

Environmental Justice

The Biden-Harris Administration has identified environmental justice as a top national priority, recognizing the need to address historical and systemic inequity issues across the nation. For more than 25 years, Jacobs has provided thought leadership on policies and practices addressing environmental justice and impacts to historically under-served and marginalized communities.

We have conducted environmental justice analysis on a wide range of energy, transportation, building and water infrastructure projects throughout the U.S. Our environmental professionals have in-depth experience with environmental justice assessments, including socioeconomic analysis; air quality modeling; and climate modeling for flooding, sea level rise, and other areas of concern. Jacobs also performs health impact assessments; develops robust, equitable engagement strategies; performs multi-lingual translations; and identifies social and community project risks. More broadly, our multidisciplinary team supports clients with our Global Social Value Leadership, focused on equality and justice.

Building Infrastructure

Next National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency West Campus,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This project received a Citation Award for Outstanding Environmental Planning Project from the Federal Planning Division of the American Planning Association.



Photo courtesy City of St. Louis

Jacobs completed a 17-month expedited environmental impact statement (EIS) for the relocation of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's (NGA's) western headquarters. **NGA's chosen location was a site in North St. Louis, which required the relocation of minority and low-income populations.** The site was designated as blighted by the City of St. Louis and was adjacent to the site of the former Pruitt-Igoe public housing development from the 1950s, a location long known for racial injustices.

The timing of the public meetings for the EIS also coincided with the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri and the creation of the Ferguson Commission, which was formed in response to the

death of Michael Brown, Jr. Given these sensitivities, **Jacobs and our subcontractor, Vector Communications, worked with the government stakeholders (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District, the U.S. Air Force and NGA) to develop a public engagement and environmental justice strategy.** This included direct communication with residents and outreach to local government.

Jacobs and the USACE worked closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in determining the strategy for assessing the effects on minority and low-income populations. This included conducting a community cohesion analysis in compliance with Executive Order 12898 *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-income Populations*. Jacobs also served as a beta tester in using the EPA's EJSCREEN tool for the EIS.

In support of the EIS process and National Historic Preservation Act compliance, Jacobs' historic preservation planners worked with neighborhood representatives, the City of St. Louis, and the State Historic Preservation Office to develop a Programmatic Agreement (PA) that articulated a wide range of mitigation strategies drawn from consultation with the residents and community members. Mitigation included documentation of oral histories and place-making monuments in the community. The City of St. Louis also relocated a particularly significant historic home to an adjacent property.

Transportation Infrastructure

Reno/Sparks Spaghetti Bowl, Nevada Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration

Jacobs provided environmental services, including an EIS, to pave the way for design improvements to the Reno/Sparks Spaghetti Bowl, the largest interchange in Nevada. With the need to decrease congestion resulting from rapid population growth and increase safety of an outdated interchange design, the project was a high priority for the State.

The interchange is located in a constrained urban environment with a large environmental justice population, including minority, low income, and tribal communities. **Jacobs supported the Nevada Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, by providing alternatives that balanced the project needs while reducing environmental and socioeconomic impacts to communities.** We developed three separate and specific comprehensive outreach plans for each community and identified mitigation measures to minimize the right-of-way displacements and acquisitions. The project included extensive agency involvement with the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and other regional and local agencies.

Jacobs successfully completed an accelerated EIS for this reconstruction project, which was regionally significant, politically sensitive, technically complex, and time critical.



Energy Infrastructure

Gowanus Floating Barge Electric Generation Facility Repowering Project, Astoria Generating Company

The Astoria Generating Company needed to replace old generating units on barges with larger, more efficient, natural gas-powered units in Brooklyn, New York. **The project was highly contested and required a thorough analysis of the potential social, health, and climate change impacts to vulnerable populations as part of the permitting process.**



The project was the first environmental justice assessment under the New York State environmental and health requirements and integrated current research on impact analysis for vulnerable populations.

Jacobs developed the impact assessment framework and methodology that was used to determine the likelihood of disproportionate impacts. **The framework provided the basis for a robust assessment of potential environmental justice concerns and applied an extensive multi-tiered approach.** The analysis evaluated the combination and potential interaction of environmental and social stressors; assessed the links to environmental health disparities; integrated climate change indicators and variables; and analyzed natural and built risks, including climate risks and social vulnerability criteria such as vulnerabilities to heat risk.

Contact Us

Michelle Rau
U.S. Environmental Impact
Assessment Practice Lead
+1 719.331.5699
Michelle.Rau@jacobs.com

Emily Gulick
U.S. Environmental Impact
Assessment – Environmental
Justice Lead
+ 1 303.335.8970
Emily.Gulick@jacobs.com

Leticia Solaun
Senior Social Impact
Assessment and
Stakeholder Engagement
Specialist
+1 352.384.7220
Leticia.Solaun@jacobs.com

Charlie Webb
Senior Project Manager
+1 414.847.0248
Charlie.Webb@jacobs.com