Message

From: Chergo, Jennifer [Chergo.Jennifer@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/14/2020 4:43:06 PM
To: Wardell, Christopher [Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: APRIL CAG ZOOM MEETING/DISCRIMINATION/VIRUS IN RECYCLED WATER /HALT I-70 & More

Thanks Chris. Yeah, I've seen this and all other endless internal correspondence and handwringing over this. Tiring.

From: Wardell, Christopher <Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Chergo, Jennifer <Chergo.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: APRIL CAG ZOOM MEETING/DISCRIMINATION/VIRUS IN RECYCLED WATER /HALT I-70 & More

FYI, not sure if you saw this, or know anything regarding a CAG letter to EPA, mentioned way down on the agenda/topics.

Chris Wardell
Community Involvement Section Chief
U.S. EPA Region 8
303-312-6062
wardell.christopher@epa.gov

Twitter: @EPARegion8
Facebook: U.S. EPA Region 8
Webpage: EPA Region 8 (Mountains and Plains)

From: Urdiales, Aaron <Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 2:49 PM
To: Chergo, Jennifer <Chergo.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Aviles, Jesse <Aviles.Jesse@epa.gov>; Chalfant, Mark <Chalfant.Mark@epa.gov>
Cc: Wharton, Steve <Wharton.Steve@epa.gov>; Madigan, Andrea <Madigan.Andrea@epa.gov>; Wardell, Christopher <Wardell.Christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: APRIL CAG ZOOM MEETING/DISCRIMINATION/VIRUS IN RECYCLED WATER /HALT I-70 & More

Please see below the message to me from Betsy, this is just an FYI if you haven't received this information from the State or CAG. The information demonstrates the importance of coordinating/communicating with the State as we move forward with this process. I plan to talk with Tracie about this as part of our weekly check-in this Wednesday.

Aaron Urdiales, Branch Chief
Superfund Remedial Branch
EPA Region 8, 8SEM-RB
Phone: 303-312-6844

From: Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:59 PM
To: Urdiales, Aaron <Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: APRIL CAG ZOOM MEETING/DISCRIMINATION/VIRUS IN RECYCLED WATER /HALT I-70 & More

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Can you chat with Tracie about this on Wed? If you need to talk about a strategy with us before that call, just let us know. Thanks
Betsy

From: Opila - CDPHE, Jennifer <jennifer.opila@state.co.us>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: APRIL CAG ZOOM MEETING/DISCRIMINATION/VIRUS IN RECYCLED WATER /HALT I-70 & More

Please see item 7 for the letter to EPA.
Jen

Jennifer T. Opila, MPA
Division Director
Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

COLORADO
Hazardous Materials
& Waste Management Division
Department of Public Health & Environment

P 303-692-3403 | F 303-691-7841 | C 720-666-4074
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80246-1530
jennifer.opila@state.co.us | www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/hm

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **VB/I-70 Community Advisory Group(CAG)** <vbi170cag@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 13, 2020 at 12:31 PM
Subject: APRIL CAG ZOOM MEETING/DISCRIMINATION/VIRUS IN RECYCLED WATER /HALT I-70 & More
To: <Jennifer.Opila@state.co.us>

View this email in your browser

Newsletter

Community Advisory Group(CAG)

EPA Vasquez Bl. / I-70 Superfund Site

Denver, Colorado

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SIGN UP TO RECEIVE CAG NEWSLETTER

April 21, 2020 Virtual ZOOM CAG Meeting

5:30 PM (*Please be on time*)

Join Zoom Meeting

Click HERE to join meeting.

Meeting ID: 180 480 160

Password: 350659

Troubled Times ...

Will they bring a new "normal"?

LaMone Noles CAG Administrator

We look forward to hosting our first virtual Zoom CAG meeting on April 21 at 5:30PM.

Click HERE to join meeting.

Meeting ID: 180 480 160

Password: 350659

The CAG has been very busy during this tragic COVID 19 pandemic. We hope that the cracks it has exposed in our health care system and the glaring short comings visible to all in environmental, social and economic justice, will bring much needed changes and a new "normal."

