

Environmental Justice Sub-Committee Meeting

California Bay-Delta Authority

January 9, 2004

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ACTION ITEMS

- Ken: A week before the next meeting, send out the minutes for the previous meeting along with the upcoming agenda. Remind members of any action item reports they are responsible for.
- EJSC members: SUBMIT NAMES FOR CONSIDERATION AS MEMBERS. Self-nominations are welcome!
- EJSC members: email Ken with ideas about what to include in the annual plan.
- EJSC members with program element assignments: coordinate with appropriate sub-committees to attend meetings and discuss and revise EJ guidelines.
- All: Consider joint meetings with other sub-committees to refine work on program plans.
- All: ask key reviewers for feedback on the content, structure and style of the guidelines.
- All: Review Working Lands sub-committee draft recommendation on EJ concerns and representation of socio-economic expertise on science panel.
- Ken: Contact Jennifer Galehouse and discuss options for sharing EJ information and interests with Representatives Harman and Nakanishi, regarding mercury signage and notices.
- Ken: Email out clean and “change text” versions of the guidelines, in Microsoft Word format.

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MEETING PROTOCOLS: Approval of Minutes, Meeting Times, Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes are currently posted on the website as pending materials; when minutes are approved, they are posted to the web site as final. Some concerns were raised about assuring adequate review of meeting summaries, in a timely manner, for approving the minutes. No edits or changes were suggested for the November meeting notes.

Suggestion: Consider email exchanges to support approval of meeting minutes.

Suggestion: Create a tight meeting summary (e.g. highlight) and provide additional detail in more expanded meeting proceedings. Action items should be highlighted and included in the next agenda.

B. Meeting Attendance, Agenda Items and Meeting Times

Attendance for the EJ sub-committee meetings varies considerably. Discussion included the role of the agenda in creating interest in meetings. It was noted that due to the process of internal CBDA review, agendas for the upcoming meeting need to be generated about a week after the last meeting is held. This contributes to agendas being more general in nature.

More formal membership will assist in defining expectations about meeting attendance and whether the current meeting structure and schedule is best for promoting and supporting strong leadership and participation.

Suggestion: Agendas should include updates on action items.

Suggestion: To the extent possible, circulate a draft agenda for review and comment. Announce the upcoming meeting and emphasize important issues that will be talked about.

Suggestion: A week before the next meeting, send out the minutes for the previous meeting along with the upcoming agenda. Remind members of any action item reports they are responsible for.

Suggestion: Significantly cull the list-serve to those who are actively involved. Those who want to follow the work of the EJCS can do so using the web site.

DRAFT EJ GUIDELINES

The draft guidelines evolved out of the initial discussion in November on goals and objectives, as well as performance measures. These items are combined in the draft, identifying: broad objectives; requirements for each program area; and specific objectives for each program element. The desire is to establish program-specific measurable targets that other programs can meet. This work is still in the early stages and concepts for performance measures could change.

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DRAFT MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL

At the last EJSC meeting, Patrick Wright encouraged moving immediately on the new membership structure. Hopefully, the proposed membership will be presented at the March BDPAC meeting. Establishing membership will strengthen EJSC leadership and allow a new co-chair to be appointed.

There is a consensus within EJSC to move to a membership based structure which is regionally based. The desire to have five members from each region, including representatives for local government, community based, agency and other CBDA-related interests. A list of 30 – 50 names will be developed for Patrick Wright. This list will be presented to the core group of EJSC and then presented to BDPAC in March. The EJSC discussion on proposed names will be very general in nature; those wishing to send in comments via email to Ken are welcome to do so.

Timeline: EJSC members should **SUBMIT NAMES FOR CONSIDERATION AS MEMBERS**. Self-nominations are welcome! Those who are part of the core group, will automatically be suggested for membership. This list will be sent to Patrick Wright by February 1st and to BDPAC by February 16, for inclusion in agenda for their March meeting.

The EJSC is focused on incorporating EJ into water management actions, procedures and policies within the California Bay-Delta Authority. A good mix of members with diverse interests, will serve as liaisons to constituencies and will help elevate the profile of EJ to non-traditional areas.

Suggestion: Currently, there are no terms associated with membership. It might be good to rotate membership to allow different interests to be represented on the EJSC. One of the first items of business for the new members will be to address housekeeping and charter items such as: meeting dates and locations; alternates; and attendance. The idea of rotations should be included as well

EJSC meeting will always be open and EVERYONE is welcome to attend! A time for receiving public comment will be an item on all agendas.

