

1

00:00:01,520 --> 00:00:09,760

Victoria Robinson: I want to quickly go over some housekeeping rules before we get started.

2

00:00:09,760 --> 00:00:14,407

So as people continue to join, we're asking you to join by phone or computer,

3

00:00:14,431 --> 00:00:19,039

but not both to allow as much as many people as possible to join the call.

4

00:00:19,039 --> 00:00:23,748

If you do have both phone and computer, please, mute them both

5

00:00:23,772 --> 00:00:27,310

so that we're not having feedback.

6

00:00:27,334 --> 00:00:32,708

You are on mute, so we're asking folks to

enter their questions and your questions

7

00:00:32,732 --> 00:00:34,433

and comments into the Q&A pod.

8

00:00:34,457 --> 00:00:36,671

For those of you on the telephone alone

9

00:00:36,695 --> 00:00:40,122

that option is not available  
to you and we understand.

10

00:00:40,146 --> 00:00:45,360

There will be an opportunity for you to  
ask questions a little later in the call.

11

00:00:45,360 --> 00:00:47,986

If you are selected to speak  
whether you're on phone

12

00:00:48,010 --> 00:00:51,573

or on the computer during

that dialogue session,

13

00:00:51,797 --> 00:00:55,548

we ask you to limit your comment to one minute  
to allow as many individuals as possible

14

00:00:55,572 --> 00:00:59,171

to be able to ask their questions.

15

00:00:59,195 --> 00:01:01,946

This meeting is being recorded

16

00:01:01,970 --> 00:01:07,230

and a recording and a transcript will be  
made available online in the near future

17

00:01:07,254 --> 00:01:10,037

as well as copies  
of the slide deck

18

00:01:10,061 --> 00:01:14,900

and a summary of the Q&A

pod, the questions and answers

19

00:01:14,924 --> 00:01:19,759

that are written will also be made  
available and posted to our website.

20

00:01:19,759 --> 00:01:24,645

So in the interim  
I'm going to go ahead

21

00:01:24,669 --> 00:01:31,759

and turn it over to our moderator  
Matthew-- Oh I'm sorry before we do that,

22

00:01:31,759 --> 00:01:34,234

please note that we  
are doing interpretation

23

00:01:34,258 --> 00:01:37,600

so Spanish language  
interpretation is available for those

24

00:01:37,600 --> 00:01:39,388

who prefer to listen to Spanish.

25

00:01:39,412 --> 00:01:42,253

How you would switch to the  
Spanish language audio channel

26

00:01:42,277 --> 00:01:45,177

is that you see that little  
globe that says interpretation

27

00:01:45,201 --> 00:01:49,439

it should be in your toolbar  
typically at the bottom of the screen,

28

00:01:49,439 --> 00:01:51,968

there is this globe,  
you click on that,

29

00:01:51,992 --> 00:01:56,479

and then you can indicate that you  
would like to go listen to the questions,

30

00:01:56,479 --> 00:02:00,560

listen to the Spanish  
language audio channel,

31

00:02:00,560 --> 00:02:07,568

and you then have an option of being able to  
listen with English in the background faint

32

00:02:07,592 --> 00:02:09,679

or just be Spanish completely only.

33

00:02:09,679 --> 00:02:13,567

Individuals can also add  
questions in Spanish to the Q&A pod

34

00:02:13,591 --> 00:02:16,065

if that's much more  
comfortable language for you,

35

00:02:16,089 --> 00:02:21,458

and we'll attempt to make sure that we can  
respond to you as well back in Spanish.

36

00:02:21,482 --> 00:02:25,597

And meeting materials will be made  
available in Spanish at a later date,

37

00:02:25,621 --> 00:02:28,640

so we do appreciate your patience.

38

00:02:28,640 --> 00:02:31,963

And now I'm going to switch  
it over to Matthew Tejada,

39

00:02:31,987 --> 00:02:35,280

the Director of EPA's  
Office Environmental Justice.

40

00:02:35,280 --> 00:02:36,608

So Matthew?

41

00:02:36,632 --> 00:02:38,651

Matthew Tejada: Thank  
you so much Victoria,

42

00:02:38,675 --> 00:02:43,180

thank you for all your work getting  
us situated and set up for this.

43

00:02:43,204 --> 00:02:46,959

Thank you to everyone  
who is joining us this afternoon,

44

00:02:46,959 --> 00:02:52,560

as Victoria said Happy New Year  
even though it's the 25th of January.

45

00:02:52,560 --> 00:02:55,763

We're very glad to be  
having folks join us again

46

00:02:55,787 --> 00:03:02,000

for these our regular EPA National  
EJ Community Engagement Calls.

47

00:03:02,000 --> 00:03:04,713



As we had mentioned  
back in 2021,

48

00:03:04,737 --> 00:03:09,920  
we will be moving these from  
a bi-weekly to a monthly basis.

49

00:03:09,920 --> 00:03:13,603  
We were hearing it was  
just a lot for a lot of folks

50

00:03:13,627 --> 00:03:16,769  
on the inside of the government  
and on the outside,

51

00:03:16,793 --> 00:03:19,158  
which is the purpose  
of all these for folks

52

00:03:19,182 --> 00:03:22,358  
and the communities to  
keep up with bi-weekly calls.

53

00:03:22,382 --> 00:03:26,403

So we're going to try these on  
a monthly basis for a little while,

54

00:03:26,427 --> 00:03:29,019

so again thank you  
so much for joining us.

55

00:03:29,043 --> 00:03:32,720

Thank you to our interpreters  
Shamura and Nestor,

56

00:03:32,720 --> 00:03:36,560

thank you so much for being with us  
again today, it's great to see you both.

57

00:03:36,560 --> 00:03:39,813

And with that we're going  
to take just a moment

58

00:03:39,837 --> 00:03:45,848

and I'm going to welcome a new member of

the Office of Environmental Justice Family,

59

00:03:45,872 --> 00:03:52,408

but not a new member to EJ overall,  
she comes from our Region 3 Office

60

00:03:52,432 --> 00:03:56,296

and has been what I call an  
EJ fellow traveler for some time,

61

00:03:56,320 --> 00:04:01,528

but is also leading efforts  
across EPA to lift up mindfulness,

62

00:04:01,552 --> 00:04:06,720

so Lena Kim would you please very much  
take us through a mindfulness moment.

63

00:04:06,720 --> 00:04:07,938

Lena Kim: Thank you, Matthew.

64

00:04:07,962 --> 00:04:10,480

Matthew can you hear me?

65

00:04:10,480 --> 00:04:11,360

Great.

66

00:04:11,360 --> 00:04:14,568

Lena Kim: Hi, everyone,  
thanks Victoria, Matthew, everyone.

67

00:04:14,592 --> 00:04:16,231

I'm so excited to be here.

68

00:04:16,255 --> 00:04:20,132

I am sitting here in land traditionally  
stewarded by the Lenni Lenape people.

69

00:04:20,156 --> 00:04:26,639

I teach mindfulness to  
volunteers who serve in hospice

70

00:04:26,639 --> 00:04:29,507

and was honored to be asked

by senior leadership at EPA

71

00:04:29,531 --> 00:04:32,800

to create a mindfulness  
program here for the agency,

72

00:04:32,800 --> 00:04:36,808

which has become just a  
beautiful offering for employees

73

00:04:36,832 --> 00:04:39,135

and we'd like to offer  
the same to our partners

74

00:04:39,159 --> 00:04:42,639

and stakeholders  
yourselves included.

75

00:04:42,639 --> 00:04:46,639

I usually start off with a little prompt  
question, and then a quick practice,

76

00:04:46,639 --> 00:04:52,400

and my prompt question for people just  
consider is, do you think anxiety is contagious?

77

00:04:52,400 --> 00:04:57,680

Do you think that one anxious person  
makes other people anxious?

78

00:04:57,680 --> 00:05:03,280

And I think all of you are probably  
nodding and physically or at least mentally.

79

00:05:03,280 --> 00:05:08,800

And as we navigate this pandemic, the times  
of anxiety feeling distracted,

80

00:05:08,800 --> 00:05:13,479

I'm doing the important work of  
advancing equity on people like yourselves,

81

00:05:13,503 --> 00:05:17,440

ourselves often suffer from  
what is called compassion fatigue,

82

00:05:17,440 --> 00:05:24,880

a powerful image that comes to mind that  
was described by Vietnamese Zen Master,

83

00:05:24,880 --> 00:05:29,120

who many of you might know named Thích  
Nhất Hạnh who passed away a few days ago.

84

00:05:29,120 --> 00:05:33,128

He was not only a Zen Master, an  
activist, a mindfulness practitioner,

85

00:05:33,152 --> 00:05:36,536

but a very close friend  
of Dr. Martin Luther King,

86

00:05:36,560 --> 00:05:40,194

another person who  
advanced equity,

87

00:05:40,218 --> 00:05:48,400

Thích Nhất Hạnh said many times in his teachings  
that calm as is anxiety is contagious.

88

00:05:48,400 --> 00:05:52,348

So knowing that he tells a story that  
at the end of the Vietnam War

89

00:05:52,372 --> 00:05:58,332

when the crowded refugee boats at the end  
of the war met up with storms or pirates

90

00:05:58,356 --> 00:06:03,199

Vietnamese people escaping from a country  
that if they stayed in they would be killed,

91

00:06:03,199 --> 00:06:05,313

many died terrible  
deaths in those boats,

92

00:06:05,337 --> 00:06:07,187

they were called boat people,

93



00:06:07,710 --> 00:06:14,160

and that dying was often fueled by the  
autopilot default mode of anxious panic,

94

00:06:14,160 --> 00:06:18,560

Thích Nhất Hạnh said "if everyone  
panicked in that boat all was lost,

95

00:06:18,560 --> 00:06:19,958

people were gonna die."

96

00:06:19,982 --> 00:06:25,840

He said if one person on the boat remained  
calm, it was enough to save everyone's life.

97

00:06:25,840 --> 00:06:29,368

It showed the way for  
everyone else to survive.

98

00:06:29,392 --> 00:06:33,796

So I'd like to offer the metaphor of how  
we are as Matthew mentioned stakeholders

99

00:06:33,820 --> 00:06:38,518

on the boat of advancing  
equity and environmental justice

100

00:06:38,542 --> 00:06:41,045

throughout this  
beautiful country of ours,

101

00:06:41,069 --> 00:06:42,450

and one way we can do that,

102

00:06:42,474 --> 00:06:47,120

even though some of us are suffering  
from what is called compassion fatigue,

103

00:06:47,120 --> 00:06:50,060

is to take some mindful  
breaths from time to time,

104

00:06:50,084 --> 00:06:56,748

give ourselves that nourishment of  
just intentionally, aka mindfully breathing,

105

00:06:56,772 --> 00:07:01,075

and social science and neuroscience  
now shows that when you breathe together

106

00:07:01,099 --> 00:07:05,199

with like-minded people,  
like all almost 300 of us here,

107

00:07:05,199 --> 00:07:08,960

we can actually become  
more calm together.

108

00:07:08,960 --> 00:07:12,291

So I'd like to offer a  
one-minute breathing exercise

109

00:07:12,315 --> 00:07:16,266

for those of you who are mindfulness  
practitioners feel free to sit in a way

110

00:07:16,290 --> 00:07:18,880

that feels both relaxed and alert.

111

00:07:18,880 --> 00:07:23,280

Maybe roll your shoulders back sit in a way that I'd like to describe as upright,

112

00:07:23,280 --> 00:07:24,251

but not uptight,

113

00:07:24,275 --> 00:07:27,753

and if you'd like to close your eyes for a minute or less

114

00:07:27,777 --> 00:07:30,260

do so if you'd like to keep your eyes open,

115

00:07:30,284 --> 00:07:35,039

please do so, studies have shown you can be mindful with eyes open or closed,

116

00:07:35,039 --> 00:07:39,448

and I'd like to just invite all of you to  
before we start this important session,

117

00:07:39,472 --> 00:07:47,094

take three of the deepest longest  
breaths you've taken yet today.

118

00:07:47,118 --> 00:07:53,759

At your own pace, knowing that as  
you take these breaths into your belly,

119

00:07:53,759 --> 00:07:57,308

you are activating what is called  
the parasympathetic nervous system

120

00:07:57,332 --> 00:08:01,280

that is your rest  
and digest system.

121

00:08:02,720 --> 00:08:08,960

And know that you're doing this with  
almost 300 other like-minded souls.

122

00:08:09,039 --> 00:08:11,427

And now I'd like to  
offer three more breaths only,

123

00:08:11,451 --> 00:08:18,319

the next one inhale through your  
nose and exhale through pursed lips,

124

00:08:18,319 --> 00:08:21,331

nice slow and steady.

125

00:08:21,355 --> 00:08:31,199

Inhale through your nose, exhale  
do pursed lips, nice slow and steady,

126

00:08:31,199 --> 00:08:35,987

and then the final one into your  
nose, exhale through purses lips,

127

00:08:36,011 --> 00:08:40,599

nice slow and steady.

128

00:08:40,880 --> 00:08:45,127

And then slowly bring yourself back to  
wherever you were to the virtual community

129

00:08:45,151 --> 00:08:51,648

and are doing that, I promise you  
has sort of prompted each of us being

130

00:08:51,672 --> 00:08:55,040

that calm person in the  
metaphor of the boat.

131

00:08:55,040 --> 00:08:59,600

So thanks Victoria, thank you  
Matthew for that introduction.

132

00:09:02,080 --> 00:09:04,399

Matthew Tejada: Thank you very much, Lena.

133

00:09:04,399 --> 00:09:09,760

So now we're going to have  
a few updates quickly from me.

134

00:09:09,760 --> 00:09:14,015

Quite a few colleagues  
are going to be joining us today

135

00:09:14,039 --> 00:09:17,244

from different programs at EPA,  
from outside of EPA.

136

00:09:17,268 --> 00:09:20,770

We have some colleagues from  
NASA who are going to be joining us,

137

00:09:20,794 --> 00:09:24,839

so I would like to get to those conversations  
and hear what they have to share,

138

00:09:24,863 --> 00:09:27,839

and then also just  
generally engage with folks,

139

00:09:27,839 --> 00:09:29,738



but just a few updates quickly.

140

00:09:29,762 --> 00:09:40,060

There continues to be an absolute ton of things happening on EJ and equity at EPA today.

141

00:09:40,160 --> 00:09:45,118

Tomorrow, we will be finalizing inside of the agency

142

00:09:45,142 --> 00:09:50,000

our next multi-year strategic plan for EPA.

143

00:09:50,000 --> 00:09:53,920

This is a plan that we talked about a couple of times back in the fall

144

00:09:53,920 --> 00:10:00,000

that has a goal dedicated to environmental justice and civil rights compliance.

145

00:10:00,000 --> 00:10:03,408

We have made a number of  
changes to that strategic plan

146

00:10:03,432 --> 00:10:06,320

based upon the feedback  
we received,

147

00:10:06,320 --> 00:10:11,507

including the feedback we received from the  
NEJAC following their January 5th meeting

148

00:10:11,531 --> 00:10:15,384

just a few weeks ago, that's  
actually one of the last pieces of work

149

00:10:15,408 --> 00:10:19,321

that we have been doing the  
last couple of weeks was working

150

00:10:19,345 --> 00:10:23,519

on those NEJAC comments  
to the strategic plan.

151

00:10:23,519 --> 00:10:27,338

So we're going to finalize that this week, pass it up to the administrator,

152

00:10:27,362 --> 00:10:30,708

and then the administrator I believe passes it up to the White House,

153

00:10:30,732 --> 00:10:33,450

and then it should, hopefully, I think in February,

154

00:10:33,474 --> 00:10:35,481

nobody hold me to this if I'm wrong,

155

00:10:35,505 --> 00:10:39,084

but I believe in February is when they all get released and published.

156

00:10:39,108 --> 00:10:45,008

So very soon folks should be  
seeing that final strategic plan

157

00:10:45,032 --> 00:10:47,611

and all of the  
commitments in it come out.

158

00:10:47,635 --> 00:10:50,096

One of the things  
to pre-sage a little bit,

159

00:10:50,120 --> 00:10:53,279

one of the things  
that we heard very clearly was

160

00:10:53,279 --> 00:10:59,760

that there were a number of  
priority issues in that strategic plan,

161

00:10:59,760 --> 00:11:04,640

and since it's a strategic plan that  
finishes at the end of the Fiscal Year 26,

162

00:11:04,640 --> 00:11:07,348

which is September 30th of 2026.

163

00:11:07,372 --> 00:11:14,800

A lot of those commitments weren't  
technically due until September 30th of 2026.

164

00:11:14,800 --> 00:11:17,517

We heard a lot of feedback  
on move those dates up,

165

00:11:17,541 --> 00:11:22,240

you need to make those  
deadlines much sooner,

166

00:11:22,240 --> 00:11:26,299

so hopefully folks will see  
very clearly that was heard

167

00:11:26,323 --> 00:11:32,508

and that a number of our signature commitments  
have been aggressively moved forward in time,

168

00:11:32,532 --> 00:11:33,176

which is good.

169

00:11:33,200 --> 00:11:37,519

That means that we have even  
more work to do in the short term,

170

00:11:37,519 --> 00:11:43,120

but really good work and making  
progress on priority issues very quickly.

171

00:11:43,120 --> 00:11:48,399

Another thing that was shared during  
that NEJAC meeting on January 5th

172

00:11:48,399 --> 00:11:52,758

was the agency's progress at  
implementing Executive Order 13985,

173

00:11:52,782 --> 00:11:56,112

that's the executive

order on racial equity.

174

00:11:56,136 --> 00:12:01,088

So as part of that, we were  
required as all agencies

175

00:12:01,112 --> 00:12:08,088

and departments were required to  
produce a plan on advancing equity

176

00:12:08,112 --> 00:12:13,839

throughout EPA's actions and  
policies and programs by January 20th.

177

00:12:13,839 --> 00:12:20,880

So we passed that action plan  
up to the White House on January 20th.

178

00:12:20,880 --> 00:12:26,996

The White House is looking at it now and is  
going to make those available very soon as well,

179

00:12:27,020 --> 00:12:30,480

kind of in the same  
manner of the strategic plans,

180

00:12:30,480 --> 00:12:32,228

we can't share them  
out, we share them up,

181

00:12:32,252 --> 00:12:35,519

and then the White House  
decides when to share them all out,

182

00:12:35,519 --> 00:12:41,279

but they have shared with us that they  
intend on making those public in early spring.

183

00:12:41,279 --> 00:12:46,320

So I'm hopeful that a lot of the things  
that we have put on paper as commitments

184

00:12:46,320 --> 00:12:53,440

to hold ourselves accountable to that really  
filter throughout everything we do at EPA,



185

00:12:53,440 --> 00:13:01,839

the science, our resources,  
policy decisions, rules, permitting,

186

00:13:04,240 --> 00:13:11,120

our annual performance plans, our budgeting,  
everything is really covered in these plans,

187

00:13:11,120 --> 00:13:15,268

which is great, because you know  
it's on paper, their commitments.

188

00:13:15,292 --> 00:13:18,560

So soon you'll see those  
commitments on paper,

189

00:13:18,560 --> 00:13:20,847

but we're not waiting for  
them to be shared publicly,

190

00:13:20,871 --> 00:13:25,048

we are starting to take action on  
across the board on those things.

191

00:13:25,072 --> 00:13:30,320

So you might start to hear us mentioning  
different initiatives or things that we're doing

192

00:13:31,200 --> 00:13:35,040

without being able to  
cite to a specific plan yet,

193

00:13:35,040 --> 00:13:37,608

it doesn't mean that those  
things have not made it into a plan,

194

00:13:37,632 --> 00:13:41,390

it's just until the plans are made  
public we're not going to cite to them,

195

00:13:41,414 --> 00:13:47,061

but please, know that nobody at  
EPA is waiting for a plan to be published

196

00:13:47,085 --> 00:13:48,959

to get going on stuff.

197

00:13:48,959 --> 00:13:50,436

We're going on a lot of things

198

00:13:50,460 --> 00:13:54,480

and some of those like our lead  
plan you're going to hear about today.

199

00:13:54,480 --> 00:14:03,030

Of course, one of the big drivers at  
present at EPA is planning around both Justice40,

200

00:14:03,054 --> 00:14:09,519

which was part of Executive  
Order 14008 and what is a huge driver,

201

00:14:09,519 --> 00:14:13,308

but is absolutely  
intertwining with Justice40

202

00:14:13,332 --> 00:14:22,079

is the implementation of the infrastructure  
resources appropriated by congress late last fall.

203

00:14:22,079 --> 00:14:27,199

So a number of programs around EPA  
received a historic investment,

204

00:14:27,199 --> 00:14:33,360

things like drinking water, waste water,  
cleaning up contaminated sites,

205

00:14:33,360 --> 00:14:37,519

getting old diesel engines  
out of communities,

206

00:14:37,519 --> 00:14:43,019

those all received what I think, I wish they  
weren't once in a generation investments,

207

00:14:43,043 --> 00:14:47,199

but they are, because they're really

big and they just don't happen very often.

208

00:14:47,199 --> 00:14:53,445

So we are working very, very  
constantly, we're working all day long,

209

00:14:53,469 --> 00:14:57,440

and Lena's actually that's part  
of the reason she joined us in OEJ.

