



SAN JOSE TO MERCED - ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

JULY 2020

Definition of Enhancement

For the purpose of identifying potential improvements for existing communities with environmental justice populations to help resolve disproportionate high and adverse effects to minority and low-income population, enhancements are defined as follows:

“Any upgrading of an existing community facility, structure, function or action, or addition of a facility, structure, function or action that is made solely for the benefit of the local community, including an increase in the capacity, capability, efficiency, duration, function, or action over existing conditions. Enhancements do not include the following: proposed elements of the HSR project; feasible mitigation to address significant adverse environmental effects as defined in the project EIR/EIS; improvements mandated by existing local, state, or federal mandates; or improvements fully funded by dedicated existing funding sources.”

Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Enhancements that can be supported and/or implemented by the Authority were evaluated and selected based on meeting the criteria described below. For each enhancement, a score on a scale of 1-10 was assigned for the “beneficial-intensity” category and a scale of 1-15 for the other criteria. Scores for each potential enhancement are included within each enhancement profile.

1. **Beneficial – Intensity** – Enhancements must benefit substantial benefit to minority and low-income populations within communities in a census district defined as containing low-income or minority populations greater than the reference community. Enhancements should improve community cohesion, identity, livability, economic or educational opportunities, health, and safety.
2. **Beneficial – Relative Number of Beneficiaries** – Enhancements should benefit a high proportion of the total population that is geographically proximate to the proposed improvements.
3. **Practicable** – The enhancements must be practicable, which is defined as feasible considering technical feasibility, logistical feasibility and implementation, and financial feasibility:
 - a. Regarding technical feasibility, the proposed enhancement must be technically feasible based on available technology and common industry practices (Yes/No).
 - b. Regarding logistical feasibility and implementation, the enhancements can be implemented through the Authority’s construction contract(s) or through other means in partnership

with local agencies or entities in achievable time frame without undue scope, schedule, or budget risks to Authority. For any enhancements not directly related to the HSR facility, there must be a local partner to be practicable.

- c. Regarding financial feasibility, the level to which the enhancement will leverage the Authority's funding with funding from other sources, including other State programs, will be evaluated based on the reasonableness and amount of available other funds. The Authority's funding contributions will supplement but not supplant other available funding sources.
4. **Defined Project or Action** – The nature and scope of enhancement investment is defined clearly and distinctly in terms of the specific physical improvements (if relevant), beneficial outcomes, implementing mechanisms, costs, and timing.
5. **Satisfy Authority Obligations** – The Authority can determine that the enhancements have a general relationship to overall project effects, are consistent with the Authority's mission, and are consistent with a statewide objective or program, without setting an undesirable precedent or hardship.
6. **Defined Roles and Responsibilities** - This criterion is defined by the degree to which the ownership, implementation, operation and maintenance roles and responsibilities for enhancements must be clearly defined and acceptable to assigned entities.
7. **Evidence of Agreement** - There should be evidence that the Authority, the local community, and any local responsible agencies involved agree that the enhancement would be beneficial and acceptable to the community.
8. **Proportionate** - The full suite of enhancements proposed for a specific community should be roughly proportionate to the level of unresolved project effects on that community. This criterion is not used to evaluate individual enhancement but is rather used to assess the full suite of enhancements potentially proposed for a community considering the Authority's level of responsibility (including funding) for those enhancements.