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2021 AEP Virtual Institute: Environmental Justice & CEQA

Friday, January 29th | 8am – 6pm

AGENDA

8:00 am – 9:00 am: Opening Keynote – Elsa Johnson, EPA – AICP: 1.0

9:00 am – 10:30 am: Environmental Justice Issues in California – AICP: 1.5

This panel will start with the Moderator, Marie Campbell, of Sapphos Environmental, Inc providing some brief introductory remarks describing the intersection between environmental regulations and environmental justice, including benefits to human health and quality of life have been achieved through environmental regulation; and where regulation of new projects may fail to consider inequities inherent to the baseline condition. Claudia Garcia of Ascent Environmental will provide an overview of land use and planning decisions that contributed to environmental justice (EJ) issues in California and highlight General Plan requirements that aim to reduce health risks in disadvantaged communities (DACs), promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process, and prioritize improvements that address the needs of DACs. The connection between adopted EJ policies and CEQA will also be explored, and recommendations provided for consideration to incorporate EJ evaluations in the environmental review process. The panel will conclude with Vanessa Galaviz of the California EPA addressing CalEnviroScreen in relation to identifying Communities with cumulative impacts. Dr. Galaviz will review features of the screening tool, data, and other available resources.

Moderator: Marie Campbell, AEP Director-at-Large, President, Sapphos Environmental

Speakers: Claudia Garcia, Environmental Planner, Ascent Environmental

Vanessa Galaviz, Environmental Justice Public Health Scientist, California EPA

10:30 am – 10:45 am: Break

10:45 am – 12:15 pm: Legislative Proposals & Recent Court Findings – AICP:
1.5 | MCLE: 1.0

Session 2 will focus on the legislative history of environmental justice in California and discuss what legislation may lie ahead. The panel will discuss the current CEQA requirements for addressing environmental justice as a result of legislation and recent court cases.

They will also discuss proposed bills relating to environmental justice currently being pursued in the Legislature. Finally, current general plan requirements for addressing environmental justice issues as a result of Senate Bill (SB) 1000 will be presented. Enacted in 2016, SB 1000 was an effort to address the inequitable distribution of pollution and associated health effects in low-income communities and communities of color, requiring local governments to identify environmental justice communities (called “disadvantaged communities”) in their jurisdictions and address environmental justice in their general plans.

*Speakers: William Halligan, Esq., AEP President, Senior Director/Sr. Environmental
Counsel, Harris & Associates*

Matt Klopfenstein, AEP Lobbyist, Partner, California Advisors LLP

Erik De Kok, Governor’s Office of Planning & Research

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12:15 pm – 12:30 pm: Break

12:30 pm – 1:15 pm: Keynote Luncheon (BYOL) – Phoebe Seaton, Leadership Council for Justice & Accountability – AICP: 1.0

1:15 pm – 2:45 pm: Integration of Public Outreach, including Tribal Outreach in Planning & Environmental Review Processes – AICP: 1.5

This session will provide an overview of best practices for Tribal and general stakeholder outreach through real world examples. Panelists will present an overview of their roles in the environmental outreach process, including at the Federal, state and local levels.

Moderator: Steve Noack, AICP, Principal, PlaceWorks

Speakers: Laura Ebbert, US EPA Region 9 Tribal, Intergovernmental & Policy Division Director

Joan Isaacson, Principal & Senior Facilitator, Kearns & West

Ethan “Red Eagle” Lawton, Tribal Liaison & Associate Planner, SHN Engineers & Geologists

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm: Break

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm: Technical Evaluation of Environmental Justice Issues in Projects Subject to NEPA, including those with CEQA Decisions – AICP: 1.5 | MCLE: 1.0

Our evaluation will focus on how environmental justice was historically and initially defined by EPA and Executive Order and how CEQ guidance has assisted in the integration of EJ into NEPA analysis. We will also discuss the value of public involvement including case studies of how specific federal agencies handle outreach. We will further discuss relevant case law decisions with implications for environmental justice analysis and disclosure today. We will discuss how agencies can reform zoning, land use and other policies to address environmental injustices.

Moderator: Rose Newberry, Dudek

Speakers: Carey Fernandes, AICP, Dudek

Carolina Martinez, Associate Director of Policy, Environmental Health Coalition

Milja Miric, Associate, Sohagi Law Group

4:30 pm – 4:45 pm: Wrap-up

4:45 pm – 6:00 pm: Virtual Networking Happy Hour

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