

Proceedings of 2016 Stakeholder Roundtable

Convened by the Site Assessment Section of the California Department of
Public Health with support from the Agency for Toxic Substance and
Disease Registry



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Background and Purpose

The Site Assessment Section (SAS) of the Environmental Health Investigations Branch (EHIB), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), conducts public health activities at hazardous waste sites in the State of California through a cooperative agreement with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). SAS carries out public health activities, which may include exposure assessments and investigations, health education and community involvement, technical assistance to local, state or federal agencies or community groups, and health studies when feasible. With no regulatory power, the impact that SAS makes in a community are through its public health protective recommendations to the regulatory agencies overseeing cleanup or operations and efforts in community participation and health education.

Since 2006, SAS has been providing its stakeholders the opportunity to dialogue about environmental public health in the context of a roundtable. We have brought together individuals from public health departments, and community-based organizations, to: increase their access to resources and experts that can assist them; provide a forum for cross-communication; and catalyze local efforts addressing environmental public health. The purpose for these roundtables is twofold: 1) to facilitate learning and sharing about environmental public health concerns relevant among communities, agencies, and SAS staff, and 2) to provide a forum for feedback and direction to the SAS group from communities and agencies.

Timeline of Stakeholder Roundtables

Year	Topic
2006	Prioritizing & Meeting Community Needs at Hazardous Waste Sites
2007	Methamphetamine Laboratories & Facilities Emitting Hazardous Chemicals in the Air
2008	Land Use Planning & Environmental Public Health
2009	*
2010	Health Impact Assessments & Long-Term Stewardship of Hazardous Waste Sites
2011	*
2012	*
2013	Water Quality & Disease Clusters
2014	Healthy Housing and Indoor Air Quality, Navigating Environmental Health Agencies and Understanding and Approaching Unengaged Communities
2015	Cultural Humility, Environmental Health Activism and Climate Change in Public Health
2016	Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE-EH), Environmental Justice Activism and Citizen Science

**Note: funding challenges prevented SAS from conducting a roundtable in 2009 and 2012; however, in 2011 instead of organizing a roundtable, SAS helped EHIB host a symposium for promotores (community health workers) from across the state.*

Stakeholder Roundtable 2016

The roundtable was held in Los Angeles, California on February 12, 2016 at the California Endowment. During this roundtable, 36 participants (7 community advocates, 8 CDPH staff and 15 representatives from other government agencies) were convened to learn about PACE-EH, environmental justice activism and citizen science. Topics were selected based on suggestions made by roundtable participants and perceived utility of topics by roundtable organizers. For a copy of the agenda please refer to Appendix A.

At the beginning of the roundtable, Nancy Palate introduced the team. Dr. Kreutzer, Chief of the Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease control, summarized the work of the Environmental Health Investigations Branch (EHIB) with state-wide stakeholders. Dr. Gabriele Windgasse, Chief of SAS, provided participants with a brief description of the agenda, the goals of the roundtable and asked participants to introduce themselves.

PACE EH: When The Community Decides Their Priorities

Dr. Windgasse started by describing CDPH and SAS and the PACE-EH process. PACE-EH which stands for “Protocol for the Assessment of Community Excellence in Environmental Health” and was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other organizations. SAS staff facilitated the use of PACE-EH in the city of South Gate, by bringing together government, business and community shareholders together to identify and address environmental health concerns in South Gate. This led to the creation of a Community Environmental Health Assessment Team (CEHAT), which followed a process prescribed by PACE-EH. This was the first time that PACE-EH was implemented in the State of California, but it had been used in other States. For a copy of Dr. Windgasse’s presentation please refer to Appendix B.

Mike Flad, City Manager of South Gate, gave his perspective on the PACE-EH process. He described the recent history of the city and concerns that the City Council had about blow back arising from the process. The City of South Gate has three superfund sites: 1) Cooper Drum; 2) Jervis B. Webb and 3) Southern Avenue Industrial Area. Overall, Mr. Flad said the experience was positive because community members had become more civically engaged, governmental agencies had



been responsive, water usage had decreased in the city, data was used to drive the City Council's priorities and blow back did not materialize.

