



DRAFT Environmental & Social Justice Action Plan

Version 2.0

March 25, 2022



**California Public
Utilities Commission**

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Executive Summary

Background & Progress on Implementation

The CPUC’s Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Action Plan serves as both a commitment to furthering principles of environmental and social justice, as well as an operating framework with which to integrate ESJ considerations throughout the agency’s work. Version 1.0 of the CPUC’s ESJ Action Plan, adopted in February 2019 consisted of nine overarching goals, clear objectives, and 95 concrete action items to ensure agency-wide collaboration, accountability, and forward movement in meeting ESJ principles.

The ESJ Action Plan 1.0 also established a definition of “Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Communities” for the purposes of CPUC policy and programs, as predominantly communities of color or low-income communities that are underrepresented in the policy setting or decision-making process, subject to a disproportionate impact from one or more environmental hazards, and are likely to experience disparate implementation of environmental regulations and socioeconomic investments in their communities. Under this definition the CPUC aimed to target the following communities:

- Disadvantaged Communities, defined as census tracts that score in the top 25% of CalEnviroScreen 3.0, along with those that score within the highest 5% of CalEnviroScreen 3.0's Pollution Burden but do not receive an overall CalEnviroScreen score;¹²
- All Tribal lands³;
- Low-income households (Household incomes below 80 percent of the area median income); and
- Low-income census tracts (Census tracts where aggregated household incomes are less than 80 percent of area or state median income).

Since adopting Version 1.0 of the ESJ Action Plan, the CPUC has made significant progress in incorporating ESJ considerations into its work, as well as creating a culture that takes into serious account the lived experiences of ESJ communities. Version 2.0 of the ESJ Action Plan is updated to reflect a continuation of efforts to systematize the consideration of ESJ principles across Commission activities and incorporates two years of learnings from engagement with ESJ communities, advocates, and other stakeholders.

¹ <https://calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2017/04/SB-535-Designation-Final.pdf>

² This definition of “Disadvantaged Communities” reflects a small change from Version 1.0 of the ESJ Action Plan to reflect the most recent designation of “Disadvantaged Communities” by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) in CalEnviroScreen, Version 3.0. A new version of CalEnviroScreen, Version 4.0, was finalized in October 2021 and CalEPA will make a subsequent designation of “Disadvantaged Community” given the new data. The definition in the ESJ Action Plan will be subsequently updated to reflect this change once it is in effect.

³ Land within any Indian reservation as defined in 18 U.S.C. 1151 subsection (a)

from two feedback internal implementation structure has been established, consisting of a Core Team and ESJ Liaisons from each of the CPUC’s divisions. A Status Report on Version 1.0 was published in May 2020, outlining progress made on implementing each of the action items in the ESJ Action Plan. A few highlights of progress thus far include:

- Goal 1: Established internal guidance for staff to scope ESJ issues into all proceedings;
- Goal 3: Ordered significant investments in ESJ communities including transportation electrification investments in Disadvantaged Communities through Southern California Edison’s Charge Ready 2 Infrastructure Program;
- Goal 1 and 4: Continued and deepened prioritization of ESJ communities and related issues in key proceedings and programs, including the Climate Adaptation proceeding (R.18-04-019) and the Affordability proceeding (R. 18-07-006);
- Goal 5: Added a new Public Comment feature to the CPUC Docket Card to encourage wider public participation;
- Goal 5: Continued to improve outreach and engagement with community-based organizations and the public;
- Goal 5: Launched an overhauled, consumer focused CPUC website;
- Goal 5 and 6: Established new requirements for utilities to conduct in-language⁴ outreach in the instance of wildfire in D. 20-03-004 of the Wildfire Mitigation Plans proceeding;
- Goal 7: Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) to receive their expertise and recommendations on maximizing access to good jobs for individuals in ESJ communities;
- Goal 7: Published “Economic Opportunities in Environmental and Social Justice Communities,” outlining the success of the Utility Supplier Diversity Program in reaching ESJ communities;
- Goal 8: Established an introduction to ESJ session for the CPUC’s New Employee Orientation; and
- Goal 8: Staff and management participated in the Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE).

Critical Topics for Consideration in Version 2.0

In addition to incorporating learnings from ongoing implementation activities, national discussions to address race based disparities, which often align with disparities experienced in ESJ communities social and political events, alongside other parallel efforts that occurred between 2019 and 2021 served as

⁴ Decision 20-03-002: Order Instituting Rulemaking to Implement Electric Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans Pursuant to Senate Bill 901 (2018). [329824881.PDF \(ca.gov\)](#)

opportunities to deepen and enhance the goals of the ESJ Action Plan. Version 2.0 of the ESJ Action Plan includes:

- **Racial Equity + Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI):** Acknowledging solidarity and alignment with broader racial equity work, specifically the CCORE cohort and the DEI Working Group, being led concurrently with the implementation of the ESJ Action Plan.
- **Engagement with California Native American Tribes:** Working alongside the CPUC Tribal Office to implement the Tribal Land Transfer Policy and the Tribal Consultation Policy.
- **Individuals with Access and Functional Needs (AFN):** Collaborating with communities with AFN to understand and ensure CPUC efforts serve their needs.
- **COVID-19 Pandemic: Immediate Response and the “New Normal”:** Taking action to protect the state’s most vulnerable residents with measures such as disconnection moratoriums, arrearage management, and increased access to public meetings and hearings.
- **Wildfire Events:** Continuing to incorporate the needs of ESJ communities in high fire threat districts.
- **Workforce Development and the High Road Transition:** Delivering on principles of economic equity and focusing workforce-related provisions on job quality and access.
- **Priority Populations for Future Consideration in the Definition of “Environmental and Social Justice Communities”:** Acknowledging potential gaps in the current definition of “ESJ communities” and consider updating the definition in the future.
- **Considerations of Rate Burdens on Low-Income Customers:** Ensuring the clean energy transition does not unduly increase rate burdens on lower income communities nor increase existing disparities between lower-income communities and others.
- **Timeline for Providing ESJ Action Plan Status Reports and Updates:** Ensure that the ESJ Action Plan is an iterative document with a three-year time frame between adopting proposed revisions and should include a mid-point Status Report.

ESJ Action Plan 2.0: Updated Goals & Objectives

The inaugural version of the ESJ Action plan served as a foundation upon which to build the consideration of ESJ principles into the agency’s work. Included in Version 1.0 was a requirement to update the plan every two years through an informal public process. For Version 2.0 of ESJ Action Plan, revisions to eight of the nine goals clarify existing language; and Goal 7, related to workforce development, has been revised to include an emphasis on job quality and access. Appendix A lists 91 new action items that reflect present-day priorities and efforts.

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

REVISED Goal 7: Promote high road⁵ 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

Utilizing the ESJ Plan as Resource

The ESJ Action Plan is intended to serve as a resource for CPUC staff, intervenors, stakeholders, and the public. The goals and objectives provide the broad vision and steps the CPUC will take to ensure equity in its programs and services. The action items serve as a tracking mechanism to remain transparent about the concrete actions the CPUC is taking with regards to embedding ESJ principles into its work. Finally, the appendices which include definitions, program criteria, and examples of past decisions are included as reference materials to be cited or used as reference material by CPUC staff and/or any individual or organization that interacts with the CPUC.

⁵ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=UIC&division=7.&title=&part=&chapter=2.

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intentional efforts to ensure all individuals and communities can participate in policy development activities that impact their everyday lives. Environmental and social justice efforts seek to foster equity for marginalized communities, including addressing historic underinvestment and exclusionary policies and practices that have allowed inequity to flourish.

The CPUC is tasked with serving all Californians, and to do so equitably while reaching the state’s climate goals, it must acknowledge that some populations in California face higher barriers to access to clean, safe, and affordable utility services. To fulfill its mission, the CPUC acknowledges it must focus resources on communities that have been underserved, as this plan outlines. Additionally, the CPUC acknowledges that its decisions have the potential to perpetuate and exacerbate existing disparities in ESJ communities. As such, the ESJ Plan serves as an ongoing commitment to mitigate and eliminate harms to these communities. As the CPUC fulfills the goals and objectives listed in this ESJ Action Plan and improves its ability to serve ESJ communities, it will become even more transparent, accessible, and effective for all the communities it serves.

Purpose of the ESJ Plan

The ESJ Action Plan is intended to serve as a resource for CPUC staff, intervenors, stakeholders, and the public. The goals and objectives provide the broad vision and steps the CPUC will take to ensure equity in its programs and services. The action items serve as a tracking mechanism to remain transparent about the concrete actions the CPUC is taking with regards to embedding ESJ principles into its work. Finally, the appendices which include definitions, program criteria, and examples of past decisions are included as reference materials to be used by CPUC staff and/or any individual or organization that interacts with the CPUC.

Origins of the ESJ Action Plan – Past Leadership and Version 1.0

PAST LEADERSHIP

The CPUC has broad authority and the administrative discretion to shape programs and direct resources in a manner that furthers its equity objectives. The CPUC has issued directives and programs to invest in ESJ and disadvantaged communities (DACs) more broadly since the 1990s. The adoption of the original ESJ Action Plan in 2019 builds on many years of leadership from the California Legislature and the CPUC on environmental justice and broader social justice issues. Key efforts that demonstrate this leadership include, but are not limited to:

- Under General Order 156, the CPUC’s Utility Supplier Diversity Program⁸ monitors supplier diversity in procurement by participating utilities and oversees a clearinghouse of women, minority, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT), and disabled veteran-owned business enterprises.

⁸ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/supplierdiversity/>

- Since 2001, the CPUC has convened the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB)⁹ which advises the CPUC on low-income electric and gas customer issues and serves as a liaison for the CPUC to low-income ratepayers and representatives.
- The CPUC has provided utility bill assistance and consumer education to Californians with limited English proficiency via the TEAM (Telecommunications Education and Assistance in Multiple-Languages) and CHANGES (Community Help and Awareness of Natural Gas and Electric Services) Programs,¹⁰ which were founded in 2006 and 2015, respectively. These programs leverage a statewide network of community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide services in over a dozen commonly spoken languages.
- Many of the CPUC’s energy-related programs use the CalEnviroScreen tool,¹¹ developed by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), as a means of focusing efforts and prioritizing investment in communities disproportionately affected by air pollution and facing socioeconomic burdens. CalEnviroScreen identifies “disadvantaged communities,” (DACs)¹² using indicators such as environmental, health, and socio-economic burdens. While the list of indicators is not exhaustive, CalEnviroScreen is one of several tools available for identifying ESJ communities. The DAC-Single Family Affordable Solar Homes (DAC-SASH) Program, the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) Program, the DAC-Community Solar, and DAC-Green Tariff Programs, as well as the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) Are among a few programs that utilize CalEnviroScreen to prioritize investments.
- In 2012, California officially passed the Human Right to Water Act,¹³ providing that, “every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.”¹⁴ The CPUC continues to act for all Californians to have access to clean, safe, and affordable water supplies.
- The Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015¹⁵ requires a reduction in greenhouse gases in California by increasing the procurement of renewables and other clean energy resources. The Act also requires the CPUC to prioritize disadvantaged communities in its integrated energy resources planning processes. The statute further requires the establishment of a Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG)¹⁶ which advises the CPUC and the California Energy Commission (CEC) on clean energy and pollution reduction programs. The 11-member group meets several times a year to review CEC and CPUC clean energy programs and policies to ensure that disadvantaged communities,

⁹ <https://liob.cpuc.ca.gov/>

¹⁰ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/about-cpuc/divisions/news-and-public-information-office/consumer-affairs-branch/team-and-changes-programs>

¹¹ <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen>

¹² California Health and Safety Code Section 39711

¹³ California Water Code Section 106.3

¹⁴ AB 685 (Eng, 2012)

¹⁵ Senate Bill 350 (de Leon, 2015).

¹⁶ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/dacag>

including tribal and rural communities, benefit from proposed clean energy and pollution reduction programs. Group members are either from or represent disadvantaged communities.

- Governor Gavin Newsom’s 2020 Broadband for All Executive Order aims to provide high speed broadband to all Californians, with a focus on reaching previously underserved communities.¹⁷ The goal is to eliminate the “digital divide” by enhancing broadband infrastructure and access of service via key public purpose programs such as California Lifeline and the California Advanced Services Fund.

ESJ Plan Version 1.0¹⁸

In addition to implementing legislation and spearheading programs, such as those outlined above, the CPUC further sought to achieve environmental and social justice goals by strategically targeting investment, engagement, and enforcement efforts in ESJ communities. Under the leadership of Commissioner Guzman Aceves and Commissioner Rechtschaffen, the ESJ Action Plan Version 1.0 was adopted in February 2019 and provided the CPUC with a roadmap for advancing these equity-related goals across the agency’s industry areas and create a culture that takes into serious account the lived experiences of ESJ communities.

The ESJ Action plan’s framework of nine overarching goals, clear objectives, and 95 concrete action items was developed with input from stakeholders, including community-based organizations serving ESJ communities, sister state agencies, and the DACAG. The public process ensured agency-wide collaboration, accountability, and forward movement in meeting ESJ principles.

Critical to the ESJ Action Plan was the establishment of a definition of **“Environmental and Social Justice Communities”** or **“ESJ Communities”**¹⁹ as low-income or communities of color that have been underrepresented in the policy setting or decision-making process, are subject to a disproportionate impact from one or more environmental hazards, and likely to experience disparate implementation of environmental regulations and socio-economic investments in their communities. In addition, ESJ communities include: Disadvantaged Communities, defined as census tracts that score in the top 25% of CalEnviroScreen 3.0, along with those that score within the highest 5% of CalEnviroScreen 3.0’s Pollution

¹⁷ AB 1665 (Garcia, 2017)

¹⁸ See ESJ Plan Version 1.0 [Microsoft Word - Env and Social Justice Action Plan_2019-02-21.docx \(ca.gov\)](#)

¹⁹ Use of the term “environmental and social justice” is not intended to create a new class of customers. Individual CPUC programs may focus on environmental and social justice communities in different ways.

Burden but do not receive an overall CalEnviroScreen score^{20 21}; all Tribal lands²²; low-income households²³; and low-income census tracts²⁴.



Image 2: Residents from the San Joaquin Valley attend CPUC Voting Meeting. December 2018.

²⁰ <https://calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2017/04/SB-535-Designation-Final.pdf>

²¹ This definition of “Disadvantaged Communities” reflects a small change from Version 1.0 of the ESJ Action Plan and is changed to reflect the most recent designation of “Disadvantaged Communities” by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). A new version of CalEnviroScreen, Version 4.0, was finalized in October 2021 and CalEPA will make a subsequent designation of “Disadvantaged Community” given the new data. This definition in the ESJ Action Plan will be subsequently updated to reflect this change once it is in effect.

²² Can utilize definition of “California Indian Country” <https://www.courts.ca.gov/8710.htm> .

²³ Household incomes below 80 percent of the area median income.

²⁴ Census tracts with household incomes less than 80 percent area or state median income.

Progress on Implementation

Since the adoption of Version 1.0 of the ESJ Action Plan, the CPUC has made significant progress in incorporating ESJ considerations into its work, as well as creating a culture that takes into serious account the lived experiences of ESJ communities.

Implementation Structure

To ensure compliance with the actions outlined in the ESJ Action Plan, the CPUC created an implementation structure to maximize effective coordination and sharing of lessons learned across the agency. Staff from the Executive Division serves as the primary staff lead, as they can work and communicate with staff and leadership across the CPUC. Advisory staff from the Office of the Commission, Executive Office, and Commissioner offices support the lead staff. Together, these individuals make up the “Core Team” implementing the ESJ Action Plan and work together on coordination and strategic planning.

For the purposes of industry division coordination, the Core Team established “ESJ Liaisons” in each Division across the CPUC. These ESJ Liaisons provide status updates on action items listed in the ESJ Action Plan. Alongside the Core Team, ESJ Liaisons participate in an ESJ Working Group which promotes the goals of the plan across the CPUC and increases staff capacity to addresses ESJ issues in their daily work.

Table 1: ESJ Working Group Structure²⁵

CORE TEAM AND CROSS-COMMISSION ESJ LIAISONS	INDUSTRY DIVISION ESJ LIAISONS
Lead: News and Outreach Office (NOO)	Communications Division (CD)
Commissioner Offices	Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division (CPED)
Executive Office	Energy Division (ED)
Office of the Commission	Rail Safety Division
Administrative Law Judge Division (ALJ)	Safety and Enforcement Division (SED)
Legal Division	Safety Policy Division (SPD)
Office of Governmental Affairs (OGA)	Water Division (WD)

²⁵ The following Divisions serve in an advisory capacity and do not have ESJ Liaisons: Human Resources Division (HR), Information Technology Services Division (ITSD), Administrative Services, Office of Internal Audits, Utility Audits, Risk & Compliance.



Image 6: CPUC ESJ Liaisons. January 2020.

Status Report and Accomplishments Thus Far

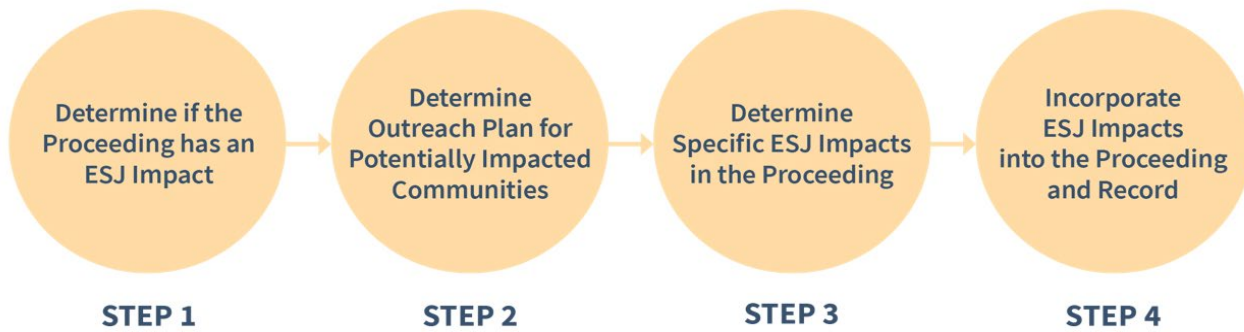
As a means of ensuring proper accountability to the commitments made within the ESJ Action Plan, the ESJ Working Group published a Status Report²⁶ in May 2020, which documented progress on implementing each of the ESJ Action Plan’s 95 action items. The Core Team also provided a presentation to the Commission on this progress, alongside lessons learned and opportunities for continued prioritization of ESJ-related work.

The accomplishments highlighted below demonstrate efforts to systemically instill ESJ considerations into CPUC work and culture.

- The CPUC encourages its staff to consider ESJ issues at the beginning of all proceedings to ensure the proceeding record incorporates meaningful discussion regarding potential impacts to ESJ communities. Internal guidance has been circulated to CPUC staff and technical assistance is being provided to CPUC staff by the Core Team and ESJ Liaisons.

Figure 1: Steps for Incorporating ESJ Considerations into CPUC Proceedings

²⁶ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/news-and-outreach/documents/news-office/key-issues/esj/esj-action-plan-status-update-presentation-2020.pdf>



- With the introduction of a new Public Comment feature on the CPUC Docket Card in February 2020,²⁷ as well as the introduction of remote access for all CPUC meetings in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant increase in the ability of people from ESJ communities and the public-at-large to provide public comment and inform CPUC decision-making.
- In Decision 20-08-046 from the Climate Change Adaptation²⁸ proceeding, “Decision on energy utility climate change vulnerability assessments and climate adaptation in disadvantaged communities,” “the CPUC established a new definition of “disadvantaged vulnerable communities” introducing the concept of adaptive capacity and investigating the specific needs of these communities in the face of climate change. Utilities are required to conduct robust community engagement as part of the process of preparing climate vulnerability assessments.
- Decision 20-07-032 from the Affordability²⁹ proceeding, “Decision adopting metrics and methodologies for assessing the relative affordability of utility service,” offers new affordability metrics that can be utilized across energy, water, and communications industries to understand the impact ³⁰ of potential rate changes and highlights the geographic concentration of unaffordability of key utility services.
- In Decision 20-03-004, “Community Awareness and Public Outreach Before, During, and After a Wildfire,” utilities are required to perform in-depth analysis to understand language needs in their service territories, and to extend communication to include indigenous languages. Utilities are also required to perform quantitative and qualitative evaluations concerning the reach and impact of their outreach.

²⁷ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/about-cpuc/divisions/news-and-public-information-office/public-advisors-office/providing-public-comments-at-the-cpuc>

²⁸ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/climate-change>

²⁹ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/affordability>

³⁰ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/industries-and-topics/reports/2019-annual-affordability-report.pdf>

- A new CPUC website³¹ launched in July 2021 with a focus on the consumer as the primary audience, presenting easy access to information related to low-income programs and filing complaints.
- CPUC Local Government and Community Liaisons have continued to emphasize relationship-building with grassroots community-based organizations and introducing them to the CPUC process. Their activities have included spearheading a quarterly webinar series highlighting CPUC efforts and organizing tours with CPUC leadership in ESJ communities.
- The CPUC has entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) to provide expertise and recommendations on how the CPUC can maximize workforce development opportunities in ESJ communities. Recommendations have been incorporated into several rulings, including the Transportation Electrification Framework (R.18-12-006) and Self-Generation Incentive Program proceeding (R.20-05-012).



