

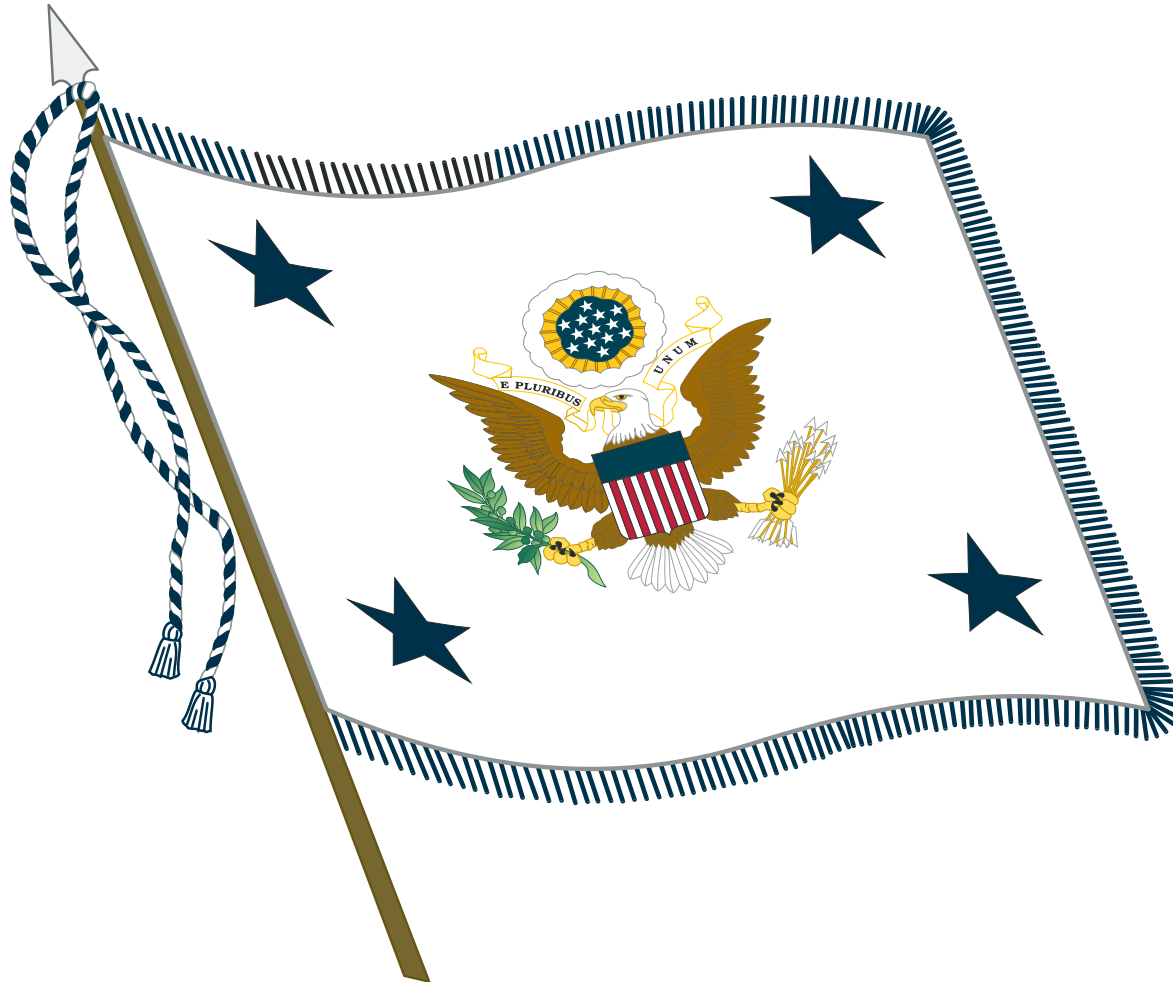


U.S. ARMY

Environmental Justice Strategic Plan



Webinar September 18, 2024





Meeting Format



- This meeting is open to Tribal Nations.
- The objective of today's meeting is to:
 - Provide a brief overview of the Environmental Justice Strategic Plan, including draft Vision, Goals, and Objectives
 - Hear feedback from Tribal nations regarding the Environmental Justice Strategic Plan
- If you have any clarifying questions, please send them to:
ej_strategic_plan@usace.army.mil
- The overview meeting slide deck includes the following slides, will be posted on the Army's website:
<https://www.army.mil/asacw>
- And the Environmental Justice website:
<https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental-Justice/>



