

SCAG's Environmental Equity Definition

Feedback Exchange with the Natural & Farm Lands Conservation Working Group

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Southern California Association of Governments

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www.scag.ca.gov



Presentation Overview



> Land Acknowledgement

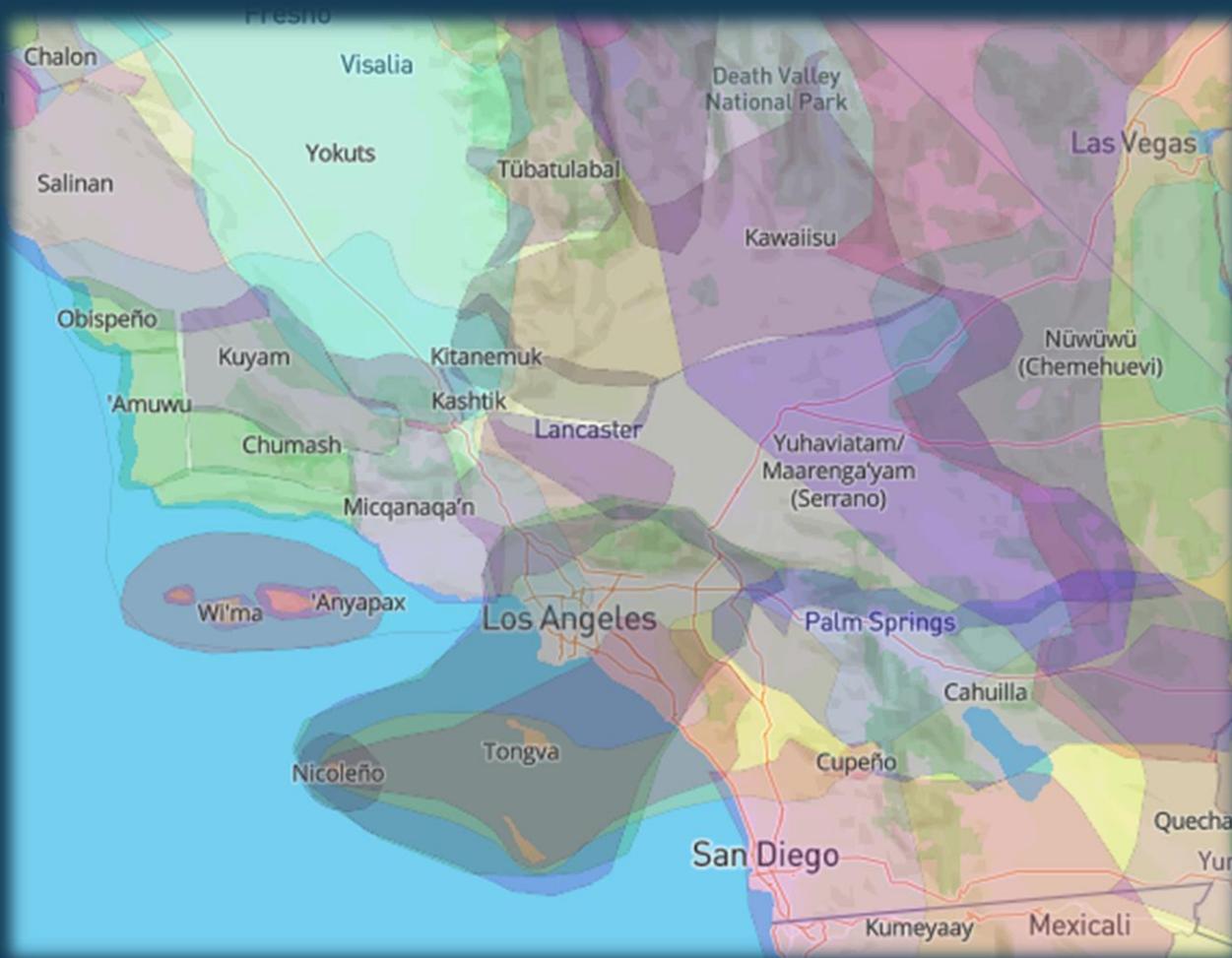
> Background on SCAG's Equity Work

> Background on SCAG's Environmental Equity Definition

> Feedback and Discussion

> Next Steps

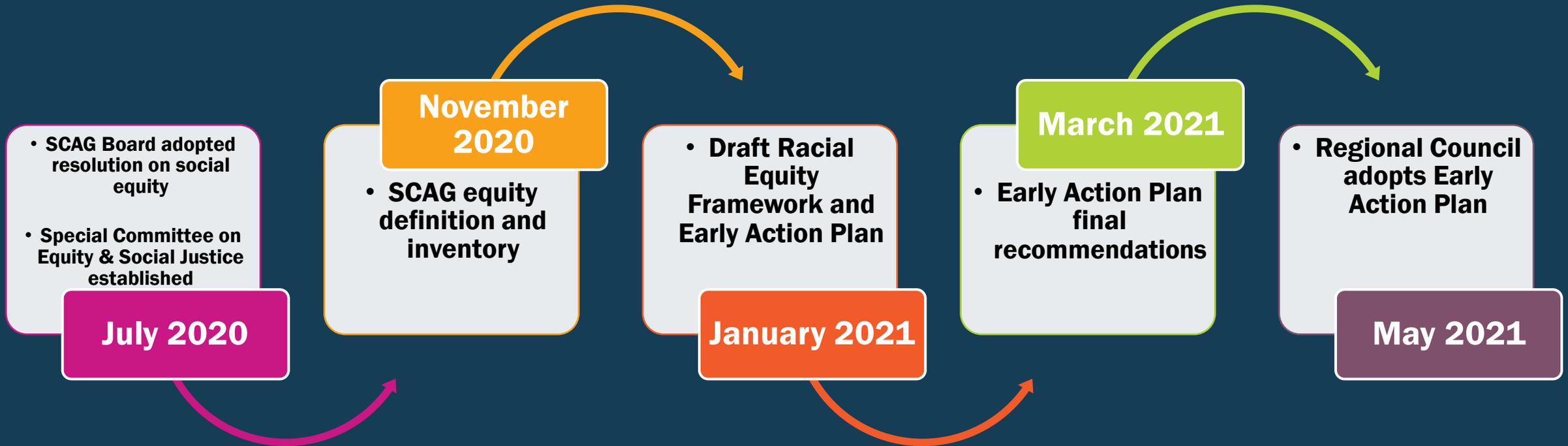
Land Acknowledgment



<https://native-land.ca/>

SCAG's LA office sits on Chumash, Tongva, and Kizh land

Background: SCAG's Equity Work Major Milestones



Background: SCAG's Equity Framework and Early Action Plan

GOALS



Shift Organizational Culture

Focus SCAG's internal work and practices on inclusion, diversity, equity, and awareness.



Center Racial Equity in Regional Planning & Policy

Bring equity into SCAG's regional planning functions.



Encourage Racial Equity in Local Planning Practices

Promote racial equity in efforts involving local elected officials and planning professionals.



Activate & Amplify

Communicate broadly SCAG's commitment to racial equity and join with others in different fields and sectors to amplify impact.

STRATEGIES



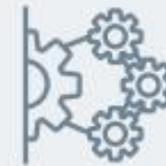
Listen & Learn

Develop a shared understanding of our history of discrimination and the structural barriers that continue to perpetuate the inequities experienced today.



Engage & Co-Power

Create an environment where everyone is included, able to share their experiences, and equipped to talk about racial equity and inequities.



Integrate & Institutionalize

Focus on systems change to improve racial equity. Center racial equity in all aspects of work. This involves internal and external systems change. Advancing Racial Equity in Southern California.

Background: SCAG's Equity Definition



"As central to SCAG's work, racial equity describes the actions, policies, and practices that eliminate bias and barriers that have historically and systemically marginalized communities of color, to ensure all people can be healthy, prosperous, and participate fully in civic life."

Background: SCAG's Environmental Equity Definition Objectives



Build upon and operationalize SCAG's equity work

Build a shared understanding of environmental equity for SCAG and its stakeholders