Image 3: Representatives from Community-Based Organizations discuss the need for in-language outreach. September 2019.



Image 4: CPUC staff attend a Community Engagement and Outreach Workshop in Sacramento. February 2020.

- The Utility Supplier Diversity Program’s July 2021 whitepaper, “Economic Opportunities in Environmental and Social Justice Communities,” found that significant investment has been made in

³¹ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/news-and-updates/all-news/cpuc-unveils-new-website-to-better-serve-californians>

ESJ communities on the part of utilities, with 42.2 percent of utility spending with diverse firms is within ESJ communities.³²

- In May 2021, the CPUC’s New Employee Orientation established a 2-hour session focused entirely focused on ESJ issues, providing incoming staff with a brief history of redlining and the environmental justice movement, an introduction to the ESJ Action Plan, and offers resources to staff to implement ESJ priorities in their work.
- CPUC staff participated in the Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE), which provides in-depth training to state agency cohorts on racial inequities and equips staff with tools and resources to further racial justice within their organizations.³³ The CPUC cohort will produce a Racial Equity Action Plan for the agency in 2022.

³² <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/news-and-outreach/documents/bco/utility-supplier-diversity-program/economic-opportunities-in-esj-communities-paper.pdf>

³³ <https://sgc.ca.gov/programs/hiap/racial-equity/>

Critical Topics for Consideration for Version 2.0

The ESJ plan is an iterative document. As such, the CPUC applied learnings from ongoing implementation activities outlined in Version 1.0, social and political events, and other parallel efforts that occurred between 2019 and 2021, as opportunities to deepen and enhance the goals of the ESJ Action Plan.

Racial Equity + Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Given that ESJ Communities include communities of color, it is critical for the ESJ Action Plan to both acknowledge solidarity and align with broader racial equity work being led concurrently with the implementation of the ESJ Action Plan.

In 2020, CPUC staff began participating in California’s Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE) program. 16 CPUC staff members, representing different divisions across the agency, constitute a cohort that is building a Racial Equity Action Plan for the CPUC with the support of executive sponsors.

In addition to participating in CCORE, the murder of George Floyd in the summer of 2020 centered the Black Lives Matter movement in the consciousness of our society and created a sense of urgency and necessity within the CPUC to embody diversity, equity, and inclusion. This has included the establishment of the staff led Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Working Group, which helps identify, propose, and assist with efforts to achieve diversity, equity, inclusion, and cultural competence at the CPUC. The DEI Working Group implemented several initiatives to celebrate diverse communities, highlight their challenges, and improve diversity of recruitment and hiring through training for all CPUC management, hiring panels with diverse representation, and increased recruitment from diverse professional associations.

While the ESJ Action Plan certainly prioritizes communities of color and principles of racial equity, the Plan should not be considered the CPUC’s primary effort to further racial equity work. CPUC staff working on implementing the ESJ Action Plan will work alongside and in solidarity with the CCORE cohort and the DEI Working Group to ensure shared goals and efforts are accomplished.

Engagement with California Native American Tribes

While the CPUC has had a Tribal Liaison for several years, since 2019 the work of the agency with tribes has expanded and deepened. The CPUC welcomed a Governor-appointed Tribal Advisor in 2020 to provide executive-level direction on how to effectively engage with tribal governments. Additionally, the establishment of the Tribal Land Transfer Policy³⁴, which allows for the transfer of land from investor-owned utilities to Native American tribes with a historical interest in the land, as well as the continued

³⁴ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/news-and-outreach/documents/bco/tribal/final-land-transfer-policy-116.pdf>

implementation of the Tribal Consultation Policy³⁵, which provides a framework to establish and maintain effective relationships with Tribes while respecting sovereignty, have deepened the CPUC’s relationships in Indian Country and have offered increasing insight into how to further adapt and learn.

Individuals and Communities with Access & Functional Needs

On November 22, 2016, the California Legislature and Governor approved AB 2311,³⁶ which required emergency plans to integrate the needs of populations with access and functional needs (AFN). This population includes individuals who live with developmental or intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, chronic conditions, injuries, limited English proficiency or who are non-English speaking, are older adults, children, people living in institutionalized settings, or those who are low income, homeless, or transportation disadvantaged, including, but not limited to, those who are dependent on public transit or those who are pregnant.³⁷

In late 2019, communities across California experienced unprecedented use of Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events, with over 975,000 customer accounts in 38 counties being affected in PG&E territory with many customers losing power for nearly a week.³⁸ While electric utilities are to use PSPS events as a tool of last resort only in the highest risk of infrastructure-ignited fire, the impacts of PSPS events can be perilous to individuals with access and functional needs. In order to collaborate with communities with AFN to understand and ensure CPUC efforts serve their needs, the CPUC hired a designated Senior Analyst for Resilient Communities with Access and Functional Needs within the Safety Policy Division to focus on ensuring proceedings, policies, and programs meaningfully account for and include the needs of people with AFN.

COVID-19 Pandemic: Immediate Response and the “New Normal”

On March 4, 2020, California Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency to prepare additional resources in light of rising case numbers due to the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁹ Given the immediate threat of the global pandemic to the existence and livelihoods of millions of Californians, the Governor issued a “Stay

³⁵ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/news-and-outreach/documents/bco/tribal/tribal-consultation-policy-approved.pdf>

³⁶ CA Govt Code § 8593

³⁷ AB 2311. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB2311&showamends=false

³⁸ Presiding Officer’s Decision 2021. <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M385/K400/385400379.PDF>

³⁹ Governor Newsom Declares State of Emergency to Help State Prepare for Broader Spread of COVID-19 | California Governor. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/03/04/governor-newsom-declares-state-of-emergency-to-help-state-prepare-for-broader-spread-of-covid-19/>

at Home” order on March 19, 2020.⁴⁰ In light of this emergency, the CPUC took immediate action to protect the state’s most vulnerable residents:⁴¹

1. The CPUC issued moratoriums on disconnections for nonpayment of service, which continued through 2021.
2. In February 2021, the CPUC opened a proceeding (R.21-02-014) to address the energy utility customer bill debt accumulated during the COVID-19 pandemic. In October 2021, the CPUC ordered investor-owned utilities to implement Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) pilot programs, which allow a participant to pay a predetermined affordable percentage of their monthly income toward their electricity or natural gas bill, in order to reduce residential disconnections.
3. Moving forward, the CPUC is proactively considering how to ensure Californians disproportionately impacted, such as those in ESJ communities, continue to safely receive reliable utility service.
4. Additionally, the CPUC shifted all CPUC business to virtual platforms, which has facilitated significantly more public access to CPUC meetings and hearings. If the future allows for the opportunity to hold meetings in-person once again, it is likely that virtual engagement opportunities will remain to ensure enhanced and broader access is still available to ESJ communities and the public.



Image 5: Community Meeting regarding Disconnection in San Bernardino. June 2019.

Wildfire Events

⁴⁰ Governor Gavin Newsom Issues Stay at Home Order | California Governor. <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/03/19/governor-gavin-newsom-issues-stay-at-home-order/>

⁴¹ CPUC COVID-19 Actions. <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/news-and-updates/newsroom/covid-19>

Since Version 1.0 of the ESJ Action Plan, California has experienced the largest wildfires in state history.⁴² Additionally, electric utilities have used de-energization strategies more frequently to prevent ignition of wildfires by electric utility infrastructure. These events have had massive implications for ESJ communities, particularly low-income people in rural, high fire threat areas including people with access and functional needs. While the CPUC oversaw the creation of the Wildfire Safety Division and its subsequent move to the California Natural Resources Agency, CPUC staff continue to incorporate the needs of ESJ communities in high fire threat districts as it advises the Commission and evaluates safety compliance and efficacy of wildfire prevention work of the utilities.

Workforce Development and the High Road Transition

With the implementation of the ESJ Action Plan, the CPUC entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) in October 2020 in order to receive expertise from the CWDB about implementing Goal 7, “promoting economic and workforce development opportunities in ESJ communities.” Energy efficiency, renewable energy, transportation electrification, building decarbonization, and vegetation management are the five areas or topics of interagency collaboration listed in the MoU, with the first three having been the immediate priority. In developing the MoU, the agencies realized their shared interest in leveraging CPUC policies (e.g., incentive programs, regulations and rulemakings, strategic plans, research studies, etc.) to deliver economic equity – i.e., the elimination or reduction in income inequality and other economic disparities between ESJ and non-ESJ communities.

Through the partnership, the CPUC has gained a much deeper and clearer understanding of the need to leverage its authority and jurisdiction to focus on the jobs created or supported by CPUC policies, as well as the training and services needed to develop a skilled and diverse workforce, addressing issues of quality and access on both fronts. In other words, improving ESJ communities’ economic well-being, and advancing economic equity in California, will require more of the CPUC than the conventional approach of simply promoting job training or skill acquisition. As a result, Goal 7 of the ESJ Action Plan is updated to better reflect the imperatives of quality and access in both employment and training, and further promote the high road principles of equity, sustainability, and job quality across the CPUC.

Priority Populations for Future Consideration in the Definition of “Environmental and Social Justice Communities”

Version 1.0 of the ESJ Action Plan established a definition for “ESJ communities,” which includes: (1) Disadvantaged Communities; (2) Low Income Census Tracts; (3) Low Income Households; and (4) Tribal Lands. While this definition captures a diverse group of communities in need of prioritization, some additional priority communities are not specifically named. Notably, communities with AFN and those with other medical vulnerabilities are not specifically captured, nor are communities that experience disproportionate challenges with affording utility service, unhoused individuals, or indigenous populations

⁴² Cal FIRE Stats and Events. <https://www.fire.ca.gov/stats-events/>

living off tribal lands. Version 2.0 of the ESJ Action Plan does not propose a revised definition of “ESJ communities,” as we recognize there is not a one-size-fits-all definition of what encompasses a potential ESJ community. Rather, we encourage CPUC initiatives to critically consider all the various kinds of populations that warrant prioritization in policies and programs.

Considerations of Rate Burdens on Low-Income Customers

Ensuring the development of environmentally friendly and resource-responsible policies are essential to maintaining a resilient utility service network, especially within the current climate change crisis. These programs will provide substantial benefits to ESJ communities that are most harmed by pollution and climate change impacts. However, as California transitions to a cleaner grid, the risk of a smaller number of households, likely lower income households who cannot afford to upgrade their existing household appliances to energy efficient and/or all electric, becoming increasingly financially responsible for maintaining legacy infrastructure.

This is in addition to the overall utility rate increases residents are experiencing due to a variety of factors. The CPUC acknowledges that increased rates place a large burden on ESJ communities who participate in clean energy programs at a lower rate than others. Continuing to assess the cumulative impact of rates on households and working to mitigate these impacts on the most burdened households will remain a priority in all actions the CPUC takes.

Timeline for Providing ESJ Action Plan Status Reports and Updates

Version 1.0 of the ESJ Action Plan calls for it to be an iterative document with a two-year update cycle. Through implementation of the first iteration of the Plan, the ESJ Core Team organized a Status Report delivered to the Commissioners in May 2020 on implementation of the action items. The Status Report outlined forward movement in implementing the Action Items in the ESJ Action Plan and acknowledged opportunities for improvement. This was an effective exercise to ensure accountability for the commitments made in the Plan, empower the ESJ Liaisons in each Division to understand ESJ priorities in their division, and understand where more energy needs to be focused to make strong progress on ESJ Action Plan implementation.

Based on experience implementing the ESJ Action Plan and putting together the Status Report, staff propose for the ESJ Action Plan to aim for a three-year time horizon for an update, with a mid-point status report to the Commission. This will allow for a more reasonable timeframe with which to revisit action items and ensure their proper implementation.

ESJ Action Plan 2.0: Updated Goals & Objectives

For Version 2.0 of ESJ Action Plan, revisions to eight of the nine goals clarify existing language; and Goal 7, related to workforce development, has been revised to include an emphasis on job quality and access. The objectives related to each goal have been revised to reflect the work of the CPUC for the upcoming three years particularly related to institutionalizing ESJ considerations into the Commission’s decision-making processes.

Finally, Version 2.0 of the ESJ Action Plan includes additional narratives. These sections clarify the CPUC’s intent of the ESJ Plan to be used by staff and stakeholders as a reference document when developing or responding to policies and programs under development, or as a resource document to gain a better understanding of key definitions, eligibility criteria, and how the plan has been referenced in past proceedings. Additional language reiterates that regulated entities under the CPUC’s jurisdiction continue to be required to abide by all policy directives in the CPUC’s final decisions.

Appendix A includes a detailed list of action items, lead staff, and tentative work plans. The list remains robust and demonstrates commitments from across our various offices and divisions, with an emphasis on more cross-agency activities to deepen impact on ESJ issues.

GOAL 1: CONSISTENTLY INTEGRATE EQUITY AND ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS THROUGHOUT CPUC REGULATORY ACTIVITIES.

REVISED OBJECTIVES:

1.1 Build Systematic Approaches for ESJ Priorities: Continue building systematic approaches for considering ESJ issues in proceedings and decisions, as well as implementation processes included in advice letters, general orders, and resolutions. Build understanding of critical ESJ concepts and definitions to ensure alignment and deepen impact.

1.2 Expand Opportunities for Access: Continue pursuing innovative approaches to broadening access to CPUC activities and decision-making.

GOAL 2: INCREASE INVESTMENT IN CLEAN ENERGY RESOURCES TO BENEFIT ESJ COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY TO IMPROVE LOCAL AIR QUALITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

REVISED OBJECTIVES:

2.1 Outreach & Engagement: Broaden and deepen outreach and engagement with ESJ communities early in proceedings and processes related to resilient, clean energy.

2.2 Research & Analysis to Understand Impact: Further research and analytical opportunities to understand impacts in ESJ communities.

2.3 Move Towards Mutual Eligibility & Maximizing Impact: Better leverage ongoing work by fostering cross-division, cross-Commission, and cross-agency dialogues to move towards mutual eligibility and maximizing impact.

2.4 Address Impacts in ESJ Communities: Continue to address ongoing and legacy impacts in ESJ communities in the resilient, clean energy space.

2.5 Continue Ongoing Investment: Continue to make prioritized resilient, clean energy investments in ESJ communities.

GOAL 3: STRIVE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY WATER, COMMUNICATIONS, AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR ESJ COMMUNITIES.

REVISED OBJECTIVES:

3.1 Equitable Clean Transportation: Pursue opportunities for ESJ communities to access clean vehicles and services from Transportation Network Companies (TNCs).

3.2 Water Customer Resilience: Support ESJ customers and communities with discounted rates for low-income customers and sustainable systems.

3.3 Extend Rail Safety to ESJ Communities: Pursue opportunities to bolster safety along rail lines in ESJ communities.

3.4 Extend Essential Communications Services to ESJ Communities: Ensure implementation of new investments that offer ESJ communities' access to essential⁴³ communications services at affordable rates.

GOAL 4: INCREASE CLIMATE RESILIENCY IN ESJ COMMUNITIES.

REVISED OBJECTIVES:

4.1 Emphasize Adaptive Capacity: Ensure ESJ communities and considerations around their adaptive capacity is incorporated into relevant programs and activities.

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.

REVISED OBJECTIVES:

5.1 Improve Communication with ESJ Lens: Continue to build and improve CPUC communications methods and materials to ensure ESJ audiences can better participate.

⁴³ ⁴³ Decision 20-07-032 <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=ALL&DocID=344049206>

5.2 Continue to Emphasize Engagement with CBOs: Deepen relationships and network connections with community-based organizations throughout the state.

5.3 Build Pathways for Public Participation: Based on lessons learned and areas of improvement, build additional and enhanced pathways to welcome and involve ESJ stakeholders into CPUC processes.

5.4 Enhance Engagement with Particular ESJ Communities: Consider the specific needs of particular populations and work to create targeted engagement opportunities.

GOAL 6: ENHANCE ENFORCEMENT TO ENSURE SAFETY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION FOR ALL, ESPECIALLY FOR ESJ COMMUNITIES.

REVISED OBJECTIVES:

6.1 Protect ESJ Consumers: Track complaints from ESJ communities and protect against fraud and unfair business practices in CPUC-regulated industries.

6.2 Conduct Proactive Action & Analysis in Transportation and Utility Enforcement: Utilize existing data and enforcement authority to focus on serving ESJ communities and understanding their needs.

6.3 Apply ESJ Lens to CPUC Enforcement Policy: Ensure implementation of Enforcement Policy includes opportunities for ESJ communities to benefit from maximum compliance with CPUC rules and regulations.

6.4 Maximize Opportunities within Utility Audits: Incorporate strategies for engaging with ESJ communities and understanding cumulative impact.

REVISED GOAL 7: PROMOTE HIGH ROAD⁴⁴ CAREER PATHS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS OF ESJ COMMUNITIES.

REVISED OBJECTIVES:

7.1 Maximize Authority to Promote High Road: Continue implementing MOU with CA Workforce Development Board to develop proceeding record and outreach to nontraditional partners to understand opportunities for CPUC to maximize jurisdiction and authority to promote high road careers.

7.2 Educate on High Road Careers: Provide opportunities to educate CPUC staff on high road career paths, best practices, and opportunities to integrate into CPUC programs.

⁴⁴ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=UIC&division=7.&title=&part=&chapter=2.&article

7.3 Partner with Utilities and Sister Agencies: Engage sister agencies with authority and expertise on workforce-related issues and regulated utilities in promoting economic opportunity for ESJ communities.

GOAL 8: IMPROVE TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES WITHIN THE CPUC’S JURISDICTION.

REVISED OBJECTIVES:

8.1 Bolster Staff Knowledge on ESJ Issues and Resources: Provide ongoing training to new and existing employees on ESJ issues and continue to offer resources and tools to support staff learning.

8.2 Support Emerging Priorities and Skill Needs: Work in solidarity with other ESJ-aligned plans and efforts and offer new training opportunities to support shared goals.

GOAL 9: MONITOR THE CPUC’S ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE EFFORTS TO EVALUATE HOW THEY ARE ACHIEVING THEIR OBJECTIVES.

REVISED OBJECTIVES:

9.1 Establish Consistent Quantitative Metrics: Pursue opportunities to standardize metrics related to ESJ communities in CPUC programs and proceedings.

9.2 Promote Meaningful Feedback Loops: Cultivate and deepen avenues to receive feedback from the public and demonstrate resulting impact back to members of the public.

9.3 Establish Accountability Measures: Establish a public mechanism for reporting the CPUC’s progress towards achieving goals of the ESJ Action Plan.

Utilizing the ESJ Plan as Resource

The ESJ Action Plan is intended to serve as a resource for CPUC staff, intervenors, stakeholders, and the public. The goals and objectives provide the broad vision and steps the CPUC will take to ensure equity in its programs and services. The action items serve as a tracking mechanism to remain transparent about the concrete actions the CPUC is taking with regards to embedding ESJ principles into its work. Finally, the appendices which include definitions, program criteria, and examples of past decisions are included as reference materials to be cited or used as reference material by CPUC staff and/or any individual or organization that interacts with the CPUC.

Compliance and Enforcement

The CPUC expects regulated entities to conform to the goals and principles outlined in the ESJ Action Plan. As the goals and objectives in the plan, or the plan itself, will be referenced and cited in Commission decisions, when appropriate, regulated entities are expected to continue to abide by language in final decisions. The CPUC will continue to use its discretion and broad authority to take enforcement actions as appropriate.

APPENDICES

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Appendix A:

ESJ Action Items

THIS APPENDIX INCLUDES 93 SPECIFIC ACTION ITEMS IN SERVICE OF FULFILLING THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF VERSION 2.0 OF THE ESJ ACTION PLAN. EACH ACTION ITEM INCLUDES A TITLE, BRIEF DESCRIPTION, IDENTIFIED LEAD IMPLEMENTOR, AND A TENTATIVE WORK PLAN.

