

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**Executive Summary**

**Date:** September 18, 2024  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Zoom

**Members Present:**

Amneek Chalotra	Matthew S. Gillian, Chair
Clarissa Vivian Petrucci	Nicola Steelnack
Chai Vang (subbing for Jensen Vang)	Soo Ho Park
Eric VonBerg	Susanna Herrera
Erin Haagenson	Zaida Ramos
Janelle Del Campo	

**Members Absent:**

Patrick Turner, Vice Chair	Tiffany B. Mangum
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**Fresno COG Staff:**

Jennifer Rodriguez	Paul Herman
Shichen Fan	Robert Phipps
Simran Jhutti	

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gillian at 2:03 pm.

I. **Roll Call (Jennifer Rodriguez)**

II. **ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 10, 2024 [ACTION]**

- Susanna Herrera motioned and Clarissa Vivian seconded to approve the minutes as presented.

B. **Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Overview (Jennifer Rodriguez)[INFORMATION]**

**Summary:** Fresno COG is in the process of developing its 2026 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). As a federal Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fresno COG is tasked with the role of developing a comprehensive Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and as a state Regional Transportation Planning Agency, Fresno COG also develops a Sustainable Communities Strategy.

An RTP sets out regional goals, identifies present and future needs, deficiencies and constraints in the transportation network, analyzes potential solutions, estimates available funding, and proposes investments. The RTP helps prepare for and address greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, vehicle miles traveled, air quality, and sustainable future growth for the region. The RTP is comprised of various “elements,” such as, Policy, Sustainable Communities Strategy, Action, Financial, Public Participation, and the Environmental Justice Report.

The RTP involves a RTP Roundtable that oversees the RTP process. The EJ Subcommittee is a subcommittee of the Roundtable and oversees the Environmental Justice element. The Environmental Justice Report includes the environmental justice analysis, which will identify the distribution of benefits and burdens of the proposed strategies and transportation projects for Fresno County communities. The EJ Subcommittee provides input on the EJ definition and criteria for identifying EJ communities, as well as the EJ indicator utilized in the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

The Sustainable Communities Strategy stems from SB 375, which encourages coordinated transportation and land-use planning to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to meet GHG reduction targets and regional housing needs projections and improve quality of life. SB 375 created the new Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Element for RTPs. The SCS consists of different scenarios that utilize various indicators with differing prioritization to estimate a broad set of land use, transportation, health, and environmental impacts across scenarios.

The overall goal of the RTP/SCS is develop equitable and sustainable transportation and land use investment goals, policies, and projects that meet GHG, clean air, climate and equity goals and that will guide local jurisdictions in their future planning and implementation projects.

The 2022 RTP can be access here: <https://www.planfresno.com/sustainable-communities-strategies-fall-outreach/>

A short video on the overview of the RTP can be viewed here: <https://video214.com/play/TXhXSKUrXYbHmH6SCovoxw/s/dark>

**Action:** Information/Discussion.

- Jennifer Rodriguez (Fresno COG) presented on this item.
- Chairman Gillian called for questions.

**This item is informational only, no action is needed.**

**C. Equity Priority Communities and Disadvantaged Communities Definition Approval (Shichen Fan) [ACTION]**

**Summary:** On July 10, staff presented the proposed definition and criteria for defining environmental justice communities, which will be utilized in the Environmental Justice Analysis. Staff proposed two definitions: Equity Priority Communities and Disadvantaged Communities (SB 535). Equity Priority Communities proposes utilizing the metrics: percent of non-white and/or Hispanic resident population, percent of households with income <200% Federal Poverty Level, percent of Limited English-speaking households, and percent of households paying more than 30% of their income towards housing costs. The Disadvantaged Communities proposes utilizing the SB 535 Disadvantaged communities map, which includes environmental, health, pollution, and socio-economic indicators. Both definitions will be defined as Environmental Justice Communities. Following the review period by the EJ Subcommittee between July and August, staff recommends approval for the definitions.

- Shichen Fan (Fresno COG) presented on this item.
- Discussion ensued.
- After discussion, Eric VonBerg motioned for approval of the definition conditional on staff reviewing supplemental data on Malaga and the rural communities located between Kerman and San Joaquin. The motion was seconded by Clarissa Vivian.

**III. OTHER ITEMS**

**A. Items from Staff**

Staff shared information on upcoming RTP Roundtable meetings, which are open to the public.

**B. Items from Members**

None.



#### **IV. Public Presentations**

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons wishing to address the Subcommittee on items within its jurisdiction but not on this agenda.

*Note: Prior to action by the Subcommittee on any item on this agenda, the public may comment on that item. Unscheduled comments may be limited to 3 minutes.*

None.

#### **Adjournment**

Chairman Gillian opened the floor for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Eric VonBerg and seconded by Soo Ho Park to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 pm.