Los Angeles Public Workshop on the draft CalEnviroScreen 3.0

September 7, 2016
Junipero Serra Building, Carmel Room
320 West Fourth Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013

The first regional workshop on the CalEnviroScreen 3.0 draft in Los Angeles was an opportunity for the public to learn about updates to the tool and provide comments on these updates. The workshop attracted over 50 participants from local community organizations, universities, local and state government, and 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

- Funding and SB 535
    - Help with flexibility in what's funded based on the biggest local exposure and risk.
    - It would be good to have a clearer public process for whether CES 3.0 is the right 'fit' for SB 535.
    - Incorporate cap & trade allowances to identify hot spots.
- Include data from citizen/community service projects (Brownfields from EYCEJ).
- Time analysis - How can we easily track improvements over the CalEnviroScreen versions to see if we are making progress?
- Regional analysis (many comments on providing a way for others to scale the tool down for use within specific regions of the state)
    - Ensure locally important data (i.e. lead) has a clear process of incorporation Example: How-to guide to do a locally scaled index merging CES and local data like the analysis that the Bay Area did.
    - Customize indicators and analyses to focus on the range of questions any given community is asking.

New Indicator Ideas

- Housing
    - Where does density, housing stock quality, etc. come in?
- Consider climate vulnerability as an indicator
- Consider noise pollution
- Built environment
    - Could you consider heat island and lack of green space as impacting exposures?
    - Construction projects (i.e., noise, air/smells).

    - Add access to parks (greenspace) and open space as an indicator.
- Auto Coolants and Fluids – soil and groundwater contamination exposure are a possible source of contamination.
- Goods movement
    - Noise pollution from goods movement.
    - Light pollution from goods movement.
    - Vibration pollution from goods movement– rail isn't captured, trains idling and/or passing through the neighborhood.
- Mercury
- Oil and gas
    - Oil & gas drilling fields (especially in South LA) whether they are active or not and the air pollution that follows.
    - Facilities and activities in the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources database: http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Online_Data
    - Information on hydraulic fracturing activities generated as a result of SB 4 (2013) requirements:
        - http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB4
    - Incorporate oil production pipelines (Long Beach).
    - Fracking, acidization & gravel packing (where and what chemicals are involved)
        - http://www.cafrackfacts.org/fracking-in-california/where-is-fracking-occurring/
    - Impacts from fracking should be included.
    - Most of oil and gas operations produced water is in the San Joaquin Valley and Kern County.
    - Acidication and gravel packing of oil wells creates impacts, especially to air.
    - See "Drilling Down" report for details.
    - DOGGR data on oil wells are inaccurate.
    - Oil and gas drilling in neighborhood/farm – emissions – DOGGR has this data
- Include mining. DTSC has a mining activities/mine prioritization tool.
- Radon maps and naturally occurring uranium (https://www.epa.gov/radon/epa-map-radon-zones).
- Auto shops
    - Include high density of small auto shops (such as in Pacoima). Include emissions and hazardous waste.
    - How do we account for unpermitted auto shops?
    - Exposures from body shops are not well captured in the tool and they should be included.
- Plastic food packaging, flame retardants.
- Question if prevalence of traffic accidents could be accounted for – contribute to backed up traffic and additional emissions.
- Lead

