

California High-Speed Rail Authority

Bakersfield to Palmdale

Project Section

**Final Environmental Impact Report/
Environmental Impact Statement**

**Appendix 5-B: Environmental Justice
Outreach Plan**

May 2021



The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being or have been carried out by the State of California pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated July 23, 2019, and executed by the Federal Railroad Administration and the State of California.

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California High-Speed Rail Authority

Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section

Draft Environmental Justice
Outreach Plan

November 2017



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACS	American Community Survey
Authority	California High-Speed Rail Authority
B-P	Bakersfield to Palmdale Section of the CA High-Speed Rail Project
C.F.R.	Code of Federal Regulations
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
EIR	environmental impact report
EIS	environmental impact statement
EJ	environmental justice
E.O.	Executive Order
Fed. Reg.	Federal Register
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
HSR	high-speed rail
IOS	Initial Operating Section
LEP	limited English proficiency
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOP	Notice of Preparation
TCP	Traditional Cultural Properties

1 INTRODUCTION

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies (USEPA 2017). Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies. Meaningful involvement means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health
- The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision-making process
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected

Environmental justice, as mandated by Presidential Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* falls under the umbrella of Title VI (California High-Speed Rail Authority, Title VI). Executive Order 12898 states that “each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States.” The U.S. Department of Transportation and its subagencies (including the Federal Railroad Administration [FRA], which is the Federal lead agency for the California High-Speed Rail Project) have adopted guidelines for implementing the evaluation of Environmental Justice in their environmental documents, including the development of outreach to these communities.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) which oversees the implementation of NEPA and provides guidance on various topics, including environmental justice has the following definitions of minority and low-income:

Minority: Individual(s) who are members of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black, not of Hispanic Origin; or Hispanic.

Low-Income: Low-income populations in an affected area should be identified with the annual statistical poverty thresholds from the Bureau of the Census' Current Population Reports, Series P-60 on Income and Poverty.

Executive Order 12898 has been adopted as a planning process requirement for all Authority efforts as well. The Authority's definition and application of the term “environmental justice” as it relates to the High-Speed Rail Project is as follows:

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and income with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and policies. Implementation of environmental justice principles in how the Authority plans, designs, and delivers the high-speed rail projects means that [the Authority] recognizes the potential social and environmental impacts that project activities may have on certain segments of the public. [The Authority] recognizes how important provisions of existing environmental, civil rights, civil, and criminal laws may be used to help reduce environmental impact in all communities and environmental justice on the human element. The Authority has included environmental justice considerations in its planning for the statewide high-speed train system since 2000, when it commenced a programmatic environmental review process.”

– California High-Speed Rail Authority, Title VI Annual Accomplishments Report, 2015

1.1 Overview of the Environmental Justice Outreach Plan and Project

This Environmental Justice Outreach Plan for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section is prepared in support of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Assessment (DEIR/EIS) for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section of the California High-Speed Rail Project. It guides the Authority in engaging minority and low-income populations in the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section to communicate project information, listen to and respond to community thoughts and concerns, and identify potential actions to mitigate any disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority and low-income populations. These actions are intended to provide opportunities for the meaningful participation of minority and low-income populations.

The Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section is part of the first phase of the California High-Speed Rail System connecting the Central Valley to the Antelope Valley, closing the existing rail gap over the Tehachapi Mountains. The approximately 80-mile Project Section would travel through or near the cities of Bakersfield, Tehachapi, Lancaster and Palmdale, and the unincorporated communities of Edison, Keene and Rosamond, with proposed stations in Bakersfield and at the Palmdale Transportation Center.

The 2005 Statewide Program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) identified preferred corridors and general station locations for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section. In July of 2009, the Authority released a Notice of Preparation (NOP), and the FRA published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare separate EIR/EIS documents for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section.

The Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section Draft EIR/EIS is a stand-alone, project environmental document. It will incorporate, by reference, information from the 2005 Statewide Program EIR/EIS in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [C.F.R] 1508.28) and State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (14 C.C.R. 15168[b]). Technical analysis, station design, and stakeholder outreach are ongoing, with identification of an initial preferred alternative and the Draft EIR/EIS planned for publication in 2018.

Based on the ethnic and socio-economic characteristics of each community along the corridor, ongoing opportunities exist to implement strategies that incorporate environmental justice efforts. As such, outreach efforts developed and implemented to date have included consideration of the Limited English Proficiency (LEP)¹, minority, and low-income populations identified through the following methods:

- Held meetings with elected officials and public agency staff (At each meeting, the Project Team solicited additional stakeholder organizations that should be engaged).
- Reviewed community newspapers and websites, and conducted online research of corridor city organizations that serve environmental justice populations.
- Identified and outreached to local churches, schools, and other organizations and institutions that serve environmental justice populations along the corridor.
- Contacted directly community organizations, religious leaders, business groups, and other members of the local community (At each meeting, the Project Team solicited additional stakeholder organizations that should be engaged).
- Utilized Project Team knowledge of additional stakeholders and organizations from previous work experience along the corridor to augment research efforts.

¹ LEP households are defined as households in which no member speaks English as their primary language and who have limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English.



Figure 1-1 Overview of the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section

Source: High-Speed Rail Authority Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section Map

The Authority requires that an Environmental Justice Outreach Plan be developed and implemented as part of the outreach effort for the Draft EIR/EIS. The Environmental Justice Outreach Plan:

- Summarizes demographics within the project area.
- Identifies environmental justice advocacy and community groups who are stakeholders in the project area.
- Describes the strategy for reaching out, engaging, and gathering input from minority and low-income populations.
- Identifies the specific methods that will be used to implement this strategy such as digital media, information booths, and presentations to and listening posts with environmental justice advocacy and community groups.
- Lists the documents that will be prepared to document the environmental justice outreach efforts.

The Authority process and guidelines designed in this document are to provide consistency in the method used to obtain and share information with minority and low-income populations for use in the environmental review process for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section. In addition, a draft Focused Alignment Outreach Plan (Appendix B) has been developed to guide recommended outreach efforts for each city and neighborhood, which will continue to be refined.

