

Workgroup One: ESJ Plan Work Report

Process

Workgroup One consists of 3 Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group (DACAG) members: Jodi Pincus, President and Executive Director of Rising Sun Center for Opportunity (Rising Sun), Angela Islas, Policy Advocate for the Central California Asthma Collaborative (CCAC) and Andres Ramirez from Pacoima Beautiful. At the September 28th DACAG teleconference meeting, Workgroup One was tasked to work with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on the Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Plan, utilize and incorporate the DACAG's Equity Framework to edit and strengthen the plan for future adoption.

During the month of October 2018, Workgroup One's first task was to - within the group - review and incorporate the DACAG's Equity Framework to the CPUC's EJSJ plan to present at the October 30th in-person DACAG meeting. Each member was given a one-to two-day timeframe to look over the document and incorporate the Equity Framework. The task was completed and Workgroup One presented an update of the current integration of the Equity Framework to the CPUC's ESJ Plan at the October 30th in-person meeting.

After the October 30th in-person meeting, Workgroup One was tasked to share the CPUC's ESJ Plan with the DACAG members to provide additional edits, comments and/or suggestions to improve the draft CPUC goals and objectives, as well as address if the DACAG's Equity Framework had been integrated into the plan effectively. The Advisory Group was given a two-week timeframe to provide feedback to the workgroup. One week before the November 30th teleconference meeting, Workgroup One members revised and refurbished the CPUC's ESJ Plan to later have it be submitted to the CPUC's Public Adviser to the DACAG web page for public view. At the November 30th teleconference meeting, Workgroup One presented alongside with Advisory Member Phoebe Seaton's Leadership Counsel Policy Advocate, Leslie Martinez on reviewing the edits, comments and suggestions to the Advisory Group, CPUC staff members and California Energy Commission (CEC) staff members. There was a motion for a vote to adopt the edits to the CPUC's ESJ Plan - motion approved 7-0. After the November 30th teleconference meeting, the document was passed on to the CPUC to incorporate the comments and present it to the advisory group at the next in-person meeting scheduled for January 25th, 2019.

At the January 25th DACAG meeting, the CPUC and CEC were unable to provide Workgroup One a report on how the advisory group's comments were integrated into

the ESJ plan. Workgroup One respectfully requested for the CPUC staff to provide the summary of DACAG's comments being incorporated into the ESJ plan as soon as possible as following the January 25th DACAG meeting the CPUC would be announcing its vote on the ESJ Plan at their January 30th Voting Meeting. At the January 30th CPUC Voting Meeting, the ESJ Plan was held. Post decision, two members of Workgroup One, along with two members of the DACAG provided a comment letter mid-February to highlight three important points to strengthen in the ESJ Plan such as: 1) strengthening the definition of Disadvantaged Communities, 2) the emphasis of health, identified as a non-energy benefit under the SB 350 barriers study and 3) strengthening the workforce development goal in the plan. As of February 21st, the CPUC adopted the ESJ plan.

Workgroup One looks forward to following the implementation of the ESJ plan, as well as to advise through its implementation phase throughout the second-year term of the DACAG.

High Level Recommendations

Workgroup One came up with several recommendations to include in the CPUC's EJSJ plan. Below are high level recommendations:

- Incorporate the DACAG Equity Framework into the CPUC's EJSJ plan and incorporate identified changes and edits to the plan
- Include the DACAG Equity Framework's definition of Disadvantaged Communities as part of the section of the plan that defines EJSJ Communities
- Increase the number of defined goals from 8-10 to include changes to the goal language and add two new goals highlighted below (please note that more substantive changes were made to the body of each goal redlined in the EJSJ plan). Below are the recommended goals and language:
 - Goal 1: Use CPUC's planning, permitting, and regulatory role to advance social and environmental justice goals
 - Goal 2: Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit EJSJ communities, especially to improve local air quality, address negative health impact, financial benefits, economic and workforce development, and consumer protection
 - Goal 3: Strive to improve access to high-quality water, communications, and transportation services for EJSJ communities
 - Goal 4: Increase climate resiliency in low-income and disadvantaged communities
 - Goal 6: Increase economic benefit to and financial benefits to EJSJ Communities

- Goal 5: Enhance outreach and public participation opportunities in order for EJSJ communities to meaningfully participate in the CPUC's decision-making process
 - Goal 6: Enhance enforcement to ensure safety and consumer protection for EJSJ communities
 - Goal 7: Promote economic and workforce development opportunities in EJSJ communities
 - Goal 8: Promote access and education ensuring that EJSJ communities will benefit from and participate in CPUC programs and proceedings
 - Goal 9: Improve training and staff development related to environmental and social justice issues within the CPUC's jurisdiction
 - Goal 10: Monitor the CPUC's environmental and social justice efforts to ensure that they are achieving their objectives
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