The CAG (Bylaws) is concerned with the entire 4.5 square mile Vasquez Bl./I 70 Superfund site.

Boundaries approx: West,South Platte River; East, Colorado Blvd; North, 52nd Ave.; South, 32nd Ave.

Index /CAG Newsletter

1. *Dr. Camara Phyllis Jones on racism and equity in health care.*

2. *Story by RJ Sangosti, Denver Post Living with sickness in GSE*

3. *Community Petitions Gov.Polis for Relief*

4. *Will recycled **BLACK** water spread COVID 19 Virus in Denver Parks and Schools?*

5. Sick mother begs Gov. Polis to halt I-70/.

6. Program for CAG meeting/April 21

7. CAG letter to EPA

8. A Poem from the Coronavirus to Humanity

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1. Dr. Camara Phyllis Jones

Dr. Camara Phyllis Jones
(click image to view bio)

Dr. Jones is a rock star physician and public health expert. She has produced a short, graphic video on how racism in health care takes a terrible toll on all of us.
(Click here to view video)

You won't want to miss her fascinating, energetic, two part interview on Democracy Now! on COVID 19, racism, death, poverty and health care in the USA.

As the COVID 19 virus sweeps over our Denver community it has become apparent that our residents of color are infected at a much higher rate than others.

They suffer from many environmentally induced, pre existing conditions.
See article on rates of COVID 19 in

Denver neighborhoods.

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2. The Long Shadow

Click on image to see video.
The Long Shadow: Families in Elyria-Swansea struggle with asthma amid historic I-70 construction
by RJ Sangosti, Denver Post

These residents often do not have access to healthy food and adequate health care. In addition, they are constantly exposed to heavy construction pollution as well as noise, air and soil pollution. Their environment makes them sick.

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3. Community Petitions Gov.Polis for Relief

Ean Tafoya, Colorado Latino forum

The Colorado Latino Forum and many others are asking Governor Polis to halt construction on Highway I 70 expansion and lowering, until the COVID 19 pandemic passes. Such a humanitarian gesture would relieve stress on a population that already suffers from many ailments due to exposure to damaging toxins.

Please consider signing this Petition that asks Governor Polis to halt construction of Highway I 70 expansion until the all clear has been sounded for COVID 19.

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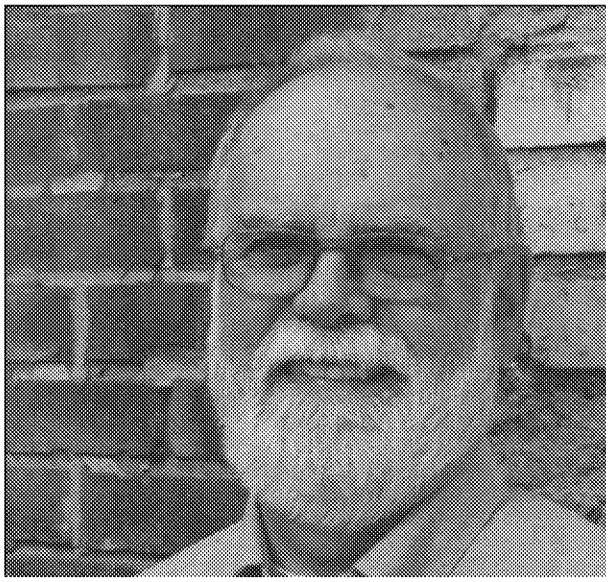
4. Recycled **Black Water**

Will it transmit COVID 19?

Now is not the time to experiment.



Chuck Norris (Click image for resume)

Technical Advisor to the CAG

Editor's Note: The EPA does not regulate recycled water but it provides Guidelines that caution:

"Until more data regarding the detection of active, infectious viruses is available, data generated from seeded studies to evaluate the efficacy of wastewater treatment processes should be carefully evaluated to provide treatment designs that remove infectious viruses." 6-8

The VB/I-70 Superfund Site contains schools, parks and playgrounds.

