

## 2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental justice involves an examination of income and ethnicity patterns in relation to the environmental impacts of planning and development decisions to determine whether governmental actions create unreasonable biases that disadvantage low-income and/or minority residents or advantage higher-income or non-minority residents.

### 2.3.01 HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

In examining the effects of governmental decisions, a standard measure of environmental justice is whether areas with concentrations of low-income residents are disproportionately affected. “Low-income” is defined as 80% or less of the countywide (Mariposa) median income.

The median household income in Mariposa County in 2000 was \$34,626 according to the U.S. Census. “Low-income” in 2000 meant a household with an annual income of \$27,700 or less. A concentration of low-income households is defined as more than half of all households earning 80% or less of the median countywide income.

Census Block Groups were used as the smallest geographic unit for determining whether more than half the households had incomes of less than 80 percent of the median. Figure 2-3 shows where high concentrations of low-income households exist in Mariposa County. Table 2-3 displays Census Block Groups that have concentrations of low-income households. The poorer households were concentrated nearest Merced, in the western portion of the County and in the more urbanized area of the community of Mariposa.

Table 2-3: Concentrations of Low Income Households in Mariposa County

Tract	Block Group	Total Number	Less than Median Household Income	
			Number	Percent
1	1	271	148	55
	2	376	181	48
	3	675	510	76
	4	248	98	39
	5	637	229	36
	6	335	164	49
2	1	570	218	38
	2	289	196	68
	3	332	221	67
3	1	356	163	46
	2	437	265	61
	3	429	197	46
	4	213	76	36
	5	409	195	48
	6	514	295	57
4	1	501	206	41

Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau.

**Figure 2-3: High Concentrations of Low-Income Households by Census Tract and Block Groups**

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## 2.3.02 MINORITY POPULATION CONCENTRATIONS

In 2000, the percentage of non-white population in Mariposa County was 11.1%, while 7.8% of the population was reported as Hispanic or Latino (see Table 2-4). For California as a whole, the non-white population was 41.5%, and the percentage reported as Hispanic or Latino was 32.4%.

Table 2-4: Percent Persons by Ethnicity in Mariposa County - 2000

Location	Total Population	Race								Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
		One Race								
		Total	White	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Some other race	Two or More Races	
Mariposa County	17,130	15,338	14,539	111	530	120	17	21	463	1,329
Percentage	100%	89.5%	84.9%	0.6%	3.1%	0.7%	0.01%	0.1%	2.7%	7.8%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau.

Census Block Groups were used as the smallest geographic unit for determining where concentrations of minority populations exist in the County. Those Census Block Groups that had greater percentages of non-white and/or Hispanic and Latino population than the County as a whole could be considered to have concentrations of minority population.

Table 2-5, Figure 2-4, and Figure 2-5 identify the Census Block Groups with greater than average minority population.

In 2000, the population of Mariposa County was 15 percent minority; while California was approximately 53 percent minority.

Table 2-5 lists the percentage of white and minority populations by Census Block Group. Of the 16 block groups, five had greater than 15% minority population, and thus could be considered to have a concentration of minority population. These tracts are located in the central and northern portions of the County, including the Town of Mariposa. Two block groups had minority populations greater than 20%. These tracts include Midpines and El Portal.

Finally, there are no block groups where the minority population exceeds 15%, and there are concentrations of low-income households (Figure 2-6).

Table 2-5: Percent Persons by Ethnicity in Mariposa County – 2000

Census Tract	Block Group	Percent						Total Number of Persons
		White	Hispanic	Native American	African American	Asian/Pacific Islander	Other	
All	All	85	7	3	1	1	3	17,130
1	1	89	4	3	1	0	3	674
	2	79	9	4	3	2	3	1,096
	3	87	5	4	<1	1	3	1,319
	4	84	7	5	0	1	3	532
	5	87	5	4	<1	1	3	1,515
	6	88	6	3	0	<1	3	946
2	1	85	10	2	<1	<1	3	1,418
	2	86	8	3	<1	1	2	689
	3	90	4	1	1	1	3	727
3	1	82	11	4	0	<1	3	807
	2	88	6	3	1	<1	2	1,072
	3	89	5	3	0	1	2	1,176
	4	89	7	<1	1	1	2	616
	5	87	5	3	<1	1	4	943
	6	88	4	4	1	1	2	1,335
4	1	75	17	2	2	1	3	2,265

**Source:** 2000 U.S. Census Bureau.

**Figure 2-4: Minority Persons Comprising 10 Percent of the Population by  
Census Tract and Block Groups**

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**Figure 2-5: Minority persons Comprising 20 Person of the Population by  
Census Tract and Block Groups**

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**Figure 2-6: Minority Persons Comprising 10 Percent of the Population and  
Concentration of Low-Income Households by Census Tract and Block  
Groups**

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