

# What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate burden of environmental harms and risks, including those resulting from the negative environmental consequences of industrial, governmental, and commercial operations or programs and policies.

Meaningful involvement means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health
- The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

Environmental justice is not a significant topic at Travis AFB. Military families that live on base are transient and are physically separated from all restoration sites, and the base is surrounded to the north, east, and southeast by grazing land owned predominantly by absentee landowners rather than disadvantaged populations. Housing developments closest to the base contain relatively affluent families from a wide range of backgrounds.

Section 5 of the Travis AFB Community Relations Plan (CRP) Update describes in detail the various tools used to disseminate Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) information to the public and to obtain feedback on all proposed environmental cleanup actions. Comments from all contributors are considered before a final cleanup decision is made. The ERP staff works closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board to ensure that the cleanup process is conducted fairly and in the best interests of all community members.

The Travis AFB ERP strives to return base property to an unlimited use/unrestricted exposure condition by putting into place soil and groundwater remedies that prevent base employees and neighboring residents from being exposed to contaminants. Although the ERP plays a small role in the overall environmental management of resources and work spaces, it contributes to the fair treatment of military and civilian employees, dependents, visitors, and base neighbors.

To learn more about environmental justice, visit <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/>. Any questions about environmental justice on Travis AFB can be sent to the Travis AFB Restoration Program Manager via email ([enviropa@us.af.mil](mailto:enviropa@us.af.mil)) or to any regulatory agency remedial project manager listed in Section 3.4 of the CRP Update.