210

00:14:57,440 --> 00:15:00,989

Lena who just gave us the mindful  
minute we brought her into OEJ

211

00:15:01,013 --> 00:15:04,868

just to help us coordinate, working  
on those infrastructure programs

212

00:15:04,892 --> 00:15:09,440

engaging with our colleagues, engaging  
with their colleagues out in the region

213

00:15:09,440 --> 00:15:12,399

coming up with an  
engagement plan overall,

214

00:15:12,399 --> 00:15:17,279

which again, we've been using  
these calls to engage on Justice40

215

00:15:17,279 --> 00:15:19,468

going forward, we'll  
probably use these

216

00:15:19,492 --> 00:15:22,746

and other channels to make  
sure we're engaging on our thinking

217

00:15:22,770 --> 00:15:24,792

around those  
infrastructure programs,

218

00:15:24,816 --> 00:15:30,000

what it means for Justice40 to try to  
make those things very transparent

219

00:15:30,000 --> 00:15:36,240

and very accountable to the sorts of things  
that folks that you all at the community space

220

00:15:36,240 --> 00:15:42,277

want and demand and need to see happen  
through the implementation of those resources,

221

00:15:42,301 --> 00:15:48,208

and the implementation of those resources  
as we implement the Justice40 initiative.

222

00:15:48,232 --> 00:15:53,120

So that is all a huge  
area of focus for us right now,

223

00:15:53,120 --> 00:15:59,040

and then also, of course we're waiting for  
more resources just for environmental justice.

224

00:15:59,040 --> 00:16:01,341

We haven't received  
any of those yet.

225

00:16:01,365 --> 00:16:05,268

Environmental justice, the program  
specifically did not receive anything

226

00:16:05,292 --> 00:16:09,779

in the infrastructure bill that was  
for existing infrastructure programs.

227

00:16:10,079 --> 00:16:14,788

So we're still waiting to see what  
happens in a revised Build Back Better,

228

00:16:14,812 --> 00:16:19,360

if that's what it is so called,  
once it gets revised,

229

00:16:19,360 --> 00:16:24,480

and then following whatever happens with  
Build Back Better with the fiscal year 22 budget.



230

00:16:24,480 --> 00:16:28,308

We of course are still on a continuing  
resolution across all the federal government

231

00:16:28,332 --> 00:16:30,240

we don't have an  
actual budget.

232

00:16:30,240 --> 00:16:32,967

That continuing resolution  
runs out in mid-February,

233

00:16:32,991 --> 00:16:36,016

I think it's like the 18th  
to the 12th or something.

234

00:16:36,040 --> 00:16:39,538

So until we get that, we're  
not exactly treading water,

235

00:16:39,562 --> 00:16:43,387

we're working with our programs on

a lot of the resources they've received,

236

00:16:43,411 --> 00:16:48,227

but the EJ program itself has not received  
resources to stand up a new grant program

237

00:16:48,251 --> 00:16:51,087

and technical assistance  
capacity building centers

238

00:16:51,111 --> 00:16:54,000

and all those things  
that many of us have been talking about

239

00:16:54,000 --> 00:16:57,467

in these calls and other conversations,  
none of that has happened yet.

240

00:16:57,491 --> 00:17:03,440

So we're very much focused right  
now on those, the details of those plans

241

00:17:03,440 --> 00:17:09,354

and then on the details of how we're  
implementing the infrastructure programs

242

00:17:09,378 --> 00:17:12,880

that we received the  
money for back in the fall.

243

00:17:12,880 --> 00:17:17,785

Victoria, I think that is where I'm going  
to leave it for the leadership updates,

244

00:17:17,809 --> 00:17:23,599

and I believe now we're going  
to turn to actually teeing up

245

00:17:23,599 --> 00:17:27,839

some of our colleagues to share some  
more specific information upon or about

246

00:17:27,839 --> 00:17:34,799

which we'd like to hear some engagement  
throughout the couple of hours we have today.

247

00:17:36,559 --> 00:17:38,123

And is Steven first.

248

00:17:38,147 --> 00:17:39,499

Hi Steven.

249

00:17:39,523 --> 00:17:43,669

Steven Foster: I think actually my colleague

Ken will probably walk through,

250

00:17:43,693 --> 00:17:44,154

but let me introduce myself.

251

00:17:44,177 --> 00:17:48,472

My name is Steven Foster, I'm an EPA's

Office of Land and Emergency Management.

252

00:17:48,496 --> 00:17:51,997

And myself and Ken Davidson

who will pop on here in a moment,

253

00:17:52,021 --> 00:17:56,559

are here to talk to you about our  
Draft Strategy to Reduce Lead Exposures

254

00:17:56,559 --> 00:17:58,799

and Disparities in US Communities.

255

00:17:58,799 --> 00:18:00,371

Ken are you available?

256

00:18:00,395 --> 00:18:01,240

Yes, he's on.

257

00:18:01,264 --> 00:18:02,069

Kenneth Davidson: Yes, yeah.

258

00:18:02,093 --> 00:18:03,331

Matthew Tejada: All  
right, take away y'all.

259

00:18:03,355 --> 00:18:11,372

Kenneth Davidson: Thanks Steven and thank you  
to all of the participants on today's call,

260

00:18:11,396 --> 00:18:15,748

and to the organizers  
for inviting us today

261

00:18:15,772 --> 00:18:19,378

to announce the upcoming  
public listening sessions

262

00:18:19,402 --> 00:18:24,400

that are associated with EPA's  
Draft Strategy to Reduce Lead Exposures

263

00:18:24,400 --> 00:18:27,440

and Disparities in US Communities.

264

00:18:27,440 --> 00:18:30,559

And the next slide, please.

265

00:18:31,039 --> 00:18:35,779

On October 28th of last year,  
EPA released its draft strategy

266

00:18:35,803 --> 00:18:39,955  
to reduce lead exposures and  
disparities in US communities,

267

00:18:39,978 --> 00:18:43,808  
what we refer to as  
shorthand as our lead strategy.

268

00:18:43,832 --> 00:18:45,524  
After the announcement,

269

00:18:45,548 --> 00:18:51,689  
we did do some updates when the  
bipartisan infrastructure law was finalized

270

00:18:51,713 --> 00:18:59,440  
and that extended our comment period  
on the draft strategy out to March 16th, 2022.

271

00:18:59,440 --> 00:19:02,907

So today we wanted to  
announce that we're hosting

272

00:19:02,931 --> 00:19:08,341

a series of virtual public comment sessions  
in each of our 10 regional office areas

273

00:19:08,365 --> 00:19:12,428

and these will occur through  
February into early March,

274

00:19:12,452 --> 00:19:17,575

and these sessions will be meant to be an  
opportunity for the public to provide verbal input

275

00:19:17,599 --> 00:19:19,678

on the draft led  
strategy to EPA,

276

00:19:19,702 --> 00:19:24,137

and we'll also be providing information  
on how to submit written comments



277

00:19:24,161 --> 00:19:28,240

to the docket that is  
accompanying the strategy.

278

00:19:28,240 --> 00:19:29,593

In the overview,

279

00:19:29,617 --> 00:19:35,200

we wanted to provide the link where you can  
find more information on the lead strategy,

280

00:19:35,200 --> 00:19:39,200

as well as links to each of  
the regional listening sessions,

281

00:19:39,200 --> 00:19:42,218

and those can be found  
here, we'll come back,

282

00:19:42,242 --> 00:19:46,640

we'll present this link again

at the end of the presentation.

283

00:19:46,640 --> 00:19:52,400

But let me give you a little bit more  
information on the draft strategy itself.

284

00:19:52,400 --> 00:19:55,280

Next slide, please.

285

00:19:55,520 --> 00:20:01,247

The draft strategies laying out EPA's  
as well as a whole government approach

286

00:20:01,271 --> 00:20:03,840

to strengthening public  
health protections,

287

00:20:03,840 --> 00:20:08,388

addressing legacy lead contaminations in the  
communities that have the greatest exposures

288

00:20:08,412 --> 00:20:11,520

and to promote  
environmental justice.

289

00:20:11,520 --> 00:20:17,187

And we've taken a number, the  
four goals that were first laid out

290

00:20:17,211 --> 00:20:19,693

in the federal lead action plan,

291

00:20:19,717 --> 00:20:24,000

and applied them and  
extended them to the EPA.

292

00:20:24,400 --> 00:20:27,507

So that we can commit to  
various actions to address problems

293

00:20:27,531 --> 00:20:31,039

that contribute to  
lead exposures in communities,

294

00:20:31,039 --> 00:20:36,640

and those four goals are reducing  
community exposures to lead sources

295

00:20:36,640 --> 00:20:41,039

identifying lead-exposed communities  
and improve their health outcomes,

296

00:20:41,039 --> 00:20:44,208

to communicate more effectively  
with stakeholders and to support

297

00:20:44,232 --> 00:20:49,919

and conduct the critical research that's needed  
to inform efforts to reduce lead exposures

298

00:20:49,919 --> 00:20:52,559

and related health risks.

299

00:20:52,559 --> 00:20:55,120

Next slide.

300

00:20:55,520 --> 00:21:04,061

And our leadership within EPA, the Deputy  
Regional Administrator Deborah Jordan,

301

00:21:04,085 --> 00:21:08,628

as well as Carlton Waterhouse, the Deputy  
Assistant Administrator of the Office of Land

302

00:21:08,652 --> 00:21:10,880

and Emergency Management.

303

00:21:10,880 --> 00:21:17,548

We're working with them to get the draft  
strategy to a final strategy

304

00:21:17,572 --> 00:21:24,468

because of the importance of a coordinated  
EPA and whole government approach

305

00:21:24,492 --> 00:21:28,431

to addressing lead because ongoing exposures  
to lead in the environment

306

00:21:28,455 --> 00:21:32,960

continues to present a health risk to  
too many people nationwide.

307

00:21:32,960 --> 00:21:36,640

We know that very low levels of lead in  
children's blood have been linked

308

00:21:36,640 --> 00:21:41,919

on adverse effects on intellect,  
concentration, and academic achievement.

309

00:21:41,919 --> 00:21:46,997

And while we continue to work to make  
substantial progress in reducing lead exposure,

310

00:21:47,021 --> 00:21:53,679

we know that significant disparities remain  
along racial, ethnic, and socio-economic lines.

311

00:21:53,679 --> 00:21:59,908

So we're working to develop the strategy

to focus on eliminating these disparities

312

00:21:59,932 --> 00:22:03,200

by taking targeted actions to  
prevent childhood exposures

313

00:22:03,200 --> 00:22:06,067

that could lead to lifelong health  
effects and barriers to social

314

00:22:06,091 --> 00:22:09,360

and economic well-being.

315

00:22:09,360 --> 00:22:12,919

Next slide, please.

316

00:22:14,480 --> 00:22:17,002

We're announcing  
today's listening session

317

00:22:17,026 --> 00:22:20,144

and have committed to 10

regional listening sessions

318

00:22:20,168 --> 00:22:24,428

because this solicitation and  
collection of public comments

319

00:22:24,452 --> 00:22:28,841

is going to be extremely helpful in getting  
us from a draft strategy to a final strategy

320

00:22:28,865 --> 00:22:30,698

that we can implement.

321

00:22:30,722 --> 00:22:36,691

Your public comments are going to help us develop  
a final lead strategy to reflect the input

322

00:22:36,715 --> 00:22:40,960

and priorities of the people  
who were intending to benefit.

323

00:22:40,960 --> 00:22:45,028



We're asking folks who will participate  
in the public listening sessions

324

00:22:45,052 --> 00:22:48,240

or also submit their  
written comments to the docket

325

00:22:48,240 --> 00:22:53,039

to describe in their own words what actions  
will help address lead in their communities.

326

00:22:53,039 --> 00:22:54,868

And during the public  
listening sessions,

327

00:22:54,892 --> 00:22:57,329

and in your written  
comments, it will be most helpful

328

00:22:57,353 --> 00:23:04,799

if people can provide specific suggestions  
on how the draft lead strategy can be improved.

329

00:23:04,799 --> 00:23:08,360

Next slide, please.

330

00:23:08,960 --> 00:23:11,948

We'll be conducting these  
regional listening sessions

331

00:23:11,972 --> 00:23:16,630

again as I said throughout the month  
of February and the beginning of March

332

00:23:16,654 --> 00:23:20,066

we'll be having two a  
week beginning February 8th

333

00:23:20,090 --> 00:23:23,360

with a kickoff listening  
session in Region 10,

334

00:23:23,360 --> 00:23:26,288

and then we'll have a listening  
session in each of the regions after that

335

00:23:26,312 --> 00:23:33,280

at 6:00 pm in the local time  
to the regional headquarters.

336

00:23:33,280 --> 00:23:37,240

And next slide, please.

337

00:23:38,400 --> 00:23:43,224

Here's the link to where you  
can find the draft lead strategy,

338

00:23:43,248 --> 00:23:48,465

the website that accompanies it  
with all of the background information,

339

00:23:48,489 --> 00:23:53,770

as well as links to each of  
the regional listening sessions

340

00:23:53,794 --> 00:23:57,200

we're doing the registration by Zoom.

341

00:23:57,200 --> 00:24:02,447

And at the time that you register-- so  
registration will be required to attend

342

00:24:02,471 --> 00:24:05,200

and at the time of registration,

343

00:24:05,200 --> 00:24:11,279

the public will be able to sign up for speaking  
slots that will be 3 minutes in length.

344

00:24:11,279 --> 00:24:14,162

Interpretation and disability  
access accommodations

345

00:24:14,186 --> 00:24:17,574

will be provided, we'll be  
recording the sessions,

346

00:24:17,598 --> 00:24:21,840

we will also be transcribing

the sessions for submission

347

00:24:21,840 --> 00:24:24,880

to the docket that is  
accompanying the strategy

348

00:24:24,880 --> 00:24:26,799

where we'll be collecting the comments,

349

00:24:26,799 --> 00:24:33,655

and then reviewing them and  
utilizing all of this public input

350

00:24:33,679 --> 00:24:36,908

to help us move the draft  
strategy to a final strategy,

351

00:24:36,932 --> 00:24:41,568

so your public input will  
be invaluable to this effort

352

00:24:41,592 --> 00:24:45,208

and we thank you again for  
letting us announce today's session,

353

00:24:45,232 --> 00:24:49,679

announce the sessions of  
during your call today.

354

00:24:54,720 --> 00:24:55,857

Victoria Robinson: Hi, this is Victoria.

355

00:24:55,881 --> 00:25:01,760

This will be an opportune time or if there  
are any questions Christina in the Q&A pod

356

00:25:01,760 --> 00:25:06,428

that are related to these listening  
sessions or the lead strategy

357

00:25:06,452 --> 00:25:13,480

to read out a couple of those questions  
before we move on to the next presentation.

358

00:25:14,240 --> 00:25:15,958

Christina Motilal: Specific at this moment,

359

00:25:15,982 --> 00:25:18,648

we did get a few questions  
in asking about the slides

360

00:25:18,772 --> 00:25:21,236

and making sure  
they'll be available.

361

00:25:21,260 --> 00:25:26,760

We are going to make all the slides  
and the links available on our web page.

362

00:25:26,784 --> 00:25:31,904

I have provided that webpage to  
a couple of the answers a few times

363

00:25:31,928 --> 00:25:33,975

so the links will  
be available there,

364

00:25:33,999 --> 00:25:42,000

and it will be going up on our website  
very shortly after the presentation.

365

00:25:42,000 --> 00:25:49,919

Other than that, I don't see anything  
that I had flagged at this moment.

366

00:25:49,919 --> 00:25:50,944

Steven Foster: Christina, this is Steven.

367

00:25:50,968 --> 00:25:53,597

I'll just interject, I know that  
this web link is a little long,

368

00:25:53,621 --> 00:25:57,430

but if you do EPA.gov/lead/  
or just do a search on EPA lead,

369

00:25:57,454 --> 00:25:59,812

you should get to the  
home page for lead



370

00:25:59,836 --> 00:26:03,948

and you'll see this strategy has  
a prominent place on that page

371

00:26:03,972 --> 00:26:06,094

where you can find  
the links to register.

372

00:26:06,118 --> 00:26:08,102

So we appreciate  
everyone's time today,

373

00:26:08,126 --> 00:26:14,159

and we hope that people will come in and join  
the listening sessions in the month of February.

374

00:26:17,919 --> 00:26:19,122

Victoria Robinson: Thank you very much, Steven.

375

00:26:19,146 --> 00:26:20,915

I'm going to move on

to the next presentation,

376

00:26:20,939 --> 00:26:23,120

and for those of you

if you have questions,

377

00:26:23,120 --> 00:26:25,508

please, still even if we're

on a different presentation,

378

00:26:25,532 --> 00:26:28,799

you can still post

questions in the Q&A pod,

379

00:26:28,799 --> 00:26:32,339

which we do have an opportunity after

our presentations for a listening session

380

00:26:32,363 --> 00:26:33,535

and dialogue.

381

00:26:33,559 --> 00:26:38,360

Thank you, I'm going to go  
ahead and move to the next one.

382

00:26:40,320 --> 00:26:43,091

Matthew Tejada: Yep, so next should  
be Kristen Benedict [CLEARING THROAT]

383

00:26:43,115 --> 00:26:46,965

who's going to give an  
update on-- there we go, hey Kristen.

384

00:26:46,989 --> 00:26:51,117

An update on the air quality  
monitoring grants that we just recently--

385

00:26:51,141 --> 00:26:54,753

I think we announced a month  
extension for getting those in

386

00:26:54,777 --> 00:26:56,345

and Kristen's going to  
give more information,

387

00:26:56,369 --> 00:26:58,240

thanks for joining us, Kristen.

388

00:26:58,240 --> 00:27:01,888

Kristen Benedict: Yes, thank you and  
thanks for having me with you guys today.

389

00:27:01,912 --> 00:27:05,279

I appreciate the  
opportunity to be with you,

390

00:27:05,279 --> 00:27:10,008

and let you know that  
the American Rescue Plan

391

00:27:10,032 --> 00:27:14,400

Grant Competition for air  
Pollution Monitoring in Communities,

392

00:27:14,400 --> 00:27:18,640

the biggest news I wanted to share is  
that we recently extended the deadline

393

00:27:18,640 --> 00:27:24,056

for applicants to submit

by March 25th 2022,

394

00:27:24,080 --> 00:27:29,548

so we extended the original deadline

by a month because we had heard that

395

00:27:29,572 --> 00:27:32,720

folks were hoping for more time.

396

00:27:32,720 --> 00:27:35,840

Next slide.

397

00:27:37,360 --> 00:27:41,848

I'm going to present a subset of

slides, there's actually these slides

398

00:27:41,872 --> 00:27:47,393

as well as a lot more information

is available on a website

399

00:27:47,417 --> 00:27:52,960

that I'll share with you on a  
resources page in just a few slides.

400

00:27:52,960 --> 00:27:57,147

We did an informational webinar  
about the open grant competition

401

00:27:57,171 --> 00:28:02,207

just a few weeks back, that  
recording is posted online.

402

00:28:02,231 --> 00:28:05,520

We received a  
number of questions,

403

00:28:05,520 --> 00:28:11,667

we recently updated our questions  
and answer document on our website

404

00:28:11,691 --> 00:28:15,991

where potential applicants can  
find answers to many questions

405

00:28:16,015 --> 00:28:19,291

that have been  
asked of the agency.

406

00:28:19,315 --> 00:28:24,720

So if you aren't familiar with those resources  
I'll provide you with links at the end

407

00:28:24,720 --> 00:28:28,308

and I invite you to  
view the webinars

408

00:28:28,332 --> 00:28:33,679

and view the Q&A on this  
funding opportunity.

409

00:28:33,679 --> 00:28:37,027

So a quick summary for those  
of you who may not be familiar

410

00:28:37,051 --> 00:28:41,679

with this grant  
competition, funding is available

411

00:28:41,679 --> 00:28:47,316

for eligible entities to conduct ambient air  
monitoring of pollutants of greatest concern

412

00:28:47,340 --> 00:28:52,960

in communities with environmental  
health outcome disparities stemming

413

00:28:52,960 --> 00:28:56,399

from pollution in the COVID-19 pandemic.

414

00:28:56,399 --> 00:29:00,087

The goals of the competition include  
enhancing air quality monitoring

415

00:29:00,311 --> 00:29:04,159

in and near underserved  
communities across the United States,



416

00:29:04,159 --> 00:29:09,548

as well as supporting community and local efforts to monitor your own air quality

417

00:29:09,572 --> 00:29:13,180

and to promote air quality monitoring partnerships

418

00:29:13,204 --> 00:29:20,799

between communities, tribal, state local governments and other eligible entities.

419

00:29:20,799 --> 00:29:24,039

Next slide.

420

00:29:26,240 --> 00:29:35,200

So EPA will fund up to 20 million dollars total for this grant competition.

421

00:29:35,200 --> 00:29:39,840

The maximum funding

requested per application

422

00:29:39,840 --> 00:29:48,320

is sort of broken up into two bins, small  
grants will be awarded up to a 100,000 dollars,

423

00:29:48,320 --> 00:29:54,308

and large grants for projects  
that need a larger amount of funds

424

00:29:54,332 --> 00:29:59,322

anywhere from 100 to 500,000.

425

00:29:59,346 --> 00:30:07,760

And the amount requested should be consistent  
with the proposed activities or the award.

426

00:30:07,760 --> 00:30:11,077

There are two set-asides,  
so of this 20 million--

427

00:30:11,101 --> 00:30:15,528

2 million will be set aside  
for tribal governments

428

00:30:15,552 --> 00:30:21,360

and approximately 2 million will be set  
aside for community-based organizations.

429

00:30:21,360 --> 00:30:24,304

So that means applications,

430

00:30:24,328 --> 00:30:30,342

if you tag your application as  
applying for one of those two set-asides,

431

00:30:30,366 --> 00:30:38,320

those will be reviewed and ranked with the  
other applications for those set-asides.

432

00:30:38,320 --> 00:30:42,880

And EPA may increase or decrease  
the amounts and number of projects

433

00:30:42,880 --> 00:30:46,167

selected under each set-aside,

434

00:30:46,191 --> 00:30:52,640

based on a number of things including  
applications received, agency priorities,

435

00:30:52,640 --> 00:30:57,279

funding availability,  
and other considerations.