Several community members from the South Gate CEHAT, led by the Chairman Josue Gonzales spoke and described their experience with the PACE-EH process. They described working with the CEHAT, which was comprised of community members, civic groups and stakeholders. As part of the process the CEHAT conducted a representative survey of South Gate in order to identify community concerns. The top concerns identified through this process were: public safety (due to crime), graffiti, water conservation programs, lack of hospital and polluted land (due to illegal dumping). Besides engaging in many community outreach events, the CEHAT planned and hosted an environmental health event that included educational workshops and a tour of the superfund sites. For a copy of the CEHAT's presentation please refer to Appendix C.

Take home messages

- 1) PACE-EH is a multi-step process that can be used to identify, prioritize, rank, and address public health concerns in communities.
- 2) The process can have many positive secondary impacts that are not directly related to environmental health.
- 3) Government agencies, particularly local health departments usually work as facilitators of the process, with the goal of having the community take charge.
- 4) Major concerns including blowback from the community and opposition from businesses did not materialize.

Resources

Topic	Materials
The PACE-EH process	http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/ceha/pace_eh.htm
City of South Gate	http://www.cityofsouthgate.org
South Gate Superfund Sites	http://www.cityofsouthgate.org/581/Superfund-Sites

Open Discussion Forum

Nancy Palate facilitated an open discussion forum where community representatives talked about issues or concerns in their communities and asked questions of representatives from government organizations to brainstorm about potential solutions.

Topics of Discussion

Topic	Details
Chevron refinery in Richmond is a large polluter	Current efforts are underway to get the California Air Resource Board (CARB).
Food waste problem in California	Several efforts to tackle food waste have been attempted in California and Europe.
Exide Battery's recycling operation in Los Angeles	There are concerns about the facility leading to contamination of the surrounding neighborhoods, particularly in regards to arsenic and lead. Bringing communities together to tackle this problem is a concern. It may help to frame as an environmental justice issue. The EPA may have funds that tackle issues of environmental justice.
Sustaining programs	Programs are difficult to support and maintain due to lack of money and interest. PACE-EH is brought up as a viable approach since it's success is not really fueled by the availability of financial resources.

Resources

Topic	Materials
Chevron refinery being fined for pollution	http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Chevron-fined-for-air-pollution-at-Richmond-6437988.php
France's new food waste law	http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/04/french-law-forbids-food-waste-by-supermarkets
How Exide has impacted the health of LA communities	http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-exide-cleanup-story-so-far-20151121-story.html
EPA Grants	https://www.epa.gov/grants

The Making of an Environmental Justice Activist

Jesús López shared his journey to starting California Rural Assistance (CRLA) and engaging in activism. López's career involved moving from rural Mexico to Monterrey, Mexico and then immigrating to California. In the United States, he worked with farmers and was eventually encouraged to organize these farmers by Cesar Chavez. He started working with CRLA first as a volunteer and then as an employee. Once in CRLA he engaged in efforts to help people find housing, provide breakfast for school children, improve labor conditions for farm workers, improve unsafe living conditions, and provide community education. López also worked with or founded organizations including: Parents in Action, Binational Health Week and Dia del Trabajador. For a copy of López's presentation please refer to Appendix D.



Resources

Topic	Website
California Rural Legal Assistance Spanish	http://www.crla.org/about-us
<i>The Hand that Feeds You</i> (Highlights some of López's work)	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqOAt2rX6nQ

Citizen Science: When Community Conducts Their Own Research

Russell Bartlett and Danny Kwon moderated a panel where three researchers talked about their experiences with citizen science. The panel included Sandy Navarro from Esperanza Community Housing, Gala King from the Environmental Health Tracking Program and Dr. Bhavna Shamasunder from Occidental College. The panel discussed how they had used citizen science to turn community concerns into research, document community concerns, and trained future scientists and getting communities engaged in science. Successful citizen science requires public education, connecting with the community, aligning with individuals who have the expertise, using benchmarks for data and having adequate resources. The panel also highlighted the challenges they faced conducting citizen science, which include: limited resources and expertise, intensive community engagement, and dealing with grant limitations. The panel also discussed the potential of making data collected from citizen science available for outside researchers to analyze. For a copy of the presentation related to this panel, please refer to Appendix E.



