

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

4.1 CSLC ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY

Environmental justice is defined by California law as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” This definition is consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine principle that the management of trust lands is for the benefit of all of the people. The California State Lands Commission (CSLC) adopted an environmental justice policy in October 2002 to ensure that environmental justice is an essential consideration in the agency’s processes, decisions, and programs. Through its policy, the CSLC reaffirms its commitment to an informed and open process in which all people are treated equitably and with dignity, and in which its decisions are tempered by environmental justice considerations.

As part of the CSLC environmental justice policy, the CSLC pledges to continue and enhance its processes, decisions, and programs with environmental justice as an essential consideration by:

- Identifying relevant populations that might be adversely affected by CSLC programs or by projects submitted by outside parties for its consideration.
- Seeking out community groups and leaders to encourage communication and collaboration with the CSLC and its staff.
- Distributing public information as broadly as possible and in multiple languages, as needed, to encourage participation in the CSLC’s public processes.
- Incorporating consultations with affected community groups and leaders while preparing environmental analyses of projects submitted to the CSLC for its consideration.
- Ensuring that public documents and notices relating to human health or environmental issues are concise, understandable, and readily accessible to the public, in multiple languages, as needed.
- Holding public meetings, public hearings, and public workshops at times and in locations that encourage meaningful public involvement by members of the affected communities.
- Educating present and future generations in all walks of life about public access to lands and resources managed by the CSLC.
- Ensuring that a range of reasonable alternatives is identified when siting facilities that may adversely affect relevant populations and identifying, for the CSLC’s consideration, those that would minimize or eliminate environmental impacts affecting such populations.

- 1 • Working in conjunction with federal, State, regional, and local agencies to ensure
2 consideration of disproportionate impacts on relevant populations, by instant or
3 cumulative environmental pollution or degradation.
- 4 • Fostering research and data collection to better define cumulative sources of
5 pollution, exposures, risks, and impacts.
- 6 • Providing appropriate training on environmental justice issues to staff and the
7 CSLC so that recognition and consideration of such issues are incorporated into
8 its daily activities.
- 9 • Reporting periodically to the CSLC on how environmental justice is a part of the
10 programs, processes, and activities conducted by the CSLC and by proposing
11 modifications as necessary.

12 **4.1.1 Methodology**

13 The CSLC environmental justice policy does not specify a methodology for conducting
14 programmatic-level analysis of environmental justice issues. Due to the limited extent of
15 the Project's impacts on the human environment, as established in Section 3 of this
16 document, this section provides a qualitative consideration of the Project's potential to
17 disproportionately affect low-income or minority communities.

18 This analysis focuses on whether the Project's impacts would have the potential to
19 affect areas of high-minority populations and/or low-income communities
20 disproportionately and thus would create an adverse environmental justice effect. For
21 the purpose of the environmental analysis, the Project's inconsistency with the CSLC's
22 Environmental Justice Policy would occur if the Project would:

- 23 • Have the potential to disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income
24 populations adversely; or
- 25 • Result in a substantial, disproportionate decrease in employment and economic
26 base of minority and/or low-income populations residing in immediately adjacent
27 communities.

28 **4.1.2 Project Analysis**

29 The Project's limited impact on the human environment is established in various
30 sections of this document, including Section 3.1 (Aesthetics), Section 3.3 (Air Quality),
31 Section 3.7 (Greenhouse Gas Emissions), 3.8 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials), 3.9
32 (Hydrology and Water Resources), 3.12 (Noise), Section 3.15 (Recreation) and Section
33 3.16 (Traffic/Transportation). The discussion below considers the Project's potential to
34 disproportionately affect any low-income or minority communities. The Project is located
35 adjacent to existing industrial uses in Suisun Bay and the West by property owned by
36 the federal government for use as a Military Ocean Terminal. Surrounding land uses are

1 largely industrial with extensive tidal marsh designated for open space/conservation as
2 habitat for sensitive species by Contra Costa County. The closest residences are
3 located approximately 1 mile to the southeast of the Project site in Bay Point. Due to
4 this distance between the Project site and the nearest residential neighborhood and the
5 small-scale and temporary nature of the outfall pipe removal and demolition, there
6 would be no direct impact on residential communities, regardless of their socioeconomic
7 makeup.

8 The Project has the potential to temporarily impact boating in the immediate vicinity of
9 the Project work area on the Bay. However, due to the temporary nature of the outfall
10 pipe removal activities and the limited surface area of the Bay taken by the removal
11 activities, the Project would have a less than significant impact on users of the Bay.

12 The Project has no potential to disproportionately affect any low-income or minority
13 community that may reside in nearby communities or use the surrounding area for
14 recreation or commerce. Furthermore, the CSLC is complying with its environmental
15 justice policy by subjecting its decision on this Project to public involvement through the
16 CEQA process, which will give people of all socioeconomic backgrounds the opportunity
17 to learn about and comment on the Project.

PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK