



EQUITY WORKING GROUP MEETING

June 24, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. WELCOME, SELF INTRODUCTIONS, AND CONTEXT SETTING

Courtney Aguirre, Program Manager II, SCAG | aguirre@scag.ca.gov

Courtney Aguirre from SCAG welcomed all participants.

SCAG Staff:

Courtney Aguirre
Anita Au
Annaleigh Ekman
Emily Rotman
Anikka Van Eyl
Edward Venegas
Frank Wen
Ying Zhou

Presenters:

Anita Au, SCAG
Courtney Aguirre, SCAG
Hana Creger, Greenlining Institute
Angel Hernandez, City of El Centro
Lexi Journey, Rincon Consultants
Lauren Marsiglia, Culver City
Emily Rotman, SCAG
Tony Stewart, City of Port Hueneme
Serena Wright-Black, Culver City

Webinar:

Jui Ing Chien
Aryeh Cohen, AECOM
Angel Garfio, Orange County Transportation Authority
Marilú Guevara, LWV of Los Angeles
Charles Guiam, City of Anaheim
J. Hargrove
Ashley Hefner Hoang, City of Culver City
Lori Huddleston, Metro
David Jones, City of Glendale
Benjamin Medina, Caltrans District 7
Alyssa Murakami
Dr. Chandra Richards, UC ANR
Tina San, Caltrans District 7
Yoliviviana Sanchez
James Shankel, Caltrans District 7
Claudia Tedford, CityPlace Planning

SCAG issued a poll to help shape the Equity Working Group’s future agendas. The results of the poll are provided in the table below.

Question	Answer Options	Results (% of 20 poll participants)
What actions have you already taken to advance equity in your jurisdiction? (check all that apply)	Adopted equity resolution	4 (20%)
	Developed equity framework or platform	7 (35%)
	Developed Equity Action Plan	4 (20%)
	Provided training for staff	6 (30%)
	Developed equity tool	3 (15%)
	Implemented targeted programs	4 (20%)
	Having conversations with community	10 (50%)
	Still trying to figure it out	9 (45%)
	Other	-
What are your biggest obstacles to advancing equity? (check all that apply)	Political support	6 (30%)
	Staff support	8 (40%)
	Training	7 (35%)
	Tools	9 (45%)
	Funding	12 (60%)
	Other	1 (5%)
	None	2 (10%)
What topic would you most like to learn more about at a future meeting?	Equity definitions	-
	Equity goals	-
	Equity frameworks or platforms	1 (5%)
	Equity action plans	2 (10%)
	Equity indicators or performance measures	6 (30%)
	Outreach or engagement	3 (15%)
	Project prioritization	2 (10%)
	Equity tools	6 (30%)
	Other	-

2. SCAG'S RACIAL EQUITY EARLY ACTION PLAN

Courtney Aguirre, Program Manager II, SCAG | aguirre@scag.ca.gov

Presentation Summary:

- Courtney Aguirre from SCAG provided an update on the agency's recent equity actions. SCAG recently adopted a Racial Equity Early Action Plan, which includes a definition of equity, equity goals and strategies, and 29 early actions that are both internally and externally focused.
 - Read SCAG's Racial Equity Early Action Plan here: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/reep_final.pdf?1620325603

SCAG also released a Racial Equity Baseline Conditions Report in March 2021. This past Tuesday, SCAG held a Toolbox Tuesday Training on how jurisdictions can develop their own baseline conditions report.

- Read SCAG's Racial Equity: Baseline Conditions Report here: https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/racialequitybaselineconditionsreport_03242021revision.pdf
- Recordings of SCAG's Toolbox Tuesdays, including *Equity in Action: Evaluating Baseline Community Conditions*, can be found here: <https://scag.ca.gov/toolbox-tuesday-online-training-materials>

To learn more about SCAG's work on advancing racial equity, visit SCAG's IDEA website: <https://scag.ca.gov/our-work-inclusion-diversity-equity-and-awareness>.

3. EQUITY IN ACTION: CULVER CITY

Serena Wright-Black, Assistant City Manager, City of Culver City | Serena.wright@culvercity.org

Lauren Marsiglia, Associate Planner, City of Culver City | lauren.marsiglia@culvercity.org

Presentation Summary:

- Serena Wright-Black from the City of Culver City shared about their equity efforts from the past seven years and some lessons learned about what equity is and why government agencies can and should address their roles in creating and perpetuating inequities.

Culver City accepted the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) challenge in 2014. Their work focused on education, housing, and career preparation for young men of color. The City went on to adopt MBK philosophies into their internship programs

The City is in the process of drafting a Racial Equity Action Plan to promote diversity and inclusion within the City's staff and to reevaluate existing policies, procedures, programs, and decision-making processes with a racial equity lens.