Native Americans are included in the federal definition of minorities for environmental justice evaluation. Tribal outreach is the purview of the FRA with support from the Authority, under Section 106 of the Natural Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This Environmental Justice Outreach plan does not include details of tribal consultation. The requirements for tribal outreach are found in Section 106 of the Natural Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

1.2 Regulatory Setting

The Authority is strongly committed to ensuring that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity in the design, construction and operation of the high-speed rail system on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Accordingly, and at the direction of the FRA, the Authority developed and adopted a Title VI programmatic policy that pays careful attention to the needs of traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities, including environmental justice, LEP, and disabled communities or persons. The following text details applicable regulations, requirements, and federal and state efforts that govern and inform this Environmental Justice Outreach Plan’s development and implementation.

Executive Order 12898 (February 16, 1994)²

According to Executive Order 12898 (EO 12898), *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, projects that receive federal funding should “ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the decision-making process; to avoid/mitigate disproportionately high human health or environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority and low-income populations; to prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefit by minority populations and low-income populations” (EO 12898). Environmental justice populations, as identified by Executive Order 12898, are comprised of Black, Asian American, Native American, Hispanic/Latino (regardless of race), and low-income persons.

² “Summary of Executive Order 12898 - Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.” EPA, Environmental Protection Agency, 16 Nov. 2015, <https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-executive-order-12898-federal-actions-address-environmental-justice>.

To emphasize the importance of EO 12898, the Obama Administration facilitated a multi-agency signing of the "Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898" in 2011. The environmental justice memorandum of understanding discusses that communities historically burdened by pollution - particularly minority, low income and tribal communities - merit protection from environmental and health hazards, participation in the Federal decision-making process, and access to a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work. The environmental justice memorandum of understanding increases federal agency accountability to environmental justice and outlines processes to aid overburdened communities and facilitate community engagement in agency decisions. On the 20th anniversary of EO 12898, President Obama issued a Presidential Proclamation further solidifying the Administration's commitment to environmental justice.

U.S. Department of Transportation Order 5610.2³

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) uses Order 5610.2(a) (2012) to comply with Executive Order 12898. USDOT Order 5610.2 generally describes the process that the Office of the Secretary, and each operating administration within the USDOT, will use to incorporate environmental justice principles (as embodied in the Executive Order) into existing programs, policies, and activities. The order requires the Office of the Secretary, and each operating Administration within USDOT, to develop specific procedures to incorporate the goals of the USDOT Order and the Executive Order with the programs, policies and activities which they administer or implement.

CAHSR Environmental Justice Policy⁴

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) has developed and maintains Environmental Justice Guidance⁵ in compliance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Presidential Executive Order 12898 and California State law—Government Code Section 65040.12 et. Seq. and Public Resources Code Section 71110 et. Seq. The Authority promotes environmental justice into its program, policies and activities to avoid, minimize or mitigate disproportionately high human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects on minority and low-income populations. It is the policy of the Authority duly to emphasize the fair and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to high-speed rail project planning, development, operations and maintenance. This policy directs the Authority to engage appropriately the public through public participation forums so it mitigates impacts and reflects environmental justice for all communities. This commitment strives to inspire environmental justice and equal access.

Executive Order 13166 (August 11, 2000)⁶

In 2000, President Clinton issued Executive Order No. 13166 (EO 13166), which provided additional federal guidance about providing information and services to people with limited English proficiency (LEP). Under EO 13166, each federal agency is required to examine the services it provides and develop and implement a system by which LEP persons can meaningfully gain access to those services consistent with, and without unduly burdening, the fundamental mission of the agency. Each federal agency shall also work to provide recipients of federal financial assistance (recipients) meaningful access to their LEP applicants and

³ "Department of Transportation Order 5610.2(a)." DOT Order 5610.2(a). N.p., 4 May 2016, https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental_justice/ej_at_dot/orders/order_56102a/

⁴ California High-Speed Rail Authority Policy Directive. Subject: Environmental Justice Policy. August, 2012. http://hsr.ca.gov/docs/programs/title_VI/EJ%20Policy%208-20-12%202.pdf

⁵ "California High-Speed Rail Authority: Environmental Justice Guidance." August, 2012. http://hsr.ca.gov/docs/programs/title_VI/CHSRA%20EJ%20Guidance%208-14-2012.pdf

⁶ "LEP.gov - Limited English Proficiency (LEP): A Federal Interagency Website." LEP.gov - Limited English Proficiency (LEP): A Federal Interagency Website, 12 May 2016, <https://www.lep.gov/13166/eo13166.html>.

beneficiaries⁷. To assist the agencies with this endeavor, the Department of Justice issued a general guidance document, which sets forth the compliance standards that recipients must follow so that the programs and activities they normally provide in English are accessible to LEP persons, and thus, do not discriminate based on national origin in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and its implementing regulations.

In the December 2015 EO 13166 accomplishment report, federal agencies continue to improve implementation of EO 13166 via new tools, training, and resources. Stronger coordination, integrated use of data and technology, increased technical assistance, and improved outreach and education have also enhanced EO 13166 implementation.

Accordingly, the Authority provides LEP access, at a minimum, to individuals who are representative of more than five percent of the population in California or the county in which the Authority is providing an activity or service. The Authority has also provided this service, if/as requested.

CAHSR Limited English Proficiency Policy⁸

The Authority has developed and maintains an LEP Plan⁹ in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes, Presidential Executive Order 13166 and California State law--Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act (Government Code Sections 7290-7299.8). It is the policy of the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) to communicate effectively and provide meaningful access to LEP individuals on all the Authority's programs, services and activities. The Authority shall provide free language assistance services to LEP individuals whom we encounter or whenever an LEP individual requests language assistance services. The Authority will treat LEP individuals with dignity and respect. Language assistance will be provided through a variety of methods to include: staff interpreters, translation and interpreter service contracts, formal arrangements with local organizations providing interpretation or translation services or telephonic interpreter services.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101–12213)

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability. It affords similar protections against discrimination to Americans with disabilities as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which made discrimination based on race, religion, sex, national origin, and other characteristics illegal. In addition, unlike the Civil Rights Act, the ADA also requires employers to provide reasonable accommodations to employees with disabilities, and imposes accessibility requirements on public accommodations, including public meetings and hearings.

