Department of Toxic Substances Control

CalEPA California Environmental Protection Agency

DTSC Cleanup In Vulnerable Communities Initiative

Technical Assistance Grant Program
Polling Session

JUNE 22, 2022 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Welcome

ED MORELAN, BRANCH CHIEF, DTSC

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program Welcome

- Kearns & West will be facilitating the Polling Session
- Representatives from the DTSC TAG team will be presenting preliminary program information
- Session will be recorded
- Webinar Agenda:
  - Introduction to DTSC TAG Program
  - Polling questions (multiple choice and short answer) for the public to help shape further development of the TAG program

How to navigate: Zoom

- Closed captioning is available
- Use the chat to communicate with meeting hosts for technical support
- Use poll questions to provide input—many will be open ended
- This meeting is being recorded

Objectives

- Engage vulnerable communities facing environmental challenges
- Share an overview of TAG program
  - Initial stages of development
- Solicit input to inform development of TAG program
- Solicit input on future community engagement opportunities

Overview

- Polling Warm-Up
- Topics:
  - Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative and TAG Program
  - Technical Advisors
  - Community Science
  - Community Engagement / Additional Thoughts
- Each topic will include a DTSC presentation, poll questions and answer reporting
- Wrap-up and Next Steps

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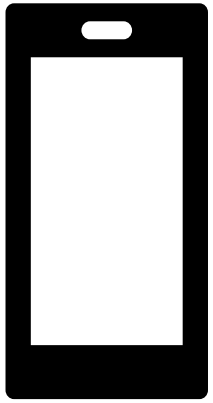
Polling Warm-Up

How to navigate: Poll Everywhere

BY BROWSER
Go to **pollev.com/kwpoll1**
on your internet browser



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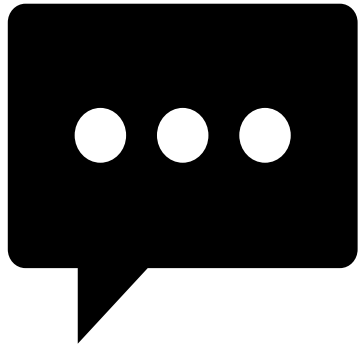

BY TEXT MESSAGE
Text **kwpoll1** to 22-333 on
your mobile device

Polling questions will also be provided in an online survey after the meeting

When poll is active, respond at **pollev.com/kwpoll1**

Text **KWPOLL1** to **22333** once to join

Are you attending this polling session as: (Select all that apply)

A member of a vulnerable community

A potential technical advisor

Someone who works with a vulnerable community

Other

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When poll is active, respond at **pollev.com/kwpoll1**

Text **KWPOLL1** to **22333** once to join

If there is a DTSC Cleanup Site near you, how close is it to you? (Select one)

- Less than ¼ mile
- ¼ - 1 mile
- 1 mile or more
- Not applicable

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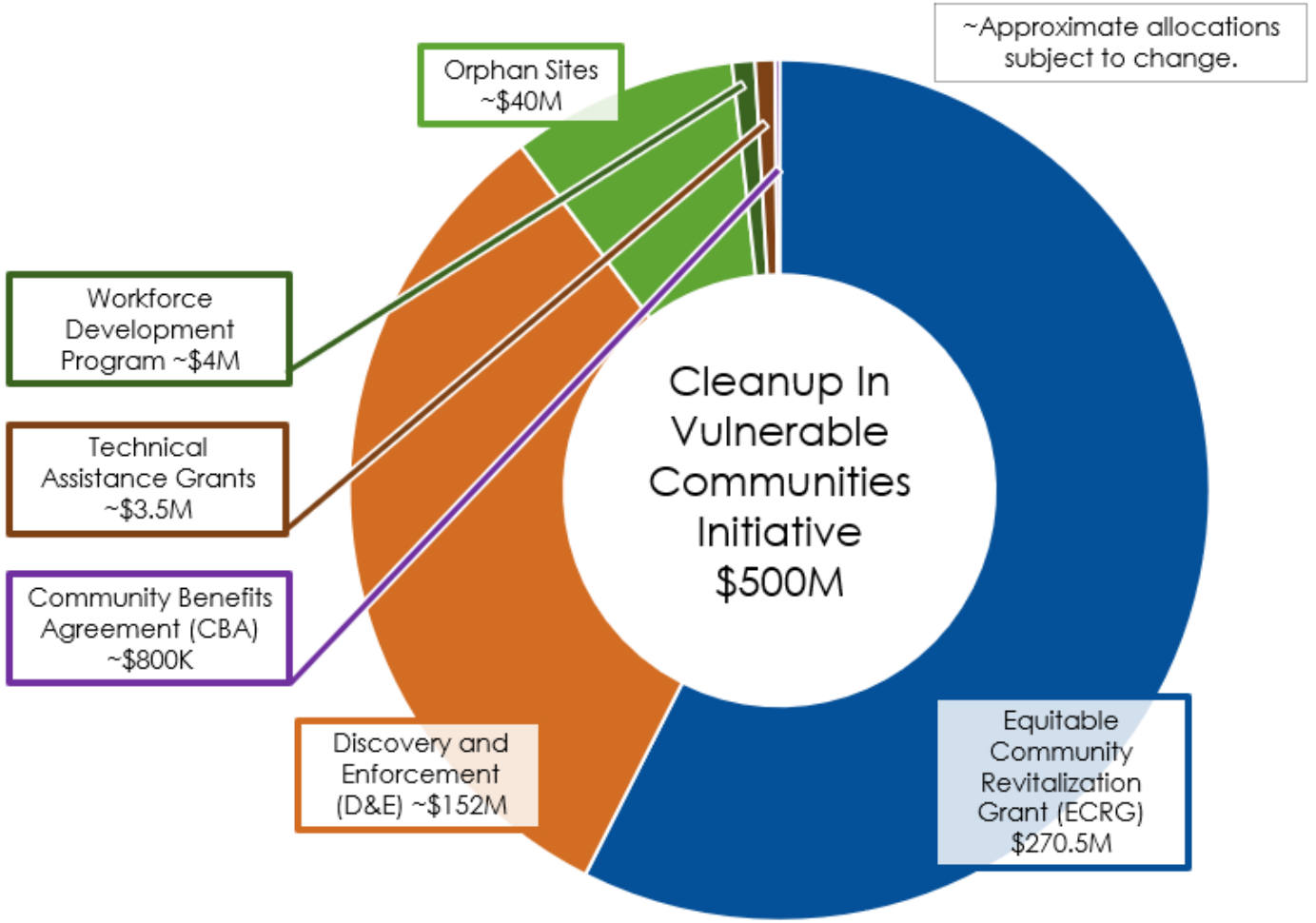
Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative

