

{Version 2/20/04}

**CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY
CALFED
Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee
Environmental Justice Subcommittee**

Guidelines

Overview

Ensure that the Implementation Principle for Environmental Justice is integrated and met by all program elements. The Implementation Principle states that the CALFED will seek fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes. CALFED program, policies and action shall not cause any segment of the population to bear disproportionately high or adverse health, environmental, social or economic impact. CALFED is responsible for ensuring this is carried out across all program elements through the development of environmental justice goals and objectives.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Environmental Justice Subcommittee (EJSC), CALFED program staff, and Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC) Subcommittees shall develop and integrate program-wide environmental justice goals, objectives, strategies, and targets into CALFED programs.*
- 2. Develop annual Environmental Justice (EJ) Work Plan. The EJSC shall assist programs with implementation of program-wide goals, objectives, strategies, and targets. These shall be included as part of each program plan.*
- 3. Ensure meaningful and substantive participation of CALFED Agencies, community-based organizations, tribes, and environmental justice interest groups in CALFED program planning, program implementation, and decision-making, including BDPAC Subcommittee and regional workgroups.*
- 4. Develop and implement a CALFED program-wide environmental justice education and technical assistance program.*
- 5. Strengthen existing capacity of CALFED implementing agencies to identify, evaluate, and avoid/mitigate environmental injustices.*
- 6. Identify and address priority environmental justice issues in each CALFED region and program.*

GUIDELINES FOR ALL PROGRAM AREAS:

1. Each CALFED Program shall provide funding support for a reasonable portion of EJ actions and initiatives designed to provide direct and quantifiable benefit to each Program.
2. Prioritize projects that form partnerships with local community-based organizations, tribes, watershed groups, and other entities. Prioritize projects that create local employment opportunities.
3. Conduct CALFED meetings, workshops, and conferences in a manner that provides meaningful opportunities for enhanced public participation and outreach to EJ communities in accordance with the stakeholder consultation requirements of the ROD.
4. Project design and implementation should occur only after engaging EJ communities in a meaningful public participation process. Reasonable time to integrate stakeholder interests and concerns is an essential element.
5. Inclusion of EJSC members and other stakeholders on grant, PSP, loan, and other funding mechanism review/selection committees.
6. Establish a minimum equitable funding level that qualifies E J communities for additional assistance, particularly in PSPs.
7. Reduce, where possible, application costs and other fiscal or financial requirements to grant applicants from EJ communities for matching fund, cost-benefit analysis, and other commonly used grant proposal requirements. Establish protocol(s) to assist applicants from EJ communities to obtain necessary training and support to compete effectively in proposal solicitation processes (PSP).
8. CALFED and implementing agency staff shall participate in EJ training and education activities conducted by EJ section and/or EJSC.
9. Each proposed and current CALFED program action should address and consider the impact of cultural and historical concerns of EJ and Tribal communities.
10. Establish a minimum funding level in each Program area for Capacity Building and Education to better prepare underserved areas to respond effectively to funding opportunities.
11. CALFED shall, to the extent practicable, contract with non-profit agencies, community based organizations, watershed groups and others with expertise in providing PSP technical assistance and capacity-building to communities.
12. A comprehensive EJ Analysis on each CALFED projects with a minimum value of \$1,000,000.00 (one million dollars) shall be conducted by the EJSC in consultation with the respective CALFED Program and subcommittee.
13. Develop GIS maps reflecting location and other indicators of EJ and Tribal communities in relation to CALFED projects, plans and funding.
14. Extensive outreach to and collaboration with Central Valley communities (Delta and San Joaquin regions) is needed to fully address potential impacts from storage, conveyance, restoration, and transfer programs.

Program Elements

SCIENCE

EJ concepts and concerns shall be considered in Adaptive Management analysis to CALFED actions.

CALFED science-based analyses and assessments of projects and plans shall include EJ communities and issues of concern as part of the process to analyze and report on CALFED program actions.

Provide CALFED EJ section and stakeholders meaningful opportunity to provide input into Science panels, workshops and other outreach/public participation efforts.

Promote and encourage production of white papers on topics of concerns to EJ communities, in consultation with EJSC.