The Authority does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities and makes all practicable provisions to accommodate these individuals. It uses public meeting facilities and hearing accommodations that are ADA compliant, are accessible via transit, and have parking that includes ample number of disability spaces. The Authority makes reasonable accommodations in policies, practices, and procedures so persons with disabilities have equal access by providing communication aids and services and by removing physical barriers to gain access facilities when it is practicable to do so.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended (29 U.S.C. § 794d)

In 1998, the U.S. Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to require federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities.

⁷ Beneficiaries are those that are direct services or benefits administered by an agency, such as immigration services or operation of the federal prison system.

⁸ "California High-Speed Rail Authority Policy Directive. Subject: Limited English Proficiency Policy." 7 September, 2012. http://hsr.ca.gov/docs/programs/title_VI/LEP%20Policy%209-7-12%202.pdf

⁹ "California High-Speed Rail Authority: Limited English Proficiency Plan." April, 2012. http://hsr.ca.gov/docs/programs/title_VI/CHSRA%20LEP%20Plan%20Final.pdf

Congress enacted Section 508 to eliminate barriers in information technology, to make available new opportunities for people with disabilities, and to encourage development of technologies that will help achieve these goals. The law applies to all federal agencies when they develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology. Under Section 508, agencies must give disabled employees and the public access to information that is comparable to the access available to others.

1.3 Demographics

The section provides the demographics for this region using data from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey (ACS). Table 1 summarizes information on race and ethnicity in the communities, cities, and counties along the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section. As shown in Table 1, Bakersfield, Tehachapi, Rosamond, Lancaster, and Palmdale each have a higher percentage of African-Americans than the respective counties in which they are located. Table 1 also shows that the percentage of Hispanics/Latinos in the community of Edison and the City of Palmdale exceeds their respective countywide averages. The percentage of Asians in the City of Bakersfield (6.2 percent) slightly exceeds the percentage of Asian residents in Kern County as a whole (4.1 percent). Tehachapi, Rosamond, Lancaster, and Palmdale each have percentages of American Indian/Alaska Native residents that exceed their respective countywide averages, but these residents make up a very small portion of the population. Similarly, Edison, Tehachapi, and Lancaster each have a population of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander residents that exceeds the countywide averages, but this population is small.

Table 1: Demographics of the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section by Race/Ethnicity

Jurisdiction	Total Population	% White ²	Percentage Minority Populations ¹						
			% Black/African American ²	% Asian ²	% American Indian/Alaska Native ²	% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander ²	% Some Other Race ²	% Two or More Races ²	% Hispanic/Latino (Any Race)
State of California	37,659,181	39.7	5.7	13.1	0.4	0.4	0.2	2.6	37.9
Kern County (Reference Community)	848,204	37.9	5.3	4.1	0.7	0.1	0.1	2.0	49.8
City of Bakersfield	352,918	36.7	7.9	6.2	0.6	0.1	0.2	2.4	46.0
Community of Edison	2,511	43.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.5	55.0
Golden Hills CDP	7,705	66.8	1.6	1.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.7	28.5
Keene CDP	360	92.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.2
City of Tehachapi	14,014	56.3	6.2	1.6	1.5	0.2	0.3	0.4	33.5
Rosamond CDP	18,700	47.3	8.3	3.9	0.9	0.0	0.1	3.6	36.0
Los Angeles County (Reference Community)	9,893,481	27.5	8.1	13.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.1	47.9
City of Lancaster	157,368	34.4	18.5	5.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	2.5	38.4
City of Palmdale	153,885	24.1	14.1	4.3	0.4	0.1	0.3	2.0	54.7

Source: 2009-2013 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, Table B03002 (U.S. Census Bureau, http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml).

¹ Note: Row percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

² Not Hispanic or Latino.

CDP = Census-Designated Place

Note: Bold numbers indicate % minority (race and/or ethnicity) that are higher than the respective County average

1.4 Limited English Proficiency

The data presented in Table 2 show the percentage of households within the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section that are of LEP¹⁰, based on ACS data. LEP households are households in which no member speaks English as their primary language and who have limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English. The percentage of residents with limited English proficiency in the community of Edison is 10.9 percent, slightly higher than Kern County’s 9.1 percent. The City of Palmdale also has a sizeable percentage of residents with limited English proficiency (10.0 percent), though it falls below the Los Angeles County percentage (14.5 percent).

Table 2: Summary of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Characteristics in the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section

Jurisdiction	% of Households w/ Limited English Proficiency
State of California	9.9%
Kern County (Reference Community)	9.1%
City of Bakersfield	6.7%
Community of Edison	10.9%
Golden Hills CDP	3.3%
Keene CDP	0.0%
City of Tehachapi	3.2%
Rosamond CDP	6.2%
Los Angeles County (Reference Community)	14.5%
City of Lancaster	6.1%
City of Palmdale	10.0%

Source: 2009–2013 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates (U.S. Census Bureau, http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml).

Note: **Bold** numbers indicate values that are higher than the respective County average

¹⁰ Environmental justice does not evaluate impacts on LEP populations, as LEP populations do not automatically include only minority of low-income populations. For example, there may be substantial LEP populations in a corridor that speak Russian. Russians are considered white non-Hispanic, and therefore, not minority. Russians also may have a broad spectrum of incomes. For the purpose of implementing LEP Guidance, Russian is a language that would be considered for translation services and some document translation. However, it is not an environmental justice community per se. When minority and/or low-income populations are also LEP populations, they will be evaluated for environmental justice effects, but not because they are LEP populations.