The Public Safety Review and Reform study emerged as a reaction to the murder of George Floyd and focused on the confronting City's history of racial and religious discrimination. The City performed a 90-day study to review and reallocate public safety resources, services, and budgets and review of the police department's use of force policy. The results of the study included City Council decisions to phase out police involvement in crisis intervention for the needs of people experiencing homelessness and adopted reform measures.

- Read more about Culver City's Public Safety Review 2020-2021 at: <https://www.culvercity.org/City-Hall/Reports-policies-local-laws/Police-Reform/Public-Safety-Review-2020-2021>
- Read more about Culver City's Police Reform at: <https://www.culvercity.org/City-Hall/Reports-policies-local-laws/Police-Reform>

Some of the City's other equity efforts include declaring the City as a Sanctuary City, joining the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, developing goals for Youth Development and Diversion to address youth interaction with police and school administrations, and the creation of an Equity and Human Relations Advisory Committee.

One of the key lessons learned is to identify champions. For Culver City, City Council members on the Equity Subcommittee were key in building relationships with community members and securing political and financial support for advancing equity projects. Another lesson learned was engaging broadly and frequently; Culver City's equity efforts started back in 2014 and much of the work has been fueled by personal passion on behalf of staff and City representatives. The City also advised attendees to lead with patience and empathy because change takes time.

To learn more about Culver City's Race and Equity programs, visit: <https://www.culvercity.org/City-Hall/Get-Involved/Race-and-Equity>.

- Lauren Marsiglia from the City of Culver City also shared about their General Plan Update development process and focused equity efforts. The City's efforts centered around community engagement, using fun, meaningful engagement methods at key points throughout General Plan development. Their equity efforts extended into their process, deliverables, and activities/events.

Culver City is developing an EJ Element that is rooted in their Community Health and EJ Existing Conditions Report and visioning document. They are also employing a new community engagement platform through a partnership with the UC system.

- Read Culver City's Community Health and EJ Existing Conditions report here: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d950bfaae137b5f0cbd75f5/t/60ada0314f6d91550cf/eb2dd/1621991485611/CCGPU_HEJECR_FinalDraft_21_0519.pdf

To learn more about Culver City's General Plan Update, visit: <https://www.pictureculvercity.com/>. Ashley Hefner Hoang, Advance Planning Manager, can be contacted at Ashley.hefner@culvercity.org.

Comments and Questions:

- Question: How is Culver City funding their General Plan Update?
Answer: It is a mix of the City's General Fund, SB2 grants to cover the housing element, and local early action planning grants for housing production studies.
- Question: Can you explain a little more about the Community Health and EJ workshop coming up and the new platform?
Answer: Culver City is hosting a Community Health and EJ workshop in September. The new platform is called *Prytaneum* and involves a different chat feature that allows people to upvote/downvote comments, enables the City to measure engagement effectiveness and uses SED data entered by attendees to prioritize the voices of people of color in the discussion. To learn more about Prytaneum, visit <https://tecd-lab.ucr.edu/prytaneum>.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENTS: PORT HUENEME AND EL CENTRO

*Tony Stewart, Director of Community Development, City of Port Hueneme | TStewart@ci.port-hueneme.ca.us
Lexi Journey, Senior Environmental Planner, Rincon Consultants | ljourney@rinconconsultants.com
Angel Hernandez, Associate Planner, City of El Centro | angel_hernandez@cityofelcentro.org*

Presentation Summary:

- Tony Stewart from the City of Port Hueneme and Lexi Journey from Rincon Consultants presented on the City's General Plan Update, specifically on the new Social Equity element. Even though Port Hueneme does not have any Disadvantaged Communities within its boundaries, the City chose to add a Social Equity element to their General Plan, addressing existing pollution burdens, health concerns, and socio-demographic inequities.

The City issued a questionnaire and conducted interviews with residents, finding the most pressing social equity issues to be industrial pollution, inequality in services between neighborhoods, affordable housing, and internet access. Some examples of Social Equity policies include increased communication and coordination with the naval base and surrounding agricultural communities, increasing opportunities for healthier living, partnerships with local organizations and school districts to bolster community engagement, and actions to bridge the digital divide.

- Read Port Hueneme’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan here: <https://www.ci.port-hueneme.ca.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=470>.
- Read Rincon Consultant’s Environmental Justice in Planning pamphlet here: https://www.rinconconsultants.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Env-Justice-Guide-Pamphlet_Final-Draft-2021.pdf

To learn more about Port Hueneme’s General Plan Update, visit: <https://www.ci.port-hueneme.ca.us/1272/2045-General-Plan>.