Take home messages

- 1) Citizen science can be an effective means of giving communities a voice in science that can benefit them.
- 2) Effectively implementing citizen science requires efforts to engage the community; these efforts will require resources.
- 3) Balancing scientific evidence, community concerns and attempts to debunk citizen science is an ongoing concern.

Resources

Topic	Website
Citizenship science and the Flint water crisis	http://www.rawstory.com/2016/01/efforts-of-citizen-scientists-to-expose-flint-water-crisis-highlights-increasing-influence/

Closing Remarks

This roundtable provided stakeholders an opportunity to learn about the ongoing implementation of the PACE-EH process in South Gate. The event also provided a forum where community members could freely discuss and get input on topics of their choice.

Roundtable participants also heard a first hand account that detailed the journey of an environmental justice activist. Finally, participants heard from three researchers who were using citizen science to address community concerns.

SAS will continue striving to provide these types of learning opportunities to their stakeholders as well as provide additional tools and resources that increase community capacity and protect public health.

To read a summary of the feedback provided by roundtable participants please see Appendix F.

For a list of roundtable participants please see Appendix G.

Appendix A: Agenda

Stakeholder Roundtable – February 12, 2016
Site Assessment Section, Environmental Health Investigation Branch
California Department of Public Health
AGENDA

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
8:30 – 8:45	<i>Breakfast</i>	
8:45 – 8:50	Welcome	<i>Dr. Rick Kreutzer, Chief, Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control, CDPH</i>
8:50 – 9:25	Introductions, Background & Purpose of Roundtable	<i>Gabriele Windgasse DrPH., Chief, Site Assessment Section, CDPH</i>
9:25 – 11:00	PACE EH: When The Community Decides Their Priorities	<i>Gabriele Windgasse; Josue Gonzalez, Chair of South Gate CEHAT; Michael Flad, City Manager, City of South Gate</i>
11:00 – 11:10	<i>Break</i>	
11:10 – 12:00	<i>Open Forum/Discussion</i>	<i>Nancy Palate, Health Educator, Environmental Health Investigations Branch, CDPH</i>
12:00 – 1:00	<i>Networking Lunch</i>	
1:00 – 2:00	The Making of An Environmental Justice Activist	<i>Jesús López, Community Organizer, California Rural Legal Assistance</i>
2:00 – 2:15	<i>Break</i>	
2:15 – 3:45	Citizen Science: When The Community Conducts Their Own Research	<i>Sandy Navarro, Project Coordinator, Esperanza, Community Housing; Gala King, Environmental Health Tracking, CDPH; Dr. Bhavna Shamasunder, Urban and Environmental Policy Department, Occidental College</i>
3:45 – 3:55	Summary & Evaluations	<i>Gabriele Windgasse</i>
3:55 – 4:00	Closing Remarks	<i>Rick Kreutzer</i>

