



## **Investments to Benefit Disadvantaged Communities** Senate Bill 535 (De León, Chapter 830, Statutes of 2012)

### *Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds* **Interim Guidance to Agencies Administering Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Monies**

**DRAFT FOR COMMENT**

Release Date: August 22, 2014  
Comments Due: September 15, 2014  
Board Consideration: September 18, 2014

California Environmental Protection Agency  
 **Air Resources Board**

# APPENDIX 1

This Appendix contains draft criteria that agencies will use to determine whether a project is located within or provides benefits to a disadvantaged community.

Much of the criteria in this Appendix are based on a project being located within the boundaries of a disadvantaged community or a specified distance from the boundary of a disadvantaged community. Maps that identify the census tract boundaries of disadvantaged communities will be available on the CalEnviroScreen 2.0 website (<http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/ces2.html>) after the Secretary for Environmental Protection finalizes the identifications of those communities in September 2014.

To support implementation of the criteria in the final Interim Guidance, ARB expects to post on the program website (<http://www.arb.ca.gov/auctionproceeds>) supplemental maps that show: the disadvantaged community census tracts with a ½ mile extended zone around the tract boundary, ZIP codes containing one or more census tracts identified as a disadvantaged community, and a list of impacted corridors.

The criteria in this Appendix are to be used in a two-step process to evaluate each project.

**Step 1 – Located Within:** First, agencies should find the appropriate table for their project type and evaluate the project to see if it meets the criteria for being located within a disadvantaged community. If the project meets the located within criteria, which also requires the project to provide benefits to a disadvantaged community, the funding can be counted toward the SB 535 targets and no further evaluation is needed.

**Step 2 – Provides Benefits To:** If the project does not meet the criteria for “located within,” agencies should move to this second step and evaluate whether the project meets the criteria for providing benefits to one or more disadvantaged communities.

Please note that agencies can use their GGRF appropriations to fund projects that do not meet the criteria in this Appendix; however, only the subset of projects that meet the criteria in this Appendix will be credited toward achieving the SB 535 targets for investments in disadvantaged communities.

This Appendix contains draft criteria tables for the project types listed below. These tables are a starting point for public review and further discussion with administering agencies. ARB staff may propose amendments to modify or remove existing criteria, or to add new criteria if there are significant benefits to disadvantaged communities that can be reasonably assured.

**1-1 Low-Carbon Transit Projects:** Projects will achieve GHG reductions by reducing passenger vehicle miles travelled through incentives, infrastructure, or operational improvements (e.g., providing better bus connections to intercity rail, encouraging people to shift from cars to mass transit).

## DRAFT CRITERIA TO EVALUATE PROJECTS

Potential administering agencies: CalSTA/CTC and Caltrans/Local Transit Agencies

**Step 1 – Located Within:** Evaluate the project to see if it meets at least one of the following criteria for being located in a DAC census tract\* and provides a desirable benefit to a DAC.

Project must meet at least one of the following criteria focused on increasing transit service or improving transit access for DAC residents, or reducing air pollution in a DAC:

- A. Project provides improved transit or intercity rail service for stations/stops in a DAC (e.g., new transit lines, more frequent service, rapid bus service for DAC residents).
- B. Project provides transit incentives to residents with a physical address in a DAC (e.g. vouchers, reduced fares).
- C. Project improves transit connectivity at stations/stops in a DAC (e.g. network/fare integration, better links between transit and active transportation).
- D. Project improves connectivity between travel modes for vehicles or equipment that service stations/stops in a DAC (e.g., bicycle racks on bus or rail).
- E. Project creates or improves infrastructure or equipment that reduces air pollution at a station/stop in a DAC (e.g., auxiliary power, charging stations).
- F. Project creates or improves infrastructure or equipment that reduces air pollution on regular routes that are primarily within a DAC (e.g., rail electrification, zero-emission bus).

**Step 2 – Provides Benefits To:** If the project does not meet the above criteria for “located within,” evaluate the project to see if it meets at least one of the following criteria for providing a desirable benefit to a DAC.

Project must meet at least one of the following criteria focused on increasing transit service or improving transit access for DAC residents, or reducing air pollution in a DAC:

- A. Project provides improved local bus transit service for riders using stations/stops within ½ mile of a DAC (e.g., more frequent service, rapid bus service).
- B. Project improves local bus transit connectivity for riders using stations/stops within ½ mile of a DAC (e.g., better links to active transportation, bicycle racks on local bus).
- C. Project provides improved intercity rail (and related feeder bus service), commuter bus or rail transit service for riders using stations/stops in a ZIP code that contains a DAC census tract (e.g., new lines, express bus service).
- D. Project provides improved intercity rail (and related feeder bus service), commuter bus or rail transit connectivity for riders using stations/stops in a ZIP code that contains a DAC census tract (e.g., network/fare integration, better links between local bus and intercity rail, bicycle racks on rail).
- E. Project will increase intercity rail (and related feeder bus service), commuter bus or rail transit ridership, with at least 25% of new riders from DACs.
- F. Project includes recruitment, agreements, policies or other approaches that result in at least 25% of project work hours performed by residents of a DAC.
- G. Project includes recruitment, agreements, policies or other approaches that result in at least 10% of project work hours performed by residents of a DAC participating in job training programs which lead to industry-recognized credentials or certifications.

\* For maps of DAC census tracts, refer to <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/ces2.html>

**1-2 Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Projects:** Projects will achieve GHG reductions by reducing vehicle miles travelled (e.g., increasing accessibility of housing, employment centers, and key destinations via low-carbon transportation options such as walking, biking, and transit).

## DRAFT CRITERIA TO EVALUATE PROJECTS

Potential administering agencies: SGC

**Step 1 – Located Within:** Evaluate the project to see if it meets at least one of the following criteria for being located in a DAC census tract\* and provides a desirable benefit to a DAC.

Project must meet the following criteria focused on reducing passenger vehicle miles travelled, while addressing housing needs and other regional planning objectives for DAC residents:

- A. A majority (50%+) of the project is within one or more DACs and reduces vehicle miles travelled, and the project is designed to avoid displacement of DAC residents and businesses.

**Step 2 – Provides Benefits To:** If the project does not meet the above criteria for “located within,” evaluate the project to see if it meets at least one of the following criteria for providing a desirable benefit to a DAC.

Project must meet at least one of the following criteria focused on reducing passenger vehicle miles travelled, while addressing housing needs and other regional planning objectives for DAC residents:

- A. Project is within ½ mile of a DAC and reduces vehicles miles travelled, and is designed to avoid displacement of DAC residents and businesses.
- B. Project includes recruitment, agreements, policies or other approaches that result in at least 25% of project work hours performed by residents of a DAC.
- C. Project includes recruitment, agreements, policies or other approaches that result in at least 10% of project work hours performed by residents of a DAC participating in job training programs which lead to industry-recognized credentials or certifications.

\* For maps of DAC census tracts, refer to <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/ces2.html>