# Navigating Environmental Justice in Oil Spill and Emergency Preparedness and Response

**November 16, 2023** 



### Environmental Justice is just tip of the iceberg

Vulnerable populations

Sensitive populations Marginalized communities

Just transition

Social disparities Disadvantaged community

Climate Justice

Health disparities

**EQUITY** 

Transportation Justice

Social Justice

**Energy Justice** 

**MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT Participation in the processes** "What earns us a seat at the table"

**IMPROVED COMMUNITY RELATIONS Equitable Outcomes** 

**DEMONSTRATED FAIR TREATMENT Commitment to Equity (or Fairness)** "What we bring to the table or staying power"



#### Why Addressing Environmental Justice Matters



Agency Strategic Plans (e.g., BOEM, EPA) integrating EJ principles



Equity and fairness



**Community Empowerment** 



**Community Involvement and Consultation** 

 Actively involving EJ communities empowers them in decision-making.

 Actively engage EJ communities in the planning process, incorporating their perspectives and addressing concerns





### Equitable Resource Allocation

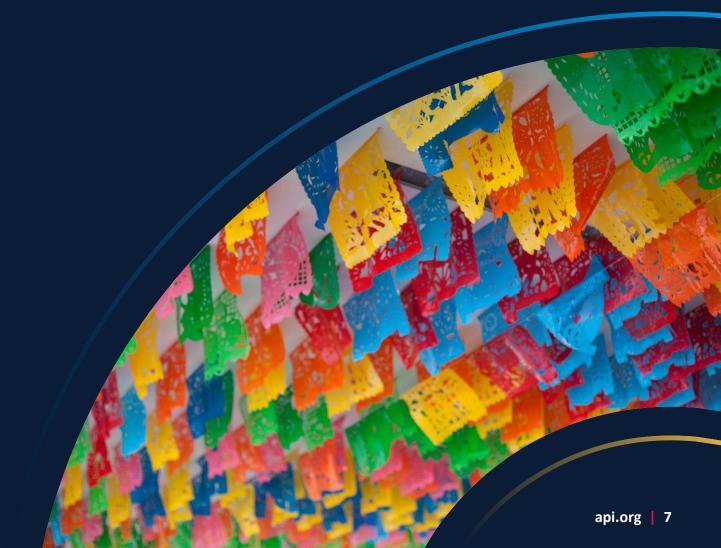
- Addresses disparities to minimize impacts on marginalized populations.
- Prioritize equitable distribution of resources, ensuring timely and adequate support for EJ communities.





#### **Cultural Sensitivity**and Awareness

- Fosters trust and respect, promoting effective collaboration.
- Enhance cultural awareness training, recognizing and respecting diverse cultures within EJ communities.





#### **Accessible Communication**

- Ensures inclusivity and active participation in spill response.
- Improve communication methods to be more accessible, considering language barriers and diverse communication preferences.





## Capacity Building in EJ Communities

**Empowers communities for active spill response participation** 

Invest in training and capacitybuilding initiatives within EJ communities to empower residents for effective spill response.





#### Transparency and Accountability

- Builds trust within EJ communities, demonstrating responsible practices.
- Enhance transparency by regularly communicating industry actions and establishing accountability measures to ensure adherence to standards.





Tailored Outreach and Education

- Provides relevant information, fostering a sense of empowerment
- Develop targeted outreach and education campaigns that address community-specific concerns and priorities within EJ communities.





Comparative Case Study Mauritius vs. Huntington Beach Spills

- Incident snapshot
  - Mauritius MV Wakashio (Aug 2020): 1000 tons of fuel oil in Pointe d'Esny.
  - Huntington Beach, CA (Oct 2021): Offshore pipeline split, releasing 78 tons of crude oil.
- Response Challenges
  - Mauritius Limited experience, delayed support, and mobilization challenges.
  - Huntington Beach Prompt government intervention and effective collaboration
- Policy Changes
  - Mauritius Reworked National Contingency Plan, new shipping regulations.
  - Huntington Beach Calls for a ban on offshore drilling



#### Thank you!

