

Report Back: Listening Sessions with Environmental Justice Organizations in California

Community Concerns and Biomonitoring Priorities

Deanna Rossi

Impact Assessment Inc., on behalf of Biomonitoring California

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Objectives

- Develop a list of concerns related to environmental contaminants and biomonitoring priorities, as identified by community, advocacy and Tribal organizations-across the state
- Lay the foundation for future engagement by educating environmental justice leaders about Biomonitoring California's previous studies and future plans

Methods for collecting information from community organizations

Online survey

- Identify environmental concerns
- Learn who these organizations serve—demographics, geographic reach
- How they engage community members

Interviews and group meetings

- In-depth discussions about specific environmental hazards
- Whether or not they have or would use biomonitoring findings
- How biomonitoring can support their efforts

Survey of Environmental Justice and Community Organizations

Who participated?

- 48 organizations responded
- 1/3 from SF Bay Area
- Some outside of California
- EJ groups, community based organizations, academics, Tribes, government

BIOMONITORING CALIFORNIA
MEASURING CHEMICALS IN CALIFORNIANS

Organizations interested in Biomonitoring California 2

Please provide some basic information about your organization

* 1. Organization Name

* 2. Mailing Address

Street Address

Unit/Suite

City

State

Zip Code

County

* 3. Main Phone

Environmental issues addressed

Most common:

- Air Quality (73%)
- Water Quality (63%)
- Agriculture/Pesticides (56%)
- Consumer Products (48%)
- Food Contaminants (40%)

Additional areas:

- Brownfields
- Lead
- Mold/moisture
- Climate change
- Soil pollution
- Hazardous waste
- Clean energy
- Oil and gas production
- Toxics in building products
- Indoor air quality

Types of services provided

Most common:

- Environmental Education (83%)
- Health Education (66%)
- Host community meetings (73%)
- Referrals to services (13%)
- Cultural or religious gatherings (10%)

Additional services:

- Policy advocacy and activism
- Trainings
- Case management
- Research and data collection
- Capacity building
- Participate in coalitions
- Online resources

Demographics served

- 18 languages spoken/used by organizations surveyed
- Broad ethnic and racial diversity
- Organizations work with people throughout their lives



Interviews And Group Meetings

WHO DID WE MEET?

64 Individuals
48 Organizations
8 Regions



Oil extraction—located in a Los Angeles neighborhood

Eight California Regions

North Coast

- Butte
- Del Norte
- Humboldt
- Lake
- Lassen
- Mendocino
- Modoc
- Plumas
- Shasta

- Siskiyou
- Tehama
- Trinity
- Sonoma
- Napa
- Marin
- Colusa
- Glen

San Francisco Bay

- San Francisco
- Alameda
- Contra Costa
- San Mateo
- Santa Clara

Central Coast

- Monterey
- San Luis Obispo
- Santa Barbara

- Santa Cruz
- Ventura

Los Angeles

San Diego/ Orange

Gold Country

- Placer
- Sacramento
- San Joaquin
- Sutter
- Yolo
- Yuba
- Solano
- El Dorado
- Alpine
- Amador
- Calaveras
- Mono
- Nevada
- Sierra
- Tuolumne

Central Valley

- Fresno
- Kern
- Kings
- Madera
- Merced
- Tulare
- San Benito
- Mariposa
- Stanislaus

Inland Valley

- Imperial
- Inyo
- Riverside
- San Bernardino



Health Concerns by Region

	Cancer	Asthma	Liver Disease	Allergies	Birth Defects
North Coast					
San Francisco Bay					
Gold Country					
Central Valley					
Central Coast					
Inland Valley					
Los Angeles					
San Diego					

North Coast

Key Concerns

- Occupational exposures
- Wood mills
- PG&E plants
- Radioactive materials
- Blue green algae



