

**California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee
Environmental Justice Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
November 14, 2002
Resources Building, Room 1142
Sacramento, CA
10:15 a.m. – 3:25 p.m.**

I. Welcome / Introductions

- Welcome and Introductions by Dan Wermiel, Acting EJ Coordinator. Dan also welcomed members of the Subcommittee that were joining the meeting via teleconference from the alternate meeting locations -- Association of Bay Area Governments, Oakland and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles. (A partial list of attendees is included at the end of this summary.)
- Dan introduced Ken McGhee as the new EJ Coordinator. Ken told the group about his background and his interest in Environmental Justice. He has a background in law, public policy mediation/facilitation, international affairs, and community development.

II. Integration with CALFED Program Elements

**CALFED Levees System Integrity Program – guest speaker:
Dave Mraz, Bay-Delta Office, Department of Water Resources**

- The CALFED Levee System Integrity Program is a two part program including subvention projects and special projects
 - Subvention projects include special flood control projects with local that protect and maintain Delta levees. The locals are 62 reclamation districts. Everything is done through the reclamation districts that own Delta islands and cost share.
 - Special projects include flood control, habitat restoration, emergency, and science projects.
- The Levees Program is related to Environmental Justice through the project goals of high quality water, protection of agricultural operations, protection of housing projects, protection of habitat areas, creation of employment opportunities, support for industry, and recreational development.
- The current budget available to the Levees Program is approximately \$3.5 million. The program needs about \$25 million to advance. With the passage of Proposition 50, the Levees Program is expected to receive \$26 million in Fiscal Year 2003-04, and \$27 million the following year.

**Fish Consumption Study – Needs Assessment – guest speakers:
Alyce Ujihara, CA Dept of Health Services - Environmental Health Investigations
Branch
Dr. Maura Mack, CA Dept of Health Services - Environmental Health
Investigations Branch**

Handouts:

Department of Health Services – Information sheet
Mercury in Fish – brochure
Mercury Contamination from Historic Gold Mining in California – USGS fact sheet
Research, Outreach, and Education on Fish Consumption
Evaluation of “Mercury in Fish” Brochure
Needs Assessment Timeline and Questionnaires
Article – Study Records Elevated Mercury
Summary of EHIB EJ-Related Activities

- The California Department of Health Services (DHS) Environmental Health Investigations Branch is concerned with levels of mercury in the Delta water system. Mercury was used historically in gold mines. Numerous sites in the Delta have been remediated, but contaminated sites still exist and are releasing mercury into waterways. Current studies have shown increased levels of mercury in higher-trophic species than previously detected. Additionally, local advisors are not present in many communities where mercury contamination sites have been located.
- The Fish Consumption Project is an outreach and education program to communicate with diverse communities about fish contamination issues. The Needs Assessment is a process to identify those groups in a community that have an interest in being involved.
- Five counties have been identified to be part of the Needs Assessment. The five counties are Sacramento, San Joaquin, Lake, Placer, and Yolo. The hope is to ultimately include all Bay-Delta counties, but these 5 are the starting point. The groups approached in each county will primarily look at what information is available locally on fish and what information is known about contamination. Other issues will include environmental justice, health advisories, local interests, and any Total Maximum Daily Load plans for local waterways.
- DHS developed various questionnaires and materials that are distributed at meetings to determine other groups in the county that should be involved and the status of any currently operating programs within the county.
- The presenters posed the following questions to the EJ Subcommittee. EJ Subcommittee members raised the following concerns:
 - **How big of a concern is fish contamination to the agencies represented today? What is the level of concern from each agency?**
 - CALFED specifically identifies fish contamination in the Record of Decision.
 - United Farm Workers faces other immediate issues, but is definitely concerned.
 - Important to inform communities of the consequences. Health care providers need this information to share with patients and their families.

Information could also go to local schools to reach students and their families.

- **Identify specific groups or populations that need to be targeted for outreach.**
 - Tribes dependent upon Cache Creek.
 - In the south Delta area, farm workers and especially seasonal workers. They can be dependent on fish from agricultural drain areas.
 - Determine where fish sold at local farmer’s markets come from.
 - Provide information to all groups on alternative sources of protein.
- **Do agencies have existing programs that DHS should be aware of?**
 - CALFED has regular contact with a wide audience through meetings, newsletter, and other mediums.
 - Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) usually have existing outreach programs that are already established and funded. RCDs also have a connection with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.
 - CA Department of Fish & Game has numerous monitoring programs in place.
 - Suggested groups to approach: schools, church groups, neighborhood organizations, civic organizations, farm bureaus, and food banks.
- **Are there any workshops or training sessions that would be useful to an agency or subcommittee?**