1.5 Socioeconomics

Table 3 provides socioeconomic information on the communities, cities, and counties along the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section. As shown in Table 3, the City of Bakersfield has a slightly lower percentage of low-income residents (20.4 percent) than Kern County as a whole (22.9 percent). The cities of Lancaster and Palmdale each have a higher percentage of low-income residents (21.5 and 21.2 percent, respectively) than Los Angeles County overall (17.8 percent). The cities of Lancaster and Palmdale also have a higher percentage of low-income families than the county in which they are located. Of all the cities and communities along the Project Section, only the cities of Tehachapi, Lancaster, and Palmdale have a median household income that falls below the median household income of the respective counties in which they are located.

Table 3: Summary of Low-Income Populations, Senior Citizen Populations, Median Household Income Populations in the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section

Jurisdiction	% of Population Low-Income ¹	Existing # of Households	Median Household Income ⁴	% of Low-Income Families ⁶
State of California	15.9	12,542,460	\$61,094	12.0
Kern County (Reference Community)	22.9	255,271	\$48,552	19.0
City of Bakersfield	20.4	109,932	\$56,204	16.7
Community of Edison	13.7	641	\$65,624	13.7
Golden Hills CDP	16.8	2,919	\$59,353	11.6
Keene CDP	4.4	157	\$71,042	0.0
City of Tehachapi	12.4	3,305	\$43,949	9.1
Rosamond CDP	17.7	5,949	\$60,540	15.6
Los Angeles County (Reference Community)	17.8	3,230,383	\$55,909	14.2
City of Lancaster	21.5	48,001	\$50,193	18.2
City of Palmdale	21.2	41,520	\$53,922	17.6

Source: 2009–2013 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates (U.S. Census Bureau, http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml).

¹ Table B17001 was used for cities and CDPs. Table B17010 was used for block groups in the community of Edison.

² Table B01001.

³ Table S1101.

⁴ Tables B19013 and B11016 were used for cities and CDPs. Table S1903 was used for block groups in the community of Edison.

⁵ Table B16002.

⁶ Table B17010.

CDP = Census-Designated Place

Note: **Bold** numbers indicate % population and families considered low-income that are *higher* than the County average. For Median Household Income, **Bold** values are those *lower* than the County average.

2 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

The FRA/Authority Outreach Team (Outreach Team) has identified several transportation, environmental justice, and social justice advocacy groups, as well as stakeholders and community organizations that provide services to or represent minority and low-income persons in the project area. Table 2-1 provides some examples of these groups. These organizations and groups have been the primary focus of previous environmental justice outreach conducted in this corridor over the last several years and for the continued efforts as the environmental process continues. Appendix A provides a complete list of environmental justice stakeholders, containing environmental justice organizations and appropriate contacts, including those with whom contact still needs to occur. The Authority will regularly contact and update its master Project Section database.

These organizations and groups advocate on behalf of minority and low-income populations in the study area and are potential audiences for targeted outreach efforts and can be categorized into four types: 1. Business; 2. Senior; 3. Environmental Justice; and 4. Social Justice. Table 4 identifies a target list of organizations within each category, specifically dedicated to serving low-income and Environmental Justice communities throughout the corridor. A detailed table containing organizational information can be found in Appendix A. As outreach continues, additional groups may be identified and added to either outreach list. The environmental justice database will be updated periodically to track organizational contacts and outreach efforts.

Table 4: Example of Environmental Justice Advocacy Groups within or serving populations within the Bakersfield to Palmdale Section

Organization Name	Organization Type	Description	Geography
Antelope Valley African American Chamber of Commerce	Business	Serves the African American business community in the Antelope Valley	Lancaster/ Palmdale
Antelope Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Business	Serves the Latino business community in the Antelope Valley	Lancaster/ Palmdale
Antelope Valley NAACP	Social Justice	Civil rights organization	Lancaster/ Palmdale
Antelope Valley Senior Center	Senior	Services include providing food bank distribution to income-qualifying seniors over 60 and providing English as a Second Language classes	Lancaster/ Palmdale
Antelope Valley YMCA	Social Justice	They provide before-school and after-school programs that offer working parents a safe haven for their children outside regular school hours	Lancaster/ Palmdale
Bakersfield College - African American Student Union	Environmental Justice	Serves the African American student community at the college	Bakersfield

Table 4: Example of Environmental Justice Advocacy Groups within or serving populations within the Bakersfield to Palmdale Section

Organization Name	Organization Type	Description	Geography
Bakersfield College - Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan	Environmental Justice	Serves the Chicano/Latino student community at the college	Bakersfield
California Central Valley Tribal Transportation Environmental Justice Collaborative Project - Tubatulabal of Kern Valley	Environmental Justice	Kern (and seven other counties) worked with the Tubatulabals of Kern Valley to develop a Tribal Environmental Justice Transportation report that addressed tribal transportation issues, cultural resources, and other matters of mutual concern.	Central Valley
California Communities Against Toxics	Environmental Justice	Advocates for environmental justice, pollution prevention, and world peace	Statewide
California Environmental Justice Alliance	Environmental Justice	Works to achieve environmental justice by advancing policy solutions	Statewide
California Kids IAQ (Indoor Air Quality)	Environmental Justice	A non-profit community service organization involved in addressing Indoor Air Quality issues in public schools	Statewide
California Latino Civil Rights Network	Social Justice	Source center for local organizations and individuals to promote the active civic participation of Latinos in California	Fresno, CA
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	Social Justice	A nonprofit legal services program that seeks economic justice and human rights on behalf of California's rural poor	Statewide; Central Valley office in Arvin
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice	Environmental Justice	Provides support and leadership to communities in the environmental justice struggle	Southern California
Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment	Social Justice	Advocate for legal rights of low-income communities and communities of color facing environmental hazards	Statewide
Central California Environmental Justice Network	Environmental Justice	Network focusing on uniting activists and working with community members and stakeholders at local, regional, state and federal levels to identify environmental justice issues and develop sustainable solutions	Central Valley

