

Equity & Environmental Justice Working Group October 13, 2020 Forum



The GC3's Equity & EJ Mandate

Executive Order 3: a focus on equity & environmental justice:

- “Prioritizing, integrating and advancing equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of climate change mitigation planning policies, *specifically addressing disproportionate impacts of such strategies on environmental justice communities,*”
- “Recommended strategies to prioritize climate change adaptation efforts *to protect vulnerable communities that may be disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change.*”

Climate Justice

“People who are socially, economically, culturally, politically, institutionally, or otherwise marginalized are especially vulnerable to climate change and also to some adaptation and mitigation responses.... This heightened vulnerability is rarely due to a single cause. Rather, it is the produce of intersecting social processes that result in inequalities in socioeconomic status and income, as well as in exposure. Such social processes include, for example discrimination the basis of gender, class, ethnicity, age, and disability.”

The Mandate of the EEJ Working Group

- Develop a plan and guidelines to engage diverse stakeholders in the work of the GC3
- Identify communities that are especially vulnerable to climate change impacts such as childhood asthma, flooding, extreme heat, and other impacts aggravated by the lack of resources to meet basic needs
- Identify strategies to include diverse communities in climate mitigation and adaptation.

Accomplishments

- Outreach to engage EJ communities
- Concept paper on equity
- Public participation & remote public participation guidelines
- Analysis & feedback to GC3 working groups on mitigation & adaptation recommendations
- Recommendation for creation and support of mapping tool
- Webinar series on environmental and climate justice

Definition of Equity

“A commitment to equity starts by recognizing that disparities in health outcomes, inequities in living conditions, and lack of political power place many communities of color, including Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (“BIPOC”), low-income communities, people with disabilities, and other historically disadvantaged people at greater risk and limit the capacity of their communities to adapt to climate change.”

Definition of Equity (cont.)

- “The principles of equity mandate that race, national origin, socio-economic status, religion, gender, sexuality, or other facets of identity do not impact a person’s access to basic necessities including:
 - Safe shelter, water, food, heat, and light;
 - Employment to support oneself and one’s family; and
 - Equal access to community supports such as public education, public transportation, healthcare and mental health care.”

4 Subcommittees

- Public Engagement Subcommittee (Alex Rodriguez)
- Mitigation Subcommittee (Sena Wazer, Brenda Watson)
- Equity & EJ Adaptation Subcommittee (Mark Mitchell)
- Environmental & Climate Justice Mapping Tool Subcommittee (Marianne Engelman Lado)



Public Participation/Remote Participation Guidelines

- Drafted & workshopped at second EEJ meeting
- Included public participation checklist
- Distributed to all GC3 working groups to inform the work
- Further developed in the public participation working group
- Welcome feedback

Core principles:

- Transparent & accountable decision-making
- Accessible & inclusive decision-making
- Equal partnerships, co-production & self-determination
- Respect, efficiency & non-exploitation

Limits

- Pandemic
- Murder of George Floyd & protests in summer, 2020
- Short timetable for review of working group reports



Recommendation: 2021 Investment in Community Engagement

Develop and fund a community engagement strategy to inform the 2021 GC3 planning process and implementation, including support in the form of grants for partnering community-based, non-governmental organizations to design the community engagement process, receive training, and co-develop recommendations to ensure meaningful input and equitable approaches to mitigation and adaptation. Both public and private funding should be pursued.