436

00:30:57,279 --> 00:30:59,840

Next slide.

437

00:31:00,080 --> 00:31:02,478

So who can apply  
for these grants?

438

00:31:02,502 --> 00:31:07,274

Applications will be accepted from the US  
states including the district of Columbia,

439

00:31:07,298 --> 00:31:11,641

local governments, US  
territories and possessions,

440

00:31:11,665 --> 00:31:16,320

Indian tribes, public or  
private non-profit organizations,

441

00:31:16,320 --> 00:31:19,519

public and private  
hospitals and laboratories.

442

00:31:19,519 --> 00:31:24,548

And note that eligible entities  
can partner with ineligible entities,

443

00:31:24,572 --> 00:31:29,567

entities for example, not listed  
here under EPA's subaward policy

444

00:31:29,591 --> 00:31:32,640

and for folks that may be  
interested in that,

445

00:31:32,640 --> 00:31:38,240

we invite you to learn more  
information at the link provided here.

446

00:31:38,240 --> 00:31:42,068

A lot more information  
on who can apply

447

00:31:42,092 --> 00:31:48,799

and a number of questions and answers  
related to what we have received so far

448

00:31:48,799 --> 00:31:51,388

are available on  
our EPA ARP website,

449

00:31:51,412 --> 00:31:56,399

which I believe is  
my next and final slide.

450

00:31:57,679 --> 00:31:58,640

Yes.

451

00:31:58,640 --> 00:32:05,919

So links to various resources the request  
for applications there's a direct link here.

452

00:32:05,919 --> 00:32:11,840

Note that applications are  
due Friday, March 25th, 2022.

453

00:32:11,840 --> 00:32:20,678

They are also on grants.gov, if you do have  
a question that is not answered in the Q&A

454

00:32:20,702 --> 00:32:25,531

and you're a potential applicant,  
other applicants would likely benefit

455

00:32:25,555 --> 00:32:30,487

from you posing the question to EPA  
and from the response that we provide,

456

00:32:30,511 --> 00:32:38,605

so we invite you, if you do have additional questions, to submit them to [airmonitoring@EPA.gov](mailto:airmonitoring@EPA.gov)

457

00:32:38,629 --> 00:32:45,270

that way we can make sure that your question is answered,

458

00:32:45,294 --> 00:32:49,118

and also posted or other applicants to see as well.

459

00:32:49,142 --> 00:32:54,340

And we are asking for those by a week in advance so that we have time to address

460

00:32:54,364 --> 00:32:59,425

and post all responses prior to the solicitation closing.

461

00:32:59,449 --> 00:33:04,240

As I mentioned at the beginning of my presentation,



462

00:33:04,240 --> 00:33:09,246

we did do an information session  
recording at the beginning of the month

463

00:33:09,270 --> 00:33:13,183

it has a full slide deck  
and a recording is available

464

00:33:13,207 --> 00:33:18,834

on the enhanced air quality monitoring  
for communities on EPA grants web page,

465

00:33:18,858 --> 00:33:23,512

as well as on the EPA  
ARP funding webpage

466

00:33:23,536 --> 00:33:29,092

where there's also an EPA 101  
grants webinar for those of you

467

00:33:29,116 --> 00:33:34,467

who may be interested in applying  
for an EPA grant for the first time,

468

00:33:34,491 --> 00:33:38,842

and just sort of need a basic  
introduction to the process.

469

00:33:38,866 --> 00:33:41,840

so we hope this  
information is helpful.

470

00:33:41,840 --> 00:33:46,328

We hope that you find additional  
time to submit your applications helpful

471

00:33:46,352 --> 00:33:50,667

and that is what I had to share  
the update I had to provide today.

472

00:33:50,691 --> 00:33:52,041

So thanks again for having me.

473

00:33:52,065 --> 00:33:54,810

Victoria Robinson: Thank you  
Kristen, this is Victoria again.

474

00:33:54,834 --> 00:34:02,320

Christina do we have any questions  
directed specifically at this program

475

00:34:02,320 --> 00:34:04,404

we read from the Q&A pod?

476

00:34:04,428 --> 00:34:05,962

Christina Motilal: None at this time.

477

00:34:05,986 --> 00:34:07,760

Victoria Robinson: All  
right, thank you very much.

478

00:34:07,784 --> 00:34:11,280

We're going to go ahead and  
move on to the next one.

479

00:34:11,280 --> 00:34:13,679

Matthew?

480

00:34:13,918 --> 00:34:17,147

Matthew Tejada: Yes, so our next colleagues will be joining us

481

00:34:17,171 --> 00:34:21,501

are from our Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

482

00:34:21,625 --> 00:34:25,614

They are one of the programs that received some of the appropriation

483

00:34:25,638 --> 00:34:30,705

through the infrastructure bill that was passed late last year.

484

00:34:30,729 --> 00:34:33,472

So I'm very happy to have Tom Tillman joining us

485

00:34:33,496 --> 00:34:36,927

to talk about the upcoming  
pollution prevention grants.

486

00:34:36,951 --> 00:34:38,239

Go ahead, Tom.

487

00:34:38,239 --> 00:34:40,800

Thomas Tillman: Yeah, thanks, Matt.

488

00:34:40,800 --> 00:34:48,639

And we are very excited,  
from a program, a grants program

489

00:34:48,639 --> 00:34:55,374

that was relatively small to now a program  
that has really become prime time

490

00:34:55,398 --> 00:34:59,280

with the Bipartisan Infrastructure  
Law, so we're very excited.

491

00:34:59,280 --> 00:35:03,839

Do you want to shift on  
to the next slide, please?

492

00:35:06,160 --> 00:35:12,228

So this grants program has been around for a  
pretty good while, it's authorized

493

00:35:12,252 --> 00:35:16,079

under the Pollution  
Prevention Act of 1990,

494

00:35:16,079 --> 00:35:22,480

and it's a STAG program, which is a  
state Tribal and Assistance Grants program

495

00:35:22,480 --> 00:35:29,040

that is designated for promoting  
source reduction or P2 pollution prevention

496

00:35:29,040 --> 00:35:34,988

assistance to businesses and it's been in

place for about for more than 30 years now.

497

00:35:35,012 --> 00:35:41,599

And the total funding has been relatively small for the range of 4.5 to 6 million

498

00:35:41,599 --> 00:35:44,720

over these last three decades.

499

00:35:44,720 --> 00:35:48,960

And the individual grant awards have also been relatively small ranging from

500

00:35:48,960 --> 00:35:52,720

20,000 to 250,000 dollars,

501

00:35:52,720 --> 00:35:56,296

but this despite these small grants,

502

00:35:56,320 --> 00:36:01,520

I think we've feel like  
we've achieved very big results.

503

00:36:01,520 --> 00:36:06,641

Just looking at a an eight  
year period from 2011 to 2019

504

00:36:06,665 --> 00:36:11,760

in terms of the results  
from these grant programs,

505

00:36:11,760 --> 00:36:16,800

we've found a 1.9 billion  
dollar savings for businesses.

506

00:36:16,800 --> 00:36:20,880

Over 700 million pounds of  
hazardous material reduced,

507

00:36:20,880 --> 00:36:25,596

and nearly 17 million metric tons  
of greenhouse gases eliminated.



508

00:36:25,620 --> 00:36:30,400

So it's a relatively small grant program, we've been achieving big results

509

00:36:30,400 --> 00:36:33,448

and now that it's a bigger program, we're excited about the potential results

510

00:36:33,472 --> 00:36:35,388

that can be achieved now.

511

00:36:35,412 --> 00:36:40,640

So shift onto the next slide, please.

512

00:36:40,640 --> 00:36:50,320

So the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law gives us an additional 100 million dollars

513

00:36:50,320 --> 00:36:53,770

authorized over 5 years, 20 million per year,

514

00:36:53,794 --> 00:37:00,473

and essentially quadrupling the size of the P2 grant program, which is very exciting.

515

00:37:00,497 --> 00:37:06,975

So we still have our ongoing separate appropriation for P2 grants,

516

00:37:06,999 --> 00:37:09,286

which is roughly 4.5 million dollars,

517

00:37:09,310 --> 00:37:11,378

so we'll still be operating that,

518

00:37:11,402 --> 00:37:16,240

but we have these additional funds under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

519

00:37:16,240 --> 00:37:23,299

So what's the same and what's different about these two grants pots of money.

520

00:37:23,323 --> 00:37:28,459

They're both competitive,  
they can only go to states tribes

521

00:37:28,583 --> 00:37:32,874

and state tribe sponsored institutions  
like colleges and universities.

522

00:37:32,898 --> 00:37:38,240

So it is important to note that  
these are competitive grants,

523

00:37:38,240 --> 00:37:42,108

and they the both sets  
of grants must be intended

524

00:37:42,132 --> 00:37:45,839

for source reduction  
assistance to businesses.

525

00:37:45,839 --> 00:37:50,268

What's different about this new pot  
of money versus the old pot of money

526

00:37:50,292 --> 00:37:57,440

that we have is there's no match requirement  
for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds

527

00:37:57,440 --> 00:38:03,368

thereby increasing access to those  
institutions that were founded very difficult

528

00:38:03,392 --> 00:38:05,346

to come up with that match.

529

00:38:05,370 --> 00:38:10,094

So I think that's  
a positive development.

530

00:38:10,118 --> 00:38:11,920

Next slide, please.

531

00:38:14,320 --> 00:38:18,388

So what's our vision  
now for the P2 grants.

532

00:38:18,412 --> 00:38:26,480

We've sort of seen a dramatic  
increase in the size of the program,

533

00:38:26,480 --> 00:38:34,079

so what we know is that we  
can't mix these two pots of money.

534

00:38:34,079 --> 00:38:39,368

So we will continue to maintain  
a separate P2 grants program

535

00:38:39,592 --> 00:38:45,340

with the existing appropriations the  
Non-Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds.

536

00:38:45,440 --> 00:38:49,815

But we're going to develop  
a really a portfolio of grants,

537

00:38:49,839 --> 00:38:56,000

and all of them will have  
a focus on environmental justice.

538

00:38:56,000 --> 00:39:02,735

And I'll sort of explain that focus on  
environmental justice in subsequent slides,

539

00:39:02,759 --> 00:39:08,320

but the focus on EJ will not only be  
to promote source reduction efforts

540

00:39:08,320 --> 00:39:12,476

among businesses in  
EJ communities.

541

00:39:12,500 --> 00:39:17,405

But also we're working on encouraging  
grant applications from tribes

542

00:39:17,429 --> 00:39:22,960

and tribal colleges and minority

serving state colleges and universities.

543

00:39:22,960 --> 00:39:29,680

We've not had a lot of success  
in the past in the three decade,

544

00:39:29,680 --> 00:39:35,008

three decades of this program's  
existence in getting applications from tribes.

545

00:39:35,032 --> 00:39:39,948

So we're certainly interested in  
getting those applications from tribes,

546

00:39:39,972 --> 00:39:48,560

we're interested in getting applications from  
state minority serving institutions as well.

547

00:39:48,560 --> 00:39:51,898

And we're also because  
we've got a big chunk of money,

548

00:39:51,922 --> 00:40:00,000

we're going to be hiring a number  
of folks in our office to develop

549

00:40:00,000 --> 00:40:02,148

and manage these grant programs.

550

00:40:02,172 --> 00:40:09,468

And we're going to, in fact, we're in the process  
of advertising several announcements now,

551

00:40:09,492 --> 00:40:13,021

reaching out to minority  
serving institutions

552

00:40:13,045 --> 00:40:17,768

in recruiting those job candidates  
for implementing this program.

553

00:40:17,792 --> 00:40:21,565

So we're excited  
about that as well.



554

00:40:21,589 --> 00:40:23,757

Next slide, please.

555

00:40:23,781 --> 00:40:26,030

So what's next?

556

00:40:26,054 --> 00:40:32,824

For FY 22 starting next  
month, probably in the next few weeks,

557

00:40:32,848 --> 00:40:36,880

we will be publishing two  
requests for applications.

558

00:40:36,880 --> 00:40:40,168

One set of grants to be funded  
under our regular appropriation,

559

00:40:40,192 --> 00:40:43,839

which is about a 4.5 million dollar program

560

00:40:43,839 --> 00:40:49,067

and the another request for applications to be funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

561

00:40:49,091 --> 00:40:54,497

and that's going to be a more substantial set of grant funding

562

00:40:54,521 --> 00:40:57,198

roughly about 14 million dollars.

563

00:40:57,222 --> 00:41:04,240

Both requests for applications will be funded-- we'll fund two-year grants.

564

00:41:04,240 --> 00:41:08,570

They will both expand the current grants program

565

00:41:08,594 --> 00:41:14,960

to support source reduction among businesses and EJ communities,

566

00:41:14,960 --> 00:41:18,488

because we're going to be  
adding an explicit evaluation criteria

567

00:41:18,512 --> 00:41:23,537

on how the grant applicant intends  
to use P2 technical assistance

568

00:41:23,561 --> 00:41:27,119

to benefit underserved communities.

569

00:41:27,119 --> 00:41:34,720

Both RFAs requests for applications  
will include a new National Emphasis Area

570

00:41:34,720 --> 00:41:38,608

to support P2 technical assistance  
among businesses in Indian country.

571

00:41:38,732 --> 00:41:44,231

That's something that we've

have struggled with in recent years

572

00:41:44,355 --> 00:41:45,734

and getting those applications.

573

00:41:45,758 --> 00:41:51,428

So we think this will certainly be able, this  
will reach out to those tribal communities

574

00:41:51,452 --> 00:41:54,960

and get applications from the tribes.

575

00:41:54,960 --> 00:42:02,340

We also are adding a new P2  
program EJ focused mapping-tool

576

00:42:02,364 --> 00:42:08,019

to help pulling together  
information across the agency

577

00:42:08,043 --> 00:42:12,337

to help applicants

identify industrial facilities

578

00:42:12,361 --> 00:42:16,480

that are in or adjacent to an  
underserved community.

579

00:42:16,480 --> 00:42:22,228

So all of this I think will be what will  
help on the environmental justice side.

580

00:42:22,252 --> 00:42:26,880

And these grant awards while  
the applications will go out next month,

581

00:42:26,880 --> 00:42:32,079

we'll receive the applications  
and we would hope to make those awards

582

00:42:32,079 --> 00:42:38,160

sometime around late  
summer or early fall.

583

00:42:38,160 --> 00:42:40,260

So next slide, please.

584

00:42:40,260 --> 00:42:51,919

So while this year, we were basically  
sort of working within the framework

585

00:42:51,943 --> 00:42:55,520

that we have for our  
pollution prevention grants,

586

00:42:55,520 --> 00:43:01,548

next year, we're intending to introduce  
two additional two-year P2 grant programs

587

00:43:01,572 --> 00:43:07,920

to focus more intensively on  
advancing environmental justice priorities.

588

00:43:07,920 --> 00:43:12,108

And these two grant programs  
are anticipated, there's two of them.

589

00:43:12,132 --> 00:43:18,560

One would be leveraging TRI and  
other agency reporting as well

590

00:43:18,560 --> 00:43:25,593

as census data to identify  
businesses in EJ communities

591

00:43:25,717 --> 00:43:30,800

and promote adoption of P2 practices  
in the sectors those facilities represent.

592

00:43:30,800 --> 00:43:33,656

So that would be one  
new grant program

593

00:43:33,680 --> 00:43:40,988

and a second grant program  
would tap into our existing work

594

00:43:41,012 --> 00:43:43,601

that we've done in environmentally

preferable purchasing

595

00:43:43,625 --> 00:43:46,560

with our safer choice program,

596

00:43:46,560 --> 00:43:52,108

and in environmentally preferable  
purchasing to leverage those tools

597

00:43:52,132 --> 00:43:56,028

to increase institutional  
and consumer access to safer

598

00:43:56,052 --> 00:43:58,821

and more sustainable products in  
environmental justice communities.

599

00:43:58,845 --> 00:44:11,967

We know that there are a lot of opportunities  
among custodial staff, service employees

600

00:44:11,991 --> 00:44:21,040



who work in institutions that are exposed  
to chemicals in their cleaning and activities

601

00:44:21,040 --> 00:44:31,119

and working with entities to improve the  
access to safer chemicals for those individuals

602

00:44:31,119 --> 00:44:33,680

would be a positive trend.

603

00:44:33,680 --> 00:44:41,848

So these two new grant programs that we are  
anticipating are our ongoing effort in FY 22

604

00:44:41,972 --> 00:44:45,922

and these two new grant  
programs in FY 23 would place--

605

00:44:45,946 --> 00:44:50,415

we feel would place the Biden  
Administration's environmental justice

606

00:44:50,439 --> 00:44:59,119

and Justice40 initiatives at the center of the  
Bipartisan Infrastructure Laws P2 grant funding.

607

00:44:59,119 --> 00:45:06,079

So we're very excited and we're  
very excited about shifting

608

00:45:06,079 --> 00:45:10,720

these two-- these grant programs  
towards environmental justice.

609

00:45:10,720 --> 00:45:13,541

So let me stop there.

610

00:45:13,565 --> 00:45:16,578

Victoria Robinson: Thank you very much.

611

00:45:16,602 --> 00:45:18,779

Christina, do we  
have some questions

612

00:45:18,803 --> 00:45:21,969

that would be posed either  
for this particular presentation

613

00:45:21,993 --> 00:45:26,079

or a more broader around grants?

614

00:45:26,079 --> 00:45:27,788

Christina Motilal: There's  
one broader around grants,

615

00:45:27,812 --> 00:45:32,663

but one question I wanted to just  
draw attention to was a question

616

00:45:32,687 --> 00:45:36,960

that was inputted into the Q&A  
pod that are what are some examples

617

00:45:36,960 --> 00:45:42,800

of the P2 source reduction projects  
funded by the BIL P2 grants.

618

00:45:42,800 --> 00:45:44,398

Daniel did respond in the chat,

619

00:45:44,422 --> 00:45:47,270

but I just wanted to

draw everyone's attention

620

00:45:47,294 --> 00:45:49,888

that there is a website

that has some case studies,

621

00:45:49,912 --> 00:45:52,126

and they're really great to

give an example of those

622

00:45:52,150 --> 00:45:55,839

so I just wanted to bring

some attention to that in the chat.

623

00:45:55,839 --> 00:45:57,165

Thomas Tillman: Absolutely yeah.

624

00:45:57,189 --> 00:45:58,249

Christina Motilal: Yep.

625

00:45:58,273 --> 00:46:02,196

And then this is a larger question  
about grants which we can either do now

626

00:46:02,220 --> 00:46:06,960

or we can do later,  
that's up to you Victoria.

627

00:46:07,359 --> 00:46:08,988

Victoria Robinson: Why don't we go  
ahead and do that now,

628

00:46:09,012 --> 00:46:12,588

because that can help if people  
have similar questions a little bit later.

629

00:46:12,612 --> 00:46:13,426

Christina Motilal: Okay, great.

630

00:46:13,450 --> 00:46:17,688

Well this is a comment, but  
we would like to respond to it.

631

00:46:17,712 --> 00:46:19,199

This is from Ms. Margaret,

632

00:46:19,223 --> 00:46:25,680

and she says the grants disbursement aren't  
developed based on cost of living for region.

633

00:46:25,680 --> 00:46:28,610

Matthew Tejada: Yes, that is from Ms.  
Margaret Commissioner Gordon.

634

00:46:28,634 --> 00:46:30,486

I'm glad to see you're with  
us Commissioner Gordon.

635

00:46:30,510 --> 00:46:34,800

I haven't talked to you just  
one-on-one in some time.

636

00:46:34,800 --> 00:46:36,792

It's time for us to catch up,

637

00:46:36,816 --> 00:46:43,588

but no, the grants are not-- the  
grant programs typically at EPA,

638

00:46:43,712 --> 00:46:47,816

and I don't think any of them  
actually do contemplate differences

639

00:46:47,840 --> 00:46:52,649

in cost of living across the  
United States since they are--

640

00:46:52,673 --> 00:47:01,599

since the competitive grants are  
determined by the grant proposals

641

00:47:01,599 --> 00:47:05,599

put to us by whoever the

eligible applicants are.

642

00:47:05,599 --> 00:47:09,399

I believe it's just straight  
up we put a cap on it,

643

00:47:09,423 --> 00:47:12,604

but we rely on the  
applicants to determine

644

00:47:12,628 --> 00:47:19,760

if there are other considerations to  
make within their project

645

00:47:19,760 --> 00:47:25,839

to account for differences in things  
like cost of living.

646

00:47:25,839 --> 00:47:28,967

I recognize though I'd never  
really thought about it in that way,

647



00:47:28,991 --> 00:47:33,456

and I recognize that [CLEARING  
THROAT] that means a grant program,

648

00:47:33,480 --> 00:47:37,191

which caps out at a quarter  
million dollars per grant

649

00:47:37,215 --> 00:47:42,262

that quarter million dollars is  
not going to go as far in Oakland

650

00:47:42,286 --> 00:47:47,520

where you are, I think you  
still are, as it would in Omaha.

651

00:47:47,520 --> 00:47:49,586

So that is I never  
thought of that.

652

00:47:49,610 --> 00:47:53,308

I don't know too many people  
at EPA have thought about that.

653

00:47:53,332 --> 00:47:57,481

So that's something we can take  
back, we are going to do a lot of work

654

00:47:57,505 --> 00:48:00,829

in the next couple of  
years on grants at EPA

655

00:48:00,853 --> 00:48:06,591

it is one of the big commitments we  
have in our Agency Equity Action plan.

656

00:48:06,615 --> 00:48:08,629

One of those plans  
I mentioned earlier,

657

00:48:08,653 --> 00:48:12,447

being passed up to the domestic  
policy council at the White House.

