

# PCOP WEBINAR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN

2024 USACE Environmental Justice  
Accomplishments and Strategic Path Forward  
For Future Implementation

Jerica Richardson  
EJ/J40 Program Manager  
HQUSACE



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# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## EXECUTIVE ORDER 14096 UPDATED DEFINITION



The “**just treatment and meaningful involvement** of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other Federal activities that affect human health and the environment so that people:

*(i) are fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers; and*

*(ii) have equitable access to a healthy, sustainable, and resilient environment in which to live, play, work, learn, grow, worship, and engage in cultural and subsistence practices.”*



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# FEDERAL ACTIVITY DEFINITION

EO 14096 SEC. 2(C)



Federal Activity is “any agency rulemaking, guidance, policy, program, practice, or action that affects or has the potential to affect human health and the environment, including an agency action related to climate change.”

Federal Activities may include agency actions related to:

- Assuring compliance with applicable laws
- Licensing, permitting, and the reissuance of licenses and permits
- Awarding, conditioning, or oversight of Federal funds
- Managing Federal resources and facilities

Federal Activities may occur in any of the following locations:

- Washington D.C, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, and other territories and possessions of the United States.



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# HQUSACE EJ PROGRAM STRATEGY

## CULTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL CHANGE



### Vision

Environmental Justice is to develop engineering solutions that are fair, inclusive, and equitable for Tribal, rural, and urban communities to address their water resource needs.

### Mission

Maximize USACE's capabilities and resources to achieve environmental justice and infrastructure equity for all communities with environmental justice concerns and provide EJ analysis, comprehensive benefits, and enhanced outreach services.

HQ/MSC EJ Leads will support PDT's in achieving agency environmental justice goals while partnering with local communities to deliver direct solutions.

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#### #1. Provide EJ Support Services to USACE MSC's and Districts

- Coordinate With Justice40 Covered Programs (GI, CAP (165a), PAS, FPMS, TPP, FUSRAP) to capture data for study analysis
- Report to CEQ, WHJAC, OMB agency progress with program implementation and annual budget reports
- Develop J40 Tracking Mechanisms to ensure projects and funds received are utilized efficiently

#### #2. Provide Support to MSC's and Divisions Engagement

- Engage with and outreach to DACs; listen & learn about problems & opportunities
- Support partnering, network-building/maintenance and collaboration capacity
- Identify potential projects and seek funding, leverage existing partners/agency programs
- Execute and deliver completed projects with community support



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# CEQ EJ STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

## EO 14096 SECTION 4



Each agency to develop internal mechanisms to achieve the goals of this order, including by:

- Creating performance metrics and other means of **accountability**;
- Identifying and **dedicating staff, funding, and other resources**; and
- Providing appropriate **professional development and training** of agency staff; and

Consistent with section 2–2 of Executive Order 12898, ensure that Federal activities do not have the effect of:

- Excluding persons, including populations, from participation in Federal activities on the basis of their race, color, or national origin;
- Denying persons, including populations, the benefits of Federal activities on the basis of their race, color, or national origin; or
- Subjecting persons, including populations, to discrimination on the basis of their race, color, or national origin.



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# USACE EJ ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## POLICY, ENGAGEMENT, EJ PROGRAM PLAN, USACE EJ STRATEGIC PLAN



### Policy Updates

ASA(CW) Policy Updates Occurred between 2021 and 2023. Awaiting Implementation Guidance for WRDA 2022, 2024 Bills

**Aug 2024**



### EJ Program Plan

HQ issues internal EJ Program Management Plan. District/Division to provide feedback and updates to occur when WRDA IG issued for Sec. 118

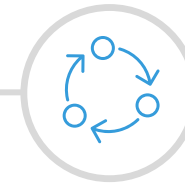
**Sept 2024**



### USACE EJ Strategic Plan

Public/Tribal meetings held. ASA(CW) drafting EJ strategic plan to be reviewed by HQ, Final plan to be submitted to CEQ by late October.

**Oct 2024**



### Community Engagement

District/Division Engagement Plans to be updated and posted online for public comment to improve communication

**Feb 2025**



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# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NEXT STEPS

2024-2027



- **EJ Program Management Plan (Sept. 2024)**
  - Quick Step-By-Step Guide in Starting Engagement, Analysis, and Level of Detail for Feasibility Studies
  - Defines Program, Objectives, Roles and Responsibilities of HQ EJ Manager, MSC Coordinators and District Leads, Etc.
  
- **EJ Prospect Training Course (FY 2025)**
  - Course Modules to include Movement History/Policy/Engagement/Analysis/Etc.
  
- **Environmental Justice Dashboard (FY 2025)**
  - Links to internal/external agency programs, tools, resources that address EJ/J40
  - Update District/Division Web Pages to improve transparency and public access to resources
  
- **USACE Environmental Justice Strategic Plan – EO 14096 (Oct. 2024)**
  - USACE Agency wide strategic plan includes all divisions/mission areas where applicable/practicable (CW/Military/Regulatory/Workforce/Etc.)



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# USACE – EJ POINT CONTACTS

## USACE HEADQUARTERS & DIVISION OFFICES



Jerica Richardson  
HQUSACE – EJ/J40 Program  
Manager



Eileen Takata  
South Pacific Division



Devon Aldridge  
Mississippi Valley Division



Andrea Carson  
Great Lakes & Ohio River  
Division



Kate Bliss  
Pacific Ocean Division



Amber Metallo  
North Atlantic Division



Rachel Haug  
Southwestern Division



Jessie Mizic Woodward  
Northwestern Division



David Bauman  
South Atlantic Division