Mr. Norris' Letter:
Now is Not the Time to Experiment

Sometime within the next few weeks, City and County of Denver's Parks and Recreation will likely begin widespread seasonal irrigation of parks, recreational areas, greenbelts, and school yards across the metropolitan area. In recent years, City and County of Denver overwhelmingly has used recycled municipal sewage plant effluent from Denver Water ("Purple Pipe" water). It is very likely other municipalities along the Front Range and across Colorado irrigate with similar recycled effluent water, some from Denver Water and some from other suppliers.

If City and County of Denver (or other municipality) irrigates with Denver Water's Purple Pipe (or other supplier) water at this point, it will be exposing its citizenry to an ill-conceived, unconstrained, and uncontrolled experiment in public health at the worst possible time. The efficacy, the simple morality, of daily misting (aerosol dispersal) in public areas

across the metropolitan with sprinkler water potentially containing viable COVID-19 virus is unsupported at present by data, testing, or analyses.

The expectation that recycled effluent will not contain viable COVID-19 virus appears supported only by presumption, supposition, speculation, and faith unsupported by data.
(READ MORE)
Please forward this letter to interested parties and decision makers. (LINK)

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5. A Sick Mother Begs Gov Polis to Halt the I 70 Construction While They are Confined to Their Homes.

Mary Hernandez/ Grew up in VB/I-70 Superfund Site. She, her siblings, children and grandchildren all suffer from environmentally linked diseases.

(Click image to see video)

Her Letter to Gov. Polis:

"My opinion of things with this COV19 this pandemic, you maybe can think about putting I70 on hold for awhile.
The people who still live in Swansea, Globeville, and Elyria and having to deal with this situation is catastrophic.
(READ MORE)

Program:

CAG Virtual ZOOM Meeting
April 21, 2020 / 5:30PM
Meeting ID: 180 480 160
Password: 350659

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1. Rachael Lehman

Assistant Professor, Sociology and
Women's Studies
Community College of Denver\
Chair: CAG Healthy Communities Committee

Rachael Lehman (Click image for resume)

- Denver City Councilwoman Candi CdeBaca's call to have SUNCOR Refinery considered non essential during pandemic and shut down for the duration.

- The potential impact of 5G in our community.

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2. Chuck Norris

Technical Advisor to the CAG

- Update on Operable Unit 2 & 3

- Recycled Water and COVID19 Virus
  (See Mr. Norris' letter above)

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7. On April 10, 2020, the CAG Administrator sent the following letter to the Region 8, Environmental Protection Agency:

Greetings:

We hope this finds you and your families safe and healthy during this troubling time.

The Vasquez Bl./I-70 Superfund Site Community Advisory Group (CAG) will hold a virtual meeting (Zoom) on its regularly scheduled date and time: Tuesday/ April 21, at 5:30 PM. All agency people, CAG members and members of the public are welcome to join in. Look for the CAG newsletter for details.

1) We request that the EPA supply the CAG with the names and contact information for departments (and contact persons) at the City and County of Denver, that are involved in ongoing planning and or work at Operable Unity 2 at the VB/I-70 Site.

2) We request a written update from EPA on the status of planning and work on Operable Unit 2 and Operable Unit 3 to be followed up with a brief presentation and Q and A at the April 21, virtual CAG meeting.

3) As usual, we invite EPA, Denver and CDPHE to participate in our regular monthly meetings.

Thanks for your cooperation.

LaMone Noles
VB/I-70 CAG Administrator

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your interest in the work of the CAG. We have been in operation since 2017.
With committed community members and exceptionally talented and experienced advisors, we have established a distinguished body of research and advocacy work and have compiled a large library of historical and contemporary documents.

All of these efforts guide us today and will lead the way for those to follow.

8. Enjoy, reflect and learn from this poem from the **Coronavirus to Humanity**. The author is anonymous. If we don't learn from this pandemic, there will be many more to come.

We wish you luck, health and happiness
during this holiday season.

Stay safe,

LaMone Noles
CAG Administrator
Email

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You are receiving this email because you have an interest in the Vasquez Bl./I-70 Superfund Site.

Our mailing address is:
VB/I-70 Community Advisory Group
4909 East 23rd Ave
Denver, Co 80207

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