

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: October 12-13, 2022

From: MITCH WEISS, Executive Director

Reference Number: 4.4, Information

Prepared By: C. Sequoia Erasmus
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Subject: Interagency Equity Advisory Committee Membership Recommendations

Recommendation:

California Transportation Commission (Commission) staff recommend, in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), that the Commission approve membership for the interagency Equity Advisory Committee (Committee), as reflected in Attachment A.

In addition, staff recommends the addition of non-voting ex officio participants to recognize the important partnership role regional agencies play in the implementation of a transportation system that meets the needs of all California residents.

Approval of this recommendation represents another step forward in the implementation of the Commission's Racial Equity Statement.

Issue:

In June 2022, the Commission approved the formation of an interagency Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) and directed staff to issue a call for applicants in the Summer of 2022. Detailed information regarding the Committee is available [here](https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctc-media/documents/ctc-meetings/2022/2022-06/16-4-3-a11y.pdf) (<https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctc-media/documents/ctc-meetings/2022/2022-06/16-4-3-a11y.pdf>)

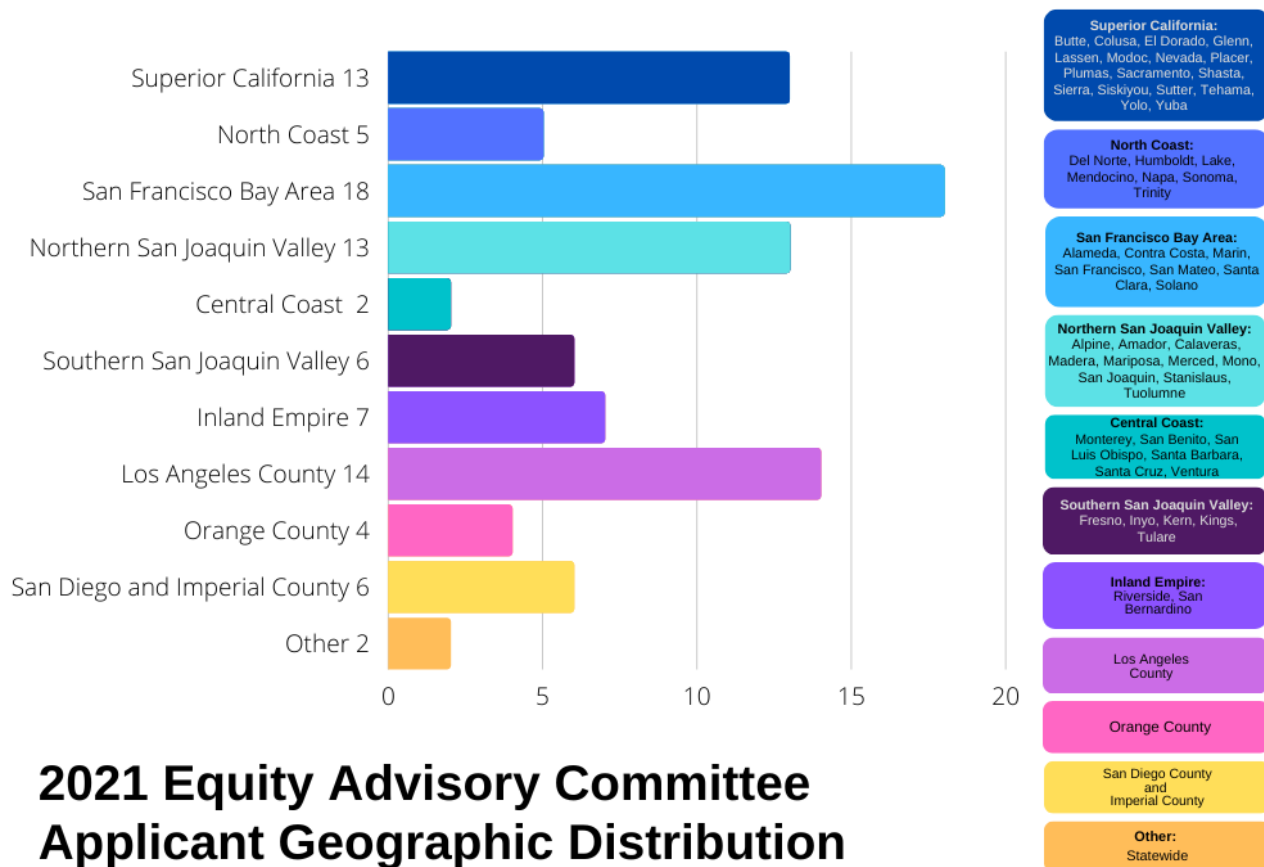
Since that time, the Commission, CalSTA, and Caltrans interagency staff collaboratively developed the Committee membership recommendation. The interagency team focused on elevating diverse and historically marginalized voices in the Committee recommendation. Once approved, these individuals will advise the Commission, CalSTA, and Caltrans on how to achieve meaningful outcomes in transportation equity, environmental justice, and equitable economic opportunities, especially as related to transportation planning and programming.

