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## 4 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 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, 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:

1. Identifying relevant populations that might be adversely affected by CSLC programs or by projects submitted by outside parties for its consideration.
2. Seeking out community groups and leaders to encourage communication and collaboration with the CSLC and its staff.
3. Distributing public information as broadly as possible and in multiple languages, as needed, to encourage participation in the CSLC’s public processes.
4. Incorporating consultations with affected community groups and leaders while preparing environmental analyses of projects submitted to the CSLC for its consideration.
5. 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.
6. Holding public meetings, public hearings, and public workshops at times and in locations that encourage meaningful public involvement by members of the affected communities.
7. Educating present and future generations in all walks of life about public access to lands and resources managed by the CSLC.
8. 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 9. Working in conjunction with federal, State, regional, and local agencies to  
2 ensure consideration of disproportionate impacts on relevant populations, by  
3 instant or cumulative environmental pollution or degradation.
- 4 10. Fostering research and data collection to better define cumulative sources of  
5 pollution, exposures, risks, and impacts.
- 6 11. Providing appropriate training on environmental justice issues to staff and the  
7 CSLC so that recognition and consideration of such issues are incorporated  
8 into its daily activities.
- 9 12. Reporting periodically to the CSLC on how environmental justice is a part of the  
10 programs, processes, and activities conducted by the CSLC and proposing  
11 modifications as necessary.

## 13 4.2 METHODOLOGY

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

## 21 4.3 PROJECT ANALYSIS

22  
23 The Project's limited impact on the human environment is established in various  
24 sections of this document, including Section 3.3.1 (Aesthetics), Section 3.3.2 (Air  
25 Quality), Section 3.3.7 (Greenhouse Gas Emissions), 3.3.8 (Hazards and Hazardous  
26 Materials), Section 3.3.12 (Noise), Section 3.3.15 (Recreation), and Section 3.3.16  
27 (Traffic). The discussion below considers the Project's potential to disproportionately  
28 affect any low-income or minority communities.

29  
30 The Project is located offshore of an unpopulated area, with the nearest community  
31 comprising on-base residential development more than a mile to the north. Beyond that,  
32 residential uses in the City of San Clemente are located approximately 3 miles  
33 northwest of the project site. Due to this distance between the Project site and  
34 residential areas, and due to the small-scale and underwater nature of the proposed  
35 facilities, there would be no direct impact on residential communities, regardless of their  
36 socioeconomic makeup.

37  
38 An additional environmental justice consideration for the Project is the nearby presence  
39 of the two areas of San Onofre State Beach — San Onofre Surf Beach to the north and  
40 San Onofre Bluffs to the south of SONGS Units 2 and 3 — which are public resources  
41 open to and used by people of all socioeconomic backgrounds. The uses at San Onofre

1 Bluffs are primarily swimming, surfing, and camping, while San Onofre Surf Beach is  
2 used for swimming and surfing. The offshore area surrounding the Project site is also  
3 used for boating and recreational and commercial fishing. The socioeconomic makeup  
4 of these users is unknown, would be difficult to determine, and is beyond the scope of  
5 this analysis due to the Project's limited potential to affect these users.

6  
7 The Project would have no direct impact on State Beach users due to the distance from  
8 shore and underwater nature of the proposed facilities. The Project's distance from  
9 shore also would limit indirect construction impacts on these users. With respect to  
10 fishing and boating, Section 3.3.15 of this document states that Project construction of  
11 each LOED will occur within the restricted-access area surrounding SONGS, limiting the  
12 potential impact on these activities. Mitigation measure REC-1 requires notifying the  
13 U.S. Coast Guard of Project construction so that they can include Project information in  
14 the Local Notice to Mariners, which would reduce to a less-than-significant level the  
15 Project's potential impacts on any fishing and boating that may occur in the area.  
16 Accordingly, the Project's impacts on any low-income or minority community that may  
17 use the area surrounding the Project site would be negligible.

18  
19 The Project has no potential to disproportionately affect any low-income or minority  
20 community that may reside in nearby communities or use the surrounding area for  
21 recreation or commerce. Furthermore, the CSLC is complying with its environmental  
22 justice policy by subjecting its decision on this Project to public involvement through the  
23 CEQA process, which will give people of all socioeconomic backgrounds the opportunity  
24 to learn about and comment on the Project.