

California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) State Cooperative Agreement Report

Date: 7/11/2011

What is the status of your activities?

The most significant accomplishments are 1) DTSC participated in several meetings to provide technical assistance and resources to build community capacity in the City of Maywood. 2) Purchased simultaneously translation equipment. 3) Hired the first student to assist in planning, organizing and conducting the work outlined in the Grant (August 1, 2010). 4) Transferred translation funds into a contract for use in future trainings in City of Maywood or Wilmington. 5) Assisted the Maywood Community Interagency Partnership in understanding AB 890, developing public comments on the report submitted by the three water companies for the City of Maywood and the letter to Assembly Speaker, John Perez. DTSC attended the public hearing on AB 890. 6) Ongoing work on a Department of Toxic Substances Control Environmental Justice Action Plan. The plan is called for in the Department's Strategic Plan.

What progress have you made on your proposed Project Measures and Milestones?

Project measurements include:

Output measurement 1 – Community Meetings and sampling:

Maywood

In California drinking water quality is regulated by the California Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water Program. DTSC is working with their staff in efforts to address drinking water concerns in the City of Maywood. On June 30, 2010 DPH Drinking Water Program staff gave a presentation on California's drinking water regulatory program and the Maywood drinking water to community residents. The training was provided in English and Spanish and was well received by participants. DTSC staff attended the training on "how to take water samples" and on August 25, 2010 training was provided to Maywood community members on how to take a drinking water sample. The training and coordination with the DPH Drinking Water program are being done in preparation for water sampling in homes and other locations in Maywood.

Several meetings were held with community members to kick-off the water sampling in Maywood, discuss logistics, explain/assign roles and responsibilities, the protocol to be followed and obtain permission from residents.

After the sampling was conducted, DTSC held several meetings to explain the results to the residents of Maywood in early 2011. Rick Fears, Geologist who is working within

the DTSC drinking water team provided graphic illustrations to the community members and people receiving their sample results with general details about the sampling findings and the vicinity of sample locations to known superfund sites within the cities of Vernon and Maywood. A more detailed report of investigation is expected to be completed this summer and will be released to the Department of Public Health's Drinking Water Program. The next phase within the drinking water investigation by DTSC is to collect samples from the five public Maywood City schools after gaining permission from the LAUSD and also to re-sample a portion of the homes from the October 2010 sampling that had resulted in slightly high concentrations of regulated contaminants.

The month trainings were put on hold at the request of the current Mayor. Training will resume when requested by the Mayor and the community members.

Wilmington

DTSC initiated discussion with Jesse Marques, Director of Coalition for a Safe Environment (CFASE) regarding future trainings in the City of Wilmington.

Environmental Justice Workshop

Planning and preparation are underway for an Environmental Workshop in May to offer opportunities for dialog on the overview of the direction of EJ activities and progress within the Los Angeles area. The goal is to create a working list of the EJ issues to be memorialized and to provide a forum to talk about strategizing them into action. It is anticipated that the communities of Maywood, Wilmington (Citizens for a Safe Environment), Del Amo Action Committee, East Yards Communities, the City of LA Prosecutor's Office, EPA, Federal, State and local regulatory agencies will participate in the workshop.

Output Measurement 2 – Enforcement Environmental Bus Tours:

No bus tours were conducted during this period.

It is important to note that many of the issues raised during the summer of 2007 and 2008 bus tours and workshops are the subject of continuing inspection and enforcement work. The Department and the South Coast Air Quality Management District continue working together in an effort to address environmental concerns related to the Exide Technologies facility.

Also, DTSC assisted EPA Region 9 Environmental Justice staff in conducting and organizing a bus tour under this grant. The bus stopped at the three locations covered under this grant and the community member raised several environmental concerns at

all three locations. DTSC staff is working with the community member to address these concerns.

Output Measurement 3 - Networking with Community Organizations

Los Angeles Environmental Justice Forum

DTSC continues to participate in the Los Angeles Environmental Justice Network meeting. The forum includes members from several community based environmental organizations. Organizations participating in the LA Forum include Del Amo Action Committee, Action Now, California Communities against Toxics, Coalition for Clean Air, the Coalition for a Safe Environment (Wilmington area), and other Environmental Justice organization attend from time to time, including guest speakers. Monthly meetings of the LA EJ Forum are by invitation only. Government representatives participating in the meeting include Steven John with the US Environmental Protection Agency, and DTSC Environmental Justice Performance Manager, Florence Gharibian and Maya Akula, Public Participation Supervisor, DTSC Public Participation Program. The Forum meetings provide an excellent opportunity for information exchange on environmental justice activities and action items.