Goal 1: Consistently integrate equity and access considerations throughout CPUC proceedings and other efforts. (11 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
1.1 Build Systemic Approaches for ESJ Priorities					
1.1.1	ESJ Impacts in CPUC Processes	Continue to systematically incorporate ESJ considerations into proceedings, and further pursue opportunities to incorporate ESJ into Advice Letters, Resolutions, and other processes.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Create guidance for incorporating ESJ into Advice Letters; 2- Consider a designated section on ESJ impacts in decisions, resolutions, and advice letters that impact customers, residents, or small businesses in ESJ communities; 3- Explore mechanisms to ensure applicants include ESJ consideration in application.
1.1.2	Institutionalize Implementation of ESJ Action Plan within Divisions	Continue ongoing recruitment of ESJ Liaisons to ensure representation from all CPUC Divisions. Bolster opportunities for ESJ Liaisons to lead ESJ Action Plan implementation within their divisions. Ensure staff-level ownership of implementation.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Continue recruiting ESJ Liaisons for unrepresented Divisions 2- Ensure administrative Divisions receive biannual updates on implementation 3- Provide opportunities for ESJ Liaisons to lead ESJ-related work within their divisions. 4- Provide a mid-point status update on implementation of ESJ Action Plan to Commissioners and the public
1.1.3	Tracking Federal Initiatives Related to Environmental Justice	Follow actions of the Biden Administration that relate to the goals of the ESJ Action Plan. Share with ESJ Liaisons and broader CPUC staff opportunities to inform, engage and participate.	Cross-Commission	Office of the Commission	1- Create tracking mechanism for federal environmental justice actions 2- Develop internal information sharing system
1.1.4	Coordination with ESJ-focused Staff at Regulated Utilities	Convene and explore opportunities for coordination and collaboration with regulated utility staff that focus on ESJ-related issues. Build understanding across various program and policy areas on shared ESJ-related priorities and work together to ensure strong implementation of the CPUC ESJ Action Plan.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Outreach to utilities to connect with staff focused on ESJ-related issues; 2- Consider establishing an informal working group to foster conversation and collaboration; 3- Pinpoint priority areas for coordination; 4- Leverage opportunities to meet key ESJ Action Plan goals, such as those related to staff training

Goal 1: Consistently integrate equity and access considerations throughout CPUC proceedings and other efforts. (11 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
1.1.5	ESJ Definitions: Catalogue and Assess Opportunities for Mutual Eligibility	Catalogue definitions being used across the CPUC for ESJ purposes and create a framework for the creation of future definitions. Consider opportunities for alignment and mutual eligibility in coordination with industry divisions.	Cross-Commission	Office of the Commission	1- Build upon Appendix B of ESJ Action Plan and create consistently updated catalogue of ESJ-related definitions that is accessible to staff; 2- Create an ESJ Definition Framework that helps with decision-making related to program targets; 3- Work with industry divisions and CPUC leadership to consider opportunities for potential alignment and mutual eligibility of programs, in coordination with Energy Division efforts
1.2 Expand Opportunities for Access					
1.2.1	Evaluation of Intervenor Compensation Program (ICOMP)	Assess the current ICOMP successes and challenges, and propose recommendations for future improvements, both administrative and statutory.	Cross-Commission	Office of the Commission	1- Using monthly ICOMP analysis, perform evaluation of existing ICOMP, including stakeholder experience, diversity of intervenors, timeframe for awards to be made, common intervenor errors, among other metrics; 2- Present results of evaluation at a Commission Committee Meeting
1.2.2	Consider Funded Community Based Organization (CBO) Program	Explore concept of a paid CBO pilot program that aims to facilitate deeper involvement of CBOs in CPUC programs and processes.	Cross-Commission	News & Outreach Office	1- Explore and identify need and staffing sources for the purposes of a pilot program; 2- Understand best practices in CBO programs from sister agencies; 3- Consider development and deployment of a pilot program, including funding and authority; 4- Identify any lessons learned and opportunities for a permanent program
1.2.3	Implementation of Tribal Consultation Policy	Continue to educate CPUC staff and stakeholders on Tribal Consultation Policy and pursue opportunities for updates and deeper engagement with tribal communities.	Cross-Commission	Executive Office - Tribal Advisor	1- Offer presentation to CPUC staff and stakeholders on Tribal Consultation Policy, as well as assistance in implementation; 2-Consider opportunities for updates and/or revisions
1.2.4	ADA Accessibility of CPUC Internet	Ensure that CPUC internet and public documents meets all accessibility-related requirements.	Cross-Commission	Executive Office - ADA Coordinator	1- Perform analysis on accessibility of CPUC internet and public documents 2- Remediate documents as necessary 3- Educate and train CPUC staff on accessibility requirements 4- Perform ongoing maintenance

Goal 1: Consistently integrate equity and access considerations throughout CPUC proceedings and other efforts. (11 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
1.2.5	Provide "Participate in CPUC" training via various methods	Provide information on "Participating in CPUC Processes" to provide education on proceedings, processes, programs, how to engage, etc.	Cross-Commission	News & Outreach Office	1- Develop presentations and materials ; 2- Post recording to CPUC YouTube and advertise availability to stakeholders
1.2.6	Explore Capacity Building Initiatives	Explore methods of educating ESJ communities on fundamental principles of utility regulation and impacted industries	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Explore the feasibility of developing educational materials for ESJ communities on the fundamentals of utility regulation including an overview of emerging and key issues facing ESJ communities; 2- Explore developing a public repository of ESJ-related reports or other resources.

Goal 2: Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health. (25 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
2.1 Outreach & Engagement					
2.1.1	Alignment & Coordination Across Marketing, Education & Outreach (ME&O) Plans	Leverage ongoing work across a multitude of investor-owned utilities (IOU) initiatives and programs to create synergy and deepen impact in ESJ communities, especially related to partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs).	Energy Division	ESJ Core Team	1- Compare ME&O plans of utilities and look for commonality in approach and CBOs involved 2- Share best practices in ME&O plans across utilities and, if/when appropriate, create template guidance to ensure future alignment; 3- Explore opportunities to diversify CBOs with which IOUs work with for ME&O
2.1.2	Improve Feedback Loop from Customers to Foster Iterative Process in Program Design	Conduct more robust outreach to specific ESJ customer segments including households, businesses, and communities to understand program interest and satisfaction. Set mechanisms into place to adjust programs on an ongoing basis based on this feedback. Ensure appropriate data and metrics are utilized that can be built into program design.	Energy Division	Energy Efficiency Procurement & Portfolio Management	1- Conduct workshop with program, community, and customer stakeholders to help inform new customer-centric Pilot Plus/Pilot Deep ESA program design that will target customers with greatest need and that can benefit most from deeper energy savings 2- Identify and track new metrics on customer segments eligible for programs and leverage data to target customer segments that can be better served by and continue to shape the new program design

Goal 2: Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health. (25 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
2.1.3	Continue Support and Coordination of the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG)	Work alongside the California Energy Commission (CEC) to continue convening the DACAG and maximize opportunities to provide feedback to CPUC proceedings, programs, and processes.	Energy Division	Climate & Equity	1- Support regular public meetings of the DACAG, including broad outreach for attendance 2- Continue to build pathways for DACAG feedback to inform CPUC proceedings and programs 3- Coordinate with Low Income Oversight Board (LIOB) on shared interests
2.2 Research & Analysis to Understand Impact					
2.2.1	Study: Reliability and Emissions Impacts of Fossil Generation In and Around Disadvantaged Communities, including the Impact of Storage Alternatives	Conduct study within the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) proceeding related to the retirement of gas resources and ensure considerations for ESJ communities are incorporated, including the role of energy storage technologies to ensure local reliability and reduce emissions.	Energy Division	Generation & Transmission Planning	1- Conduct study as outlined 2- Ensure IRP parties are interviewed for the purposes of the study 3- Consider recommendations that take into account the particular experience of ESJ communities
2.2.2	Study: Societal Cost Test in Integrated Resource Plans	Study a three-part Societal Cost Test (SCT) as ordered by Integrated Distributed Energy Resources (IDER) decision including Social Cost of Carbon, Air Quality Adder, and Social discount rate to study the impact of these societal costs on resource procurement.	Energy Division	Generation & Transmission Planning	1- Conduct study as outlined by the IDER proceeding 2- Consider recommendations related to health and air quality in ESJ communities
2.2.3	Study: Quantifying the Air Quality Impacts of Decarbonization in California	Conduct a sector-specific study of the air quality impacts of Transportation Electrification, Building Electrification, and other Distributed Energy Resources and ensure considerations for ESJ communities are incorporated.	Energy Division	Generation & Transmission Planning	1- Conduct study as outlined 2- Consider recommendations related to health and air quality in ESJ communities
2.2.4	Study: Baseline of Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Small-Scale Biomass	Conduct study on emissions of small-scale biomass facilities to understand greenhouse gas and air emission impacts.	Energy Division	Renewable Procurement & Market Development	1- Conduct study 2- Ensure ESJ community representatives are interviewed for the purposes of the study 3- Consider recommendations that take into account the particular experience of ESJ communities

Goal 2: Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health. (25 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
2.2.5	Providing Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Research and Development Program Benefits to ESJ Communities	In implementing EPIC projects, the CPUC will ensure administrators place increasing emphasis on: early engagement with vulnerable communities, ensuring projects benefit California ratepayers, and identify creative ways of engagement and compensation.	Energy Division	Climate & Equity	1- Understand community needs as they relate to energy research 2- Create events, platforms, or other means to increase coordination between researchers and communities
2.3 Move Towards Mutual Eligibility & Maximizing Impact					
2.3.1	Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Action Plan	Ensure a strong ESJ lens in the creation of the plan, particularly in the Vision and Action elements.	Energy Division	Grid Planning & Reliability	1- Complete Plan 2- Ensure inclusion of recommendations related to potential impact and benefit to ESJ communities
2.3.2	Consider Streamlined Application Processes and Enhance Coordination for Low Income and Clean Energy Programs	Provide customers a single statewide application to enroll in CARE, FERA, ESA programs and explore additional coordination opportunities with other income-qualified and clean energy programs and statewide efforts, including California Air Resource Board’s (CARB) Access Clean California (ACC) platform.	Energy Division	Energy Efficiency Procurement & Portfolio Management and Customer Generation	1- Establish a working group to define goals for a Universal Application System, system requirements, and opportunities for inter- and intra-agency solutions with involvement from program and community stakeholders. 2- Define a recommended path forward to develop a Universal Application System solution as a result of working group discussions 3- Conduct public workshop to explore how program administrators can enhance coordination through aligning customer eligibility and increasing referrals and enrollment across multiple programs 4-Coordinate with ESJ Core Team on Commission-wide ESJ definitions and alignment work

Goal 2: Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health. (25 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
2.3.3	Leverage Scale of California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) and Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) Programs to Cross-Refer to Other CPUC Initiatives	Regulated entities are directed to share information with customers about affordable broadband plans and other clean energy programs. Additionally, energy and water investor-owned utilities (IOUs) are encouraged to exchange information in order to facilitate more enrollment in low-income water assistance programs. Follow implementation and pursue additional opportunities for customer-focused coordination.	Cross-Commission	Energy Efficiency Procurement & Portfolio Management	1- Track effectiveness of cross-marketing and cross-referral efforts 2- Consider opportunities to deepen coordination efforts to maximize program uptake of income qualified, disadvantaged, and hard-to-reach customers, many of which reside in ESJ communities
2.4 Address Impacts in ESJ Communities					
2.4.1	Understanding Impacts to ESJ Communities in Biomethane Procurement	Assess potential impacts to ESJ communities when considering and recommending strategies for biomethane procurement.	Energy Division	Building Decarbonization & Renewable Gas	1 - Conduct outreach to ESJ communities to understand issues related to biomethane production 2- Understand impacts and potential benefits of biomethane production 3- Consider recommendations that take into account the particular experiences of ESJ communities
2.4.2	Long Term Relief Due to COVID-19 Pandemic: Arrears & Disconnections	Taking lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic, pursue opportunities to continue providing bill relief for ESJ customers struggling with arrears and disconnections.	Energy Division	Retail Rates	1- Ensure ESJ communities are meaningfully included in relevant proceedings and their lived experiences documented in the proceeding record 2- Work alongside sister agencies to maximize opportunities to provide bill relief 3- Establish capacity funding for CBOs to assist customers with arrears management
2.4.3	Pilot Utilization of Affordability Metrics in CPUC Proceeding	Pilot the use of affordability metrics in a General Rate Case (GRC). Develop pathway for including affordability metrics in future GRCs and consider geographically deaveraged or location marginal pricing.	Energy Division	Retail Rates	1- Select pilot GRC for use of affordability metrics 2- Share lessons learned regarding how affordability metrics impact costs and rates 3- Explore opportunities for wider adoption in CPUC proceedings 4- Coordinate with internal electric costs and retail rate design groups to understand overlap between affordability and the approval of utility revenue requirements and retail rate designs

Goal 2: Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health. (25 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
2.4.4	Net Energy Metering (NEM): Ensuring Equitable Incentives	As changes to the NEM tariff are put forth, ensure that non-participating ESJ ratepayers will not be detrimentally impacted by changes to the tariff and will instead benefit.	Energy Division	Customer Generation	1- Ensure meaningful involvement of ESJ communities in relevant proceeding and that potential impacts are thoroughly explored
2.4.5	Dynamic Pricing: Implementing Rate Flexibility & Management	In recognition of the need to protect ESJ customers, pursue opportunities to implement dynamic pricing to create more equitable rate structures.	Energy Division	Retail Rates	1- Ensure meaningful involvement of ESJ communities in relevant proceeding and that potential impacts are thoroughly explored
2.4.6	Long Term Gas Planning	In the Long-Term Gas Planning Rulemaking, ensure meaningful stakeholder involvement and thorough exploration of ESJ-related issues.	Energy Division	Gas Policy & Reliability	1- Conduct proactive outreach to ESJ communities and organizations to encourage becoming a party to the proceeding or submitting public comment 2- Provide expanded opportunities for dialogue related to the existing gas infrastructure landscape and key considerations to be made in the rulemaking
2.4.7	Understanding Diesel Back Up Generators (BUGs) and Potential Impacts on ESJ Communities	Assist state and local agencies with BUG data to the extent the CPUC has access to such information.	Energy Division	Demand Response	1- Work alongside stakeholders and state agencies to understand potential impacts
2.4.8	California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): Opportunities for Alignment with Local Planning	As it makes sense within the CPUC's CEQA authority, highlight ESJ considerations in preparation of comments. Consider what local planning efforts have included environmental justice or other social justice elements and ensure that CPUC review takes this into account.	Energy Division	Infrastructure Planning & CEQA	1- On a case-by-case basis, research local General Plans and other key planning documents include an environmental justice element or related component 2- Consider additional opportunities to address ESJ issues in CEQA review 3- Work alongside sister agencies, such as the Office of Planning and Research, to understand how to maximize CPUC effectiveness in this regard
2.5 Continue Ongoing Investment					

Goal 2: Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health. (25 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
2.5.1	Establish Equity Segment of Program Administrators’ Energy Efficiency (EE) Portfolios	Within EE Portfolios – Implement an Equity Segment that does not have to meet cost effectiveness criteria comprised of programs that provide energy, greenhouse gas, and non-energy benefits to hard-to-reach and underserved customers as well as disadvantaged communities, with the intention of serving households, businesses, and communities that are historically or currently marginalized.	Energy Division	Energy Efficiency	1- Establish working group (WG) comprised of California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee (CAEECC) stakeholders and organizations championing ESJ principles 2- WG develop objectives that define success for the Equity segment and its programs 3- Conduct public workshop to engage diverse community members and obtain feedback on important topics, actions, and customer groups 4- WG develop metrics that measure progress toward achieving success 5- Consider opportunities for Equity offerings to enhance the societal benefit of offerings within the Market Support Segment
2.5.2	Continue Prioritization of ESJ Communities in Building Decarbonization Programs	Ensure that funding for ESJ communities continues to be prioritized in BUILD and TECH.	Energy Division	Building Decarbonization & Renewable Gas	1- Incorporate definitions that prioritize ESJ communities in new phases of programs
2.5.3	Document Analysis of Investment in Electrification in San Joaquin Valley proceeding	Follow ongoing implementation of the San Joaquin Valley Affordable Energy program to document engagement, awareness, and capacity building lessons learned in working with CBOs and ESJ communities on an electrification process and determine how to best invest in remaining communities in Phase 3.	Energy Division	Building Decarbonization & Renewable Gas	1- Share lessons learned, especially related to community engagement led by CBOs and how to reach residents of ESJ communities, with broader CPUC staff; 2- Consider expanding pilot to remainder of communities or consider how to merge with the other electrification efforts at the commission; 3- Develop statewide strategies to barriers encountered in SJV communities
2.5.4	Continued Prioritization of ESJ Communities in Microgrid Incentive Program	Disseminate \$200 million to vulnerable areas and ensure criteria bolsters opportunities for low-income and vulnerable communities, people with access and functional needs, tribal, and people who are on medical baseline or electrically dependent to access funding.	Energy Division	Microgrids & Resiliency	1- Monitor implementation of program, including effectiveness in reaching ESJ communities and those at high risk of electrical outage 2- Ensure proper outreach is conducted to targeted communities

Goal 2: Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health. (25 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
2.5.5	Improving Access to Electric Vehicle Charging for ESJ Communities	Between investments made via ratepayer funded transportation electrification (TE) programs and funding the IOUs oversee from Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) credit revenue, ensure robust equity requirements are incorporated and are in alignment with sister agencies like the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the California Energy Commission (CEC).	Energy Division	Transportation Electrification	Building on past track record, consider incorporating higher set-asides and prioritization of ESJ and underserved communities for investments 2- Ensure communities are meaningfully involved in the development of program proposals as well as program implementation to ensure buy-in and strong utilization of charging infrastructure in the future
2.5.6	Continue Tracking and Evaluation of Customer Generation Programs and Improve Effectiveness in Reaching ESJ Communities	Track outcomes and lessons learned from the following programs to better understand effectiveness of incentive programs and how to ensure maximum impact: Multi-family Affordable Solar Housing (MASH), Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH), Disadvantaged Communities-Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (DAC-SASH), Solar on Multi-family Affordable Housing (SOMAH), Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP), Green Tariff (GT), Disadvantaged Communities - Green-Tariff (DAC-GT), Community Solar Green Tariff (CSGT)	Energy Division	Customer Generation	1- Monitor metrics and outcomes of customer generation programs, both those specific to ESJ communities and those that are more broadly available 2- Consider conducting geospatial analysis to understand concentration of program uptake in ESJ communities 3- Explore opportunities for program modifications, stacking incentives, auto-enrollment, and improved outreach to best reach ESJ communities

Goal 3: Strive to improve access to high-quality water, communications, and transportation services for ESJ communities. (17 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
3.1 Equitable Clean Transportation					

Goal 3: Strive to improve access to high-quality water, communications, and transportation services for ESJ communities. (17 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
3.1.1	Implementation and Monitoring of Accessibility of TNCs and AVs	Identify opportunities through transportation proceedings and their implementation to improve transportation accessibility for ESJ communities	Consumer Protection & Enforcement Division	Transportation Licensing & Analysis	1- Share all TNC Access for All Staff Reports with the ESJ Action Plan Committee (as ordered in Decisions) 2- Summarize Accessibility data collected in TNCs’ Annual Reports and AVs’ Quarterly Reports annually
3.1.2	Implementation of Clean Mile Standard and Impact on Drivers from ESJ Communities	Consider how TNC drivers from ESJ communities and the communities who rely on TNC transportation will be impacted by the Clean Miles Standard	Consumer Protection & Enforcement Division	Transportation Licensing & Analysis and Administrative Law Judge Division	1- Seek feedback from drivers in ESJ communities as part of the development of Clean Mile Standard 2- Assess CMS impacts on ESJ communities as data become available throughout the life of the program.
3.2 Water Customer Resilience					
3.2.1	Maximize Customer Assistance Programs (CAPs) and Arrearage Management Plans (AMPs) for Low-Income Water Customers	Ensure that CAPs and AMPs are appropriately and effectively marketed to ESJ communities. Given the realities of the Covid-19 pandemic, consider new strategies for assisting low-income water customers with water bill payment.	Water Division	Small Company & Compliance	1- Track implementation and outreach efforts of water company CAPs and AMPs 2- Encourage sharing of best practices and lessons learned 3- Explore additional opportunities to assist low-income water customers
3.2.2	Understanding and Acting on Affordability of Water Rates	Given both the opportunity to utilize new affordability metrics and information from the Drinking Water Needs Assessment from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), continue to understand where ESJ customers are experiencing disproportionately high water rates.	Water Division	ALJ Support & Compliance	1- Consider affordability metrics in water General Rate Cases (GRCs) 2- With the aid of information from the Drinking Water Needs Assessment, evaluate whether there are water systems within CPUC's jurisdiction where customers experience high rates that could be ameliorated with consolidation 3-Consider whether the CPUC should open an OIR on the subject of new standards for consolidation of water utility systems

Goal 3: Strive to improve access to high-quality water, communications, and transportation services for ESJ communities. (17 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
3.2.3	Water Resilience and Reliability in the Face of Drought	Work with water utilities to plan for continued conditions of drought, with emphasis on addressing ESJ community needs.	Water Division	ALJ Support & Compliance	1- Consider and evaluate the resilience and reliability challenges of regulated utilities 2- Consider opening an OIR on Water Resiliency and Reliability to have utilities proactively plan for future resilience needs 3- Work with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and Department of Water Resources (DWR) on overall water resiliency and reliability planning, as well as the Energy Savings Assistance Program (ESA) and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) on water conservation measures
3.2.4	Incorporating ESJ Considerations into Consolidations of Small Water Companies	When reviewing consolidation applications, utilize Cal Enviro Screen water-related indicators, other tools, and local engagement opportunities to understand if consolidation would benefit an ESJ community.	Water Division	Small Company and Compliance	1- Train Water Division staff on Cal Enviro Screen and water-related indicators 2- Run analysis for every consolidation application 3- Incorporate discussion of ESJ issues into decisions and resolutions
3.3 Extend Rail Safety to ESJ Communities					
3.3.1	Section 190: Grade Separation at Existing Crossings - Outreach & Prioritizing ESJ Communities	Revise Section 190 formula to include a prioritization for ESJ communities. Ensure ESJ communities and their local governments are aware of opportunity to apply for Section 190 funding.	Rail Safety Division	Rail Crossings & Engineering	1- Meet with sister agencies to understand prioritization of ESJ communities in other formula-based funding programs 2- Do initial mapping to understand overlap between high accident rates and CalEnviroScreen-defined disadvantaged communities 3- Update formula to include some prioritization of ESJ communities 4- Conduct more proactive outreach to local governments to apply for funding
3.3.2	Homeless Encampments: Continued Collaboration with Local Governments	Continue collaboration between Rail Safety Division and the News and Outreach Office to meet with local governments and other transportation partners to triage issues related to homeless encampments and accidents along rail lines.	Rail Safety Division	Railroad Operations Safety Branch and News & Outreach Office	1- Create a plan for outreach in key areas where potential strikes along rail lines are increased due to encampments; schools and businesses; any local activities that may create risks along tracks. 2- Ensure a diversity of local government and community organizations are involved alongside regulated railroad companies

Goal 3: Strive to improve access to high-quality water, communications, and transportation services for ESJ communities. (17 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
3.3.3	Opportunities for ESJ Comments in Environmental Letters	Explore opportunities to incorporate general comments in environmental letters about assuring the consideration of environmental and social justice issues when designing and approving a project.	Rail Safety Division	Rail Crossings & Engineering and Rail Transit Safety	1- Create boilerplate language that can be adapted by staff that speaks to ESJ issues 2- Disseminate amongst staff and provide resource to assist in incorporating comments
3.3.4	Involving ESJ Communities in Rail Proceedings	Work with News and Outreach Office to ensure applications and proceedings are proactively publicized to relevant local governments and CBOs, especially those in ESJ communities.	Rail Safety Division	Rail Crossings & Engineering	1- Contact News and Outreach Office when new rail crossing application is received 2- Promote opportunities to provide public comment in the Docket Card
3.4 Extend Essential Communications Services to ESJ Communities					
3.4.1	Increase Collaboration and Knowledge Share Across Telecommunications Public Purpose Programs	Bring together Public Purpose Program staff - including Lifeline, California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), California Teleconnect Fund (CTF), California High Cost Fund (CHCF) Parts A & B, and Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program (DDTP) - to talk about shared priorities, lessons learned, opportunities to leverage advisory committees, and to understand programmatic impact in ESJ communities.	Communications Division	Consumer Programs	1- Establish staff-level working group. 2-Host meetings to educate each other about programs and shared issues. 3- Conduct cross-program analyses using GIS to assess program impact across different geographical areas.
3.4.2	Implementation of \$6 billion Broadband Legislation	Given significant new investment and expansion of programs, ensure that investments are benefiting as many ESJ community members as possible, that essential speeds are more available, and that ESJ communities meaningfully participate in the planning and implementation of the programs and investments.	Communications Division	Consumer Programs; Broadband Deployment Branch	1- Ensure planning and implementation meaningfully involves community-based organizations and representatives from ESJ communities. 2- Use GIS to identify ESJ communities that lack fixed broadband speed of 25/3 or better. 3- Further, for areas that do have 25/3 or better, ensure their rates do not create affordability concerns.

