



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **SANDAG Approves Commitment to Equity Statement**

SAN DIEGO – Today, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Board of Directors approved the first equity framework for inclusion in the new regional transportation plan.

“Transportation is a gateway to opportunity, education and jobs; and this new social equity statement and framework are excellent first steps in centering equity in transportation planning in our region,” said Councilmember Vivian Moreno, Chair of SANDAG’s Social Equity Working Group. “In the past, transportation planners ignored the needs and quality of life of low-income neighborhoods and people of color. With these actions, SANDAG has demonstrated its commitment to inclusion and accessibility for all our communities.”

The SANDAG Commitment to Equity Statement is the foundation for the actions SANDAG will take to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion in all programs, projects, and policies. The Equity Action Plan will guide the agency in acknowledging past decisions that divided communities and marginalized groups and create new policies for inclusive outreach efforts that incorporate needs and opinions from historically marginalized groups and communities.

SANDAG is the first regional planning agency to formally adopt an equity statement and include an equity framework as part of its regional transportation plan. As a component of the Equity Action Plan, staff is developing a Regional Social Equity Planning Framework for the 2021 Regional Plan and will present this to the Board for consideration in the spring. Additional information on today’s actions can be found [here](#).

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*Councilmember Vivian Moreno represents the Eighth Council District of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Barrio Logan, Egger Highlands, Grant Hill, Logan Heights, Memorial, Nestor, Ocean View Hills, Otay Mesa, San Ysidro, Shelltown, Sherman Heights, Stockton and the Tijuana River Valley.*

**Equity Statement Recommendation to the Board from the Commitment to Equity Statement Ad Hoc Subcommittee**

The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that Working Draft II from the January 22, 2021 Board meeting be amended with the one highlighted addition shown below and be forwarded to the Board for approval at its February 22, 2021 meeting.

**Our Commitment to Equity**

*We hold ourselves accountable to the communities we serve. We acknowledge we have much to learn and much to change; and we firmly uphold equity and inclusion for every person in the San Diego region. This includes historically underserved, systemically marginalized*

*groups impacted by actions and inactions at all levels of our government and society.*

*We have an obligation to eliminate disparities and ensure that safe, healthy, accessible, and inclusive opportunities are available to everyone. In 2021, SANDAG will develop an equity action plan that will inform how we plan, prioritize, **fund**, and build projects and programs; frame how we work with our communities; define how we recruit and develop our employees; guide our efforts to conduct unbiased research and interpret data; and set expectations for companies and stakeholders that work with us.*

*We are committed to creating a San Diego region where every person who visits, works, and lives can thrive.*

Attachment 1