Meeting Format and Ground Rules

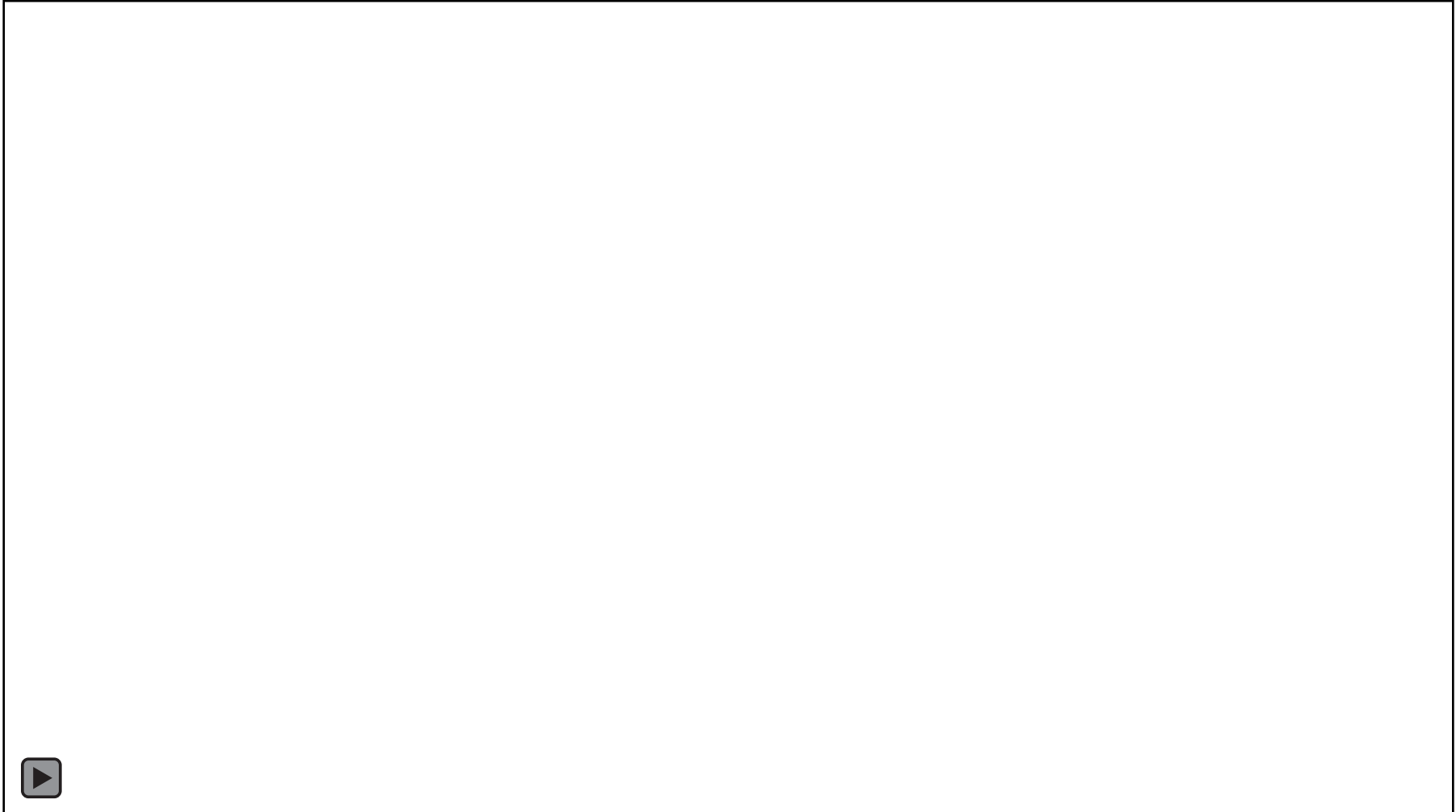


- After the opening presentation, anyone who would like to speak may use the raise their hand feature and will be called upon to provide remarks.
- It is also okay to provide your feedback using the chat feature.
- There will be a five-minute waiting period where - if no additional attendees request to speak - we will conclude the meeting early.
- Comments provided during today's session are equally weighted with any written comments provided to the docket.



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Mr. Connor Welcome



UNCLASSIFIED



Agenda



1. Background on Executive Order (EO) 14096 and Environmental Justice Strategic Plan requirement
2. The input we'd like from you
3. Proposed Vision, Goals, and Objectives
4. How to Submit Comments
5. Comments from the public



Background and History



- Executive Order 12898 (1994)
 - Identify and address disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority and low-income populations
- Executive Order 14096 (2023)
 - Build upon and strengthen its commitment to deliver environmental justice to all communities
 - Whole of government approach to environmental justice
 - Directs agencies to prepare Environmental Justice Strategic Plans



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Background



- White House Council on Environmental Quality Peer Learning Group
- USACE Working Group
- Template
 - Vision, Mission, Approach
 - Goals, Objectives
 - Priority Actions
 - Metrics

Strategic Planning to

Advance Environmental Justice

Under Executive Order 14096, Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All



White House Council on Environmental Quality

October 2023



USACE Internal Working Group



- How does environmental justice intersect with USACE mission areas and Civil Works activities?
- How can USACE contribute to a whole-of-government approach to Environmental Justice?
- How can USACE address Environmental Justice holistically in the Civil Works Program for Tribal Nations and for all communities?



Elements of the Civil Works Program



Civil Works

People

Projects,
permits, &
work
activities

Partnerships

Policy and
Process

Our workforce
and skillsets

Our work

Organizations
with whom we
work

*How we do
the work*



Env. Justice Through Goal-Setting



- Strategic Vision
- 5 Strategic Goals
- Supporting Objectives for each Goal

Summaries are provided today. The complete language is in the federal register notice.



We need your input



1. Do the vision, strategic goals, and objectives **address your interests and concerns** about the advancement of environmental justice by USACE?
2. What **actions** should USACE undertake to **advance** environmental justice?
3. What **performance measures** or metrics should USACE establish to **monitor progress** towards advancing environmental justice?
4. What else do you want us to think about that we haven't asked?



Vision



(Summary)

- Integrate principles of environmental justice and the Federal Trust responsibility into USACE work. (*outward facing*)

- Build and train the USACE workforce that is capable of implementing the work. (*inward facing*)

...so that all communities can access the benefits of Civil Works Programs, and enjoy a healthy, sustainable, and resilient environment.



Goal 1: People



(Summary)

Recruit, retain, and train a workforce with the ability to advance environmental justice and protect our Federal trust responsibilities.



Supporting objectives



(Summary)

- 1.1 Build a workforce that reflects the diversity of the American people and includes those with lived experience of environmental justice concerns.
- 1.2 Create and sustain the workforce environment where such a workforce can thrive.
- 1.3 Build environmental justice literacy at USACE.
- 1.4 Train USACE staff on how to meaningfully and respectfully engage with Tribal Nations and with communities with environmental justice concerns.



Goal 2: Project, permits, other activities



(Summary)

Conduct USACE work activities in ways that advance environmental justice.



Supporting Objectives



(Summary)

2.1 Focus staff time on efforts that will increase access to environmental benefits in communities with environmental justice concerns, including in U.S. territories and across Tribal Nations.

2.2 Improve the way USACE conducts outreach in both Civil Works projects and permits, and improve the way USACE integrates Tribal and public input received into work activities.

2.3 Evaluate the legal tools USACE has to identifying impacts and implementing alternative solutions or specific mitigation actions that would reduce burdens.



Goal 3: Partnerships



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(Summary)

Collaborate and build the partnerships needed to advance environmental justice across the nation.



Supporting objectives



(Summary)

3.1 Build, nurture, and repair trusted relationships with Tribal Nations and communities with environmental justice concerns.

3.2 Build strategic partnerships and increase collaboration with other agencies and organizations who can help advance environmental justice.

3.3 Participate in interagency committees and working groups to advance environmental justice.



Goal 4: Policy and Process



(Summary)

Refine the policies and processes that guide how USACE works to advance environmental justice.



Supporting Objectives



(Summary)

4.1 Review and recommend improvements to Civil Works policy or guidance that could reduce environmental burdens, increase access to environmental benefits, and reduce barriers to USACE decision-making.

4.2 To the maximum extent possible, focus resources in Tribal communities and in other places that have the most environmental burdens, that would be the most affected by an agency action, or are most in need of advancing environmental justice.



Goal 5: Further Institutionalize Environmental Justice



(Summary)

Institutionalize environmental justice and Federal trust principles across USACE throughout all operations and establish accountability for decisionmakers and practitioners.



Supporting Objectives



(Summary)

5.1 Learn how environmental justice and Tribal trust issues intersect with all work USACE and update Policy and Process as referenced in Goal 4.

5.2 Provide for staff accountability to learn and advance environmental justice and uphold the Federal trust responsibilities.

5.3 Create a feedback mechanism to update Senior Leaders on progress and challenges to implementing environmental justice strategies.



Consultation on the Plan



- You may request consultation through October 15, 2024.
- Please send request for consultation to me, jessica.j.ludy@usace.army.mil
- Comments on the Environmental Justice Strategic Plan will be accepted until October 22, 2024.

Identify comments by docket number **COE–2024 003** and use any of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal** <http://www.regulations.gov>.
Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- **Email:** **EJ_Strategic_Plan@usace.army.mil**
Include the docket number, COE–2024 003 in the subject line of the message.
- **Mail:** Joseph Redican, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Deputy Chief, Planning and Policy, Desk 3F94
441 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20314
Include Docket ID COE–2024 003 on the Letterhead.



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Comments



The type of input we need



1. Do the vision, strategic goals, and objectives **address your interests and concerns** about the advancement of environmental justice by USACE?
2. What **actions** should USACE undertake to **advance** environmental justice?
3. What **performance measures** or metrics should USACE establish to **monitor progress** towards advancing environmental justice?
4. What else do you want us to think about that we haven't asked?