Goal 3: Strive to improve access to high-quality water, communications, and transportation services for ESJ communities. (17 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
3.4.3	Implementation and Lessons Learned from Tribal Technical Assistance (TA) Program	Continue conducting outreach to California tribes and disbursing funds as part of the Tribal TA Program. Share lessons learned and best practices related to outreach, program structure, and implementation.	Communications Division	Tribal/Rural Area	1 - Per D. 20-08-005, Communications Division is assigned responsibility and authority to use California Advanced Services Fund state operations funds to provide technical assistance for Tribes. 2- Ensure tribes across the state are aware of available grant funds and opportunities to apply 3 - Continue ongoing outreach 4 - Update leadership and CPUC staff on successes and lessons learned from the program, and how to utilize as a model to reach other key ESJ populations
3.4.4	Continue Understanding Challenges of ESJ Communities with Communications Affordability	Understand more about concentrations of unaffordability of communications services in ESJ communities. Explore opportunities to leverage new investments to lower costs and increase essential speeds.	Communications Division	Broadband Video Markets; Consumer Programs; [Broadband Deployment Branch	1- Utilize the Commission-adopted Affordability Framework to inform programmatic and investment work moving forward 2- Continue exploring what fixed broadband speed should be deemed as part of essential communications service.
3.4.5	Phone and Video Service for Incarcerated Persons	Follow outcomes and lessons learned from the proceeding. Continue to develop innovative outreach, engagement, and regulatory strategies to alleviate cost for the priority population.	Communications Division	Consumer Programs	1- The Commission adopted Interim Rates for Incarcerated Calling Services in D.21-08-037, on August 19, 2021. Service providers were required to submit an Interim Rate Compliance Report to the Communications Division within 45 days of adoption, and on a quarterly basis after that. The report must include the current rate, billed minutes, revenues, and ancillary fees, broken down by interstate and intrastate.
3.4.6	Lessons Learned from Lifeline Assessment	Understand lessons learned in conducting a robust program assessment of a public purpose program. Consider recommendations related to prioritizing ESJ communities.	Communications Division	Consumer Programs	1- Complete assessment 2- Understand lessons learned from contractor related to outreach and engagement for the purposes of the assessment 3- Explore opportunities to prioritize ESJ communities in outcomes of assessment
3.4.7	Continue Efforts to Increase Access to	Continue to pursue a permanent program to improve access for foster youth, after examining lessons learned from the i-	Communications Division	Consumer Programs	1- Continue monitoring outcomes of extended iFoster pilot program 2-Explore opportunities to partner with state agencies or other organizations to close

Goal 3: Strive to improve access to high-quality water, communications, and transportation services for ESJ communities. (17 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
	Lifeline Program for Vulnerable Populations	Foster pilot program and begin to develop similar programs either pilot or permanent to address special needs of other vulnerable populations such as homeless and recently released incarcerated people.			enrollment gaps for other vulnerable populations 3- Consider permanent program changes to address gaps identified by partners or in the Lifeline Assessment.

Goal 4: Increase climate resiliency in ESJ communities. (4 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
4.1 Emphasize Adaptive Capacity					
4.1.1	Initiate Climate Change Adaptation Planning with Emphasis on Disadvantaged Vulnerable Communities	The CPUC will ensure electric and gas utilities engage disadvantaged vulnerable communities and describe specific actions they will take in those communities, as they assess the long-term vulnerabilities to climate change of their infrastructure, services, and operations, as well as share best practices that are developed in the process.	Energy Division	Climate & Equity	1-Begin developing Community Engagement Plans 2- Begin conducting climate change vulnerability assessments with community engagement 3- Summarize lessons learned
4.1.2	Consider Safety Policy Responses to Climate Change	Develop a visual tool to make California climate change scenarios more accessible to all in the context of utility infrastructure impacts. Understand downstream consequences to ESJ communities and ensure meaningful collaboration with ESJ representatives in adaptation actions.	Safety Policy Division	Security & Resilience	1- Develop GIS tool 2- Develop situation report 3- Ensure findings incorporate ESJ community considerations based on collaborative community engagement

Goal 4: Increase climate resiliency in ESJ communities. (4 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
4.1.3	Framework for Integrating Resiliency Planning and Evaluation into Current Grid Planning Policy	Devise a standardized view of the concept of resiliency and adaptive capacity, and how it can be measured.	Energy Division	Microgrids & Resiliency	1- Continue alignment with Climate Adaptation proceeding and subsequent implementation, as well as other key processes such as the Risk Assessment Mitigation Phase (RAMP) and General Rate Cases (GRCs) 2- Develop tools to guide utilities in resilience planning
4.1.4	Propose new RAMP requirement in the SMAP OIR proceeding to address ESJ in the RAMP reports.	Require IOU's to overlay planned infrastructure mitigations on the CalEnviroScreen map to identify what portions of the mitigations would occur within disadvantaged communities, when geographic locations of proposed mitigations are known. Include the DAC proportion percentage of the mitigation in the RAMP narrative and what risk reduction is estimated for the DAC portion.	Safety Policy Division	Risk Assessment & Safety Analytics (RASA)	1-Propose this ESJ requirement in the next phase of the SMAP 2.0 OIR proceeding.

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. (10 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
5.1 Improve Communication with an ESJ Lens					
5.1.1	Fact Sheets and Collateral Materials	Continue to update CPUC Fact Sheets and Brochures to ensure information is up-to-date and accessibly written.	Cross-Commission	News & Outreach Office	1- Ensure CPUC website includes collateral materials for key programs and initiatives 2- Revise and post materials in need of updates 3- Consider developing fact sheets for proceedings that may impact an ESJ community which include key information such as timelines to submit comments.

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. (10 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
5.1.2	Translation of Key Documents and Collateral Materials	Translate key Fact Sheets and Brochures, especially those aimed at consumers, into critical languages spoken by Californians, including Spanish, Chinese, and other languages.	Cross-Commission	News & Outreach Office	1- Prioritize what materials are in need of translation 2- Understand what key languages are needed 3- Post to website
5.1.3	Email Communication and Newsletters	Explore opportunities to streamline email communications from the CPUC, including establishing a centralized platform for proactive and targeted communication.	Cross-Commission	News & Outreach Office and IT	1- Explore opportunities to expand use of existing email software to meet communications need 2- Understand if existing capacity can handle a centralization process 3- Understand if existing capacity can handle targeted communications using tags on proceeding related documents 3- Roll out any new plan to relevant CPUC staff
5.1.4	Interpretation Availability at CPUC Meetings	Pursue standard policy for when to incorporate interpretation services outside of request process.	Cross-Commission	News & Outreach Office	1- Explore the feasibility of providing in-language technical assistance prior to hearings. 2- Draft materials and share with CPUC staff regarding how to request interpretation services, both for internal purposes and for external needs 3- Consider a policy with concrete criteria for when to incorporate interpretation on a proactive basis.
5.2 Continue to Emphasize Engagement with Community Based Organizations (CBOs)					
5.2.1	Engage CBOs Statewide	Work alongside utilities to understand partnerships with CBOs, including their statewide spread, funding landscape, and opportunities to deepen engagement in ESJ communities.	News & Outreach Office and Energy Division	News & Outreach Office	1- Gather information related to CBO partnerships and their geographic reach 2- Consider opportunities for deeper engagement in key geographies 3- Explore areas for coordination between CPUC outreach efforts and utility partnerships
5.2.2	Deepen Relationships with CBOs in TEAM and CHANGES	Continue to explore opportunities to leverage network of CBOs working under TEAM and CHANGES programs.	News & Outreach Office	News & Outreach Office	1- Continue to work with lead contractor to understand what CBOs are learning on the ground 2- Continue to channel feedback within CPUC 3- Consider convening CBO partners to share insights, lessons learned, and explore further collaboration

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. (10 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
5.3 Build Pathways for Public Participation					
5.3.1	Best Practices for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings	Coming out of COVID-19 Pandemic, promote virtual meetings that facilitate broad participation.	Cross-Commission	News & Outreach Office	1- As events return to being conducted in-person, include a remote access option as appropriate and ensure that remote participants can meaningfully participate in event 2- Explore mobility challenges related to accessing in-person events 3- Continually review best practices and lessons learned on hybrid community engagement, including when to incorporate interpretation services, to offer internal guidance for continual improvement
5.3.2	Public Participation in Transportation Proceedings	Work to create pathways for CBOs and other intervenors to be able to better participate and provide feedback for proceedings and programs related to transportation network companies (TNCs), autonomous vehicles (AVs), charter-party carriers (TCPs), passenger stage corporates (PSGs), and vessel common carriers (VCCs)	Consumer Protection & Enforcement Division and Administrative Law Judge Division	Transportation Licensing & Analysis	1- Explore opportunities to expand Intervenor Compensation Program (ICOMP) for purposes of funding participation in transportation proceedings 2- Work with the Public Advocates Office (PAO) to identify CBOs for ESJ communities and proactively engage them to participate through CPUC’s public comment options and transportation proceedings
5.4 Enhance Engagement with Particular ESJ Communities					
5.4.1	Engage and Serve Communities with Access and Functional Needs	Work with AFN representatives to better understand key issues, collaborate with communities with AFN, and serve their needs in CPUC regulatory policy.	Safety Policy Division	Security & Resilience	1 - Continue with baseline work within Safety Policy Division; 2 - Determine overlapping proceeding work and/or outcomes with ESJ priorities 3 - Determine which CPUC regulatory policies at year 1 and year 2 serve the needs of individuals and communities with AFN.
5.4.2	Bolster CPUC’s Tribal Land Transfer Policy	Via a rulemaking process, revisit the Tribal Land Transfer Policy and ensure lessons learned thus far ensure that tribal communities can maximize benefits and opportunities available.	Executive Office	Executive Office - Tribal Advisor	1- Open rulemaking to consider key questions in updating the Policy 2- Ensure a diversity of tribal perspectives are included in the rulemaking process 3- Maximize opportunities for tribes to take advantage of the Policy

Goal 6: Enhance enforcement to ensure safety and consumer protection for ESJ communities. (10 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
6.1 Protect ESJ Consumers					
6.1.1	TEAM/CHANGES Program Updates	Have TEAM/CHANGES contractor present to the Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB) annually to offer on-the-ground perspectives of customers with Limited English Proficiency (LEP).	News & Outreach Office	News & Outreach Office	1- Work with LIOB to set briefing on calendar 2 - Prepare presentation and post online for remote access 3- Consider other venues and opportunities to share insights
6.1.2	Strategize Use of Consumer Affairs Data in ESJ Policies	Work with ESJ liaisons to determine if and how Consumer Affairs Branch (CAB) data can contribute to and inform ESJ policies.	Cross-Commission	News & Outreach Office	1- CAB will present to ESJ liaisons and explain the type of data that is collected 2 - ESJ Liaisons and CAB will brainstorm whether this data could contribute to any existing or future ESJ policies at the CPUC
6.2 Conduct Proactive Action & Analysis in Transportation and Utility Enforcement					
6.2.1	Proactively Initiate Compliance Checks in ESJ Communities	Consider opportunities to proactively work in ESJ communities to ensure compliance with CPUC regulations.	Consumer Protection & Enforcement Division	Transportation Licensing & Analysis, Transportation Enforcement, Utility Enforcement	1- Analyze complaint data to understand overlap with ESJ communities and adjust enforcement strategies as appropriate 2- Consider prioritizing ESJ communities when performing compliance checks or conducting field enforcement work
6.2.2	Include ESJ filters in quarterly scanning of CAB complaints to identify trends and patterns of consumer issues in ESJ communities	Identify potential targets for inquiries and/or investigations using Census data to identify complaints occurring within ESJ communities.	Consumer Protection & Enforcement Division	Utility Enforcement	UEB analyzes CAB data to identify targets for inquiries and/or investigations. Using Census data, staff will identify ESJ communities to further delineate complaints from these communities 1-Analyze monthly energy and telecommunications CAB complaint data 2-Filter complaints for relating to ESJ communities using census data 3-Identify patterns and changes 4-Target subjects for inquiry or investigation

Goal 6: Enhance enforcement to ensure safety and consumer protection for ESJ communities. (10 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
6.2.3	Expand Opportunities to Leverage Enforcement Action Settlements for ESJ Purposes	Building on long-running practice of supporting low-income and ESJ-related programs, consider ESJ communities when considering alternative enforcement options.	Consumer Protection & Enforcement Division	Transportation Enforcement and Utility Enforcement	1- Develop internal CPED guidance on how to optimize settlement agreements to benefit ESJ communities when settlement funds are available stemming from UEB / TEB enforcement actions 2- Implement this practice of considering ESJ communities in all future settlement agreements stemming from enforcement actions when legally permitted
6.2.4	Analysis of Potential Redlining in ESJ Communities by Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)	Analyze existing data to understand if passenger carriers are systematically serving ESJ communities differently.	Consumer Protection & Enforcement Division	Transportation Licensing & Analysis Branch	1- Determine if patterns of bias exist in TNC service to ESJ communities compared with others, by analyzing TNC data to include drop-off and pick-up locations, fares charged, and trip acceptance rate 2- Explore opportunities to publish report with findings
6.2.5	Analysis of Potential Redlining in ESJ Communities by Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)	Analyze existing data to understand if passenger carriers are systematically serving ESJ communities differently.	Consumer Protection & Enforcement Division	Transportation Enforcement Branch	1- Open an investigation if analysis and report by Transportation, Licensing, and Analysis Branch (TLAB) suggests probable violations 2- Take appropriate enforcement action as warranted by the facts of the investigation
6.3 Apply ESJ Lens to CPUC Enforcement Policy					
6.3.1	Develop an ESJ Lens for New CPUC Enforcement Policy	Based on lessons learned from sister agencies, develop a training on ESJ issues and guidance on how to approach enforcement from an ESJ perspective. Consider pilot opportunities.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Consult sister agencies on opportunities to do targeted enforcement actions in ESJ communities. Gather best practices. 2- Develop ESJ lens for CPUC Enforcement Policy. 3- Consider pilot exercises.
6.4 Maximize Opportunities within Utility Audits					

Goal 6: Enhance enforcement to ensure safety and consumer protection for ESJ communities. (10 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
6.4.1	Develop a Community Engagement Step to Gas and Electric Infrastructure Safety Inspection Process	In performing ongoing audits and inspections of both electric and gas infrastructure, add a step that includes outreach and engagement with the community to develop a more holistic picture of on-the-ground safety conditions. Consider specific guidance for conducting safety inspections in ESJ communities.	Safety & Enforcement Division	Electric Safety & Reliability and Gas Safety & Reliability	1. Add a step to existing safety inspections and audits that engages the community to record any experiences and/or concerns with safety of the infrastructure. 2. Ensure SED staff know how to access support resources and consider training on implementation. Involve New & Outreach staff in area for assistance with community outreach.
6.4.2	Data Analysis and Mapping of Audit Data and Incident Reports to Understand Geographic Distribution and Potential ESJ Cumulative Impact	Work with existing data from past gas and electric infrastructure audits and inspections to understand if ESJ communities suffer safety burdens or any potential "hotspots" of issues. Consider development of process for ongoing geographic analysis to identify safety problems in these communities.	Safety & Enforcement Division	Electric Safety & Reliability and Gas Safety & Reliability	1. Conduct a pilot to map selected citation data from selected safety inspections and audits, to identify possible correlation with the number of safety citations in a location and the type of community. 2. When an inspection team audits an operator's records and facilities, SED should confirm that it reviewed an adequate number of field facilities located in ESJ communities. 3. Develop an internal process to continue ongoing geographic analysis of safety incidents and how to handle potential identification of "hotspots". 4. Consider opportunities to publish results of analysis.

Goal 7: Promote high road career paths and economic opportunity for residents of ESJ communities. (5 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
7.1 Maximize Authority to Promote High Road					
7.1.1	Implementation of MOU with CA Workforce Development Board	Continue working with CWDB to provide recommendations to CPUC proceedings to encourage utilities to foster high road career paths.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Develop best practices resource with input from stakeholders and ESJ communities 2- Share lessons learned, and best practices developed thus far with CPUC staff and sister agencies 3- Provide direct feedback and recommendations to CPUC staff on what workforce-related components could be incorporated into policies and programs

Goal 7: Promote high road career paths and economic opportunity for residents of ESJ communities. (5 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
7.2 Educate on High Road Careers					
7.2.1	Share CPUC-specific Best Practices	Provide presentations, training, and resources to CPUC staff regarding strategies and practices of a high road approach to workforce development, as well as other practices already underway within the CPUC and best practices from other regulatory agencies.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Develop a brief primer on the high road, including Governor's Executive Orders, key principles and definitions, and examples of incorporation into CPUC programs and/or policies 2- Disseminate across CPUC
7.3 Partner with Utilities and Sister Agencies					
7.3.1	Expand the Impact of Best Practices	Provide presentations, training, and resources to regulated utilities and sister agencies in support of replicating the high road measures adopted by the CPUC across California's portfolio of clean energy and transportation investments.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Develop a brief primer on the high road, including Governor's Executive Orders, key principles and definitions, and examples of incorporation into CPUC programs and/or policies 2- Disseminate across state government
7.3.2	Leverage Sister Agencies to Maximize High Road Opportunities for ESJ Communities	Build relationships and partnerships with sister agencies with business-related missions, including the Contractors State Licensing Board (CSLB), to maximize high road job opportunities for ESJ communities in industries under CPUC oversight.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Work with CWDB to understand sister agencies with potential mission and industry alignment 2- Build relationships and pursue partnership opportunities to improve labor practices and working conditions within industries that are under CPUC oversight and target ESJ communities for services and employment
7.3.3	Furthering Utility Supplier Diversity	Examine how proceedings impact supplier and workforce diversity and assess resulting impacts on ESJ communities.	News & Outreach Office	News & Outreach Office	1- Follow outcome of proceedings, especially as it relates to supplier diversity and impacts on ESJ communities

Goal 8: Improve training and staff development related to ESJ issues within the CPUC's jurisdiction. (8 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
8.1 Bolster Staff Knowledge on ESJ Issues and Resources					

Goal 8: Improve training and staff development related to ESJ issues within the CPUC’s jurisdiction. (8 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
8.1.1	Division-Specific Training on Incorporating ESJ Issues into Proceedings	Work within each CPUC division to provide tailored trainings for staff on how to incorporate ESJ issues into CPUC processes.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Create a baseline training 2- Engage industry division leadership to schedule training and develop division-specific content 3- Deliver in partnership with ESJ Liaison
8.1.2	ESJ Session at New Employee Orientation (NEO)	Continue to host ESJ session at NEO, including background on redlining and the environmental justice movement, key definitions, and where staff can access resources.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Continue refining curriculum 2- Pursue opportunities to provide similar training to staff that are not new employees
8.1.3	Web Resources - CPUC ESJ Action Plan Webpage and Internal ESJ Resource Website	Update and maintain ESJ Action Plan webpage. Build out internal ESJ SharePoint website and ensure it is updated with helpful resources and tools for CPUC staff.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Update ESJ Action Plan webpage with relevant information and remove old content 2- Update internal ESJ SharePoint to include external guides and resources, as well as library of all internal training materials and additional state resources 3- Ensure staff are aware of different webpages
8.1.4	Tribal Engagement Training	Establish commission-wide protocols for training on engaging with tribes.	Cross-Commission	Executive Office - Tribal Advisor	1- Develop training materials to improve staff awareness of best practices for tribal engagement 2- Develop plan for disseminating information to relevant commission staff 3- Consider including Tribal Engagement training in New Employee Orientation or other commission-wide professional development opportunities
8.2 Support Emerging Priorities and Skill Needs					
8.2.1	Alignment with Upcoming Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP)	Support CCORE cohort to implement forthcoming CPUC REAP and support any efforts to conduct training for staff on racial equity issues.	Cross-Commission	Office of the Commission	1- Follow development and finalization of Racial Equity Plan 2- Understand where there is alignment with ESJ Action Plan and opportunities for collaboration 3- Be strong, visible allies and proponents of the Racial Equity Plan
8.2.2	Community Engagement Training for CPUC Staff	Based on existing Community Engagement and Outreach Curriculum, modify, and implement a training to educate staff on effective and meaningful practices for involving ESJ communities in CPUC efforts.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Review State Agency CEO Curriculum 2- Confer with CCORE staff on CEO best practices and adapt for CPUC CEO purposes 3- Offer training opportunities on a regular basis 4- Partner with News and Outreach to deliver training

Goal 8: Improve training and staff development related to ESJ issues within the CPUC’s jurisdiction. (8 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
8.2.3	Advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Continue to pursue staff training to foster a work culture that values diversity and aims to be representative of California populations.	Cross-Commission	Human Resources Division	1- Continue offering trainings to promote diversity in hiring 2- Detail success, challenges, and opportunities in annual Human Resources Division Annual Review
8.2.4	Meeting Facilitation Training for Staff	Offer training to CPUC staff on facilitation and how to run effective workshop and/or community meeting.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Review existing curricula on effective meetings and workshop ideas 2- Work with HR Training Office to adapt for CPUC purposes 3- Consider having an outside consultant or sister agency deliver components of training 3- Deliver to CPUC staff and offer a virtual option for ongoing access

Goal 9: Monitor the CPUC’s ESJ efforts to evaluate how they are achieving their objectives. (4 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
9.1 Establish Consistent Quantitative Metrics					
9.1.1	Metrics to Measure Impact, Community Outreach & Engagement	Develop metrics, criteria, and guidance to ensure that programs and/or funds are having the intended effect and measure meaningful and effective outreach and engagement.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1-Catalogue the existing set of data and metrics currently being used by utilities to measure community engagement 2- Review best practices in the field and consult sister agencies 3-Develop customizable set of criteria for utility outreach, engagement, and benefit to community 4- Sync with efforts to align Marketing, Education, and Outreach (ME&O) Plans within Energy Division
9.1.2	Data Collection: Standardizing Data Requests & Key ESJ Indicators	Create an internal working group to look at issues related to standardization in data requests, the quality of the data, how it can be shared and used given privacy concerns, and how to utilize key indicators to perform equity/ESJ analyses.	Cross-Commission	Office of the Commission	1- Create Working Group; 2- Create data request templates for various categories of data requests; 3- Highlight key indicators/metrics that should be used to understand ESJ impacts; 4- Explore the need for a working group of internal and external stakeholders impacted by CPUC’s data collection efforts.

Goal 9: Monitor the CPUC’s ESJ efforts to evaluate how they are achieving their objectives. (4 Action Items)					
Index #	Action Item	Description	Coordination Level	Lead	Tentative Work Plan
9.1.3	Geographic Distribution of Low-Income Programs + Ongoing Analyses	Institute practice of evaluating geographic distribution of program uptake and policy implementation to understand outreach gaps and if ESJ communities are especially impacted.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Ensure CPUC staff is well educated in CalEnviroScreen and other equity tools, as well as how to perform simple geospatial analysis 2- Initiate analysis in key programs, with the goal of making it standard practice across all programs 3- If there are particular ESJ impacts (i.e., program not reaching priority communities or a particular policy disproportionately impacting ESJ communities), take steps to address the issue
9.2 Promote Meaningful Feedback Loops					
9.2.1	Metrics to Measure Satisfaction, Comprehension, and Experience	Identify qualitative information-gathering strategies of utilities and evaluative spectra to help measure issues such as comprehension, satisfaction, and effectiveness of utility marketing, education, and outreach. Ensure there are pathways to act on information received.	Cross-Commission	ESJ Core Team	1- Review best practices in the field and consult sister agencies 2-Develop customizable set of qualitative criteria for satisfaction, comprehension, and experience 3- Sync with efforts to align Marketing, Education, and Outreach (ME&O) Plans within Energy Division 4- Develop strategy which includes but is not limited to interviews and surveys in collaboration with ESJ communities on key issues of interest 5- Conduct surveys in ESJ communities and analyze results.

Appendix B:

Summary of February 2021 Workshop

THIS APPENDIX PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF THE CPUC ESJ ACTION PLAN – UPDATE WORKSHOP HELD ON FEBRUARY 3 & 4, 2021. THIS SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS COMMENTARY SHARED DURING THE VARIOUS SESSIONS OF THE WORKSHOP AND FEEDBACK RECEIVED VIA EMAIL. IT IS NOT A FULL TRANSCRIPT, NOR DOES IT INCLUDE EVERYTHING SUBMITTED VIA THE CHAT BOX. TO VIEW SESSION RECORDINGS AND FULL CHAT LOGS FROM THE WORKSHOP, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.CPUC.CA.GOV/ESJACTIONPLAN.

Turn Out Numbers for February 2021 ESJ Action Plan - Update Workshop	
External Participants (Utilities, Community Based Organizations, etc.)	438
Internal Participants (CPUC Staff)	190
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	628

Comments Received via Email	
Small Business Utility Advocates	East Bay Community Energy
Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development (IGSD)	Richard Skaff
California Water Association	HolLynn D’Lil
Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)	Connie Arnold
Steven Birdlebough and William Smith	

Key Themes from Workshop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs) are essential to reaching and benefitting ESJ communities. Ensure these partnerships are resourced and that CBOs are given room to deploy a variety of strategies to meet community needs. • Think about what it takes to do meaningful engagement. CPUC meetings and activities should strive to be more accessible and welcoming. • Coordinate and align as much as possible. In order to best reach ESJ communities and maximize impact, programs and policies should align both eligibility criteria and outreach efforts. Leverage work of sister agencies as well. • Work towards more transparency of data and information. Provide stakeholder and CPUC staff with tools and resources to facilitate analysis of ESJ issues and impacts. • Reconsider traditional cost-effectiveness measures. Understand how investments benefit ESJ communities. • Prioritize accessibility of programs and meetings to populations with access and functional needs.

Workshop Session Summaries

CPUC Programs and Policies

- Introductory remarks from Kathleen Yip (CPUC) focused on how there are many different definitions and terms used to define vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. Definitions are important because they are used to make decisions and to determine eligibility in programs. The goal with this session is to raise awareness around definitions, and to discuss how to update these terms to further ESJ Action Plan goals.
- Remarks from Ameer Raval (Asian Pacific Environmental Network) addressed three main points. First, that definitions matter. Definitions especially matter when targeting protections and investments, especially for communities that have experienced historical injustices, such as redlining and underinvestment. Communities face multiple complex challenges, and there is therefore a need for a range of different tools to capture and address those. Second, having an adaptive approach to crafting definitions is important for balancing tension between inclusive approaches and more targeted approaches. A balanced approach, for the purposes of ESJ definitions, means that the definition arrived at will depend on the problems a program or policy is meant to solve. If decision makers take into consideration and evaluate these problems, they should land in an appropriate definition. But they should be guided by some form of general framework. Third, definitions should be guided from a community perspective. A people centered approach helps to maximize community benefits.
- Kathleen Yip (CPUC) notes that having many different definitions can create confusion for both state agency staff and the public. There will be an attempt to catalogue all used definitions with the CPUC. Beyond that, should a framework or template for definitions be developed to help guide CPUC staff and stakeholders?
- Key takeaways from discussion include:
 - » No single definition can be applied to a multitude applications and programs. That would be reductive. A definition, just like criteria, needs to be adaptive to sets of issues that are distinct. But a foundation, baseline, or an analysis of overlap and distinctions, would be helpful.
 - » We must understand that a group has names for itself that we need to be mindful and respectful of, rather than just calling them “Disadvantaged Communities.”
 - » There is a need to balance between having very prescriptive, targeted definitions that are hard to communicate with ensuring that wealthier communities do not take advantage of incentives, for example. Collaboration and being adaptive will be key here.
 - » Interagency cooperation is very important, both to understand their definitions and priorities and to move quickly to meet climate change demands.

- » How do we get communities to the table, what are their barriers and how can they overcome them? We must recognize racism and other inequalities that have ensured that some communities do not even get information on decision-making, and that some communities technically, on paper, do not “exist,” and do not even know about their barriers. We must think about adaptive and flexible methods to address their needs.
- » Could consider a “baseline” definition with “plug and play” options to help with streamlining definitions.
- » Tools like CalEnviroScreen are very useful, but not inclusive of all needs especially around vulnerability. Tools should be adaptive.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: ESJ in CPUC Industry Divisions

TRANSPORTATION & RAIL

- Matthew Bond (CPUC) and Terra Curtis (CPUC) ask for suggestions of how the ESJ Action Plan can incorporate action items related to transportation network companies (TNCs) and rail safety.
- Section 190 is a state program that funds grade separation for existing at-grade rail crossings. Could consider opportunities to prioritize ESJ communities for this program.
- Data related to TNCs (such as Lyft and Uber) could be looked at in a geographic way to understand impacts in ESJ communities. Especially related to where pick-ups are or are not happening. There has not been much TNC data published publicly since 2015. Within this year, should be able to share more about that question.
- Are there opportunities to regulate TNC-related smog and congestions, such as limiting number of TNC drivers that can be on the road? This is likely a question for local governments and CPUC could engage and collaborate more at the local level on these kinds of questions.
- How can CPUC help with issues of homeless encampments along railroads? How can we bring people together around the issue?
- How can we involve more community in transportation and rail related proceedings? The process can be complicated, and Intervenor Compensation is not available for these categories of proceedings. Need to be proactive in engaging people and seek opportunities to fund down the road.
- Planning for electric vehicle charging infrastructure occurs within the Energy Division, currently being thought through in the Transportation Electrification Framework.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Wylene Lai (CPUC) and Michael Minkus (CPUC) ask participants to reflect on the experience of their communities with broadband/internet during the COVID-19 pandemic, about how to better understand the impact of communications public purpose programs from a geographic perspective, and to highlight any other issues.
- Broadband access in rural communities is challenging with such limited infrastructure. Families are having to choose between rent, food, and broadband during this time all while losing employment. Programs and opportunities are not always made to service residents. Without broadband access, can feel cut off from the rest of society.
- Many monolingual families rely on their children to familiarize with technology and how to transition to online learning. Those that have children in school have better access to broadband resources.
- Southern California experiences a lot of challenges, especially related to affordability.
- Need to see big companies, like T-Mobile and Frontier, more involved in these discussions.
- Digital divide is not new, some sort of technical assistance or incentive for jurisdictions to apply to these programs is needed. Also, need to ensure mobile homes are eligible for programs.
- Public purpose programs need to have a true social justice lens and barriers to applying need to be removed. There used to be funding for direct community outreach and support, this approach is stronger than leaving the carriers to do it.
- Consider leveraging existing advisory groups to involve communities. Also, if phone companies having people in parking lots to get customers to sign up for carrier phones, why are they not also signing customers up for Lifeline?
- Can we use examples of creative partnerships formed during the COVID-19 pandemic (between schools and businesses) to better promote broadband access?
- As we move towards more remote access, going to perpetuate same inequities we've always had – monolingual, immigrant, black, brown and people of color being excluded from decision-making process. CPUC and carriers must hear directly from residents about broadband issues.
- Need to also keep an eye on internet speed.
- Rethink cost effectiveness strategies. If we continue to work within that framework, it will continue to perpetuate same inequality we have today.
- Communities are limited in ability to participate on advisory committees. Need to consider having funding and stipends, a welcoming environment, bring information to the community and work on their turf. Also there used to be limitations that if you participated in an advisory committee than you could not participate in CPUC-funded grant projects. Hopefully that has changed.

WILDFIRE SAFETY

- Koko Tomassian (CPUC) introduces topic of the Wildfire Threat Maps. These maps were scoped and developed to identify areas prone to catastrophic fires and areas for increased safety regulations. Adopted for a specific proceeding and a specific purpose, with a ten-year refresh schedule. This map underpins utility operations and decision making to mitigate wildfire risk. As use of map evolves and we evaluate how or whether the map should be updated, how can we place ESJ considerations of the map?
 - » Map could be adapted related to the objectives of the CPUC. For example, if the objective to look at prevention, then the map would look different.
 - » Can also consider how does it integrate with other maps (such as the community wildfire protection plans that exist in local government level)?
 - » Could incorporate fire threat map with other programs. How does this map influence other types of decision making? What other contextual factors can the map account for?
 - » What are the goals for the map? Do utilities know where medically vulnerable groups are? Safety is important and need maps of these populations
 - » Need to also consider safety for those who have already experienced fires and the effect of that.
 - » Could also consider a communications dependence overlay. May be useful for evacuation purposes and emergency communications.
- Shrayas Jatkar (CA Workforce Development Board) introduces topic of wildfire preparation industry and vegetation management. This is a very fast-growing industry and there are implications for worker safety, climate change, grid resilience and increased employment opportunities.
 - » Need to think about the quality of jobs. Currently a lot of reliance on foreign guest workers to do work for low pay and in hazardous working conditions. There is no standardized set of skills or training. Some new policy tools, such as SB 247 and a new training program, are helping in this space.
 - » Need to encourage workforce development in this field as there is a big need. Need to be cautious this does not distract utilities from their responsibilities. Should get more voices involved, including wildfire survivors, and more meaningfully consider public comments.
 - » There is a high fatality rate and very little safety training in forestry workforce. Another issue is lack of enforcement. Need to create a requirement that contractors must demonstrate that workers receive adequate training before getting into state contracts.

Systematizing ESJ Considerations: Incorporating ESJ Issues in to CPUC Proceedings and Processes

- Mad Stano (Greenlining Institute) remarks that pollution burden and burden of utility costs are truly life threatening. We must root our thinking on viewing it as such and not just on processes and intending that these processes will resolve impacts at local levels. There is now legislative guidance to require meaningful conversations from communities most impacted by pollution. We cannot decarbonize without centering voices of community, and we cannot implement just and reasonable rates without centering those most impacted. We need to make a case for systematizing this approach. Communities and justice are administered through CPUC activities and actions. How do we reform criteria that leadership is held to when making decisions?
- Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Ava Tran (CPUC) shares that the CPUC has been working on how to approach ESJ issues within its proceedings. ALJs are being encouraged to discuss ESJ issues within rulings to determine whether or not there are any impacts and to cope in any issues. News and Outreach team can assist by creating an outreach plan to inform interested parties and advise local organizations on how to become parties to proceedings. There are other opportunities to get involved, such as providing public comment. How do we ensure we have sufficient representation in proceedings? How do we better scope ESJ issues into proceedings? What should we be looking at to consider any potential impacts?
- Key takeaways from discussion include:
 - » The CPUC has been one of the most difficult organizations to create a pipeline for communication and bringing community participation forward. There needs to be an emphasis on hearing from local voices.
 - » The San Joaquin Valley Affordable Energy proceeding offers a better model.
 - » Incorporating a geographic analysis and pairing that with community engagement can help drive a substantive and long-standing commitment to responding to issues.
 - » Could be good to learn from AB 617 Community Air Protection implementation. How can the CPUC both learn from and implement community input through community-based organizations and leveraging ongoing efforts of sister agencies?
 - » There is a difference between “service list” outreach and true community engagement and outreach. It is scary to think of the small group of people that are involved as parties and people that are apart of decision-making process, yet their decisions and processes impact a larger population.
 - » Intervenor Compensation does not solve the issue of involving communities. One example includes waiting 3-4 years for compensation.
 - » Community organizations need more technical assistance to support participation in programs and proceedings. Often a lawyer is needed. Need to think about how community

members can be involved, and be specific (I.e., a different strategy for Spanish speakers and Hmong speakers).

- » Need to build more public understanding of the CPUC’s role. Local folks to not know the connection or the importance of the CPUC’s role.
- » While a lot of money has become available because of the pandemic, it has revealed a “digital desert” with communities not having enough expertise to be able to apply to programs to connect communities with resources. Need technical assistance to help with access.
- » If there is a way to create meaningful conversations and discussions to allow community members to learn and provide input on proceedings. As a community organization, it is hard to find proceedings, so hard to imagine the energy and work it would take for community members. Encourage the CPUC to make information more accessible- visualization tools, more outreach, videos, translation, —it can empower communities to provide their input.

Tracking and Measuring: Data Collection to Better Understand CPUC Impact in ESJ Communities

- Kathleen Yip (CPUC) opens the session by highlighting the focus being on quantitative data and issues of collection, transparency, tracking, and impact on ESJ communities.
- Jamario Jackson (Transform) remarks that the CPUC should recognize harms and injustices to the communities it serves and protects. To do so, it must ask: what are indicators that can show harms and injustices? Once the CPUC answers that, it can start making improvements. Historically, government and industry have both created these harms. Some are intentional, others are not. All these make for challenges. The CPUC covers many sectors so standardized indicators are different across these, and so we need strategies to tackle that.
- Area where a lot of improvement can be made is to go beyond data and look at how is data collected and its impact. Another area is to consider areas where there is no data, which requires data stewardship, and ethical considerations, both internal and external. Yet another area of improvement is transparency. Data should be accessible and easily discoverable.
- Iain Fisher (CPUC Public Advocates Office) highlights the challenge of getting a person-centered approach to utility data management. In the CPUC, there are a vast range of approaches to data. In sum, each proceeding has a set of question for which it gathers data, which makes that dataset unique to that proceeding and question. But there are in the CPUC examples of broad data collection efforts, e.g., broadband data, which answers many questions that can be used in the future for different purposes. In general, there needs to be more cross-division standardization.
- Kathleen Yip highlights that we cannot fix what we cannot measure. CPUC needs to be accountable and show that we do what we say we will do. One primary issue is the lack of

standardization. Because of this lack, we cannot compare programs or proceedings. Another issue is that utilities can submit data in cumbersome formats and on different scales and metrics. The quality of the data is inconsistent - how to address that? How do we make data both better and more accessible to the public, given privacy and confidentiality issues? How do we measure impact on public policy? One attempt at an answer is to create standard baseline. To do that, we can ask: which indicators ought to be included from an ESJ perspective? What types of data would be useful across proceedings, projects, and programs?

- Iain Fisher points out that to improve quality you need to understand the business process of utilities: what points of the business process do you need to measure?
- Jamario Jackson looks back at the ESJ Action Plan and asks to focus on ensuring protection and benefits to consumers. How do you measure that? Recommend breaking it into smaller chunks and asking the community what the indicators they feel strongly about.
- Iain Fisher reminds that we need to ask what data utilities should collect and what do they have the right to collect.
- Kathleen Yip remarks that a key challenge is to figure out how to publish data that protects privacy on an accessible portal on the CPUC website that can be used by the public. Iain Fisher further mentions that privacy is very important and affects utilities, customers, citizens. Important to mention that part of reason why the CPUC is careful in treading into granular data is privacy issues. Avoids collecting some levels of data for this reason. What we need to do is build a framework on privacy for the CPUC.
- Jamario Jackson mentions one opportunity is that if data from different sources is imported into the same tool, that is an opportunity to explore implications and see patterns. One example could be to see how power shutoff data can be plugged in with redlining data to see if there's correlation. Such an approach would allow advocates to experiment with data. If CPUC provided such data, community organizations could use it. However, even when we have data, sometimes we are not heard by lawmakers and decisionmakers. Strength comes from marrying data with ground troop communities.
- Key takeaways from discussion include:
 - » Being able to standardize data from the three big IOUs, specifically disconnections data, would save a lot of time and energy on the analytical end.
 - » Could consider a geographically focused pilot on standardizing data.
 - » There is some standardization happening in wildfire space with GIS templates used to map utility assets. Still big issues with quality of data and privacy issues when it comes to publishing.
 - » Privacy becomes a hard challenge to manage. With transportation as an example - When you want to improve service or understand behavior, you need pick up and drop off data, and

that can suggest movement patterns. On the other hand - as consumers we release a lot of such data to companies unknowingly and knowingly. Only some people should maybe see it. Merits a larger conversation. Equity and integrity are important.