Membership call and selection process

On August 8, 2022, the Commission, Caltrans and CalSTA released a membership call for applicants. The application period was open through September 5, 2022.

A total of 72 individuals responded to the call for applicants. Geographically, applicants represented all major areas within California, with a majority applying from Superior California (Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, Yuba counties), the San Francisco Bay Area (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano counties), Northern San Joaquin Valley (Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne counties), and Los Angeles County.

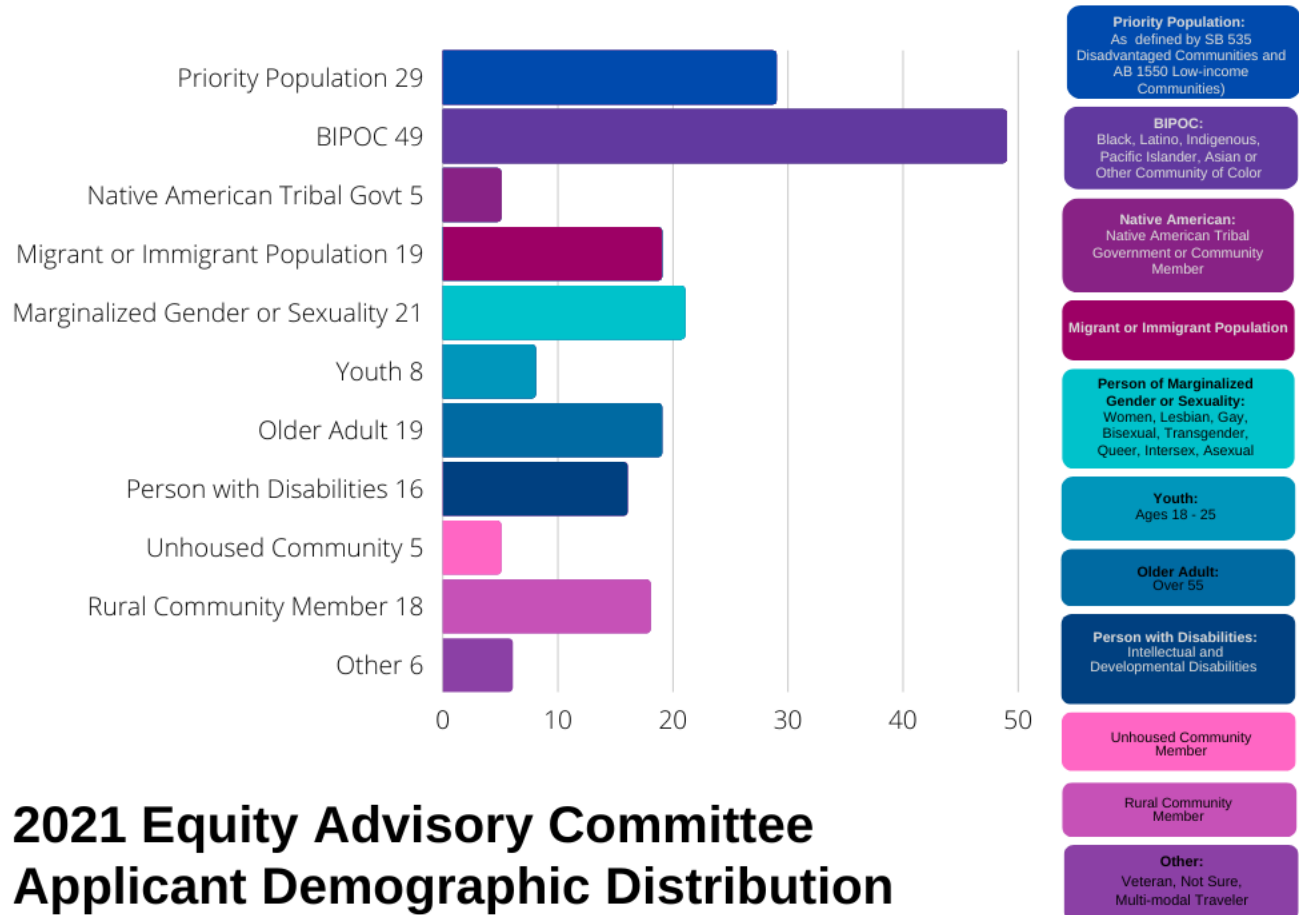
Table 1: Geographic distribution of applicants for the interagency Equity Advisory Committee



