

ENSURING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



Three basic principles of Environmental Justice (EJ):

1. Ensure public involvement of minority populations, low-income populations, and people with disabilities (EJ Populations) in decision making
2. Prevent disproportionately high adverse impacts on EJ Populations
3. Assure EJ Populations receive a proportionate share of benefits



The Environmental Justice Task Force

The Regional Planning Commission formed the Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) in 2007 to enhance the integration of Environmental Justice into the regional planning process by:

- ▶ Facilitating involvement of EJ Populations in regional planning
- ▶ Making recommendations on issues and analyses relevant to EJ Populations
- ▶ Identifying potential benefits and adverse impacts of regional planning programs on EJ Populations
- ▶ Recommending methods to prevent the denial of benefits or disproportionately high adverse impact on EJ Populations
- ▶ Enhancing implementation of regional plans with an emphasis on the needs of EJ Populations





Credit: SEWRPC Staff

Engaging Residents

SEWRPC works to engage EJ Populations through:

- ▶ **Working with nine community partners** who engage their constituents in regional planning processes, such as VISION 2050
- ▶ **Contacting organizations that represent EJ Populations** at key points during regional planning processes
- ▶ **Seeking opportunities for greater engagement**, such as co-sponsored events and meetings with organizations representing EJ Populations
- ▶ **Conducting public outreach campaigns** to raise awareness of regional planning processes and opportunities to participate



Credit: SEWRPC Staff



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Conducting Analyses

Regional plan recommendations are evaluated based on their potential benefits and impacts to EJ Populations. Examples from VISION 2050 include:

- ▶ Transit service quality
- ▶ Level of accessibility to jobs and activity centers such as health care, education, and retail centers
- ▶ Benefits and impacts of new and widened arterial street and highway facilities
- ▶ Transportation-related air pollution impacts

