



BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

**AGENDA: 18**

# **Environmental Justice Training Module: Partnerships and Power Sharing**

**Board of Directors Special Meeting  
December 1, 2021**

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# Neighborhood Map Instructions



**Goal:** Consider how the physical and social environment(s) you grew up in shaped you AND hear from your fellow Board members about their formative environments.

## 1. DRAW a “mental map” of where you grew up.

- A. *You decide what this means: can be a complex question, for instance if you lived in multiple homes*
- B. *Does not need to be accurate, comprehensive, or artistic!*

## 2. DOCUMENT:

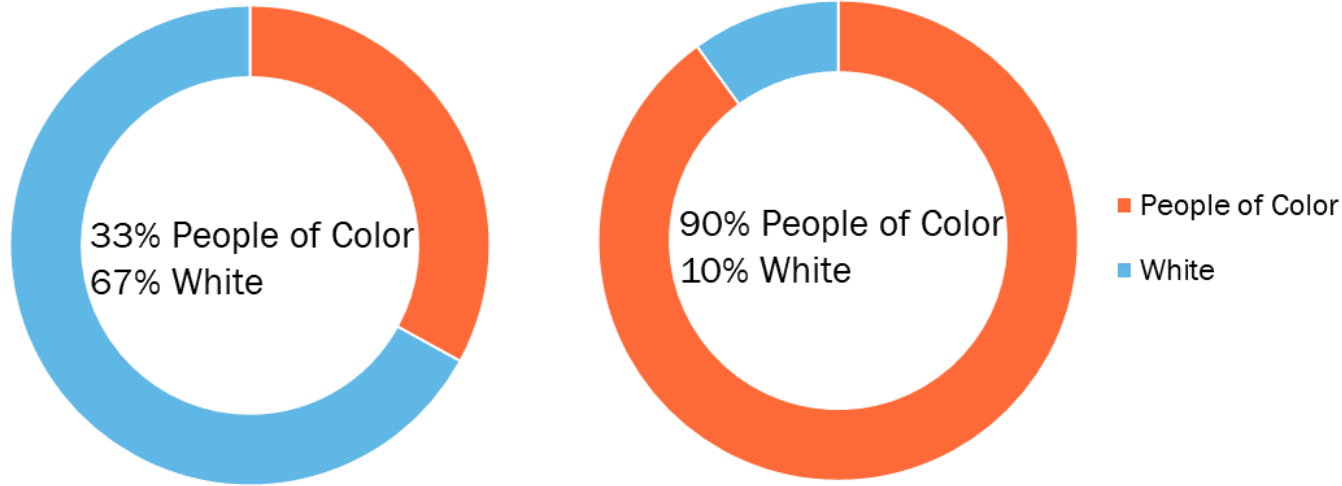
- A. environmental *amenities* like fresh foods, trees, accessible spaces to exercise and enjoy nature
- B. environmental *hazards* like roadways, gas stations, factories, farms, warehouses, etc.

# Neighborhood Map Activity Discussion



1. Raise your hand to share as much or as little about your map as you feel comfortable.
  - A. How did the place(s) you grew up in affect who you are today?
  - B. What elements of your neighborhood were most influential on your own development?
  - C. As you became older and could contrast the environment you grew up in with other communities, how did that shape your understanding of government and your sense of fairness?

# Where You Live Matters



Top 10% **least polluted** neighborhoods are 67% white

Top 10% **most polluted** neighborhoods are 90% people of color



Figure 3. Racial Makeup of Each Decile of the Draft CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Score.

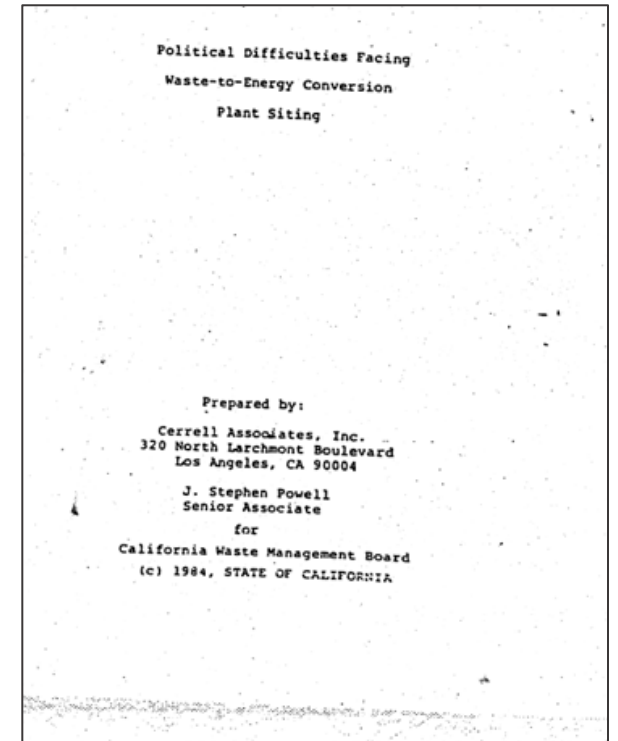
Figure 2. Race in the Least and Most Impacted Census Tracts by Draft CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Decile. <https://calenviroscreen-oehha.hub.arcgis.com/app/f555670d30a942e4b46b18293e2795a7>

