CalEnviroScreen:
A New Tool for Evaluating Communities in California

John B. Faust, Ph.D.
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Cal/EPA

Bay Planning Coalition

BASIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS

- Multiple pollution sources are disproportionately concentrated in low-income communities with high-minority populations.

- Communities with certain socioeconomic factors (i.e. low-income, low-education) have increased sensitivity to pollution.

- Combination of multiple pollutants and increased sensitivity in these communities can result in greater cumulative pollution impacts.

SB 535 (DE LEÓN, 2012)

- Cal/EPA shall identify "disadvantaged communities" for investment opportunities based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health and environmental hazard criteria.

- Department of Finance triennial investment plan for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund must allocate:
  - $\geq$25 percent to projects that benefit these communities
  - $\geq$10 percent to projects located in these communities.

CALENVIROSCREEN 1.0

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
SCREENING TOOL, VERSION 1
(CALENVIROSCREEN 1.0)

GUIDANCE AND SCREENING TOOL

April 2013

Matthew Rodriquez, Secretary
California Environmental Protection Agency

George V. Alexeeff, Ph.D., Director
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

- Presents a broad picture of the relative burdens communities face from environmental pollution.
- Identifies 18 indicators of environmental and socioeconomic conditions.
- Provides guidance on potential uses of tool.

INDICATORS

Exposures	Environmental Effects	Sensitive Populations	Socioeconomic Factors
❑ PM 2.5 concentrations ❑ Ozone concentrations ❑ Diesel PM concentrations ❑ Pesticide use ❑ Toxic releases from facilities ❑ Traffic density	❑ Cleanup sites ❑ Groundwater threats (Leaking under-ground storage tanks and cleanups) ❑ Impaired water bodies ❑ Solid waste sites and facilities ❑ Hazardous waste facilities and generators	❑ Prevalence of children and elderly ❑ Asthma emergency department visit rate ❑ Rate of low birth weight births	❑ Educational attainment ❑ Linguistic isolation ❑ Poverty: Percent residents below 2x national poverty level ❑ Race/ethnicity

ONLINE TOOL Available at: **oehha.ca.gov/ej**