658

00:48:12,471 --> 00:48:15,438

So now is the time for us  
to consider those things,

659

00:48:15,462 --> 00:48:18,373

so that is an excellent  
suggestion and piece of feedback

660

00:48:18,397 --> 00:48:23,468

that we can take back into our thinking  
in terms of implementation of that.

661

00:48:23,492 --> 00:48:26,319

Tom, I don't know if you're in  
experience with P2 or any other grants,

662

00:48:26,319 --> 00:48:28,538

if you have anything you  
want to add concerning

663

00:48:28,562 --> 00:48:31,067

like cost of living  
differences across the country.

664

00:48:31,091 --> 00:48:34,106

Thomas Tillman: Yeah, we-- that is not something we have taken into account.

665

00:48:34,130 --> 00:48:38,860

I mean I can tell you that in our ongoing P2 grants program

666

00:48:38,884 --> 00:48:42,240

that we've had in operation for the last three decades,

667

00:48:42,240 --> 00:48:45,809

there is a regional allocation for those grants.

668

00:48:45,833 --> 00:48:51,106

So basically the pot of money that we have is distributed relatively equally

669

00:48:51,130 --> 00:48:56,310

among the regions,

from which they can then award grants.

670

00:48:56,334 --> 00:49:01,627

For the Bipartisan

Infrastructure Law, we're basic

671

00:49:01,651 --> 00:49:06,868

where our plan is to award those  
grants completely on a competitive process.

672

00:49:06,892 --> 00:49:12,925

So that the grants would  
go to those grand applicants

673

00:49:12,949 --> 00:49:16,800

that provide the best applications.

674

00:49:16,800 --> 00:49:24,559

And so we do not have a regional  
allocation for that set of funds.

675

00:49:24,559 --> 00:49:30,613

But I appreciate that, I certainly  
appreciate the cost of living consideration,

676

00:49:30,637 --> 00:49:36,107

and recognize that it costs  
more to do something in San Francisco

677

00:49:36,131 --> 00:49:38,312

than it does in Oklahoma city.

678

00:49:38,336 --> 00:49:43,373

So that is a very good point.

679

00:49:43,397 --> 00:49:45,959

Matthew Tejada: What  
do we have next, Christina?

680

00:49:45,983 --> 00:49:49,284

Christina Motilal: The  
next question we have is,

681

00:49:49,408 --> 00:49:54,295

can you speak to what the EPA is doing to  
improve engagement with tribal communities?

682

00:49:54,319 --> 00:49:58,275

Are any of the webinars or outreach  
being done in indigenous languages

683

00:49:58,299 --> 00:50:04,480

or use alternate platforms that are  
culturally competent to these communities?

684

00:50:04,480 --> 00:50:09,599

Matthew Tejada: Yeah, we have been  
pursuing both in terms of inclusion of

685

00:50:09,599 --> 00:50:15,760

and making sure webinars like this where  
these sorts of opportunities are open

686

00:50:15,760 --> 00:50:21,127

to of course all folks, including our  
colleagues indigenous organizations

687

00:50:21,151 --> 00:50:22,559

or in tribal governments.

688

00:50:22,559 --> 00:50:28,079

We also do specialized or more  
focused engagement on topics

689

00:50:28,079 --> 00:50:33,359

that are specifically requested of us of  
our colleagues in indigenous organizations

690

00:50:33,359 --> 00:50:35,328

and tribal governments.

691

00:50:35,352 --> 00:50:37,956

We did--in addition  
to like our whole series

692

00:50:37,980 --> 00:50:43,939

of this series that we did  
through the fall on Justice40,



693

00:50:43,963 --> 00:50:50,834

we did a special one just for indigenous organizations and tribal governments.

694

00:50:50,858 --> 00:50:53,720

I think that was right at the beginning of December

695

00:50:53,744 --> 00:50:56,319

and we actually had one of the best turnouts

696

00:50:56,319 --> 00:51:01,108

that we'd had for any of these was that focused one--

697

00:51:01,132 --> 00:51:05,914

we also have just a tribal and EJ series

698

00:51:05,938 --> 00:51:12,480

that we put on consistently

throughout the last several years

699

00:51:12,480 --> 00:51:18,121

and the topics that we speak to on those  
are really derived from our interactions

700

00:51:18,145 --> 00:51:20,747

and engagement  
with our tribal leaders

701

00:51:20,771 --> 00:51:25,280

through different forums, through  
the national tribal caucus

702

00:51:25,280 --> 00:51:27,738

that we meet with fairly regularly.

703

00:51:27,762 --> 00:51:33,440

Our regions also meet regularly with  
their regional tribal operations councils,

704

00:51:33,440 --> 00:51:39,013

and there's some other organizations  
such as the National Tribal Air Association

705

00:51:39,037 --> 00:51:42,240

that we engage with fairly constantly.

706

00:51:42,240 --> 00:51:48,079

So we really rely on kind of  
that consistent engagement and feedback

707

00:51:48,079 --> 00:51:52,160

from our colleagues and indigenous  
organizations and tribal governments

708

00:51:52,160 --> 00:51:55,323

to really inform us about  
where there is demand,

709

00:51:55,347 --> 00:51:59,888

what they would like to have  
information or engagement specifically on,

710

00:51:59,912 --> 00:52:02,282

so if there's

more on any of these topics

711

00:52:02,306 --> 00:52:06,240

that folks would like to have a

dedicated session just to really focus

712

00:52:06,240 --> 00:52:08,742

on the tribal indigenous

issues they tell us.

713

00:52:08,766 --> 00:52:12,640

One of the things that we're

really trying to navigate,

714

00:52:12,640 --> 00:52:15,987

again kind of like in going from

every two week to an every month

715

00:52:16,011 --> 00:52:19,410

is one a piece of feedback we're

hearing consistently is it's too much,

716

00:52:19,434 --> 00:52:23,119

it's too much like lay off a little bit,

717

00:52:23,119 --> 00:52:26,868

it's too often, but if there is if  
there's a demand for something

718

00:52:26,892 --> 00:52:28,971

and we haven't satisfied  
it, please let us know.

719

00:52:28,995 --> 00:52:30,845

So that we can prioritize that.

720

00:52:30,869 --> 00:52:32,720

So that we can  
get that out there,

721

00:52:32,720 --> 00:52:37,208

and then these engagements  
as we are with Spanish

722

00:52:37,232 --> 00:52:40,880

if we are informed  
that there is a desire

723

00:52:40,880 --> 00:52:46,400

or a need for interpretation into any  
language, including indigenous languages

724

00:52:46,400 --> 00:52:48,825

we work to satisfy that  
as quickly as we can.

725

00:52:48,849 --> 00:52:53,200

We actually did have that request  
for one meeting this past fall.

726

00:52:53,200 --> 00:52:56,378

We had some partners  
on the ground request

727

00:52:56,402 --> 00:52:59,900

that the meeting be  
interpreted live into Navajo.

728

00:52:59,924 --> 00:53:04,327

So we had just as we have Nestor  
and Shamura right now for Spanish.

729

00:53:04,351 --> 00:53:08,955

We had colleagues of theirs  
interpreting into Navajo for that meeting,

730

00:53:08,979 --> 00:53:11,115

It's really though  
based upon again,

731

00:53:11,139 --> 00:53:18,400

the feedback from folks who we want to engage  
with, who are desiring to engage with us

732

00:53:18,400 --> 00:53:21,680

if there is something they need such  
as a specific language interpretation

733

00:53:21,680 --> 00:53:25,816

including indigenous languages,  
we work to make sure that we do that,

734

00:53:25,840 --> 00:53:29,288

that's part of our not just  
our commitment to environmental justice,

735

00:53:29,512 --> 00:53:34,559

but part of our responsibilities and mandate  
under upholding civil rights statutes

736

00:53:34,559 --> 00:53:37,248

and also we just want to make sure  
that if folks have something to tell us,

737

00:53:37,272 --> 00:53:41,280

they can hear from us  
and we can hear from them.

738

00:53:41,280 --> 00:53:45,183

So I hope I answered



that question.

739

00:53:45,207 --> 00:53:49,192

Do we have any others, Christina?

740

00:53:49,216 --> 00:53:51,934

Christina Motilal: Not at this moment

741

00:53:51,958 --> 00:53:56,357

but I do want to mention that some of the  
resources that Matt was just listing

742

00:53:56,381 --> 00:54:00,948

including the Office of Environmental  
Justice Tribal webinar series.

743

00:54:00,972 --> 00:54:04,430

I did drop the link for  
that webpage into the chat,

744

00:54:04,454 --> 00:54:07,640

and then also that the

lead listening sessions

745

00:54:07,664 --> 00:54:13,388

that were just presented on, there  
will be a tribal session listening session,

746

00:54:13,412 --> 00:54:15,212

and I also dropped  
the web page for that

747

00:54:15,236 --> 00:54:18,728

when the date is set the registration  
information will be on there.

748

00:54:18,752 --> 00:54:22,436

And then I will also respond in  
just a second with my email address

749

00:54:22,460 --> 00:54:26,695

if there are any follow-up  
questions on tribal engagement.

750

00:54:26,719 --> 00:54:30,300

You can go ahead and send me an email and we'll make sure we get you that information.

751

00:54:30,400 --> 00:54:34,708

But I also do see that Ms.

Margaret does have her hand raised.

752

00:54:34,732 --> 00:54:40,079

So if Victoria if we could call on her I believe she has a follow-up.

753

00:54:40,079 --> 00:54:41,386

Victoria Robinson: Yes, I've gone ahead.

754

00:54:41,410 --> 00:54:44,960

You go ahead and unmute yourself Ms. Gordon.

755

00:54:44,960 --> 00:54:49,839

Margaret Gordon: Well, good afternoon it's 11: 55 here in Oprah.

756

00:54:50,880 --> 00:54:52,542

My name is Ms. Margaret Gordon.

757

00:54:52,566 --> 00:54:54,911

I'm one of the founders

and the Co-director

758

00:54:54,935 --> 00:54:58,319

of the West Oakland

Environment Indicators Project.

759

00:54:58,319 --> 00:55:08,787

If this overall webinar had been more  
including of other community groups per region,

760

00:55:08,811 --> 00:55:17,200

some of these questions and feedback  
could have been already adapted

761

00:55:17,200 --> 00:55:22,382

to the information  
that y'all are putting out.

762

00:55:22,406 --> 00:55:33,887

Such as how I presented that cost of living for the Bay Area is much different than other areas,

763

00:55:33,911 --> 00:55:42,960

and that grants need to be based in cost of living per region.

764

00:55:42,960 --> 00:55:55,599

And I'm just kind of disappointed that no staff took time regionally to ask the EJ communities

765

00:55:55,599 --> 00:56:01,720

any of these questions about these grants prior to this webinar.

766

00:56:02,480 --> 00:56:03,520

Matthew Tejada: Okay.

767

00:56:03,520 --> 00:56:04,483

I hear you.

768

00:56:04,507 --> 00:56:08,880

So the request then is  
as we're framing up these grants,

769

00:56:08,880 --> 00:56:16,775

especially these grants that are being funded  
through the infrastructure law resources

770

00:56:16,799 --> 00:56:20,107

from last fall that we  
have more regional engagement

771

00:56:20,131 --> 00:56:22,480

or more engagement  
through the region,

772

00:56:22,480 --> 00:56:27,537

specific to the regions with the EJ  
community leaders and organizations

773

00:56:27,561 --> 00:56:30,443

to get feedback on these grants.

774

00:56:30,467 --> 00:56:35,626

Margaret Gordon: On the overall process  
that y'all trying to put forward here

775

00:56:35,650 --> 00:56:37,362

after this webinar.

776

00:56:37,386 --> 00:56:43,187

Nobody can call an email or a call  
to say do you have any comments

777

00:56:43,211 --> 00:56:46,234

based on this list,

778

00:56:46,258 --> 00:56:53,760

you then asked us for that engagement,  
you taught my community engagement here,

779

00:56:53,760 --> 00:56:56,412

but we was not engaged.

780

00:56:56,436 --> 00:56:58,674

Matthew Tejada: Okay, okay.

781

00:56:58,698 --> 00:57:02,978

Margaret Gordon: So, I had to  
come to a meeting with 300 other folks

782

00:57:03,002 --> 00:57:10,000

to give my experience,  
my expertise to staff,

783

00:57:10,000 --> 00:57:14,720

and should have been, it  
would have been much better off

784

00:57:14,720 --> 00:57:22,799

if time had been taking place  
for other preparation for this webinar.

785

00:57:22,799 --> 00:57:23,839

Matthew Tejada: Okay.



786

00:57:23,839 --> 00:57:29,114

Okay, no, I appreciate  
that, that's actually as always

787

00:57:29,138 --> 00:57:34,248

not to butter you up or anything, but you  
always are right on point this Ms. Gordon.

788

00:57:34,272 --> 00:57:40,559

And we're actually, we're thinking through  
right now a more robust level of engagement

789

00:57:40,559 --> 00:57:47,525

and we did some stuff over the fall because  
of Justice40 and there was that huge lift,

790

00:57:47,549 --> 00:57:49,950

we now have the  
infrastructure money,

791

00:57:49,974 --> 00:57:54,187

which hopefully means we're  
going to get more actual ability

792

00:57:54,211 --> 00:57:57,280

to do that sort of engagement  
through the regions,

793

00:57:57,280 --> 00:58:00,218

but having a more  
consistent kind of loop

794

00:58:00,242 --> 00:58:02,928

of not pushing everyone  
just to these national calls,

795

00:58:02,952 --> 00:58:08,406

but doing more of the legwork  
ahead of time through the regions

796

00:58:08,430 --> 00:58:13,668

with EJ organizations and EJ  
community folk, ahead of time.

797

00:58:13,692 --> 00:58:15,424

That's a great recommendation.

798

00:58:15,448 --> 00:58:18,549

We can take that back immediately  
into some of the conversations

799

00:58:18,573 --> 00:58:21,588

we're having with  
leadership to try to--

800

00:58:21,612 --> 00:58:25,312

Margaret Gordon: I'm sorry Matt,  
but I have to leave for another meeting.

801

00:58:25,336 --> 00:58:27,680

Matthew Tejada: Okay, I'm sorry I still  
like to catch up with you though soon.

802

00:58:27,680 --> 00:58:29,911

It's been a long time.

803

00:58:29,935 --> 00:58:30,939

Margaret Gordon: Yes.

804

00:58:30,963 --> 00:58:34,000

Matthew Tejada: Okay,

[LAUGHS] thank you Ms. Gordon.

805

00:58:34,799 --> 00:58:36,047

Okay, Victoria.

806

00:58:36,071 --> 00:58:39,839

Victoria Robinson: Okay, great we're  
going to go ahead Ms. Williams keep on--

807

00:58:39,839 --> 00:58:42,528

keep your hand up when we  
finish with the next presentation,

808

00:58:42,552 --> 00:58:45,205

we open up for listening  
sessions, we'll then be able to--

809

00:58:45,229 --> 00:58:48,177

you'll be the first person  
we call on to ask questions.

810

00:58:48,201 --> 00:58:54,079

So we're going to go ahead and  
move on to the next presentation.

811

00:58:54,079 --> 00:58:56,160

There we go.

812

00:58:56,160 --> 00:58:58,263

Matt you want to introduce them?

813

00:58:58,287 --> 00:58:59,401

Matthew Tejada: Oh sorry.

814

00:58:59,425 --> 00:59:03,087

Hey, so these are some folks that  
I've been engaging with a lot recently.

815

00:59:03,111 --> 00:59:09,359

I don't know that I talked to NASA at all  
before this year in my capacity at EPA

816

00:59:09,359 --> 00:59:12,036

and it seems like right now I  
talked to NASA every other day

817

00:59:12,060 --> 00:59:17,403

because there are a lot of folks over  
at our colleague organization NASA

818

00:59:17,427 --> 00:59:22,944

are very interested and dedicated  
to advancing equity and justice

819

00:59:22,968 --> 00:59:30,000

through the scientific research and  
other programs that NASA administers.

820

00:59:30,000 --> 00:59:34,619

So I'm really happy to have Nancy Searby  
and Sydney Neugebauer are joining us today,

821

00:59:34,643 --> 00:59:37,680

they have some activities  
coming up over the spring

822

00:59:37,680 --> 00:59:42,240

that they wanted to get some  
awareness for some folks about those.

823

00:59:42,240 --> 00:59:48,493

And kind of to Ms. Gordon's point, also  
wanting to establish some of their own ability

824

00:59:48,517 --> 00:59:54,240

to get out and engage and get feedback  
with community leaders and organizations

825

00:59:54,240 --> 00:59:57,520

that are interested in NASA's activities.

826

00:59:57,520 --> 01:00:03,168

So this is our attempt to try to support

our colleagues and other federal agencies

827

01:00:03,192 --> 01:00:08,548

at advancing their justice priorities  
and also bolstering their ability to engage

828

01:00:08,572 --> 01:00:11,119

and seek feedback  
from folks on the ground.

829

01:00:11,119 --> 01:00:14,720

So Sydney, I think you're  
you're going to take it.

830

01:00:14,720 --> 01:00:15,770

Sydney Neugebauer: Yes, absolutely.

831

01:00:15,794 --> 01:00:19,714

Thank you so much Matt and thank you  
both Matt, Victoria and the entire EPA team

832

01:00:19,738 --> 01:00:22,110



for inviting us with this opportunity.

833

01:00:22,134 --> 01:00:23,827

It's fantastic to speak with you all.

834

01:00:23,851 --> 01:00:27,200

Thank you to all the attendees  
for listening and for your attention.

835

01:00:27,200 --> 01:00:29,282

As Matt mentioned, my  
name is Sydney Neugebauer

836

01:00:29,306 --> 01:00:31,812

and I'm with NASA's capacity  
building program

837

01:00:31,836 --> 01:00:33,938

which is a part of NASA applied sciences

838

01:00:33,962 --> 01:00:37,621

and home to a lot of the equity and

environmental justice work at NASA.

839

01:00:37,645 --> 01:00:42,668

I'll be joined today also by Nancy Searby,  
she'll be sharing the presentation with me.

840

01:00:42,692 --> 01:00:46,307

So if you'd like to go to the  
next slide, I'll do a brief outline

841

01:00:46,331 --> 01:00:48,480

before handing it over to Nancy.

842

01:00:48,480 --> 01:00:50,787

A few things that we  
will discuss today are

843

01:00:50,811 --> 01:00:53,524

what does NASA have to do  
with environmental justice?

844

01:00:53,548 --> 01:00:56,720

What kind of work are  
we looking at NASA?

845

01:00:56,720 --> 01:01:00,128

We also have a currently open  
solicitation for NASA equity

846

01:01:00,152 --> 01:01:05,040

and environmental justice proposals  
which we'll go through in a bit more detail.

847

01:01:05,040 --> 01:01:07,968

We're also going to introduce the NASA  
developed national program

848

01:01:07,992 --> 01:01:13,119

which is a workforce development program  
with environmental justice focused projects.

849

01:01:13,119 --> 01:01:16,252

We'll learn a little bit more about NASA  
data and an upcoming workshop

850

01:01:16,276 --> 01:01:21,680

related to earth science data systems that  
also pertains to environmental justice issues.

851

01:01:21,680 --> 01:01:24,768

And at the end we'll provide a summary  
of all these upcoming activities.

852

01:01:24,792 --> 01:01:27,428

There's a lot, so we'll give  
you a little calendar overview

853

01:01:27,452 --> 01:01:31,405

and we've included links on all the different  
slides so you can learn more information,

854

01:01:31,429 --> 01:01:36,000

which all that information as you  
know will go out after the meeting.

855

01:01:36,000 --> 01:01:38,538

So without further ado, I will

pass it over to Nancy Searby

856

01:01:38,562 --> 01:01:45,040

who will share a little bit more information  
about NASA environmental justice and earth science.

857

01:01:45,440 --> 01:01:46,659

Nancy Searby: Great.

858

01:01:46,683 --> 01:01:48,139

Thanks Sydney, appreciate it.

859

01:01:48,163 --> 01:01:50,069

So you might wonder why NASA is here,

860

01:01:50,093 --> 01:01:54,079

so NASA being the national  
aeronautics and space administration.

861

01:01:54,079 --> 01:02:00,160

We have an earth science focus where we  
study the earth as one of the many planets

862

01:02:00,160 --> 01:02:07,468

that NASA looks at and intently we try to  
use our satellite information to better serve

863

01:02:07,492 --> 01:02:10,077

applications including  
environmental justice.

864

01:02:10,101 --> 01:02:13,948

So this just shows the different parts  
of our NASA earth science program.

865

01:02:13,972 --> 01:02:17,599

We develop new technology  
to support new spacecraft,

866

01:02:17,599 --> 01:02:22,252

we do basic research, we have data free  
and open for everyone to use

867

01:02:22,276 --> 01:02:27,626

and we have ways of applying that for societal benefit like environmental justice issues.

868

01:02:27,650 --> 01:02:29,760

Next slide.

869

01:02:31,599 --> 01:02:36,079

So this is just a graphic showing that in fact we have more than 20 satellites

870

01:02:36,079 --> 01:02:39,305

looking at our planet in many different ways,

871

01:02:39,329 --> 01:02:43,261

whether it's visual, like we're also used to seeing Google Maps

872

01:02:43,285 --> 01:02:47,359

or it can be in different spectra and we learn different things

873

01:02:47,359 --> 01:02:52,601

based on how we look at those  
basically from the sky.

874

01:02:52,625 --> 01:02:54,240

Next slide.