Include meaningful role for EJ in annual Science conference, State of the Estuary Conference (and Journal), Pacific Climate Conference, and other relevant events and activities.

Targets:

- 1. Incorporate science and peer review into annual EJ Workplan activities.*

STORAGE

Quantification of direct economic and socioeconomic impacts to residents of communities in proposed project areas are analyzed and considered in planning and implementation process.

Targets

- 1. Develop a mitigation plan through community-based research on the impacts from the Land Retirement on the Westside of the Valley.*
- 2. Analysis of economic and socioeconomic impacts on farmworker and other EJ communities as a result of surface storage actions*

CONVEYANCE

Ensure water supply reliability, flood control/protection, and drinking water quality benefits are shared equally among Delta and other affected communities by a process that incorporates members/representatives from potentially affected communities in workshops and other public participation efforts in conjunction with the EJSC.

Targets

- 1. Analyze whether EJ impacts may result from increase to 8,500cfs and permanent operable barriers*
- 2. Assist in EJ analysis and assessment during EIR/EIS phase for Lower San Joaquin Flood Improvements*

3. *Assist in stakeholder outreach and public participation process for Old River and Rock Slough Water Quality Improvements projects*
4. *Coordinate and assist EJ analysis of the following projects:*
 - ✓ *North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Improvements Program*
 - ✓ *Delta Mendota Canal/ California Aqueduct Intertie*
 - ✓ *San Luis Reservoir Low Point Improvement Program*

WATER USE EFFICIENCY

Ensure that cost-effective water conservation, recycling, desalination and other innovative practices include EJ communities, concerns and input. This requires deliberate and comprehensive technical assistance, outreach, and capacity building in selected communities.

Continuation of consensus based and collaborative PSP process to include workshops, trainings and technical assistance in communities of color and underserved communities seeking water use efficiency funding. This shall include focused effort to create broad-based PSP selection panels that understand EJ and tribal communities. Improve PSP advertisement and dissemination through outreach and consultation with EJSC.

Targets

1. *State of California Desalination Task Force Environmental Justice recommendation¹ that include designation of seawater in proximity to desalination intakes as a recognized, regulated drinking water beneficial use.*

WATER TRANSFERS

Ensure that as the water transfer market develops, it occurs through balanced, broad-based, and community-driven processes that include members and representatives from potentially-affected communities in both sellers and buyers regions. Process must include analysis of all conceivable impacts to both regions and consider a broad range of mitigation and other alternatives.

Socioeconomic impacts and effects to disadvantaged communities must be addressed, particularly the effects of crop/land idling, water shortages and rationing, short- and long-term transfers, and impacts on social services and facilities that serve those needs.

¹ Finding #39: Environmental justice considerations include the siting of desalination facilities, determining who accrues the costs and benefits of desalination, and who has the opportunity to use a higher quality (desalinated) water, and the possible impacts of replacing low-cost with high-cost water.

Recommendation #29: In addition to other eligibility criteria, State funding should give high priority to those desalination projects that provide the greatest public benefits, such as: 1) serve areas implementing all conservation and recycling programs to the maximum extent practicable; 2) demonstrate long-term environmental benefits; 3) avoid or reduce environmental impacts to the extent possible; 4) reduce health risks by improving water quality; **5) ensure equitable access to benefits from desalination projects and include feasible mitigation for any environmental justice impacts**

Targets

1. *Expand and revise the EJ survey that was performed on short-term water transfers to include an analysis of long-term transfers. Greater effort must be made toward community outreach.*
2. *Enhance capabilities of “On Tap” program to be more publicly accessible as a clearinghouse of information about proposed water transfers. Information regarding partners, pricing, timing, scope, duration, etc should provide sufficient context to allow for a comprehensive analysis of any proposed water transfer.*

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Based on widespread and dedicated interest from tribal and other subsistence fishing communities located in the headwaters and throughout the Bay-Delta, ensure meaningful participation of those affected communities in the implementation of CALFED’s final mercury strategy. This should include efforts to explain current knowledge regarding the impacts and sources of mercury contamination, and consider both traditional and cultural practices of affected communities that contribute to mercury contamination and dissemination, particularly among vulnerable population groups.

Earmark specific and sufficient funding to support ongoing efforts, begun in Lake County to convene agencies, communities and others in action-oriented dialogue and processes to remediate mercury pollution and provide education, training and technical assistance to support mitigation efforts in and among affected communities.

Targets

1. *Ensure that funding of the CALFED methylation mechanisms studies are incorporated to remediation plans.*
2. *Peer review or expert commentary that reflects an understanding and incorporation of EJ analysis should be an essential element of project evaluations.*
3. *Provide technical assistance and training funds for EJ community restorations.*
4. *Increase cooperation on implementation, mitigation, and outreach efforts to EJ communities of the CALFED Mercury Strategy.*

ENVIROMENTAL WATER ACCOUNT

Promote inclusion of tribal, subsistence fishing, and other EJ communities in deliberative process to assess and recommend actions on future of EWA to better ensure wider community concern, knowledge and history of fish and species protection can contribute to the EWA process.

Targets

- 1.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Watershed education, programs, funding, and technical assistance in all communities that have EJ characteristics and/or concerns should continue to be expanded.

Continuation of consensus based and collaborative PSP process to include workshops, trainings and technical assistance in communities of color and underserved communities seeking watershed funding. This must include focused effort to create broad-based PSP selection panels that understand EJ and tribal communities. Improve PSP advertisement and dissemination through outreach and consultation with EJSC.

Completion of watershed mapping focused on EJ communities in order to promote better watershed understanding, knowledge and identification.

Support for recently initiated watershed efforts such as the California Watershed Council.

Targets

1. *Grant funds should be distributed to various and different landscape types.*
2. *Provide technical and grant writing assistance to interested grant proposal applicants, including but not limited to previous unsuccessful grant applicants.*
3. *Watershed Program contributes directly toward implementation of EJ workplan tasks related to watershed mapping and outreach to watershed groups*

DRINKING WATER QUALITY

Ensure that current Drinking Water framework, based on the concept of Equivalent Level of Public Health Protection (ELPH), includes planning and funding to include broad-based representation of all vulnerable sub-populations in outreach, education, and decision-making process on source improvement, conveyance operations and storage programs. Efforts must be undertaken to provide adequate technical assistance and capacity building to potentially affected communities so that options can be generated that incorporate concerns of potentially affected communities with regard to source water exchanges, non-point source of pollution and delivered water quality. Particular attention and directed actions should address, through broad-based community outreach and participation processes the impacts and mitigation of arsenic, MTBE, mercury, perchlorate, selenium, bromide and other contaminants of concern.

Targets

1. *Conduct needs assessment of Drinking Water infrastructure and capacity that quantifies the resources needed for resolving the drinking water supply concerns in California, beginning with the Central Valley. Resources to be assessed should include costs of 1) total capital infrastructure and 2) capacity building for management.*
2. *Adopt the State Desalination Task force Environmental Justice recommendations, which include designation of seawater in proximity to desalination intakes as a recognized, regulated drinking water beneficial use. SEE WUE.*
3. *Develop a California Bay-Delta Drinking Water Strategic Policy protective of EJ community health.*

4. *Develop Central Valley Region Basin Plan protective of EJ community health by identifying and incorporating into Central Valley Drinking Water Policy.*
5. *Incorporation of contaminants of concern to EJ communities into the Central Valley Policy.*
6. *Central Valley Drinking Water Policy workgroup should increase public outreach to Central Valley community-based organizations.*

LEEVE SYSTEM INTEGRITY

Development and implementation of base level protection, levee subsidence control, and emergency management programs, should include reasonable participation and broad-based representation from all potentially affected communities in the decision-making process.

Earmark funding to ensure effective outreach, education and capacity-building in potentially affected communities to allow effective participation in decision-making process.

Targets

1. *Improved opportunities for subsistence fishing and hunting*

OTHER PROGRAM ELEMENTS

OVERSIGHT AND COORDINATION

Complete integration of EJ Goals and Objectives in each Program Element and across the eight (8) Oversight and Coordination commitments

1. Public Affairs & Involvement,
2. EJ
3. Program Performance & Tracking,
4. Regional Coordination
5. BDPAC
6. Financial Plan
7. Tribal Relations,
8. Water Management Strategy

Targets

1. *Develop annual EJ analysis and assessment for each Oversight and Coordination commitment.*