

California Environmental Protection Agency
Cumulative Impacts & Precautionary Approaches (CIPA)
Work Group Meeting

Thursday, June 5, 2008
10 am
Sierra Hearing Room, 2nd Floor

Agency Secretary Linda Adams Statements

Good morning, I am Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection. I would like to welcome you all to the first Cumulative Impacts and Precautionary Approaches, or CIPA, Work Group meeting. Thank you all for joining us here today as Cal/EPA takes another important step forward on the issue of environmental justice.

As part of Cal/EPA's Environmental Justice Action Plan, initiated by Secretary Tamminen, Cal/EPA is exploring cumulative impacts and precautionary approaches to develop guidance on these complex issues. This is an exciting time for Cal/EPA, and our great State, because this follows in California's tradition of providing environmental leadership and innovation, in being "one of the first" in the nation to address cumulative impacts and precautionary approaches in this manner.

As Cal/EPA conducts this extraordinary effort, we will continue our commitment to proceed in a thoughtful, deliberate, and structured manner, that's based on sound science, to ensure all stakeholders involved are informed and have an opportunity to provide input into this process. I wanted to be here today to share with you Cal/EPA's commitment to advance of our knowledge and approach on these complex issues.

On behalf of Cal/EPA, this CIPA Work Group effort is being lead by our Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, or OEHHA, and the Waste Board, in collaboration with the Universities of California at Berkeley and Riverside.

It's important to point out that this CIPA Work Group effort may not have happened without the support and dedication of the Cal/EPA EJ Advisory Committee or CEJAC. So, we would like to thank the CEJAC for all their hard work and efforts in helping us get to this point.

I want to thank you all, the CIPA Workgroup members who are giving your time and support. I would also like to thank Joan Denton, Director of OEHHA, for leading this effort, and her staff, Alan Hirsch, George Alexxeef, John Faust, and the other OEHHA staff who work tirelessly on this effort. I would also like to thank the Waste Board Executive Director, Mark Leary and my Cal/EPA staff Malinda Dumisani, Cindy Tuck who have also worked hard on this effort. I would like to thank the academic contractor on the project, Dr. Amy Kyle, and the other academic partners from UC Berkeley and UC Riverside, who are participating in this effort to ensure we're on the right track to explore cumulative impacts and precautionary approaches. And a big thank you goes to all our stakeholders. Thank you all for joining us.

Through the collaboration between Cal/EPA, the EJ Advisory Committee, and other EJ stakeholders, we have elevated the issue of environmental justice and are committed to improve our thinking and approach to cumulative impacts and precautionary approaches. We know this will not be an easy task. That's why I've convened the CIPA Work Group, to advise Cal/EPA in the development of the cumulative impacts and precautionary approaches framework documents. These framework documents will lay the foundation for Cal/EPA's cumulative impacts and precautionary approaches guidance development.

So it is important that these framework documents include input from a diverse group of stakeholders to improve and provide depth to our understanding of cumulative impacts and precautionary approaches in relation to environmental decision-making. As these efforts proceed forward, please keep in mind that the main purpose of this CIPA Work Group effort is to encourage, solicit, and support, a dialogue that highlights key concepts and practical approaches to consider these complex issues.

In light of the aggressive schedule for this effort, this dialogue will likely be somewhat focused but should consider different concepts, ideas, and information. One concept that I would like the group to consider is the impact of climate change of EJ communities.

I believe that we have a great group of people here who are committed to work together not only to share ideas from different perspectives but to work to gain a common ground on these issues where possible.

So with that, I would now like to turn the meeting over to and invite OEHHA Director, Joan Denton, to say some words and introduce the project staff presentations.

While I won't be able to stay for the entire meeting, I would like to reiterate that I appreciate your participation in this important CIPA Work Group effort and I hope your meeting is a productive one.

I will likely join your meetings from time to time and will definitely keep abreast of your progress throughout these efforts.

Thank you.