Appendix B: Introduction to PACE-EH in the City of South Gate

9th Annual Stakeholder Roundtable February 12, 2016

Gabriele Windgasse, Dr.PH

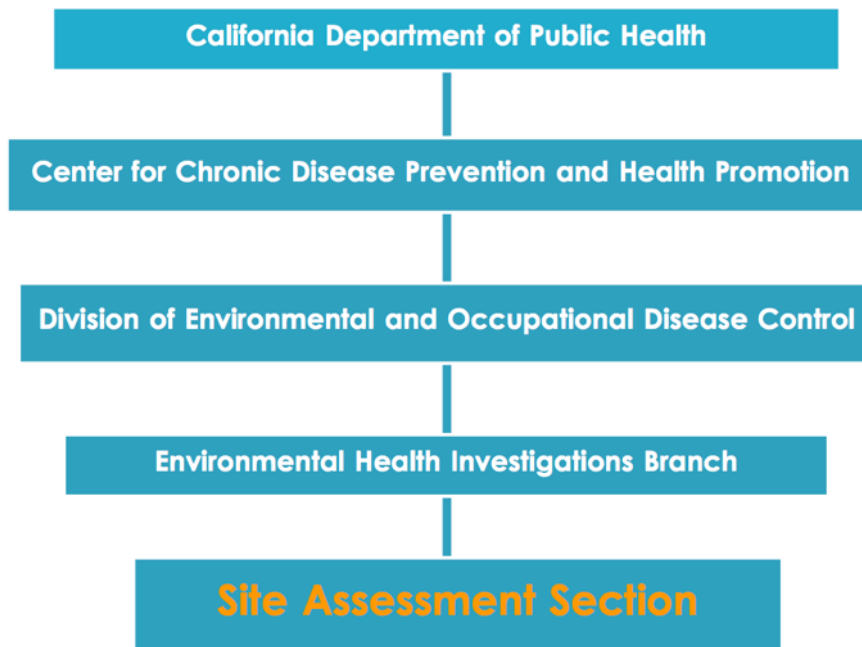
Chief, Site Assessment Section
Environmental Health Investigations Branch
California Department of Public Health

Introduction to PACE-EH in the City of South Gate

- Introduction to CDPH and SAS
- Why this Roundtable?
- SAS' Role in South Gate
- What is PACE-EH?
- PACE-EH in South Gate
- Lessons Learned
- Future of PACE-EH in CA
- Summary



CDPH and SAS



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Role of the Site Assessment Section

**Cooperative Agreement between CDPH and ATSDR*:
Increase CDPH's capacity to respond to Environmental Health Concerns**



*ATSDR: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry



Why this Stakeholder Roundtable?

Roundtable Goals

- Network
- Share
- Ask
- Understand
- Apply

Resources, Proceedings, Contacts



SAS' Role in South Gate

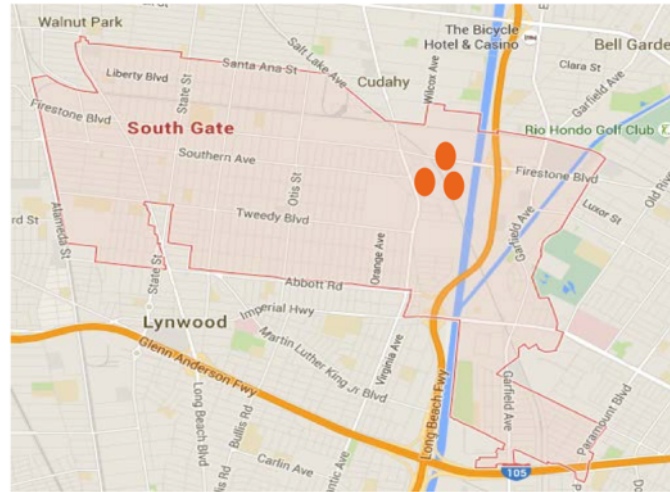


Environmental Justice Concerns:

- 3 Superfund Sites
- I-710 corridor
- 21% below poverty
- 95% Hispanic Origin

Community concern:

**What about the other
Environmental Health
concerns in South Gate?**



What is PACE-EH?



PACE-EH Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health

Developed by CDC and NACCHO*

To engage and empower communities to determine and prioritize the environmental health stressors in their neighborhoods and develop an action plan

