



## Meeting of the Equity Working Group

September 22, 2022

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. PST

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference. A video recording of the meeting is available upon request. The meeting presentations are available [here](#).

### ATTENDEE LIST

**Presenters:**

*Morgan Caswell, Port of Long Beach  
Chloe Teraslinna, Esri  
Hannah Brunelle, SCAG*

**SCAG Staff:**

*Matthew Aldama  
Anita Au  
Leslie Cayton  
Priya Dhupar  
Annaleigh Ekman  
Dan Kato  
Maya Luong  
Jennifer Martinez  
Victor Negrete  
Anna Van  
Anikka Van Eyl  
Tom Vo*

**Webinar:**

*Cesar Aranguri, Indigenous Ark Urban Technologies  
Caitlin Brooks, VCTC  
Justin Equina, City of Irvine  
Sandra Espadas, National CORE  
Devan Gelle, Alta  
Maddie Haynes  
Lori Huddleston, LA Metro  
Barbara Jacobson, City of Santa Monica  
Steven Jones, City of Bell Gardens  
Monica Mejia Lambert, West LA Sawtelle Neighborhood Council  
Tiffany Lin, City of Irvine  
Jude Miranda, Caltrans  
Harry Moore, Esri  
Julia Nelson- Young, SJCOG  
Solomon Pulapkura, Esri  
Natalia Rangel, Esri  
Dr. Paul A. Rodriguez, Cogito  
Gail Shiomoto-Lohr, City of Mission Viejo  
Carolyn Sims, Southern California Edison  
Carl Spangrude, Esri  
Elizabeth Taylor, Esri  
Jennifer Williams, Port of Long Beach*

### MEETING SUMMARY

---

**1. WELCOME (5 min)**

Anita Au, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) | [au@scag.ca.gov](mailto:au@scag.ca.gov)

Anita welcomed the participants.

**2. PORT OF LONG BEACH COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM (30 min)**

Morgan Caswell, Port of Long Beach | [morgan.caswell@polb.com](mailto:morgan.caswell@polb.com)

Presentation Summary

Morgan shared about the Port of Long Beach’s award-winning efforts on their Community Grants Program. The program builds on their limited Mitigation Grants Program, which contributed \$15 million towards community projects geared



towards air quality improvement projects. It addressed challenges of compliance and understanding community needs through the Port of Long Beach Community Impact Study, which established nexus to areas most impacted by port operations and identified traffic, noise, and water impacts that the Port could address. The Community Grants Program dedicates \$46+ million of new funding to address these impacts through three subprograms, including Community Health (health care access related to asthma and cardiopulmonary ailments), Facilities Improvements (new doors and windows, air filtration, and renewable energy), and Community Infrastructures (parks, open space, stormwater). This is the largest voluntary community mitigation program of any seaport. Since 2017, \$17.5 million has supported 47 community projects.

Morgan highlighted the importance of community input in this program through the project availability and selection process (community organizations can choose from a list of scientifically proven to reduce port impacts), and yearly public workshops with the Community Grants Advisory Committee to help prioritize funding.

To learn more about the Port of Long Beach Community Grants Program and see more project outcomes, visit:

[www.polb.com/grants](http://www.polb.com/grants)

#### Question and Answer

**Question:** In addition to local jurisdictions, have any community-based organizations received grant funding?

**Answer:** Community-based organizations are eligible under the Community Grants Program. Funding is evenly split between public agencies and non-profit organizations. The Facilities Improvements projects is the only set of projects where private entities are allowed to apply. All funding is tied to organizations that serve vulnerable populations like older adults, chronically ill, and children, those who already have asthma and cardiopulmonary ailments, and pregnant women.

The Port is focused on making these funds more available to community-based organizations. One way is having dedicated staff who are available 24/7. Another is through a streamlined application process; for larger projects, they break down the process into 2-steps: (1) quick one-page summary to screen large projects and provide comments on eligible items before they submit (2) a full application. The port is hoping to co-host some events with community organizations. The Port is also exploring third-party consultation where organizations could work with someone to build a more competitive application. They are building on efforts pioneered by the City of Long Beach in the distribution of recovery funding.

**Question:** How did the Port determine the priority and eligibility zones? Was additional outreach conducted in these areas?

