



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### **What is environmental justice?**

Environmental justice refers to the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all communities, particularly minority and low-income communities, in decisions that affect their environment. For projects such as the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS, that require approval by one or more federal agencies, Federal Executive Order 12898 requires federal agencies to identify and address disproportionate adverse impacts on minority and low-income communities.

### **Why is environmental justice important to the I-710 Corridor?**

Environmental justice is a key issue in the I-710 corridor because the communities along the corridor are home to a high percentage of minority and low-income people. Many of these communities have been affected by current conditions along I-710, such as high concentrations of diesel particulate emissions, traffic congestion, and traffic safety issues.

### **What laws require the EIR/EIS to consider environmental justice?**

There are no California State laws that require the consideration of environmental justice in public project decision-making. However, as noted above, for projects requiring Federal approval actions, Federal Executive Order 12898 requires federal agencies to identify and address disproportionate adverse impacts on these communities.

### **How will environmental justice be addressed in the EIR/EIS?**

Environmental justice considerations are part of the screening and selection of project alternatives. The basic steps involved in evaluating potential environmental justice impacts for the I-710 Corridor Project are as follows:

- A general profile of the population characteristics in the I-710 Corridor will be developed, including race, ethnicity, income, and age.
- Areas of high concentrations of low-income and minority populations in the corridor will be identified.
- For all environmental topics (including, but not limited to, air quality, noise, traffic, and visual effects) disproportionately high and adverse project impacts to minority and low-income populations will be identified.
- Project benefits to minority and low-income populations will be identified.
- Mitigation measures or project enhancements will be developed to offset any significant impacts to minority or low-income populations that cannot be avoided or minimized.

**How are environmental justice issues communicated?**

Environmental justice is incorporated into all aspects of the community participation framework for the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS. This framework provides ongoing opportunities for all communities to provide input at both the local and corridor level throughout the term of the study. Bilingual outreach is being conducted to address the high percentage of Spanish-speakers in communities along the I-710 Corridor, and brochures, newsletters, and other materials are made available in hard copy for people who may not have computer access. The I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS can also be differentiated from a traditional EIR/EIS by the number of opportunities for community participation and the depth of public involvement, which affords greater opportunity for involvement by environmental justice populations.

**What components of the EIR/EIS are most relevant to environmental justice on the I-710 corridor?**

Many of the issues that will be studied during the course of the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS have relevance to environmental justice communities. Most of these studies relate to the overall concerns of community livability. Some of the relevant studies include:

Air Quality Assessment	Traffic Studies
Health Risk Assessment	Visual Assessment
Noise Assessment	Community Impact Assessment

**How else can I provide input?**

The community can provide input during a variety of other public forums such as advisory committee meetings, town hall meetings, and public hearings. You may also visit Metro’s website at [www.metro.net/710eir](http://www.metro.net/710eir) to ask questions and learn about upcoming events. For more information on the I-710 Corridor Project EIR/EIS, please visit our website at [www.metro.net/710](http://www.metro.net/710) or contact us in one of the following ways:

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