



About this guide

The purpose of this document is to outline a process for County of San Diego and other governmental organizations to effectively engage with the Environmental Justice Workgroup (Workgroup) membership. It serves as a guide for staff requesting advisement with Workgroup members for climate policies, projects, programs, initiatives, and other services.

The presenter guidance is informed by members of the Workgroup and aligned partners from community-based organizations focused on environmental and social justice efforts. It centers genuine relationships, strengthens community influence on decision-making that directly affects their lives, and creates opportunities for government accountability and participation in procedural equity. The document includes these components:

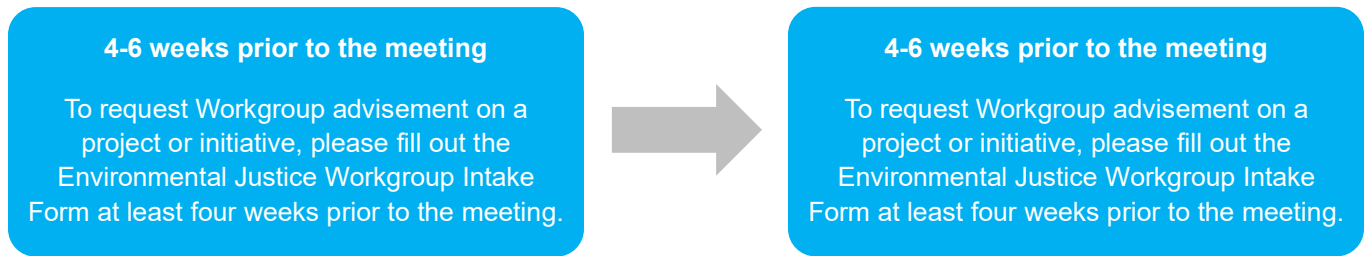
- Goals for the partnership between the Workgroup and governmental organizations
- Initiating a request to seek advisement from the Workgroup
- Practices that work best for coordination and engagement
- Shared language glossary
- Workgroup member roster

Please contact the County of San Diego’s Office of Sustainability & Environmental Justice (OSEJ) - Community Engagement & Outreach Manager, Bethany Facendini, for additional questions.

Goals for the meetings/partnerships

Goal 1	Advance equitable climate priorities and solutions across the region by informing County and other local governmental organizations’ policy, program, partnership priorities, and resource gaps (i.e. climate action plans, decarbonization frameworks, funding decisions, community projects, General Plan Environmental Justice Elements, etc.)
Goal 2	Center community perspectives and environmental justice principles in government projects and policies to influence tangible outcomes reflecting the community’s stated needs
Goal 3	Standardize expectations for presentation accessibility and ease of engagement (i.e., staff are equity informed, prepared with language-inclusive materials, consistent with communications, etc.)
Goal 4	Foster trust by maintaining transparency and accountability reflecting anti-racist practices, sharing power, and disrupting conventional practices that perpetuate inequitable systems
Goal 5	Create a culture of belonging that values lived and learned experiences, diverse perspectives, and relational ways of being in an environment that people feel safe to express themselves

Requests to consult with the Workgroup



The intake form can be found on the Environmental Justice Workgroup [webpage](#).

If invited to present on your project or initiative

Please provide the following **materials at a minimum of ten days in advance of the meeting** date:

- **A one-page overview** written in plain language aiming for a 5th-8th grade reading level. This is a best practice for improving readability and translation into multiple languages. Free online tools are available to help edit written content to reach the desired grade level. Make it known to the group what kind of consulting or action needs to be taken in advance. Include any relevant resource links for further contextual information.
- **A brief PowerPoint presentation** to allow for more interactive engagement with the group. For guidance, consider addressing the following elements in your presentation:
 - Introductions to the project and staff
 - Climate equity considerations including alignment to Climate Action Plans and the Regional Decarbonization Framework
 - Explicitly state relevancy for local Tribes and how they will directly or indirectly be impacted or involved.
 - Desired engagement from the Workgroup
 - How the Workgroup will receive follow-up information
 - Contact information of the project leaders

Limit one-directional presentations to 10 minutes or less; the majority of the time allocated for your presentation needs to be in consultation with the members.