875

01:02:56,400 --> 01:03:00,799

So all of our NASA data is  
free and open to everyone

876

01:03:00,799 --> 01:03:03,843

and so our program is  
really focused on making sure

877

01:03:03,867 --> 01:03:06,263

there's awareness that that  
data is out there

878

01:03:06,287 --> 01:03:09,448

and to help people who  
may not know how to use it to use it.



879

01:03:09,472 --> 01:03:13,520

And so we have these different elements within our program that are listed here.

880

01:03:13,520 --> 01:03:17,774

ARSET is a training program, DEVELOP is an internship program

881

01:03:17,798 --> 01:03:19,708

that Sydney will talk about a little bit.

882

01:03:19,732 --> 01:03:22,160

SERVIR actually works internationally.

883

01:03:22,160 --> 01:03:24,788

We have an indigenous peoples focused program.

884

01:03:24,812 --> 01:03:28,947

We engage with people to learn about our data through prizes and challenges

885

01:03:28,971 --> 01:03:33,368

and most recently-- and we really appreciate Matt chatting with us

886

01:03:33,392 --> 01:03:35,728

and helping us think about how we can best engage

887

01:03:35,752 --> 01:03:38,827

in helping with both equity and environmental justice.

888

01:03:38,851 --> 01:03:41,599

Next slide.

889

01:03:43,680 --> 01:03:47,599

So these are just four examples of things that you can do

890

01:03:47,599 --> 01:03:51,928

if you use satellite information in addition to say socioeconomic data.

891

01:03:51,952 --> 01:03:54,075

So we have satellites that look down

892

01:03:54,099 --> 01:03:57,680

and we do work with our other  
interagency partners like NOAA

893

01:03:57,680 --> 01:04:03,041

and we can see the lights at night,  
and in fact after hurricane Maria,

894

01:04:03,065 --> 01:04:09,280

we saw that it affected Puerto Rico and their  
power and we were able to see how actually power

895

01:04:09,280 --> 01:04:17,599

was disproportionately not turned on in the  
poorer areas as quickly as the richer areas.

896

01:04:17,599 --> 01:04:21,388

You also can look at see surface site

information that we collect from our satellites,

897

01:04:21,412 --> 01:04:27,760

combine that with demographic data  
and look at the impacts of sea level rise

898

01:04:27,760 --> 01:04:31,760

on people who live along the coast  
including underserved communities.

899

01:04:31,760 --> 01:04:34,841

Or maybe you're interested in  
understanding water

900

01:04:34,865 --> 01:04:39,707

and we've worked with the Navajo nation  
to look at their water resource limitations

901

01:04:39,731 --> 01:04:44,240

and help them understand how  
to better inform their allocation

902

01:04:44,240 --> 01:04:45,787  
and increase water accessibility.

903

01:04:45,811 --> 01:04:52,908  
And we've worked with San Diego,  
California to look at urban heat islands

904

01:04:52,932 --> 01:04:57,839  
and ways to plan to reduce that and  
where people are most vulnerable to those.

905

01:04:57,839 --> 01:05:00,400  
Next slide.

906

01:05:01,839 --> 01:05:05,275  
So those are just a couple of examples of  
the ways that you can use our information.

907

01:05:05,299 --> 01:05:08,444  
As Sidney said, we have a  
solicitation open now

908

01:05:08,468 --> 01:05:12,864

and you can see, there's a big long link  
there that I know is too hard to cut copy

909

01:05:12,888 --> 01:05:16,319

but I know the slides will be posted soon.

910

01:05:16,319 --> 01:05:19,567

In this solicitation, we're asking for  
three different kinds of things.

911

01:05:19,591 --> 01:05:25,007

We're asking for landscape analyses, we're  
asking for community-based feasibility studies

912

01:05:25,031 --> 01:05:27,119

and data integration projects.

913

01:05:27,119 --> 01:05:32,576

So the landscape analyses are short-term and  
they really are to get a better understanding

914

01:05:32,600 --> 01:05:36,061

of who's already using satellite and  
other earth observation information

915

01:05:36,085 --> 01:05:41,148

to address environmental justice issues  
and where might there be opportunities.

916

01:05:41,172 --> 01:05:44,508

The second is really thinking  
about could we try something?

917

01:05:44,532 --> 01:05:47,447

We see the possibility but we  
may not know if it will really work,

918

01:05:47,471 --> 01:05:53,261

we may not have the right spatial scale for  
example or temporal frequency that we need

919

01:05:53,285 --> 01:05:55,908

but maybe let's just try it,  
that's the feasibility project.

920

01:05:55,932 --> 01:06:00,637

And then the data integration project  
is a fuller more couple year long project

921

01:06:00,661 --> 01:06:06,121

where you really do know that you can use  
satellite information and socioeconomic information

922

01:06:06,145 --> 01:06:09,760

to better understand  
environmental justice issues.

923

01:06:09,760 --> 01:06:12,240

Next slide.

924

01:06:12,960 --> 01:06:16,487

So this is a slide that includes some  
examples of landscape analyses,

925

01:06:16,511 --> 01:06:18,707

and I'll just point to one



in the interest of time.

926

01:06:18,731 --> 01:06:23,028

You can see there was a landscape study  
looking at the ecological information needs

927

01:06:23,052 --> 01:06:24,548

for environmental justice.

928

01:06:24,572 --> 01:06:27,548

And so that's just one example  
of a kind of landscape analysis

929

01:06:27,572 --> 01:06:31,039

that might be of interest to this topic.

930

01:06:31,039 --> 01:06:33,839

Next slide.

931

01:06:35,440 --> 01:06:37,928

As an example of a  
data integration project,

932

01:06:37,952 --> 01:06:41,767

you can see a project here where  
the question was being asked

933

01:06:41,791 --> 01:06:48,817

about whether there was any impact  
differentially of hurricane Harvey flooding

934

01:06:48,841 --> 01:06:51,446

on different populations that lived there.

935

01:06:51,470 --> 01:06:57,535

And you can see that they were  
looking at the effect of hurricane Harvey

936

01:06:57,559 --> 01:07:01,411

on whether race had some difference  
in the way it was impacting people,

937

01:07:01,435 --> 01:07:05,627

whether there was any

impact of people's income,

938

01:07:05,651 --> 01:07:09,648

and then also looking at impervious services which is like our roads,

939

01:07:09,672 --> 01:07:13,708

where the water can't go through and therefore it causes a lot of runoff issues.

940

01:07:13,732 --> 01:07:18,328

And so what this particular project just found is that, in fact, the hurricane Harvey

941

01:07:18,352 --> 01:07:23,280

was affecting everyone and in fact, the flooding was affecting everyone

942

01:07:23,280 --> 01:07:28,961

including-- and so they didn't see any relationship with say lower demographics.

943

01:07:28,985 --> 01:07:32,488

In fact, they saw that sometimes  
the higher were more affected.

944

01:07:32,512 --> 01:07:36,307

And then you can also see-- they saw  
some positive correlation between elderly

945

01:07:36,331 --> 01:07:39,599

and they were slightly more  
exposed to flooding.

946

01:07:39,599 --> 01:07:42,599

Next slide.

947

01:07:44,559 --> 01:07:48,799

This is the final example of a  
community-based feasibility project

948

01:07:48,799 --> 01:07:52,148

where it's just a little bit more  
detail about the project with San Diego

949

01:07:52,172 --> 01:07:54,087

where we were looking  
at urban heat islands

950

01:07:54,111 --> 01:07:57,680

and you can find more  
information at the develop website.

951

01:07:57,680 --> 01:08:00,160

Next slide.

952

01:08:01,760 --> 01:08:07,760

So if you're interested in proposing,  
you can see who is able to propose,

953

01:08:07,760 --> 01:08:12,348

you can see that we're  
quite broad in who can apply

954

01:08:12,372 --> 01:08:15,920

and we're especially interested in  
non-federal domestic organizations,

955

01:08:15,920 --> 01:08:19,387

community-based non-profits, tribal  
governments, local governments,

956

01:08:19,411 --> 01:08:22,867

academic institutions addressing EJ issues.

957

01:08:22,891 --> 01:08:26,275

And so you can see we have a link  
there that there's a lot of resources

958

01:08:26,299 --> 01:08:30,960

if you've never proposed to NASA  
before that you can go check out.

959

01:08:30,960 --> 01:08:33,440

Next slide.

960

01:08:34,560 --> 01:08:37,359

I'll hand it over to you, Sydney.

961

01:08:37,359 --> 01:08:38,889

Sydney Neugebauer: Thank you so much, Nancy.

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01:08:38,913 --> 01:08:42,158

So I'll speak about a few more opportunities that we have coming up.

963

01:08:42,158 --> 01:08:46,389

First, I'll introduce the NASA DEVELOP national program which we've referenced a few times.

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01:08:46,413 --> 01:08:50,000

The NASA DEVELOP program is a part of the capacity building program

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01:08:50,000 --> 01:08:53,988

where Nancy and I both work, and it is a workforce development program.

966

01:08:54,012 --> 01:08:58,147

It uses NASA earth observation information to address environmental issues

967

01:08:58,171 --> 01:09:01,776

through 10-week research  
projects, similar to an internship

968

01:09:01,800 --> 01:09:07,279

that are conducted by small teams of students,  
recent graduates or other professionals

969

01:09:07,279 --> 01:09:10,968

working in conjunction with NASA science  
advisors and partner organizations

970

01:09:10,992 --> 01:09:13,028

in different local communities.

971

01:09:13,052 --> 01:09:16,399

That's across the United  
States and across the globe.

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01:09:16,399 --> 01:09:19,468

So DEVELOP is kind of a dual capacity



building program,

973

01:09:19,492 --> 01:09:24,067

so we're building capacity in  
participants and in partner organizations

974

01:09:24,091 --> 01:09:29,359

to use earth observations and to  
communicate about different science topics,

975

01:09:29,359 --> 01:09:34,479

so each project is really focused on the  
needs of the local partners in the area.

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01:09:34,479 --> 01:09:36,773

The DEVELOP works in all kinds of  
different application areas

977

01:09:36,797 --> 01:09:38,588

that you can see on  
the bottom of this slide

978

01:09:38,612 --> 01:09:41,115

and that's sort of a way that  
we can sort these projects

979

01:09:41,139 --> 01:09:45,829

and these might include health and air  
quality or water resources, urban development

980

01:09:45,853 --> 01:09:51,920

just to name a few, which many of these intersecting  
cross-cut with environmental justice issues.

981

01:09:51,920 --> 01:09:54,628

So recently DEVELOP has  
undertaken a number of projects

982

01:09:54,652 --> 01:09:56,815

related specifically  
to environmental justice

983

01:09:56,839 --> 01:09:59,920

and working with environmental  
justice communities

984

01:09:59,920 --> 01:10:01,828

to both address their  
needs through projects

985

01:10:01,852 --> 01:10:04,880

and to listen to what future  
needs might be.

986

01:10:04,880 --> 01:10:06,965

So you can learn more about  
this at the DEVELOP website

987

01:10:06,989 --> 01:10:10,640

and we're also happy to  
answer any questions.

988

01:10:10,640 --> 01:10:13,280

Go to the next slide.

989

01:10:13,280 --> 01:10:16,928

Another component of the capacity building

program that Nancy mentioned before

990

01:10:16,952 --> 01:10:20,800

is the Applied Remote Sensing  
Training program or ARSET,

991

01:10:20,800 --> 01:10:23,512

so actually beginning this  
Thursday on January 27th.

992

01:10:23,536 --> 01:10:29,288

Our site is hosting a new educational webinar,  
it's about the use of earth observations toolkit

993

01:10:29,312 --> 01:10:32,880

for sustainable cities  
and human settlements.

994

01:10:32,880 --> 01:10:36,719

So the training is going to take place  
over three one and a half hour sections

995

01:10:36,719 --> 01:10:40,847

which you can see on the slide and it  
will be offered in both English and Spanish.

996

01:10:40,871 --> 01:10:43,408

Registration is completely free and open

997

01:10:43,432 --> 01:10:48,159

and recordings will be made available  
online after the conclusion of the training.

998

01:10:48,159 --> 01:10:53,679

So you're able to attend in person and you  
can register on the ARSET website as well.

999

01:10:53,679 --> 01:10:57,159

Go to the next slide.

1000

01:10:59,280 --> 01:11:02,155

So in alignment with the earth  
science division commitment

1001

01:11:02,179 --> 01:11:04,640

to equity and environmental justice,

1002

01:11:04,640 --> 01:11:09,208

the Earth Science Data Systems program which  
is a bit different from Nancy's program,

1003

01:11:09,232 --> 01:11:13,293

is working on expanding the awareness  
and accessibility of earth science data,

1004

01:11:13,317 --> 01:11:17,600

so we can better serve the needs  
of environmental justice communities.

1005

01:11:17,600 --> 01:11:21,199

So one of the first activities was a  
community listening workshop last fall

1006

01:11:21,199 --> 01:11:24,400

that was hosted by NASA's earth  
science division and the SDAC

1007

01:11:24,424 --> 01:11:29,280

which is the Socioeconomic  
Data and Applications Center.

1008

01:11:29,280 --> 01:11:33,180

But there are also a few current and upcoming  
activities that are shared on this slide

1009

01:11:33,204 --> 01:11:36,320

and we welcome you to  
learn more about those.

1010

01:11:36,320 --> 01:11:40,028

So the first which you can  
see a QR code to on the slide

1011

01:11:40,052 --> 01:11:45,058

is that the Earth Data Science Systems released  
an environmental justice data backgrounder

1012

01:11:45,082 --> 01:11:49,600

which provides all kinds of information about

how NASA data are used to support environmental

1013

01:11:49,600 --> 01:11:51,328

and climate justice efforts.

1014

01:11:51,352 --> 01:11:55,009

It also includes use cases like  
a few that Nancy shared earlier

1015

01:11:55,033 --> 01:11:59,199

about how scientists and  
decision makers apply these data sets

1016

01:11:59,199 --> 01:12:03,840

to assess community vulnerability or  
exposure to environmental challenges,

1017

01:12:03,840 --> 01:12:06,640

so you can check that  
out to learn a little bit more.

1018

01:12:06,640 --> 01:12:12,400



There's also a new initiative called TOPS which  
is an acronym for transform to open science

1019

01:12:12,400 --> 01:12:14,880

that's part of NASA's open  
source science initiative,

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01:12:14,904 --> 01:12:19,488

and the goal there is to broaden participation  
in the whole entire scientific process

1021

01:12:19,512 --> 01:12:24,028

from underrepresented communities and  
brought in the access of scientific materials

1022

01:12:24,052 --> 01:12:26,960

to scientists and to communities.

1023

01:12:26,960 --> 01:12:30,548

So really the idea here is to educate a  
wide spectrum of people and groups

1024

01:12:30,572 --> 01:12:34,602

about the available data and  
resources for decision making

1025

01:12:34,626 --> 01:12:39,120

and the integration of  
data to decision making.

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01:12:39,440 --> 01:12:43,568

Additionally, the Earth Science Data  
Discovery for Environmental Justice project

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01:12:43,592 --> 01:12:47,440

is another project taking place  
within this department during the spring

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01:12:47,440 --> 01:12:50,228

and the goal there is to create a  
comprehensive catalog of NASA data

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01:12:50,252 --> 01:12:57,679

that could be used for environmental justice  
and to identify potential data gaps and needs.

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01:12:58,000 --> 01:13:01,670

Okay, there's a few more items

here on the slide, the EO Dashboard

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01:13:01,694 --> 01:13:08,080

or the Earth Observing Dashboard is a

collaboration between the European space agency,

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01:13:08,080 --> 01:13:14,058

Japanese space agency JAXA and NASA that combines  
resources, technical knowledge and expertise.

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01:13:14,082 --> 01:13:18,348

And so the EO Dashboard will actually be  
releasing stories related to environmental justice

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01:13:18,372 --> 01:13:21,040

coming up in the spring as well.

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01:13:21,040 --> 01:13:24,400

There's another QR code

to that on the slide as well.

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01:13:24,400 --> 01:13:29,572

And then last but not least, the Understanding  
Needs to Broaden Outside Use of NASA Data,

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01:13:29,596 --> 01:13:34,268

which is an acronym for UNBOUND  
related to environmental justice

1038

01:13:34,292 --> 01:13:36,401

is scheduled to be released in April.

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01:13:36,425 --> 01:13:40,960

So UNBOUND is a series of workshops  
that identify and engage data practitioners

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01:13:40,960 --> 01:13:43,600

who are not currently using NASA data.

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01:13:43,600 --> 01:13:45,308

So you can keep an

eye out for that as well.

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01:13:45,332 --> 01:13:50,719

And we've summarized some of the  
upcoming activities on the next slide.

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01:13:51,520 --> 01:13:54,287

So on this slide, we have a little  
summary about the solicitation

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01:13:54,311 --> 01:13:56,880

that Nancy spoke about earlier.

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01:13:56,880 --> 01:14:01,308

If you're interested in proposing we have a  
Proposers' Telecon coming up on February 17th

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01:14:01,332 --> 01:14:04,707

which will be providing an  
opportunity to answer questions

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01:14:04,731 --> 01:14:08,400

and to walk through  
in detail the solicitation.

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01:14:08,400 --> 01:14:11,617

We have previously held one of these  
telecons, it was really useful

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01:14:11,641 --> 01:14:13,035

and we got great questions to it,

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01:14:13,059 --> 01:14:15,948

so we'll be posting the Q&A  
for that as well on our website

1051

01:14:15,972 --> 01:14:20,960

but you can participate in the same telecon  
on February 17th, if you're interested

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01:14:20,960 --> 01:14:24,294

and then proposals are due  
on March 18th of this year

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01:14:24,318 --> 01:14:27,120

with expected selections in the summer.

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01:14:27,120 --> 01:14:30,134

We're also seeking qualified  
reviewers to serve on the panel,

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01:14:30,158 --> 01:14:33,610

so if you're interested or know anyone  
that is, you can reach out to Nancy

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01:14:33,634 --> 01:14:36,960

and her email addresses here on the slide.

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01:14:36,960 --> 01:14:39,848

Additionally, I mentioned  
the NASA DEVELOP program,

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01:14:39,872 --> 01:14:42,667

so if you're interested in  
partnering on feasibility studies

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01:14:42,691 --> 01:14:44,687

or on listening projects as I mentioned,

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01:14:44,711 --> 01:14:49,440

you can feel free to reach out to  
the NASA DEVELOP team as well,

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01:14:49,440 --> 01:14:53,920

you can go to their website and they  
have contact information on the website.

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01:14:53,920 --> 01:14:57,395

And then finally from the Earth Science  
Data Systems perspective,

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01:14:57,419 --> 01:15:01,739

the unbound workshop in April of  
2022 is another great opportunity

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01:15:01,763 --> 01:15:06,960

and so that information is on their website as  
well and we'll have all the links in these slides.



1065

01:15:08,000 --> 01:15:13,040

You can either type them out or do a quick  
Google search or click on the slides later on.

1066

01:15:13,040 --> 01:15:16,000

So I think that's all from me, we're going  
to be sticking around to answer any questions

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01:15:16,024 --> 01:15:22,239

and thank you again to the EPA team and  
everyone who is listening, appreciate it.

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01:15:23,760 --> 01:15:25,187

Matthew Tejada: Thank you Sydney and Nancy.

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01:15:25,211 --> 01:15:29,040

We might have a couple  
questions, let's just see really quickly

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01:15:29,040 --> 01:15:36,560

if anybody has something that we would  
like our colleagues at NASA to answer.

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01:15:36,880 --> 01:15:39,920

Christina or Victoria, anything?

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01:15:39,920 --> 01:15:45,360

Christina Motilal: The questions that were put into the chat have been answered.

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01:15:45,360 --> 01:15:47,188

There was one question.

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01:15:47,212 --> 01:15:53,360

Is NASA funding opportunities being held to J40 standards and metrics?

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01:15:53,360 --> 01:15:57,548

There was a response to that in the chat but just wanted to grab some attention to that

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01:15:57,572 --> 01:16:02,677

that NASA is not a Justice40 agency in case others had that question.

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01:16:02,701 --> 01:16:05,497

Just wanted to  
bring that attention,

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01:16:05,521 --> 01:16:11,228

and then also there was a question  
asking if school-age children would qualify.

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01:16:11,252 --> 01:16:14,000

That question was directed at Sydney

1080

01:16:14,000 --> 01:16:20,408

and it was noted that the DEVELOP  
participants are 18 years old,

1081

01:16:20,432 --> 01:16:26,080

so in case anybody else had that question,  
just wanted to bring some attention to that.

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01:16:26,080 --> 01:16:31,360

Other than that, there are no questions

for NASA in the chat at the moment.

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01:16:31,360 --> 01:16:32,880

Matthew Tejada: All right.

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01:16:32,880 --> 01:16:35,636

Great, well thank you

both so much for joining us.

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01:16:35,660 --> 01:16:39,908

And, it's not that it's very innovative

but I guess it's innovative for us

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01:16:39,932 --> 01:16:44,157

and of course NASA that does it,

I love the QR codes on the slides

1087

01:16:44,181 --> 01:16:45,920

because that makes getting

1088

01:16:45,920 --> 01:16:47,468

the information so much easier.

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01:16:47,492 --> 01:16:52,800

So Christina and Victoria we should think about QR codes on our slides.

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01:16:52,800 --> 01:16:55,760

Victoria Robinson: Okay, that is quite a undertaking there-

1091

01:16:55,760 --> 01:16:56,960

Okay. [LAUGHS]

1092

01:16:56,960 --> 01:16:58,800

Matthew Tejada: I know it's not.

1093

01:16:58,800 --> 01:17:00,840

Victoria Robinson: We won't go there.

1094

01:17:00,840 --> 01:17:05,254

We'll investigate, we will explore that and see how we do that.