Technical Assistance Grant Program

Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative (CVCI)

- Senate Bill 158
- Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative (CVCI)
- Allocated $500 million to expedite the cleanup and beneficial reuse of idled properties that may be contaminated
- Prioritized properties in historically vulnerable and disadvantaged communities
- Includes TAG program



Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program

- Program funds a technical advisor for communities
  - Advisor helps the community understand and engage with **response actions** at DTSC Cleanup sites
- Program also funds community science
  - Community science provides a more hands-on opportunity for engagement

Eligibility Part 1-
Project Area Requirements

- Be in a vulnerable community, generally defined as sites with a CalEnviroScreen 3.0 score of >75%
- Currently, should be a DTSC Site Mitigation & Restoration Program site ("Cleanup" sites)
- Community must be near a site undergoing a **response action**

Eligibility Part 1- Project Area Requirements

- For DTSC sites, **response actions** include investigation through operation and maintenance
  - Investigations (e.g., sampling, characterization, Preliminary Endangerment Assessment)
  - Remedy selection (e.g., Removal Action Work Plan)
  - Cleanup (e.g., implementing the remedy through soil excavation)
  - Operation and maintenance (e.g., making sure remedy remains protective over time)
- Sites in any of these stages are eligible

Eligibility Part 2 - Applicant requirements

- 2 types of applicants: Community Group & Technical Advisor
- Requirements:
  - Independent of the response actions (i.e., not affiliated with the Responsible Party)
  - Community support and backing
  - Technical Advisor will need relevant education and experience

Application Process

- Interested parties will submit an application
  - Applicant will be community group or technical advisor
  - Application will be for general program or community science program
- Will need to meet site and eligibility requirements
  - Includes proof of community support
- DTSC will share evaluation criteria in advance of application process
- DTSC will review applications and award funds accordingly
- Other application details to be determined

Fund management

- Applicants will be responsible for managing grant funds
  - Includes organization, accounting, tracking etc.

General Timeline for Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

- Goal of this session is to gain information to help with development of the TAG program
- DTSC TAG team will continue working on development, considering polling session input
- Future polling sessions, webinars and/or round tables are planned for future public engagement
- Once TAG program is further solidified, pre-qualification trial round is planned

How to navigate: Poll Everywhere

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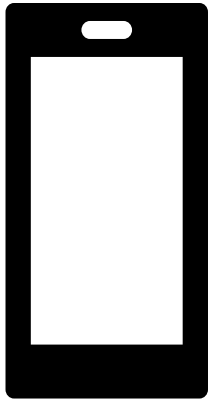

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How would you define a vulnerable community?

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If you have a specific DTSC cleanup site in mind that you think could benefit from a Technical Assistance Grant, can you share a few words about it (location, project type and community needs)?

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For this same DTSC cleanup site, please share key issues of concern to the community.

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What resources would you need to be able to manage a Technical Assistance Grant? (For instance, help forming a nonprofit organization, managing grant funds, or getting resources for start-up)

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Which of the following should we consider as applicants for this grant? (Select all that apply)

Nonprofit group

Community group (not a nonprofit)

Individual (not part of group)

Technical Advisor (on behalf of the community; requires community support)

Local and tribal governments

Schools and educational institutions

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What do you think should be the top priority for the Technical Assistance Grant program?

