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CPUC Staff Update on Revised DACAG Equity Framework



California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

Energy Division, Climate and Equity Initiatives

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California Public
Utilities Commission

CPUC ESJ Action Plan is the vehicle to include the DACAG Equity Framework

- ESJ Action Plan first published in February 2019, and then updated April 2022. Establishes a series of [nine goals](#) related to health and safety, consumer protection, program benefits, and enforcement in *all* sectors the CPUC regulates.
 - **Goal 2, Action Item 2.1.3:** ED will continue to support and coordinate with the DACAG to maximize opportunities to provide feedback to CPUC proceedings, programs, and processes. Guidance to staff to ***"build pathways for DACAG feedback to inform CPUC proceedings and programs."***
- If the ESJ Action Plan is included the Scope of a proceeding, the DACAG Equity Framework has a pathway to inform the record of the proceeding.

ESJ Action Plan Scoped into Relevant Proceedings

- Whether there are ESJ issues is considered on a proceeding-by-proceeding basis.
- The ESJ Action Plan does not mandate that ESJ issues be considered.
- Parties inform the record of the issues to be considered through a transparent public process.
- The assigned Commissioner issues a determination of the issues, including whether there are ESJ issues, to be considered in the proceeding.

Significant Alignment of ESJ Action Plan 2.0 and DACAG Equity Framework

- **ESJ Action Plan:** All 9 overarching Goals align with DACAG's Framework clean energy mission
 - 26 Energy Action Items align with DACAG's SB 350 clean energy mission
- **DACAG Equity Framework:** Can inform the CPUC's clean energy and pollution reduction policies and programs
 - Adds details, calling out specific target communities and considerations when engaging with ESJ communities

ESJ Action Plan 2.0 vs. DACAG Equity Framework

ESJ Action Plan 2.0	DACAG Equity Framework
<p>Goal 1: Consistently integrate equity and access considerations throughout CPUC regulatory activities.</p>	<p>Purpose: "guide agency staff and Commissioners as they determine how to embed and center equity within their efforts."</p>
<p>Goal 2: Increase investment in clean energy resources to benefit ESJ communities, especially to improve local air quality and public health.</p>	<p>Guiding principles include "increase access to clean energy technologies for ESJ communities."</p>
<p>Goal 3: Strive to improve access to high-quality water, communications, and transportation services for ESJ communities.</p>	<p>Reliable communications including broadband is necessary to support priorities, e.g., transportation electrification, community engagement, reliability.</p>
<p>Goal 4: Increase climate resiliency in ESJ communities.</p>	<p>Access to benefits of clean energy program realized with resilient communities.</p>
<p>Goal 5: Enhance outreach and public participation opportunities for ESJ communities to meaningfully participate in CPUC's decision-making process and benefit from CPUC programs.</p>	<p>Cite "Spectrum of Public Participation," directs agencies to implement feedback loops.</p>

ESJ Action Plan 2.0 vs. DACAG Equity Framework continued

ESJ Action Plan 2.0	DACAG Equity Framework
<p>Goal 6: Enhance enforcement to ensure safety and consumer protection for all, especially for ESJ communities.</p>	<p>Consumer protection as a NEB and Health & Safety benefit.</p>
<p>Goal 7: Promote high road career paths and economic opportunity for residents of ESJ communities.</p>	<p>References the High Road framework for workforce development. DACAG EF specifically mentions career pathways, hiring goals, labor standards. Prioritizes communities with limited English proficiency and re-entry populations.</p>
<p>Goal 8: Improve training and staff development related to environmental and social justice issues within the CPUC's jurisdiction.</p>	<p>DACAG's Framework can educate staff and aid in developing stronger awareness for relevant equity principles. Can "guide agency staff and Commissioners as they determine how to embed and center equity within their efforts."</p>
<p>Goal 9: Monitor the CPUC's environmental and social justice efforts to evaluate how they are achieving their objectives.</p>	<p>Metrics, Evaluation and Accountability section: call for clear equity requirements, transparent data collection and implementation.</p>

CPUC Efforts to Broadly Promote Latest DACAG Framework

- CPUC has shared the Equity Framework with:
 - All Commissioners' offices
 - All Energy Division staff and managers
 - CPUC's Outreach staff
 - Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Action Plan division liaisons
 - Staff presented at September monthly meeting

CPUC Staff Tracking Use of DACAG Framework

- Staff will track use of the DACAG Equity Framework across energy proceedings biannually as part of our ESJ Action Plan implementation tracking efforts.
 - Progress review: February and August each year
 - As part of tracking Action Item 2.1.3., staff will specifically monitor use of the Equity Framework in energy-related proceedings and activities
 - Staff can provide regular updates to DACAG aligned with this timeframe

Next steps

- DACAG can present the revised Equity Framework to the CPUC Commissioners at an upcoming CPUC voting meeting during its DACAG Annual Report, pending a DACAG member vote.
- CPUC will prepare a presentation on agency process for a future DACAG meeting, to be coordinated with the CEC.
- Next CPUC update on Framework use survey as soon as February 2025.



Thank you

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