Recommendations

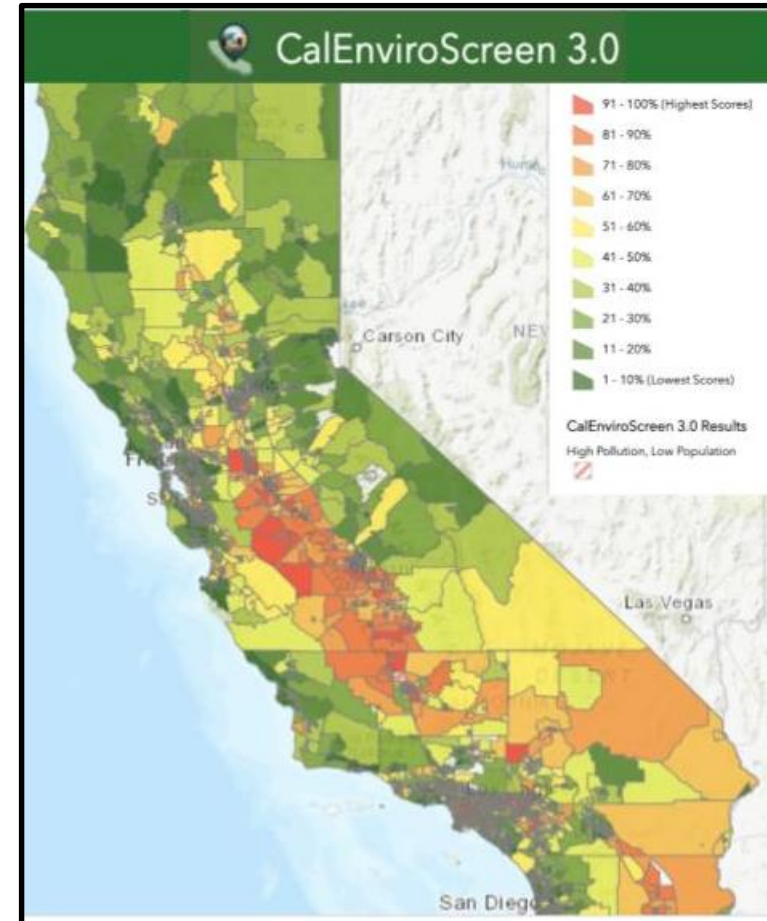
Mitigation: Prioritize mitigation strategies in vulnerable communities, including low and moderate-income communities, and ensure access to mitigation approaches, such as clean energy, for low and moderate-income communities.

EEJ & Adaptation: Provide funding for municipalities to develop their own adaptation plans and both guidance and statewide data-driven mapping to inform planning and implementation not only at a statewide level but also on a hyperlocal level.

Apportion funding by using a system that ensures more resources for municipalities where vulnerable population reside and where plans have been developed specifically address the needs of the identified vulnerable population.

Recommendation: Mapping Tool

Legislative enactment supported by financial support to allow DEEP, DPH and partners to create and maintain a robust tool for use in climate planning and implementation. By codifying requirements for a tool into law, the legislature would ensure the development and launch of the tool with appropriate resources in 2021 and 2022, respectively.



**PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION
SUBCOMMITTEE**

Alex Rodriguez, Chair

PRINCIPLES & CHECKLIST

Transparent and Accountable Decision-Making:

- Use census data to appropriately account for demographics of the community
- Use multilingual and culturally conscious graphics to convey information about governmental/commercial/industrial interests

Accessible and Inclusive Decision-Making:

- Work with community leaders to create common language with neutral terminology, free of jargon, and sensitive to race, ethnicity, culture, gender, disability status, and language.
- Translate/interpret documents and in-person discussions for individuals with limited English proficiency, and provide alternative options or assistance for individuals who are physically, visually, and/or hearing-impaired.

Equal Partnerships, Co-Production, and Self-Determination:

- Prior to conducting a meeting, form an agenda with the assistance of community representatives. Understand from the community how they would like information presented, questions they would like answered, and languages they speak.
- Create an atmosphere of equal participation at meetings and gatherings by avoiding a head table or panel, and providing multiple opportunities and channels for the public to voice questions and concerns.

Respect, Efficiency, and Non-Exploitation

- Create relationships by partnering with other government departments, and ensure interdepartmental coordination and communication so community concerns, ideas, and feedback are acted on in a timely and coordinated manner.
- Establish a central point-of-contact within the department to disseminate information, resolve problems, and serve as an accessible advocate of the public's rights.



