California Environmental Protection Agency
DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL
Enforcement and Emergency Response Program

US EPA State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS IN THE CITIES OF MAYWOOD, WILMINGTON AND COMMERCE (Identify, Reduce and/or Eliminate) Initiative

PROGRESS REPORT: May 1 through December 31, 2012

This is a progress report for the grant awarded to the Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC's) Enforcement and Emergency Response Program (EERP) under US EPA's State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement Program (SEJCA). The SEJCA grant award for **Cooperative Agreement** (**AJ-83436401**), dated August 26, 2009, was for three years (10/01/2009 – 09/30/2012) in the amount of **$160,000**. The grant has been amended once to extend the project period to October 30, 2013 with no additional funds being added: **Current Project Period = 10/01/2009 – 10/30/2013**

This Progress Report covers activities conducted from May 1 through December 31, 2012 and includes summaries of the Project Measures and Milestones accomplished following the Output Measurements included in the Workplan dated September 2011. Also included are anticipated future activities, any difficulties encountered and problem resolutions.

Most Significant Accomplishments:

- Provided a workshop on California's Green Business Certification Program to the Wilmington community on June 14, 2012.
- Presented a summary of the previous water sampling (Phase 1) and proposed additional sampling (Phase 2) at a Maywood community meeting with City officials, eater company representatives, residents and activists. A fact sheet was also prepared on the Phase 1 Sampling for distribution at the meeting.
- Conducted the Phase 2 Water Sampling in Maywood which included water company source wells, distribution lines and selected residences.
- Participated in meetings with US EPA in September to discuss its progress under this grant and plans for the future.

Output Measurement 1 – Community Meetings

- **Maywood**
  DTSC is providing technical support to the community and is partnering with the California Department of Public Health's Drinking Water Program (CDPHDWP)

on reviewing findings of the Phase 1 Sampling conducted by DTSC staff in October 2010. DTSC EERP and 710 GIS Team staff are working in collaboration with the Maywood Inter-Agency Partnership and CDPHDWP to finalize a Phase 2 Sampling Plan. DTSC is also finalizing the Phase 1 Sample Report and

drafting a Maywood Project Fact Sheet. In addition, a series of community meetings will be scheduled to inform the community and City officials of the Project status and important findings.

- **Wilmington**
  DTSC had several meetings and conference calls with Jesse Marques, Director of Coalition for a Safe Environment (CFASE) regarding future trainings in the City of Wilmington.

  DTSC initiated a series of monthly training programs for Wilmington residents in September 2011. Topics for the programs are selected based on community input. Community representatives work with Maya Akula, Unit Chief, Public Participation, in organizing and providing the training. Training is presented in Spanish and English. All of the training materials are also translated into Spanish. A monthly training planning meeting is held with community representatives on the second Tuesday of the month. The training is given on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:00 pm until 8:pm. This time was selected by the community. The first training on Inspections, Complaints and Enforcement was provided on September 26, 2011. The second training on DTSC's Permitting/Corrective Action process was provided on October 25, 2011. Due to scheduling conflicts and workload, CFASE requested that the training be put on hold until June 2012. A third training on Green Business was provided on June 14, 2012.

  Community members from Wilmington attended the trainings. An evaluation form was distributed to the participants. The form was provided in both English and Spanish. The community members completed the evaluation form and gave 4 or 5, 5 being the highest score. They also provided comments which will be helpful to the presenters of future trainings. Additional training will be scheduled in coordination with CFASE based on their availability to host the training. The topic for the training will be selected based on what will benefit the community most.

Output Measurement 2 – Enforcement and Environmental Bus Tours

- No bus tours were conducted during this period.
- A bus tour is scheduled for January 30, 2013 focused on the Interstate 710 corridor in Los Angeles County.

  It is important to note that many of the issues raised during the summer of 2007 and 2008 bus tours and workshops are the subject of continuing inspection and enforcement work. DTSC and the South Coast Air Quality Management District continue working together in an effort to address environmental concerns related to the Exide Technologies facility in Vernon.