**Answer:** The Community Impact Study identified these zones. It was an aggregation of scientific data, mostly focused on air quality impacts since this data is most readily available. The area includes the entirety of the City of Long Beach and parts of Compton, Carson, Wilmington, and Paramount. Some project types are only eligible in the priority zone where the highest need is centered; other project types receive additional points on their application for being located within the priority zone. Projects that have a more global impact, like renewable energy projects that reduce GHG emissions, are eligible throughout the eligibility zone.

### **3. CREATING EQUITABLE CHANGE WITH GIS (30 min)**

Chloe Teraslinna, Esri | [CTeraslinna@esri.com](mailto:CTeraslinna@esri.com)

#### Presentation Summary

Chloe presented on the Esri Racial Equity GIS Hub a tool that is meant to help organizations develop equity strategies that leverage location analytics to inform decision making processes to help operationalize justice and equity in their respective organizations. She shared how GIS could be a powerful tool to advance equity, especially for new equity leaders that drive



change at the local level. Some components of the hub include social equity analysis which help evaluate community conditions and identify community characteristics and assets, equity index layers that can be customized to what different organization's targeted needs are and visualize where the highest needs exist, equity applications that apply a spatial lens to help understand the complex and interconnected ways equity can be incorporated, and racial equity community outreach which can be utilized by local governments to communicate progress on equity efforts. Chole also shared a demo of the [LA County Equity Explorer](#) and [dashboard](#), a project that was developed using components of the Racial Equity GIS Hub.

Please visit these links for more information:

- Explore the [Racial Equity GIS Hub](#) to find relevant data layers, user examples, training, solutions, and other resources to help in your work for racial equity.
- Learn about Esri's partnership with the [Government Alliance on Race & Equity \(GARE\)](#) where a [GIS solution](#) was developed to help you understand regional characteristics, analyze city/county conditions and actions, and generate an equity analysis index that can be used to educate internal and regional stakeholders. (Further background on this can be found [here](#).)
- Leverage the [Racial Equity & Social Justice Workflow](#) developed by Esri's Racial Equity & Social Justice Team and based on positive practices from GARE and other leading equity and justice organizations.
- Take the free [Applying the Racial Equity Workflow Using GIS](#) course to learn about how location analytics can advance equity.
- Check out the [Racial Equity Solutions](#) site to get maps, datasets, and tools available right now.

#### Question and Answer

**Question:** GIS maps are a great way to share information with communities; are there resources or best practices to increase the accessibility of maps? How do we make sure these are accessible tools and technologies for communities that lack internet access?

**Answer:** Esri doesn't have established best practices and needs vary depending on each community; for example, in the health sector, people will lean on health-based community organizations to determine need and how to communicate with the community. Another project found that community centers like churches were utilized to outreach to people. Another way to increase accessibility of maps and materials was to provide them in multiple translations. **Question:** Are there any basics courses or "how-to" guides to help people that aren't familiar with GIS get a better understanding? For agencies that aren't familiar with GIS, where can we get started?

**Answer:** Basics courses are available but it's also important to help users/communities interpret the maps and understand them. The LA County Equity Explorer includes a quick overview of how to use the application and explains the uses of the application in non-technical terms. The digital divide is a major concern, but we rely on people who work directly with the communities to assess need and develop communication strategies. There could a range of different approaches.

**Question:** For agencies that aren't familiar with GIS, where can we get started?

**Answer:** Racial Equity Solutions is a great resource to help the agency see what's already available and can be customized to agency/community needs. There are also off-the-shelf solutions that can be applicable to any agency. The Racial Equity Hub also provides an overview of what is already available and can give you ideas of what you'll need.

**Comment:** Tom Vo, SCAG, mentioned that SCAG provides free GIS licenses to local jurisdictions within the SCAG region. SCAG's Regional Data Platform (RDP) also provides a variety of technical/data resources for local jurisdictions and



communities. Learn more about RDP [here](#) and request for your free GIS license [here](#).