Table 4: Example of Environmental Justice Advocacy Groups within or serving populations within the Bakersfield to Palmdale Section

Organization Name	Organization Type	Description	Geography
Central Valley Air Quality Coalition	Environmental Justice	Working toward clean air/better air quality	Central Valley
Centro Binacional Para El Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño	Social Justice	Serves the indigenous migrant communities from Mexico that reside in California	Central Valley
Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community	Environmental Justice	Protects the environmental health and safety of LA County residents	Los Angeles County
Communities for a Better Environment	Environmental Justice	Builds people's power in California's communities of color and low income communities to achieve environmental health and justice	Statewide
Community Action Partnership of Kern	Social Justice	Provides an integrated network of services as the official anti-poverty agency for the county of Kern	Kern County
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice	Environmental Justice	An environmental health and justice non-profit organization working towards a safe and healthy environment for communities that are disproportionately suffering the negative impacts of industrial pollution	Southern California
English Language Learners, Bakersfield City School District	Environmental Justice	The English Language Learner Services Department promotes academic excellence, equity, and access for the District's 8,495 English learners	Bakersfield
Grace Resources	Social Justice	A non-profit service organization that provides job training, education, food, clothing, shelter, and medical to the homeless community and low-income populations in the Antelope Valley	Lancaster/ Palmdale
Housing Rights Center	Social Justice	Supports and promotes fair housing through education, advocacy and litigation	Lancaster/ Palmdale
IVAN Kern (Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods)	Environmental Justice	Environmental justice monitoring and reporting network	Kern County

Table 4: Example of Environmental Justice Advocacy Groups within or serving populations within the Bakersfield to Palmdale Section

Organization Name	Organization Type	Description	Geography
Kern County Aging and Adult Services	Senior	Provides community-based services to seniors and disabled adults, and provides daily noon meals, social activities and information clearinghouse services	Kern County
Kern County Black Chamber of Commerce	Business	Serves as an advocate for the creation, development and general economic growth of Low and Moderate Income communities and African American businesses in the Kern County Area	Kern County
Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Business	Promotes Hispanic and minority-owned businesses, and those that cater to, or employ Hispanics	Kern County
Kern Minority Contractors Association	Business	Works with local minority groups in Kern County to help access contracting jobs and business opportunities	Kern County
Latino Issues Forum	Social Justice	Focuses on issues related to access to higher education, economic development, health care and citizenship from the perspective of how these latter factors will affect the social and economic future of the Latino community	Statewide
Moving Forward Network	Social Justice	Supports the organizing, advocacy, education and research efforts of partners around the United States toward improving public health, quality of life, environmental integrity, labor conditions and environmental justice.	National
National Chavez Center	Social Justice	Living memorial/visitors center dedicated to the advancement of the legacy of Cesar Chavez, and serves as the location of Cesar Chavez Foundation	Central Valley
People's Community Organization for Reform and Empowerment (People's CORE)	Social Justice	Empower the Asian Pacific Islander and general community in contributing to systemic social change through bottom-up community organizing	Los Angeles/ South Bay
Pueblo Y Salud	Social Justice	Serves the Latino community with a focus on education, civic participation, health, culture, drugs, alcohol, and tobacco prevention services	Lancaster/ Palmdale

Table 4: Example of Environmental Justice Advocacy Groups within or serving populations within the Bakersfield to Palmdale Section

Organization Name	Organization Type	Description	Geography
Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)	Social Justice	Provides training, technical/financial resources and advocacy for rural communities	Western US
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Environmental Justice Advisory Group	Environmental Justice	Works to collaboratively educate the public and community stakeholders about current District activities and air quality in general	San Joaquin Valley
The Community Action League	Social Justice	Advocates for the improvement of economic, political and social conditions in the Antelope Valley and seeks to empower community members	Lancaster/ Palmdale
TriCounty Watchdogs	Environmental Justice	An environmental organization for the Mountain Communities located on the northern border where Los Angeles, Kern, and Ventura counties meet; its mission is to protect natural and cultural resources, and promote ecotourism and responsible growth	Kern/Los Angeles/ Ventura Counties
Union de Vecinos	Environmental Justice	A network of neighborhood committees promoting economic and environmental justice, civic engagement, preservation of housing, and building healthy and stable community neighborhoods	Los Angeles County

Source: Authority 2017

3 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OUTREACH RECOMMENDATIONS

Throughout the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section corridor, the federal component of the environmental process requires the Authority to provide focused outreach to environmental justice communities. This effort is in addition to, but at the same level of detail as, the overall outreach effort in the Bakersfield to Palmdale Section. The environmental justice outreach effort is intended not only to inform communities of potential effects associated with the construction and operation of the alternatives being considered, but also to solicit input and provide access to all populations along the corridor participate in the decisions that influence alternative selection, station locations and design, as well as all other related facilities and components of the proposed project.

Although this EJ Outreach Plan is geographically specific to the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section corridor, areas of overlap exist at the station locations with the sections to the north and south, Fresno to Bakersfield Locally Generated Alternative Section and Palmdale to Burbank, respectively. The Bakersfield to Palmdale Outreach Team coordinates closely with both the Fresno to Bakersfield in the north and Palmdale to Burbank Project Section in the south to

optimize (and not duplicate) environmental justice outreach efforts, as well as to provide a consistent message to stakeholders.

The Outreach Team, in coordination with the Environmental Team, has collected and analyzed demographic and income information to identify minority and low-income populations in the project area (Section 2) to focus the environmental justice outreach. This collaboration is part of the environmental justice process, as the activities conducted with and input gathered from environmental justice stakeholders become part of the DEIR/EIS for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section. As the development of alternatives and station option designs have occurred, the Authority has conducted additional investigations to capture environmental justice stakeholders or populations that may have been inadvertently missed. Refer to Appendix C for maps of the locations of environmental justice populations within the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section. The Outreach Team documents outreach activities as they occur for inclusion in the Draft EIR/EIS environmental justice chapter.