- » There is a dissonance between those that gather data and those that live the disparity. The data gathering and data must be relevant for people affected, people who live the disparity.
- » Must be understanding when communities sometimes do not want to share information with government. Need to consider strategies that don't require add-on information (like addresses, etc.)
- » Organizational patterns of IOUs might be inappropriate for ESJ data gathering. We need person or community level data. Collecting and ground truthing data with communities can be married with utility level data collection.

Public Comment Session

- Consider how to keep workshop participants in contact and engaged. Could do quarterly or regular engagement.
- All utilities should have a medical baseline program. Additionally, what is the CPUC doing to ensure cell service has backup power during shut off events? What is the CPUC doing to ensure utilities meet Public Safety Power Shut Off guidance? When will funds be added to the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP).
- Need to consider how Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) play into these ESJ topics and issues.
- Stakeholders with a lot of political and financial capacity can advocate for programs that fit their needs. We need programs with less barriers so that they are equitable. Sometimes regulation results in high barriers and it isn't equitable.
- Take a closer look at consultants who prepare reports and analyses for the CPUC. Consultants from out of state may have little connection to communities and history in California.
- Community is not involved in transition to solar and electrification. Mandates are coming top down and not from community. Need to look at grassroots efforts. Education is missing in these communities.
- On issues related to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) and equity, the Governor's Office has pointed to the CPUC. What is the CPUC doing to promote equity with ZEV deployment and charging infrastructure?
- Shocked that there are no comments from the disability community today. It is indicative of a lack of trust between the CPUC and the disability community. Disability needs vary. It is not clumped together in zip codes. It is not a political group even though it has so many common needs.

- Should not use privacy as an excuse to hide or obscure data.
- We need backup power during shutoffs. There is also a lack of cell service during power outages. Additionally, Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) do not provide service to people with physical disabilities.
- Significant challenges with logging in to Web Ex Platform. Zoom should be used.
- CPUC is catering to the interest of the utilities and not disabled people. Concerns are life and death. Knows of someone who had the power shut off by PG&E and died shortly thereafter struggling to breathe. Need to make sure battery backup systems are available to disabled community.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: ESJ in CPUC Industry Divisions

ENERGY

- Amy Mesrobian (CPUC) and Alison LaBonte (CPUC) highlight there are currently 65 action items from the Energy Division in the current ESJ Action Plan
- Communities of color and low-income communities require a greater amount of funds to reach them and a more concerted effort. If programs are put out first come-first serve, early adopters and those who are motivated would take first advantage of those opportunities. Therefore, saying that that a budget is “equally available” is not equitable, because it might not reach ESJ communities.
- CPUC and IOUs are outreaching to the same communities and others remain uncontacted. Need more, smaller community organizations who can get outreach contracts as they will have the relationships and time to explain programs to new customers.
- Information that the IOUs request is too detailed and hard for customers to access and provide. Need to increase funding to smaller groups and provide adequate training to those doing outreach.
- Customers on the ground are not as satisfied with the Energy Savings Assistance Program (ESAP). IOUs are number driven and when another grassroots organization does outreach does not produce the same numbers, but they do longer term personal relationships where people go into the homes or on the phone to help these people make the changes. Need to accept a transformation in how we outreach to people to educate and not just dropping literature at people’s doors. Need to foster long term behavioral changes, which is a longer process
- CPUC should help community organizations get funding for outreach, education of their staff, and education of the community.
- On solar issues, 80% of people are disqualified because they have bad roofs, so how are we helping ESJ homeowners if we cannot help them repair their roofs?

- As far as avoiding unintended impacts, be realistic and really evaluate what goes into making these programs helpful to families you are trying to reach.
- There are also a lot of scammers out there. The CPUC needs to be more proactive in regulating or screening for those scammers.
- Major challenges with how CPUC looks at cost-effectiveness. Need to consider non-energy benefits which can include pollution reduction, quality of services, and person-oriented decisions. CPUC is instead focused on IOU bottom line.
- To find best practices and good models, look to community organizations that are already doing the work and have funding at risk of being taken away. Seek ways to support them in their ongoing, grassroots efforts.
- Need to understand that a consumer’s life choices have many different factors, not just focused on one specific issue. Assumptions in program design often do not take this into account.
- Standing relationships with community organizations can have the most benefit. Build in these relationships when you are building a new program. Also consider working with Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) on program design issues.
- Create an institutional process map to make it clear to CPUC internally and externally – when and where community engagement can make a difference.
- Consider opportunities to align eligibility criteria across programs, alongside need for home and roof repairs.

SAFETY & ENFORCEMENT

- Liz Podolinsky (CPUC) and Nicole Cropper (CPUC) outline how the Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) deals with both gas and electric safety issues as well as wildfire safety and can identify violations and file citations.
- How can ESJ concerns be overlapped with safety considerations? Once example could be in wildfire context and guidelines for alerting utility customers about events.
- It is important for SED to understand its role in terms of equity. For example, if a community member saw a safety issue and had a concern and they made a call into the CPUC or they provided a public comment. What is the expectation from SED in terms of that response? Is expectation to respond to that in 24-48 hours? How does this relate to response time by utilities?
- Another way to look at this is looking at how public participation is measured. Is there a public participation hearing (PPH) taking place? How is it seen and processed through proceeding? Do public comments end up meeting requirements of proceedings? There needs to be an objective or measure of proceedings in order to implement ESJ lens to this work.

- PPHs are good. There should be no proceeding without a PPH. CPUC needs to ask how hearings can be approached in different ways (due to time pressures in different proceedings but also different community needs). CPUC should not bypass the opportunity to engage community members into proceedings.
- Be descriptive of how public engagement is evaluated and how public participation will be merged into decision making process.
- We must understand what contributes to risks, how are risks different within particular communities—urban, rural environment. Understanding ESJ issues is within the expectations and measurement of tools to understand the full scope of the issue.
- Hammering Home: how you engage the public is how risks can be measured.
- CPUC has recently adopted an enforcement policy to set forth policies for all divisions that are under CPUC to take enforcement actions—investigations, penalties, settling cases. One thing we have started to work on is guidelines when we approve supplemental environmental projects (SEPs) in lieu of penalties. How much of a penalty should be mitigated, what the nexus between violation and remedial actions that are taken?
- Examples of SEPs that benefit disadvantaged communities include installing air filtration devices in schools, community centers, and residences to reduce the community’s exposure to air pollution; monitoring groundwater quality from infiltrating stormwater to detect harmful contaminants; providing regular health screenings for affected communities; or providing community members training to enable them to identify environmental violations and to notify regulatory agencies of those violations.
- SED could consider using CalEnviroScreen to identify environmentally burdened communities that may need tailored enforcement actions. Maybe those communities could receive more safety audits? Perhaps the penalties for violations in these communities could be higher? Perhaps those communities can get quicker service?

WATER

- Steve St. Marie (CPUC) and Jefferson Hancock (CPUC) describe key ESJ-related efforts within the Water Division, including the Low-Income Water proceeding and the Affordability proceeding.
- Interest in workforce development programming and existing partnership with the CA Workforce Development Board, which looks to promote high quality jobs for ESJ communities within CPUC programs and policies.
- Specific to consolidation of small water systems, what are opportunities to streamline the consolidation process with benefits to ESJ communities? Need to better understand barriers for acquisition from the utility perspective. CPUC is mostly interested in the cost of acquisition and subsequent rate impacts to both new and existing customers.

- How is the CPUC looking to diversify its own workforce? Currently has a cohort participating in California Capital Cohort on Race and Equity to develop a CPUC Racial Equity Plan. Also have a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group looking more internally at staff needs.
- Different tools for looking at disadvantaged communities are highlighted, including CalEnviroScreen and tool from Department of Water Resources.
- Consolidation issue is challenging. A system may have low rates but may be poorly maintained with poor water quality. But how do you protect against rate impacts? Sometimes people want to be left alone in rural communities and do not want to be part of larger utility.

Making the Most of Marketing, Education & Outreach (ME&O): Maximizing Impact and Aligning Strategies

- Whitney Richardson (CPUC) remarks that the CPUC has a strong interest in insuring utility customers are well informed of programs and how dollars are being spent to reach program goals. How can the CPUC ensure that programs reach specific customers?
- Alex Garibay (Southern California Edison) explains that utilities develop marketing and education programs for customers and that equity is core to their work. SCE works closely with community-based organizations that can share information across multicultural groups.
- Key takeaways from the discussion include:
 - » Leveraging 211/311 resources in local communities can be helpful. Ready-made infrastructure for outreach.
 - » IOUs often look to quantify information (number of bill inserts, etc.) and in no other industry would a marketing and communication campaign be looked at in such a way. Instead, it is critical to look at how that communication is being interpreted by the user. Not just the number of pamphlets distributed.
 - » Need time and investment in hard-to-reach communities so they understand programs available. Need to also have patience to have a conversation about the program. Communities are capable of understanding, but a pamphlet may not be enough.
 - » Do not measure success based on cost effectiveness. Sometimes pamphlets do not work all that well. Instead, a meeting with a giant poster may be more effective.
 - » Give community organizations the funding to do this type of engagement.
 - » Continual education is needed to achieve behavior change
 - » With partnerships with community organizations, it takes time and trust to build a collaborative relationship. Make it clear this is teamwork.

- » Creative strategies with COVID-19 pandemic – Communities holding meetings through WhatsApp as it uses much less bandwidth and using Facebook Live. Ask community members how they get messages and what it takes to get them to engage. You are asking for community time, have the resident feel valued.
- » People can be wary of the CPUC and utilities. Need to take that into account.
- » Consider using neighborhood faces in local outreach campaigns. Highlight community organizations doing the work and celebrate it.
- » Come up with a list of community organizations throughout the state that people can filter and have easy access to for outreach purposes.

Appendix C:

Key ESJ Definitions & Statutes

This guide is meant to be an initial resource to assist in incorporating ESJ issues into CPUC proceedings, programs, and processes. This guide is NOT an exhaustive list of definitions, nor does it reflect the only definition for a particular term. When using this guide, please note whether a term is defined in statute (and therefore should not be modified for CPUC use) or if a term can be adapted.

This resource will continue to be updated and available internally on the CPUC ESJ SharePoint website.

Environmental Justice and Equity Concepts

Term (In alphabetical order)	Definition
Adaptive Capacity ⁴⁵	The ability of systems, institutions, humans, and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or to respond to consequences.
Climate Justice ⁴⁶	Ensures that the people and communities who are least culpable in the warming of the planet, and most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, do not suffer disproportionately because of historical injustice and disinvestment.
Community Engagement	
Cumulative Impacts ⁴⁷	Result when the effects of an action are added to or interact with other effects in a particular place and within a particular time.
Disproportionate Impacts ⁴⁸	Occurs when policies, practices, rules, or other systems that appear to be neutral impact different groups in different ways.
Distributive Justice ⁴⁹	Fairness in the distribution of rights or resources.

⁴⁵ IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, Annex II, Glossary, p. 1758, https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/WGIIAR5-AnnexII_FINAL.pdf

⁴⁶ <https://www.environmentalhealth.org/index.php/en/what-we-do/climate-justice>

⁴⁷ <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-08/documents/cumulative.pdf>

⁴⁸ <https://www.shrm.org/resourcesandtools/tools-and-samples/hr-qa/pages/disparateimpactdisparatetreatment.aspx>

⁴⁹ <https://post.ca.gov/procedural-justice-and-police-legitimacy>

Term (In alphabetical order)	Definition
Environmental Justice ⁵⁰	<p>Environmental justice is the <i>fair treatment</i> and <i>meaningful involvement</i> of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and; • equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.
Equity ⁵¹	<p>Equity is transforming the behaviors, institutions, and systems that disproportionately harm people of color. Equity means increasing access to power, redistributing, and providing additional resources, and eliminating barriers to opportunity, in order to empower low-income communities of color to thrive and reach full potential. Greenlining’s definition of equity is specific to racial equity, given the legacy of institutionalized racism by government. Our emphasis on race is not about excluding other marginalized groups. These equity approaches are intended to also be applicable to creating equitable outcomes for other groups such as the elderly and people with disabilities.</p>
Ground Truth ⁵²	<p>Information obtained by direct observation of a real system, as opposed to a model or simulation.</p>
High Road ⁵³	<p>“High road” means a set of economic and workforce development strategies to achieve economic growth, economic equity, shared prosperity, and a clean environment. The strategies include, but are not limited to, interventions that:</p>

⁵⁰ Gov. Code, § 65040.12, subd. (e)

⁵¹ <https://greenlining.org/publications/reports/2019/making-equity-real-in-mobility-pilots-toolkit/>

⁵² https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/ground_truth

⁵³ https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=UIC&division=7.&title=&part=&chapter=2.&article

Term (In alphabetical order)	Definition
	<p>(1) Improve job quality and job access, including for women and people from underserved and underrepresented populations.</p> <p>(2) Meet the skill and profitability needs of employers.</p> <p>(3) Meet the economic, social, and environmental needs of the community.</p>
Institutional Racism ⁵⁴	<p>Institutional racism refers to the policies and practices within and across institutions that, intentionally or not, produce outcomes that chronically favor, or put a racial group at a disadvantage. Poignant examples of institutional racism can be found in school disciplinary policies in which students of color are punished at much higher rates than their white counterparts, in the criminal justice system, and within many employment sectors in which day-to-day operations, as well as hiring and firing practices can significantly disadvantage workers of color.</p>
Japanese American incarceration sites	<p>Sakura Conservation Strategies</p>
Meaningful Involvement ⁵⁵	<p>Means that 1) potentially affected community members have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment or health; 2) the public’s contribution can influence an agency’s decision; 3) the concerns of all participants involved will be considered in the decision-making process; and 4) the decision-makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.</p>
Procedural Justice ⁵⁶	<p>Fairness and the transparency of the processes by which decisions are made.</p>

⁵⁴ <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/blog-posts/structural-racism-definition/>

⁵⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-02/documents/team-ej-lexicon.pdf>

⁵⁶ <https://post.ca.gov/procedural-justice-and-police-legitimacy>

Term (In alphabetical order)	Definition
Public Participation	
Racial Equity ⁵⁷	Racial equity refers to what a genuinely non-racist society would look like. In a racially equitable society, the distribution of society’s benefits and burdens would not be skewed by race. In other words, racial equity would be a reality in which a person is no more or less likely to experience society’s benefits or burdens just because of the color of their skin. This is in contrast to the current state of affairs in which a person of color is more likely to live in poverty, be imprisoned, drop out of high school, be unemployed and experience poor health outcomes like diabetes, heart disease, depression, and other potentially fatal diseases. Racial equity holds society to a higher standard. It demands that we pay attention not just to individual-level discrimination, but to overall social outcomes.
Stakeholder Engagement	
Structural Racism ⁵⁸	A system in which public policies, institutional practices, cultural representations, and other norms work in various, often reinforcing ways to perpetuate racial group inequity. It identifies dimensions of our history and culture that have allowed privileges associated with “whiteness” and disadvantages associated with “color” to endure and adapt over time. Structural racism is not something that a few people or institutions choose to practice. Instead, it has been a feature of the social, economic, and political systems in which we all exist.
Transportation Network Company ⁵⁹	A Transportation Network Company (TNC) uses an online-enabled platform to connect passengers with drivers using their personal, non-commercial, vehicles.

⁵⁷ <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/blog-posts/structural-racism-definition/>

⁵⁸ <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/blog-posts/structural-racism-definition/>

⁵⁹ [6-20-17 Item 14 Transportation Network Company Activity Report.pdf \(sfmta.com\)](https://www.sfmta.com/6-20-17-Item-14-Transportation-Network-Company-Activity-Report.pdf)

Spectrum of Community Engagement – International Association of Public Participation⁶⁰

Increasing Impact on the Decision



	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Public Participation Goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
Promise to the Public	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to, and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

⁶⁰ <https://sustainingcommunity.wordpress.com/2017/02/14/spectrum-of-public-participation/>

CPUC Definitions for Environmental and Social Justice and Disadvantaged Communities

Term (in alphabetical order)	Definition
Access and Functional Needs (AFN) ⁶¹	This population includes individuals who live with developmental or intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, chronic conditions, injuries, limited English proficiency or who are non-English speaking, are older adults, children, people living in institutionalized settings, or those who are low income, homeless, or transportation disadvantaged, including, but not limited to, those who are dependent on public transit or those who are pregnant.
California Native American Tribe	“California Native American tribe” means a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004. See Public Resources Code § 21073. California Native American tribes include both federally recognized and non- federally recognized tribes.
Community- Based Organization	The term “community-based organization means a public or private nonprofit organization of demonstrated effectiveness that— A) is representative of a community or significant segments of a community; and B) provides educational or related services to individuals in the community.
Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) ⁶² (Water)	“Disadvantaged community” means the entire service area of a community water system, or a community therein, in which the median household income is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income level.

⁶¹ AB 2311. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB2311&showamends=false

⁶² Health and Safety Code Section 116426

Term (in alphabetical order)	Definition
Disadvantaged Vulnerable Communities (DVC)⁶³ (Climate Adaptation)	“Disadvantaged Vulnerable Communities” or “DVCs” consist of communities in the 25% highest scoring census tracts according to the California communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen); as well as all California tribal lands, census tracts with median household incomes less than 60% of state median income; and census tracts that score in the highest 5% of Pollution Burden within CalEnviroScreen, but do not receive an overall CalEnviroScreen score due to unreliable public health and socioeconomic data.
Low Income Households⁶⁴⁶⁵	Low-income households are those with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's list of state income limits adopted pursuant to Section 50093.
Low Income Communities⁶⁶⁶⁷	Low-income communities are census tracts with median household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with median household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's list of state income limits adopted pursuant to Section 50093.

⁶³ D.20-08-046

⁶⁴ HSC § 39713

⁶⁵ Please note that individual CPUC programs may have low-income designations defined in statute that supersede this definition or may use federal poverty guidelines to define low-income.

⁶⁶ HSC § 39713

⁶⁷ Please note that individual CPUC programs may have low-income designations defined in statute that supersede this definition or may use federal poverty guidelines to define low-income.

Term (in alphabetical order)	Definition
<p>Hard-to-Reach (HTR)⁶⁸</p>	<p>Two criteria are considered sufficient if one of the criteria met is the geographic criteria defined below. There are common as well as separate criteria when defining hard-to-reach for residential versus small business customers. The barriers common to both include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those customers who do not have easy access to program information or generally do not participate in energy efficiency programs due to a combination of language, business size, geographic, and lease (split incentive) barriers. These barriers to consider include: <p><i>Language</i> – Primary language spoken is other than English, and/or</p> <p><i>Geographic</i> – Businesses or homes in areas other than the United States Office of Management and Budget Combined Statistical Areas of the San Francisco Bay Area, the Greater Los Angeles Area and the Greater Sacramento Area or the Office of Management and Budget metropolitan statistical areas of San Diego County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For small business added criteria to the above to consider: <p><i>Business Size</i> – Less than ten employees and/or classified as Very Small (Customers whose annual electric demand is less than 20kW, or whose annual gas consumption is less than 10,000 therms, or both), and/or</p> <p><i>Leased or Rented Facilities</i> – Investments in improvements to a facility rented or leased by a participating business customer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For residential added criteria to the above to consider: <p><i>Income</i> – Those customers who qualify for the California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) or the Family Electric Rate Assistance Program (FERA), and/or</p>

⁶⁸D.18-05-041

Term (in alphabetical order)	Definition
	<p><i>Housing Type</i> – Multi-family and Mobile Home Tenants (rent and lease)”</p> <p><i>Modification:</i> include disadvantaged communities (as designated by CalEPA) in the geographic criteria for hard-to-reach customers.</p>
Indian Country	<p>The term Indian country is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1151 and 40 C.F.R. § 171.3 as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. all land within the limits of any Indian reservation under the jurisdiction of the United States Government, notwithstanding the issuance of any patent, and including rights-of-way running through the reservation b. all dependent Indian communities within the borders of the United States whether within the original or subsequently acquired territory thereof, and whether within or without the limits of a state; and c. all Indian allotments, the Indian titles to which have not been extinguished, including rights-of-way running through the same. <p>Consistent with the statutory definition of Indian country, as well as federal case law interpreting this statutory language, lands held by the federal government in trust for Indian tribes that exist outside of formal reservations are informal reservations and, thus, are Indian country.</p>
Socioeconomic Vulnerability Index (SEVI)⁶⁹	<p>The Socioeconomic Vulnerability Index (SEVI) metric represents the relative socioeconomic standing of census tracts, referred to as communities, in terms of poverty, unemployment, educational attainment, linguistic isolation, and percentage of income spent on housing. This metric therefore considers how a rate change may affect one community’s ability to pay more than another’s.</p>

⁶⁹D.20-07-032

Term (in alphabetical order)	Definition
Underserved Communities ⁷⁰	<p>Underserved community means a community that meets one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a “disadvantaged community” as defined by subdivision (g) of Section 75005 of the Public Resources Code. • Is included within the definition of “low-income communities” as defined by paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 39713 of Health and Safety Code. • Is within an area identified as among the most disadvantaged 25 percent in the state according to the California Environmental Protection Agency and based on the most recent California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool, also known as CalEnviroScreen. • Is a community in which at least 75 percent of public school students in the project area are eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program? • Is a community located on lands belonging to a federally recognized California Indian tribe?
Unservd Household (Broadband) ⁷¹	<p>“Unservd area” for the California Advanced Services Fund broadband infrastructure grants means a household for which no facility-based broadband provider offers broadband service at speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (mbps) downstream and one mbps upstream.⁷²</p>

⁷⁰ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB841

⁷¹ <https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/public-utilities-code/puc-sect-281.html>

⁷² https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB156

Eligibility Criteria Requirements for CPUC Energy, Communications, and Water Consumer Programs

Program	Eligibility Criteria
California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) ⁷³	Income eligibility for CARE participation is set at 200% or less of Federal Poverty Guidelines.
Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) ⁷⁴	Total family income eligibility for FERA participation is set between 200% and 250% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.
Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) Program ⁷⁵	Income eligibility for ESA participation is set at 200% or less of Federal Poverty Guidelines.
Multi-family Affordable Solar Housing (MASH) ⁷⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar energy system installations on existing multifamily affordable housing that meets the definition of low-income residential housing established in Pub. Util. Code 2852 • Eligibility under Pub. Util. Code Section 2852 defines “low-income residential housing” as one of the following: Multifamily residential complex financed with one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ low-income housing tax credits ▪ tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds ▪ general obligation bonds ▪ local, state, or federal loans or grants • Multifamily residential complex in which at least 20% of the total housing units are sold or rented to lower income households

⁷³ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/consumer-support/financial-assistance-savings-and-discounts/california-alternate-rates-for-energy>

⁷⁴ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/consumer-support/financial-assistance-savings-and-discounts/family-electric-rate-assistance-program>

⁷⁵ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/consumer-support/financial-assistance-savings-and-discounts/energy-savings-assistance>

⁷⁶ Pub. Util. Code 2852; MASH Program Handbook.

