

Special Committee on Equity & Social Justice  
Thursday, September 24, 2020  
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

[www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov)



## Equity Inventory - What is it?



- First step towards developing larger strategic approach to integrating equity in SCAG's work
- Catalogues existing planning work that takes equity into account and identifies additional areas where equity could be integrated
- Provides holistic snapshot of how equity is currently taken into account



## Equity Inventory - Objectives

- Helps gather **baseline data and information** in order to identify areas for change and improvement
- **Spurs dialogue** within SCAG's Planning Division that leads to greater understanding and commitment to address issues of equity
- Facilitates **sharing of information**, resources, mutual support, and tools
- Builds **shared accountability** across the Planning Division
- Develops a **baseline assessment** that can be used to **evaluate** where SCAG is in its progress towards integrating and advancing equity

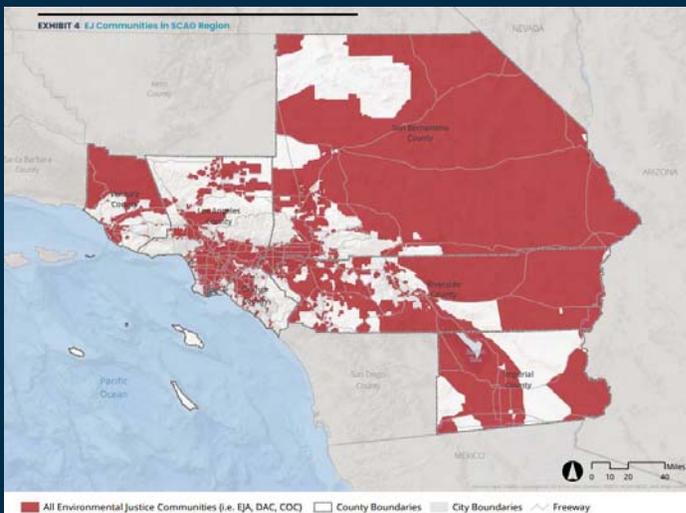
## Equity Inventory – Considerations

- Place
- People
- Process
- Impact

## Equity Inventory – Place

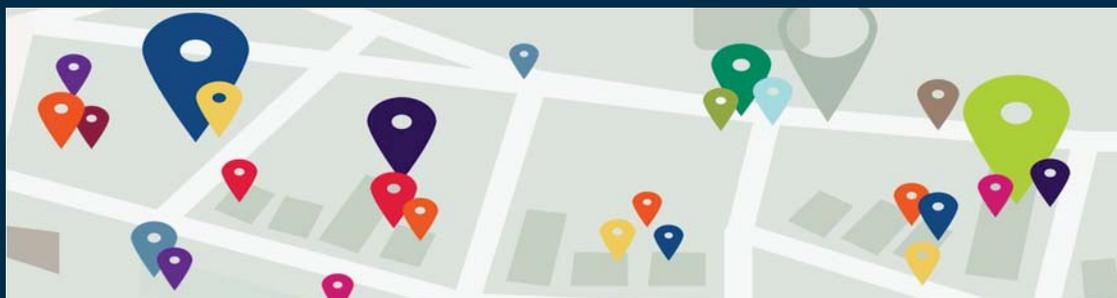
- **Place:** Is the policy, initiative, program, or budget benefitting low income and/or communities of color?

Connect SoCal EJ Technical Report Areas of Analysis	
Region	SCAG region
EJ Areas (EJA)	Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs) that have a higher concentration of minority population OR low-income households that is seen in the region as a whole
SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities (DAC)	Census tracts that have been identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) as Disadvantaged Communities based on the requirements set forth in SB 535, which seek to identify disproportionately burdened by and vulnerable to multiple sources of pollution
Communities of Concern (COC)	Census Designated Places (CDPs) and City of Los Angeles Community Planning Areas (CPAs) that fall in the upper one-third of all communities in the SCAG region for having the highest concentration of minority population AND low-income households



## Equity Inventory – People

- **People:** Which vulnerable populations are impacted by or are benefitting from the policy, initiative, program or budget?



## Equity Inventory – Process

- **Process:** Does the work involve intentional collaboration with vulnerable populations?



## Equity Inventory – Impact

- **Impact:** How may the policy, initiative, program or budget increase equity? Decrease inequality in income or wealth? Ensure safety and improve health outcomes for vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities?



## Next Steps

- **November:** Share an update on the Equity Inventory Report. Discuss SCAG's Internal Equity Initiatives.
- **January:** Return with a draft Equity Inventory Report. Discuss Regional Equity Framework.
- **March:** Return with Equity Framework and larger strategic approach. Discuss final report and recommendations.



## Thank you

Courtney Aguirre – [Aguirre@scag.ca.gov](mailto:Aguirre@scag.ca.gov)

Anita Au – [Au@scag.ca.gov](mailto:Au@scag.ca.gov)

[www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov)