

Water Governance

1. Water agencies should continue conducting community events or meetings with language interpretation when presenting the public with findings of harmful toxins in water supplies and reservoirs. To further decrease the language barrier, multiple dates with different leading languages may be more inviting to folks vs having live interpretation. Live interpretation sometimes limits engagement and slows down the natural development of conversations.
2. Agencies should continue to use the beginning of the meeting to welcome public comments in multiple avenues of communication (e.g. in-person, virtually, and via email.) Also to increase participation, meetings should be held in community spaces, such as schools, libraries, and community centers.
3. Local agencies should continue to provide meeting interpretation in languages common in the community and consider separate meetings when appropriate to aid engagement. Meetings should also include information pertaining to findings on harmful toxins, health risks, and clean-up process and progress.
4. Water agencies and the city should notify the general public of upcoming clean ups with expected delay time line via social media, postcards, street signs, etc. This includes notifications 3 months prior to new projects and monthly notifications should update the public on industrial polluters related to ongoing cleanup projects. Notification efforts should include flyers, canvassing hours with infographics, and outreach efforts to neighborhood associations and community organizations prioritizing Disadvantaged Communities (DAC's).
5. When a clean-up is in progress, water agencies should conduct regularly scheduled meetings in an accessible and transparent manner. Work around working class schedules, for example, prioritizing evening or virtual meetings.
6. Drafts of findings should be released at least a seven (7) days prior to meetings in order to better prepare community members for commentary during the meetings. We urge water agencies to explore ways to ensure initial, supplementary, and ongoing water contamination clean-up costs will not be charged to low income/BIPOC communities via increased utility bills or other expenses.
7. Brownfield development - We urge agencies set a policy ensuring notification of ongoing cleanup efforts and ensuring low-income communities within a 1 mile radius of a polluted development site will not be charged with the contamination costs accrued by the prior occupant who vacated the parcel. We also urge agencies add affordable health insurance to the cost of clean up to the polluter.



Water Governance

Website Improvement Suggestions

1. Create and maintain "resources" or "How do I-" tab.
2. Include multiple language translations, including the ability to change between most common local languages in the upper area of webpages.
3. Update "Upcoming Meetings" page with relevant links and details on how to attend.
4. Add the option to submit comment prior to meetings with appropriate instructions.
5. Easily direct residents to important information.
6. Large print options for visually-impaired people/other options for other visual impairments.
7. Regular, frequent social media presence including announcements with links.
8. Provide an easily accessible Zoom link for upcoming meetings.
9. Provide links to recorded Zoom meetings.
10. Offer meeting times fitting a working class schedule.
11. Options to submit comments prior to meetings.
12. Regularly release a calendar of upcoming meetings.

Water Quality Monitoring

1. Ensure CEQA guidelines are being followed and monitored throughout construction phases aimed to deconstruct cemented infrastructures in waterways.
2. Increase water testing along creeks, rivers, etc. with algae blooms to identify what chemicals or fertilizers are causing algae blooms. If any are identified, an investigation will begin to identify a point source or non point source area zone.
3. Require Orange County Flood Control District, Santa Ana River Watershed Project Authority, and relevant public agencies to partner with local universities, schools, community groups, grassroots organizations, nonprofits, and third-party vendors to use subject-matter experts.
4. Work with professionals and experts on combating algae blooms to implement best practices and prevention methods. Increase awareness and provide education on access to algae bloom clean-up strategies from the city or respective water authority.

Santa Ana River

- Implement and increase soft bottoms to combat cemented rivers that remove wetlands and prevent groundwater infiltration and restore the health and longevity of the Santa Ana River. Ensure that this process does not lead to increased, violent displacement of unhoused people.
- Prioritize replacing concrete riverbeds with soft bottoms in areas with tall buffer zones (i.e., ARTC or Angel's Stadium)

