

Meeting Notes

Climate Action Team Public Health Workgroup July 6, 2009

I. Welcome/Introductions

Participants introduced themselves. Dr. Mark Horton, Director of the California Department of Public Health expressed the importance that CDPH places on this work. He stated that important issues for CDPH included the identification of co-benefits and addressing disproportionate impacts. He appreciated the partnership that is being established between CDPH and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). He also emphasized the public health impact of everything we do and that we need to emphasize that health needs to be considered in all policymaking.

II. Review June 18th Meeting Notes

The meeting notes can be found online. If stakeholders have comments, please share them with us.

III. Discuss Public Comments on Charter & Work Plan

Bonnie Holmes-Gen (ALA) identified several areas that stakeholder groups identified as priorities:

- Guidelines for Health Impact Assessment (HIA) – framework for how AB32 measures will be evaluated; the Work Group should provide input/oversight into guidelines as to how HIA will be conducted
- Identify financial and staff resources to conduct this work, for both agencies (CARB and CDPH)
- Recommendations to the Economic Allocation Advisory Committee regarding how revenue/allocation from Cap and Trade will be used to address PH needs
- Adaptation Strategy: what are key priorities to ensure moving forward on adaptation?
- Identify gaps in scoping plan – measures with co-benefits not given sufficient emphasis to date in terms of potential health benefits

Additional comments

- Resource issue very important. Right now CDPH has no resources for this work
- Keep focus on equity issues, identification of vulnerable and impacted communities, and protection of these communities
- HIA critical – need to also encourage comparative or scenario approach, for example varying offset limits, allocation credits, etc., and also look at impact of energy audits.

- There may be gaps in the legal authority of AB32 and SB 375
- Pay attention to the intersections of mitigation and adaptation, and consider in determining uses of the revenues
- Need to look across sectors to identify co-benefits, and more consistently assess what investments in different sectors will impact public health, and what the value of PH benefits might be
- How do we build capacity for these broad approaches which will both improve health and improve economic well-being?
- Evaluate the audit measure – test HIA principles on measures not as complex as Cap and Trade
- Be mindful that HIA and approach to its use will evolve over time
- Industrial audit is important tool for assessing toxic air pollutants from high GHG emitting facilities – right now, just an audit, but we need to think through how the information can be used to assess co-benefits and also identify interventions to protect health
- Will CARB pay for stakeholder participation in the Work Group
- Mr. Kennedy stated that the PHWG should not serve as an alternative forum for looking at the individual scoping plan measures, but stay more focused on public health issues related to climate change activities; CARB will be doing broad outreach re: specific measures and work products
- Dr. John Balmes noted that the intent of CARB, as evidenced in the CARB scoping plan resolution, is to consider public health impacts in *all* climate change activities; policy decision on cap and trade need to address equity and factor in public health
- Dr. Rudolph said that CPDH expects to have a draft of HIA guidelines for presentation/discussion at the September 14 CAT PHWG meeting.

IV. Discuss ARB work on Identification of Impacted Communities

The presentation can be found at the ARB website. Comments on the presentation included:

- Dr. Prasad noted concerns about the issue of weighting (or lack thereof) of the various parameters, and whether there is a scientific basis for the approach of the contractors; other technical concerns also raised (e.g., no threshold for ozone/PM health effects, population density, need for sensitivity analysis, etc)
- Lack of clarity re: how and for what the methodology will be used? What are we screening for? What are we trying to do? Is this to identify susceptibility to climate change? Assess impacts of cap and trade? Need to stay focused on goal to avoid disproportionate impact of AB 32 measures on already impacted communities, and promote community health/reduce health inequities
- Lynn Terry noted AB 32 requirements to identify impacted communities before implementation of market-based measures
- Screening tool is different than a tool to analyze the impacts of measures
- Concern about lack of inclusion of other endpoints – e.g. urban heat islands, flooding, social isolation, etc. that all impact climate-related health outcomes; overweighting of some criteria (e.g. ozone) might “wash out” areas with high cancer risk