EJ Mapping Tool Subcommittee Equity & EJ Working Group

Subcommittee Members & Participants

Marianne Engelman Lado

Mark Mitchell

Brenda Geer

Orlando Velazco

Yaprak Onat

Laura Hayes

Michelle Riordan-Hold

Kathy Fay

Edith Pestana

Laura Cahn

Todd Berman

Andy Jolly-Ballantine

Joanna Wozniak-Brown

Joey Wraithwall

Lynne Bonnett

Anji Seth

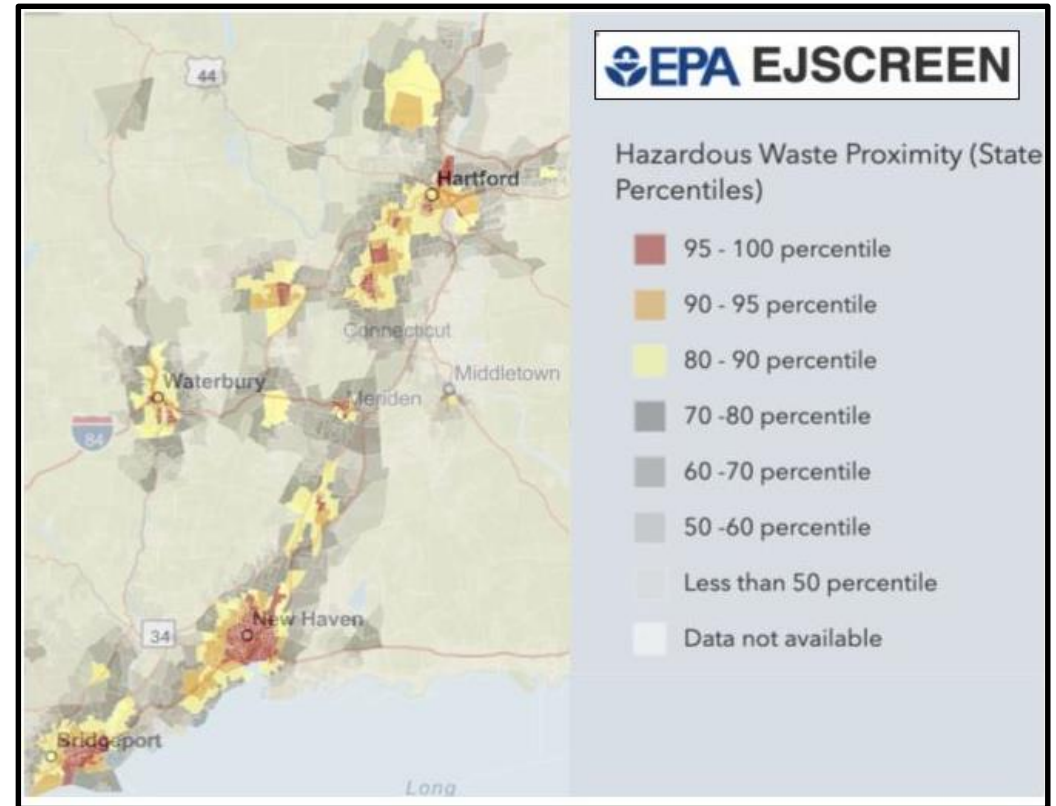
Nathaniel Trumbull

Max Teirstein

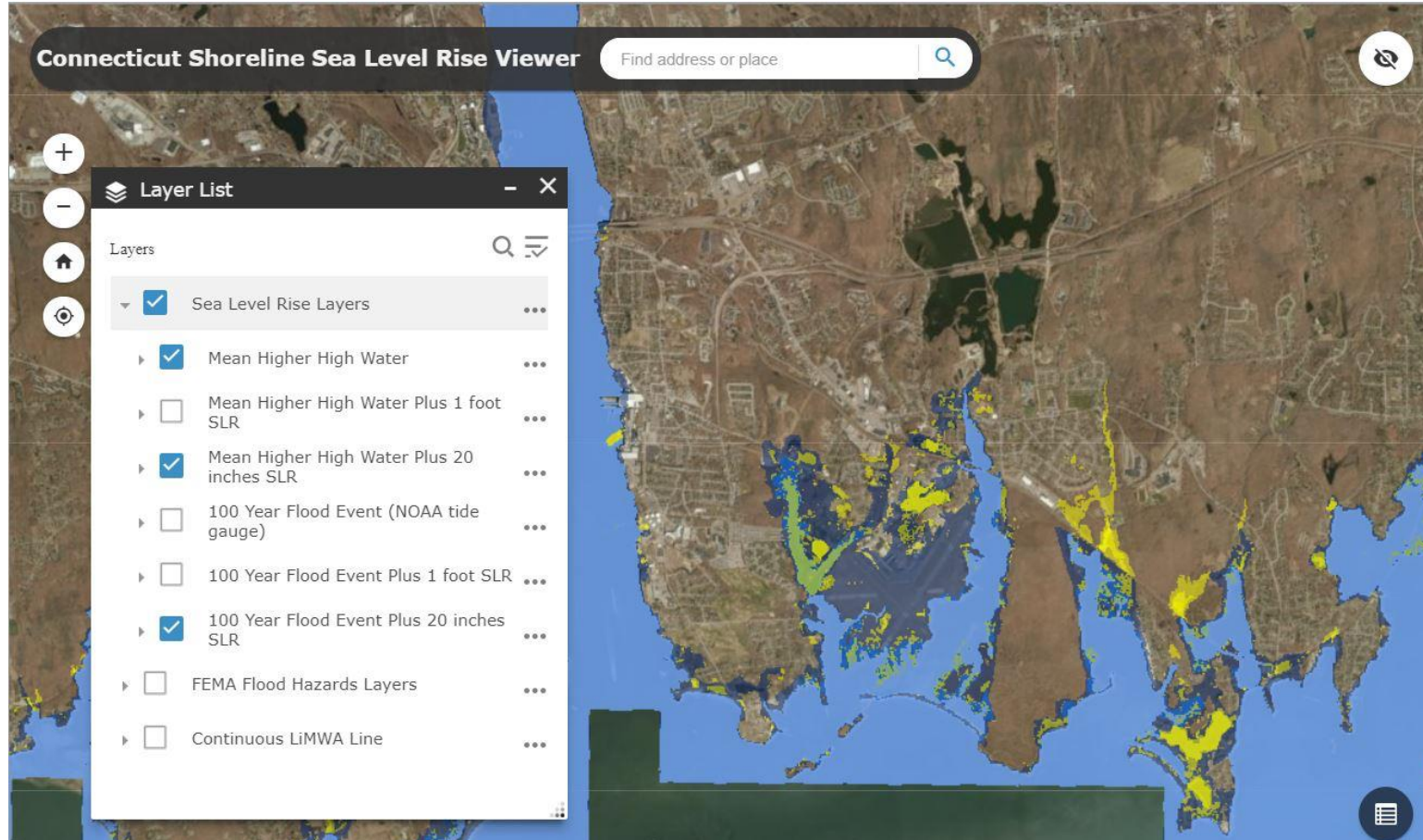
EJ Mapping Tools

Purposes:

- Assess vulnerabilities of communities to climate change
- Visually represent relative vulnerabilities
- Use in planning & decision-making
 - Assess cumulative impacts
 - Resource allocation
- Use in implementation



Pre-existing Mapping Tools Available Now



Goals of Subcommittee

- Ensure use of tools by GC3 Working Groups to integrate equity consideration into development of recommendations
- Develop recommendation for the creation of a robust tool to represent vulnerabilities of the state's communities for use in future planning at state and local levels and for the implementation of GC3 recommendations

Recommendations

- Legislative enactment with financial support to create and maintain a robust tool for use in climate planning and implementation at state and hyperlocal levels.
- DEEP and DPH launch a public-private interagency effort as part of the 2021 phase of the GC3 to develop the tool. Given that the tool's development process is already underway, a beta version of the tool could be available and launched by the end of the GC3 process (December 2021).

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MITIGATION STRATEGIES EEJ SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAIRS:
SENA WAZER
BRENDA WATSON

RECOMMENDATIONS: AFFIRM, PRIORITIZE, COMMUNICATE

- AFFIRM LOW AND MODERATE COMMUNITIES ACCESS
 - TO SOLAR AND CLEAN ENERGY W/ADVANCED PLANNING FOR MULTIFAMILY DWELLINGS AND RENTERS NEEDS
 - EXPAND ACCESS TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES