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01:17:05,278 --> 01:17:09,028

Christina Motilal: I already know  
how, it's a great suggestion

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01:17:09,052 --> 01:17:12,080

and we've thought about it  
for fact sheets and websites,

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01:17:12,080 --> 01:17:16,048

it's on my ever growing to-do list but  
yes, I love it and I think it's a great idea.

1098

01:17:16,072 --> 01:17:17,920

So we will--

Victoria Robinson: Wonderful.

1099

01:17:17,920 --> 01:17:22,625

Okay so now we're gonna get enter  
the listening session and dialogue,

1100

01:17:22,649 --> 01:17:26,957

this is an opportunity for all

the participants, all the attendees,

1101

01:17:26,981 --> 01:17:32,448

if you want to ask a question around  
the presentations that you've heard

1102

01:17:32,472 --> 01:17:37,937

or if you have another question  
related to implementation of EJ at EPA,

1103

01:17:37,961 --> 01:17:42,400

feel free to put those  
questions into the Q&A pod.

1104

01:17:42,400 --> 01:17:46,960

We're asking you to go ahead and write  
those comments or questions into the Q&A pod.

1105

01:17:46,960 --> 01:17:53,148

But we're also going to give an opportunity for  
individuals to actually ask the question out loud.

1106

01:17:53,172 --> 01:17:58,159

So we've already have three  
people with their hands raised,

1107

01:17:58,159 --> 01:18:00,551

and we'll be calling out  
those in a few moments.

1108

01:18:00,575 --> 01:18:04,320

But if you're on the phone,  
you can raise your hand as well,

1109

01:18:04,320 --> 01:18:09,976

I know that's kind of weird but technology  
allows us those on the phone to press \*9

1110

01:18:10,000 --> 01:18:13,840

so you can raise your hand  
if you want to ask a question.

1111

01:18:13,840 --> 01:18:18,903

And again as a reminder, we're asking everyone  
to limit their question or comments to one minute



1112

01:18:18,927 --> 01:18:22,593

so that we can have as many people  
as possible be able to ask their questions

1113

01:18:22,617 --> 01:18:24,007

or provide a comment.

1114

01:18:24,031 --> 01:18:27,968

So Christina since you've already  
went ahead and mentioned that--

1115

01:18:27,992 --> 01:18:30,548

do you have any questions that  
you've already laid out in the Q&A

1116

01:18:30,572 --> 01:18:33,628

that you would like to read  
out first, a couple of those

1117

01:18:33,652 --> 01:18:37,679

before we call on the first

person with their hand raised?

1118

01:18:37,679 --> 01:18:44,308

Christina Motilal: Yes, this one is more  
of a broader larger question for NASA

1119

01:18:44,332 --> 01:18:48,028

and also a comment that says,

1120

01:18:48,052 --> 01:18:50,655

"Critical to expand the users to NASA data.

1121

01:18:50,679 --> 01:18:53,820

Currently is very hard to  
use, especially the PM data.

1122

01:18:53,844 --> 01:18:57,920

What can be  
done to fix the problem?

1123

01:18:59,840 --> 01:19:03,280

Nancy Searby: So this is Nancy,

I'd be happy to add something there.

1124

01:19:03,280 --> 01:19:08,028

I was scrambling on the side to  
post something and I will post it as well.

1125

01:19:08,052 --> 01:19:12,468

So PM 2.5 data is  
something that we do look at,

1126

01:19:12,492 --> 01:19:15,840

I'm assuming that's what  
we mean by PM data,

1127

01:19:15,840 --> 01:19:21,630

and our satellites look down and yet if  
you imagine a flashlight in a foggy place,

1128

01:19:21,654 --> 01:19:23,440

you know how your flashlight

1129

01:19:23,440 --> 01:19:24,928

you can see the beam of light?

1130

01:19:24,952 --> 01:19:28,080

That's what we measure,  
we measure that column,

1131

01:19:28,080 --> 01:19:32,708

we can't measure just at a certain place,  
so we need to combine that with models

1132

01:19:32,732 --> 01:19:38,159

and with the local sensor data  
like EPA's investing in more of

1133

01:19:38,159 --> 01:19:42,308

and really get an understanding  
of the PM 2.5 at the surface

1134

01:19:42,332 --> 01:19:44,548

where it affects the people that are living.

1135

01:19:44,572 --> 01:19:48,445

And so I will post  
in the chat a link to--

1136

01:19:49,600 --> 01:19:53,741

we have a health and air quality  
applied sciences team

1137

01:19:53,765 --> 01:19:57,199

and because NASA  
loves acronyms we call that HAQAST

1138

01:19:58,000 --> 01:20:02,548

and there is a targeting team currently working  
on satellite data for environmental justice,

1139

01:20:02,572 --> 01:20:05,608

so I'll post a link so that you  
can read about their project

1140

01:20:05,632 --> 01:20:08,727

and they were just had  
their annual meeting last week

1141

01:20:08,751 --> 01:20:12,308

and they were talking about all the  
issues that we'd like to be able to address,

1142

01:20:12,332 --> 01:20:17,668

to be able to use our satellite data for  
better understanding of environmental issues

1143

01:20:17,692 --> 01:20:20,159

around air pollution using our information.

1144

01:20:20,183 --> 01:20:24,943

So you can go read about what the  
latest is that we're working in that area.

1145

01:20:24,967 --> 01:20:26,239

Thanks.

1146

01:20:26,639 --> 01:20:28,248

Victoria Robinson: Thank you  
very much, Nancy.

1147

01:20:28,272 --> 01:20:32,639

Christina, one more question before  
we call on the people the hands raised.

1148

01:20:32,639 --> 01:20:38,028

Christina Motilal: Sure, absolutely,  
this is not for NASA specific,

1149

01:20:38,052 --> 01:20:45,440

this is a larger question that was spurred  
from Ms. Margaret's wonderful comments

1150

01:20:45,440 --> 01:20:52,068

and the question is has the EPA  
considered offering stipends honorariums

1151

01:20:52,092 --> 01:20:56,749

with people like Ms. Margaret across the  
country to get input from local EJ organizers

1152

01:20:56,773 --> 01:20:58,060

to improve these calls?

1153

01:20:58,084 --> 01:21:01,717

She is offering something critical that would make these programs more effective,

1154

01:21:01,741 --> 01:21:03,581

impactful, successful and powerful.

1155

01:21:03,605 --> 01:21:07,207

EJ organizers are often expected to do this kind of thing for free

1156

01:21:07,231 --> 01:21:12,239

and it can be overwhelming on top of the rest of local EJ organizing work.

1157

01:21:12,239 --> 01:21:13,840

Thank you for that.

1158

01:21:13,840 --> 01:21:19,888

Matthew Tejada: I wholeheartedly agree and I'm gonna take credit for--



1159

01:21:19,912 --> 01:21:29,600

I actually wrote specifically into our strategic plan a commitment that the EPA will establish--

1160

01:21:29,600 --> 01:21:34,960

I can't remember what word I use, the financial vehicle or whatever else to do exactly that.

1161

01:21:34,960 --> 01:21:41,828

I think not only is it wrong, it might not be completely in compliance with requirements

1162

01:21:41,852 --> 01:21:46,239

that we don't pay people for the time when we ask them for things.

1163

01:21:46,239 --> 01:21:52,108

We certainly don't ask scientists outside of the federal government

1164

01:21:52,132 --> 01:21:57,440

to do science for us for free and we don't  
ask lawyers to do lawyering for us for free

1165

01:21:57,440 --> 01:22:00,880

and we don't ask engineers to do  
engineering for us for free.

1166

01:22:00,880 --> 01:22:06,607

We should not ask community leaders  
and community members to give us their time

1167

01:22:06,631 --> 01:22:11,440

and input and knowledge to help us  
figure out what we're doing to help us

1168

01:22:11,440 --> 01:22:18,239

implement our programs to help us advance our  
policies without compensating them for that.

1169

01:22:18,239 --> 01:22:22,375

That's different from holding a  
public hearing that's open to everyone

1170

01:22:22,399 --> 01:22:24,919

and trying to get  
broad community input.

1171

01:22:24,943 --> 01:22:27,208

It's when we're sitting  
down with folks saying

1172

01:22:27,232 --> 01:22:31,120

"Okay, who can we engage with?  
What is the issue we need to look out for?"

1173

01:22:31,120 --> 01:22:38,128

That's us relying on their expertise and  
we should absolutely compensate them

1174

01:22:38,152 --> 01:22:41,852

giving us their expertise, we should  
be paying them for that.

1175

01:22:41,876 --> 01:22:45,199

We don't have a way

of doing that at present,

1176

01:22:45,199 --> 01:22:50,239

so we're gonna have to figure something out  
but I agree and I've committed the agency

1177

01:22:50,239 --> 01:22:53,627

on to figuring that out in the next  
several years so that we can do that

1178

01:22:53,651 --> 01:23:00,416

and it's one of those that I'm hoping and  
intend on making progress with very quickly

1179

01:23:00,440 --> 01:23:03,129

because we are doing so  
much engagement,

1180

01:23:03,153 --> 01:23:08,639

and especially once we get back  
into a place where we can travel again,

1181

01:23:08,639 --> 01:23:15,280

I think we'll be relying on many community organizations and leaders that much more

1182

01:23:15,280 --> 01:23:19,588

to help us get our political leadership out on the ground,

1183

01:23:19,612 --> 01:23:22,719

more of our staff out on the ground

1184

01:23:22,719 --> 01:23:27,679

and we've got to pay people for what they do to help us do that.

1185

01:23:28,639 --> 01:23:30,080

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Matthew.

1186

01:23:30,080 --> 01:23:35,821

I'm gonna go ahead and we're gonna go back to some of the questions in the Q&A pod

1187

01:23:35,845 --> 01:23:41,220

but first of all, we're gonna ask a couple  
individuals who have been waiting patiently

1188

01:23:41,244 --> 01:23:42,800

to ask a question.

1189

01:23:42,800 --> 01:23:45,667

The first one is Jane Williams.

1190

01:23:45,691 --> 01:23:46,639

Jane?

1191

01:23:46,639 --> 01:23:51,920

I've gone ahead and unmuted-- yes, you  
can go ahead and speak now.

1192

01:23:51,920 --> 01:23:55,600

Jane Williams: Okay, this is  
opportunity of a lifetime for me.

1193

01:23:55,600 --> 01:23:58,268

Dr. Tejada, you've  
known me for a long time

1194

01:23:58,292 --> 01:24:04,400

but you may not know that I actually  
have a heart defect that I was born with.

1195

01:24:04,400 --> 01:24:05,594

Matthew Tejada: I didn't know that.

1196

01:24:05,618 --> 01:24:10,639

Jane Williams: That heart defect  
is directly linked to PM 2.5 exposure.

1197

01:24:10,639 --> 01:24:14,480

And the next question you should be  
asking me is, how do I know that?

1198

01:24:14,480 --> 01:24:20,960

And how I know that  
is because of NASA's satellites.

1199

01:24:20,960 --> 01:24:26,388

Now, if I lived in the European Union I would have known that a long time ago

1200

01:24:26,412 --> 01:24:32,560

because the European Union has an integrated modernized air pollution monitoring program

1201

01:24:32,560 --> 01:24:39,040

that integrates fence line monitoring, regional monitoring and satellites.

1202

01:24:39,040 --> 01:24:43,931

We are in a unique opportunity to do this exact same thing here in the United States

1203

01:24:43,955 --> 01:24:50,480

and modernize and update our air pollution monitoring networks,

1204

01:24:50,480 --> 01:24:55,440

and that requires one critical thing that is missing.



1205

01:24:55,440 --> 01:24:59,906

And that is when we go out and  
we spend the 20 million dollars

1206

01:24:59,930 --> 01:25:02,560

that we fought to get on monitoring,

1207

01:25:02,560 --> 01:25:09,428

we cannot throw money out the door for  
anything that is not federal reference method

1208

01:25:09,452 --> 01:25:14,480

federal yes-- or

federal equivalent methods.

1209

01:25:14,480 --> 01:25:18,427

Now, environmental justice  
communities calls for air monitoring

1210

01:25:18,451 --> 01:25:25,440

have resulted so far in one

giant thing that I see, con men.

1211

01:25:25,440 --> 01:25:29,008

Showing up environmental justice  
communities with some black box

1212

01:25:29,032 --> 01:25:32,000

saying "Give us money  
and we'll monitor your air."

1213

01:25:32,000 --> 01:25:34,774

Matthew Tejada: We'll solve all  
your problems with this little device

1214

01:25:34,798 --> 01:25:36,521

that nobody thought of before.

1215

01:25:36,545 --> 01:25:40,480

Jane Williams: Exactly, now I was on  
the webinar for the monitoring program

1216

01:25:40,480 --> 01:25:45,360

and I asked the question directly to  
OAQPS and ORD staff.

1217

01:25:45,360 --> 01:25:49,366

"As you guys toss this money out the door,  
are you guys part of the con

1218

01:25:49,390 --> 01:25:51,920

or are you part of being real?"

1219

01:25:51,920 --> 01:25:55,679

And I did not get an answer.

1220

01:25:55,679 --> 01:25:59,520

So we need to make sure that any  
monitoring that we're doing

1221

01:25:59,520 --> 01:26:07,199

will actually be actionable and inform  
the agency's decisions and actions

1222

01:26:07,199 --> 01:26:10,690

whether it's on a regulation,  
whether it's on enforcement,

1223

01:26:10,714 --> 01:26:13,244

whether it's on changing  
containment status,

1224

01:26:13,268 --> 01:26:17,600

and if it's not, then really  
that's part of the con.

1225

01:26:19,040 --> 01:26:24,880

Now I had a guy who was the retired  
director of the USDA laboratory

1226

01:26:24,880 --> 01:26:29,040

who could not figure out how to use  
NASA's PM 2.5 data.

1227

01:26:29,040 --> 01:26:35,040

So NASA has equally a part here,  
they've got to make their data usable

1228

01:26:35,040 --> 01:26:38,159

by more people than just their insiders.

1229

01:26:38,159 --> 01:26:42,880

And so I know they're on the phone  
because I gave a webinar to them-- for them

1230

01:26:42,880 --> 01:26:48,268

on this issue and I talked about how vital  
we have two new satellites being launched,

1231

01:26:48,292 --> 01:26:53,588

Tempo and Maya and we need to  
be prepared to use that data

1232

01:26:53,612 --> 01:26:58,608

and to make that data usable  
by decision makers at EPA

1233

01:26:58,632 --> 01:27:03,908

and in the states and in the nonprofit NGO  
movement and in our environmental justice movement.

1234

01:27:03,932 --> 01:27:09,679

So we've got to find a way  
to modernize and integrate

1235

01:27:09,679 --> 01:27:13,199

all this air pollution  
monitoring that we're doing.

1236

01:27:13,199 --> 01:27:18,303

Maya will be able to see  
PM 2.5 at a four kilometer grid.

1237

01:27:18,327 --> 01:27:24,028

Tempo will be geostationary,  
it will hover over our country

1238

01:27:24,052 --> 01:27:30,627

and it will be able to read out at a very small  
grid level for a number of the criteria pollutants,

1239

01:27:30,651 --> 01:27:35,748

but right now EPA is not ready to use that  
data and this is critical for us to get at,

1240

01:27:35,772 --> 01:27:39,068

we cannot say that we care about  
environmental justice communities

1241

01:27:39,092 --> 01:27:42,047

when we have millions of  
dollars of satellites in the sky

1242

01:27:42,071 --> 01:27:43,199

that can tell us what's in our air

1243

01:27:43,199 --> 01:27:47,280

but we can't translate that data to the  
very communities who most need it.

1244

01:27:47,280 --> 01:27:49,199

Thank you so much.

1245

01:27:49,199 --> 01:27:50,244

Matthew Tejada: Thanks, Jane.

1246

01:27:50,268 --> 01:27:53,440

Thanks for sharing that  
too, especially in this forum.

1247

01:27:54,400 --> 01:27:58,048

I agree and that was-- well  
whenever I don't agree with you--

1248

01:27:58,072 --> 01:28:01,168

there's probably been a  
time or two, I won't say that

1249

01:28:01,192 --> 01:28:03,106

but thank you for that.

1250

01:28:03,130 --> 01:28:09,907

We do have-- one of the areas that I have  
not been as involved in as of the others

1251

01:28:09,931 --> 01:28:14,960



but I know is a substantial part  
of our agency equity action plan,

1252

01:28:14,960 --> 01:28:19,807

is focusing on science and community  
science to complement some of the stuff

1253

01:28:19,831 --> 01:28:23,360

that is in the strategic plan.

1254

01:28:23,360 --> 01:28:27,679

We still have a lot of work to do,  
obviously, as you're pointing out

1255

01:28:27,679 --> 01:28:32,880

but I think we have a real opportunity at  
a moment when we have some resources,

1256

01:28:32,880 --> 01:28:35,760

where we can make some very--

1257

01:28:35,760 --> 01:28:41,679

I think we have a better shot at  
making some real progress on things like

1258

01:28:41,679 --> 01:28:46,148

citizen science or community science  
whatever the term is that people want to use,

1259

01:28:46,172 --> 01:28:53,280

actually putting that data in a place that we  
take it seriously as it deserves to be taken

1260

01:28:53,280 --> 01:28:57,888

and also making sure that the way we engage  
with and use like you're pointing out

1261

01:28:57,912 --> 01:29:03,317

on data from NASA and making it translatable,  
intangible and meaningful to folks,

1262

01:29:03,341 --> 01:29:09,120

not just the experts in North Carolina  
but everyone across the country.

1263

01:29:09,120 --> 01:29:14,159

Those are of course very on point  
and things that we're working towards.

1264

01:29:14,159 --> 01:29:18,200

I would ask-- I don't want to put  
you on the spot, Nancy and Sydney,

1265

01:29:18,224 --> 01:29:20,569

so if you just don't  
come on then don't come on,

1266

01:29:20,593 --> 01:29:25,360

but if you all have anything you want  
to share in response to what Jane shared,

1267

01:29:25,360 --> 01:29:27,920

you're of course very welcome,

1268

01:29:27,920 --> 01:29:29,760

otherwise we'll just thank Jane for--

1269

01:29:29,760 --> 01:29:33,280

There's Nancy-- anything  
you want to share Nancy?

1270

01:29:33,280 --> 01:29:36,568

Nancy Searby: Sure, I'll just  
say Jane, wow thank you so much.

1271

01:29:36,592 --> 01:29:40,568

You sound like you've been hanging  
out with the scientists for a while.

1272

01:29:40,592 --> 01:29:44,639

You're giving the specs on our  
Tempo mission and our Maya mission,

1273

01:29:44,639 --> 01:29:49,862

your dedication to standing in that  
interface between the science and the needs

1274

01:29:49,886 --> 01:29:55,801

is really appreciated and so I just think that

you're right that there's a whole lot to be done

1275

01:29:55,825 --> 01:29:59,686

and that's why Matthew mentioned he's  
been speaking to us for every other day

1276

01:29:59,710 --> 01:30:04,068

and it's not always me, but it's others who  
are very much the experts in the air quality

1277

01:30:04,092 --> 01:30:07,440

and the people building the Maya mission.

1278

01:30:07,440 --> 01:30:11,588

And so we have been saying  
what is EJSCREEN doing now?

1279

01:30:11,612 --> 01:30:13,628

What could you be doing with NASA data?

1280

01:30:13,652 --> 01:30:18,807

And so those conversations we're having

them, and so I think we all agree with you.

1281

01:30:18,831 --> 01:30:22,560

I think that the challenge is how  
we actually do that but we are talking,

1282

01:30:22,560 --> 01:30:27,397

so I just would say that it is important and  
I think we do have these great satellites

1283

01:30:27,421 --> 01:30:29,840

and you have the great monitoring--

1284

01:30:29,840 --> 01:30:34,571

I can't get involved in the regulatory versus  
non-regulatory, that's not my area of expertise

1285

01:30:34,595 --> 01:30:37,798

but I do think there's a lot of  
information that we can gather together,

1286

01:30:37,822 --> 01:30:41,360

it's a great opportunity  
now to be able to do that.

1287

01:30:41,360 --> 01:30:42,639

Thanks.

1288

01:30:42,639 --> 01:30:44,000

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Nancy.

1289

01:30:44,800 --> 01:30:48,788

We're going to go ahead and  
move to Stephanie Williams.

1290

01:30:48,812 --> 01:30:52,988

I'm gonna allow you  
to talk, unmute your mic

1291

01:30:53,012 --> 01:30:56,747

and then Christina afterwards we can  
then move and ask another written question

1292

01:30:56,771 --> 01:31:01,520

to kind of go tag team back  
and forth, if that works for you, okay?

1293

01:31:01,520 --> 01:31:02,951

Christina Motilal: Sounds good.

1294

01:31:02,975 --> 01:31:07,840

Victoria Robinson: All right, so Stephanie  
Williams you can go ahead and unmute yourself.

1295

01:31:07,840 --> 01:31:09,520

Stephanie Williams: Oh I'm sorry.

1296

01:31:09,520 --> 01:31:14,080

I accidentally hit the raised hand thing  
and I thought I'd put it down, sorry.

1297

01:31:14,080 --> 01:31:16,000

Victoria Robinson: No problem.

1298

01:31:16,000 --> 01:31:19,120

All right.



1299

01:31:19,120 --> 01:31:22,480

We'll go to Buddy,

1300

01:31:25,840 --> 01:31:27,679

if you can go ahead

and unmute yourself.

1301

01:31:27,679 --> 01:31:29,199

Buddy: Hello.

1302

01:31:29,199 --> 01:31:31,040

Matthew Tejada: Hello, Buddy.

1303

01:31:31,040 --> 01:31:32,400

Buddy: Hi how are you?

1304

01:31:32,400 --> 01:31:33,907

Matthew Tejada: I'm fine, how are you?

