

# **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND RACIAL EQUITY PROGRAM UPDATES**

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COMMISSIONER EJWG MEETING, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

# COMMISSIONER ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

## Meeting Overview:

- **Racial Equity Visioning Update & Next Steps**
  - Katharine Pan
- **BCDC EJ Committee Update**
  - Nahal Ghoghaie
- **Ad Hoc Meeting with Enforcement Committee**
  - Nahal Ghoghaie



# WORKSHOP CONTENT & ACTIVITIES

- Presentation on racial equity concepts and racial equity at BCDC
  - Defining racism and racial equity
  - Brief history of institutional racism
  - Racial equity initiatives at BCDC
  - Staff survey results
  - Racial Equity Action Plan and process
- Small group discussions
  - Your Vision for BCDC
  - Looking Internally
  - Looking Outward
- Report out and next steps

# INITIAL TAKEAWAYS FROM VISIONING DISCUSSIONS

- Visions of an equitable BCDC
  - Diversity throughout the agency
  - More opportunities to work and interact with diverse communities
  - Ongoing agency commitment to racial equity
- Goals/Priorities
  - Internal
    - Promoting a safe environment for people to speak candidly
    - Committing resources to accomplish racial equity work
    - Ensuring opportunities for everyone to participate in racial equity initiatives
  - External
    - Improve communications and accessibility for culturally diverse communities
    - Expanded public outreach
    - Building trust with the community

# STRENGTHS, PLACES TO IMPROVE, AND CHALLENGES

## Internal

- Strengths
  - Agency commitment
  - Existing tools
  - Acknowledgement of existing diversity
- Places to Improve
  - Making BCDC a more welcoming workplace
  - Recruitment and hiring
- Challenges
  - Barriers to hiring and contracting

## External

- Strengths
  - Beginning to promote meaningful community engagement
- Places to Improve
  - Barriers to participation
  - Enforcement concerns

# NEXT STEPS FOR THE RACIAL EQUITY ACTION PLAN

- Workshop summary
- Staff and Commission interviews
- Draft Vision and Goals
- Commissioner Workshop

# COMMISSIONER RACIAL EQUITY WORKSHOP

- EJWG role in planning and facilitating
- Content and structure
  - Information to present?
  - Activities?
  - Discussion questions?
  - Homework?
- Place in the planning process
  - Tentatively scheduled for November
  - After staff and Commissioner interviews
  - After draft Vision and Goals
  - After draft Objectives



# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

- Provide review, advice and recommendations to BCDC on existing and proposed regulations and policies that impact the environmental health and justice of communities.
- Provide a forum for discussions on integrating EJ into other BCDC projects.
- Provide community-based guidance and advice on specific permit applications, planning projects, and communications/ accessibility efforts.

# EJ COMMITTEE FUNDING AND PROCESS

- **Funding from Resources Legacy Fund:** \$36,000 per year
  - Requirements: BCDC matches in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years
- **Process:**
  - Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Requirements
  - Provide support with meeting accessibility and content development
  - Share meeting notices with networks
  - Agendas, meeting ground rules, decision making structure, and all other decisions that will guide the process will be collaboratively discussed and established at the kick-off meeting.
- **Structure:**
  - 4-6 EJ CBO representatives and/or resident advocates from vulnerable communities of color
  - Annual terms with opportunity to continue
  - Attend 6 EJCWG Meetings/ year
  - Onboarding and prep/debrief meetings before/after EJWG meetings
  - Participation in Commission meetings as needed
  - Meetings with Permit staff to review applications on an as needed basis

# EJ COMMITTEE WORKPLAN AND TIMELINE:

- **September to late October 2020**

- Meet with RLF and the CEJWG to support with scoping and co-developing applications and scoring criteria.

- **Late October to mid November 2020**

- Post call for applications via email, BCDC website, and social media (by Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>).
- Outreach Blitz with focus on BIPOC EJ leaders. Offer support with application process to those in need.
- Applications due before Thanksgiving break.

- **Mid November to mid December 2020**

- Work with scoring committee and CEJWG to select six EJC members.
- Before holiday break, contact selected individuals with decision and describe timeline/process moving forward.
- Post decision by 12/18

- **Spring 2021**

- Launch BCDC's EJ Committee

# JOINT AD HOC MEETING: EJ WORKING GROUP + ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

*Enforcement staff investigates reports of illegal activities in BCDC's McAteer-Petris Act and Suisun Marsh Preservation Act jurisdictions, including alleged violations of BCDC permit requirements.*

- Enforcement issues regarding EJ and homeless encampments
- BCDC's limited authority
- Scheduling joint meeting with Enforcement Committee
  - Early November
- Questions?

# THANK YOU!



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