 - PRIORITIZE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSIT INVESTMENT
- PRIORITIZING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES
 - REMEDIATE EXISTING POLLUTION IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES
 - ENSURE THAT ENERGY FACILITIES ARE EQUITABLY LOCATED
 - INCREASE FUNDING AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES IN LOW AND MODERATE INCOME COMMUNITIES
 - STATEWIDE APPROACH TO EXPAND ACCESS TO CLEAN ENERGY
- COMMUNICATE/OUTREACH
 - IDENTIFY LOCAL PROBLEMS AS NOT ALL EJ DEFINED COMMUNITIES HAVE THE SAME ISSUES
 - EEJ TRAINING IN THE BUILDING PROFESSIONS
 - GREEN JOBS PIPELINE

2020 EEJ - ADAPTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair, Mark Mitchell, MD, MPH

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EEJ-ADAPTATION ACTIVITIES

- Provided iterative feedback to
 - Public Health and Safety Working Group
 - Infrastructure and Land Use WG (transportation, communication, utilities, zoning, buildings)
 - Financing Adaptation and Resilience Working Group
- Issues:
 - Very broad mandate
 - Difficult to separate adaptation from mitigation (housing, public health)
 - Little previous consideration of equity in adaptation plans
 - Little previous implementation of adaptation plans
 - Little time
- Approach: top down and bottom up
 - Provide tools and information to GC3 on common conditions of EEJ communities
 - Advocate for funding for local adaptation plans and funding for EEJ participation

EEJ-ADAPTATION RESULTS

- GC3 and almost all working group subcommittees were very open to EEJ considerations and did an excellent job of incorporating them
- Primary recommendations:
 - Fund and develop local climate adaptation plans, based on guidelines
 - Fund community groups to be able to give meaningful input to these plans
 - Fund EJ groups more broadly
- Next steps
 - Develop and support EEJ climate policy experts
 - Develop guidelines for developing equitable, effective local adaptation plans