

Environmental Justice Sub-Committee Meeting

California Bay-Delta Authority

October 8, 2004

Sacramento, CA

MEETING SUMMARY

ACTION ITEMS:

- Ken: Contact UCB students concerning possible EJ project topics.
- Ken: Obtain copies of letter from UCB professor; research other CALFED projects so that research is not repeated.
- All: CalEPA's Action Plan meeting will be held on November 8th. CalEPA seeks CALFED guidance concerning ideas for pilot water projects.
- All: Comments can be made on program element proposals for at least 1-1/2 months more.
- Ken: It is necessary to assemble a "piece of writing" that describes the role for the \$335,000 budget as to be done by program elements, i.e. what EJ will do versus what other programs will do as necessary to carry out this element's role. The first draft of this product will be due in the next two weeks. EJ must be able to justify its needs especially if there is a change in the budget.
- All: EJSC members will need to select program plans to review compared to the draft EJ Guidelines. Readers will need to keep in mind the annual report and look at other CALFED projects for evidence of success (Bay View Hunter's Point, etc.).

PROTOCOLS: Approval of Minutes

The meeting notes have been approved.

OVERSIGHT AND COORDINATION PLAN

Kate Hansel from Policy and Finance attended the meeting to discuss CALFED's Draft 10- Year Finance Plan. CALFED has been in the process of working with stakeholders and agencies to develop a 10-year finance plan for the program as directed by the California Bay-Delta Authority and the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee.

Currently EJ, a segment of the Oversight and Coordination Program Element, has been on track with its development of a draft program plan. One strategic approach for receiving funding opportunities is to link EJ to existing projects. EJ will need to find out how to weave its goals into grant programs and make sure that each program integrates EJ in future projects and grants.

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During the next Authority Meeting, to be held October 13-14, the second day will be devoted to address the finance plan. It will be necessary to develop a new document to accompany the EJ Work Plan that describes the role for the proposed \$335,000 budget and its integration into program plans (which EJSC members agreed to assist with). This document will be due two weeks from the EJSC meeting. Through this document, EJ must be able to justify its “needs,” particularly if there is a change in the monetary values listed for each action. It is important to think in a capacity building sense for long term development.

CALFED SCIENCE CONFERENCE: EJ SESSION

The second item on the agenda was a discussion, led by Ken, concerning the CALFED Science Conference’s EJ Session. This inaugural session, held on Tuesday, October 5, the second day of the conference, was held to define EJ and its role in science. In particular, much of the focus of the session was on mercury and EJ community fish consumption, a lingering problem in the Bay-Delta area. Together, meeting attendees collated a list of positive and negative comments regarding the way the EJ session was conducted:

Positives:

- *People from the EJSC were able to attend the Science Conference
- *The history of science in EJ communities is typically mixed (the session helped to address this)
- *Great Presentations
- *Perhaps an EJ conference can be held
- *The session highlighted the need to make science more widely understood
- *Weiner’s talk “very impressive”
- *Running Grass’s talk very good
- *Consider broader integrated session (w/ EO/ Tribal) next time
- *Scientists liked the conference
- *Public discussion was good

Negatives:

- *In the future it would be wise to mitigate and avoid cost/attendance issues
- *Perhaps hold more community presentations in the future
- *More effective “up front” work
- *Better timeframes on similar issues
- *No separate EJ session next time; disperse EJ throughout conference sessions

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- *Where was the tribal? Why?
- *Have EJ presenters on other panels
- *Too narrowly focused on fish issues –showcase other EJ Science Issues (i.e. Drinking Water Quality)
- *Highlight partnerships
- *Good documentation
- *Attendees bio-data
- *Evaluations?
- *Better formats to present issues more broadly; make understood for layperson
- *Less talk, more Q/A
- *Some think what Luke Cole said was already known
- *Attendance –Law of diminishing returns (re: abstracts, attendees, quality control)
- *Poster sessions for “educated layperson” is better
- *Panel discussion too short
- *Community based science –more learning needed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Individuals can refer to The Everglades Restoration Plan for an example of what the EJ GIS mapping project seeks to produce for program managers’ reference:

http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/progr_eee_maps.cfm

*Recently UCB students emailed Ken concerning possible EJ projects to be carried out for this semester, possible suggestions include addressing possible outreach, community participation, and evaluating how the EJSC functions and how it can improve on what it does.

*The CalEPA will be holding an all day meeting on November 8 to address its EJ Action Plan. The agency will be holding a series of meetings to discuss action plans. At this particular all day meeting, the agency seeks ideas for pilot water projects. The agency seeks CALFED’s guidance throughout this planning process.

*The California Water Policy Conference will be held in Los Angeles California from November 18-19. Entitled “California Dreamin’ Time to Wake Up!” this event seeks to “argue, clarify, distinguish, and advance the potential solutions to the problems facing the future of water, and the Dream, in California. More information about the conference and the registration process can be found at: www.cawaterpolicy.org

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ATTENDANCE

- Dr. Henry Clark, West County Toxics Coalition (*Interim Acting Co- Chair*)
- Ken McGhee, CBDA EJ coordinator
- Angela McIntire, CBDA EJ and Tribal Intern
- Kate Hansel, CBDA
- Keith Coolidge, CBDA
- Margaret Gidding, CBDA
- Kai Eder, UC Davis, Department of APC
- Joyce Gutstein, Public Service Research Program, UC Davis
- Barbara Cross, Department of Water Resources
- Alisha Deen, EJ Coalition for Water
- Paul Bowers, Army Corps of Engineers

Prepared by: Angela McIntire, EJ/Tribal Intern