3.1 Environmental Justice Outreach Approach

The Authority is implementing a comprehensive outreach program that reaches a diverse array of interests and populations throughout the corridor. The outreach approach outlined below is being used to continue to engage environmental justice stakeholders during project development and the environmental process. These outreach efforts are being conducted in close coordination with the Authority's Southern California Regional Director and the Authority's Offices of Communication and Legislation.

The key strategic objectives of this Environmental Justice Outreach Plan are to:

- Identify and actively engage environmental justice advocacy and community groups and elected officials representing minority and low-income populations throughout the corridor; provide structured and unstructured opportunities for these groups and officials to provide input.
- Provide clear, concise and accurate public information, in identified languages meeting the Authority's LEP Plan's translation threshold (5 percent of total LEP population within a Census tract) within the corridor. The Authority has developed an LEP Plan and is compliant with the Department of Justice LEP guidance to confirm that information about the project is accessible to LEP populations within the corridor.
- Develop and implement multiple avenues of communication methods for engaging environmental justice stakeholders to receive questions and comments (e.g., public meetings, group presentations, activity centers, project website, bilingual hotline, etc.).
- Facilitate constructive dialogue between key environmental justice stakeholders and the FRA/Authority; communicate back to minority and low-income populations how feedback has been reflected in the process.
- Effectively communicate the vision, purpose, and benefits of a high-speed rail system in California.
- Accurately document and respond to all public input received and meet CEQA/NEPA requirements.

To achieve the above strategic objectives, the Authority will adhere to the following outreach best practices:

- Proactivity – outreach to minority and low-income populations should happen “early and often” to identify and address environmental justice concerns as far in advance of potential impacts of alternatives considered as possible.
- Inclusivity – offer early and continuous opportunities for input on project development, alternatives being considered, and advancements to a broad spectrum of affected or interested stakeholders.

- Sensitivity – be informed and aware of minority and low-income population sensitivities and historical experiences and relationships; consider these sensitivities in information sharing approaches and techniques.
- Consistency – provide all presentations, written/visual messaging, and informal conversations, regardless of language, with the same information.
- Accessibility – make meeting times and locations accessible, prioritizing locations where minority and low-income populations feel comfortable, times that are convenient, tailor outreach materials and distribution methods to maximize reach, and offer translation services that meet or exceed LEP standards.
- Follow-through – follow up with stakeholder comments and concerns promptly and comprehensively.

In addition, the Outreach Team has reviewed recent reports on how minority and low-income populations may gain access to information and provide feedback. For example, according to the Pew Research Center, low-income and specific minority populations are more likely to be dependent on smart phones than on telephone land lines.¹¹ Similarly, low-income populations are more likely to rely on smart phones over computers for Internet connectivity.¹² This means that social media and online outreach can be an effective tool for environmental justice populations not only to obtain and stay up-to-date on information that the Authority is providing, but also as a tool to participate in the planning process by providing input. This research notwithstanding, the Outreach Team will utilize a variety of communication and input tools, not just online ones. Each of these considerations has been factored into the Environmental Justice Outreach Plan recommendations.

3.2 Outreach Activities

Table 5 outlines outreach activities the Authority has conducted over the history of this Project Section. The Authority continues to conduct these kinds of outreach activities to further engage minority and low-income populations in the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section. Future activities will be coordinated to coincide with major milestones of the environmental process, and vetted before implementation by Authority staff. Furthermore, as the outreach ramps up to major decision-making milestones, additional coordination with the environmental justice advocacy and community groups would be conducted to maximize the distribution of our outreach efforts.

¹¹ Smith, Aaron. "U.S. Smartphone Use in 2015." Pew Research Center Internet Science Tech RSS. Pew Research Center, 01 Apr. 2015. <http://www.pewinternet.org/2015/04/01/us-smartphone-use-in-2015/>

¹² *Ibid.*

Table 5: Public Participation and Outreach Examples

Outreach Category	Target Audience	Outreach Activity	Intended Outcome
Public Meetings	All High-Speed Rail Stakeholders	Host periodic public meetings on the high-speed rail EIR/EIS process for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section and solicit public comment	Disseminate key high-speed rail EIR/EIS updates and receive suggestions and feedback
Organizational Stakeholder Contact	Environmental Justice Organizations	Connect with environmental justice advocacy and community groups to coordinate opportunities to meet with the FRA/Authority to offer input on the project and on the stakeholder outreach processes	Establish a direct line of communication and a credible reputation with representative environmental justice advocacy and community groups who work in the corridor; gather valuable local insights on environmental justice challenges and approaches
Local Stakeholder Contact	Project area Stakeholders, Focused on Minority and Low-Income Populations	Provide high-speed rail tables and booths at local fairs and community events; set up “pop-up**” exhibits and “community coffees***” in target neighborhood/ environmental justice population areas The booths would include comment cards in various languages and maps of the alignment and alternatives that the public can review and provide input on.	Directly engage members of minority and low-income populations in high-speed rail conversations to share relevant information, answer questions, listen to perspectives, and receive formal input; establish a two-way line of high-speed rail communication in affected communities
Group Stakeholder Meetings	Multiple Stakeholder Agencies/Organization	Organize meetings with multiple project area advocacy and community groups and host collaborative, round-table discussions on high-speed rail planning and key decisions	Gather and record topical high-speed rail information as it pertains to minority and low-income populations to inform high-speed rail processes
Digital Engagement	Project area Stakeholders, Focused on Minority and Low-Income Populations	Provide opportunities to participate, learn and provide input via online and mobile options	Directly engage members of minority and low-income populations without requiring in-person participation or home/office Internet access

* Informal information tables with specific information pertaining to targeted area

**Informal round-table type discussions with stakeholders in targeted area

Source: Federal Railroad Administration and the California High-Speed Rail Authority, 2016

3.3 Outreach Implementation

The following sections present a general implementation approach for the Environmental Justice Outreach Strategy. Section **Error! Reference source not found.** describes specific events, or other relevant events, organized and hosted by the FRA and Authority in which minority and low-income populations and organizations are invited to participate, receive updates, and offer feedback. Section **Error! Reference source not found.** describes an approach to scheduling outreach events at which an Authority outreach representative would share relevant information with target minority and low-income populations, and gather input and insights from event attendees, through any number of activities such as tabling at public events or presenting to local organizations. Information gathered during these events will inform the high-speed rail decision-making process.