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Output Measurement 3 – Networking with Community Organizations

- **Los Angeles County Environmental Justice Collaborative Meetings**
  DTSC continues to participate in the monthly Los Angeles Environmental Justice Collaborative meetings. The meetings are hosted by Ms. Cynthia Babich, Director of Del Amo Action Committee, and are attended by environmental justice community leaders and various governmental agencies representing issues within Los Angeles County. Regional environmental justice projects include the Maywood drinking water project, planned expansion of the Port of Los Angeles in Wilmington, evaluation of former smelter sites and Los Angeles schools near industrial sites. DTSC public participation staff collaborated with the group on coordinating the DTSC community training.

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Output Measurement 4 – Formation of Citizen Task Forces for the Three Cities

- The Los Angeles County and Los Angeles City Task Forces are being supported by the active participation of DTSC EERP staff through monthly meeting attendance and engaging in roll-outs within Environmental Justice communities in Los Angeles County along with task force members from multiple jurisdiction agencies. DTSC is currently participating in the roll-outs that are carried out by members of the Los Angeles City Attorney Task Force where multi-jurisdictional agencies affiliated with the task force combine resources to perform joint unannounced inspections. The focus is currently on the Wilmington and Alameda Corridor areas with sites that are directed by citizen complaints issued to the environmental unit of the City Prosecutor's office as well as from other task force member recommendations. There is an ongoing once-a-month meeting attended by DTSC EERP staff for the Los Angeles District Attorney's Task Force meetings held in downtown Los Angeles and also at the Los Angeles City Environmental Task Force where specific environmental justice concerns are addressed.

Output Measurement 5 – Ground-Truthing

- No activities were performed during this reporting period.

Output Measurement 6 – Citizen Complaints

- See comments under Output Measure 4 above.

Difficulties Encountered

- Administrative difficulties have been encountered due to restrictions associated with the State of California budget problems. Also some delays were encountered since the retirement of the former Environmental Justice Coordinator, Florence Gharibian. However, with the hiring of the new Environmental Justice Coordinator, Roger Kintz, DTSC environmental justice activities associated with this grant have restarted.

Problem Resolution

- Administrative problems with determining a suitable mechanism for payment of activities to be conducted by community groups in support of this grant have now been resolved. It has now been approved to utilize the State of California's

Service Authorization (SvcA) process. Although the SvcA is limited to less than $5,000, it is a much more efficient means of "contracting" for needed services than the much more cumbersome Standard Agreement process that has been traditionally used and which requires significantly more time and oversight agency sign-off to put into effect. Use of the SvcA process has enabled DTSC to fully execute the agreements to support the EJ Bus Tour on a timely basis and, thus, allowing the bus tour to be definitively scheduled. Since the primary focus of future expenditures will be with local community groups, this will enable progress on the grant to be accelerated.

BUDGET RECAP

Output Measurement	Approved Budget	Costs Incurred This Quarter	Costs Incurred To Date	Total Funds Remaining
1 – Community Meetings	$	$ 2,325.32		
2 – EJ Bus Tours	$			
3 - Networking	$			
4 - Citizen Task Forces	$			
5 – Ground-Truthing	$			
6 – Citizen Complaints	$			
Grand Total	**$ 160,000**	**$ 2,325.32**	**$ 89,428.67**	**$ 70,571.33**

Note: The only budget figures that have been currently available are by budget category as reflected in the grant award/cooperative agreement document and not by Workplan Output Measurement. The process of revising the budget to be reflective of the Grant Workplan output measurements instead of simply budget category is underway, but not yet completed. Changes between some of the budget categories may well need to be made and will be coordinated with the EPA Project Officer. The overall level of expenditure for the grant is consistent with both US EPA and DTSC financial reports.

Since the last report, the only expenditure against the grant that has been made was for $2,325.32 for translation services for the July 31, 2012 community meeting in Maywood.

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