



EJ Bay Plan Amendment Public Engagement Update



San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission

Outline

- Where we left off last time (June 7th)
- Feedback from events on EJ and community engagement – deep dive on 2 events
- Overall themes
- Next steps
- Challenges and questions



Environmental Justice and Social Equity Bay Plan Amendment



Goal:

Amend the San Francisco Bay Plan to incorporate principles of environmental justice and social equity into the planning, design, and permitting of shoreline projects in and along the San Francisco Bay

6/19 EJ Roundtable - Feedback



- Participation
 - Relationship-building and partnerships to give communities decision-making power (this takes time)
 - Pay for community expertise (lived experience needs to be treated as expertise)
 - Involvement from beginning to end with a full seat at the table
 - Meeting access (stipends for participation/travel, food, location, time/date, childcare)
 - Language access (country of origin and technical)

6/19 EJ Roundtable - Feedback

- EJ Policy Strength
 - Needs to be actionable and enforceable
 - Permit denial on EJ/equity grounds
 - Needs to have “Teeth”
 - Needs to more than just “consider” EJ
 - Needs to have accountability



6/19 EJ Roundtable – Feedback

- Public Access
 - Gentrification threatens equitable public access to the Bay as some communities no longer feel welcome
 - Shoreline amenities need to be based on community wants/needs
- Build equity and EJ into job descriptions and workplace culture
- Permits need to include the creation of good jobs for low-income POC



6/20 BVHP EJ Task Force Meeting - Feedback

- Public access that creates gentrification = slap in the face to EJ as low-income POC feel increasingly unwelcome at the Bay
- Current public comment method of participation is not equitable/just – need to allow community to lead
- Unless BCDC can say no to inequitable development, its permitting is useless (BCDC needs to be able to deny permits on EJ)
- Meetings need to be in the communities and language access must be provided
- Panel (or person) who is a resident in the neighborhood of the proposed development in an advisory role for every permit



Themes Throughout Events

- Process needs to be accessible
 - Meeting accessibility
 - Language services
 - Stipends/pay for community expertise
- Process needs to be led by communities through trust-building (takes a long time)
 - Partnerships, contracts
- Permit denial on EJ/equity grounds
- Public access that leads to gentrification is a problem
- Build equity into workplace culture, job descriptions, executive buy-in, etc.



Next Steps



- Moving from broad EJ/equity discussions to BCDC/Bay Plan-specifics
 - Discussions with legal and regulatory staff
 - Continue public engagement to CBOs and local governments
 - Exploration of complementary changes to BCDC process
 - Design guidelines
 - Regulations
 - Public engagement and communications
 - Staff training and workforce development

ART-BARHII Community Workshops



- Planning 2-3 workshops in communities identified with the help of BARHII and local public health departments
- Expanding discussion beyond SLR
- Utilizing existing partnerships and relationships between BARHII, health departments and communities/CBOs
- Weighing whether to work in areas with high capacity vs. areas in need of capacity-building

Further Engagement

- CEJA + member organizations
- APEN – Richmond, Oakland
- YUCA – East Palo Alto
- Shore Up Marin – San Rafael Canal District and Marin City
- Alviso “Day on the Bay”
- Women’s Alliance for Climate Justice
- Groups referred to by Commissioners
- Local governments



Challenges + Questions



- What is possible in terms of meeting access at BCDC?
 - Food/drink
 - Travel stipends
 - Participation stipends
 - Meeting locations + times (including webcast)
 - Language services
- How to best do trust building with communities/orgs given amendment timeframe?
 - Understanding history of inequities
 - Understanding community capacities and dynamics
 - Securing community co-facilitator
 - This takes time

Challenges + Questions – con't

- How to make regulatory processes equitable given there are few precedents?
 - Note: Most agencies are building EJ into their programmatic and grant-making work rather than regulatory work
 - Equity analysis? Citizens' Advisory Committee? Outreach requirement? Improved noticing?

