

## **Local Government Workshop on the Draft California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen)**

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Sierra Hearing Room, Cal/EPA Headquarters Building, Sacramento, California 94814

The eighth workshop in Sacramento focused on how the CalEnviroScreen tool might be useful to local government. It attracted over 20 participants, including representatives from several nearby counties and cities, the League of California Cities and some representatives from participating via the web.

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:

- How does this tool relate to SB 375?
- Want local governments to be brought in earlier
- Lack of coordination with air districts can create huge problems because local jurisdictions rely on them
- Air districts will have to create a tool to deal with this tool
- Should recognize and factor in mitigation
- If a community believes their score is wrong or overstated, how can they work with Cal/EPA to get the error corrected?
- When data is available only at the county level, how is the assignment to ZIP codes being accomplished to ensure fair and appropriate assignments, such as to control for different populations of different ZIP codes?
- What about positive indicators? Might a number of positive indicators play roles that could potentially offset some of the documented negative impacts? Things like percent open space, density of development, public school performance, etc.

### Geographic Scale:

- ZIP code level is too broad, especially for the solid waste facilities indicator

### Exposures:

- Ozone indicator does not address source of ozone

- Caltrans data is not refined; most local jurisdictions have more refined traffic data
- Should look at lead exposure from older housing
- Be careful with drinking water quality indicator—a lot of private systems are not regulated and we don't know what's in there; a concern in rural areas in particular

#### Public Health Effects:

- Should consider obesity as a public health indicator
- Cancer and heart disease aren't necessarily indicative of exposure; may be genetic

#### Environmental Effects:

- Need better explanation of how waste facilities are weighted
- This indicator should be expanded
- Solid waste downwind constituents cause inaccuracy
- Are impaired water bodies truly public health related or mainly aquatic health related?
- This analysis leaves in leaking underground storage tanks that are no longer a concern; includes them just because they were left in place
- Are all the hazardous waste sites really impacting the areas with which they are associated? What if the violations have been fixed?
- Are the non-fuel leak sites (solvent and other releases overseen by regional boards and local agencies) tracked by GeoTracker accounted for in one of the indicators?

#### Use of Tool:

- Funding for cleanup and infill development needs to be prioritized
- Should integrate with Cap and Trade
- Should work with local organizations to address impacts on communities
- There is inconsistency with how the tool will be used—is it to be used with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or not? Document is unclear. If yes, how will it be used with CEQA?
- Redlining of communities may happen
- What will be the impact on local business communities?
- Local government must be equipped to implement the tool
- As local governments invest, further review of this tool is needed
- Should keep this as a toolkit without statewide maps; public officials know where local vulnerabilities are

- Appropriate use of tool is to prioritize funding
- In order for tool to be usable, need local government/enforcement agencies to help
- As this tool is being used, state should come help local governments
- Concern over unintended consequences of this tool
- Should utilize local governments for consultation in rolling out this tool