Outreach efforts will be coordinated with project milestones, as detailed in Figure 2. Throughout the process, the Outreach Team will ensure that corridor environmental justice populations receive public information made available to them via scheduled events, mailings, website updates, and environmental justice stakeholder meetings. Specific strategies and efforts are outlined in Appendix B. The ongoing development and implementation of the described efforts will be further informed by direct input from environmental justice advocacy and community groups. Once the impacts (including beneficial impacts) to environmental justice populations are thoroughly evaluated in the Draft EIR/EIS, this information will be presented or shared with the public at any of the meeting formats presented in Table 5.

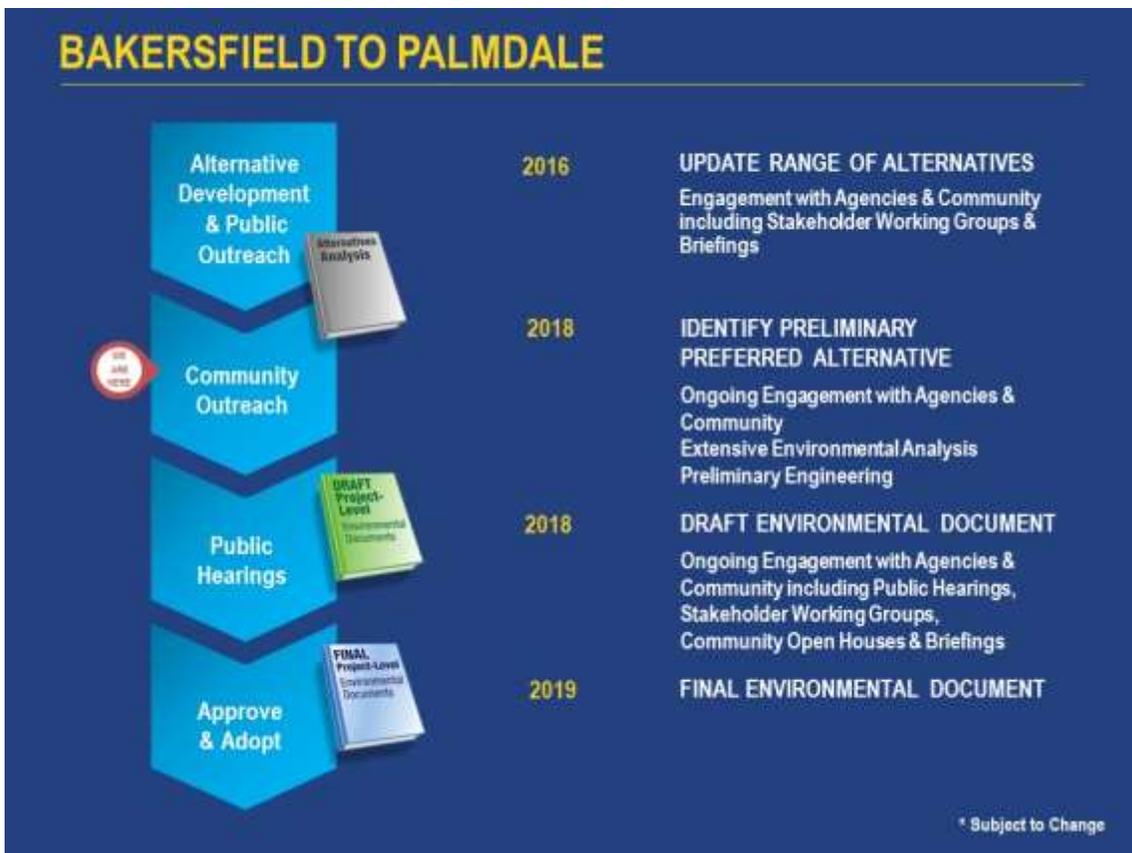


Figure 2-1: Draft Timeline for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Project Section

3.3.1 Public Meetings

The Outreach Team will schedule, coordinate, and facilitate public meetings, open houses and environmental review milestone meetings. These meetings are open to all members of the community, and planning and notification methods will attempt to maximize reach in the surrounding communities.

For environmental justice and LEP populations, the Outreach Team will evaluate the need for local and focused meetings at places where environmental justice and LEP populations gather, based on Team knowledge and input from local stakeholders. For these and general meetings, the Outreach Team will distribute meeting notifications to the established list of environmental justice advocacy and community groups via email and social media outlets. The Outreach Team will also place advertisements in local, non-English newspapers as determined by local demographics, and mail invitations in English and Spanish. The invitations will also include directions and a contact person (in other languages) for requesting translation services at these public meetings.

In the planning of public meetings, the FRA and Authority will evaluate the number of meetings to have and in what communities to have them, to help maximize reach and participation at these meetings. This has been the standard protocol for all meetings that have been held in the corridor to date. In conjunction with the FRA and Authority, the Outreach Team will choose and secure venues that will be easily accessible, by car or public transportation, such that any member of the community can attend. These venues include recreation centers, adult/senior centers, schools, churches, etc. The Outreach team will take care of all logistics, including providing meeting materials that include project fact sheets, welcome sheets, comment sheets and graphic displays in English and Spanish.

All public meetings will be advertised and hosted per the requirements and best practices set forth by the FRA and Authority, including following Title VI and the Authority's LEP requirements. These practices include offering translation services and translated documents such as comment cards and fact sheets in languages that are predominate for LEP populations in the area where a public meeting is planned. Given the diversity in Southern California, it is probable that translation services are provided in multiple languages at multiple meetings. The Authority has and will continue to evaluate LEP needs for local and regional events to adhere to or exceed LEP guidelines.