CEHAT: Community Environmental Health Assessment Team

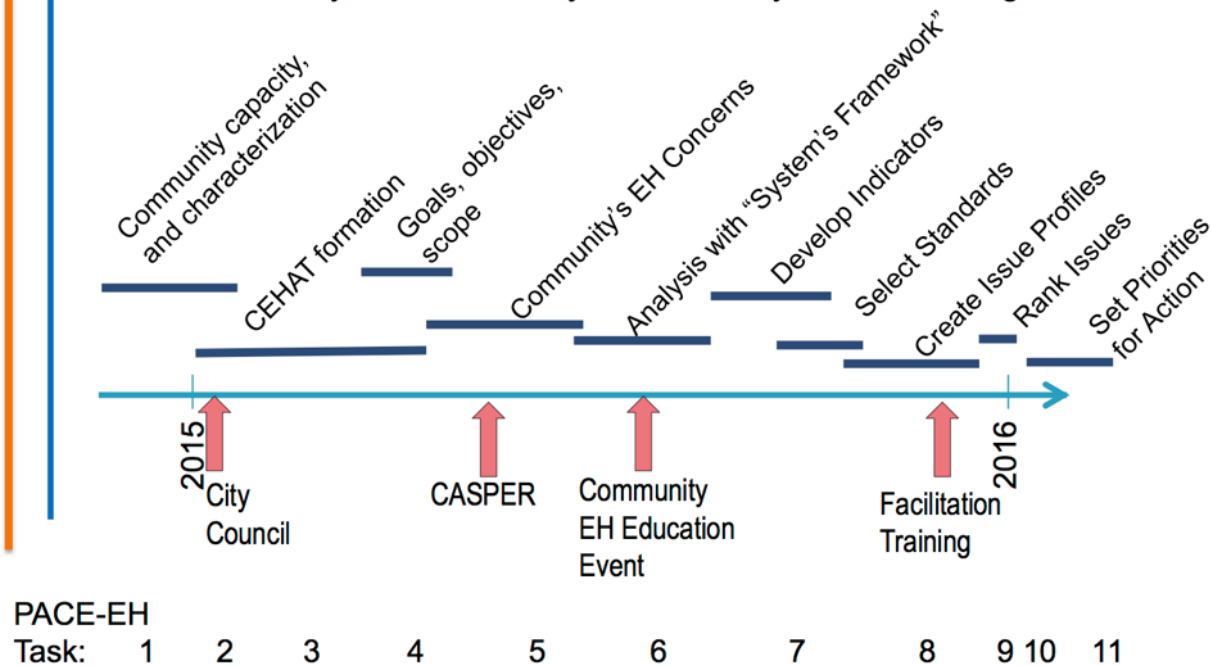
- Core of PACE-EH
- Community stakeholders: community members, public agencies (City of South Gate, USEPA, LA County DPH), business representatives, and faith and advocacy groups



*NACCHO: National Association of County and City Health Officials

PACE-EH in South Gate

January 2015 – February 2016: monthly CEHAT meetings



CASPER – Top Six EH Concerns

Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response



South Gate CASPER Team

- Public Safety
- Graffiti
- Lack of programs to save water
- Lack of hospital in South Gate
- Polluted land
- Outdoor air quality

1st CASPER - as part of PHA
- as part of PACE-EH
- in Los Angeles

Lessons Learned

- Needs an organization that commits to facilitate PACE-EH (resources: staff time and travel)
- The community sets their EH priorities (paradigm shift?)
- Strong support from at least one stakeholder at start
- CEHAT should reflect community and stakeholders
- Community Liaisons are wonderful!
- Draw on skills and knowledge of CEHAT members and partners
- Food and water are good for you!
- Builds long-term effective relationships with all stakeholders
- Skilled facilitation and transition to effective independence



The Future of PACE-EH in California

Goal: More communities in CA implementing PACE-EH

How to do it in your community?

- **Read PACE-EH protocol**
- **Local PH agency**
- **Non-profit hospitals have to do community health assessments**
- **Local PH agencies that seek accreditation requires a community health assessment**
- **Other: advocacy group; local, state or federal agency**



Summary



Firsts:

- **1st PACE-EH in California**
- **1st PACE-EH in conjunction with a PHA**

Proof of concept:

PACE-EH effectively engaged the community to identify and address their EH concerns

Paradigm shift to putting the community's concerns first!

Which community will be next?

Thank you !



