

State of California

Public Utilities Commission
San Francisco

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 10, 2018

To: The Commission
(Meeting of February 21, 2019)

From: Commissioner Guzman Aceves and Commissioner Rechtschaffen

Subject: Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan

SUMMARY: The Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan (Plan) will serve as a roadmap to implement the California Public Utilities Commission’s (Commission) vision of advancing equity in its programs and policies. The Plan was developed collaboratively with all industry divisions. It lays out nine key goals, with objectives and concrete actions attached to each goal. The Plan will enable the Commission to evaluate and track its progress on advancing equity and environmental justice in all sectors it regulates. A draft of the Plan is available on the Commission website and can be found by visiting <http://cpuc.ca.gov/discom/> and scrolling down to the section entitled “Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan”.

BACKGROUND: Advancing environmental justice has long been a goal for California; in 2000, California adopted legislation that required environmental justice achievements to be part of the state’s mission. California has adopted numerous environmental justice statutes since 2000 that direct the Commission to incorporate environmental and social justice objectives into its work. The Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan will serve as a roadmap for implementing policies and programs at the Commission in a way that advances social and environmental justice.

Overview of ESJ Action Plan

The Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan establishes nine goals to inform its strategies to achieve environmental justice. Each goal has objectives and specific actions that the Commission will take. These goals, objectives, and actions respond to existing inequities and identify how the Commission can use its authority to address health and safety, consumer protection, and enforcement across the industries it regulates. The goals, objectives, and actions also highlight how the Commission can engage directly with environmental and social justice communities (ESJ communities), build relationships, and gather more information about the concerns ESJ communities face and the ways they would like to engage with the Commission.

The nine goals in the Plan are:

- 1) Consistently integrate equity and access considerations throughout CPUC proceedings and other efforts.
- 2) Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health.
- 3) Strive to improve access to high-quality water, communications, and transportation services for ESJ communities.
- 4) Increase climate resiliency in low-income and disadvantaged communities.
- 5) Enhance outreach and public participation opportunities to meaningfully participate in the CPUC's decision-making process and benefit from CPUC programs.
- 6) Enhance enforcement to ensure safety and consumer protection for ESJ communities.
- 7) Promote business and workforce development opportunities to ESJ communities.
- 8) Improve training and staff development related to environmental and social justice issues within the CPUC's jurisdiction.
- 9) Monitor the CPUC's environmental and social justice efforts to ensure that they are achieving their objectives.

Plan Development Process

The Plan was developed by staff through regular meetings beginning in October 2017 with the industry divisions, the News and Outreach Office, and staff for Commissioners Guzman Aceves and Rechtschaffen. During these meetings, participants developed the goals, objectives, and actions listed in the Plan.

Beginning in August 2018, the Draft ESJ Action Plan was available for public input. An early draft was introduced at the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group's (DACAG) quarterly meeting on August 21, and also discussed at the Low Income Oversight Board meeting on September 20. Proposed DACAG feedback was discussed on October 30 and November 30 during their public meetings. A webinar seeking comments on the draft was also held on November 2, 2018. As a result of these sessions and other public outreach efforts, the Commission received both verbal and written comments from various stakeholders. A draft of the Plan was circulated by Commission staff to the Commissioners on December 6, 2018 and is on the Commission website.

CONCLUSION: The Plan will help the Commission meet statutory requirements and internal goals by providing a roadmap for integrating environmental and social justice across all programs. The Plan will serve as a living document and will be updated regularly to reflect the Commission's progress on the listed goals. We request endorsement of the Plan as an important tool for the Commission as we work to advance environmental and social justice in our work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clifford Rechtschaffen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Clifford Rechtschaffen, Commissioner

Martha Guzman Aceves, Commissioner