CARB staff noted that the contract was initiated for a different purpose; a public workshop is coming up; there will be peer review; data is richer in southern California,

yet need a tool applicable all over the state, and much variability in state re: type of pollutant exposure

V. Discuss Consideration of Public Health Co-benefits not considered during Scoping Plan Evaluation

Examples:

- Speed reduction
- Land use
- Public transit
- Decreased VMT – increased active transport
- Indirect source control
- Inclusion of more than information gathering/reporting in audit measure
- Cap and Trade policy design (e.g., lost opportunities to reduce pollution if allow offsets, or if don't limit offsets to impacted communities)
- How can renewable portfolio standard best promote health (e.g., reduce most polluting sources of electricity first)

VI. Consideration of Climate Change in SIP Air Quality Modeling

- Conducting a more comprehensive analysis next time around through 2030
- Ms. Holmes-Gen asked about what research will take place as climate change becomes more prominent and what will happen to our air pollution control programs. Climate change will cancel out control measures in Sacramento and the Bay Area. Is that true? Progress is stalling due to climate change.
 - Climate change will mitigate some of the work; as we look at additional controls, there will be tremendous reductions and those are not reflected. We also hope there is an international effort because this problem is not our own. Yes, climate change reduction will be harder to achieve.
 - Ms. Terry stated that we have to find better ways to reduce criteria pollutants. Also, methodology plans for worst days; how much above the standard are we? We need to look at the benefits of what we are doing. What we are doing now has immense benefit to public health.
 - Ms. Holmes-Gen stated this was really helpful info, and if it could be packaged to show the value to the public.

VII. Open Discussion – other issues

- Allan Hirsch stated that OEHHA is leading an EPA project to put together a framework for cumulative impacts from pollution sources. Ours is somewhat broader – including all environmental media and the goal is to have methodology or framework for all EPA programs to utilize. Trying to incorporate SES data too – income, access to health care, etc.
- Cathy Blier stated that CalFire is interested in: 1) urban forestry ameliorating heat islands; and 2) reducing the risk of wild fires which is a challenge because of prescribed burning to avoid catastrophic fires.

VIII. Workgroup Operating Principles

- We did get frustration on only web, we added teleconference capability

- Quarterly with ad hoc meetings as needed
- Gina Solomon stated that attendance dropped since first meeting. She wondered if there was the potential to formalize the Work group so that certain constituencies could be more reliably represented. Ms. Terry was happy to see continuity in people in attendance. We see you as core, if others should be here, we can place special invite. Trying to have quarterly meetings well in advance and interim targeted meetings if needed (e.g., August for energy audit). Dr. Rudolph stated that the September agenda could include preliminary Health Impact Assessment guidelines; how do we mesh with WETCAT (invite John Andrew and CDPH water folks). CEC can also come and talk about renewable portfolio standards.
- Ms. Holmes-Gen added that no formal invite was put out to potentially interested folks. CARB and CDPH put out more formal invitation to send to folks. Broaden a little more. Dr. Rudolph stated that we involved the Climate Adaptation Strategy team, and folks who have expressed interest to CARB and CDPH. We did not advocate for formal group but a working group. We also pursued the California Conference of Local Health Officers and made sure that we had a few people involved to take back the information to local health department community. We hope we have things on the agenda that are of interest to the participants. Ms. Holmes-Gen stated that agenda items are a hook, and that we could put local health departments on the agenda to discuss their issues. Perhaps we have a standing item on Cap and Trade. Ms. Terry stated we could add that to the September meeting agenda and we could make meetings longer, from 9-3 or we could meet more often.
- Ms. Solomon stated that it would be helpful to do more targeted outreach to a variety of constituencies. It is not clear that folks are being individually invited. Several people had suggested a joint meeting with the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, and this can be pursued with Ms. Cynthia Gomez. If there are specific organizations or people who should be at these meetings, please let us know who they are so we can do the outreach.
- More background materials on Cap and Trade would be helpful. Ms. Terry stated we would provide links to this Work Group site to reading material on Cap and Trade.
- Ms. Holmes-Gen stated it would be helpful on the website to have a separate section on key documents. If you do not know which meeting they were presented at, they are hard to find.

Adjourn