1305

01:31:33,931 --> 01:31:36,400

Buddy: Good, happy new year [LAUGHS]

1306

01:31:36,400 --> 01:31:41,120

This was a very good presentation,  
we covered a lot of areas

1307

01:31:41,120 --> 01:31:44,788

and each area here in my  
community we are interested in

1308

01:31:44,812 --> 01:31:48,960

and they are very  
concerning about how it all happens

1309

01:31:48,960 --> 01:31:50,639

and particularly with transparency

1310

01:31:50,639 --> 01:31:57,908

and being able to get the state and federal  
and local government to start working together

1311

01:31:57,932 --> 01:32:03,504

to engage the community and engage  
the community generally up front

1312

01:32:03,528 --> 01:32:09,360

with all the information needed to help  
solve the problems that we're talking about.

1313

01:32:09,360 --> 01:32:12,880

And community engagement needs to be  
coming from the community

1314

01:32:12,880 --> 01:32:19,440

and I am very concerned how J40 is  
going to go forward, what it's going to do?

1315

01:32:19,440 --> 01:32:24,320

For what we've been fighting for  
all of these years with what we have--

1316

01:32:24,320 --> 01:32:31,440

And when we talk about-- I said  
something about the NASA thing,

1317

01:32:31,440 --> 01:32:33,964

that NASA's got some  
grants or whatever about,

1318

01:32:33,988 --> 01:32:40,400

this is for everybody not just those  
who are part of the governmental process

1319

01:32:40,400 --> 01:32:43,360

on EJ or whatever but for everybody.

1320

01:32:43,360 --> 01:32:45,568

When we start talking  
about all these grants,

1321

01:32:45,592 --> 01:32:50,500

very few of them get to where they  
need to be at on the grassroots level

1322

01:32:50,524 --> 01:32:54,639

in our neighborhoods in  
our community, certain by the community

1323

01:32:54,639 --> 01:32:59,360

and by those same people that Matthew  
was talking about that need to be paid,

1324

01:32:59,360 --> 01:33:02,063

need to have some sort  
of stipend done, whatever,

1325

01:33:02,087 --> 01:33:05,760

I mean and you said it  
locally how that needs to happen

1326

01:33:05,760 --> 01:33:08,400

because I know about that population.

1327

01:33:08,400 --> 01:33:12,668

And what's happening is that by not  
having those dollars and cents

1328

01:33:12,692 --> 01:33:18,359

in the trenches, in the community

and real, real proposals, real grants

1329

01:33:18,383 --> 01:33:23,408

that we can make a difference  
in educating, making people aware

1330

01:33:23,432 --> 01:33:27,481

and protecting their communities,  
their families, whether it's lead

1331

01:33:27,505 --> 01:33:30,159

whether it's asbestos --

1332

01:33:30,159 --> 01:33:34,560

We're a Superfund site, we're our  
brownfields community, all these things

1333

01:33:34,560 --> 01:33:39,887

But also I want to end with this, those  
grants have to get to our community

1334

01:33:39,911 --> 01:33:44,088

not the groups who say they  
talk to us or know our community,

1335

01:33:44,112 --> 01:33:48,288

they don't live here and so therefore  
what happens, the money doesn't get there

1336

01:33:48,312 --> 01:33:52,528

and there's really nothing-- no  
impact from all that money that's coming.

1337

01:33:52,552 --> 01:33:55,707

And then renewable  
energy, this is another area.

1338

01:33:55,731 --> 01:34:00,000

When we talk about renewable energy  
and equity I'm talking about the dollars

1339

01:34:00,000 --> 01:34:05,948

related to jobs, job training and  
business opportunities of renewable energy.

1340

01:34:05,972 --> 01:34:06,960

Thank you.

1341

01:34:06,960 --> 01:34:08,800

Matthew Tejada: Thank you,

Buddy, that was that was a lot,

1342

01:34:08,800 --> 01:34:12,290

very good feedback, I

really appreciate it.

1343

01:34:12,314 --> 01:34:16,728

I saw you added some things in

the question and answer pod as well.

1344

01:34:16,752 --> 01:34:20,480

So a couple points, I

guess in response to that.

1345

01:34:20,480 --> 01:34:25,688

One, just in making sure that these

grants get to the right places



1346

01:34:25,712 --> 01:34:29,632

and have the biggest impact  
that go to the communities

1347

01:34:29,656 --> 01:34:33,338

that have had the greatest challenges  
for the longest amount of time,

1348

01:34:33,362 --> 01:34:36,308

those legacy communities with EJ concerns,

1349

01:34:37,040 --> 01:34:40,187

that's part of why-- that's  
what we're doing right here

1350

01:34:40,211 --> 01:34:44,159

and that's why your feedback is so  
valuable because while we have the folks,

1351

01:34:44,159 --> 01:34:49,108

our colleagues who are trying to

figure this out in real time right now,

1352

01:34:49,132 --> 01:34:54,560

listening to you all engaging with  
us, that's our best answer to try to help--

1353

01:34:54,560 --> 01:34:59,520

make sure that these grants get to  
the places that need them the most.

1354

01:34:59,520 --> 01:35:06,628

One of the things that has been really difficult  
in all of this work over the last year is--

1355

01:35:06,652 --> 01:35:11,408

it's difficult inside of the  
government and I know from before,

1356

01:35:11,432 --> 01:35:16,320

being in the government it was even more  
difficult when you're outside of the government

1357

01:35:16,320 --> 01:35:20,087

to understand everything like every  
program and every bit of bureaucracy

1358

01:35:20,111 --> 01:35:24,508

and every dumb rule that we have  
to follow that we never tell folks about

1359

01:35:24,532 --> 01:35:32,288

but they're there because none of  
this is just like one big pot of money

1360

01:35:32,312 --> 01:35:35,908

or one new grant that's gonna go  
out to community folks, at least not yet.

1361

01:35:35,932 --> 01:35:38,847

We'll see what happens in  
the Build Back Better plan

1362

01:35:38,871 --> 01:35:42,639

if we get a big pot of  
money for communities,

1363

01:35:42,639 --> 01:35:47,866

but everything that's happened so  
far is going through existing programs

1364

01:35:47,890 --> 01:35:50,708

that have been created  
through previous statutes

1365

01:35:50,732 --> 01:35:54,548

like the one that are called--  
that Tim mentioned from 1990,

1366

01:35:54,572 --> 01:35:59,209

I'd never heard of that statute, I didn't  
know there was this statute from 1990

1367

01:35:59,233 --> 01:36:02,480

that set up the pollution  
prevention program.

1368

01:36:02,480 --> 01:36:08,080

So each one of them has its own rules,  
its own laws, its own target

1369

01:36:08,080 --> 01:36:12,719  
and like this P2 grant, it doesn't  
go to community organizations

1370

01:36:12,719 --> 01:36:16,320  
but it's still going to have a benefit.

1371

01:36:16,320 --> 01:36:21,440  
And that's the purpose of Justice40 is  
where the benefits of these things happen in.

1372

01:36:21,440 --> 01:36:25,840  
We want to make sure that if we're  
giving money out to anybody

1373

01:36:25,840 --> 01:36:31,360  
to reduce pollution, that that money is going  
to the communities with the greatest pollution,

1374

01:36:31,360 --> 01:36:33,792

that should be one  
of the things we think about,

1375

01:36:33,816 --> 01:36:36,560

that's part of the engagement  
we're having on the inside,

1376

01:36:36,560 --> 01:36:41,520

it's part of the reason why we're having  
these engagement calls with the outside.

1377

01:36:41,520 --> 01:36:47,008

But that is a that is an  
advocacy agenda that--

1378

01:36:47,032 --> 01:36:51,920

I mean we're going to have to work across  
dozens of programs just inside of EPA.

1379

01:36:51,920 --> 01:36:57,679

We're going to have to work across thousands of  
programs across the entire federal government

1380

01:36:57,679 --> 01:37:02,418

having dozens of conversations  
with every single program

1381

01:37:02,442 --> 01:37:07,702

about how to make sure their grant  
requirements, their tracking and reporting,

1382

01:37:07,726 --> 01:37:10,928

the engagement like Ms.  
Gordon was saying earlier,

1383

01:37:10,952 --> 01:37:13,328

we can't just all engage  
up here at the national level,

1384

01:37:13,352 --> 01:37:17,520

we got to start bringing it to the ground  
and getting feedback from the ground.

1385

01:37:17,520 --> 01:37:21,920

One of the other things though  
that I want to lift up here

1386

01:37:21,920 --> 01:37:25,394

is that Justice40 has been  
talking about benefits

1387

01:37:25,418 --> 01:37:27,548

and it's all about the  
benefits and that's great.

1388

01:37:28,080 --> 01:37:30,466

We need to make progress  
with tracking benefits,

1389

01:37:30,490 --> 01:37:34,788

we're not very good at that across  
the board in the federal government.

1390

01:37:34,812 --> 01:37:38,480

But we also-- I think this goes  
to your point, Buddy,



1391

01:37:38,480 --> 01:37:44,396

we also need to track the dollars even if  
the dollars legally can't go into the hands

1392

01:37:44,420 --> 01:37:48,747

of the community organization, we  
still need to track that those dollars

1393

01:37:48,771 --> 01:37:52,905

made it somewhere in that community,  
whether it's jobs in that local community

1394

01:37:52,929 --> 01:37:56,719

or just paying for the monitoring  
equipment in that local community.

1395

01:37:56,719 --> 01:38:01,407

We need to track the dollars and  
there are some parts of the government

1396

01:38:01,431 --> 01:38:04,628

that are really good

at tracking where those dollars go

1397

01:38:04,652 --> 01:38:09,468

and can tell you right now today  
where their dollars show up on the ground

1398

01:38:09,492 --> 01:38:11,040

across the United States.

1399

01:38:11,040 --> 01:38:15,004

There are a lot of programs  
that we don't do that.

1400

01:38:15,028 --> 01:38:16,239

We don't know--

1401

01:38:16,239 --> 01:38:21,600

Once there's one transaction or two  
transactions in a chain of eight transactions,

1402

01:38:21,600 --> 01:38:24,359

we have no idea where the

dollars wind up eventually

1403

01:38:24,383 --> 01:38:26,159

and that's just a fact.

1404

01:38:26,159 --> 01:38:32,239

And that's why at the January 5th NEJAC meeting, Administrator Regan committed

1405

01:38:32,239 --> 01:38:35,339

that while we're continuing to lead from the front on Justice40

1406

01:38:35,363 --> 01:38:40,073

and work with other federal agencies, even those that aren't in Justice40

1407

01:38:40,097 --> 01:38:42,480

like our colleagues from NASA,

1408

01:38:42,480 --> 01:38:47,760

continuing to work and support the White

House in their direction on Justice40,

1409

01:38:47,760 --> 01:38:50,928

we're going to track the dollars too,  
even though it's not in Justice40.

1410

01:38:51,440 --> 01:38:54,448

We're going to track investments and  
we're going to try everything we can

1411

01:38:54,472 --> 01:38:56,808

to visualize where the dollars go.

1412

01:38:56,832 --> 01:39:01,187

I think it's important not just so that  
we understand where did the dollars go

1413

01:39:01,211 --> 01:39:04,565

and where did the benefits happen  
and what's the relationship there,

1414

01:39:04,589 --> 01:39:09,280

but just from a transparency and wanting  
to show to community leaders like you,

1415

01:39:09,280 --> 01:39:12,742

you all deserve, we all deserve,  
everyone deserves to see

1416

01:39:12,766 --> 01:39:14,588

where the tax payer  
dollars actually wind up.

1417

01:39:14,612 --> 01:39:17,280

And I think that's going  
to be pretty illuminating,

1418

01:39:17,280 --> 01:39:20,788

the more that we can show where do these  
dollars actually show up on the ground,

1419

01:39:20,812 --> 01:39:25,793

I think that's the sort of thing that  
can be action forcing in a good way.

1420

01:39:25,817 --> 01:39:27,994

So we made that commitment,

1421

01:39:28,018 --> 01:39:32,159

the administrator made that  
commitment earlier this month to do that.

1422

01:39:32,159 --> 01:39:36,159

Okay, Victoria or Christina.

1423

01:39:36,159 --> 01:39:37,369

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Matt.

1424

01:39:37,393 --> 01:39:43,119

Christina, I think you had a question  
already lined up from the Q&A pod.

1425

01:39:45,760 --> 01:39:48,800

Christina Motilal: Yes we have a few.

1426

01:39:48,800 --> 01:39:51,800

Victoria Robinson: Okay.

1427

01:39:54,000 --> 01:39:56,000

Christina Motilal: You know what, I--

1428

01:39:56,000 --> 01:39:57,368

Matthew Tejada: Gonna do the consent one?

1429

01:39:57,392 --> 01:39:59,868

Christina Motilal: Yeah that's  
what I was-- I was hesitating that

1430

01:39:59,892 --> 01:40:02,480

but I [LAUGHS] sorry.

1431

01:40:02,480 --> 01:40:04,719

Matthew Tejada: No, it's  
okay we had somebody

1432

01:40:04,719 --> 01:40:09,199

they didn't put their name on it,  
it was anonymous which is fine

1433

01:40:09,199 --> 01:40:16,478

but they asked a couple times about the consent and endorsement of EJ communities

1434

01:40:16,502 --> 01:40:21,828

for the EPA strategic plan and I'm not entirely sure what is meant by that.

1435

01:40:21,852 --> 01:40:30,639

there isn't a consent and endorsement function for executive actions like that.

1436

01:40:30,639 --> 01:40:38,560

we engage folks and for the strategic plan we held a formal engagement process,

1437

01:40:38,560 --> 01:40:43,862

we pre-loaded that formal engagement process with notification through things like this call

1438

01:40:43,886 --> 01:40:48,807



to make sure that EJ leaders,  
EJ organizations were aware

1439

01:40:48,831 --> 01:40:53,360

that this window of feedback  
opportunity was going to open up.

1440

01:40:53,360 --> 01:40:56,848

We provided information through these  
calls and through other channels,

1441

01:40:56,872 --> 01:41:01,679

we also made sure that we had the National  
Environmental Justice Advisory Council

1442

01:41:01,679 --> 01:41:07,280

and that's one of our best-- it's still  
not advice or consent

1443

01:41:07,280 --> 01:41:11,204

but it's not an oversight body  
but the NEJAC is really the one

1444

01:41:11,228 --> 01:41:14,960

that we that we go to and  
especially in this administration,

1445

01:41:14,960 --> 01:41:20,560

more than any administration I've experienced,  
is going to the NEJAC to look for--

1446

01:41:20,560 --> 01:41:22,668

"Did we get it right or  
did we get it wrong?"

1447

01:41:22,692 --> 01:41:27,207

and if they tell us we're getting it  
wrong then we're just like right now,

1448

01:41:27,231 --> 01:41:31,126

even though the NEJAC's recommendations  
were the last recommendations

1449

01:41:31,150 --> 01:41:35,775

to come into the agency and they have that

privilege as a federal advisory committee

1450

01:41:35,799 --> 01:41:43,040

that can advise us outside of  
public feedback periods,

1451

01:41:43,199 --> 01:41:48,000

that's why we wanted to do that,  
is we wanted to get as much input

1452

01:41:48,000 --> 01:41:52,107

into the strategic plan as we could from  
EJ leaders, from EJ organizations

1453

01:41:52,131 --> 01:41:57,040

to check as a sort of a ground  
truth, as a sort of a check

1454

01:41:57,040 --> 01:42:02,588

that we had things lined up correctly and  
we've made modifications based upon that

1455

01:42:02,612 --> 01:42:09,840

but there is no function for consent of  
executive actions or executive processes,

1456

01:42:09,840 --> 01:42:12,000

such as a strategic plan.

1457

01:42:12,000 --> 01:42:14,108

I hope that answered your questions, if it  
didn't

1458

01:42:14,132 --> 01:42:18,287

or if I'm missing-- if I'm missing  
the point of your question, I apologize.

1459

01:42:18,311 --> 01:42:22,639

And you're very welcome to  
raise your hand or you can follow up

1460

01:42:22,639 --> 01:42:26,218

with another question in the Q&A  
pod or you can email me directly

1461

01:42:26,242 --> 01:42:28,560

and we can follow

up, I'm very happy--

1462

01:42:28,560 --> 01:42:32,312

I'm still-- actually tomorrow I think

I'm finally meeting with somebody

1463

01:42:32,336 --> 01:42:35,119

who asked a very good

question back in our December call,

1464

01:42:35,119 --> 01:42:38,688

we finally managed to find the time

tomorrow to chat just individually

1465

01:42:38,712 --> 01:42:42,607

but I'm very happy to chat

with you individually as well

1466

01:42:42,631 --> 01:42:47,520

at your convenience to make

sure I understand your points,

1467

01:42:47,520 --> 01:42:51,360

and being responsive to it.

1468

01:42:51,440 --> 01:42:52,808

Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Matt.

1469

01:42:52,832 --> 01:42:59,507

I'll ask Martita Armas and I  
apologize if I've mangled your name,

1470

01:42:59,531 --> 01:43:05,920

if you go ahead and unmute  
yourself to ask a question.

1471

01:43:09,040 --> 01:43:12,080

Are you able to unmute yourself?

1472

01:43:12,080 --> 01:43:13,679

Martha Armas: I'm mute?

1473

01:43:13,679 --> 01:43:15,020

Are you gonna hear me now?

1474

01:43:15,044 --> 01:43:16,719

Matthew Tejada: We got you.

1475

01:43:17,840 --> 01:43:21,828

Martha Armas: Okay, my name is

Martha Armas Kelly and I'm from California

1476

01:43:21,852 --> 01:43:25,360

and I participate as an

environmental justice coordinator

1477

01:43:25,360 --> 01:43:29,742

for Catholic Charities Environmental

Justice program and we're very unique

1478

01:43:29,766 --> 01:43:34,880

that we're FBO and our focus has been

on the environmental justice narrative.

1479

01:43:34,880 --> 01:43:41,288

I recently in 2021 was selected as the  
inaugural cohort member for PACE

1480

01:43:41,312 --> 01:43:45,468

which is Partners Advancing  
Climate Equity in the state of California

1481

01:43:45,492 --> 01:43:50,880

and it was put through forth as an  
effort from the Strategic Growth Council.

1482

01:43:50,880 --> 01:43:55,185

I, as a cohort member, have  
learned so much about capacity building,

1483

01:43:55,209 --> 01:44:02,059

how to really push the narrative, how to do  
it equitably and with meaningful engagement.

1484

01:44:02,083 --> 01:44:05,528

And if I wasn't doing it already,



it was really, really impactful

1485

01:44:05,552 --> 01:44:08,704

and the work continues until  
the end of this March.

1486

01:44:08,728 --> 01:44:12,845

But when you're looking at the  
issue of how to involve community,

1487

01:44:12,869 --> 01:44:15,948

you have to look at how this  
model was created.

1488

01:44:15,972 --> 01:44:20,548

They took the best of the best that are  
doing the work in the state of California

1489

01:44:20,572 --> 01:44:24,148

and mind you there  
were 160 applicants that applied

1490

01:44:24,172 --> 01:44:27,360

and there were 20 of  
us that were selected.

1491

01:44:27,360 --> 01:44:32,349

Many of my partners that applied would  
have been suitable partners to participate,

1492

01:44:32,373 --> 01:44:34,761

the problem was there wasn't  
enough money.

1493

01:44:34,785 --> 01:44:37,488

So when you're looking at  
these issues and you're asking for

1494

01:44:37,512 --> 01:44:41,443

how do we advance the narrative,  
how do we get to the people

1495

01:44:41,467 --> 01:44:46,208

you have a bevy of people in the United States,  
they're working on these environmental issues.

1496

01:44:46,232 --> 01:44:51,667

If you take the money and invest it into  
those leaders and allow them to show you

1497

01:44:51,691 --> 01:44:55,600

what they are dealing with, what  
they are doing at a grassroots level,

1498

01:44:55,600 --> 01:44:59,008

they can give you the information but  
there is a need for compensation

1499

01:44:59,032 --> 01:45:02,480

and there is a need for  
a capacity development.

1500

01:45:02,480 --> 01:45:07,628

So in turn for me, I feel  
that they did great in this

1501

01:45:07,652 --> 01:45:13,068

but it doesn't stop there, I think that we  
need to have money set aside for folks

1502

01:45:13,092 --> 01:45:16,719

that are doing the work to show  
the ability to be able to do the work

1503

01:45:16,719 --> 01:45:21,186

and now give them money so they can carry  
out a project and make that come to fruition.

1504

01:45:21,210 --> 01:45:24,388

We know that it's there, we  
know that we have the ability,

1505

01:45:24,412 --> 01:45:28,360

we know the communities--  
[NOTIFICATION SOUND]

1506

01:45:30,320 --> 01:45:34,159

Matthew Tejada: I think we lost  
you in the middle of that, Martha.

1507

01:45:34,159 --> 01:45:38,960

It almost sounded like an emergency notification hit your phone.

1508

01:45:40,000 --> 01:45:45,159

Victoria Robinson: Are you able to hear-- can you speak, Martha?

1509

01:45:45,280 --> 01:45:47,040

Matthew Tejada: I think that might have knocked her up.

1510

01:45:47,040 --> 01:45:50,080

Yeah, I think we got the bulk of what she was saying.

1511

01:45:50,080 --> 01:45:55,491

There were a lot of good points there and a lot of what you were expressing, Martha

1512

01:45:55,515 --> 01:45:58,159

if you can still hear us,

1513

01:45:58,159 --> 01:46:03,440

I was taking it as a lot of the  
feedback that we want and need

1514

01:46:03,440 --> 01:46:09,376

should we get the chance to stand up  
a completely new generation of grants

1515

01:46:09,400 --> 01:46:13,840

and technical  
assistance for communities?