- **Translated materials** as needed into one or more of the County's nine threshold languages. The presenters are responsible for providing translated materials if needed; OSEJ staff will provide interpretation during the meetings.

Sending these materials ahead of time will enable the Workgroup members to prepare and process the materials to enhance accessibility.

Please provide written **updates within three months after your presentation** to share how the Workgroup's feedback has been integrated into projects, any pertinent resources, and other opportunities for meaningful involvement.

Reciprocity

To support and honor the value of community participation, Workgroup members are recognized in a variety of ways for their lived experience, expertise, and sharing information with their networks. The intention is to uphold community engagement best practices to help overcome barriers for public participation and acknowledge potential emotional labor considering historical traumas when grappling with social justice topics.

There are other ways to demonstrate reciprocity when presenting to the Workgroup. For example, sharing relevant community resources (i.e. rebate programs); extending invitations to events; fostering genuine connections; providing detailed steps for implementation; including the group in celebrations of the project completion or milestones reached; and having a feedback loop with the information learned from engaging with this group.

Considerations for inclusion and belonging

The Workgroup fosters a culture of belonging among the members and subscribes to inclusive meeting practices. Please review the group's adopted "ways of being", consensus building model, and environmental justice principles before your presentation. Additional ways to improve meeting inclusion include these approaches:

- **Ensure language access and sensitivity** – The presentation materials should be translated as group members need it. There will be an interpreter available during the meetings as needed. Use this resource for trauma informed language considerations.
- **Make sure all voices are heard by sharing "airtime"** – There needs to be a balance in meetings, especially when there is a mix of government staff and community members present. Be sure not to overload members with information. Instead use high level points and allow for questions during and after presentations. Unequal airtime perpetuates power-over dynamics.
- **Provide space for lived experience** – Make time for members to share their direct experiences and concerns. For staff sustainability topics may be more technically focused on data and analytics, while for community and Workgroup members it is likely personal experience. Interconnections that fall outside of the immediate project scope are valid, worth hearing and exploring, even if they are not immediately actionable.
- **Create opportunities for interaction** – This will enhance collaboration and co-creation of your projects. For example, use virtual engagement tools like the chat box, jam boards, breakout rooms, or polling. For in-person meetings, small group work, pair and share activities, and asking for volunteers to demonstrate a point can be incorporated.
- **Adapt to different learning styles** – Think about how you can cater to different intelligences and learning styles (tactile, auditory, visual, kinesthetic, reading/writing, and more) in your presentation in interactive ways. Consider videos, role playing, guided visualizations, art or other experiences in addition to PowerPoint presentations to seek the information you hope to gain. This will make the experience more enjoyable and accessible for everyone.
- **Correlate information to relevant life experiences** – Provide tangible examples that directly relate to the group's lives.
- **Ensure images are representative reflecting the diversity of the region** – Visuals tell many stories spoken and unspoken. Be conscientious with the images selected for presentations and printed materials.
- **Discuss accountability for the climate priorities** – Share next steps and how the group's input will be used. Follow-up within three months on the expectations set, actions to be taken within specified timelines, how the advisement was integrated, and opportunities for further involvement.
- **Take the time to learn about local Tribal nations** - Do your due diligence and research land and Native history within the scope of the project. Understand what institutional and systemic harms have been done or continue to be perpetuated that undermine Tribal sovereignty. Create opportunities for continued input from Tribes in your project after your presentation. Tribal Workgroup representatives may need to consult with their Tribes to offer more holistic perspectives on your project.

