

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY

(SFPUC Commission Resolution No.09-0170, dated October 13, 2009)

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission affirms and commits to the goals of environmental justice to prevent, mitigate, and lessen disproportionate environmental impacts of its activities on communities in all SFPUC service areas and to insure that public benefits are shared across all communities.

The SFPUC defines environmental justice as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes and believes that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences resulting from the operations, programs, and/or policies of the SFPUC.

The SFPUC acknowledges that enforcement of environmental laws, rules, regulations, and best practices that apply to its resource supply, operations and delivery of water, wastewater, and power services is core to the fair treatment of the people we serve and the stewardship of our lands.

The SFPUC believes that everyone has the right to a job and reaffirms its commitment as an equal opportunity provider.

In application of this policy to SFPUC projects and activities, SFPUC staff shall:

- Develop and implement training in SFPUC environmental justice issues in conjunction with staff orientation and continuing education efforts.
- Recognize community need for employment through continuation and expansion of workforce development strategies, including green job opportunities in community historically disproportionately burdened by pollution.
- Identify new and continue to implement existing initiatives to avoid or eliminate disproportionate impacts of SFPUC decisions and activities in all service areas.
- Develop diverse and culturally appropriate communication strategies to ensure that stakeholders can participate in decisions and actions that may impact their communities.
- Work with stakeholders, including the SFPUC's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and CAC Environmental Justice Subcommittee, to:

(1) Develop a concise checklist of environmental justice guidelines or best practices that may be useful in assessing how SFPUC actions are improving or can improve specific proposed SFPUC projects, in addition to the enforcement of applicable environmental laws, rules, regulations and the above standards.

(2) Identify SFPUC projects that best demonstrate the implementation of this policy and useful best practices.

(3) Identify SFPUC projects that may have additional environmental impacts on communities already affected by disproportionate environmental impacts and work to minimize those impacts.

(4) Continue to identify and partner with organizations in order to prioritize, establish and fund appropriate activities to improve environmental justice performance in communities already affected by disproportionate environmental impacts of SFPUC activities.