#### 4. UPDATE ON SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM CALL 4: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, EQUITY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (15 min)

Hannah Brunelle, SCAG | [brunelle@scag.ca.gov](mailto:brunelle@scag.ca.gov)

##### Presentation Summary

Hannah presented on the Sustainable Communities Program which is a grant program that provides technical assistance to local jurisdictions in the SCAG region. The 4<sup>th</sup> Call for Applications focuses on civic engagement, equity, and environmental justice. The Call is anticipated to have a budget of five million dollars from a mix of funding sources including REAP 2.0 which aims to affirmatively further fair housing, increase infill development, and reduce VMT. SCAG is currently conducting 1:1 outreach and finalizing guidelines with an anticipated opening of the call in January 2023.

For more information on the Sustainable Communities Program, visit: <https://scag.ca.gov/scp>

##### Question and Answer

**Question:** Does this call provide grant funding for equity planning projects only, or will the call also provide funding for implementation of equity projects?

**Answer:** Yes, only planning projects are eligible for this call and implementing projects are not eligible. Other SCAG programs funded by REAP 2.0 could potentially support pilot projects like the Subregional Partnership Program.

**Question:** Is there a breakdown of the proposed amount for each award as part of this program?

**Answer:** The total amount of funding available is \$5 million and we're anticipating individual project budgets to be about \$250,000 to \$500,000.

#### 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERS, REQUESTS, AND CONNECTIONS (10 min)

Annaleigh Ekman, SCAG | [Ekman@scag.ca.gov](mailto:Ekman@scag.ca.gov)

Annaleigh shared the following announcements:

- The [Reconnecting Communities Pilot](#) (RCP) is a new Federal grant program dedicated to reconnecting communities that were previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure. The FY22 Notice of Funding Opportunity is available on [DOT's website](#) and applications are due on October 13, 2022.
- The U.S. Office of Management and Budget announced the formal review to **revise Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, And Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity** and shared that public input will be collected through [scheduling a listening session or signing up to receive notices](#) for when the proposed revisions are published in the Federal Register.
- **SCAG's first Racial Equity and Regional Planning Subcommittee** took place Thursday, September 15 and featured an informative session on the Historic and Contemporary Impacts of Systemic Racism in the United States where Charles Brown, Founder and CEO of Equitable Cities, shared a video called [Segregated by Design](#), which examines the forgotten history of how our federal, state, and local governments segregated major metropolitan areas in American through law and policy; and Beth Osborne, Director of Transportation for America, shared highlights from their recently released report, [Dangerous by Design](#). The meeting was recorded and is available on the SCAG



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
**REGIONAL PLANNING WORKING GROUPS**

website.

- SCAG staff is working on an **update to the Racial Equity Baseline Conditions Report**, first released in March 2021, and anticipates releasing the update at the end of this calendar year. The [Racial Equity Baseline Conditions Report](#) is a preliminary baseline assessment of racial equity, and we hope that the report, and future iterations, will help motivate more equitable decision-making for the future. The update includes new or revised data, indicators, and county narratives. For more information, please email [au@scag.ca.gov](mailto:au@scag.ca.gov).
- The **13th Annual Southern California Economic Summit** will be held on December 1, 2022, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Los Angeles. The theme for this year's summit is "Resourcing the Region." Southern California is uniquely rich in both natural and economic resources. We are also leading the way financially, with a major influx of federal and state funding slated to come to the region. Still, there is a growing need for improvement in workforce development and education. General Admission for the event is \$175. **Register by Friday, Oct. 28, to get \$50 off the general admission price.** The event is free for elected officials and city managers in the SCAG region.
- Join SCAG's **Money Mondays Mailing List** to hear about upcoming and ongoing grant opportunities by visiting SCAG's [grant opportunities website](#) and subscribing to the SCAG Update mailing list.

Anita Au, SCAG, made a request for connection to invite any groups or individuals that are currently not participating in the working group that may benefit or contribute to this group. SCAG would like to hear from all stakeholders and values your input.

If you have questions about this meeting, please feel free to reach out to Anita Au at [au@scag.ca.gov](mailto:au@scag.ca.gov) or Annaleigh Ekman at [ekman@scag.ca.gov](mailto:ekman@scag.ca.gov). SCAG also encourages participants to reach out if you have a topic, project, program, tool, or resource that you think should be highlighted in a future meeting. The next Equity Working Group meeting will be held in December 2022.