

Biomonitoring California Scientific Guidance Panel
Materials for November 9, 2017 Meeting

Afternoon Session Discussion Questions

Perspectives from Community Organizations on Biomonitoring California's Activities

Question 1: The California Legislature provided a one-time budget increase of \$1 million to Biomonitoring California for fiscal year 2016-2017, and we have used those funds to carry out environmental justice (EJ) activities. The activities include:

- Extending the [Asian/Pacific Islander Community Exposures \(ACE\) Project](#) to a low-income Vietnamese community in San Jose, which involved measurement of metals and fluorinated compounds, an extensive questionnaire to learn about community-specific exposures, and additional follow-up with participants who had highly elevated levels of metals.
- Designing and launching the East Bay Diesel Exposure Project, which is examining exposures to diesel exhaust in child-parent pairs in Oakland, Richmond, and one other Bay Area location.
- Engaging in listening sessions across the state with EJ, community and Tribal organizations, to learn about community concerns and biomonitoring priorities.

Reflecting on the morning session report back about these EJ activities:

- a. What are your impressions about the work we have done so far?
- b. Are there specific next steps you would like to see Biomonitoring California take to build on this work?

Question 2: Biomonitoring California is preparing to launch the [California Regional Exposure \(CARE\) Study](#) in Los Angeles County, which will be our first step in conducting statewide surveillance of metals and fluorinated chemicals. As resources allow, we will also conduct smaller studies designed for the specific region (for example, we are carrying out a small study of diesel exhaust exposure in LA County). Depending on the availability of additional funding in the future, we could consider measuring more chemicals across the state, and/or designing additional region-specific studies. To help us plan for this possibility, please identify what you consider to be the highest priority environmental and chemical exposure issues of widespread concern in California and/or your specific region that biomonitoring could help address.

Consider the following questions as part of identifying these priorities:

- a. Which regions or specific impacted communities would you consider to be the highest priority for future biomonitoring studies, and why?
 - i. Within these regions/communities, are there particularly vulnerable groups that should be the highest priority to study?
- b. Of the chemicals that can be biomonitored, which are of greatest relevance for measurement across the state, and/or for specific community studies?

- c. What do you see as the greatest challenges that the Program would face in conducting biomonitoring studies in impacted communities?
 - i. To help address these challenges, what are the key elements to include in the study design?
 - ii. Do you have other suggestions for addressing the identified challenges?

Question 3: Please comment on existing community efforts in your region that intersect with Biomonitoring California's mission to identify and track environmental chemical exposures. Are there specific organizations that Biomonitoring California should consider partnering with in future studies?

Question 4: Please share your perspectives on how Biomonitoring California findings could be useful for evaluating public health and regulatory efforts to reduce chemical exposures and refining statewide policies.