Select key terms for shared language

Term	Definition or Examples
Anti-Racism	Refers to the work of actively opposing discrimination based on race by advocating for changes in political, economic, and social life. (National Association of Counties)
Belonging	Having the right and opportunity to contribute a meaningful voice and participate in the design of social and cultural structures. It is the communal and dynamic process of constantly revisiting and identifying the elements of our common good to produce social cohesion. (Othering & Belonging Institute)
BIPOC	Acronym for Black, Indigenous, People of Color
Culturally Responsive	Ability to understand and consider the different cultural backgrounds of the people you serve.
Decarbonization	Reducing the gases in the atmosphere that trap heat. The goal is to achieve a balance of the carbon cycle in nature, so that the planet stops warming.
Decolonization	Decolonization may be defined as the active resistance against colonial powers, and a shifting of power towards political, economic, educational, cultural, psychic independence and power that originate from a colonized nation's own indigenous culture. This process occurs politically and also applies to personal and societal psychic, cultural, political, agricultural, and educational deconstruction of colonial oppression
Environmental Justice	The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. (State of California)
Equity	The fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all, while striving to identify and eliminate barriers that have prevented the full participation of some groups. The principle of equity acknowledges that there are underserved and under-represented populations, and equity means increasing diversity by improving conditions of disadvantaged groups. Equity acknowledges and considers differences, disparities, and disproportionality to ensure a fair process and outcome.
Intersectionality	A theory that recognizes the complexity of identity and experience as constructed by multiple, interlocking systems of power (such as racism, classism, sexism...) for the purpose of understanding and shifting those systems of power. Intersectionality argues that classifications such as gender, race, class, and others cannot be examined in isolation from one another; they interact and intersect in individuals' lives and in society. (Term originally coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw)
Justice	The process of society moving from an unfair, unequal, or inequitable state to one that is fair, equal, or equitable. A transformative practice that relies on the entire community to acknowledge past and current harms to reform societal morals and subsequently the governing laws. Proactive enforcement of policies, practices, and attitudes that produce equitable access, opportunities, treatment, and outcomes for all regardless of the various identities that one holds (National Association of Counties)
LGBTQ+	Acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and additional related terms
Regeneration	Regeneration refers to the process of renewal, restoration, and growth that occurs after a period of decline or loss.
Sovereignty	Sovereignty is supreme power, freedom from external control, or autonomy, especially over a politically organized unit or a state.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)	Refers to the evolving knowledge acquired by indigenous and local peoples over hundreds or thousands of years through direct contact with the environment. This knowledge is specific to a location and includes the relationships between plants, animals, natural phenomena, landscapes and timing of events that are used for lifeways, including but not limited to hunting, fishing, trapping, agriculture, and forestry. TEK is an accumulating body of knowledge, practice, and belief, evolving by adaptive processes and handed down through generations by cultural transmission, about the relationship of living beings (human and non-human) with one another and with the environment. It encompasses the world view of indigenous people which includes ecology, spirituality, human and animal relationships, and more.
Trauma Informed Language	Consideration of how language may impact people differently based on their personal experiences with past or current traumatic events.
Tribal Sovereignty	Tribal sovereignty includes the right to govern one's community, the ability to preserve one's culture and resources, and the right to control one's own economy...As sovereign entities, Indian nations are guaranteed the power and/or right to determine their form of government, define citizenship, make and enforce laws through their own police force and courts, collect taxes, and regulate property use

Related resources

- [San Diego Regional Decarbonization Framework](#)
- [San Diego County 2024 Climate Action Plan](#)

Workgroup members

This section contains background information about Workgroup members so presenters can get to know the experiences and interests of the group.



Adrienne Fusek (She/Her)

What is your background that relates to this work? I grew up poor, facing housing and food insecurity with members of my family impacted by the (in)justice system. I teach environmental science and sustainability at San Diego State University and I lead the justice-centered climate education programming for the nonprofit In Good Company (IGC).

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? I do this work, through IGC, to help repair systemic injustices against people and the planet. My aim is to inspire local action to protect our planet's ability to support life as we know it.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? I hope to share my insights to inform regional projects so they might better serve all community members. I also hope to learn from and connect with other workgroup members.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? LGBTQ+, biracial

What is your favorite meal or food? Burritos are my all-time comfort food.

What are your hobbies? I love exploring the beauty of San Diego by bike, taking my dogs to the beach, and camping.