Program	Eligibility Criteria
Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH) ⁷⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive electrical service from Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), or San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), • Own and live in their home, • Have a household income that is 80% or below the area median income (AMI), • Live in a home defined as “affordable housing” by California Public Utilities Code 2852.
Disadvantaged Communities-Single-family Affordable Solar Homes (DAC-SASH) ⁷⁸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available to customers who live in DACs and meet the income eligibility requirements for the CARE and FERA programs or residents of California Indian Country. • Homeowners must live in one of the top 25 % most disadvantaged communities statewide • Be a billing customer of Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), or San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E)
Solar on Multi-family Affordable Housing (SOMAH) ⁷⁹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentives for solar projects on affordable multifamily properties to achieve 300 MWs by 2030 • Available to affordable multifamily properties occupied by households with a majority of tenants with incomes at or below 60% of the area median income or be located in a disadvantaged community as identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). • Multifamily properties must be in PG&E, SCE, SDG&E, PacifiCorp, or Liberty territories to participate

⁷⁷ AB 217; SASH Handbook; <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/demand-side-management/california-solar-initiative/csi-single-family-affordable-solar-homes-program>

⁷⁸ SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities; AB 327; <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/sb535>; Decision D.18-06-027; D.20-12-003; <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/solar-in-disadvantaged-communities>

⁷⁹ AB 693 (2015) “Multifamily Affordable Housing Solar Roofs Program”; Decision 17-12-022; <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/somah>; <https://calsomah.org/>

Program	Eligibility Criteria
<p>Green Tariff/Shared Renewables Program (GTSR) (Enhanced Community Renewables)⁸⁰</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 600 MW GTSR program includes a specific 100 MW reservation for customers and projects in areas identified by the CalEnviroScreen tool as being in one of the 20% most disadvantaged census tracts in each IOU • Small projects—those under 1MW capacity—which are developed in EJ Communities are eligible for a Utility Power Purchase Agreement if their prices fall within 200 percent of the maximum executed contract price, rather than 120 percent for standard GTSR power purchase agreements.
<p>Disadvantaged Communities - Green-Tariff (DAC-GT)⁸¹</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 158MW program available for Residential customers in DACs who meet the income eligibility requirements for the CARE and FERA programs. • Homeowners must live in one of the top 25 % most disadvantaged communities statewide or the census tracts in the highest 5 percent of CalEnviroScreen's Pollution Burden or; • Be a billing customer of participating utility or Community Choice Aggregator.
<p>Community Solar Green Tariff (CSGT)⁸²</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 41MW program available for Residential customers in DACs or in San Joaquin Valley (SJV) pilot communities identified in R.15-03-010. • CSGT projects must be in DACs within 5 miles of DAC(s) where subscribing customers reside or within 40 miles for SJV pilot communities. • 50% of a project’s output must be subscribed by customers eligible for CARE or FERA. • Customers must live in one of the top 25 % most disadvantaged communities statewide or the census tracts in the highest 5 percent of CalEnviroScreen's Pollution Burden or; • Be a billing customer of participating utility or Community Choice Aggregator.

⁸⁰ SB 43; https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB43

⁸¹ AB 327; Decision D.18-06-027, D.18-10-007 and D.20-07-008; <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen>; https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/SolarInDACs/#DAC_GT

⁸² AB 327; Decision D.18-06-027 and D.18-10-007; R.15-03-010; <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen>; <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/SolarInDACs/#CSGT>

Program	Eligibility Criteria
California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Broadband Adoption Account⁸³	Eligible applicants are local governments, senior centers, schools, public libraries, nonprofit organizations, and community-based organizations with programs to increase publicly available or after school broadband access and digital inclusion, such as digital literacy training programs are eligible to apply for grants.
California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Rural and Urban Regional Consortia Account⁸⁴	An eligible Consortium, as specified by the Commission, may include representatives, of organizations including, but not limited to, local and regional government, public safety, elementary and secondary education, health care, libraries, postsecondary education, community-based organizations, tourism, parks, and recreation, agricultural, business, workforce organizations, and air pollution control or air quality management districts. An eligible Consortium is not required to have as its lead fiscal agent an entity with a certificate of public convenience and necessity.
California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Broadband Infrastructure Account⁸⁵	Senate Bill (SB) 156, enacted and effective on July 21, 2021, made many changes to the CASF. Additionally, SB 4 and Assembly Bill (AB) 14, enacted and effective on October 8, 2021, continued funding of the CASF program beyond 2022 to December 31, 2032. ⁸⁶ Some of the changes relevant to the CASF Infrastructure Account include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redefining “unserved area”—The previous definition was “unserved household,” meaning a household with service at six megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and one Mbps upstream. The current operative definition is: “unserved area means an area for which there is no facility-based broadband provider offering at least one tier of broadband service at speeds of at least 25 Mbps downstream, three Mbps upstream, and a latency that is sufficiently low to allow real-time interactive applications,

⁸³ AB 1665

⁸⁴ Decision (D.) 18-10-032

⁸⁵ Pub. Util. Code Section (b)(2)(B)(i)

⁸⁶ The CPUC plans to implement implements key changes in the CASF from SB 156, SB 4, and AB 14 for relevant accounts.

Program	Eligibility Criteria
	<p>considering updated federal and state broadband mapping data.” The statute also replaced the references to “households” with “areas.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority to areas with slow or no internet—Previously, the CPUC was to give preference to projects in areas with only dial-up service or no service. Now, the CPUC is to “prioritize projects in unserved areas where internet connectivity is available only at speeds at or below ten Mbps downstream and one Mbps upstream or areas with no internet connectivity.” • Serviceable locations—The CPUC “shall transition CASF program methodologies to provide service to serviceable locations and evaluate other program changes to align with other funding sources, including, but not limited to, funding locations.” • Elimination of “indispensable middle-mile” language—The Legislature eliminated the section that discussed the requirements for funding middle-mile infrastructure, if it is indispensable for last-mile service, formerly Pub. Util. Code Sec. 281(f)(5)(B). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination of prerequisites for local agency infrastructure grants—Formerly in Pub. Util. Code Sec. 281(f)(9), local agencies could only receive an infrastructure grant if the CPUC “has conducted an open application process, and no other eligible entity applied.” This section has been eliminated, so that local agencies now have greater eligibility for funding.
<p>California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Public Housing Account⁸⁷</p>	<p>Senate Bill (SB) 156, enacted and effective on July 21, 2021, made many changes to the CASF. Additionally, SB 4 and Assembly Bill (AB) 14, enacted and effective on October 8, 2021, continued funding of the CASF program beyond 2022 to December 31, 2032.⁸⁸ Some of the changes relevant to the CASF Infrastructure Account include:</p>

⁸⁷ https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/communications-division/documents/casf-adoption-and-access/bpha_guidelines_august_2020.pdf

⁸⁸ The CPUC plans to implement implements key changes in the CASF from SB 156, SB 4, and AB 14 for relevant accounts.

Program	Eligibility Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redefining “unserved area”—The previous definition was “unserved household,” meaning a household with service at six megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and one Mbps upstream. The current operative definition is: “unserved area means an area for which there is no facility-based broadband provider offering at least one tier of broadband service at speeds of at least 25 Mbps downstream, three Mbps upstream, and a latency that is sufficiently low to allow real-time interactive applications, considering updated federal and state broadband mapping data.” The statute also replaced the references to “households” with “areas.” • Priority to areas with slow or no internet—Previously, the CPUC was to give preference to projects in areas with only dial-up service or no service. Now, the CPUC is to “prioritize projects in unserved areas where internet connectivity is available only at speeds at or below ten Mbps downstream and one Mbps upstream or areas with no internet connectivity.” • Serviceable locations—The CPUC “shall transition CASF program methodologies to provide service to serviceable locations and evaluate other program changes to align with other funding sources, including, but not limited to, funding locations.” • Elimination of “indispensable middle-mile” language—The Legislature eliminated the section that discussed the requirements for funding middle-mile infrastructure, if it is indispensable for last-mile service, formerly Pub. Util. Code Sec. 281(f)(5)(B). • Elimination of prerequisites for local agency infrastructure grants—Formerly in Pub. Util. Code Sec. 281(f)(9), local agencies could only receive an infrastructure grant if the CPUC “has conducted an open application process, and no other eligible entity applied.” This section has been eliminated, so that local agencies now have greater eligibility for funding.
<p>California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)</p>	<p>CASF Tribal Technical Assistance Grant Program aims to provide grants to California tribes to develop market studies, feasibility studies, and business plans to pursue improved communications (voice and broadband).</p>

Program	Eligibility Criteria
Tribal Technical Assistance Grant Program ⁸⁹	
California High-Cost Fund A (CHCF A) ⁹⁰	<p>The 13 small LECs in California that are eligible to draw revenue from the CHCF-A program are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calaveras Telephone Company • California-Oregon Telephone Company • Ducor Telephone Company • Foresthill Telephone Company • Happy Valley Telephone Company • Hornitos Telephone Company • Kerman Telephone Company • Pinnacles Telephone Company • The Ponderosa Telephone Company • Sierra Telephone Company • Siskiyou Telephone Company • The Volcano Telephone Company • Winterhaven Telephone Company

⁸⁹ [Tribal Technical Assistance](#); see Decision (D) 20-08-005

⁹⁰ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/california-high-cost-fund-a>

Program	Eligibility Criteria
<p>California High-Cost Fund B (CHCF B)⁹¹</p>	<p>Carriers of Last Resort (COLRs) are given subsidies for providing basic telephone service to residential customers in high-cost areas that are currently served by Pacific Bell Telephone Company dba AT&T California, Verizon California Inc. dba Frontier Communications of California, Citizens Telecommunications Company of California and Cox Communications. High-cost areas of California are those in which the cost to the COLR to provide service is \$36 or more per telephone line.</p>
<p>California Lifeline⁹²</p>	<p>There are two ways to qualify for the California LifeLine Program. You may qualify for California LifeLine via Program-Based OR Income-Based.</p> <p><i>Program-Based Qualification Method:</i></p> <p>You can qualify for California LifeLine if you or another person in your household is enrolled in any one of these qualifying public assistance programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicaid/Medi-Cal • Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) • Supplemental Security Income (SSI) • Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8 • CalFresh, Food Stamps or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) • Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) • National School Lunch Program (NSL) • Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) b) Stanislaus County Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (StanWORKs) c) Welfare-to-Work (WTW)

⁹¹ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/california-high-cost-fund-b>

⁹² <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/consumer-support/financial-assistance-savings-and-discounts/lifeline/california-lifeline-eligibility#qualify>

Program	Eligibility Criteria										
	<p>d) Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal TANF • Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance • Head Start Income Eligible (Tribal Only) • Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations • Federal Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit Program <p><i>Income-Based Qualification Method:</i></p> <p>You can qualify for California LifeLine if your household's total annual gross income is at or less than these annual income limits:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="669 761 1444 1040"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="669 761 1062 818">Household Size</th> <th data-bbox="1062 761 1444 818">Annual Income Limits</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="669 818 1062 873">1-2</td> <td data-bbox="1062 818 1444 873">\$28,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="669 873 1062 928">3</td> <td data-bbox="1062 873 1444 928">\$33,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="669 928 1062 984">4</td> <td data-bbox="1062 928 1444 984">\$40,300</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="669 984 1062 1040">Each Additional Member</td> <td data-bbox="1062 984 1444 1040">\$7,200</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Effective June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022</p>	Household Size	Annual Income Limits	1-2	\$28,500	3	\$33,100	4	\$40,300	Each Additional Member	\$7,200
Household Size	Annual Income Limits										
1-2	\$28,500										
3	\$33,100										
4	\$40,300										
Each Additional Member	\$7,200										
<p>California Teleconnect Fund⁹³ (edited)</p>	<p>The CTF Program categorizes applicants (and participants) into seven distinct groups:</p> <p><u>Schools</u></p> <p>To qualify for the CTF Program, a public school must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide elementary or secondary education (grades K–12). 										

⁹³ https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/communications-division/documents/california-teleconnect-fund/ctf_applicant_and_participant_guidebook.pdf

Program	Eligibility Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possess an active County District School code number from California Department of Education. <p>To qualify for the CTF Program, a private school must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide elementary or secondary education (grades K–12). • Possess an active County District School code number from California Department of Education. • Possess an annual endowment under \$50 million. • File taxes as a nonprofit entity with the Internal Revenue Service. <p><u>Libraries</u></p> <p>To qualify for the CTF Program, a library must be eligible to participate in state-based plans for funds under the federal Library Services and Technology Act. Eligibility for the CTF Program is further limited to library outlet locations, which are the locations where library services are provided to the community.</p> <p><u>Community Colleges</u></p> <p>To qualify for the CTF Program, a community college must be a California Community College (as determined by California Education Code Section 70900) and possess a Management Information System (MIS) code.</p> <p><u>Government Hospitals/Clinics</u></p> <p>Hospitals and health clinics that are owned and operated by a municipal government, county government, or a hospital district may qualify for the CTF Program as a Government Hospital/Clinic. Government Hospitals/Clinics that participate in the CTF Program must have a valid healthcare license and identification number from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. Only locations that provide healthcare services to the community can participate in the CTF Program.</p> <p><u>Community-Based Organizations</u></p> <p>To qualify for the CTF Program, a CBO must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File taxes with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization.

Program	Eligibility Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer one or more of the following Qualifying Services to individuals and/or families in the community: <p><i>Educational Instruction:</i> These services include regular, ongoing, preschool or K-12 academic educational or instructional programs that can also include ESL and language education, literacy, job training, technology instructions and information on public benefit and social services programs eligibility and access. Educational instruction must include the use of a CTF-eligible communication service by community members.</p> <p><i>Head Start Program:</i> Refer to the Head Start Center Locator at https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator.</p> <p><i>Job Placement:</i> These services provide community members with assistance in obtaining employment, including activities related to job recruiting and placement. Eligible job placement services must include the use of a CTF-eligible telecommunication service by community members.</p> <p><i>Job Training:</i> These services provide community members with training or skill-building for the purpose of obtaining employment. Eligible Job Training Services must include the use of a CTF-eligible telecommunication service by community members.</p> <p><i>Community Lab / Technology Center:</i> To qualify, these services must provide the community training and/or access to technology and advanced communication services. Eligible Community Technology Programs must include the use of a CTF-eligible communication service by community members.</p> • Offer one or more Qualifying Services directly to individuals at a specific geographic location without charge or at a minimal fee. • Utilize the advanced communication service(s) that receives the CTF discount when providing one or more Qualifying Services. • Provide the community access to the advanced communication service(s) that receives the CTF discount. • Possess annual revenues less than \$5 million.

Program	Eligibility Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A majority of the CBO’s board members must reside in California. <p><u>Healthcare Community-Based Organizations</u></p> <p>To qualify for the CTF Program, a Healthcare CBO must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File taxes with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. • Offer healthcare services as their primary function directly to individuals at a specific geographic location. • Have licensed medical personnel on site providing healthcare services to individuals and/or families within the community. • Accept medical plans such as Medi-Cal, Medicare, Department of Veterans Affairs insurance, and/or provide services without charge or at a minimal fee. • Possess annual revenues less than \$50 million. • A majority of the Healthcare CBO’s board members must reside in California. <p><u>2-1-1 Providers</u></p> <p>To qualify for the CTF Program, a 2-1-1 Service Provider must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have existing authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (via Resolution) to operate as a 2-1-1 Service Provider. • File taxes with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. • Possess annual revenues less than \$5 million.
<p>Deaf and Disabled Telecommunications Program⁹⁴</p>	<p>To be eligible to receive free specialized telephone equipment through the Program, a person must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live in California

⁹⁴ https://ddtp.cpuc.ca.gov/faqs.aspx#Eligibility_and_Applying

Program	Eligibility Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have telephone service (Please note: The majority of Program equipment only functions with a land line.) • Be certified as having one or more of the following disabilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hearing ○ Vision ○ Mobility ○ Speech ○ Cognitive <p>There is no age or income requirement.</p>
<p>Water Customer Assistance Programs (CAPs)⁹⁵</p>	<p>Income eligibility for ESA participation is set at 200% or less of Federal Poverty Guidelines.</p>

⁹⁵ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/consumer-support/financial-assistance-savings-and-discounts/water-company-assistance>

Additional Definitions in State Government

Term	Definition
<p>Socially Disadvantaged Farmers⁹⁶</p>	<p>A farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. A “socially disadvantaged group” means a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender discrimination. These groups include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Americans • American Indians • Alaskan Natives • Hispanics • Asian Americans • Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders • Female farmers and ranchers of color
<p>Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs)⁹⁷</p>	<p>Defined as an area of inhabited territory located within an unincorporated area of a County in which the annual median household income is less than 80 percent of the statewide median household income. State law considers an area with 12 or more registered voters to be an inhabited territory.</p>

⁹⁶ AB 1348 - https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1348

⁹⁷ SB 244 - https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201120120SB244

Term	Definition
<p>Under-resourced Communities⁹⁸</p>	<p>“Under-resourced community” is identified pursuant to one, some, or all of the following sections of the Health and Safety Code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 39711, which reads, “The California Environmental Protection Agency shall identify disadvantaged communities ... [that] may include, but are not limited to, either of the following: (1) Areas disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative public health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. (2) Areas with concentrations of people that are of low income, high unemployment, low levels of homeownership, high rent burden, sensitive populations, or low levels of educational attainment. • Subdivision (d) of Section 39713 of the Health and Safety Code, which reads, “(1) ‘Low-income households are those with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits adopted pursuant to Section 50093. (2) ‘Low-income communities’ are census tracts with median household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with median household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits adopted pursuant to Section 50093. • Subdivision (g) of Section 75005, which reads, “‘Disadvantaged community’ means a community with a median household income less than 80% of the statewide average. ‘Severely disadvantaged community’ means a community with a median household income less than 60% of the statewide average.”

⁹⁸ SB 1072 - https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB1072

Term	Definition
<p>AB 1550 Priority Populations⁹⁹</p>	<p>Certain populations are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. At least 35 percent of California Climate Investments¹⁰⁰ must benefit these populations, which include disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households, also known as “priority populations.”</p> <p>Disadvantaged communities are identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) as the top 25% most impacted census tracts in CalEnviroScreen 3.0 - a screening tool used to help identify communities disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution and with population characteristics that make them more sensitive to pollution.</p> <p>Low-income communities and households are defined as the census tracts and households, respectively, that are either at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income, or at or below the threshold designated as low-income by the California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) 2016 State Income Limits.</p>

⁹⁹ <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/auction-proceeds/communityinvestments.htm>

¹⁰⁰ <https://www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov/>

Appendix D: Select Case Studies of ESJ in CPUC Proceedings

The below case studies represent examples of how the ESJ Action Plan can be incorporated into proceeding rulings and resolutions. These highlighted examples are not an exhaustive list and only represent a handful of cases where the ESJ Action Plan has been cited in CPUC proceedings.

Communications

ORDER INSTITUTING RULEMAKING REGARDING BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT AND TO SUPPORT SERVICE PROVIDERS IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

Rulemaking 20-09-001

Comments Requested

Parties are asked to comment on the following questions:

1. Are the inputs and assumptions of the studies¹⁰¹ discussed above accurate? How could one improve these studies?
2. Do the findings of these studies provide evidence of a systemic problem in California?
3. Do these studies indicate discrimination based on race, socioeconomic status or otherwise, and, if yes, what are the societal implications?
4. If the Commission were to undertake an investigation into whether ISPs are not serving certain communities or neighborhoods within their service or franchise areas, a practice generally referred to as redlining, how should the Commission conduct that investigation? What data should the Commission rely on for its investigation?
5. Historically, redlining has meant that some neighborhoods, generally with affluent, white residents, have access to a particular service while poorer residents do not. How should the Commission define redlining? In the context of broadband Internet service, should Internet speeds offered to residents be taken into consideration?
6. Does the table in Section 3 of this ruling indicate redlining or some other form of systemic issue? It appears to indicate that poorer communities are more likely to be unserved, and wealthier communities are more likely to be served. Is this analysis accurate? Please explain why it is or is not accurate.
7. Are there other studies or analysis that parties wish to submit for the record in this proceeding?

