

Public Comment on CalEnviroScreen 3.0

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To: CalEnviroScreen, CalEnviroScreen@OEHHA
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Categories: CES 3.0 Comment

I am writing to submit a public comment on CalEnviroScreen 3.0.

My comment concerns exposures along the US-Mexico border potentially not captured by CalEnviroScreen. In the new version, CES has made great strides and I commend you for refining the DPM exposure at Calexico and the PM2.5 at San Ysidro.

However, I have some questions.

1. Was past data from the (now closed) air monitoring site at Otay Mesa (site 060732007) considered in the DPM estimates or was only information from Donovan used? The Otay Mesa site is immediately adjacent to the commercial truck POE and would better represent the POE. In addition, it was my understanding that elemental carbon or black carbon was at one point measured at that site, which could refine DPM estimates. The decision to not adjust upward the DPM estimates for Otay Mesa should be assessed further.
2. It appeared from the written documentation on your website that DPM is adjusted for population density. There does seem to be a map shading option for highly polluted but low population areas. I expected to see this shading at parts along the US Mexico border, especially near Otay Mesa, but saw none. As Otay is one of the busiest Ports of Entry (POE)s for commercial trucks, and tracks can back up for km to the east, shouldn't there be shading indicating DPM near the POE?
3. In your air models for areas far from public air monitoring stations, how do you model and consider air pollution entering the US from Mexico due to tire burning, trash burning and other activities?
4. Have you considered and adjusted PM2.5 and DPM exposures near the Tecate POE?
5. Have you modeled the percent of PM that arises from DPM in the US-Mexico border region? It may be high in some areas, making PM2.5 more toxic, which should be accounted for in the model.

Thank you for your continuing efforts on behalf of the people of California.

Regards,

Penelope Quintana

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