Andrew Pittman (He/Him)

What is your background that relates to this work? I am a tribal member from the Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians. My background comes from understanding and knowing my ancestors fought to protect our natural world and lifeways. We continue that today. The work I do through video and photo production has led me on a great path to understanding the variety of needs within the diverse tribal communities in the SoCal region.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? The best way I ground myself is to be in nature, to gather natural herbs and medicines, to listen to the earth. To see the needs of communities and to bring back dormant tribal ecological knowledge to my communities and abroad.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? In this workgroup I hope to accomplish a unique viewpoint and voice of advocacy for my tribal nation and surrounding tribal nations in the important matters of environmental and social justice. I intend to build relationships and to learn other perspectives to greater the living for all (humans and nature) in the region.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? I am part of the Los Coyotes Tribal community, along with the greater tribal community of SOCAL. I am also invested in the film and arts community.

What is your favorite meal or food? I don't have a preference of meal or food. I enjoy all food.

What are your hobbies? My hobbies include hiking, gathering herbs/medicines, and nature photography.



Anne Pierce (She/Her)

What is your background that relates to this work? I have been actively involved in the eastern region of San Diego County for many years. Initially, my involvement was in the community of Alpine; in the early 2000's I became an advocate further east in the various Backcountry communities, with a focus on Tribal collaboration and support. My professional focus is in education as a counselor and wellness with a strong emphasis

working with Tribal communities. I have been invested in our unique biodiversity and its preservation for the past 35 years, as a board member of an environmental non-profit.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? I support informed decision making, respecting and acting in reciprocity with the natural world, and further incorporating traditional knowledge, as a path toward sustainability and responding to our climate crisis. I feel strongly about groundwater conservation, forest health, and the health of youth across the region.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? I am committed to fostering inclusion and expanding agency in the communities of the far eastern region. Too often needs here have been left out in favor of urban and coastal areas of our county. I feel community centered voice is critical in informing decision-making processes at both the local and regional level. I hope to be able to increase climate collaboration with residents and youth in the backcountry to further the county's climate objectives. I hope to assist in bridging diverse ideas and worldviews, and to nurture a community-centered voice---a voice that is co-constructed, non-linear and outcome driven.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? I have been a rural resident of the county for the past 40 years. I am a parent, daughter, grandmother, and an elder. I am an activist in educational equity and environmental awareness.

What is your favorite meal or food? Seafood. I love the ocean's bounty- lobster, crab, shrimp, scallops- all of it.

What are your hobbies? Reading, being outdoors engaging in ocean sports, hiking, and gardening, As well as visiting art galleries, murals and art installations. I enjoy active engagement in politics and being in service to others.



Anthony Dang (He/Him)

What is your background that relates to this work? I have an education background in food systems, nutritional sciences, and public health. Currently, I work as the Policy and Community Outreach Manager at Climate Action Campaign, a local policy advocacy organization fighting to stop the climate crisis through equitable and effective policy action.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? In a previous public health job, I worked nationally in rural communities supporting efforts to improve community well-being. Although climate change was not the focus of the job, from working alongside these communities it became clear that environmental injustices were often worsening health outcomes across our country. This realization drove my career to focus more specifically on local environmental justice work.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? I hope to lend my experiences and knowledge to implement and guide policies that prioritize improving health and quality of life for communities of concern.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? Vietnamese American, child of refugees, queer, and first-generation college student.

What is your favorite meal or food? Phở.

What are your hobbies? Biking, swimming, baking, hiking, and camping.



Bernice Paipa

What is your background that relates to this work? {Coming soon!}.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? {Coming soon!}.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? {Coming soon!}.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? {Coming soon!}.

What is your favorite meal or food? {Coming soon!}.

What are your hobbies? {Coming soon!}.



Bianca Bonilla (She/Her)

What is your background that relates to this work? I bring over 20 years of experience as a biologist, farmer, and educator, with a focus on supporting healthy ecosystems and empowering communities through seed stewardship to build resilient local food systems. Growing up on the border in the Imperial Valley shaped my deep connection to the land and the people who inspire my work. I have collaborated closely with BIPOC, LGBTQIA+,

and immigrant communities to improve food systems, expand access to nature, and create healthier environments. By integrating public health, environmental education, and social justice, my work fosters stronger connections between people and the land while building equitable and sustainable solutions.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? I believe everyone deserves access to healthy environments, equitable opportunities, and the chance to thrive within their communities. My work is grounded in honoring the legacies of those who came before us while ensuring future generations inherit a more just and regenerative planet. I am passionate about uplifting community knowledge and cultivating meaningful relationships with the land and one another.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? I hope to contribute to actionable strategies that prioritize equity and empower communities most impacted by environmental injustices. My goal is to bring a perspective that connects ecological health with social justice, focusing on sustainable food systems, climate resilience, and solutions that reflect the diverse cultures of our region. Together, I believe we can advance policies and programs that foster a more sustainable and inclusive San Diego region.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? Farmer, daughter of immigrants, Indigenous Chicana, and a single parent.