# Institutional Racism Undermines Procedural Justice and Perpetuates Power Imbalances



“All socioeconomic groupings tend to resent the nearby siting of major facilities, but **middle and upper socioeconomic strata possess better resources to effectuate their opposition.** Middle and higher socioeconomic strata neighborhoods should not fall within the one-mile and five-mile radius of the proposed cite.”

Excerpt from [1984 Cerrell Report](#) to California Waste Management Board on where to site trash incinerators



# Justice as a Framework for Change



**Distributive Justice** - Fairness of the distribution of something among several people or groups.

**Procedural Justice** - Fairness of how information is gathered or how a decision is made.

# Procedural Justice as a Prerequisite to Rebuilding Trust



# California Definition of Environmental Justice



“Environmental justice means 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.”

Gov Code 6504012(e)/AB1628



# Discussion: Moving Beyond Fair Treatment and Meaningful Involvement



What words come to mind with the term CoPowerment?

Please share examples of CoPowerment in action within your work?

# Meaningful Partnerships



Ms. Margaret Gordon, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/169zbb8Dg\\_G4NQ4u6mQzXplfaYiXBMo8S](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/169zbb8Dg_G4NQ4u6mQzXplfaYiXBMo8S)

# The 1991 People of Color Summit



October 24, 1991, Black, Native, Latino, Pacific Islander, and Asian American activists gathered in Washington, D.C. to discuss the environmental injustices their communities were experiencing across the country.



# The Environmental Justice Principles



5) Environmental justice affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-determination of all peoples.

7) Environmental justice demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.

16) Environmental justice calls for the education of present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.

**WE, THE PEOPLE OF COLOR,** gathered together at this multinational People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, to begin to build a national and international movement of all peoples of color to fight the destruction and taking of our lands and communities, do hereby re-establish our spiritual interdependence to the sacredness of our Mother Earth, to respect and celebrate each of our cultures, languages and beliefs about the natural world and our roles in healing ourselves; to insure environmental justice; to promote economic alternatives which would contribute to the development of environmentally safe livelihoods; and, to secure our political, economic and cultural liberation that has been denied for over 500 years of colonization and oppression, resulting in the poisoning of our communities and land and the genocide of our peoples, do affirm and adopt these Principles of Environmental Justice:

## The Principles of Environmental Justice (EJ)

- 1) **Environmental Justice** affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the interdependence of all species, and the right to be free from ecological destruction.
- 2) **Environmental Justice** demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias.
- 3) **Environmental Justice** mandates the right to ethical, balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things.
- 4) **Environmental Justice** calls for universal protection from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of toxic/hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that threaten the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food.
- 5) **Environmental Justice** affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-determination of all peoples.
- 6) **Environmental Justice** demands the cessation of the production of all toxins, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current producers be held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production.
- 7) **Environmental Justice** demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.
- 8) **Environmental Justice** affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the right of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.
- 9) **Environmental Justice** protects the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.
- 10) **Environmental Justice** considers governmental acts of environmental injustice a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration On Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.
- 11) **Environmental Justice** must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native Peoples to the U.S. government through treaties, agreements, compacts, and covenants affirming sovereignty and self-determination.
- 12) **Environmental Justice** affirms the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas to balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and provided fair access for all to the full range of resources.
- 13) **Environmental Justice** calls for the strict enforcement of principles of informed consent, and a halt to the testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations on people of color.
- 14) **Environmental Justice** opposes the destructive operations of multi-national corporations.
- 15) **Environmental Justice** opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms.
- 16) **Environmental Justice** calls for the education of present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.
- 17) **Environmental Justice** requires that we, as individuals, make personal and consumer choices to consume as little of Mother Earth's resources and to produce as little waste as possible; and make the conscious decision to challenge and reprimand our lifestyles to insure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.