    - Acknowledge lead is a uniquely LA – area issue, not exactly whole state, but it is a big factor.
    - There is likely a database on lead concentration.
    - State has data on lead in children 5 & under.
    - Lead exposures from toxic facilities, old housing stock.
    - About lead: Especially relevant for lead particulate matter in remediation sites that have dust with lead and arsenic.
- How can we include transportation of waste?
- Ultrafine particles
- Mosquito Pesticides – Vector Control Districts spray pesticides in the neighborhood to address mosquito population control – the information is submitted to DPR and Waterboards (under their NPDES Program).
- Crime data
    - Could we incorporate crime data? This affects social mobility.
    - Is crime an element that is being considered in CES? It should be. Prominent issue is murder in the community; it is a determinant of health. Crime is a stress factor, especially murder by police.
    - Drug use/tobacco use
- Many comments on adding food deserts
    - I'd be interested to see "access to food" or "food deserts" be included as a factor or something to think about for burdens faced by populations who cannot access fresh food.
    - Access to food; market accessibility, environmental conditions, food deserts
    - Food that we eat (dietary exposure).
- Socieconomic indicators framed from a "lack" perspective (poverty burden, unemployment, etc) but resources/assets also play a role in creating disparities in health outcomes and exposures to environmental hazards. Is there a way to incorporate data on these types of positive assets? (access to parks, proximity to employment opportunities, access to healthcare facilities, quality of education)?
- For future CalEnviroScreen versions: Methodologies to calculate "underemployment" for populations across the state, rather than unemployment.
- Homeless populations
    - Number of households that are overcrowded and homeless population. Are they accounted for in these SES indicators?
    - Need a homeless population indicator. People are at risk of becoming homeless. There is a lot of informal housing. Use ACS dataset: Percentage of units that are crowded or overcrowded.
    - Was there a reason why homelessness is not included? We do have the homeless counts by census tract, at least in this region.
    - Homeless data – please expand on the fact of data use or lack of (no homeless data outside of the census data).
- Add cancer as an indicator.
- Consider life expectancy.
- Is there a way to map immune compromised populations?

- Can we have an indicator for disabled?
- Solar provider for EJ community; certain community members qualifying vs not qualifying.
- What about veteran status and disability?
- Add an indicator for adequate health care
- Paint manufacturers should be included.

Comments on the removal of the age indicator

- Comments on including just children instead of children and elderly
    - Age still should be included. Advocate for it. Still keep them somehow, but maybe separate it?
    - If seniors skew to higher income tracts, why not have an indicator for only for children?
    - At first it was disturbing to hear age was removed. Why not include children up to age 10 and life expectancy?
- How does the removal of children and elderly affect the socioeconomic factors?
- Some elders in our community split their time living with various children in different neighborhoods, and sometimes even in various countries. How is their residence counted?
- Population of children within foster homes are the most vulnerable.
- Is there a way to capture socially vulnerable elderly?
- Was there a shift in the high census tracts when age was removed?
- Elderly are still at risk and influence inter-generational poverty issues, e.g. cost to the family for long term care.
- Not the right call to assume seniors are wealthy and not vulnerable.

Rent Adjusted Income Indicator

- A thought - Rent-adjusted addition is a huge benefit for low-income urban areas
- Rent adjusted income use of census data doesn't accurately reflect the actual reality. How are you planning to make changes to this?
- Rent adjusted income changes; any plans to update the information? 2015 data will be updated in December.
- Median income considered pre-tax or after tax money?
- Holes in the CalEnviroScreen 2.0, does rent-adjusted income fill in the data gaps in CES 3.0?
- Rent-adjusted income data is very recent (2014), but things are changing so much from then to now. Can you use county assessor data?
- Income to rent based on that community (for a census tract). Are there other ways to do that for other regions and indicators? Imagine rent is cheaper in rural communities but so is income.

- Can you look at homeowner payments, not just rent?
- When the new rent indicator was added in, did this shift the data a lot?
- Analysis of socioeconomic effects on the overall scores. How did LA fare when rent-adjusted income was added?

Exposures

- Could consider adding, bigger particles (PM10).
- Household use of pesticides could weigh more heavily on health impacts than agricultural pesticide burdens.
- Comment that in addition to pesticides being captured, should also look into herbicides and fungicides.
- Averaging ozone
    - Previously captured as a threshold, now a scaled average. The health risks are actually when the days are over threshold, so it's important to capture that
    - Looks like trying to "spread" points by averaging.
- Look at children being bussed into LA schools that have lead and arsenic issues.
- How is the data for drinking water outside of the DPH data? Is it complete? Is there available data?
- Is there any more action on how to address the level of contaminants at the tap rather than farther down the distribution chain?
- For drinking water indicator, if communities don't use groundwater, don't weight the contamination as high.
- Is there a reason for a "2012" data for particulate matter versus more recent data?
- It would be more beneficial to see a quicker timeline or more recent data for traffic density and diesel PM.
- Does climate play a role in exposures?
- How does ozone change with the wind?
- Should consider hazard proximity.
- How are the exposures measured from facilities or exposures from Mexico?
- What accounts for the high exposure in Jurupa Valley?
- Traffic density- when looking at the map it skews the census tract. It could be really only something going on along the road – maybe could weight by roadway.
- Smaller sources of toxic releases – e.g., San Fernando Valley, Pacoima auto body shops, auto plating, smoke shops should be included.
- How are fires (i.e., ash) impacting exposures?
- Want more air monitoring stations in the community.
- Support expressed for freeway traffic to be considered in Exposures section.
- There is a need for another air monitoring location in the West San Fernando Valley – current stations are too far apart and do not accurately capture air quality.