What is your favorite meal or food? Fresh tortillas made with masa from corn I grew—or that someone I know grew—served with frijoles de la olla.

What are your hobbies? Outdoor exploring with my daughter, cooking with my daughter, seed growing and saving, and learning Judo.



Brenda Castruita (She/They)

What is your background that relates to this work? I grew up in the Tijuana/San Ysidro border region. I got my bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California Riverside and became really interested in social justice. Upon graduating, I worked for a Latinx serving organization offering direct services to community members and connecting them with resources throughout the San Diego region. I soon became interested in climate change and policy and decided to pursue that. I began my work at the San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative where I have really enjoyed learning about the intersections of climate change and social justice.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? Being able to empower and give back to my community grounds me in social justice. Giving a voice to those who share my identities and whose needs are rarely prioritized in decision-making spaces.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? I hope to offer new perspectives that are reflective of my identity and lived experience. I hope to learn from others in the workgroup and to voice the needs of my community.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? Latinx community, BIPOC community, and LGBTQ+ community.

What is your favorite meal or food? Tofu.

What are your hobbies? Swimming, reading, painting, and horseback riding (recently).



Caren Aguirre (She/Her)

What is your background that relates to this work? I grew up in Imperial Beach, a community deeply impacted by environmental challenges such as pollution and limited access to clean outdoor spaces. My introduction to environmental science came through community-based organizations like I Love a Clean San Diego, where I first learned about watersheds and developed a passion for understanding the environment. Now, as I near the completion of a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Systems with a minor in Urban Studies and Planning at UC San Diego, I have built on this foundation through academic and professional experiences. These include leading grassroots advocacy efforts, coordinating sustainability initiatives, and implementing climate action and literacy programs both at UCSD and in underserved communities across South Bay and East San Diego.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? I am grounded in environmental and social justice work by a desire to address systemic inequities that disproportionately harm marginalized communities, ensuring everyone has access to healthy environments and the benefits of nature. My lived experience in a community impacted by environmental racism drives my commitment to advocating for sustainable, inclusive solutions. My goal is to ensure a path forward where people do not have to pick one of the other, every inhabitant can thrive in ways that are equitable, inclusive, and regenerative.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? I hope to contribute actionable solutions, foster collaborative efforts, and help amplify underrepresented voices in environmental conversations. My aim is to advance meaningful change by helping organizations center community-driven initiatives and execute them.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? Imperial Beach residents, Latine community, first-generation college students, and environmental justice advocates.

What is your favorite meal or food? Pozole.

What are your hobbies? Ceramics, Hiking, and exploring nature, especially with my beagle, reading, community events.



Francine Maxwell (She/Her)

What is your background that relates to this work? For many years I have been involved with learning and assisting my neighbors in Southeastern San Diego. I participated in I Am Green a nonprofit to help the community be better land stewards, and in many resident lead activities and projects. I have been involved with Project New Village working on the food insecurities and how we can take control and help each other. I was also the past president of the San Diego NAACP and a current member of the Mayor of San Diego's African American Advisory committee.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? Health is wealth and systemic racism has been shown by toxic pollution in our areas of concern throughout the County of San Diego. The heatwaves in San Diego has a blinding eye of injustice in Encanto due to not having trees and being educated on environmental literacy. Food insecurities are rising, and we have to teach everyone on how to grow food and insure we teach one another the health benefits to natural healing medicines.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? I would like our workshop to educate our neighbors on grant opportunities for community engagement on mobility inequity for some of our elderly and disabled community members. Some cities have climate action reports, and I hope we can discuss possibly doing a report card to share best practices.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? I live in Encanto in Southeastern San Diego, a hilly urban neighborhood that we call the land of the enchanted with hilltop views. We raise chickens and goats in our backyard. We have the Black Arts Culture District to preserve our history and revitalize the area. We were impacted severely by rainfall and the flood devastated many of our businesses and churches.