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Technical Advisors

Technical Advisors

- To be chosen and/or approved by the community
- Assists the community in understanding and becoming more involved with response actions
- General advisors and community science advisors
  - Community science will be discussed later in this presentation

Examples of Technical Advisor Duties

- Assist with understanding of DTSC Cleanup process
- Create fact sheets
- Observe fieldwork
- Attend public meetings
- Interpret and convey site documents
- Assist with comment preparation
- Teach scientific principles

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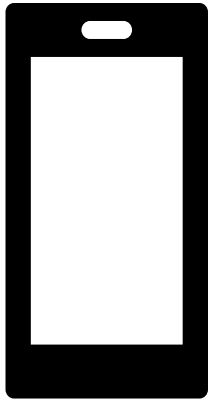

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What experience and qualifications are most important for a technical advisor to have?

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What is the most helpful service a technical advisor could offer to your community? (Select all that apply)

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How else would a technical advisor be helpful for your community?

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Do you know a person, organization, or institution that could serve as a technical advisor? If so, please provide a name and brief description.

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Would you be comfortable selecting a technical advisor from a list of DTSC pre-screened advisors?

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Technical advisors would need to be supported by the community. What indicators should DTSC be looking for to gauge whether there is community support for technical advisors? (e.g. public notice, recommendation letters, community signatures)

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Community Science

Community Science

- What is Community Science?
- Opportunity for communities to engage in the field, in the classroom, or from home
  - Facilitated by community science technical advisor
  - Guided by challenges in each community

Examples of Community Science Advisor Duties

- Train community members
- Health & Safety Monitoring (e.g., air monitoring)
- Data collection
- Site visit
- Laboratory visit

Community Science Example

- DTSC Environmental Chemistry Laboratory in Pasadena hosted high school students
- Students learned about toxics in everyday products. One question formulated was whether products marketed to different genders have different levels of 1,4-dioxane.

Community Science Example continued

- Students learned how to:
  - Use and calibrate laboratory instruments
  - Prepare and analyze samples
  - Report and present analytical results
- A similar program could be offered through TAG Community Science, as related to response actions

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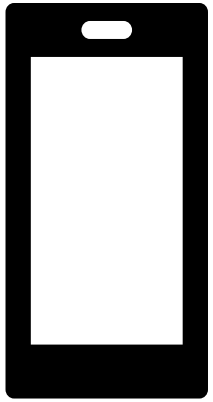

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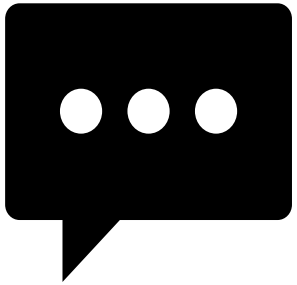

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What kinds of community science activities would benefit your community? (Select all that apply)

Health and safety monitoring (e.g. air quality monitoring, dust monitoring)

Community scientist training / educational opportunities

DTSC Cleanup site visit

DTSC Environmental Testing Laboratory visit

Community data gathering (crowdsourcing)

Other (please give us details in the next question)

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How else would community science benefit your community?

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What ideas do you have for community science projects that could be funded by the Technical Assistance Grant program?

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Community Engagement & Additional Thoughts

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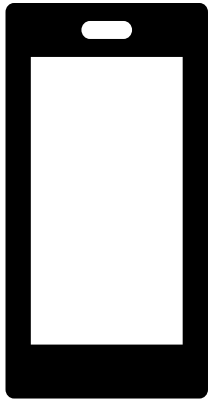

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Based on the information presented today, would you use a Technical Assistance Grant primarily to provide financial support for a: (Select one)

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If you apply for a Technical Assistance Grant, would you do so as a: (Select any that apply)

- Nonprofit organization
- Community group (not a nonprofit)
- Individual
- Tribal community group (not a nonprofit)
- Tribal government
- School or university (as a technical advisor)
- Consulting firm (as a technical advisor)
- Individual (as a technical advisor)
- Other

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If you said "Other" above, please explain in a few words.

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Are there any other individuals, groups or organizations that DTSC should reach out to for future input in development of the Technical Assistance Grant program?

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What is the best way for DTSC to engage stakeholders about the Technical Assistance Grant program? (Select all that apply)

Virtual information sessions

In-person information sessions

Virtual polling sessions

In-person polling sessions

Workshops/roundtables

Online information

Email updates

Conversations with DTSC staff

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Please share any other comments, questions or suggestions about the Technical Assistance Grant program

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What's Next

- Online survey is available for people unable to attend this session (available on TAG webpage). **Please spread the word!**
- DTSC will take this feedback and use it to inform future development of the TAG program
- Future public engagement sessions will be planned
  - Sign up for our mailing list for updates
- Please take this information with you, think about your application, needs, and suggestions for the TAG program
  - Contact us at: DTSC_TAGprogram@dtsc.ca.gov

Thank you for your participation!

- Recording of the polling session will be available online
- TAG Program webpage: https://dtsc.ca.gov/tag/
  - Webpage includes online survey and email sign-up