

Environmental Justice Sub-Committee Meeting

California Bay-Delta Authority

August 13, 2004

Sacramento, CA

(draft) MEETING SUMMARY

ACTION ITEMS:

- Ken: Post a copy of The Planning and Conservation League's Draft Investment Strategy For California Water.
- Ken: Post a link on the EJ webpage to The State of California Department of Health Services about Prop. 50 Grants available to "disadvantaged and small communities."
- Ken: Post EJ Work plan to request comments and agenda on listserv.

SPECIAL NOTE:

This meeting began with a moment of silence to honor Rev. Richard Dotson of Richmond, CA. Rev. Dotson's passing marked the end of an era in Richmond as he was one of the communities most inspirational and dedicated leaders. The late Rev. Dotson is the father of Whitney Dotson, an active participant in the EJSC and one of the community leaders now battling to save the historic Parchester Village community of North Richmond and its access to the Bay. Michael Warburton provides a moving verbal tribute to the life and legacy of Rev. Dotson.

PROTOCOLS: Approval of Minutes

The meeting notes were approved.

UPDATE ON WINNEMEM WINTU TRIBAL ISSUES

Ken updated those in attendance about The Winnemem Wintu tribe and its concerns over the raising of Shasta Dam. Raising the Dam with even the 6 foot minimum as proposed would flood a substantial portion of the Federally unrecognized tribe's sacred lands. Currently, the tribe has networked with the EJ Coalition for water and has found other environmental groups also meeting the project with opposition. There appears to be plenty of opposition towards the raising of Shasta dam, most dating back to the original conception of the dam in the 1930s. Interest has still been expressed in holding an EJSC meeting in Redding, possibly as soon as October.

GIS MAPPING PROJECT

Ken led a discussion concerning the development of a GIS Mapping project that the Watershed Program will be providing funding towards. The varying layers of the EJSC will exhibit demographics of the areas of concern. As of the GIS Mapping Project Meeting held on 7/28, concern has been expressed over not reproducing information already available. It has also been questioned as to what types of mapping does CALFED need in order to better address and

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understand EJ issues, particularly how tribal (both federally recognized and unrecognized) and other EJ groups will be represented in produced maps.

AMERICAN FACTFINDER –Martha Jones, California Research Bureau

Martha Jones from the California Research Bureau in the California State Library brought information about the census information found on American FactFinder. American FactFinder, although not as extensive or complex as other GIS programs, is a tool that can be used to search for data which can be applied to GIS. Maps, which are less complex than ArcView or GIS, can be produced with useful and intuitive census information. Another program discussed with GIS applications was LandView. The LandView database permits users to utilize the most recent Census demographic and housing data, EPA envirofacts data, and USGS GNIS information. American FactFinder can be accessed online, while LandView must be purchased for about \$130. If EJSC stakeholders are interested, Ms. Jones is willing to conduct a complete presentation on this topic.

AUTHORITY MEETING

Ken led a brief discussion about the day and a half Authority Meeting held on 8/11-8/12. Currently, BDPAC co-chair decisions are not moving ahead yet. An August 30 a public meeting on the Finance Plan will be held from 1-4 in the Delta Room. This will be the first public workshop concerning the updating of the Finance Plan, thus it is important for stakeholders to be in the room that day in order to express funding needs for the next 10 years.

DRINKING WATER POLICY –Karen Larsen, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Karen Larsen led a presentation on the development of a Central Valley Drinking Water Policy Workgroup ongoing since around 2002. This workgroup assists and advises the Regional Board concerning policy issues. It was formed to develop and implement a work plan to provide the technical information needed by the board to develop a comprehensive Drinking Water Policy for the Central Valley. Work plan tasks include water quality monitoring, pollutant load evaluations, and evaluation of potential control strategies to identify those that are reasonably attainable and cost effective. Further steps in order to reach the set goal are to continue outreach to stakeholders.

DRINKING WATER PROPOSITION 50 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES – Terry Macaulay, California Department of Health Services

Terry Macaulay gave a presentation on the available funding for small or disadvantaged water systems available through Proposition 50 funds. In 2002, the voters of California approved Proposition 50 that provided, in part, \$430 million for grants for water systems to address water security, drinking water quality and quantity issues. The California Department of Health Services is implementing the Prop 50 grant programs for water system improvements.

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Approximately 25% of the funds for all grant programs, except for grant 6.b, will be set-aside for disadvantaged communities. In order to make sure that disadvantaged communities are aware of the funding opportunities, 12 public workshops will be held throughout the state will be held informing people about the application process. Other forms of outreach include notices to all public water systems and a “small water system” fact sheet. Those involved in outreach include local agencies, American Water Works Association, and DHS District Offices.

EJ FINANCE PLAN

Ken led a brief discussion about the current numbers posted for the EJ Finance Plan, found on the updated program plan. Stakeholders are invited to comment on the figures listed on the work plan and make suggestions. The work plan will be posted on the EJ webpage to ensure individuals have access to it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Ken is seeking comments concerning the EJ work plan and the funding requested in order to meet EJ goals.
- *The Planning and Conservation League will be holding a Public Workshop on 8/25 from 10am-4pm concerning the “Draft Investment Strategy for California Water.”
- *Grant Opportunities for Small Water Systems are available through Proposition 50 funding; a link with further information will be posted on the EJ webpage.
- *The California Indian Days Celebration will be held on the West Steps of the State Capitol Building on 9/17 from 11am-2pm. Traditional Dancers, Exhibits, Tribal Leaders, and speakers will be at this event.
- *The 2004 Environmental Justice Summit will be held on September 24 and 25; more information about the summit will be distributed at the next EJSC meeting.
- *The Third Biennial California Bay-Delta Authority (CALFED) Science Program will be held October 4-6. One unit that will be covered during the three day conference will be “Data and Advocacy- What is the Role for Environmental Justice.”
- *Upcoming Meetings –Next EJSC meeting date 9/10; CBDA.

ATTENDANCE

- Ken McGhee, CBDA EJ coordinator
- Angela McIntire, CBDA EJ and Tribal Intern
- Lauren Bell, CBDA
- Sam Harader, CBDA
- Jana Machula, CBDA
- Irenia Quitiquit, CBDA

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- Dan Wermiel, CBDA
- Barbara Cross, DWR, EJ Coordinator
- Karen Larsen, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Michael Warburton, Public Trust Alliance, Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
- Stephanie Buss, CDFG
- John Olsen, Yolo County Democratic Central Committee
- Terry Macaulay, California Department of Health Services

Prepared by: Angela McIntire, EJ/Tribal Intern