Appendix C: Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health

Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health



Methodology

- Task 1: Determine community capacity
- Task 2: Define and characterize the community
- Task 3: Assemble a community-based environmental health assessment team
- Task 4: Define the goals, objectives, and scope of the assessment
- Task 5: Generate a list of community-specific environmental health issues
- Task 6: Analyze the issue with a systems framework
- Task 7: Develop locally appropriate indicators
- Task 8: Select standards against which local status can be compared
- Task 9: Create issue profiles
- Task 10: Rank the issues
- Task 11: Set priorities for action
- Task 12: Develop an action plan
- Task 13: Evaluate progress and plan for the future

CEHAT

Community Environmental Health Assessment Team



Monthly Meetings



Community Survey



Top 5 Concerns



- ☐ PUBLIC SAFETY (DUE TO CRIME)
- ☐ GRAFFITI
- ☐ LACK OF PROGRAMS TO SAVE WATER
- ☐ LACK OF HOSPITALS
- ☐ POLLUTED LAND (FOR EXAMPLE: ILLEGAL DUMPING AND TRASH ON



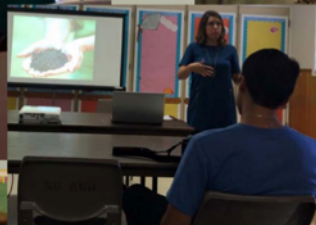
South Gate CEHAT Community Event on Environmental Health



Agency Participation



EJ and Toxic Exposure Workshops



Superfund Site Tour - EPA



Community Outreach!



What's Next?!



Mission Statement

“To contribute to make a South Gate that is beautiful, safe, educated, represented, healthy, sustainable, prosperous, clean, and united.”

Appendix F: Feedback

STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE 2016 EVALUATION FORM



Thank you for participating in the roundtable. Your input will help us determine the benefits and possible improvements to our efforts to convene stakeholders to discuss environmental public health concerns and guide our planning process.

Your responses are confidential; please don't write your name on the form.

Please mark your responses with an X

	Very Effective	Somewhat Effective	Somewhat Ineffective	Not at all Effective	No Opinion
1. How <u>effective</u> was the roundtable at describing the PACE EH process?					
3. How <u>effective</u> was the roundtable at providing the testimony and the advice of a community organizer?					
4. How <u>effective</u> was the roundtable at providing an opportunity to dialogue about citizen science?					

Did the roundtable provide an opportunity to express your opinions and ideas effectively? Why or why not?

Did you gain professional or personal knowledge or other value from your participation in the roundtable today?

What do you see as the most important results or outcomes of the roundtable? !

Please list any additional thoughts you have that were not captured by today's process. !

Optional. Which of the following categories best describes your involvement at hazardous waste sites? *(Please check one)*

☐ Community advocate/organizer

☐ Public Health Official - State

☐ Public Health Official - County

☐ Other *(please describe)* _____



Stakeholder Roundtable 2016

Feedback Evaluation

- 36 people participated in the roundtable
- 8 of the attendees were community advocates , 8 were CDPH staff, 5 were members of academia, and 15 were representatives of other government agencies
- 17 of the attendees to the Roundtable completed an evaluation

How effective was the Roundtable at describing the PACE EH process?

Total respondents: 95%

Rating	Response Percentage
Very Effective	82%
Somewhat Effective	18%
Somewhat Ineffective	
Not at all Effective	

How effective was the Roundtable at providing the testimony and the advice of a community organizer?

Total respondents: 100%

Rating	Response Percentage
Very Effective	82%
Somewhat Effective	18%
Somewhat Ineffective	
Not at all Effective	
No Opinion	

How effective was the Roundtable at providing an opportunity to dialogue about citizen science?

Total respondents: 100%

Rating	Response Percentage
Very Effective	95%
Somewhat Effective	5%
Somewhat Ineffective	
Not at all Effective	

Did the roundtable provide an opportunity to express your opinions and ideas effectively?

Total respondents: 95%

Rating	Response Percentage
Yes	100%
No	

Comments:

- "Yes, it did. It allowed for various ideas to be focused on and key techniques to not use and use with the community. Overall great conversational discussions."
- "Yes they did. Everyone can express their concerns."
- "Yes, reasonable amount of time for discussion."
- "Yes, very open and turn-based. Everyone listening intently!"
- "Yes, absolutely wonderful!"
- "Yes- plenty of time set aside. "Round" table configuration supported discussion."



