



Environmental Justice



What is Environmental Justice?

Signed in 1994, Executive Order (EO) 12898 establishes a federal policy on Environmental Justice (EJ). It requires that federal actions be evaluated for disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low-income populations, and to avoid disproportionate impacts where possible. The EO also specifies that these groups must not be denied benefits from federal actions and policies.

The State also defines EJ in section 65040.12(e) of California Government Code as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

What Does It Mean for Disaster Assistance?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal agencies must identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. For projects involving facility repair or restoration to its pre-disaster conditions, property purchases and/or relocations of residences and businesses away from known hazards, an EJ analysis is performed.



How Can Environmental Justice Impacts be Determined?

When assessing a project's potential environmental justice impacts, two questions must be asked:

- ☑ First, does the affected community include minority and/or low-income populations?
- ☑ Second, are there projected adverse impacts to the community? If so, ask: Are the impacts disproportionately affecting minority and/or low-income members of these communities?

If your answer to both questions is “yes,” mitigation measures or other methods to address these effects should be developed as part of the project.

Additional Resources

Cal OES Factsheets:

- [Endangered Species Act](#)
- [Historic Properties](#)
- [Stream Erosion](#)
- [Wetlands Protection](#)

Websites:

[Cal OES](#)

[FEMA](#)

[Cal EPA](#)

[U.S. Census](#)

[Demographic Research, CA Dept. of Finance](#)



● **Failure to comply with environmental regulations can result in de-obligation of federal/state funding.**

QUESTIONS?



Environmental Historic Preservation Team
Recoveryehp@caloes.ca.gov