What is your favorite meal or food? I love healthy soul food, Thai food, and Italian.

What are your hobbies? Volunteering at Church New Creation of San Diego, listening to music, and doing word search books.



Geoffrey Moran (He/Him)

What is your background that relates to this work? I'm a long-time San Diego County resident with experience in climate, sustainability, and environmental justice across multiple social impact sectors. My professional roles have mostly been in program management and marketing, through which I've gained broad skills in conflict resolution, communications, advocacy, climate diplomacy, and speculative design. I hold an MA in Social Innovation from USD's Kroc School of Peace Studies, and years ago earned an MA in Philosophy from the University of British Columbia, where I was a Graduate Fellow specialized in the philosophy of science. I was also a Fulbright Scholar to Canada in environmental ethics.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? "I believe the measure of a person's life is not what they do in times of comfort and convenience, but what they do in times of controversy and challenge." – Jimmy Carter

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? I want to help the County of San Diego advance environmental justice efforts that foster collaboration, resilience, and equitable outcomes. These efforts are urgent, as our region faces a powerful new range of external actions and pressures that credibly threatens to destabilize our natural and social ecologies. How we collectively respond matters.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? University of San Diego Kroc School of Peace Studies, Scripps Ranch Old Pros Soccer League, and People of Play.

What is your favorite meal or food? Pacific Northwest salmon and Indian curries.

What are your hobbies? Soccer, outdoor adventures, shared learning, writing, and toy/game design.



Hashim Navrozali (He/Him)

What is your background that relates to this work? I have worked as a regulator (with California Air Resources Board, San Joaquin Valley Air District, and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board) for over 13 years on air and water issues. I have visited/inspected many sites located in disadvantaged communities. I feel that an injustice has been historically committed in these communities. I think I can bring a wealth of regulatory and technical knowledge to the Workgroup on making positive impacts to these communities in the future.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? I have a passion for coming up with regulatory solutions for pollution problems and reviewing/interpreting policies related to air and water at the State and local level. Also, my experience as a regulator (13 years) and my work in the private utility/energy sector (19 years) has exposed me to the various problems faced by disadvantaged communities and I feel that I can contribute to these areas.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? Providing my knowledge and expertise on air pollution regulations, policies, and impacts. Ensuring that agencies and industries are doing their part in mitigating impacts and making them accountable.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? I identify with the immigrant (South Asian) communities. During my college and early professional years, I lived in various small towns and neighborhoods in the Central Valley and was exposed to many environmental and social injustice issues. For example, many of those marginalized neighborhoods and residences were located next to oil fields, refineries, or heavy industrial activity and I experienced those impacts firsthand. I chose the air regulatory field because I felt strongly about those impacts since very early in my student years.

What is your favorite meal or food? I am fond of a South Asian dish "Biryani" which is a spicy rice dish.

What are your hobbies? Traveling overseas and experiencing different cultures and languages.



Ian Bossenger (He/Him)

What is your background that relates to this work? I spent 25 years pig (hog) farming in the USA, Kentucky, Iowa and Colorado primarily. As a result, I learned from and dealt with state regulatory environmental entities meeting all their requirements as well as how to be a good neighbor as it pertains to odor, waste disposal, vehicle traffic and what could be done to mitigate concerns. As President of the Colorado Pork Producers Association, I was involved when state regulatory proposals impacted either the producer or the neighbor.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? Climate change is the preeminent concern surpassing all long-term issues that affect the well-being of us all. Imperial Beach particularly, my hometown, is significantly adversely impacted by cross border pollution, both water and air quality.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? What solutions can we promote locally? Disadvantaged communities bear the burden of unpopular industries locating in their neighborhoods. What can we do to advocate for these communities? What can we do to support the ongoing response to this crisis in my hometown?

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? I am a court appointed advocate to three children currently in foster care here in San Diego with Voices for Children. I support abused and

neglected children as an advocate in court to ensure each child a safe and permanent home. I am a parent to two bi-racial, adopted children (now young adults), so I relate to both the African American and the adoption community. As an immigrant, I identify with the immigrant community.