Stakeholder Roundtable 2016

Feedback Evaluation

- "I felt everyone respected the opinions of others. There was a deep connection with the work others are doing."
- "Yes, the atmosphere at the roundtable was very open and welcoming of sharing ideas; the facilitators of the discussions did a great job of encouraging meaningful discussion."
- "Yes, there were good opportunities to speak- though I did think the event could get much bigger and – maintain- that."
- "Atmosphere was very conducive for sharing and learning from another. Format and execution of meeting well done."
- "Yes! It was a great opportunity to hear and be heard."
- "Yes, great way to connect and elicit responses."
- "Yes. Lots of time to talk."
- "Yes, I learned quite a bit and shared some."
- "Yes it felt like participation was genuinely encouraged."
- "This was a neutral scenario to share experiences and learn through other initiatives. "

Did you gain professional or personal knowledge or other value from your participation in the roundtable today?

Total respondents: 100%

Rating	Response Percentage
Yes	100%
Undecided	

Comments:

- "Yes, I learned more about the form community end details that I didn't know related to housing."
- "Yes I did."
- "Yes, learned at PACE EH and organizing efforts."
- "Definitely! Learned more of the different agencies and of others methods of community outreach."
- "I feel inspired and motivated."
- "I enjoyed and found valuable the ideas of scientists. As a community organizer this is important to take back home."
- "Yes, I especially enjoyed hearing the City of South Gate's perspective about the PACE EH process. I also really enjoyed hearing Jesus Lopez's fascinating journey into activism."
- "For sure. I was impressed by the frank discussion and openness."
- "Yes, sharing on subject matter had direct connection with my work and enhanced the understanding of the context in which my work occurs."
- "I'm not a scientist and hearing everything from your perspective makes things easier to understand."
- "Yes, got a lot of resourceful information and very informative."
- "Professionally lots of new contacts. I had never heard an example of the PACE EH program in action. Excellent presentation."
- "Yes. I have new ideas and connections."
- "Always. The roundtable is an opportunity to improve my point of view of the world in different ways. It gave me a complex and diverse perspective about environmental issues."
- "Yes. I learned techniques for uplifting personal stories and knowledge and gained contacts to follow up to learn more."



Stakeholder Roundtable 2016

Feedback Evaluation

What do you see as the most important results or outcomes of the roundtable?

- "Seeing the changes and techniques implemented within the EJ communities. Hearing all the techniques that have been successfully implemented and terminology that is been used."
- "More sharing ways to work with our organization and community"
- "Reinforced value of looking at community health and not just narrow mandates."
- "It was eye-opening to agencies how community groups work."
- "Networking. Fell a bit better prepared to deal with what comes ahead."
- "The transformative power of listening to and including community members."
- "Working to do something with the data and take citizen science to a higher level is what I walk away with. Glad this was brought up."
- "Meeting other stakeholders and having an open and neutral forum to share ideas."
- "Getting to hear the experience of others and expand understanding of new activities and research methods."
- "Every one of us has a very important role in our communities we need to continue to work together."
- "All attendees experience the same issues, obstacles. Met several people that can help in our fight for social environmental justice."
- "Having so many different "players" in the room and learning more about the way the government is becoming more engaged around EH issues."
- "Finding common interests with others. Want to collaborate with others."
- "I got to know people better and was informed about possible future collaboration."
- "To establish a dialogue among academia, science, community and government agencies. It is a great effort that needs to be maintained over the years."
- "Interaction around specific topics."
- "I think it was super valuable to have attendees hear directly from community members and the city manager of South Gate really proved the point."

Please list any additional thoughts you have that were not captured by today's process:

- "I appreciate every person teaching us everything they do in their community."
- "I was very satisfied with today."
- "I feel a bit torned by the idea of listening to the community and address "my institutional mandates" in a timely manner."
- "Might have been nice to try to define citizen science a little more and put it in context of other community engagement research efforts."
- "Very well done roundtable."
- "Thank you! Great conversations."
- "Additional such session so that we pool resources e.g. creating a clearinghouse for collected data for existing environmental data (hard to find these databases)."
- "Politics in research and science."