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| **State of California Public Utilities Commission**  **San Francisco**  **M E M O R A N D U M** | |
| **Date:** | **April 1, 2022** |
| **To:** | **The Commission**  **(Meeting of April 7, 2022)** |
| **From:** | **Office of the Commission** |
| **Subject:** | **Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan Version 2** |

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan (Plan) will continue to serve as a roadmap to implement the California Public Utilities Commission’s (Commission) vision of advancing equity in its programs and policies. The Commission adopted the first version of the Plan in February 2019 which was developed collaboratively with all industry divisions. It lays out nine key goals, with objectives and concrete actions attached to each goal. This updated Plan (Plan v.2) incorporates lessons learned over the last two years and lays out updated action items to track. Plan v.2 also includes feedback from various stakeholders who participated in public workshops held throughout the year. Plan v.2 will enable the Commission to evaluate and track its progress on advancing equity and environmental justice in all sectors it regulates. A draft of Plan v.2 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 statues since 2000 that direct the Commission to incorporate environmental and social justice objectives into its work. The Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan will continue to 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 and respective objectives have been updated in Plan v.2 and are:

# Goal 1: Consistently integrate equity and access considerations throughout CPUC regulatory activities.

# 1.1 Build Systematic Approaches for ESJ Priorities

# 1.2 Expand Opportunities for Access

# Goal 2: Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health.

# 2.1 Enhance Outreach & Engagement

# 2.2 Continue Research & Analysis to Understand Impact

# 2.3 Move Towards Mutual Eligibility & Maximizing Impact

# 2.4 Address Impacts in ESJ Communities

# 2.5 Continue Ongoing Investment

# Goal 3: Strive to improve access to high-quality water, communications, and transportation services for ESJ communities.

# 3.1 Ensure Equitable Clean Transportation

# 3.2 Ensure Water Customer Resilience

# 3.3 Extend Rail Safety to ESJ Communities

# 3.4 Extend Essential Communications Services to ESJ Communities

# Goal 4: Increase climate resiliency in ESJ communities.

# 4.1 Emphasize Adaptive Capacity

# Goal 5: Enhance outreach and public participation opportunities for ESJ communities to meaningfully participate in the CPUC’s decision-making process and benefit from CPUC programs.

# 5.1 Improve Communication with ESJ Lens

# 5.2 Continue to Emphasize Engagement with CBOs

# 5.3 Build Pathways for Public Participation

# 5.4 Enhance Engagement with Particular ESJ Communities and Individuals

# Goal 6: Enhance enforcement to ensure safety and consumer protection for all, especially for ESJ communities.

# 6.1 Protect ESJ Consumers

# 6.2 Conduct Proactive Action & Analysis in Transportation and Utility Enforcement

# 6.3 Apply ESJ Lens to CPUC Enforcement Policy

# 6.4 Maximize Opportunities within Utility Audits

# Goal 7: Promote high road career paths and economic opportunity for residents of ESJ communities.

# 7.1 Maximize Authority to Promote High Road

# 7.2 Educate on High Road Careers

# 7.3 Partner with Utilities and Sister Agencies

# Goal 8: Improve training and staff development related to environmental and social justice issues within the CPUC’s jurisdiction.

# 8.1 Bolster Staff Knowledge on ESJ Issues and Resources

# 8.2 Support Emerging Priorities and Skill Needs

# Goal 9: Monitor the CPUC’s environmental and social justice efforts to evaluate how they are achieving their objectives.

# 9.1 Establish Consistent Quantitative Metrics

# 9.2 Promote Meaningful Feedback Loops

# Plan Development Process

The CPUC held a workshop on February 3 and 4, 2021 to seek input on desired revisions to the ESJ Action Plan Version 1.0. About 628 attendees participated with 437 individuals representing outside organizations. Participants in the two-day workshop represented a diverse group of stakeholders who had the ability to provide feedback directly to CPUC staff and at times Commissioners. Following the workshop, feedback and comments were aggregated and used to inform revisions.

Plan v.2 was developed by CPUC staff through regular meetings beginning in the late summer of 2021 in coordination with the industry divisions, the News and Outreach Office, Tribal Advisor, Office of the Commission, and staff for Commissioners Guzman Aceves and Rechtschaffen. During these meetings, participants revisited the original nine the goals and objectives to ensure they continued to direct attention to the appropriate communities, and update actions listed in the Plan.

Beginning in October 2021, the Draft ESJ Action Plan v.2 was available for public input. An early draft was introduced at the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group’s (DACAG) quarterly meeting on October 14, 2021, and also discussed at the Low-Income Oversight Board meeting on September 24. with a second set of webinars to present the draft for comment were also held on November 10 and 17, 2021. 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 Plan v.2 is available on the Commission website.

**CONCLUSION:** The Plan v.2 will continue to help the Commission meet statutory requirements and internal goals by providing a roadmap for integrating environmental and social justice across all programs. Plan v.2 will serve as a resource and reference document and will be updated regularly every three years to ensure the Commission’s progress on the listed goals. We request adoption of Plan v.2 as an important tool for the Commission as we work to advance equity and environmental and social justice in our work.

Sincerely,

Nicole Cropper, Special Assistant

Office of the Commission