How Biom CA
can support
North Coast
Communities

- Include Native American Tribes in the regional study and engage them early
- Allow California Rural Indian Health Board to review study protocols
- Work with other trusted community groups
- Consider study of:
 - Cyanotoxins/blue-green algae
 - Wood mill chemicals
 - Locally-used pesticides
- Biomonitor for as many chemicals as possible

San Francisco Bay

Key Concerns

- Richmond refineries
- Diesel and car exhaust
- Port of Oakland
- PG&E power plant in Bayview
- Fish from SF Bay
- Cement recycling plant in Bayview
- Nail salons



How Biom CA
can support
**San Francisco
Bay**
Communities

- Reach out to groups that feel disenfranchised
- Further engage the region's diverse communities, particularly Latino and African-American
- Consider study of:
 - Oil extraction chemicals
 - Cement recycling chemicals

Gold Country

Key Concerns

- Contamination from large animal lots
- Wildfire smoke
- Diesel and car exhaust
- Septic contamination



How Biom CA
can support
Gold Country
Communities

- Work with Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW), a group who convenes scientific and community partners
- Consider study of:
 - Fracking fluids
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Silver nanoparticles

Central Valley

Key Concerns

- Agriculture/pesticides
- Hazardous waste facilities in Kettleman City and Buttonwillow
- Incinerator in Crow's Landing
- Synergistic effects of multiple chemicals



How Biom CA
can Support
Central Valley
Communities

- Build trust with Kettleman City residents by offering review of biomonitoring methods
- Work with local conveners in this region, like Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment
- Establish independent oversight/review when conducting local studies in communities

Central Coast

Key Concerns

- Agriculture
- Groundwater
- Drinking water in schools



How Biom CA
can support
Central Coast
Communities

- Expand testing to include children
 - Concern about lead in water at schools and pesticides from nearby agriculture
- Consider study of:
 - Chlorpyrifos
 - Chemicals commonly found in drinking water

Inland Valley

Key Concerns

- Riverside Agricultural Park
- Inland ports
- Railyards
- Santa Ana River
- Wildomar area
- Salton Sea
- Calexico/Mexicali border
- Diesel and car exhaust



How Biom CA
can support
Inland Valley
Communities

- Establish Riverside and San Bernardino as regions independent from Imperial or Los Angeles counties
- Be aware of lack of trust with State agencies
- Consider adding biomonitoring studies to public health assessments done by CDPH

Los Angeles

Key Concerns

- Port of Los Angeles
- Fracking/oil extraction sites
- Exide plant
- Edwards Air Force Base
- Agricultural fields
- Old housing stock



How Biom CA
can support
Los Angeles
Communities

- Consider study of:
 - Fracking fluids
 - Other oil extraction chemicals
- Highlight comparative study results within the region

San Diego

Key Concerns

- San Ysidro, Otay Mesa and Barrio Logan communities
- Imperial Beach
- Drinking water in schools
- Secondhand smoke exposure



How Biom CA
can support
San Diego
Communities

- Include workers in the CARE Study
 - Farm workers
 - Workers at the border
 - Nail salon workers
 - Others who work with chemicals (e.g., auto body workers)
- Consider study of:
 - Diesel exhaust chemicals

Common Recommendations - Research and methods

- Use community-based participatory methods in biomonitoring studies
- Add more chemicals to the CARE Study
- Consider studies that will lead to policy change versus individual behavior recommendations
- Be aware of litigation around community exposures and how biomonitoring results could influence legal proceedings

Common Recommendations - Community engagement

- Reach out to EJ organizations to build trust with their communities
- Provide education and resources to partnering organizations so they can be informed partners
- Assist community organizations as they frame study findings for participants
- Maintain relationships with EJ groups
- Share findings through a meeting or webinar

Common Recommendations - Communication

- Share outcomes of previous biomonitoring studies
- Share how biomonitoring studies have advanced policy
- Continue producing effective visuals to support Biomonitoring California's work, from outreach to results return

Impact Assessment Inc.

under contract with Biomonitoring California

Deanna Rossi, MPH

deanna@impactassessment.com