**More info on Environmental Justice can be found online at [www.ejnet.org/ej/](http://www.ejnet.org/ej/)**

*Delegates to the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit held on October 24-27, 1991, in Washington DC, drafted and adopted 17 principles of Environmental Justice. Since then, The Principles have served as a defining document for the growing grassroots movement for environmental justice.*

# Discussion with Vernice Miller Travis on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the People of Color Summit



## **Vernice Miller-Travis**

Executive Vice President for Environment and Sustainability Metropolitan Group  
Co-founder of West Harlem Environmental Action Coalition (WEACT)



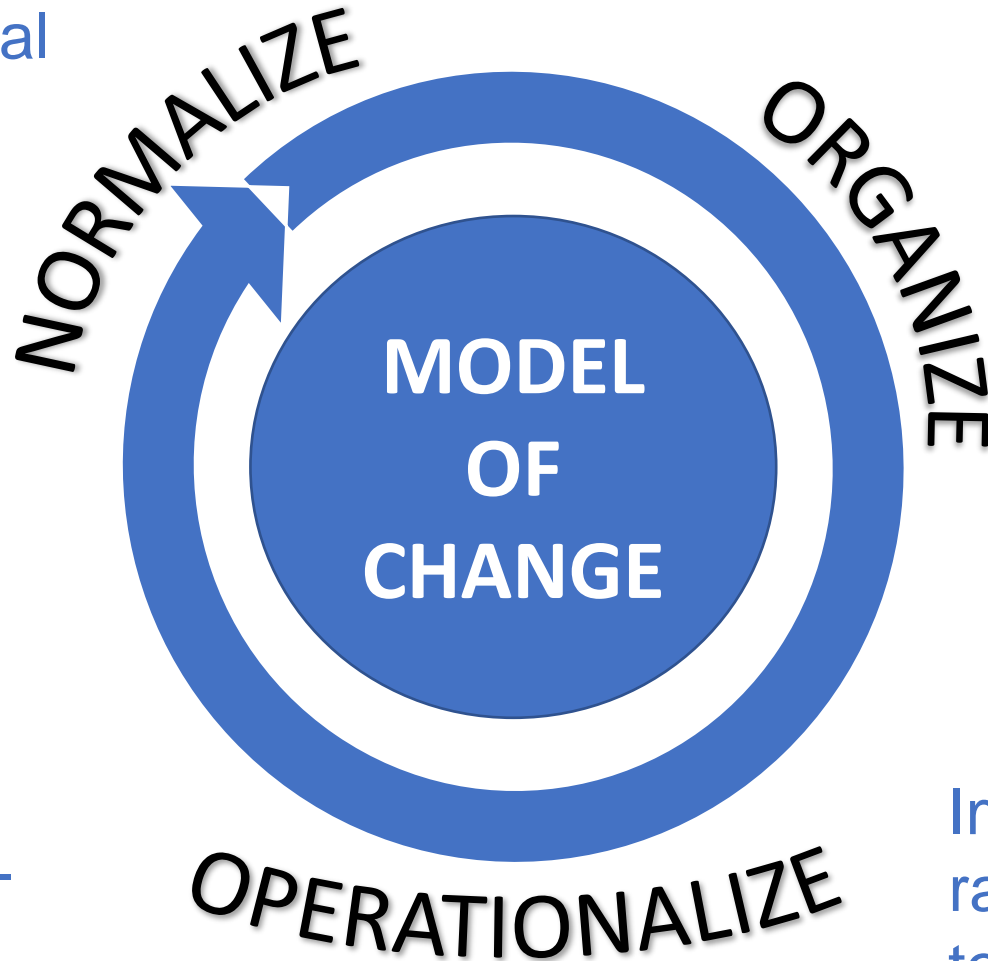
# Partnering with Communities to Advance Environmental Justice



Use a shared racial equity framework

Operate with urgency and accountability

Be data-driven



Build organizational capacity

Partner with stakeholders and community organizations

Implement racial equity tools

# Normalizing Racial Equity



## **What we have done: Using a Shared Racial Equity Framework to Operate with Urgency and Accountability**

- All staff trainings on implicit bias, developing an anti-racism framework and microaggressions and allyship
- Board trainings and AB 617 staff trainings on structural racism, partnerships and power sharing, and conflict resolution
- Air District Resolution supporting racial justice

# Organizing for Racial Equity



## What we are building: Organizational capacity to partner with stakeholders and community organizations

- Community Equity, Health, and Justice Committee
- AB 617 program and partnerships with communities
- James Cary Smith Community Grants
- Community Advisory Council



# Operationalizing Racial Equity



**Where we are going: Implementing racial equity tools, using data and metrics to track progress towards racial equity goals**

- Reviewing plans, programs, and policies to ensure racial equity goals and metrics are embedded to track change over time
- Fostering a culture to support racial equity and environmental justice as core principles for ‘why’ and ‘how’ we work
- Centering communities in every aspect of our work to ensure accountability, rebuild trust and ensure our actions get to racial equity



# Next Steps and Discussion