Output Measurement 4 - Formation of enforcement based Citizen Task Forces and Output Measurement 6, citizen complaints.

In the last presentation made by former EJ Performance Manager, Florence Gharibian to the Los Angeles City Attorney Environmental Task Force the task force members were not completely receptive toward creating a separate forum for blending community members with the city prosecutor's task force at this time for an EJ collaborative effort. However, DTSC is currently participating in the roll-outs that are carried out by members of the Los Angeles City Attorney Task Force where multi-jurisdictional agencies affiliated with the task force combine to perform joint unannounced inspections. The focus is currently on the Wilmington area with sites that are directed by citizen complaints issued to the environmental unit of the City prosecutor's office as well as from other task force member recommendations.

Output Measurement 5 – Ground-Truthing: on-going

One of the major components of the 710 Corridor Project is the compilation of environmental data using GIS applications. Maps are being prepared that display information from a number of data sources. This data will compliment ground truthing work LA communities are working on or have completed. Currently the maps provide information from DTSC data base identifying generators, transporters and treatment storage and disposal facilities and voluntary clean up projects, orphan site work and corrective action activities. Maps also have demographic information and information

from the Water Boards showing underground storage tank locations and locations where releases were reported. Initial mapping was shared with USEPA and DTSC in a meeting on the 710 Collaborative on June 16, 2010.

Have you encountered any difficulties in meeting your proposed Measures and Milestones?

Administrative difficulties have been encountered due to restrictions associated with the State of California budget difficulties.

Are there any preliminary data results or a description of equipment, techniques, and/or materials used or evaluated?

We have purchased the simultaneous translation equipment and will be tested during our next training session. This equipment will greatly enhance the training sessions.

The most useful data generated to date is the data we've collected on our training programs. We have evaluation forms that rate the training and provide helpful information on improvements we should consider. All of that information will be used to further refine the training to make it more useful when offered in other communities.

Describe any expenditure made:

The primary expenditure related to the Grant to-date is state program staff time, student intern and translation equipment purchase.

Additional Activities

Earlier this year DTSC's Executive staff completed work on the DTSC Strategic Plan, 2010 – 2015. The plan articulates DTSC's commitment to Environmental Justice in Goal 5:

“DTSC is a leader in the identification and reduction of toxic harms and restoration of communities with a deliberate focus on communities with potentially disproportionate environmental impacts.”

The plan calls for a draft Environmental Justice Plan to be released for public comment. A team of DTSC staff from all the Department's major programs including the Office of External Affairs, The Clean Up Program and the Enforcement and Emergency Response Program are working on the draft plan. The plan will provide information on processes to identify environmental harms and health risks in environmental justice communities and steps all of the Department's programs will take to reduce those harms. Scientific analysis and two-way communication will be used to promote trust, transparency and the protection of public health and the environment. Pilot project will also be described in the plan. Important activities outlined in the plan include the development of training materials on environmental justices that will have multiple

applications. The materials will be used to train Department staff and others. Performance measurements that will enable monitoring on the effectiveness of the program will be developed. The plan will also describe efforts underway to establish open and effective communication channels to better inform and involve communities in our work.

A commitment is being made to ensure that the DTSC EJ Plan is consistent with the USEPA Strategic Planning documents and the USEPA EJ 2014 document.

If you haven't already, please compare accomplishments with anticipated outputs/outcomes specified in your work plan:

Is there any other information you would like to share (for example, explanation of costs)?

The hiring of student intern, Jacqueline Martinez has shown to be a major support for the work that has been ongoing within the Maywood Community. Jacqueline's personal knowledge and experience of the issues that are occurring in Maywood stem from her long time residency and her background in social anthropology as a Masters student. Her role became a nicely aligned working relationship and highly successful internship. Jacqueline has completed her Master's degree from Cal. State Long Beach.