2021 Equity Advisory Committee Applicant Geographic Distribution

An analysis of the demographic representation of applicants can be found in table 2.

Table 2: Distribution of demographic identity or representation of applicants for the interagency Equity Advisory Committee



2021 Equity Advisory Committee Applicant Demographic Distribution

Over three meetings, the Interagency team collaborated with two Equity Advisory Roundtable members to review applications for Committee membership. An analysis was performed to ensure the final Committee membership recommendation was consistent with the intent of the approved Committee structure. To ensure balance across the committee, this review included an analysis of membership based on geographic, demographic, and professional or civic experience.

Staff recommends the addition of non-voting ex officio participants to recognize the important partnership role regional agencies play in the implementation of a transportation system that meets the needs of all California residents. The presence of agency ex officio members will ensure that subject matter experts within partner agencies can join Committee meetings to offer expert feedback, serve as thought partners, and increase and promote communication between Committee members and local and regional agencies. The process for choosing ex officio participants can be determined in partnership with regional transportation partners.

The staff recommendation represents more than a year of collaboration and strategy development between the Commission, CalSTA and Caltrans, the Equity Advisory Roundtable, and stakeholders. The Commission extends its gratitude to all involved.

A list of recommended members can be found in Attachment A.

Committee Compensation

Commission staff was successful in securing short-term compensation. Compensation through a one-year grant funded by the Resources Legacy Fund and distributed by the California Transportation Foundation will be available to Committee members. Commission staff continues to work on long term compensation solutions. After the Resource Legacy Funds grant is expended, Committee members will be reimbursed for actual travel cost incurred consistent with rules and regulations set forth by the California Department of Human Resources. The ability to provide compensation to members represents a significant milestone but is limited to one year of funding.

Attachments

- Attachment A: Interagency Equity Advisory Committee Recommended applicants and alternates

Interagency Equity Advisory Committee Membership

Tribes and Indigenous Communities

1. Michael DeSpain
 - Region: Amador County
 - Professional or Civic Representation: Buena Vista Rancheria, Chief Operations Officer, Natural Resource Development. Volunteer firefighter, Tribal Community Fund organizer, Trainer for National Incident Management System

Community-Based Organizations

2. Alexandria Contreras
 - Region: Southeast Los Angeles County
 - Professional or Civic Representation: Happy City Coalition advocating for housing, transit, and people focused land-use policies Volunteer with Streets for All LA, Bike East Bay, and East Bay for Everyone
3. Ana Gonzalez
 - Region: Inland Empire, San Bernardino
 - Professional or Civic Representation: Executive Director, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice. South Coast Air Quality Management District committee member, President of the Chicano Latino Caucus of San Bernardino County, K-12 Educator

Climate and Air Quality Organizations

4. Martha Armas-Kelly
 - Region: San Joaquin Valley
 - Professional or Civic Representation: Environmental Justice Program Coordinator, Catholic Charities Environmental Program, Diocese of Stockton. UC Davis Transportation and Environmental Justice Fellow.

