

PROJECT INFORMATION: INTRODUCTION TO CI/PA PROJECT ELEMENTS

The project on Cumulative Impacts and Precautionary Approaches has five elements, conducted by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA); other boards, departments, and offices (BDOs) of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), academic partners at the University of California at Berkeley and Riverside, and the work group itself.

The project builds on the work of the California Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (CEJAC), established by legislative action, which conducted public meetings and pilot projects over the period from 2001 to 2007.

The purpose of this project is to develop recommendations for how Cal/EPA could incorporate consideration of cumulative impacts and precautionary approaches into its decision-making. Work on this phase of the project began in January 2008 and is scheduled to be completed by August 2009.

The role of OEHHA is:

- to manage the project as a whole;
- to conduct reviews of the existing authorities of Cal/EPA for addressing cumulative impacts and undertaking precautionary approaches;
- to synthesize the information obtained from the various project elements to produce a framework for considering cumulative impacts and precautionary approaches and to make recommendations for next steps.

The role of the project team at the University of California at Berkeley is:

- to review existing methods for characterizing cumulative impacts and to develop new methods, to be applied to specific topic areas;
- to develop case studies that look at whether cumulative impacts or precautionary approaches were considered or could be considered in specific decision contexts or for specific types of issues;
- to develop concept papers that consider the range of ways that cumulative impacts or precautionary approaches could be considered or addressed, leading to development of recommendations for Cal EPA to consider;
- to assist OEHHA in developing materials and planning and conducting the meetings of the work group.

The role of the University of California at Riverside is:

- to participate in the development of the concept paper on precautionary approaches.

The role of the other boards, departments, and offices of Cal/EPA is:

- to offer suggestions for the project and to review products;
- to provide information needed for the case studies.

The role of the work group is:

- to review the approaches being taken and proposed;
- to provide feedback from the wide range of perspectives represented to OEHHA and its team.