



# Environmental Justice

## BACKGROUND

State law directs San Diego LAFCO to address several factors anytime the Commission considers jurisdictional changes. The current listing of factors is codified in Government Code Section 56668 and includes considering whether proposed jurisdictional changes will promote environmental justice. This factor was added to statute beginning on January 1, 2008 and defined to mean the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the location of public facilities and the provision of public services.

## PURPOSE

This policy provides standards to guide the Commission in exercising its delegated growth management duties and powers relating to environmental justice. This includes establishing baseline values in orienting the Commission's decision-making and practices to ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of disadvantaged communities that historically have been disproportionately affected by pollution burdens and related economic inequalities.

## POLICY

### Policy Highlights



All residents in San Diego County – irrespective of race, culture, income, and citizenship – merit equal access to safe and reliable municipal services as well as protection from pollution burdens and their economic impacts.



The Commission attests environmental justice inseparably ties to climate change given the latter’s disproportionate effects on disadvantaged communities and their residents’ physical and mental well-being.



The Commission recognizes environmental justice as a critical element in making effective and equitable decisions and extends beyond addressing jurisdictional changes to include all aspects of its regulatory and planning responsibilities.



The Commission directs the Executive Officer to ensure an appropriate level of analysis is performed in all municipal service reviews to disclose existing pollution burdens and proximity on disadvantaged communities.

- a) Sources of key pollution burdens include – but not limited to – air quality, solid waste collection centers, hazardous waste facilities and operations, impaired water bodies, pesticide use sites, and high vehicle traffic routes.
- b) Disadvantaged communities are defined for purposes of this policy to meet any of the following criteria.
  - i. Any area comprising a distinct census measurement (tract or block) where the residents’ median household incomes are 80% or more below the overall county average.
  - ii. Any area currently designated as a disadvantaged by the State of California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.
  - iii. Any tribal lands.

Environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the location of public facilities and the provision of public services.



For the full policy please visit [www.sdlafco.org/resources/policies](http://www.sdlafco.org/resources/policies)