Sacramento Public Workshop on the draft CalEnviroScreen 3.0

September 21, 2016
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The sixth regional workshop on the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 draft in Sacramento was an opportunity for the public to learn about updates to the tool and provide comments on these updates. The workshop attracted about 40 participants from community organizations, and local and state government, as well as local residents.

Staff sought comments and suggestions related to the four major components of CalEnviroScreen—exposures, environmental effects, sensitive populations and socioeconomic factors. Comments from workshop participants are listed below. Similar or related comments were consolidated and placed in the most appropriate category.

General Comments

- Rural/ tribal considerations
    - Comments on how rural areas need to be factored more into the tool.
    - Need a different way to identify disadvantaged communities in rural and tribal areas, suggest a companion report.
    - Suggest OEHHA consider a separate tool for rural communities or tribal areas.
- Comments on adding regional analyses
    - CalEnviroScreen is a good statewide tool, but funds directed to Sacramento Area Council of Governments should have regional analyses to allow a normalization of funds and allow for more equity in the region.
    - Normalize the data for the region and include regional scale analysis
- Would like to see a comparisons of census tracts and ZIP codes.
- A comparison map would be helpful to see the differences between 2.0 and 3.0.
- Clarify methodological changes between CalEnviroScreen 2.0 and 3.0.
- There should be an option such as a checkbox or similar system to select which factors are used to determine a score so that users can selectively choose which factors to look at.
- Concern over how the weighting changes when additional indicators are added.

New Indicator Ideas

- Indoor exposures such as air quality (wood burning).
- Pollution from illegal marijuana growing. Concerns over watershed degradation?
- Account for wildfire smoke emissions.
- PM10. CalEnviroScreen does not pick up sawdust or illegal facilities (e.g., auto body work, spray painting, door/cabinet manufacturing).

- Incorporate oil spills.
- Mold (water damage in old housing stock - county assessor tracks this data).
- Mercury contamination (legacy contamination from Gold Country).
- Include dairy digesters.
- Oil and gas:
    - Where do the oil rigs of Kern County fall into?
    - Are there other places in the tool where oil and gas production could be included?
    - Can you factor in fracking facilities?
- Should include climate change impacts in the tool.
- Abandoned mines should be included.
- Is there a soil contamination map available? Especially for agricultural lands. Contaminated water is taken up by plants, leading to contaminated plants.
- Consider schools/workplaces when weighting:
    - People may be in different tracts during the workday or at schools. What about making adjustments for population on that basis, along the lines of adjustments made for areas of tracts where people live.
    - Factor in proximity to schools.
- Can groundwater threat for drinking water be an added consideration?
- Add data to look at foreclosures, property taxes, etc. to get info related to non-renter housing costs/vulnerabilities.
- Food deserts and food insecurity.
- Look at tree cover in urban areas. Explore inclusion of canopy cover, fruit trees.
- Access to transportation
    - Add transit isolation factors (how far away from transit) for funding purposes; census data on Vehicle Miles Traveled.
    - Will mobility be included in an indicator? (Ability to get around)
- Support addition of a cancer indicator.
- Consider an indicator of access to health insurance.

Comments on the removal of the age indicator

- Weight the census tracts for the number of kids and/or percentage of kids.
- Have you considered using an age indicator for children under 10 only instead of both children and elderly?
- Several participants expressed support for removing the age indicator but including a pie chart that shows the age distribution for each census tract.
- Instead of the Age indicator, a new indicator for children in poverty or homeless children.

Rent-Adjusted Income Indicator

- Concern that the indicator is not capturing anything new because it is the same as poverty.
- Rent-Adjusted Income only uses renters' data; communities with mostly owner occupied properties are not represented.
- Cost of living should be included.
- Cost of utilities could be added to Rent-Adjusted Income indicator.
- Rent-Adjusted Income and poverty double-counting.
    - Would like to see a map showing a comparison of Rent-Adjusted Income and Poverty.
    - Poverty and Rent-Adjusted Income indicators – is the correlation so large that you don't need both? Where would these two indicators differ?
    - Isn't the Poverty and Rent-Adjusted Income metric double-counting?
- Why was a new indicator added for Rent-Adjusted Income rather than using existing costs that are widely used in the housing industry? (For example, cost burdens by income, cost standards of 30%/50% are required by federal standards); use county adjusted income and housing costs.
- Include/compare mortgage cost vs. renter cost, multifamily dwellings, household size comparisons.
- Why did you add a new rent burden indicator when there's been a well-established federal rent burden indicator for a long time?

Exposures

- What are the pros and cons of taking into account distance for some of the indicators and not for others? Have you looked into looking at distance from stationary sources for adjustments to those indicators?
- What is the rationale for using the annual PM2.5 data versus 24-hour?
- Concerned about ozone monitors and distance from the monitors – how does that change between CalEnviroScreen versions?
- Should use modeling for ozone. ARB does model ozone statewide.
- For Ozone - Include both Nevada and Oregon, actually all bordering states' data – not just Mexico.
- Factor in urban pesticide use.

Environmental Effects

- McClellan Air Force Base has chromium VI contamination that is accessible to water wells; is this considered?
- Consider agricultural surface runoff.
- Would like to see correlation between cleanup sites and the other indicators.

- Many of the sites in the environmental effects are well controlled, so if a site is well controlled and not posing a threat, should it really be in the tool?
- Separate quantification should be given to environmental effects sites based on the amount of contamination that is occurring.
- Check area near Eldercreek and Power Inn area; it does not seem to be properly represented.
- Are transfer stations included?
- Why should a properly closed and benign site having no impact be included? Are sites that are cleaned up removed from the tool?
- Comments on including illegal dumping beyond what is included in the tool.

Sensitive Populations

- Support for the cardiovascular disease indicator because it has a strong correlation with food deserts.
- Concern that people's activities are not at their residence for a good portion of the day.
- Support for the health indicators for CalEnviroScreen 3.0.
- Historically, housing aid programs based on need are concentrated in low-income communities. But now there is litigation in Texas that challenges excluding wealthy communities.
- Have you looked at the Health Disadvantage Index? It is more focused on health.
- Consider health insurance coverage rates.
- How do you capture people with asthma who don't go to emergency rooms but just use an inhaler or go to a clinic?

Socioeconomic Factors

- What about homeless and/or people not represented in the census? These people are not accounted for in these indicators.
- How to account for non-reported income rather than potential income? Example of Sacramento State neighborhoods – students without wages but are they really disadvantaged?
- Linguistic isolation data looks low. Are isolated populations reported in the census? These populations might be underreported. Is it possible to identify which languages overlap with educational attainment?
- Why do particular census tracts look impacted on multiple individual socioeconomic factor maps but somehow get lighter when maps are overlaid/scores are added?
- Any plans to begin using real-time unemployment data?
- What if English is the primary language but due to lack of education, they don't speak it well? Is this reflected in the Linguistic Isolation metric?

- Does linguistic isolation get skewed by large amounts of African American populations?