

California Department of Transportation  
Division of Rail and Mass Transportation  
State Transit Grants Branch

**“Frequently Asked Questions” Related to Disadvantaged  
Community Benefits for the  
Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and the  
Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP)**

February 10, 2016

**1. Do all projects located in a ZIP code with a disadvantaged community census tract count as benefiting a disadvantaged community?**

No. Currently, *only* “Low Carbon Transportation” and “Transit Projects” have criteria based on ZIP codes that contain disadvantaged community census tracts. The ZIP code criteria cannot be used for all project types – only those where it is specifically listed on the criteria table that is applicable to that project.

**2. Can agencies use a criteria table for a different project type?**

No. Agencies can only use the criteria in the table that is applicable to the specific project type being funded by GGRF appropriations. However, for complex projects, there may be more than one applicable criteria table.

**3. Do all projects located within disadvantaged community census tracts automatically count as benefiting those communities?**

No. Simply being located within a census tract may not be sufficient to be considered a benefit. However, a project will count as being located within and benefiting a disadvantaged community if it meets at least one of the “located within” criteria in the applicable table and provides a benefit that meaningfully addresses an important community need<sup>5</sup>. The “located within” criteria are designed to make sure that projects meeting one of those criteria provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to a disadvantaged community.

**4. Can projects be funded if they are not located in disadvantaged communities and don’t meet any of the SB 535 criteria in this document?**

Yes. Agencies can fund projects that are not located in disadvantaged communities and do not meet the SB 535 criteria in this document, if those projects meet the other program requirements. However, those projects will not be considered as benefiting or being located within disadvantaged communities for the purposes of SB 535.