JOINT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- ❑ The **Working Landscapes** Sub-Committee is interested in a joint meeting with EJSC to host a balanced presentation on water transfers. The presentation would include water districts, looking at a variety of water transfers in addition to EWP transfers. The meeting should be structured around definite outcomes for EJ and Environmental Restoration.
- ❑ The **Watershed** sub-committee is interested in a join meeting with the **Drinking Water** and **EJ** sub-committees to develop a practical focus on real world projects and issues. This could involve a global exchange, including a presentation on EJ long-term and annual workplans.
- **Suggestion:** Think about how meeting dates coordinate with new EJSC membership structure. A special meeting date might be a good approach.

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ANNUAL PROGRAM PLANS

The first drafts of annual program plans are due January 23rd. Throughout the month of February, internal revisions will seek to identify other issues that need to be addressed in the plans. Annual program plans need to be completed by May, since these will be approved in the June meeting.

The EJSC is part of the Oversight and Coordination plan. Ken will draft materials and submit them to Rick. EJSC members should email Ken with ideas about what to include in the annual plan. EJSC needs to coordinate with other sub-committee meetings to assure that EJ interests are worked through and considered. An EJ representative needs to be at every sub-committee meeting.

EJ linkages are real, EJ goals need to be linked to other programs. Highlight relationships between fiscal issues and EJ impacts. The key for EJ is program integration and assistance that integration provides to other CBDA programs.

Suggestion: It would be powerful to have a series of joint meetings where program plans are discussed and general recommendations are reviewed by other programs. Allocate an hour to discuss EJ implications.

EJ GUIDELINES

Revised versions of the guidelines are available and Ken will email out the Word document versions of the guidelines. Complete suggestions were incorporated into the “track changes” version. Over-arching EJ requirements were pulled out and listed on page 2. Additional work is needed on wording for performance measures and focusing more on measurable and quantifiable dimensions. The guidelines will probably not be finalized by February. Hopefully, they can be adopted and presented to the BDPAC at their March meeting.

The guidelines are an essential component of incorporating EJ issues throughout CBDA programs, providing suggestions and guidance on performance measures, goals and objectives. The guidelines need to be helpful to the other programs. This document formalizes much of what is already in the workplan and makes that material user-friendly for other programs.

ACTION ITEM: Co-chairs, coalition and agency members need to identify key people who should provide feedback on the content, structure and style of the guidelines. EJSC members who signed up for different program elements need to update Ken on their efforts to date. There needs to be **strong** follow through on developing guidelines through dialogue with other sub-committees. The emphasis is on finding ways to evaluate or measure performance regarding EJ. Guidelines need to assist other programs in their tasks, which includes incorporating EJ issues. (E.g. including EJ in PSPs doesn't cost anything!)

Note: The Working Lands sub-committee previously recommended including socio-economic expertise on science panel and provided language for addressing EJ concerns. This recommendation

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will be circulated to other sub-committees for support before sending to BDPAC. EJSC members should review this letter and indicate their ability to support the recommendation.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION: MERCURY NOTICES

An article in the Sacramento Bee on December 30th reported that Representatives Harman and Nakanishi are suggesting legislation that responds to articles about mercury contamination. The legislation focuses on notices and warning signs. Some EJ work on appropriate wording for signage and language has already been done. There is strong support for bringing communities into the process for developing culturally appropriate communication materials, including visuals. This type of information needs to be provided to these potential authors.

It would be good to have a series of public meetings before signing off on language for the proposed signs and notices. Meetings should have translators, as needed, and use culturally appropriate language. Specific information needs to be available regarding types of fish that contain higher levels of mercury, as well as identifying who is at greatest risk.

Consumption of contaminated fish is specifically addressed within the CalFed ROD. The Environmental Restoration Program will be contacted to assure that everyone is on the same page. Ken will talk to Jennifer Galehouse about how to best interact with the legislature on this issue. Can assist this legislation by providing language that supports EJ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- CBDA program plans now have a heading for, “Science, Tribal and Environmental Justice.” This will help highlight EJ concerns and suggestions.
- An environmental health lobbying group is holding a lobby day in the beginning of January. There are several two year bills, including “Healthy Schools” which focuses on pesticides, SB 689, which is a bio-monitoring pilot project. Other legislative efforts include assessing a very small fee on toxic release inventories and looking at mercury from fluorescent lightbulbs.
- On January 23, Lauren Buffaloe will discuss special sessions for the Science Conference.

ATTENDANCE

- Alisha Deen, EJ Coalition for Water
- Yating Liang, CBDA Finance and Policy
- Ken McGhee: EJSC coordinator
- John Ohlson, Yolo County area
- Michiyo Sakamoto: DWR, EJ coordinator for surface storage programs
- Ken Trott: CBDA Working Landscapes subcommittee

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- Dan Werneil: CBDA Watershed Program

Judie Talbot recorded meeting notes.