

Zeneca/ Former Stauffer Chemical Company
Community Advisory Group Meeting
Richmond Civic Center, June 30, 2005
7:00 PM to 9:30 PM

CAG members present: Eric Blum, Celeste Crystal, Whitney Dotson, Ethel Dotson, Steven Duran, Alice Gathago, , Arnie Kasendorf, Stephen Linsley, Malcolm Lubliner, Gayle McLaughlin, Iris Morris, Pablo Munoz, Sherry Padgett, Jean Rabovsky, Pauline Reed, Joseph Robinson, Dan Schwab, Richard Stollings, Simms Thompson, Jr., and JoAnn Tillman. CAG members absent: Tarnel Abbott, Henry Clark, Wendel Brunner, Joshua Genser, and John Ziesenhenne.

Welcome Remarks

A welcome to the Community Advisory Group members (CAG) and the public is extended by Diane Fowler, Public Participation Supervisor for the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Ms. Fowler introduces, Ms. Tiana Gomez.

Ms. Taina Gomez, Field Representative for Assemblywoman Loni Hancock reads a letter from Assemblywoman Hancock. It is a letter to the CAG thanking the new members for their service to the community.

Ms. Fowler introduces Irma Anderson, Mayor of the City of Richmond. Mayor Anderson thanks the community and those individuals who are participating on the CAG for their commitment and civic activism.

Ms. Fowler introduces DTSC project team and others from DTSC including Barbara Cook, Lynn Nakashima, Nancy Cook, Richard Perry, and Jim Marxen.

A motion is made by CAG member **Gayle McLaughlin** to nominate and select a temporary chair for the CAG. CAG member **Celeste Crystal** is nominated and agrees to be considered for the chair. A second is made by **Sherry Padgett**. CAG member **Ethel Dotson** requests that the agenda be followed. **Ms. Dotson** makes several remarks that past wrongs have been made against certain segments of the community and that “people will be held accountable.” Remarks by several members of the CAG indicate that they want to wait until they know their fellow CAG members before selecting a chair. A request is made to continue with the agenda and introductions by the CAG members.

CAG Member Introductions

The CAG members present take a moment to introduce themselves to each other and the community. They indicate why they wanted to serve on the CAG and the community they represent. Ethel Dotson also read a letter prepared by Tarnel Abott who was unavailable to attend the CAG meeting.

CAG Overview and Education

After introductions are completed, Ms. Fowler explains the use and creation of a CAG. She thanks Ms. Dotson, who collected more than 85 signatures to petition DTSC for assistance to create the CAG. She explains that the CAG serves to provide advice to DTSC as the lead environmental regulatory agency overseeing the cleanup of the Zeneca site. The CAG is not intended to be a consensus group with a few exceptions, such as the election of officers and various administrative issues.

Overview of Neighboring DTSC Lead Regulatory Sites and CAG Request to Expand Scope of Work

Barbara Cook, DTSC Chief, Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program discusses the site contamination and her position as the Project Manager for the Zeneca/Former Stauffer Chemical Company site.

Ms. Cook (using a map created from aerial photography) identifies other sites in the general location of Zeneca. She describes past historical use of certain parcels such as the former police pistol range, Liquid Gold, BioRad, the former PG&E maintenance facility, Blair Landfill, Marina Bay and the UC Richmond Field Station. (See attached map.) Ms. Cook also explained that DTSC will be using State money to conduct an investigation around the neighboring businesses. Ms. Cook asks the CAG whether they want to include UC Field Station in their scope of work. In addition, she then asks the CAG if they wish to consider expanding the scope of the CAG to include the other sites just discussed and how much and in what format they want the information provided.

Members of the audience expressed their concerns regarding previous cleanup activities at Marina Bay. Ms. Cook agreed to meet with the Marina Bay residents to answer their questions. Another community member expressed concern about illegal dumping he observed at the BioRad facility in 1989 or 1990.

The issue of expanding the scope of the CAG is discussed by the CAG members and is agreed upon to include all the sites discussed by Ms. Cook. Several CAG members expressed concern about the widening of the scope of work and spreading the CAG too thin. The CAG members present expressed their opinions about expanding the CAG. The majority indicated they were in favor of including the additional sites.

CAG Member **Steven Duran**, asks if now is the time to elect a chair to help guide the decision of the CAG on this and other issues. CAG member **Ethel Dotson** requests that the agenda provided by DTSC be followed to help guide this first meeting of the CAG. She further states that the State Department of Health Services (DHS) and others have had private meetings. She states that the actions of many on the CAG are not following the proper protocol of Public Participation. She sees many violations to the procedures.

Ms. Cook explains the process which took place a few weeks prior to the CAG meeting between some members of the community, DHS, and Contra Costa County Health

Department. She states that DHS and Contra Costa County had been asked if the business areas adjacent to the Zeneca site “were safe today and will it be safe tomorrow?” This question resulted in the preparation of a joint provisional health statement by DHS and Contra Costa County. The two agencies also indicated that they were committed to looking at historical activities.

Ms. Fowler explains that as regulatory agencies, DTSC and DHS are separate; one does not report to the other. The CAG had not been formed yet which is why tonight, DHS is making a presentation to the CAG. Mayor Anderson states that there is a “disconnect” from the paper prepared by DHS in 2002 and the issues now facing the CAG.

A community member states that a chair should be appointed to help guide the CAG instead of the back and forth discussions without direction.

CAG member **Pablo Munoz**, suggests that members who have an interest in being chair, sub-chair or to operate any sub-committee might want to take the time to introduce themselves and give some explanation as to why they want the position.

CAG member **Celeste Crystal**, stands to express interest in helping organize the CAG using her “administrative skills.” A member of the community states that the decision to include the other sites around the Zeneca Site still has not been addressed by the CAG.

Highlight of Provisional Joint Health Statement

Ms. Cook again addresses the group and introduces Dr. Marilyn Underwood of the Department of Health Services, to speak to the issue of the 2005 health statement produced by DHS and Contra Costa County Health Department.

Dr. Underwood provides a summary and distributes (see attached) the Provisional Joint Health Statement Summary for the Zeneca and UC Richmond Field Station Sites, prepared by Contra Costa County Health Services Department (CC County) and California Department of Health Services (DHS). CC County and DHS are planning to talk to the Marina Bay Residents and Bay Trail Users in the near future.

Next Meeting

The CAG agrees to hold the next meeting on July 28, 2005, the time and location to be determined. Ms. Fowler agrees to assist the CAG in getting the room and providing information to the CAG prior to the meeting. The CAG agrees to discuss the operating instructions and to vote on a chairperson as the first order of business for the next meeting.

The CAG meeting is adjourned.

Summary Minutes dated July 6, 2005 prepared by:
Richard Perry, DTSC Public Participation Specialist