What is your favorite meal or food? Curry, Mexican, leftovers.

What are your hobbies? Rugby, sailing, tennis, and walking.



Izzy Rosado (She/Her)

What is your background that relates to this work? I have lived experiences of environmental injustices in my and my family's neighborhoods, including limited access to healthy food options and outdoor recreational spaces. These experiences incentivized me to pursue a Sustainability degree at San Diego State University, which I earned in 2023. I currently work for Project New Village, a food justice and place-making organization that serves Southeastern San Diego neighborhoods.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? I am inspired by the communities and individuals that are committed to making their neighborhoods a better place to live. I am also grounded by the belief that future generations deserve equitable access to a clean and healthy environment.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? I hope to be more involved in and have a greater understanding of county processes relating to sustainability and environmental justice. I hope to gain more connections with community members and hear their perspectives on the strategies they have to reverse environmental injustices.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? Mexican American, LGBTQ+, health and wellness.

What is your favorite meal or food? Just about any pasta or rice bowl, I think I could live off yellow curry and pesto pasta.

What are your hobbies? Reading, snowboarding, hiking, yoga, and thrifting.



José Bravo (He/Him)

What is your background that relates to this work? As a first-generation immigrant who came to work in the fields with his parents, I grew up understanding the need for social equity at all levels. After working on environmental justice issues for over 30 years and on over more than 38 different campaigns (and counting), I have developed a keen understanding of the EJ movement, and my work has led me to help establish the movement locally, nationally, and internationally.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? The reason I do what I do is because understanding how environmental racism affects communities of color, indigenous communities, and low-income communities is important. Once these communities achieve justice and fairness, society as a whole will benefit.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? Farmworker, environmental justice, social justice, cross border, and unionized labor.

What is your favorite meal or food? Enchiladas.

What are your hobbies? Working on our property, planting trees and gardens, fishing.



Mustafa Sharifi (He/Him)

What is your background that relates to this work? I have a strong background in community engagement, project implementation, and organizational development, which ties closely to environmental and social justice. I have worked with diverse communities and have experience in economic growth and resource management.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? My "why" is to service people and what is more standing that to make meaningful contributions to marginalized communities, ensuring environmental justice and equity. I am passionate about creating sustainable solutions and leaving a lasting positive impact.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? I hope to contribute actively to developing actionable strategies that foster environmental equity, raise awareness, and empower communities. Collaborating with this group offers an opportunity to learn and create meaningful change.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? Afghan American community, nonprofit networks, and local business development circles.

What is your favorite meal or food? Lamb kebabs with rice and fresh salad.

What are your hobbies? Reading self-help and poetry books, watching business shows, exploring AI technologies, running, engaging in family activities.



Nam Nguyen (He/Him)

What is your background that relates to this work? Over the past few years, I have been actively involved with organizations focused on climate work. For instance, I've collaborated with San Diego Pediatricians for Clean Air to pass climate-related resolutions and increase youth involvement in addressing environmental issues, particularly the Tijuana sewage crisis. Additionally, as a student at UC San Diego, I have contributed to various on-campus climate and sustainability initiatives.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? As a first-generation Asian American from South Bay San Diego, I have personally experienced the effects of climate injustices in my community. My goal is to advocate for a better future for youth and other communities burdened by environmental challenges.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? I want to amplify the voices of youth in my community and gain insights from the diverse perspectives represented in the workgroup.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? Asian American, low-income, first-generation, student, and South Bay.

What is your favorite meal or food? I love ground beef with eggs, rice, and avocado.

What are your hobbies? Hiking, going on walks, and reading new books.



Nicholas (Nick) Paúl (He/Him)

What is your background that relates to this work? I am an Air Quality Policy advocate at the Environmental Health Coalition. Through my work I advocate for clean air regulations that reduce pollutants in the air community members breathe. I am also a member of the Portside AB 617 community steering committee and work together with industry, government and community partners to implement the 2021 CERP (community emissions reduction plan).

