

**STAFF REPORT
INFORMATIONAL
86**

A	Statewide	08/17/17
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**INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON THE COMMISSION'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
POLICY PUBLIC OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT**

The purpose of this staff report is to provide an informational update on efforts to update the Commission's Environmental Justice Policy. This staff report expands on the June 22, 2017 update to the Commission ([Calendar Item 79, June 22, 2017](#)).

Recently, staff created a new page on the Commission's website with information about our environmental justice policy update process and our initial draft principles. The page, which staff will update throughout the revision process, is here: <http://www.slc.ca.gov/Info/EnviroJustice.html>. Staff also established a dedicated email for public comment, which is environmentaljustice@slc.ca.gov.

This past July, staff attended the Advancing Coastal Resiliency in California and Beyond workshop hosted by the University of California, Irvine. The workshop, which included nonprofit organizations, local and state governments, and leaders in the environmental justice community, included presentations and discussions about how environmental justice interacts with climate resiliency. Low income and disadvantaged communities are certain to be impacted by sea-level rise and climate change.

Also in July, staff attended a climate justice working group that the Resources Legacy Fund convened to discuss climate justice in California's climate adaptation and resiliency strategies. For the past year, the working group has researched and organized around climate adaptation and resiliency efforts focused on protecting Californians who are most vulnerable to climate change. The Governor's Office of Planning and Research, which is part of the working group, plans to subsequently query the working group participants about including environmental justice in sector-based updates in the Safeguarding California update. Staff will participate in these discussions.

Staff has reached out to many organizations and community members to elicit feedback for its revised environmental justice policy, including the Environmental Health Coalition in San Diego, the Environmental Center of San Diego, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Surfrider, Wildcoast, the City of San Diego, San Diego Coastkeeper, the Climate Action Campaign, Azul, and Los Angeles Waterkeeper. Staff has received positive feedback

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from organizations interested in supporting the environmental justice policy update process and assisting staff with hosting future workshops. During conversations with Wildcoast Executive Director and Mayor of Imperial Beach, Serge Dedina, staff was notified of the significant environmental justice impacts from ongoing toxic chemical and sewage pollution in the Tijuana River and Imperial Beach. These pollution events have caused over 400 days of beach closures since 2006. Staff is investigating these events to determine if there are actions the Commission can take and learn from these events to inform the Commission's environmental justice policy update and implementation of the policy.

Staff is reaching out to organizations and key community leaders in Fresno and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta about convening an outreach session with environmental justice community members and is working to arrange sessions in September. Staff is continuing to partner with the California Coastal Commission and is working with the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Resources, Recycling, and Recovery to produce staff training materials. Staff is also continuously updating its outreach list to communicate with the public and environmental justice communities.

Staff will continue to keep the Commission updated about its progress.