

Coalition For A Safe Environment

Environmental Dictionary

11.18.2019

Environment

- a. All physical, geological, biological, chemical, social and cultural interacting elements, conditions and ecosystems.
- b. All biotic and abiotic factors that make up a natural ecosystem. Biotic factors are dependent on abiotic factors. Biotic factors include all living things such as humans, animals, plants, fungi, protists and bacteria, their food and interaction and negative biotic factors such as disease parasitism, predation, over population and war. Abiotic factors are the non-living elements such as sunlight, temperature, climate, air, water, land, minerals and negative abiotic factors such as pollution, acid rain, deforestation, global warming and natural disasters which can negatively impact biotic factors and their sustainable ecosystems.

Environmentalism

Environmentalism is the political, social, cultural and spiritual Environmental Justice Movement to protect our natural environment ecosystems by supporting good sustainable environmental laws, public policies, rules, regulations, enforcement, programs, projects, proposals, practices and preventing negative, temporary, permanent, irreparable and disproportional impacts on the environment, public, environmental justice communities and ecosystems from illegal and bad laws, public policies, rules, regulations, enforcement, programs, projects, proposals, practices and environmental racism.

Environmental Assessment

An environmental assessment is a comprehensive study that identifies, assesses, analyses, estimates risks and evaluates all the short-term and long-term potential negative environmental impacts of an existing or a proposed project. An environmental assessment may include multiple project alternatives. Most environmental assessment also

include ways to mitigate, avoid, compensate, minimize or eliminate negative impacts.

Environmental Equity

Environmental Equity is the basic human right for everyone to enjoy and live equally in a clean, healthy, thriving, prosperous, sustainable, safe and secure environment.

Environmental Impact

Environmental Impact is any change or anthropogenic impact to the environment including biophysical environments, ecosystems, biodiversity and natural resources, whether direct, indirect or cumulative, adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from a human project, human activity, inaction or natural cause.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

An Environmental Impact Statement is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) comprehensive environmental assessment report for a project. It will also ascertain the completeness, accuracy and validity of all information in the document. The first step in the process is the publishing of a Notice of Intent and holding a public scoping meeting to notify the public of the intent to issue an EIR and to accept preliminary public comments about what should be included in the EIR. A Draft Environmental Impact Report is then prepared and released for additional public comment. A Final Environmental Impact Report is prepared that may include corrections, additions, revisions and updates based on submitted public comments or new information. An EIR must be prepared and approved by an elected governmental body typically a city, county or state agency

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

An Environmental Impact Statement is the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) comprehensive environmental assessment report for a project. It will also ascertain the completeness, accuracy and validity of all information in the document. The first step in the process is the publishing of a Notice of Intent and holding a public scoping meeting to notify the public of the intent to issue an EIS and to accept preliminary public comments about what should be included in the EIS. A Draft Environmental

Impact Statement is then prepared and released for additional public comment. A Final Environmental Impact Statement is prepared that may include corrections, additions, revisions and updates based on submitted public comments or new information. An EIS must be prepared and approved by a governmental body typically a city, county, state, or federal agency and if it involves any ocean, water body, lake or stream will include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice demands that all enacted and proposed public laws, policies, rules, regulations, enforcement, programs, projects, proposals, practices or actions by government, governmental agencies, elected and appointed officials, institutions, private individuals and business industries shall be free from any form of environmental racism. Environmental Justice is the act of protecting the right to environmental equity.

Environmental Justice Community

Environmental Justice Communities are communities whose environment, public health and public safety are temporarily, permanently, irreparably and disproportionately impacted from governments, governmental agencies, elected and appointed officials, in enacting or approving public laws, policies, rules, regulations, enforcement, programs, projects, proposals, practices or in actions by institutions, private individuals, business industries and communities who receive no or equitable benefits. Environmental Justice Communities are typically victims of environmental racism.

Environmental Justice Movement

The Environmental Justice Movement is the political, social, cultural, spiritual, economic and legal actions by Environmental Justice Communities to fight and prevent environmental racism, to support sustainable natural ecosystems and human population communities.

Principles of Environmental Justice

As adopted by the Delegates to the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit held on October 24-27, 1991, in Washington DC. ,

PREAMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF COLOR, gathered together at this multinational People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, to begin to build a national and international movement of all peoples of color to fight the destruction and taking of our lands and communities, do hereby re-establish our spiritual interdependence to the sacredness of our Mother Earth; to respect and celebrate each of our cultures, languages and beliefs about the natural world and our roles in healing ourselves; to ensure environmental justice; to promote economic alternatives which would contribute to the development of environmentally safe livelihoods; and, to secure our political, economic and cultural liberation that has been denied for over 500 years of colonization and oppression, resulting in the poisoning of our communities and land and the genocide of our peoples, do affirm and adopt these Principles of Environmental Justice:

1) **Environmental Justice** affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the interdependence of all species, and the right to be free from ecological destruction.

2) **Environmental Justice** demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias.

3) **Environmental Justice** mandates the right to ethical, balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things.

4) **Environmental Justice** calls for universal protection from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of toxic/hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that threaten the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food.

5) **Environmental Justice** affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-determination of all peoples.

6) **Environmental Justice** demands the cessation of the production of all toxins, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current producers be held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production.

7) **Environmental Justice** demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.

8) **Environmental Justice** affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being forced to choose between

an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the right of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.

9) **Environmental Justice** protects the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.

10) **Environmental Justice** considers governmental acts of environmental injustice a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration On Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.

11) **Environmental Justice** must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native Peoples to the U.S. government through treaties, agreements, compacts, and covenants affirming sovereignty and self-determination.

12) **Environmental Justice** affirms the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and provided fair access for all to the full range of resources.

13) **Environmental Justice** calls for the strict enforcement of principles of informed consent, and a halt to the testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations on people of color.

14) **Environmental Justice** opposes the destructive operations of multi-national corporations.

15) **Environmental Justice** opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms.

16) **Environmental Justice** calls for the education of present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.

17) **Environmental Justice** requires that we, as individuals, make personal and consumer choices to consume as little of Mother Earth's resources and to produce as little waste as possible; and make the conscious decision to challenge and reprioritize our lifestyles to ensure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.

Environmental Racism

Environmental Racism is the illegal, intentional or unintentional use of race, color, national origin, citizenship, ethnicity, culture, gender, language, educational level or economic status by governments, governmental agencies, elected and appointed officials in proposing, targeting, enacting or approving public laws, policies, rules, regulations, enforcement, programs, project proposals, to exclude, deny or limit public participation, equal access in decision making or in actions and by projects, campaigns, employment by private industry, institutions, organizations and private individuals which may cause temporary, permanent, irreparable and disproportional negative environmental impacts, exposure to environmental hazards, excessive public health burdens, life-threatening conditions, public safety risks, unsustainable communities and inequitable socio-economic benefits.