Housing and Housing Justice Organizations

5. Kristine Williams
 - Region: San Joaquin Valley
 - Professional or Civic Representation: Program Director, Enterprise Community Partners focused on the San Joaquin Valley region. Provides technical assistance to local communities seeking Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities funding throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

Statewide Environmental Justice and Equity Organizations

6. Nailah Pope-Harden

- Region: Statewide
- Professional or Civic Representation: Executive Director, ClimatePlan. Involved in coalition building focused on transportation, housing, climate, air quality, and criminal justice reform.

7. Miha Babalai

- Region: Statewide
- Professional or Civic Representation: California Walks Co-Executive Director. Pedestrian and bike advocate also working with agency partners and funders to focus on rural, older adults, immigrant, and non-English speaking communities.

8. Axel Santana

- Region: San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles County
- Professional or Civic Representation: Associate at PolicyLink advancing equity through research and communications activities, policy advocacy, and coalition building

Accessibility and Disability Perspective

9. Herb Hastings

- Region: San Francisco Bay Area
- Professional or Civic Representation: Client Representative, Regional Center of the East Bay serving individuals with intellectual and development disabilities in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. Member, East Bay ParaTransit Advisory Council, Metropolitan Transportation Committee, Livermore Valley Transit Authority Wheels Advisory Committee, and BART Accessible Taskforce

10. William Walker

- Region: San Francisco Bay Area
- Professional or Civic Representation: Community Activist for transportation justice and equity with San Francisco Transit Riders; National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Transportation Justice Fellow

Accessibility and Disability Perspective - Rural Area

11. Peggy Martinez

- Region: North Coast
- Professional or Civic Representation: Founder and Director of Creative Inclusion, a company that focuses on improving accessibility for people with sight loss through technology, wayfinding, transit, recreation, travel, and entertainment

Community and Economic Development

12. Randy Torres-Van Vleck

- Region: San Diego
- Professional or Civic Representation: Director of Policy and Programming, City Heights Community Development Corporation. Focus on the implementation of policies, systems, and environmental change to achieve livable neighborhoods and transportation justice.

Community and Economic Development, Non-traditional Industry (New and Shared Mobilities)

13. Stella Ursua

- Region: Los Angeles County
Professional or Civic Representation: Senior Programs and Partnerships Manager, GRID Alternatives building community-powered solutions to advance economic and environmental justice through renewable energy. Los Angeles District Attorney's LGBTQ Advisory Committee; Recent Board Chair/President: The LGBTQ Center Long Beach; San Pedro Bay Ports: Sustainable Supply Chain Advisory Committee member

Community and Economic Development and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises - Rural Area

14. Connie Stewart

- Region: North Coast
- Professional or Civic Representation: Executive Director of Initiatives for Cal Poly Humboldt; formerly Executive Director at the California Center for Rural Policy at Cal Poly Humboldt (currently Chief Policy Advisor). Host of the Redwood Coast Connect Broadband Regional Consortium. Host of Humboldt Workforce Coalition. Serves on Board of Directors for Redwood Acres Fairground and Open Door Community Health Centers. Former

Mayor City Councilmember in Arcata, California. Former California Assembly Field Representative.

Labor and Non-represented groups

15. Amber Novey

- Region: Sacramento Valley
- Professional or Civic Representation: Tri-Fund Field Coordinator with Laborer's International Union of North America focused on worker safety, communications, and recruitment of underrepresented demographics. Serves as Co-Chair of Laborer's International Union of North America Women's Caucus.

Youth

16. Valerie Sanchez

- Region: San Joaquin Valley
- Professional or Civic Representation: Executive Fellow, Capitol Fellows Program of California State University Sacramento. Volunteer with Democratic Women of Kern; environmental justice, safe and affordable drinking water, and education organizing with low-income, immigrant, and farmworker families in the City of Bakersfield, Fresno County, and Kings County.

Other – Rural

17. Cheryl Viegas-Walker

- Region: Imperial County
- Professional or Civic Representation: City Councilmember, City of El Centro (term ends November 2022); Served 25 years as an elected city council member in a geographically isolated, rural, disadvantaged community; Regional Board and Trustee experience, including as Chair of Imperial County Transportation Commission and past President of Southern California Association of Governments.