



EJ Guiding Principles and Best Practices

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Overview

1. Context
2. 3-Pronged approach to EJ/equity and examples
3. What this means for BCDC?
4. Questions for the group

Environmental Justice and Social Equity BPA



Project Goal:

Amend the San Francisco Bay Plan to incorporate principles of environmental justice and social equity into the planning, design, and permitting of shoreline projects in and along the San Francisco Bay

Who did we learn from?



3 Objectives of EJ and Equity



- **Distributional:** the equitable and fair distribution of environmental burdens and benefits
- **Procedural:** meaningful public engagement that is accessible, transparent, and inclusive
- **Structural:** recognition of past harms and underlying structural and institutional systems that are the root causes of such harms

Distributional Justice/Equity



- Prioritize and protect human health in communities impacted by environmental injustices
- Place no burdens nor do harm in these communities in planning and regulatory work
- Identify any unintended harm that may occur as a result of these policies and work to ameliorate it

Distributional Justice/Equity

- Examples

- Require the examination of potential adverse human and environmental health impacts on disadvantaged communities
- Require plans for assessing and mitigating these impacts
- Create programs focused on reducing harm to disadvantaged communities
- Ensure projects benefit individual communities, not just the region as a whole
- Account for adverse unintended consequences in policies and programs
- Incorporate environmental justice and disadvantaged communities into grant-making



What does this mean for BCDC?



- Distributional
 - Assessing past permit approvals and location of impacted communities
 - Planning intern, Aviva is using BayRAT and ART's vulnerable community mapping to determine if BCDC has permitted development that has contributed to environmental injustices

Procedural Justice/Equity



- Accessible, inclusive, and transparent community engagement
- Building trust and shifting power
- Build sustainable community trust prior to policy process to allow community to be involved in various programs, policies, and projects over time
- Warning: Attempting to involve communities in a manner that is not accessible, inclusive, or meaningful can lead to the feeling of being used and even retraction of engaging with agencies

Procedural Justice/Equity - Examples



- Build trust with communities by attending established community meetings/events
- Ensure all public engagement is accessible
 - Contracts/partnerships, stipends, location/date/time, food/drink, childcare, translation/interpretation as appropriate
- Respond in a timely fashion to public input – incorporate input whenever possible and include explanations if input is not used
- Translate publications, reports, websites, and other materials into appropriate languages
- Create a disadvantaged advisory group of impacted citizens to guide agency

What does this mean for BCDC?



- Procedural
 - Option 1: Hold public workshops without ability to ensure accessibility due to lack of resources and short timeframe
 - Option 2: Focus on attending/presenting at established community events
 - Option 3: Mix of options 1 and 2 (when ability to partner and leverage resources is available)

Structural Justice/Equity

- Recognize and acknowledge past harms (overt and implicit) and the structures and institutions that have caused them
- Make commitments to correct these past injustices and prevent future harms
- This is necessary for building trust



Structural Justice/Equity - Examples



- Creating space in public engagement and relationship building to address power dynamics and privilege
 - Establishing ground rules, holding listening sessions, and regularly checking in with community leaders
- Alleviating these dynamics by allowing communities to drive planning processes through contracts/MOUs/partnerships
- Allowing planning processes to change to meet the needs of communities

What does this mean for BCDC?



- Structural
 - Assess and acknowledge any past permit approvals that may have lead to direct or indirect instances of inequity or injustice
 - Assess current public participation structures

Questions

- Do these three EJ and equity objectives: distributional, procedural, and structural apply to BCDC and its history/policies and, if so, how? It is possible for BCDC to achieve all three, given its mandates and directives as a state agency and limited staff and budget?
- As part of the social equity and EJ Bay Plan amendment, should BCDC plan larger-scale community workshops or focus on attending regularly scheduled community meetings and events given resource constraints?