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? I strongly believe that everyone - regardless of zip code - deserves to live in a safe and healthy environment. Unfortunately, though, there are

neighborhoods in San Diego County that continue to have some of the worst air quality in the state of CA. All too often these neighborhoods are low-income communities of color. Many of these communities are neighborhoods I've called home for the last 29 years and where my family and friends live and play, so there is a deep and personal interest in advancing environmental and social justice work in these places.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? I hope to be able to be able to advocate for increased investment in San Diego's most pollution burdened neighborhoods.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? South Bay, Chicano/ Latino, binational/ fronterizo.

What is your favorite meal or food? I absolutely love mole. Mole is a chicken dish with a savory chocolate and peanut butter sauce. It's usually paired with rice, beans and some warm tortillas.

What are your hobbies? Guitar and harmonica, watching baseball, and I love to read. I'm an avid runner (ran my first marathon in 2023!).



Shuuluk Linton (He/Him)

What is your background that relates to this work? Being part of the local communities, more specifically with native tribes. I am a descendant from the Rincon band and an enrolled member of the Santa Ysabel Band of lipay Indians. I work for the Cultural department at Rincon now and environmental justice is one of our main concerns.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? I personally have felt and seen the effects of environmental injustice. For example, my reservation does not have running water, and we struggled with drilling wells as well as retaining water tanks to support families. Another example would be our cultural practices being taken from us as we have been so far removed from our traditional area such as the ocean and other areas as well, these areas are needed for very specific cultural practices.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? I hope in this working group to get a better understanding of what environmental justice is in San Diego to help the Rincon Band get a better understanding of how San Diego is dealing with this issue. I also hope to voice my opinions and have the opportunity to hear the opinions of others in the workgroup.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? I am a descendant from the Rincon band and an enrolled member of the Santa Ysabel Band of lipay Indians.

What is your favorite meal or food? My favorite meal would be when my family gets together and shares venison along with beans, potatoes, and, hopefully, my grandma's homemade tortillas.

What are your hobbies? Hunting, fishing, flintknapping and wood working.



Stefan Gonzalez (He/Him)

What is your background that relates to this work? In my professional career, I specialize in housing and homelessness solutions, where I've seen how housing, health, and environmental factors intersect to shape community well-being. I'm also a board member for Grandma Lulu's Table, where I work on food justice initiatives that connect to environmental equity.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? I believe that affordable housing, clean air and water, and access to resources are fundamental to building equitable communities, and I'm committed to advancing these priorities.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? I want to help create equitable policies that address environmental injustices and support vulnerable communities, bringing a housing justice perspective to this work.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? I identify as Latino, Mexican American, a housing advocate, and someone passionate about climbing, surfing, and food.

What is your favorite meal or food? Enchiladas Verdes, especially from my father, with tortillas, chicken, salsa verde, queso fresco, avocado, crema, beans, and rice.

What are your hobbies? Surfing, climbing, visual art, eating, and traveling.



Victoria Abrenica (She/Her)

What is your background that relates to this work? I grew up in Spring Valley and have always been passionate about giving back to my community. I've worked as an educator, started a grassroots organization, and served on local boards where I helped drive climate and equity solutions. Over the years, I've also gained professional experience in conservation and had the privilege of supporting and working for San Diego's first CCA.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? I believe everyone deserves access to clean air, clean water, and healthy, thriving ecosystems. Representation is vital, and I'm especially passionate about work that positively impacts communities like the one I grew up in.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? I hope to see more accessible public transportation in Spring Valley and East County, along with more trees, native plants, and open green spaces. Expanding EV infrastructure, bike lanes, and sidewalks is another key goal, as well as creating more community gardens and educational opportunities.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? Latina, Filipina, Gen Z, and educator.

What is your favorite meal or food? Ramen and French fries!

What are your hobbies? I enjoy roller skating, dancing, hiking, gardening, and playing basketball.



William (Will) Madrigal (He/Him)

What is your background that relates to this work? {Coming soon!}.

What is your "why" grounding you in environmental and social justice work? {Coming soon!}.

What do you hope to accomplish in the workgroup? {Coming soon!}.

What communities are you a part that reflect your personal identity? {Coming soon!}.

What is your favorite meal or food? {Coming soon!}.

What are your hobbies? {Coming soon!}.