Environmental Justice to Promote Public Health and Environmental Protections

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1) Brief History: Environmental Justice
   • Environmental Justice Movement
   • Environmental Racism
   • Principles of Environmental Justice
   • Environmental Justice in Government

2) Examples: Sharing Information and Seeking Proactive Solutions
   • Exide Cleanup – Sampling Data
   • Civil Rights and Language Access Considerations
Environmental Justice Movement
Environmental Racism

• Policies and actions that, intentionally or unintentionally, have resulted in the disproportionate exposure of people of color to environmental hazards.

Principles of Environmental Justice

• October 1991 First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit
Elements of Justice

Procedural
Meaningful Involvement

Distributive
Benefits and Burdens
Environmental Justice Framework
Presidential Executive Order 12898
“Environmental justice means the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

California Government Code §65040.12(e)
Breaking the Cycle of Injustice

- **Historical injustices led to current inequality**
  - Now permeates as implicit bias

- **Inequality decreases participation**
  - Individuals believe they have no control over decisions affecting their environment and health

- **Lower participation increases cycle of inequality**
  - Pollution manifests in places of least resistance

**Rebuild trust, increase control**
- Emphasize accountability and transparency

**Create and evaluate measurable goals**
- Partner with communities; commit resources and creativity to overcome barriers

**Make environmental justice explicit**
- Place responsibility for action on the highest levels of government
To ensure DTSC’s decision-making processes incorporate the voices of environmental justice and tribal communities by seeking proactive solutions, sharing information, and creating partnerships to reduce environmental impacts and improve public health.
Former Lead-Acid Battery Recycling Facility
Exide Residential Cleanup

- 8,497 parcels sampled for lead in soil and exterior paint
- 325,000 total rows of data
- Tools for anyone to use, view, and understand the sampling data
- Protecting personally identifying information
Sharing Information

• GIS Web-Based Interactive Map
• Data Table and Legend
• Printable Map Files

http://dtsc.ca.gov/exide
Seeking Proactive Solutions

Alternative Dispute Resolution Process - Signatories to 2016 Kettleman Title VI Civil Rights Settlement Agreement

Collaborating to more fully address civil rights and language access considerations through policy development

Seeking early feedback and working to address community concerns

Implementation – Procedures and Training

Thank you!

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