EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - updated September 2021



ADVANCING EQUITY AND JUSTICE IN MEGAREGIONS: A CASE LAW ANALYSIS ON THE CHALLENGES IN DEVELOPING DISPROPORTIONALITY METRICS FOR SUCCESSFUL SUITS

Civil rights and environmental justice (EJ) laws, regulations, and policies lay the foundation for safeguarding fair and equitable processes and outcomes concerning development and planning initiatives. In particular, EJ requires full access to relevant decision-making processes and equitable distribution of project benefits and burdens that avoid disproportionality.

Though EJ narratives are increasingly being integrated into the environmental review, permitting processes, and the development of infrastructure plans by different federal, state, and local agencies, studies show that communities of color and low-income populations have been disproportionately carrying the burden of different planning decisions for decades (Bullard, 2004; Mohai et al., 2009; Agyeman et al. 2016). public policies.

The goal of this project is thus to develop appropriate workflows for conducting EJ analyses including community/population definitions, performance measures, and metrics of disproportionality. We will apply these workflows to the structured identification and measurement of disparate impacts required during the NEPA/EJ analysis of megaregional planning initiatives. To reach this end, a pragmatic, results-oriented approach to research tasks will be followed throughout the course of the project.



Advancing Equity and Justice in Megaregions: Developing Disproportionality Metrics for an effective and comprehensive Environmental Justice Analysis in Megaregional Planning

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