



METROPOLITAN
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COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: MTC Legislation Committee

DATE: Jan.5, 2007

FR: Minority Citizens Advisory Committee

RE: Environmental Justice Principles

The Minority Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC) thanks the Commission for its March 2006 adoption of Environmental Justice Principles #1 and #2, as presented to the Commission by MCAC, and urges the Commission now to adopt the proposed Environmental Justice Principles (EJ) #3 and #4.

MCAC committee members, on Dec. 12, 2006, adopted a motion stating the committee's strong opinion that inequities exist, whether intentional or not, in the distribution of transportation funding based on race and income, and recommending that the Commission adopt proposed EJ Principles #3 and #4. The motion comes after careful review of the analysis called for in EJ Principle #2, and overseen by the joint MCAC/Partnership EJ Subcommittee.

Proposed EJ Principles #3 and #4, as initially presented by MCAC to the Commission in January 2006, are the following:

MCAC Proposed EJ Principle #3 – MTC should change its discretionary investment decisions and actions to mitigate identified inequities.

MCAC Proposed EJ Principle #4 – Ensure that adverse or potentially adverse disproportionate project impacts on low-income and/or minority communities are addressed and mitigated by project sponsors prior to MTC project or funding approval.

In discussion on this topic, members noted they would have preferred an analysis with 20 years of data instead of eight years of data. Even though the data before us shows inequities, a clearer demonstration of the inequities could be seen if there were a longer timeframe of data for expenditures, including rail and freeway projects.

Moreover, members expressed their opinion that the EJ Principles should serve as guidelines to prevent inequities from occurring in the future, regardless of the outcome of the analysis.

Thus, MCAC reaffirms its recommendation that the Commission adopt proposed EJ Principles #3 and #4.

Carlos Valenzuela / ca
Carlos Valenzuela, MCAC Chair