12:35 p.m. Lunch Break

III. BDPAC Follow-Up Environmental Justice Work Plan

- Martha Guzman asked the subcommittee if any changes were needed to the work plan before submittal for approval at the BDPAC meeting.
 - The EJ Coordinator is listed as the responsible party for many of the tasks. The work plan also lacks specific descriptions of the roles expected of each agency representative. The work plan should address more specifically the roles of the EJ Coordinator and agency representatives. Each agency liaison should have specific tasks and responsibilities.
 - Some agencies and departments are not represented when they have current or planned projects that involved EJ issues. *Dan Wermiel indicated that the work plan is an annual document so participants can be added to the EJ Subcommittee as necessary.*
 - The work plan should include a date in order for the subcommittee members to know what version of the plan they are reviewing.

IV. Governance

- Dan Wermiel informed the group that legislation has been approved to create a governing body for CALFED. The outline of structure for the California Bay-Delta Authority is currently in process. Environmental Justice is specifically mentioned in the governance bill.
- Within Proposition 50 funds, the EJ Subcommittee has requested funds to support the work plan.
 - There is concern amongst the EJ community about the distribution of funds. How will funds be allocated and how funding will get to appropriate communities and projects?
 - Suggestion to invite CalEPA and possibly CalTrans to present how those agencies manage their grant programs focused on community development projects.

V. Strategies for Follow-up with CALFED Programs

- Martha Guzman asked the participants how the EJ Subcommittee could better integrate its work with other CALFED program areas.
 - Suggestion to start with a small group. This group can begin work on a strategy and then report back to the EJ Subcommittee.
 - Intercommunication with other BDPAC subcommittees is very important. This group should be aware of what other subcommittees are working on.
 - Include this communication effort in the commitment made by agency liaisons.

VI. Planning for Next Environmental Justice Subcommittee Meetings Southern California Dialogue

- Participants discussed the possibility of having an EJ Subcommittee meeting in Southern California in order to participate in a joint meeting involving other regions. Tentative date is February 14, 2003.
- EJ Subcommittee will hold the next meeting on January 17, 2003. **(Note: the date of the next meeting has been rescheduled for January 24, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Sacramento.)**

V. Public Comment and Other Business

- Suggestion to provide electronic copy of meeting summaries and participant contact information.

ACTION ITEMS

Owner	Task	Due Date
Alyce Ujihara	Send Martha Guzman a list of areas in Central Valley targeted for the Needs Assessment – Martha will then determine appropriate contacts.	Next mtg
Ken McGhee	Include the date on work plan and budget spreadsheet to clarify the version.	Next mtg
Ken McGhee	Invite Cal/EPA to an EJ Subcommittee meeting. Explore inviting Caltrans.	Next mtg
Ken McGhee	Expand 6A in work plan to include agency liaison responsibilities.	Next mtg
Ken McGhee	Provide time at the beginning of each meeting for an update from each participant.	Next mtg

Meeting Participants

Name	Affiliation	Phone / Fax	E-Mail Address
Dave Mraz	Department of Water Resources	916.651.7017	dmraz@water.ca.gov
David Zezulak	Department of Fish & Game	916.445.3690	dzezalak@dfg.ca.gov
Eugenia Laychak	CALFED	916.654.4214	laychak@water.ca.gov
Jennifer Allen	Public Affairs Management	415.227.1100 415.227.1110 fax	j.allen@pamsf.com
John Ohlson	Yolo County Democratic Central Committee	916.371.8627	
John Folk Williams	California Center for Public Dispute Resolution	916.445.2079	folkwill@csus.edu
Ken McGhee	CALFED	916.651.7098	kmcghee@water.ca.gov
Kristen Carter	CSU Chico Environmental Projects Coordinator	530.893-5751	KCooper-Carter@csuchico.edu
Laura Kaplan	CCPDR	916.445.2079	kaplanl@saclink.csus.edu
Michiyo Sakamoto	Department of Water Resources Division of Planning and Local Assistanes	916.651.9253	michiyo@water.ca.gov
Naomi Mabins	CALFED Science	616.653.2994	nmabins@water.ca.gov
Paola Ramos	LIF/EJCW	415.284.7223	pramos@lif.org
Pete Jacobsen	Metropolitan Water District	916.650.2650 213.576.5251	pjacobsen@mwdh2o.com
Sam Cervantes	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	916.978.5104 916.978.5114 fax	scervantes@mp.usbr.gov
Steve Bradley	Reclamation Board	916.653.8089 916.653.5805 fax	bradley@water.ca.gov
Susan Oldland	Department of Water Resources Division of Planning and Local Assistance	916.651.9626	susano@water.ca.gov