

## **Seaside Regional Public Workshop on the Draft California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen)**

Friday, September 7, 2012

Oldemeyer Multi-use Center, Seaside, CA 93955

The sixth regional workshop in Seaside attracted a group of about 12 participants that included local residents and a few business representatives. Members of the Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network and the Community Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association were in attendance as well as some people involved in planning and development, a local attorney, and a local physician.

Staff sought comments and suggestions related to the overall approach taken and specifically on proposed indicators, data sources, and the methodology. Numerous comments were made at the workshop and are grouped and described below. Comments made more than once were consolidated and placed in the most appropriate category.

### Methods/General:

- Analysis makes sense when you see Central Valley results
- Area north of Salinas, Hollister surprisingly high in Exposures
- Method is not intuitive
- When city planners get this tool, they will use it for CEQA cumulative impacts
- Results can be used to indicate high sensitivity, that is, results reveal whether more in-depth analysis is needed
- As it applies to CEQA, this is an informational tool but don't stay totally away from CEQA; be specific about how analysis relates to CEQA
- What does tool look like at the end? Computer model?
- How will tool be accessible?
- When will the tool be ready?
- What is the mechanism? How does this tool affect homeowners? Ranchers? People looking to build homes?
- Should give a disclaimer- providing as information, not policy, not direction, etc.
- Could be negative impacts on some communities
- In private uses- what if red-lining occurs?
- How will lenders use the results of this tool?
- Tool could be valuable but could also be misused
- A guidance document will be important

- Think about big picture for policy-making- think about lender, rancher, common citizen, etc.
- Need a translator in the community to help them know how to use
- Need resource for cities to go to for help on how to use this tool
- This provides good information that could be useful for grant applications
- It would be useful if this was updated every 3-5 years

#### Geographic scale/Mapping:

- ZIP codes are not really related to impact
- ZIP codes make sense for population characteristics but not for pollution
- Results should be looked upon as fuzzy, not rigid: geographic boundaries are artificial constructs
- Geographic scale needs to be more specific
- Should set up polygons for this analysis instead of relying on ZIP code or other pre-established boundaries
- Including ZIP codes in the analysis would be even more helpful if the analysis could be online and allow for a search (by ZIP code) of what is going on in the community

#### Exposures:

- Are the golf courses south of Carmel being accounted for in terms of pesticide releases?
- How do community members get air monitoring devices so that they can measure pollutants in the air when there are burns at Fort Ord?
- How can burning be factored in when military is not required to report it?
- How do we know when certain pesticides are being used on certain crops?
- How can we factor in current or future fracking that may happen in this region? Monterey shale is a resource people want and fracking will stress the region
- Burning is affecting people from pollution drift
- Burning is underreported and needs more public notice
- Should use data from local air pollution districts and their monitoring machines
- For traffic indicator, why was 2.5 km distance used? Perhaps a smaller buffer would be more appropriate
- How do we account for recycled water being used in poor communities?

#### Public Health Effects:

- Should consider in utero exposures, perhaps by including women of childbearing age

- There are increased post-menopausal breast cancers on Monterey Peninsula (study done at Humboldt State, maps generated)
- Scabies epidemics in board and care homes in region
- Suggested indicators: ADHD, autism, diabetes
- Should use incidence rates not mortality rates for heart disease and cancer
- Tuberculosis surveillance and control are big issues with the health department
- Foggy/cold weather in Seaside might be causing health issues
- Should consider cancer, emphysema, etc. caused by pollutants
- Consider side effects of medical drugs used to treat these conditions
- There may be misdiagnoses of diseases in elderly- how does that affect this component?
- Second-hand smoke impairs the health and should be considered
- Cancer is a major public health factor
- Give info to certain groups/areas lacking access to the information. Communities should be made aware of environmental-related diseases in their area and what factors in their area contribute to that disease, should have online access to information.
- Environmental surroundings has a lot to do with the diseases and disease symptoms showing up in the Seaside area
- Sometimes a disease like cancer is attributed to a person's own activities, like smoking, when in reality that disease may come from the environmental surroundings

#### Environmental Effects:

- Are former military sites included in 'Cleanup sites'?
- What are the impairments for the water bodies?
- Impaired water bodies is only looking at surface water; groundwater is important too
- Coastal impairments are important to include
- There are already regulations from Water Quality Control Board pushing for farmers to retain waters

#### Socioeconomic Factors and Sensitive Populations:

- People of all ages deal with pollution, not just people under 5 or over 65
- Age groups most affected depends on the type of pollution
- Sensitive populations should include handicapped and disabled
- Being born a certain race/ethnicity does not make a person more susceptible to disease
- People can be exposed to superfund sites, military sites, gases, ammunition, etc.  
Sensitive populations should include people living near pollution sources.

- People who can't fend for themselves are a type of sensitive population. For example, people in jails do not have many rights and are thus vulnerable to whatever surroundings and circumstances they are placed in
- Sensitive populations are living populations

Use of Tool:

- Use to educate community
- Work with local public health agencies
- Could be a sensitivity tool, an information indicator; inform for next level
- Concern over hijacking tool for negative uses
- Informational tool; be clear that deeper look is needed to learn more
- Be clear that this is not a new level of regulation
- This is a good tool, a move in the right direction
- Can be used for oversight and to guide policies
- The weakest area for attack is the use of ZIP codes. Even Census tracts are weak. These are not logical for everyone
- Should set up own polygons instead of using ZIP codes
- Use to educate public health officials
- What are the next steps?
- Need to think about how to get the tool out to the public
- There is a disconnect between health and environmental health- how to engage people?