

# APPENDIX P7

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## Environmental Justice & Title VI Analysis: Next Steps



## P7 NEXT STEPS

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In addition to demonstrating compliance with its statutory obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 12898, this report represents a significant effort to consider social equity in a regional planning context. The analyses included in the report explored various Draft Plan benefits and burdens. For instance, an overall positive impact on transit accessibility and housing choice will be felt in Environmental Justice (EJ) communities. Despite these benefits, however, the transportation investment analysis reveals several disparities by income and minority status on per household and per capita total investment in the Draft Plan. Additionally, the burdens associated with exposure to air pollution from living near freeways were found to be slightly more in EJ communities than in the remainder of the region. However, the benefits from roadway capacity investments were found to be proportional to the EJ communities' share of population in the region.

SJCOG again incorporated public health metrics into the regional planning context and deployed the metrics to understand the impact of its investments in environmental justice communities. In many ways, this report represents a snapshot of the region at a fixed point in time and much of what is presented here is limited by elements of the planning process and the methodology used to conduct the analysis.

Moving forward, this section summarizes some of the next steps for SJCOG, which build upon the findings from the Environmental Justice, Title VI, and Social Equity Report. These next steps refer to implementation measures of the 2022 RTP/SCS, as well as refinements to the equity analysis for the next RTP/SCS update.

### RTP/SCS Implementation

SJCOG is committed to meeting the mobility and access needs of low-income, minority and other transportation-disadvantaged populations. This

commitment is reflected in the highlighted implementation activities below:

- **Measure K Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Safe Routes to School Program and Smart Growth Incentive Program:** The programs provide funding to expand and enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety and facilities within San Joaquin County, as well as infrastructure improvements that support infill development and neighborhood revitalization. In February 2021, over \$20 million of Measure K funding was approved by the SJCOG Board to move 14 projects and plans forward, several of which are located within identified EJ communities.
- **SB 1 Planning Studies:** SJCOG will use a portion of its allocated SB 1 planning funds for the Active Transportation Plan in Priority Neighborhoods. This study examines existing bike and walking infrastructure across the region to determine barriers communities with higher rates of health disparities may face in accessing opportunities to improve physical health. This study will determine program and project needs for improving public health, reducing congestion, and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions at the neighborhood scale and assist local jurisdictions with pursuing implementation funds.
- **Stockton Mobility Collective:** This program is funded through an awarded \$7 million grant from the California Air Resource Board (CARB) for the Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP). The SJCOG grant, titled the Stockton Mobility Collective, is a bundle of projects including electric bike share, electric car share, mobile ticketing options, and workforce development. This program will result in a pilot project that will introduce

electric carshare and bikeshare services to the South Stockton area, a community of concern.

### Refinements to the Social Equity Analysis

To build upon the work presented in this document, SJCOG staff will continue to make improvements to the planning process and methodology to develop a

social equity and environmental justice lens for the San Joaquin region that ensures effective action on behalf of the region’s disadvantaged communities. With input from stakeholders and members of the public, SJCOG may pursue several items in the next RTP/SCS update to enhance efforts to address social equity in the region (Table P7-1).

**Table P7-1. Refinements for 2026 RTP/SCS Social Equity Analysis**

Planning Process Improvements	Methodology Enhancements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities for advocates and residents of EJ communities to participate in the design of public surveys.</li> <li>• Improve public surveys so that responses from residents from EJ communities could be easily identified.</li> <li>• Provide specific forums or focus groups on Environmental Justice, Title VI, and social equity issues in the San Joaquin region. One such forum would be SJCOG’s Speaker Series.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate key regional trends that effect low-income and minority communities in greater detail.</li> <li>• Use the RTP/SCS Regional Progress Report to monitor progress made toward the Plan's goals in Environmental Justice communities.</li> <li>• Use the findings of the Gentrification and Displacement Risk Assessment (Described in Chapter 3) to identify gentrification and displacement risk in the region.</li> </ul>