¹⁰¹ *On the Wrong Side of the Digital Divide*, released in June 2020 by the Greenlining Institute; *AT&T's Digital Redlining: Leaving Communities Behind for Profit*, released in October 2020 by the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA); *Who gets access to Fast Broadband? Evidence from Los Angeles County 2014-17*, released in October 2019 by USC Annenberg Research Network for International Communication (ARNIC) and the USC Price Spatial Analysis Lab (SLAB)

Energy

DECISION ON LARGE INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITIES' AND MARIN CLEAN ENERGY'S CALIFORNIA ALTERNATE RATES FOR ENERGY (CARE), ENERGY SAVINGS ASSISTANCE (ESA), AND FAMILY ELECTRIC RATE ASSISTANCE (FERA) PROGRAM APPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAM YEARS 2021-2026

Decision 21-06-015

9. Environmental and Social Justice

9.1. Background

On February 21, 2019, the Commission adopted the Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Action Plan1052 which serves to expand public inclusion in Commission decision-making and improve services to targeted communities in California, specifically communities of color and/ or low-income communities. The ESJ Action Plan defines environmental and social justice as:

Environmental and social justice seeks to come to terms with, and remedy, a history of unfair treatment of communities, predominantly communities of people of color and/or low-income residents. These communities have been subjected to disproportionate impacts from one or more environmental hazards, socioeconomic burdens, or both.

The overall goals identified by the ESJ action plans include:

- Goal 1: Consistently integrate equity and access considerations throughout CPUC proceedings and other efforts.
- Goal 2: Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health.
- Goal 3: Strive to improve access to high-quality water, communications, and transportation services for ESJ communities.
- Goal 4: Increase climate resiliency in ESJ communities.
- 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.
- Goal 6: Enhance enforcement to ensure safety and consumer protection for ESJ communities.
- Goal 7: Promote economic and workforce development opportunities in ESJ communities.
- Goal 8: Improve training and staff development related to ESJ issues within the CPUC's jurisdiction.

- Goal 9: Monitor the CPUC’s ESJ efforts to evaluate how they are achieving their objectives.

ESJ communities are also identified as those where residents are predominantly communities of color or low income, underrepresented in the policy setting or decision-making process, subject to a disproportionate impact from one or more environmental hazards, and likely to experience disparate implementation of environmental regulations and socio-economic investments in their communities. On the ground, these targeted communities typically include but are not limited to, DACs, all Tribal lands, and low-income households and census tracts.

9.2. Incorporating ESJ Goals and Efforts into CARE and ESA

As CARE and ESA program eligibility is set at or below 200 percent of FPG, most if not all, ESA and CARE participants are part of an ESJ community. Through this proceeding, we prioritize actions that improve local air quality, benefit public health, increase climate resiliency and provide economic benefits within the ESJ communities. This decision makes great strides in prioritizing ESJ issues and takes actions that advance equity and policies for ESJ communities. Below we outline the efforts directed in this decision that specifically address and further the goals of the Action Plan.

- Requiring that all working groups, (who are tasked with final design and delivery of the program), include representation specifically from community-based organizations, consumer protection/advocates, and other special interest groups, which includes members or representatives from ESJ communities; Furthers Goals 1, 5.
- Requiring the IOUs to hold annual public meetings to discuss program progress with community members; Furthers Goal 5.
- Requiring the consideration of the development of a UAS that would provide low-income customers various registration pathways into multiple affordable programs (including clean energy programs), easing the enrollment process and decreasing barriers to participation; Furthers Goals 1, 2, 5.
- Recommending IOU engagement and collaboration with CARB and GRID Alternatives on the Access Clean California tool, which would provide a single application connecting residents with the state’s clean energy and transportation equity programs; Furthers Goals 1, 2, 3, 5.
- Prioritizing the below customer segments for outreach, education, and treatment which are inclusive of ESJ community members; Furthers Goal 1.

By Financials	By Location	By Health Condition
CARE	DAC	Medical Baseline
Disconnected	Rural	Respiratory
Arrearages	Tribal	Disabled
High usage	PSPS Zone	

By Financials	By Location	By Health Condition
High energy burden	Wildfire Zone	
SEVI	Climate Zone	
Affordability Ratio	CARB communities	

- Approving advanced treatment offerings, and investment, for specific customer segments which are inclusive of ESJ community members; Furthers Goals 1, 2, 4.
- Requiring the IOUs to track ESA treatment levels and efforts within specific customer segments in their reporting to the Commission; Furthers Goals 1, 9.
- Approving funding agreements to those point persons in Tribal communities that assist with outreach for ESA, FERA and CARE; Furthers Goals 1, 5.
- Requiring the IOUs to extend and encourage participation of the CARE/FERA capitation program in Tribal communities; Furthers Goals 1, 5.
- Leveraging with LifeLine, CETF and water utilities, which include co-promotion and marketing efforts, co-funding of water measures, and data sharing and customer referrals with LifeLine and water utilities; Furthers Goal 3.
- Approving a Building Electrification pilot that will offer high usage, income-qualified single-family households in DACs electrification measures at no cost; Furthers Goals 1, 2, 4.
- Approving a Clean Energy Homes pilot that will provide incentives for low-income housing developers to incorporate electrification into the designs of new construction, with a goal to reduce energy bills for the low-income customer, reduce GHG emissions associated with burning fossil fuels, and ease participation in customer programs; Furthers Goals 1, 2, 4.
- Requiring the IOUs to ensure additional workforce development opportunities and hiring within local communities, specifically in DACs (via IOU partnerships with the California Workforce Development Board’s Energy and Climate Jobs Initiative, community colleges, and organizations providing services in DACs); Furthers Goal 7.
- Requiring the IOUs to track ESA workforce, education, and training efforts in their annual reporting to the Commission; Furthers Goals 7, 9.

We are confident that the objectives and actions taken here are necessary and will advance the Commission towards the state’s equity goals.

Rail Safety

APPLICATION OF THE CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL TO CONSTRUCT THREE NEW GRADE SEPARATED CROSSINGS OVER THE PROPOSED HIGH-SPEED RAIL TRACKS OPERATED BY CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY AT EXCELSIOR AVENUE (MP 218.83), FLINT AVENUE (MP 220.86), AND FARGO AVENUE (MP 221.88) LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF KINGS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

Decision 21-01-007

Alignment with the Commission’s Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan

In February 2019, the Commission adopted its Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Action Plan as a comprehensive strategy and framework for addressing ESJ issues in each proceeding.

The Final EIR/EIS identifies several impacts that were considered when choosing the route for the Fresno-Bakersfield CHSTS Project, especially in the rural areas that will be affected by the three crossings proposed in A.20-08-015. CHSRA and FRA worked with local, state, and federal officials and stakeholders to identify a route intended to follow existing railway corridors, to minimize relocation impacts and better align with current and planned land uses along the project corridor.

The route, including the three crossings proposed in A.20-08-015, was also designed to ensure agricultural producers in the San Joaquin Valley still have access to railroad service necessary to efficiently move their goods to market.

Here, CHSRA has coordinated with tribal communities and stakeholders in the regions impacted by the project, and access to a high-speed rail option through the San Joaquin Valley would not only provide cleaner transportation options to residents but could improve ambient air quality by reducing the number of personal vehicle trips through the region.

Upon review of the Application and the record of this proceeding, including the Final EIR/EIS, we find that the three grade-separated crossings proposed in this Application align with the Commission’s ESJ Action Plan. CHSRA is encouraged to hire local contractors and conduct public outreach about temporary street closures in multiple languages when constructing the three crossings proposed in A.20-08-015.

Transportation

DECISION AUTHORIZING DEPLOYMENT OF DRIVERED AND DRIVERLESS AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE PASSENGER SERVICE

Decision 20-11-046

4.9. Goal: Equity and Environmental Justice

The December 19, 2019 Ruling asked how the Commission should incorporate equity and environmental justice into its program goals.

4.9.1. Comments

Multiple parties emphasize the importance of ensuring the benefits of AV passenger service are available to all of California’s communities including disadvantaged and low-income communities. They reference state law, the Commission’s Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan (ESJ Action Plan), and basic principles of equity.

SFMTA and SFCTA along with LADOT argue that, unless the Commission adopts environmental justice goals, profit-driven business models may leave disadvantaged communities behind. UC Davis and LADOT emphasize that even though disadvantaged communities are the communities that could benefit most from improved transportation options, they are the most likely to suffer environmental consequences from transportation operations. Sierra Club agrees.

SFMTA and SFCTA note that the Commission has adopted an ESJ Action Plan that establishes several objectives related to transportation. In the ESJ Action Plan, the Commission states its intent to “promote equitable transportation services regulated by the CPUC; encourage greater utilization of Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) by TNCs within ESJ communities, with a focus on communities that have been underserved by existing transportation options; and encourage that autonomous vehicles be available in disadvantaged communities.

Accordingly, SFMTA and SFCTA propose the goal that “AV Passenger Service should prevent negative impacts on disadvantaged communities and improve transportation options for all, giving priority to disadvantaged communities with unmet transportation needs.” SANDAG and SFO support this goal.

While Waymo argues that it is too early to set prescriptive equity goals, they assert that authorizing fare collection encourages companies to expand their service more broadly, including to low-income communities. Waymo gives the example of a partnership they formed with a transit agency in Arizona to provide first- and last-mile service to groups underserved by public transit.

4.9.2. Discussion

The Commission adopts the equity goal to “Improve transportation options for all, particularly for disadvantaged and low-income communities.” The environmental justice goal is addressed by ensuring that disadvantaged communities have preferential access to the greenhouse gas and air

quality benefits of AVs. The latter goal is addressed more fully in the following section on “Environmental and Climate Impacts.”

Parties are correct to highlight that the Commission already recognizes the many burdens faced by DACs including a lack of access to transit options and a disproportionate share of the environmental and health burdens caused by transportation services like particulate emissions from passenger vehicles. As noted in Goal #2 of the ESJ Action Plan, the Commission aims to improve the local air quality (i.e., criteria pollutants and air toxics) and public health in disadvantaged communities. AVs may be an important service to reduce these burdens.

The Commission will collect data to evaluate progress toward this goal including the census tracts in which trips begin and end; the volume and frequency of shared rides in each neighborhood; and narrative descriptions of each permit holder’s outreach activities. These data are discussed in more depth in [Section #] of this Decision.

As discussed above, it is too soon for the Commission to set uniform equity targets. Companies will operate under different business models and at different scales. Some companies have stated they intend to provide broad market ride hailing services while other companies focus exclusively on shuttle services for single communities. As the market matures, the Commission can reconsider if and when to impose uniform equity targets.

4.15. Data Reporting Requirements: Equity and Environmental Justice

4.15.1. Comments

Party comments about the data necessary to evaluate the impacts of AV service on equity and environmental justice are largely covered in 4.12 on “AV Operations.”

Relevant excerpts:

“Greenlining, SFO, SFMTA and SFCTA, MTC, Sierra Club, and UC Davis all argue that the Commission should expand its data collection to include detailed information about AV operations including the location of pick-ups and drop-offs or at least whether the pick-up or drop-off site is located in a Disadvantaged Community.”

“Multiple parties highlight the benefits of collecting location data to understand the impacts of AVs’ operations on the environment, equity, and traffic patterns. As Greenlining and Sierra Club note, location data can be used to determine the level of service and the comparative environmental impact of AVs on DACs.”

4.15.2. Discussion

As discussed in 4.12, the Commission requires companies to include in their quarterly program reports information about the pick-up and drop-off locations of each trip, and the fuel type of the vehicle for each trip. This enables stakeholders to compare service to neighborhoods in disadvantaged communities vs neighborhoods outside disadvantaged communities. This provides information about the equity of service as well the trips’ environmental impacts.

Water

GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY. ORDER AUTHORIZING GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY TO ACQUIRE ROBBINS WATER SYSTEM FROM SUTTER COUNTY WATER WORKS DISTRICT NO. 1.

Resolution W-5237

This Resolution addresses Goals #1 and #3 of the ESJ Action Plan, “Consistently integrate equity and access considerations throughout Commission regulatory activities,” and “Strive to improve access to high-quality water, communications, and transportation services for ESJ communities.”

The Commission recognizes that some populations in California such as those served by Robbins, face higher barriers in accessing safe and affordable utility services. The ESJ Action Plan tasks the Commission with the responsibility to serve Californians in a way that helps address these inequities. The Resolution for the acquisition of Sutter County’s Robbins Water System by Golden State created a pathway to provide safe and reliable water service for the Robbins community that currently does not have access to high-quality water with the previously mentioned water quality issues related to arsenic, TDS, chloride, and specific conductance.

Robbins is classified as a disadvantaged community as defined by Health and Safety Code Section 116275, subd. (aa). The California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool, Version 3 (CalEnviroScreen 3.0) provided by the California Environmental Protection Agency, identifies disadvantaged communities by collecting multiple metrics and outputting a single value at the census tract scale. CalEnviroScreen 3.0 ranks Robbins in the 65-70th percentile of the highest scoring census tracts statewide, the census tract notably falls into the 98th percentile for Impaired Water, and in the 91st percentile for Groundwater Threats. The acquisition provided direct relief to residents of Robbins, who experienced disproportionately poor water quality.

Language Access and Partnership with Community Based Organizations

DECISION ON COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A WILDFIRE, AND EXPLAINING NEXT STEPS FOR OTHER PHASE 2 ISSUES

Decision 20-03-004

3.3. Discussion

3.3.1. In Language Requirements

Communication before, during and after a wildfire may be a life-or-death matter. The diversity of California’s population and the vast number of languages spoken here is part of what makes the state strong, vibrant, tolerant, and forward-looking. We should honor and support all residents of the state, especially when dealing with public safety and catastrophic risk. However, people cannot act on outreach they cannot understand; public safety requires that outreach actually reach the intended audience. Outreach that is not in-language simply will not be effective in protecting all California residents.

Therefore, the Commission will require each of the IOU and SMJU respondents in this proceeding to communicate before, during and after a wildfire with community residents, businesses, state and local first responders, and CBOs in all languages that are prevalent in their service territories. Prevalent means that 1,000 or more people speak the language in an IOU's or SMJU's territory. Further, nothing in this decision limits an IOU or SMJU from communicating in a language that is not prevalent.

The communication methods need not all be the same, because different communities may get their information in different ways. However, all IOUs and SMJUs, at a minimum, should consider using radio, broadcast, cable, and print earned and unearned media, shareable video or audio content, door-to-door contact, social media and websites, texting, and other communications-based methods such as live phone calls, emergency alerts, emails, or prerecorded messages to communicate with their customers in language.

To identify prevalent languages, the IOUs and SMJUs shall use U.S. Census data, where available, to determine prevalent languages in their service territories, as well as the data sources suggested by CEJA: “California Complete Count,” “Hard to Count” data, and the American Community Survey (ACS) tabulated and untabulated data as a screening tool to identify where English-limited individuals are likely to be in their service territory. They should also use lessons from the San Joaquin Valley proceeding, R.15-03-010 to inform them on appropriate language outreach. CEJA shall forward relevant information from that proceeding to the IOUs and SMJUs no later than 30 days after issuance of this decision.

In addition to census analysis, the IOUs and SMJUs should include data based on prior experience and information from CBOs, community representatives and leaders (i.e., identifying key sites like a migrant housing site or mobile home park). To the extent the IOUs' and SMJUs' own customer data reveals language usage or preference, they shall also utilize customer information data to determine language prevalence.

IOUs and SMJUs shall, to the maximum extent, use their existing CBO networks, and partner with new CBOs where they do not have existing relationships with a specific language minority community. Some principles that should guide CBO relationships are the following:

- Ensure partnerships, particularly with community partners, are resourced and include a clear Memorandum of Understanding to articulate roles, responsibilities, and activities. This should include outreach and translation needs.
- Consider strategies such as phone trees to help quickly disseminate information across trusted sources.
- Create a team of cross-sector partners, with a designated coordinator, to be able to work across purposes, share feedback, and steer the effort.
- Include methods and strategies for information sharing and dealing with confidentiality between partner organizations (both CBO and government).

The IOUs and SMJUs should consider the following community partnerships in developing and carrying out community outreach:

- Community Organization Partnerships:
 - » Churches, schools, non-profits, medical clinics and hospitals, social service providers, legal services, and small businesses.
- Local Government Partnerships:
 - » Emergency services, public health departments, other service providers, and first responders.

The IOUs and SMJUs shall take input from parties to this proceeding in a meet and confer format to ensure they are reaching the appropriate CBOs. They need not communicate their meet and confer process to the Commission unless there are problems or concerns. In the event of problems or concerns, the parties shall first contact and work with Monica.Palmeira@cpuc.ca.gov (the September 2019 workshop moderator), or such other contact person the Commission shall later designate, and s/he will determine whether to involve the ALJ and other parties to the proceeding.

The IOUs and SMJUs shall also reach out to the telecommunications, water, and transportation utilities in their territory in order to partner with language access services and CBO relationships those utilities may have. Further, they shall gather – with the assistance of the parties to this proceeding – information on available governmental and non-governmental communications

before, during and after a wildfire and coordinate their efforts with those communications to the maximum extent possible.

The IOUs' and SMJUs' communications methods shall accommodate language minorities without a common written language, as well as the indigenous languages Mixteco and Zapoteco. At the workshop, it appeared Triqui use is rare, but if it meets the definition of prevalence, the IOUs and SMJUs should also use Triqui.

In summary, the IOUs and SMJUs shall be prepared to conduct the outreach before, during and after a wildfire in time for the 2020 wildfire season.

Metrics for Utility Outreach & Engagement Activities

DECISION ON COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A WILDFIRE, AND EXPLAINING NEXT STEPS FOR OTHER PHASE 2 ISSUES

Decision 20-03-004

3.3.2. Surveys and Metrics to Determine Effectiveness of Outreach

Public safety requires that the IOUs and SMJUs survey the communities where they conduct outreach and use other metrics to determine that they are using effective methods. Several parties have commented – both in this Phase and in Phase 1 – that community meetings, conference calls or other group events the IOUs hold may not adequately inform communities about wildfire risk.

No later than May 30, 2020, the IOUs and SMJUs shall prepare, file, and serve the results of an independent survey that assesses the effectiveness of their community outreach in 2019 pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 8386(c)(16)(B). For the 2020 wildfire season, the survey results are due no later than December 31, 2020. At a minimum, the IOUs and SMJUs shall:

- Ask communities and individuals to which the IOU or SMJU has conducted outreach if the outreach was effective in helping them before, during and after a wildfire.
- Provide survey responses categorized by type of outreach – e.g., community meetings, over the air broadcast information, social media, print media, etc. – so that there is data in the proceeding showing what outreach is most effective that the Commission and stakeholders may use to direct future outreach.
- File and serve any existing survey results that assess the effectiveness of outreach before, during and after a wildfire conducted since the passage of SB 901.

Prior to conducting either survey, the IOUs and SMJUs, alone or in combination, shall gather input from the parties to this proceeding on appropriate survey questions and methodology through a meet and confer process that is open to all parties. This meet and confer process shall conclude no later than 30 days before the surveys are conducted.

In addition to surveys, the IOUs and SMJUs should use metrics to determine the reach of their efforts. One set of metrics should be quantitative in nature, and include data related to web site visits, click rates, conversions, in-person meetings, radio spots, number of partners, number of customers reached, customer acknowledging information, read receipts, video shares, and other quantitative measurement.

Another set of metrics should document comprehension, especially after a significant wildfire event. Such metrics can be more qualitative in nature and include metrics collected from surveys and post-event interviews/sessions with stakeholders and partners. Metrics should capture satisfaction with

outreach and engagement from utility, understanding of information and whether communities or individuals feel equipped to act, and whether communities or individuals feel connected to resources they may call upon before, during and after a wildfire. Potential avenues for collecting this information include debriefs with partners to discuss what could be improved, public listening sessions to discuss what could be improved, and customer surveys to understand what could be improved.

Workforce Development

DECISION SETTING NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION INVESTMENTS BY THE ELECTRICAL CORPORATIONS

Decision 21-07-028

4.3.1. Equity and Environmental Justice Requirements for Near-Term Priority Program Proposals

- Further the principles of economic equity and promote access to high quality jobs for residents of underserved communities. The IOUs should articulate how each project incorporates any of the following priority provisions:
 - » Job quality measures, such as wage and benefit standards and responsible contractor standards;
 - » Job access measures, such as targeted hire requirements as well as specified targets for residents of underserved communities;
 - » Comprehensive project agreements that address both job quality and job access, such as application of the Skilled & Trained Workforce requirement, and use of Community Workforce Agreements for large-scale TE projects;
 - » Funding directed to training partnerships that are guided in their programming to ensure that investments in training are connected to and result in placement in high-quality jobs.