

Fresno Public Workshop on the Draft California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen), Version 2.0

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Hugh Burns State Building, Room 1036

2550 Mariposa Mall, Fresno CA 93721

The second regional workshop in Fresno focused on the updates to CalEnviroScreen since version 1.1. It attracted a group of about 15 participants that included community organizations, legislative staff and members of the public.

Staff sought comments and suggestions related to the overall approach, indicators, online mapping tool and methodology, and specifically on updates to CalEnviroScreen incorporated in version 2.0. Comments from workshop participants are listed below. Similar or related comments were consolidated and placed in the most appropriate category.

Methods/General:

- Only interested in final score, not how it was obtained.
- If the tool keeps changing it will be hard to follow trends over time.
- How much money will be available to an individual census tract?
- Concern that CES will be seen as a job killer.
- Provide information to help community residents understand the meaning of a high score.
- Provide a means to look at trends over time.
- Make PDFs of posters available online.
- How much will the tool change before it is finalized?
- Likes census tract scale.
- Don't add more indicators – keep the tool simple.
- Redo the sensitivity analysis at the census tract scale.
- There are many assumptions in the methodology.

Use of Tool:

- Concern that the tool will clamp down on businesses in high pollution score areas.
- Can tool be used to create jobs?
- Can CES be used to track trends?
- What groups are investing in communities as a result of CES?
- Who will be investing in communities as a result of CES?

Indicators – Exposures and Environmental Effects:

- Do any indicators record how much site cleanup has been accomplished?
- Likes new buffers and use of populated blocks.
- Will any ground truthing be done?
- There aren't enough air pollution monitors in the San Joaquin Valley.
- Refine areas of exposure on PM 2.5 maps.
- Does the Groundwater Threats indicator include agricultural runoff?
- Describe the accuracy of underlying data.
- Concerned about double counting.
- A facility layer should be included in the mapping tool.
- Differentiate naturally-occurring contaminants from those resulting from human activity.
- Drought has forced some rural communities to use irrigation wells for drinking water.
- Can communities with poor water quality due to only one contaminant score as high as those with multiple contaminants?

Indicators – Socioeconomic Factors and Sensitive Populations:

- Consider including zoning and land use.
- Health issues are well covered.
- Consider including uninsured residents, access to care, safety and violence, locations of parks, housing quality, homelessness, mental illness or food security.
- Sensitive populations could include people with HIV.
- Immigrants and refugees often had no access to education in their home countries.
- Educational Attainment should be renamed Educational Non-attainment.
- Non-English speakers are not necessarily isolated in their communities.
- Would like to see location of industry in relation to asthma.
- Under-reporting in the census could be an issue.
- The Unemployment indicator leaves out a lot of people.
- Asthma maps may not be accurate.
- New asthma cases aren't captured.
- Some communities are more linguistically isolated than the maps show.
- Consider ability of people to be transported to a medical facility.
- Unemployment duplicates poverty.

Online Mapping Tool:

- Add a mobile app or website.
- Include in the legend an explanation of scoring.
- In the popup explain that all indicator values are percentiles and leave out the word percentile in each line.
- Change the Age label to “Age: Children and Elderly.”
- Change Education label to “Low Education.”
- Show a description of each indicator when the mouse hovers over the name.
- A user must zoom in before being able to click on a census tract to see the popup.
- Explain that you can zoom to a specific area by typing the address or zip code.
- Increase the text size of the overall CES score in the popup.
- Explain what drives an individual indicator score in a tract.
- Provide the ability to look at individual indicator maps.
- Provide the ability to look at deciles or groups of deciles on a map.