After each public meeting, meeting notes summarizing public comments and feedback will be prepared and distributed internally within the FRA and Authority. The content of the comments will be used for preparing responses to comments and/or for use to further refining project details. The Outreach Team will also develop and maintain a calendar of public outreach meetings and produce public meeting summaries that concisely capture key take-away messages from the environmental justice stakeholders in attendance.

The Authority's LEP Guidance requires translation when:

Percent of LEP Population that speaks a specific language in a specific geography is EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN the percent of the total population of reference community.

Example:

Language LEP Population % of Total County Population	
Census Tract 1	Census Tract 2
Spanish 25%	Spanish 80%
Japanese 10%	Armenian 5%
Korean 1%	Russian 6%

- If the meeting is held for a community that is in Tract 1, translation services would be provided in Spanish & Japanese only.
- For Tract 2, translation services would be provided in Spanish, Armenian & Russian.
- If a meeting is held for both communities, translation services would be provided in Spanish, Japanese, Armenian & Russian.

3.3.2 Environmental Justice and LEP Group Events and Meetings

In addition to coordinating FRA/Authority-hosted public meetings, the Project Team will identify on-the-ground outreach opportunities through which the Authority will increase their communication and engagement with minority and low-income populations in the study area. These outreach opportunities will be coordinated with Project Section milestones to share and gather timely and relevant information. The Project Team will develop and maintain a calendar of potential environmental justice events, and update the calendar periodically with upcoming events. The Project Team will send advance notification of outreach events to environmental justice advocacy and community groups to allow environmental justice stakeholders to schedule accordingly. A Project Team outreach representative will attend each of the approved identified events to share and receive relevant information from the target environmental justice audience using the most relevant outreach strategy for the identified event (e.g., staffing a booth at public events, presenting to local organizations, speaking on a webinar, etc.). The Project Team will provide information about the process in a format that environmental justice organizations and elected officials representing minority and low-income populations can use to easily distribute to their constituents, such as in-language constituent newsletters and community news items.

In addition to public outreach, the Project Team will coordinate with the Project's Cultural Resources Specialists to ensure that historic and archaeological resources that might be associated with well-established ethnic or other groups are identified. Such properties have the potential to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP). According to the National Park Service, TCPs are properties that can be defined generally as those that are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP because of their association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that are rooted in that community's history, and are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community. "Traditional" in this context refers to those beliefs, customs, and practices of a living community of people that have been passed down through generations, usually orally or through practice. The traditional cultural significance of a historic property, then, is significance derived from the role the property plays in a community's historically rooted beliefs, customs, and practices. Examples of properties possessing such significance include:

- A location associated with the traditional beliefs of a Native American group about its origins, cultural history, or the nature of the world;
- A rural community whose organization, buildings and structures, or patterns of land use reflect the cultural traditions valued by its long-term residents;
- An urban neighborhood that is the traditional home of a particular cultural group, and that reflects its beliefs and practices;
- A location where Native American religious practitioners have historically gone, and are known or thought to go today, to perform ceremonial activities in accordance with traditional cultural rules of practice; and,
- A location where a community has traditionally carried out economic, artistic, or other cultural practices important in maintaining its historic identity.

3.3.3 Digital Engagement

The Outreach Team will develop ways for stakeholders to learn about the project and provide input via smartphones, other mobile devices, and stationary communication devices such as computers. For example, the Authority may use mobile polling at community events and public meetings or provide project information that can be accessible via smartphones. As such, the Outreach Team will identify digital engagement opportunities that allow individuals to engage outside of work hours, do not require travel, and require an hour or less of participation. The Outreach Team will continue to use social media and digital outreach to provide information about broader engagement opportunities. In addition, the Outreach Team will continue to coordinate with Authority staff and provide social media content for existing Authority branded social media platforms (i.e. Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube). Digital engagement approaches will

be closely coordinated with environmental justice advocacy and community groups to promote effective engagement and to leverage increased participation. This type of engagement is intended to supplement the overall environmental justice outreach, keeping in mind that not all persons may have access to computers or other forms of electronics.

3.3.4 Environmental Justice Organizations and Stakeholder Working Group Engagement

The Outreach Team will conduct regular Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) meetings over the course of the environmental process as a more focused tool to gather community wide input on the project and provide updates. The SWG is comprised of leaders representing a broad cross-section of the community including: environmental justice, business, labor, environmental, faith, education, and community organizations. SWG members are tasked to serve as liaisons between their constituency and the FRA/Authority. At SWG meetings, these stakeholders are asked to share the provided information with their constituents and community feedback is requested. SWGs have been ongoing in this section for a couple of years now, and environmental justice organizations have been invited and participated in them. The Outreach Team will continue to enhance the invitation list as additional stakeholders are identified.

3.3.5 Deeper Reach Implementation

To guide and inform further the existing environmental justice efforts, the Outreach Team has developed a focused alignment outreach plan (Appendix B). The plan takes into consideration the cultural, ethnic, and income diversity unique to each corridor city, the potential impacts, and outreach strategies to reach and engage the varying populations.

3.3.6 Deliverables

The implementation of the outreach strategy and outreach activities detailed above will lead to a series of deliverables identified below. These deliverables will be used to inform, among other items, project refinements, environmental mitigation plans, and future outreach activities. These deliverables are updated on a routine basis and, thus, multiple versions may ultimately be delivered at the end of the environmental justice effort. These deliverables are:

- *Environmental Justice Database* - a database tool that records organizational contacts and tracks outreach efforts over time. The database will be updated at key project milestones (including Stakeholder Working Groups, open house meetings, and significant project updates). Additionally, as new organization contacts are identified, these will be added to the database on an ongoing basis.
- *External Outreach Meeting Schedule* – a calendar of external outreach meetings or events at which an Authority outreach representative, either a consultant and an Authority staff member, will be present; this schedule will be reviewed and approved by Authority staff prior to implementation

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5 REVISION HISTORY

Revisions were made to this document on September 16, 2016 to incorporate RDP and environmental team edits and feedback.

- Revision 1, dated June 2017
- This is revision 2, dated November 2017