- Angel Hernandez from the City of El Centro presented their brand-new Environmental Justice Element adopted by their City Council last week. The City started with an acknowledgement that many EJ issues (surrounding agricultural-related pollutants, international trade and workers who commute across the border) are outside of the City’s direct control. One of the most important public outreach methods included a 14-member Community Advisory Committee. Because of COVID-19, the City had to adjust their community engagement strategy that originally included many more “pop-up” in-person events; what resulted were several virtual public workshops, one of which provided training and resources for unemployed residents that drew over 90 participants.

Angel found that coordinating with other agencies, including public health agencies and local air districts, helps them understand more about EJ issues, including exposures to pollution; access to healthy food; opportunities for physical activity; safe, sanitary, and affordable housing; homelessness; and equitable land use and mobility policies.

Read the City of El Centro’s Environmental Justice Element here: http://www.cityofelcentro.org/userfiles/file/Planning/General%20Plan/General%20Plan%20Update%202040/Public%20Review%20Period%20Documents/3_0_EJ%20Element%20Public%20Review%20Draft%2003-09-21.pdf.

5. MOBILITY EQUITY FRAMEWORK

Hana Creger, Senior Program Manager, The Greenlining Institute | hanac@greenlining.org

Presentation Summary:

- Hana Creger from The Greenlining Institute shared their Mobility Equity Framework in the context of transportation disparities, a lack of community power and engagement, and the need to incorporate emerging new mobility technologies/strategies with equitable processes and outcomes. The Mobility Framework is a 3-step process involving a (1) Community Needs Assessment, (2) Mobility Equity Analysis, and (3) Community Decision-Making. The Mobility Equity Framework was illustrated through a case study from San Francisco where community members were paid for their valuable contributions to an engagement process where mobility projects were identified and prioritized through a democratic decision-making process.

Hana also introduced their report, Clean Mobility Equity: A Playbook, which evaluates California’s clean mobility programs and identifies best practices, examples of success, and areas of improvement for understanding how clean transportation programs can address equity in a comprehensive way.

To learn more about the Mobility Equity Framework, visit: https://greenlining.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/MobilityEquityFramework_8.5x11_v_GLI_Print_Endnotes-march-2018.pdf.

To learn more about the Clean Mobility Equity Playbook, visit: <https://greenlining.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Clean-Mobility-Equity-A-Playbook-Greenlining-Report-2021.pdf>.

Comments and Questions:

- Question: Which step of the Mobility Equity Framework do you think jurisdictions struggle most with and why?
Answer: Depends on where a jurisdiction is coming from, particularly with their existing relationships with the community. I think the decision-making piece can be challenging for a jurisdiction to trust the community to make their own decisions. Building trust between a community and an agency is a big process.
- Question: Do you have any resources or advice on identifying communities to engage for a Community Needs Assessment?
Answer: TransForm published a comprehensive report on best practices for a community needs assessments that you can read here: <https://www.transformca.org/transform-report/community-transportation-needs-assessment>

6. SCAG'S ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY DEFINITION

Emily Rotman, Junior Planner, SCAG | rotman@scaq.ca.gov

Presentation Summary:

- Emily Rotman from SCAG presented the working definition of Environmental Equity and is seeking feedback from the Equity Working Group. The Environmental Equity working definition is as follows:

“Environmental equity addresses the actions, policies, and practices that abolish the systemic inequities, marginalization, disinvestment, and exclusion from decision-making processes that have directly resulted in vulnerable people bearing disproportionate and adverse impacts from natural hazards and human activity, so that all people can enjoy access to the physical and social benefits of our natural and built systems.”

The Equity Working Group is encouraged to send feedback to Emily Rotman at rotman@scag.ca.gov by July 9, 2021.

Comments and Questions:

- Question: What has been your process for development and how are you receiving feedback?
Answer: SCAG researched and compiled existing definitions of environmental equity, climate equity, environmental justice across academic institutions, community organizations, and government agencies. SCAG workshopped the definition with several groups of staff who had experience developing definitions for racial equity and resilience. SCAG is asking for feedback at several working groups, including the Natural Lands Working Group and Climate Adaptation Working Group, and incorporating that feedback into the definition.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anita Au, Senior Regional Planner, SCAG | au@scaq.ca.gov

Presentation Summary:

- SCAG's Sustainable Communities Program will be releasing a fourth and final Call for Applications for programs and projects centered on civic engagement, equity and environmental justice starting in Fall

2021. SCAG is still developing the structure for the Call for Applications and will continue to gather input from stakeholders through one-on-one meetings and listening sessions scheduled in July. It is expected that the Call for Applications will be released in September 2021.

- If you are interested in attending a Listening Session, please RSVP at: https://scag.wufoo.com/forms/m2lqk191gchbij/?utm_source=SCAG+Community&utm_campaign=6261a678a5-UPDATE_2021_06_09&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_d8c0406cae-6261a678a5-