Emphasize environmental equity as a priority in SCAG's work

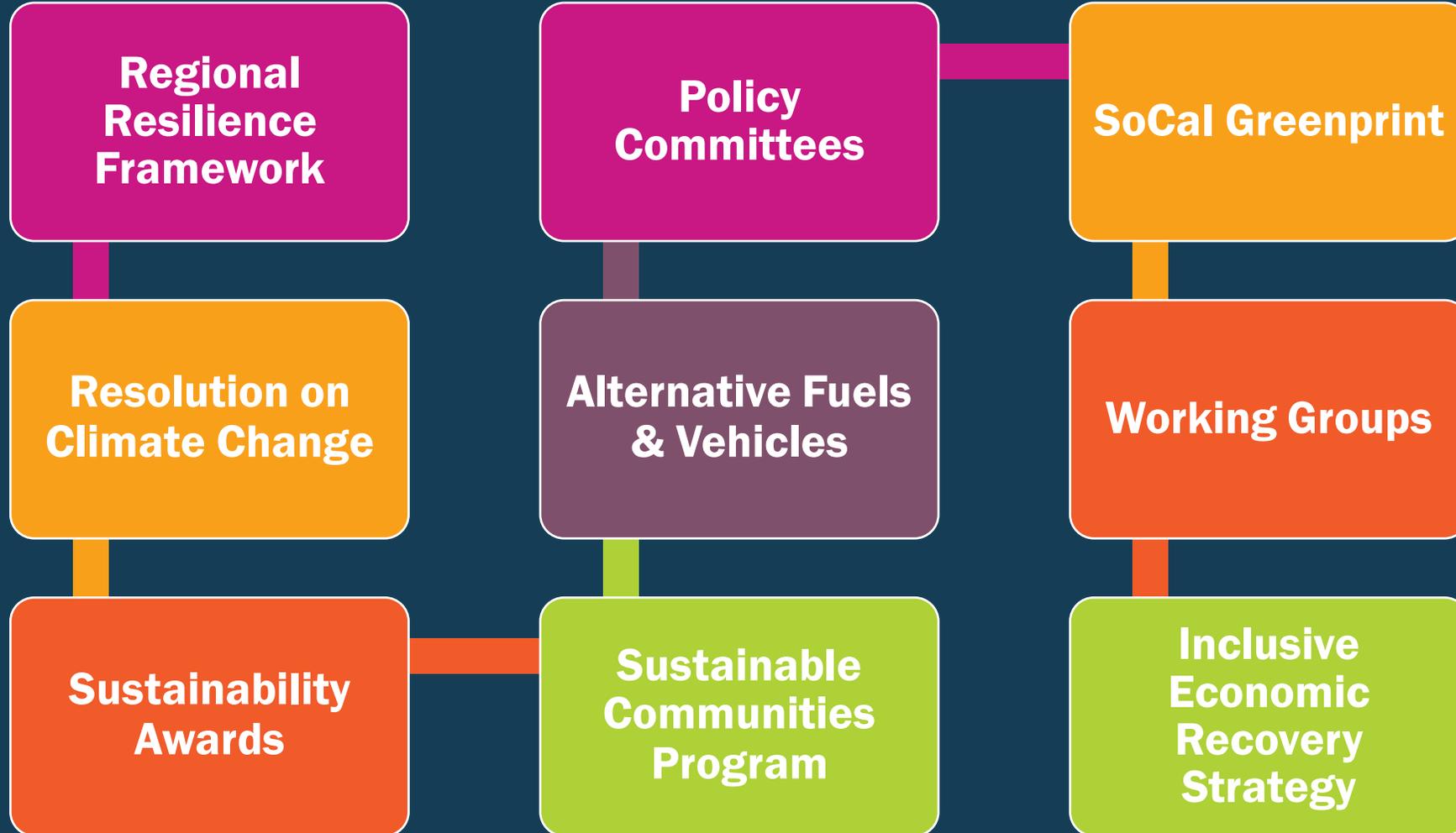
Provide a model process for other SCAG topic-specific equity definitions

Background: SCAG's Environmental Equity Definition Research

- Researched and compiled **existing definitions** of environmental equity, climate equity, environmental justice across academic institutions, community organizations, government agencies
 - *Charles Lee, Des Moines Area MPO, Greenaction, Greenlining Institute, Mobilize Green, NAACP, SBCTA, SCAG, UC Berkeley, UCLA Luskin, University of Washington, USEPA*

- Pulled **key concepts** from existing work
 - *Impacts of historical injustice and disinvestment*
 - *Need to address and remediate root causes*
 - *Distinction between equality and equity*
 - *Disproportionate and unequal impacts*
 - *Vulnerable populations contribute least to environmental degradation and crises, but feel the impacts "first and worst"*
 - *Not just redistributing environmental harms, but abolishing them*

Environmental Equity Definition: Example Potential Applications



"Environmental equity addresses the actions, policies, and practices that abolish the systemic inequities, marginalization, disinvestment, and exclusion from decision-making processes that have directly resulted in vulnerable people bearing disproportionate and adverse impacts from natural hazards and human activity, so that all people can enjoy access to the physical and social benefits of our natural and built systems."

Environmental Equity Definition: Feedback Received

- > Differentiate between environmental justice and environmental equity
- > Be intentional about what populations the definition refers to
- > Important to acknowledge impact of both natural and human activities
- > Framing the definition as a practice (actionable) vs. an explanation (informative)
- > Relate to SCAG's equity and resilience definitions

Feedback: Guiding Questions

-  Is the definition distinct from environmental justice? Does the definition go a step beyond?
-  Is there something critical missing from the definition? Is there something in the definition that you feel shouldn't be included?
-  How do you see the definition potentially impacting or being implemented in your work?



We would love to hear any general impressions and feedback you have. If you would like to speak, please use the "raise hand" function, or drop your comments into the chat.

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Next Steps



Thank You!

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