

Fresno Council of Government's Environmental Justice Task Force

Federal guideline for Environmental Justice is based on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Growing attention has been placed on the need to incorporate Environmental Justice Principles into the processes and products of transportation planning. In response to this challenge Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) developed methods to assess the impacts of our transportation plans and planning processes on "Environmental Justice Populations" such as low-income, minority, seniors and the disabled.

An Environmental Justice Task Force (EJ Task Force) was formed for the following purposes:

- Identify and map locations of low-income and minority populations
- Review existing COG processes to identify needs of Environmental Justice populations
- Document and evaluate the agency's public involvement process and Environmental Justice Plan (EJ Plan)
- Quantitatively assess benefits and burdens of transportation plans with respect to target populations

Fresno COG is seeking interested parties who represent the Environmental Justice Communities defined in our current EJ Plan, to sit on the EJ Task Force. Those communities include those with low incomes, minorities, seniors and the disabled, representing public, private or non-profit sectors. No experience or understanding of transportation plans is required.

The EJ Task Force will meet as needed on a monthly basis from August 2012 to October 2013 to serve in an advisory capacity as the Fresno Council of Governments updates the following plans:

1. Regional Transportation Plan, which includes the Sustainable Communities Strategy
A seat for one EJ Task Force member will also be available on the Regional Transportation Plan Roundtable.
2. Environmental Justice Plan
3. Regional Housing Needs Assessment

Once these plans are completed, the EJ Task Force and Fresno COG will assess how often the group should continue to meet. However, it will always be on an "as needed" basis.

The EJ Task Force will meet at the Fresno COG offices in Downtown Fresno on a date and time agreed upon by active members of the committee. Meeting would typically be scheduled in two hour blocks of time. All parking would be validated.

Fresno COG is located at:

2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 233-4148 ext. 219

If you are interested in joining the Environmental Justice Task Force, or would like more information, please contact Fresno COG Senior Regional Planner Brenda Veenendaal by calling (559) 233-4149 ext. 219 or email her at brendav@fresnocog.org.