

Environmental Justice Sub-Committee Meeting

California Bay-Delta Authority

September 10, 2004

Sacramento, CA

MEETING SUMMARY

ACTION ITEMS:

- Ken: Collaborate with Richard Paz and fellow EJSC members in order to hold a meeting to discuss the EJ Work Plan with a possible satellite site in the Redding area; to be held September 24 or October 1
- Ken: Check to see if the EJ Session of the CALFED Science Conference will be taped so that it can be shared with the EJSC
- Ken: post Estuary Institute ERP Grant Information online; project to monitor fish in Bay Delta
- EJSC: Draft Letter, circulate, and post concerning representation on the Board of the Estuary Institute project
- Ken: Work with DHS about compiling water quality report information to public, particularly a mini fact sheet on how to collect information concerning individual water systems
- All interested parties: Register for the EJ Science conference; contact Ken if interested in the “student” rate

PROTOCOLS: Approval of Minutes

The meeting notes have been approved.

BDPAC Meeting Recap

The meeting, which began at 10:05 a.m., began with Ken’s update of the BDPAC meeting held prior to the meeting. At the most recent BDPAC meeting, held on September 9, it was made clear that the production of the 10-year finance plan is well on the “fast track” due to dwindling program funding. As a result, in order to create the finance plan, Programs will continue to develop funding targets and figures necessary for their actions to be carried out.

Because the next Authority meeting will be held on October 14 in order to fine tune the budget, discussing the work plan on the scheduled October 8 meeting may be too close to the meeting to get into the packet of material which will be discussed. Thus, the EJSC is considering having a second meeting in the end of September in order to discuss EJ funding needs and provide the public with the opportunity to get involved in the process. The EJ Work Plan has been a work in

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progress and now includes “draft” monetary figures of what and how the specified needs will be met in the 10-year plan.

3rd Biennial CALFED Science Conference

The next item discussed in the meeting, in a discussion led by Ken, was concerning the 3rd Biennial CALFED Science Conference. This year is a particular year of interest because this year is the first time an EJ Special Session will be conducted at the conference. The session, was developed after concerns were raised over the importance of EJ research. Interested parties can refer to the abstracts of the October 5 presentations for a basic outline of the afternoon’s events. Subjects to be covered at the special session include general overviews on Environmental Justice, specific examples on EJ in action while dealing with mercury and fish contamination, followed by a discussion panel.

Parties interested in attending the conference can attend at the “student” rate of \$25 a day which includes lunch. For all three days the student rate is \$50. If you are interested in attending the conference at this rate, please contact Ken. If financial hardship is an issue, speak with Ken to see if further arrangements can be made.

Mercury Pollution

Susan Klasing, from OEHHA, announced that the CalEPA has been working on the production of two finalized and two draft publications concerning mercury pollution and consumption have been produced and more are on the way. Data acquisition is the most important role in the determination of a reasonable risk assessment and is the determining factor in the rate at which the publications are made. These publications provide insight into risk assessment and the consumption of fish found in the Bay-Delta region.

San Francisco Estuary Institute ERP Grant

Ken led a discussion on the next item discussed concerning the San Francisco Estuary Institute having been approved for an ERP Grant. The proposal, titled *A Pilot Program for Monitoring, Stakeholder Involvement, and Risk Communication relating to Mercury in Fish in the Bay-Delta Watershed*, is a project designed to examine mercury monitoring, stakeholder involvement, and risk communication. The project leaders extend an invitation to the CBDA’s lead scientist and to a representative of the BDPAC EJSC. The EJSC will further look into this invitation concerning representation. The ERP Grant information will be posted online and further action will be taken to establish representation on the Board.

Science Program Solicitation Package

Danielle Wilson from Jones and Stokes attended the meeting in order to announce the one-time call for proposals for research in three broad topic areas:

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*Improve knowledge of key aquatic species and how water management activities affect populations across broad spatial and temporal scales from upstream rivers through the San Francisco Estuary

*Further develop understanding of ecosystem processes in the Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta, Suisun March, and upstream rivers and their relationship to factors critical for water and aquatic species management

*Provide a framework for assessing how future changes such as population or climate-related hydrological shifts may affect water operations and ecosystem processes, and the success of CALFED projects

Approximately \$18-\$20 million in Prop 13, 50, and 204 funds will be made available for research. More information concerning research grants can be found at:

<https://solicitation.calwater.ca.gov>

Capacity Development and Technical Assistance Program

Need to see lecture

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Scholarships are available for those interested in attending the 14th Annual California Water Policy Conference

*Ken and Richard Paz are collaborating in setting up remote sites for the EJ Work Plan meeting to be held at the end of September or beginning of October

*The Environmental Justice Summit will be held on September 24-25 in Richmond, CA; Sponsored by the Community Health Initiative, West County Toxics Coalition, and other environmental groups

*Terry Macaulay announced that proposals for prop 50 funds will be solicited annually beginning October 1, 2004

*The Pyramid Lake Tribe will be co-hosting the 12th Annual Tribal EPA Conference to be held October 27-29 in San Francisco California. This year's theme will be "Using pathways of success to build a promising future."

*The Winnemem Wintu Tribe held a war dance in protest of the proposed raising of Shasta Dam on September 12; the raising of the Dam threatens many sacred tribal sites

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ATTENDANCE

- Ken McGhee, CBDA EJ coordinator
- Angela McIntire, CBDA EJ and Tribal Intern
- Lisa Holm, CBDA
- Lauren Bell, CBDA
- Alisha Deen, EJ Coalition for Water
- Richard Paz
- Terry Macaulay, DHS
- Shana Kaplan, USBR –Sacramento
- Laurie Hatton, DWR
- Susan Klasing, OEHHA
- Danielle Wilson, Jones and Stokes

Prepared by: Angela McIntire, EJ/Tribal Intern