

SAFE, CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

DACs, Equity & Stakeholder Involvement Subcommittee

Example Legislative & Policy Language

Recent legislative efforts have used several approaches to address equitable policy. The following examples are not intended to be prescriptive, but have been included for your reference and review.

The Prevention Institute

The Prevention Institute recommends four strategies for equitable planning in Los Angeles:

1. Increase the percentage of public funds invested in health-promoting infrastructure in low-income communities of color.
2. Build capacity in government, the private sector, and community-based organizations for robust community engagement in land use planning and policymaking.
3. Accelerate land use innovations and demonstration projects in low-income communities of color, and scale up successful pilot projects to drive policy change.
4. Foster cross-government collaboration to embed health and equity in all land use decisions.

SB5

(8) To the extent practicable, as identified in the “Presidential Memorandum--Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Our National Parks, National Forests, and Other Public Lands and Waters,” dated January 12, 2017, the public agencies that receive funds pursuant to this division will consider a range of actions that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (A) Conducting active outreach to diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations and tribal communities, to increase awareness within those communities and the public generally about specific programs and opportunities.
- (B) Mentoring new environmental, outdoor recreation, and conservation leaders to increase diverse representation across these areas.
- (C) Creating new partnerships with state, local, tribal, private, and nonprofit organizations to expand access for diverse populations.
- (D) Identifying and implementing improvements to existing programs to increase visitation and access by diverse populations, particularly minority, low-income, and disabled populations and tribal communities.

(E) Expanding the use of multilingual and culturally appropriate materials in public communications and educational strategies, including through social media strategies, as appropriate, that target diverse populations.

(F) Developing or expanding coordinated efforts to promote youth engagement and empowerment, including fostering new partnerships with diversity-serving and youth-serving organizations, urban areas, and programs.

(G) Identifying possible staff liaisons to diverse populations.

(9) To the extent practicable, priority for grant funding under this division will be given to a project that advances solutions to prevent displacement if a potential unintended consequence associated with park creation pursuant to the project is an increase in the cost of housing.

Prop 84 & AB 31

The California State legislature in 2006 set aside funding for “Disadvantaged Communities” (DAC) to address this issue for water related projects to be funded from Proposition 84. According to the 2010 US Census, 26% of all Californians live in the Los Angeles region, and 41% of those living in the region are residents of a disadvantaged community census tract (Council for Watershed Health).

- DAC definition used by DWR as of the 2010 census put the DAC community at 41% of the total LAC population; SB5 uses the same DAC definition
- AB 31, the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Act of 2008 funds were found to have direct benefits to the targeted communities while other programs with less specific criteria were not as effective in providing benefits to disadvantaged communities.

California Water Code & Prop 1

Proposition 1 defined several terms relevant to discussions of equity. While not all of these metrics are directly relevant to Los Angeles County, they are included for reference.

Disadvantaged Community: A community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the Statewide annual median household income (Water Code §79505.5 which cross references to Water Code §79505.5).

Economically Distressed Area: A municipality with a population of 20,000 persons or less, a rural county, or a reasonably isolated and divisible segment of a larger municipality where the segment of the population is 20,000 persons or less, with an annual median household income that is less than 85 percent of the statewide median household income, and with one or more of the following conditions as determined by the department: (1) financial hardship, (2) Unemployment rate at least 2 percent higher than the statewide average, or (3) low population density. (Water Code §79702. (k)).

Eligible Involvement Activities: Activities that benefit DACs and meet the intended outcome(s) of the DAC Involvement Program.

Environmental Justice: 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 (Government Code §65040.12 (e)).

Proposition 1 uses these 4 techniques to classify geographic areas for projects serving DACs:

Alternative Geography	DAC
The project serves an area that is contained within a census place for which the MHI is less than	\$49,191
The project serves an area that is contained within one or more census tracts and the MHI of each census tract is less than	
The project serves an area that is inscribed within one or more census block groups and the MHI of each block group is less than	
The project serves an area that is inscribed in one or more census tracts or block groups and some (but not all) of the census tracts or block groups have an MHI of less than	