

## DOCKETED

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| <b>Filer:</b>           | Patty Paul   |
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California Energy Commission

# **Puente Power Project Preliminary Staff Assessment**

## **Environmental Justice**

Eric Knight



### What is an Environmental Justice (EJ) Population?

- ❖ US EPA guidelines identify EJ populations as minority and low income populations
- ❖ California law defines EJ as:  
“the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures and income with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies”  
(Gov. Code §65040.12; Pub. Resources Code, §§ 71000-71400)



## California Energy Commission

### Why Does the Energy Commission Consider EJ?

- ❖ As a **commission** within the **Resources Agency** – Energy Commission considers EJ in decision-making process if actions have an impact on the environment, environmental laws, or policies
- ❖ Actions subject to EJ consideration may include:
  - **Enforcing environmental laws or regulations;**
  - **Making discretionary decisions or taking actions that affect the environment** (e.g. proposed Puente Power Project)





## California Energy Commission

### What is an EJ Analysis?

- ❖ Identify areas potentially affected by the proposed project and determine if a significant population of minority persons or persons living below the federal poverty level live in the project impact area.
- ❖ Notify public of opportunities for participation in public workshops in appropriate languages (when possible).
- ❖ Determine if there is a significant adverse impact on minority population or people living below the federal poverty level from the project alone or in combination with other existing or planned projects in area.



### Is There an EJ Population?

Socioeconomics staff uses demographic screening process to determine if an EJ population lives within the potential impact area of Puente Power Project.

- ❖ Current census minority data represented in **Socioeconomics Figure 1** showed census blocks with fifty percent or more minority population. The population living in these areas are an EJ population based on race and ethnicity.
- ❖ Current census economic data showed a higher percent of people living below the federal poverty level in Oxnard and Port Hueneme compared with Ventura County. This population is an EJ population based on economic data represented in **Socioeconomics Table 3**.

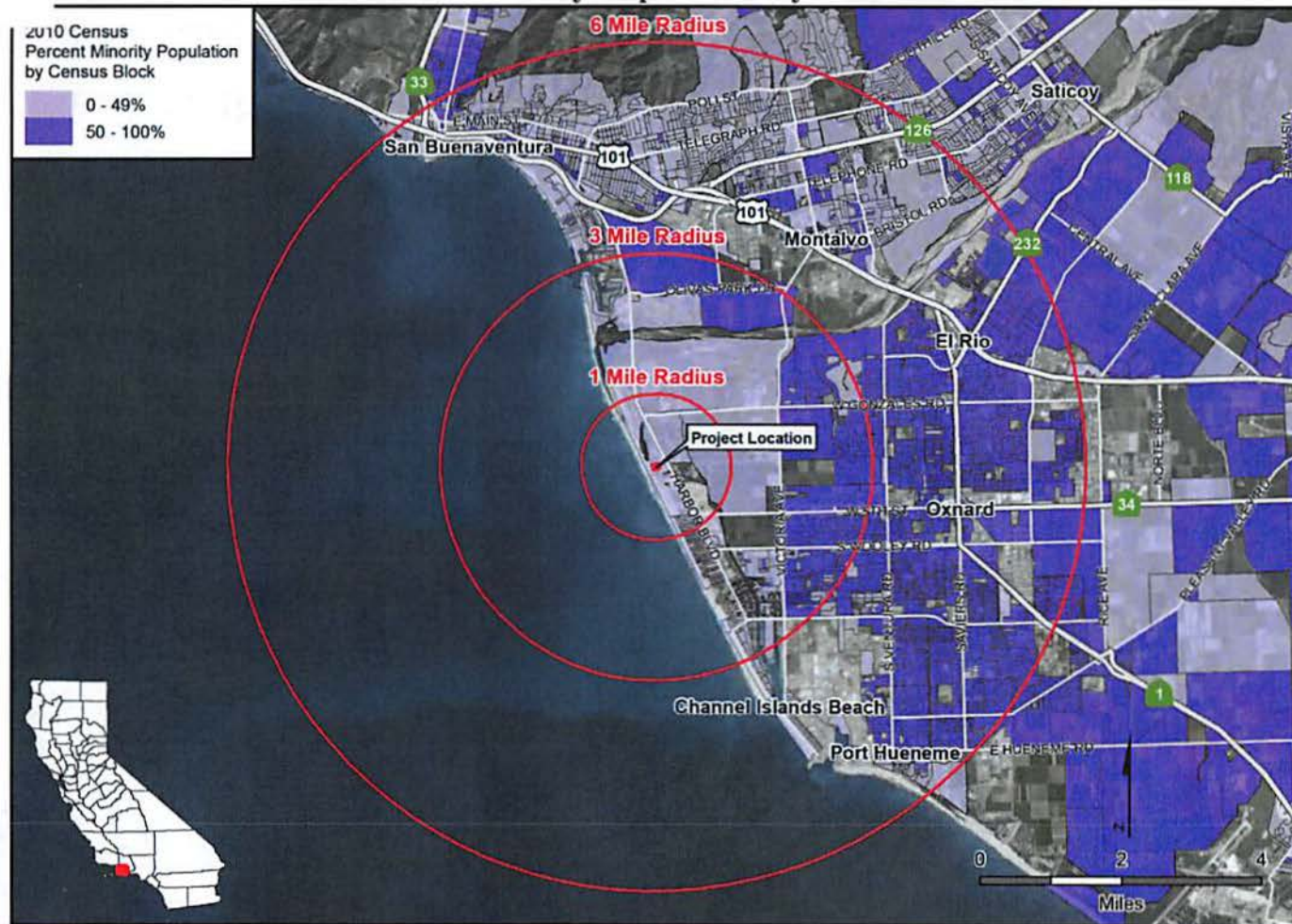




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# Socioeconomics Figure 1

### Census 2010 Minority Population by Census Block





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### Socioeconomics Table 3

#### Economic Data within the Project Area

| Cities in the six-mile radius | Total           | Income in the past 12 months below poverty level | Percent below poverty level (%) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|---------------------------------|
|                               | Estimate*       | Estimate   | Estimate                        |
| Oxnard                        | 200,076<br>±394 | 31,956<br>±2,320                                 | 16.00<br>±1.2                   |
| Port Hueneme                  | 21,020<br>±310  | 3,848<br>±838                                    | 18.30<br>±4                     |
| San Buenaventura (Ventura)    | 106,870<br>±262 | 11,532<br>±1,399                                 | 10.80<br>±1.3                   |
| Reference Geography           |                 |  |                                 |
| Ventura County                | 824,329<br>±959 | 91,912<br>±3,350                                 | 11.10<br>±0.4                   |

**Notes:** \* Population for whom poverty status is determined. Staff's analysis of the 2010 – 2014 estimates returned CV values less than 15, indicating the data is reliable. **Source:** US Census 2015b.





### How Does Puente Impact the EJ Population?

- ❖ The analyses in 11 technical areas consider how any significant direct or cumulative impacts of the proposed project could affect the EJ population.
- ❖ If you have questions about Puente Power Project's impact to EJ populations-
  - Ask questions or discuss concerns during presentation by the applicable technical staff.



### The 11 Technical Areas that Consider EJ Population in Their Analysis

- ❖ Air Quality
- ❖ Hazardous Materials Management
- ❖ Land Use
- ❖ Noise & Vibration
- ❖ Public Health
- ❖ Socioeconomics
- ❖ Soil & Water Resources
- ❖ Traffic & Transportation
- ❖ Transmission Line Safety & Nuisance
- ❖ Visual Resources
- ❖ Waste Management