

2023-2024 Race, Equity & Inclusion Working Group Meeting Summary

Thursday, October 26, 2023 | 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Meeting recording available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSHI1_w4_Uo

Working Group Outcomes:

- Build understanding and support among key stakeholders and Board members for SACOG's Racial Equity Action Plan implementation.
- Better understand and define the key components of meaningful community engagement processes
- Develop regional equity indicators that SACOG will collect and report on a regular basis.
- Provide recommendations to the SACOG board on assessing equity impacts of proposed policy decisions.
- Based on REAP progress reports, make recommendations to the SACOG board of any changes to the REAP to increase its effectiveness and impact.

AGENDA available at: <https://sacog.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=4223>

Pre-Reading/Watching:

Recording of Roseville board workshop on Community Based Collaboratives, Recording of Yuba County board workshop on Improving Public Health and Safety in Yuba County's Disinvested Communities, Engage, Empower, Implement Program Briefing Book, Racial Equity Action Plan Progress Report for October 2023.

Meeting Attendees: Chair Jennings, Vice Chair Suen, Pamela Bulahan, Rich Desmond, Jill Gayaldo, Lakhvir Ghag, Martha Guerrero, William Walker, Christine Tien, Aimee Barnes, Marco Lizarraga, Elisa Herrera, Raul Martinez

Absent: Jesse Loren, Michael Saragosa, Shawntay Arroyo, Maria Chacon Kniestedt, Kendra Lewis

Meeting Summary

October 26, 2023 was the fourth meeting of the 2023-2024 Race, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group.

The working group members focused on getting a solid common understanding of what they all mean by **meaningful community engagement**. This common understanding is one of the desired outcomes of the 2023-2024 working group because meaningful community engagement becomes the foundation for some key actions to support Programs and Board Practices goals in SACOG's Racial Equity Action Plan.

First, working Group members discussed the Roseville and Yuba County board workshops, as well as the South Sacramento REI tour for, to identify common elements of meaningful community engagement across them.

Second, the Working Group developed the following draft principles of meaningful community engagement:

Draft Principles of Meaningful Community Engagement:

- Acknowledges history of harm/past experiences with government
- Builds on a foundation of trust/reciprocity with community
- Gets on the ground to understand the needs of the community
- Recognizes a community is not homogenous, nor are the needs, challenges, or opportunities
- Demonstrates impact or returns to the community to show their impact
- Is clear on the ask/what it is you seek to engage the community
- Is iterative and open to evolving over time
- Looks for gaps, looks for who is not at the table, and seeks to create a bridge
- Invests in the long run
- Acknowledges and addresses structural barriers and mitigates for those
- Considers and goes after resource approaches that support all of the above
- Seeks to share and transfer power over time
- Fosters transparency and authenticity

Third, SACOG staff presented the story of SACOG's reasons for, and development, of the Engage, Empower, Implement Grant Program. This was presented as a timely case study for the Working Group to examine which principles of meaningful community engagement were used in the development of the program, which principles are being used in the program itself, and which principles SACOG should strive to include when it implements the program.

As a next step, working group members will be able to review and edit the principles they developed. They will also be invited to join one of two ad hoc groups to work with SACOG staff before the next working group meeting. One ad hoc group will bring these principles of meaningful community engagement into a rubric that could be used to develop SACOG programs, evaluate grant applications, and/or evaluate policy and funding decisions. A second ad hoc group will review the regional racial equity indicators that SACOG is developing for monitoring economic, demographic, land use, transportation, and housing outcomes.

Working group members were also provided an Infosheet on SACOG's REI Initiative, which can be used when talking with others about the what, why, who and how of SACOG's REI work. This Infosheet will also be posted on SACOG's website.

Next meeting dates in 2024 (all meetings will be in-person):

March 15, 2024, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

June 14, 2024, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

September 20, 2024, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

November 1, 2024, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm