

Meeting Notes (draft)
Environmental Justice Subcommittee Meeting
May 26, 2005
Sacramento, CA

1. Introductions: It was announced that the next EJSC meeting will be a joint meeting with Drinking Water Subcommittee, somewhere in the Bay Area. This meeting will focus on key projects and actions related to drinking water and environmental justice.

It was announced that Dr. Henry Clark, interim Acting Co-Chair of the EJSC was not selected as one of the new members of the BDPAC. Several other nominees to be on the BDPAC were also not selected. The selections are made after nominations from CDDBA are sent to the Office of the Governor and The Secretary of the Interior. Typically, no reasons are given explaining why a candidate is selected or not. Dr. Clark informed the meeting of his displeasure with not being selected and stated that he would raise the issue at the highest levels in order to seek an answer about his nomination. Dr. Clark stressed his years of experience, membership on other advisory boards and committees such as CALEPA's EJ advisory committee, and his commitment to serve this body as ample reason that should have supported his selection to the BDPAC. He also cited the lack of African-American representation on the BDPAC. He further stated that this reflects the lack of seriousness to which CDDBA has shown to EJ, and called it "environmental racism".

ACTION: Dr. Clark agreed to draft a letter, working in conjunction with the EJ Coordinator, to be sent to BDPAC Chairman Hunt seeking clarification on this situation.

2. Updates:

Program Plans – Program plans will be presented at the August BDPAC meeting. In the interim, subcommittees and stakeholders are encouraged to review them and offer comments. It was reported that three proposals submitted by EJ stakeholders have been discussed and considered by various programs, but due to the current fiscal situation it is unlikely that funds will be available during this reporting period.

CDDBA-BDPAC Meeting Preview – The upcoming meeting agenda was discussed briefly. The main points were that Program Plans would not be on the agenda and that subcommittee reports would be on the agenda. It is expected that there will be an EJSC report focusing mainly on the Winnemem Wintu issue. (See below)

EJ Recommendation re: Winnemem concerns regarding proposed raise of Shasta Dam – At the previous EJSC meeting, following a presentation by the Winnemem and extensive discussion, a resolution was adopted for the BDPAC. The resolution called for CDDBA to suspend all activities related to the planned feasibility studies on the subject of a potential raise of the Shasta Dam. The resolution asks that the suspension be in place until the Bureau of Reclamation takes some corrective actions regarding the status of the Winnemem Wintu. This document, upon further review by CDDBA legal staff, was changed

from a resolution to a recommendation. The reason for the change is that BDPAC subcommittees are not allowed to make resolutions to BDPAC, only recommendations. The basic text of the document remained the same. The recommendation will be presented to the BDPAC at the next CDBA- BDPAC meeting in June.

3. Presentations:

PCL Investment Strategy – PCL presented their Investment Strategy at a previous EJSC meeting. They returned to highlight the final version which features a section on social equity. This plan is described as the first water plan in California to have both EJ and Tribal sections. It is based on a concept of Integrated Water Resource Management. EJ stakeholders are encouraged to review the plan and make comments. PCL estimated that this plan differs from the California State Water plan in approximately 25% of its outcomes and conclusions, but the two plans do share much in common.

http://www.pcl.org/pcl/pcl_waterforca.asp

DWR California Water Plan Update – The California Water Plan has also recently been completed. An overview was presented to the EJSC which highlighted key sections addressing EJ issues. The presentation focused mainly on the process set to begin soon that will include interactive workshops across the State designed to allow for full engagement of all interested parties. EJ stakeholders are encouraged to attend these sessions in / near their communities. The timeframe for the submission of written comments remains open for another 30-45 days (approx). <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/>

CBDA Watershed Program / GIS Project Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection – A demonstration of the current status of the EJ GIS project was given. The basic idea is to create a tool for use, Mainly by CBDA (all agencies) Program Managers and staff that allows them to learn extensive data and information about the communities near project areas. This data will be more comprehensive than existing data regarding social, public health, and other demographic factors. Thus far a sample version has been created looking at one urban and one rural setting. The project now needs to identify additional sources of funding to move forward, but the basic model has been created and appears to be feasible.

4. **Other Issues** – This meeting also was noteworthy because of the tension expressed by various participants about the current and future status of EJ within CBDA. Frustrations were evident regarding the issue of Dr. Clark's nomination, the changes to the Winnemem document, the structure of the subcommittee, and the role of the Coordinator and EJ Stakeholders. There was not ample time to discuss any of these issues in depth at this meeting, but it was noted that these topics would be discussed at a future meeting. In light of the current changes in CBDA and the focus on future financing of CBDA, it was suggested that after the next CBDA-BDPAC, and the planned joint meeting with the Drinking Water subcommittee, it might be more feasible to plan a future meeting agenda to address these issues.

ACTION: plan meeting to discuss programmatic and structural issues regarding EJ in CBDA.