- Questions about ozone and how they are able to make the gradations. Comments about the data also being from 2012.
- Include toxic emissions and noise pollution from ports, rail yards, and airports.

Environmental Effects

- Plumes
    - Plumes under LA River could be contaminating groundwater.
    - Los Angeles Basin contaminant plume data are available (see Jane Williams).
- Groundwater plumes data:
    - http://www.scag.ca.gov/committees/CommitteeDocLibrary/eec040716agnItem09.pdf
- Not sure if we are incorporating "CERS" (California Environmental Records System) data into the hazardous waste generator section. "CERS" will provide specific and current violation data for generators.
- Are emissions from leaks like Exide captured? They should be.
- Increase the buffer zone (include link to DTSC website for services in the case of Exide battery recycling plant in Vernon).
- For cleanup sites, make sure we are getting atmospheric pollutants and soil contaminations (i.e. lead from Exide)
- Include LA River and industrial runoff data (compliance issues, enforcement data).
- Differentiate between bad actors (align more with enforcement activities).
- Include more violation data for specific facilities.
- Is soil contamination included in groundwater threats?
- Are we tracking methane from solid waste facilities? (odorized methane for public health, methane as a GHG, and super pollutants).
- How do we account for contaminated dust from construction?
- Take advantage of "citizen science" with respect to brownfields.
- Radium and naturally occurring contaminants are important.
- Use proximity to ports, railyards, and airports as in EJ Screening Method (EJSM).
- Decrease the weight of groundwater threats if the contaminants don't appear in sources of drinking water.
- Unpermitted facilities should be included.
- Tool should take into account how well companies are getting rid of hazardous waste. In compliance? Any violations?
- Consider decreases in greenhouse gas emissions; how much of a change from last year compared to this year?
- Allowances under the state's cap-and-trade program should be included.

Sensitive Populations

- Cardiovascular indicator – Are all heart attacks captured in ER visits?
- Mental health – Is health access being considered as an indicator? Mental health is influenced by environmental pollution.
- Blood lead data would be useful to include.
- When should things be indicators and when should they be informational like how race was treated, and for how you're now planning to treat age? It seems appropriate to sometimes leave things out of the indicators, so long as they are still 'part of the story'.
- Does the birthweight indicator have a bi-modal distribution? It seems like it might, since relatively wealthy women who are having children later in life might also be at risk of low-birthweight babies.
- Have diagnosis vs ER visits been considered?
- Want to include more citizen science. Is there a way to include community-collected data?
- Need to show distance to health services, since that could affect the ER visit rates.
- Often, the babies are healthier in immigrant communities, and birth weights are more normal.

Socioeconomic Factors

- Incorporation of transportation costs i.e. Commute times, proxy of mileage, travel further distance residential community vs working community.
- Race/ethnicity
    - Why was race/ethnicity removed for CalEnviroScreen 2.0 and even so for CalEnviroScreen 3.0?
    - Race/ethnicity was removed after CalEnviroScreen 1.0. Why isn't the race indicator being put back in since the data is so accessible?
    - Race/ethnicity is obvious factor missing as they are usually the most vulnerable. (illegal policy decision).
    - Has race ever been included in scoring? Race should be included somehow.
    - Can a proxy be used for race/ethnicity?
- Other screening tools are using the ACS survey and doing separately children, and veteran status and minorities.