1516

01:46:13,840 --> 01:46:17,641

One of the things that we're  
going to do in the standing up of that

1517

01:46:17,665 --> 01:46:22,133

is to have a really robust  
period of engaging with folks

1518

01:46:22,157 --> 01:46:28,159

that have thoughts like yours engaging  
with you if we can find you again

1519

01:46:28,239 --> 01:46:32,480

or if you can find us because we won't  
make it a secret where we're doing this

1520

01:46:32,480 --> 01:46:37,668

but we want to have a really robust period  
of engaging in the fundamental design

1521

01:46:37,692 --> 01:46:41,507

of what a new generation of brands  
and technical assistants look like.

1522

01:46:41,531 --> 01:46:46,480

There's already a lot of  
information and ideas out there,

1523

01:46:46,480 --> 01:46:49,207

particularly from some  
of the EJ leaders around.

1524

01:46:49,231 --> 01:46:53,368

I know like Bob Bullard and Bev  
Wright down in Texas, Louisiana

1525

01:46:53,392 --> 01:47:00,588

have put together a proposal about regional  
technical assistance capacity building centers

1526

01:47:00,612 --> 01:47:05,119

and other folks have talked about  
that's something we're very interested in.

1527

01:47:05,119 --> 01:47:06,800

Martha Armas: I'm ready--

1528

01:47:06,800 --> 01:47:08,480

Matthew Tejada: Oh there  
you go, Martha, you're back.

1529

01:47:08,480 --> 01:47:10,239

Great.



1530

01:47:10,239 --> 01:47:12,328

Martha Armas: I got cut off  
and I don't know where I left off

1531

01:47:12,352 --> 01:47:16,880

but what I was really trying to  
say is that there is an effort,

1532

01:47:16,880 --> 01:47:21,280

the communities are hungry,  
myself as a cohort member of PACE,

1533

01:47:21,280 --> 01:47:25,093

Partners Advancing in Climate Equity  
this last year in 2021,

1534

01:47:25,117 --> 01:47:29,421

this next year 2022, UC  
Davis cohort member.

1535

01:47:29,445 --> 01:47:35,628

I'm working towards raising the

narrative data and CBOs and FBOs,

1536

01:47:35,652 --> 01:47:38,307

how they need to  
learn how to use data.

1537

01:47:38,331 --> 01:47:41,608

I work with Capstone projects over  
the last few years helping students

1538

01:47:41,632 --> 01:47:45,748

to understand that their work  
is critical for the community.

1539

01:47:45,772 --> 01:47:51,116

For us as community leaders, it's critical  
for us to be able to make those connections.

1540

01:47:51,140 --> 01:47:53,328

In March, we  
are going to be having a convening

1541

01:47:53,352 --> 01:47:56,568

where we're bringing

CBOs and academia together

1542

01:47:56,592 --> 01:48:01,320

and that's part of where I'm I'm pushing

for because I know that the data is there

1543

01:48:01,344 --> 01:48:04,887

but we need to make those connections

with the data and the community

1544

01:48:04,911 --> 01:48:07,948

and there needs to be some

type of incentive,

1545

01:48:07,972 --> 01:48:11,787

there needs to be funding available for those

groups that are willing to put the commitment

1546

01:48:11,811 --> 01:48:16,230

and the work that it takes

to participate in these efforts.

1547

01:48:16,254 --> 01:48:19,442

The capacity of most of  
our nonprofits is limited,

1548

01:48:19,466 --> 01:48:23,028

so in this perspective UC Davis  
put their money where their mouth is,

1549

01:48:23,052 --> 01:48:28,568

they not only are supporting myself to  
participate in the engagement and using my skills

1550

01:48:28,592 --> 01:48:32,531

and opportunities that I've already  
experienced to gain knowledge

1551

01:48:32,555 --> 01:48:34,508

on how to reach that market

1552

01:48:34,532 --> 01:48:40,107

but they're also paying the environmental

justice program a stipend so that they can afford

1553

01:48:40,131 --> 01:48:43,226

to let me go for those few hours  
so that I can integrate with them.

1554

01:48:43,250 --> 01:48:46,068

And that's a good model--  
it's a win-win for everyone.

1555

01:48:46,092 --> 01:48:48,560

I think we need to  
redesign our thinking.

1556

01:48:48,560 --> 01:48:53,114

I've got lots of ideas and I would love to  
share, take my email down and I'm ready to help.

1557

01:48:53,138 --> 01:48:56,348

Matthew Tejada: Don't share your email but  
if you would please email me,

1558

01:48:56,372 --> 01:48:59,600

it's tejada.matthew@EPA.gov.

1559

01:48:59,600 --> 01:49:02,745

Mine's publicly available, let's not make  
yours publicly available.

1560

01:49:02,769 --> 01:49:06,239

But please drop me a line,  
Martha, I'd love to engage more.

1561

01:49:06,239 --> 01:49:10,239

Martha Armas: And I speak Spanish so I bring  
the narrative in two languages, thank you.

1562

01:49:10,239 --> 01:49:12,639

Matthew Tejada: Thank you.

1563

01:49:12,960 --> 01:49:16,146

So Victoria, I've got a thing  
right at 4 o'clock

1564

01:49:16,170 --> 01:49:19,788

so I'm going to be pretty prompt at  
4, I know we've got a few more hands.

1565

01:49:19,812 --> 01:49:22,175

Victoria Robinson: No problem, we have  
a few with hands up raised

1566

01:49:22,199 --> 01:49:26,177

but real quick, Christina do you have  
any other questions in the Q&A pod

1567

01:49:26,201 --> 01:49:28,095

that you want to read out?

1568

01:49:28,119 --> 01:49:32,000

Otherwise, we'll go to the  
next person with the hand raised.

1569

01:49:32,000 --> 01:49:33,645

Christina Motilal: Yes, there is one.

1570

01:49:33,669 --> 01:49:35,578

This is from  
another anonymous poster.

1571

01:49:35,602 --> 01:49:39,440

This is in reference to Mr. Buddy  
and his comments from before.

1572

01:49:39,440 --> 01:49:42,727

They say "Buddy raises a good point and  
is there a way to divert funds

1573

01:49:42,751 --> 01:49:45,924

to communities recognizing  
that requiring a non-profit status

1574

01:49:45,948 --> 01:49:50,365

is a barrier for some  
impacted EJ communities--

1575

01:49:50,389 --> 01:49:51,199

--



1576

01:49:51,199 --> 01:49:52,159

Okay.

1577

01:49:52,159 --> 01:49:53,468

Matthew Tejada: I'm

sorry Christina I wasn't--

1578

01:49:53,492 --> 01:49:54,867

Christina Motilal: No, there was

just a couple more sentences

1579

01:49:54,891 --> 01:49:56,908

that I thought were great

to read just a thought

1580

01:49:56,932 --> 01:50:01,325

since many truly grassroots local lead

solutions don't have time energy resources

1581

01:50:01,349 --> 01:50:05,125

to create a non-profit given the rest

of the challenges facing community.

1582

01:50:05,149 --> 01:50:10,639

There may be creative  
solutions worth considering."

1583

01:50:10,639 --> 01:50:12,127

Matthew Tejada: Yeah,  
that's a great thought.

1584

01:50:12,151 --> 01:50:14,499

And that is one of the  
things we are thinking about

1585

01:50:14,523 --> 01:50:17,840

in terms of trying to find some  
new ways to get support out.

1586

01:50:17,840 --> 01:50:24,000

Obviously, it's a little tricky to get  
taxpayer dollars out if it's not to a 501 c3

1587

01:50:24,000 --> 01:50:27,888

or to an individual through an actual  
financial instrument as a contract

1588

01:50:27,912 --> 01:50:32,428

and to be hired by a contract,  
but looking at grants and subgrants

1589

01:50:32,452 --> 01:50:39,360

or building these community capacity building  
centers within the realm of what is legal,

1590

01:50:39,360 --> 01:50:43,040

that is the sort of thing that  
we are very dedicated to investigating

1591

01:50:43,040 --> 01:50:46,159

with any of these new  
resources we might get,

1592

01:50:46,159 --> 01:50:53,840

is to get those resources out in ways that  
communities can most easily access them.

1593

01:50:53,920 --> 01:50:54,800

Victoria Robinson: Okay.

1594

01:50:54,800 --> 01:50:56,494

Thank you, Matt.

1595

01:50:56,518 --> 01:51:02,859

I'm gonna ask Linda Amazon, if  
you're still wanting to ask a question,

1596

01:51:02,883 --> 01:51:07,400

if you can go ahead  
unmute yourself.

1597

01:51:11,440 --> 01:51:13,135

Linda Amazon: There we go.

1598

01:51:13,159 --> 01:51:14,000

Matthew Tejada: There you go.

1599

01:51:14,000 --> 01:51:15,760

Linda Amazon: Okay, great.

1600

01:51:15,760 --> 01:51:18,480

I'm in Tucson, Arizona.

1601

01:51:18,480 --> 01:51:24,639

I have a child that passed away  
in 2007 from a very rare disease

1602

01:51:24,639 --> 01:51:33,360

which is what started me on this  
environmental justice path in my life,

1603

01:51:33,360 --> 01:51:37,507

and since then I've done quite  
a bit of work here in my community.

1604

01:51:37,531 --> 01:51:43,988

The name environmental justice was  
just given to us through the community

1605

01:51:44,012 --> 01:51:48,800

because of all the work that we have  
been doing, we've never been paid

1606

01:51:48,800 --> 01:51:53,920  
for the work we do, we just do it  
because it's the right thing to do.

1607

01:51:53,920 --> 01:51:58,275  
And I'm really concerned because  
first off I thought this meeting

1608

01:51:58,299 --> 01:52:02,408  
was going to be about  
technical assistance grants

1609

01:52:02,432 --> 01:52:08,480  
and how-- I think I somehow  
misunderstood the meeting for today,

1610

01:52:08,480 --> 01:52:12,248  
but I'm kind of listening to  
all of you and just before I hung up

1611

01:52:12,272 --> 01:52:18,907

I'm hearing all of you and one of the things that I'm really concerned about is

1612

01:52:18,931 --> 01:52:24,968

that the agencies, local, states no matter where they are, whether if it's air pollution

1613

01:52:24,992 --> 01:52:30,188

whether it's water pollution, these people, the people that are affected,

1614

01:52:30,212 --> 01:52:34,080

the people that are living in these communities,

1615

01:52:34,080 --> 01:52:41,648

They have been overburdened with so much and not just to higher increased water rates

1616

01:52:41,672 --> 01:52:46,028

and not just to higher

exposures and you name it,

1617

01:52:46,052 --> 01:52:52,480

I mean we've got more than nine  
Superfund sites in zip code.

1618

01:52:52,480 --> 01:52:56,692

Now we've got P5 contamination  
and then we get--

1619

01:52:56,716 --> 01:53:00,068

I mean it just keeps happening  
and it just keeps happening.

1620

01:53:00,092 --> 01:53:05,688

The site that was put on  
Superfunds it's 1970s or 80s

1621

01:53:05,712 --> 01:53:09,920

when the EPA just started the  
Superfund program.

1622



01:53:09,920 --> 01:53:13,272

This site has been on national  
parties listing since then

1623

01:53:13,296 --> 01:53:17,375

and it's still not cleaned up and I  
don't think it ever will be cleaned up,

1624

01:53:17,399 --> 01:53:19,199

especially [UNINTELLIGIBLE].

1625

01:53:19,199 --> 01:53:25,119

So my part here is-- what I  
want to see happen is the grants--

1626

01:53:25,119 --> 01:53:29,488

there should be some grants that  
should go to for public participation

1627

01:53:29,512 --> 01:53:34,742

so that people can hire their own  
independent advisors that can help them,

1628

01:53:34,766 --> 01:53:38,719

technical advisors

that they feel they can trust.

1629

01:53:38,719 --> 01:53:45,170

And also, I feel like there should be  
some more kind of funding to support people

1630

01:53:45,194 --> 01:53:52,108

who want to move away, some kind  
of compensation and relocation funding

1631

01:53:52,132 --> 01:53:55,808

that can start getting people  
out of these communities

1632

01:53:55,832 --> 01:53:57,667

because it's just not fair,

1633

01:53:57,691 --> 01:54:03,760

you don't even realize that you're living  
in a contaminated site till your kid dies

1634

01:54:03,760 --> 01:54:10,239

or till you see all the kids in your  
community little by little getting sick.

1635

01:54:10,239 --> 01:54:15,001

That's just not okay, there's just  
too many pollution in our communities

1636

01:54:15,025 --> 01:54:17,335

and the government is allowing it.

1637

01:54:17,359 --> 01:54:23,119

EPA is allowing it, they're permitting  
these things to continue to happen.

1638

01:54:23,119 --> 01:54:26,348

Matthew Tejada: So thank you for  
that, Linda I'll share a few things

1639

01:54:26,372 --> 01:54:29,290

and I think I'm somewhat aware

of the site you're talking about.

1640

01:54:29,314 --> 01:54:33,520

If you're talking about the one  
down by the airport on the south side--

1641

01:54:33,520 --> 01:54:34,531

Linda Amazon: Yeah.

1642

01:54:34,555 --> 01:54:35,800

Matthew Tejada: So a few things.

1643

01:54:35,824 --> 01:54:38,587

One, for a lot of those-- I don't  
know if that's one of the sites

1644

01:54:38,611 --> 01:54:40,828

that has been one of the sites  
that needed funding

1645

01:54:40,852 --> 01:54:42,508

and didn't have a

source of funding

1646

01:54:42,532 --> 01:54:45,280

but that's exactly

where this infrastructure money

1647

01:54:45,280 --> 01:54:48,627

is allowing us to go out to dozens of sites

across the United States

1648

01:54:48,651 --> 01:54:51,822

where there just has not been

any resources to start to clean up

1649

01:54:51,846 --> 01:54:53,588

and we're starting to clean up.

1650

01:54:53,612 --> 01:54:58,539

That's the first thing we announced in

December after we got the infrastructure money

1651

01:54:58,563 --> 01:55:03,107

is that we're going right out to some of those  
priority Superfund sites across the country

1652

01:55:03,131 --> 01:55:05,760

to start cleaning them up.

1653

01:55:05,760 --> 01:55:09,828

Another thing-- we do have some technical  
assistance support for communities,

1654

01:55:09,852 --> 01:55:13,162

it's pretty limited just because  
we've never had much of a budget

1655

01:55:13,186 --> 01:55:17,440

and we typically rely on  
our regional EJ coordinators

1656

01:55:17,440 --> 01:55:22,505

to determine where to spend those  
technical resource dollars for communities.

1657

01:55:22,529 --> 01:55:27,268

If you would email me or anybody of  
the EPA folks here whose email you have,

1658

01:55:27,292 --> 01:55:30,066

you can just email  
tejada.matthew@EPA.gov,

1659

01:55:30,090 --> 01:55:34,413

I'll make sure that you get  
put-- that I'll put you in touch

1660

01:55:34,437 --> 01:55:38,647

with our regional EJ coordinators  
that are responsible for Arizona,

1661

01:55:38,671 --> 01:55:41,328

so that they  
can start helping you with that.

1662

01:55:41,352 --> 01:55:42,787

And there was one  
other thing you said,

1663

01:55:42,811 --> 01:55:45,679

I wanted to respond to

but I can't remember now.

1664

01:55:45,679 --> 01:55:48,112

But thank you so much, email

me and we'll get you set up--

1665

01:55:48,136 --> 01:55:51,520

we'll get you hooked

up with some sort of help to--

1666

01:55:53,040 --> 01:55:54,880

Linda Amazon: Okay.

1667

01:55:54,880 --> 01:55:58,068

Can you repeat your

email again, please?

1668

01:55:58,092 --> 01:56:02,320

Matthew Tejada: Sure, it's my last



name Tejada t-e-j-a-d-a,

1669

01:56:02,320 --> 01:56:08,077

dot Matthew

m-a-t-t-h-e-w @ EPA.gov.

1670

01:56:08,101 --> 01:56:12,480

All EPA ones unless your name is

Chuck Brown and there's four of them,

1671

01:56:12,480 --> 01:56:15,388

it's just lastname.firstname@epa.gov.

1672

01:56:15,412 --> 01:56:18,102

Linda Amazon: Wonderful, thank you.

1673

01:56:18,126 --> 01:56:20,400

Matthew Tejada: You're welcome, thank you.

1674

01:56:20,400 --> 01:56:24,159

Got Brandy and John,

two of our frequent flyers.

1675

01:56:24,159 --> 01:56:30,587

Victoria Robinson: Right, so I'm going to go ahead and allow Brandy to ask her a question.

1676

01:56:30,611 --> 01:56:34,400

unmute yourself, go ahead unmute Brandy.

1677

01:56:34,400 --> 01:56:38,800

Brandy: Hello, I hope you all are staying safe.

1678

01:56:38,960 --> 01:56:41,827

Thanks, I really don't have a question,

1679

01:56:41,851 --> 01:56:48,868

I just want to say that I'm really excited for the opportunity

1680

01:56:48,892 --> 01:56:56,127

that NASA is going to be partnering and

including solutions with environmental justice.

1681

01:56:56,151 --> 01:57:01,040

I'm excited to see more  
grant funding for air monitoring

1682

01:57:01,040 --> 01:57:04,719

because we desperately  
need it, especially in Michigan.

1683

01:57:06,080 --> 01:57:07,267

But I guess I do have one question,

1684

01:57:07,291 --> 01:57:14,639

I was wondering, is the EPA going to be  
providing more and more air monitors for EGLE

1685

01:57:14,639 --> 01:57:21,679

because there's definitely not enough  
air monitoring that's being done by EGLE

1686

01:57:21,679 --> 01:57:23,167

in pretty much any town either.

1687

01:57:23,191 --> 01:57:27,280

I think there should be an  
air monitor in every single city

1688

01:57:27,280 --> 01:57:33,567

because that would help and there's  
just not even air monitors in every county

1689

01:57:33,591 --> 01:57:36,000

in the state of Michigan.

1690

01:57:36,000 --> 01:57:42,779

I also wanted to say to everyone  
on the call that if they're not aware,

1691

01:57:42,803 --> 01:57:48,639

your health department can do  
studies as it relates to air pollution.

1692

01:57:48,639 --> 01:57:53,411

As Matt knows, I've been working with ATSDR  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

1693

01:57:53,435 --> 01:57:58,000

and the EPA since

July of 2020 and getting--

1694

01:57:58,000 --> 01:58:01,748

the EPA did come down with their air  
mobile unit which I was happy about

1695

01:58:01,772 --> 01:58:05,508

and Michigan Department of Health  
and Human Services will be coming out

1696

01:58:05,532 --> 01:58:08,800

with a report in the  
next couple of weeks.

1697

01:58:08,800 --> 01:58:16,400

Toxicologists Breen and Reed will be  
giving recommendations to the polluters

1698

01:58:16,400 --> 01:58:20,719

that are located in our front line  
community in Kalamazoo

1699

01:58:20,719 --> 01:58:25,396

and I think it's important for  
everyone to keep working together

1700

01:58:25,420 --> 01:58:30,639

because the more people we have working  
together, the more solutions that we can achieve.

1701

01:58:30,639 --> 01:58:37,119

And it sucks that I had to hire my own  
toxicologist and get an epidemiologist

1702

01:58:37,119 --> 01:58:42,320

from Chicago to help do reports to send to  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

1703

01:58:42,320 --> 01:58:46,108

and have lots of meetings

with ATSDR and everyone

1704

01:58:46,132 --> 01:58:49,808

but that's just what you have to do  
as an environmental justice activist

1705

01:58:49,832 --> 01:58:52,067

and a victim of environmental justice,

1706

01:58:52,091 --> 01:58:58,480

I mean that's just what you have to do  
but I am looking forward to the new funding,

1707

01:58:58,480 --> 01:59:02,410

I'm hoping Justice40 will really help  
these EJ communities

1708

01:59:02,434 --> 01:59:04,388

because like one of the other callers said,

1709

01:59:04,412 --> 01:59:07,360

it's not fair that

everyone is getting sick,

1710

01:59:07,360 --> 01:59:12,719

it's not fair that there's like a 14-year  
death gap in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

1711

01:59:12,719 --> 01:59:15,146

It's not fair that people are having  
their lives cut short

1712

01:59:15,170 --> 01:59:19,119

because they are located  
in polluted areas like this.

1713

01:59:19,119 --> 01:59:26,560

And I just want to say that I'm excited to  
see what EPA has in store for the future.

1714

01:59:26,560 --> 01:59:27,102

Thank you.

1715

01:59:27,126 --> 01:59:28,309



Matthew Tejada: Good,  
well thank you Brandy.

1716

01:59:28,333 --> 01:59:32,808

I mean I don't know specifically about  
what the plans are with resources for EGLE

1717

01:59:32,832 --> 01:59:37,467

but this is the first time we've had money in  
a long time to spend on air quality monitoring.

1718

01:59:37,491 --> 01:59:39,147

I hope we get some more.

1719

01:59:39,171 --> 01:59:44,550

We'll never have a monitor on every  
corner of every block in every city

1720

01:59:44,574 --> 01:59:48,361

but what we could do is start to work  
more with citizens who can be out there

1721

01:59:48,385 --> 01:59:52,159

monitoring and actually  
using their information in a serious way.

1722

01:59:52,159 --> 01:59:53,132

So that's where we got.

1723

01:59:53,156 --> 01:59:59,514

I'm hopeful that we are turning the corner on  
monitoring for real for environmental justice.

1724

01:59:59,538 --> 02:00:00,560

John, real quickly.

1725

02:00:00,560 --> 02:00:06,000

I know you've got a meeting, I've got one  
too but you've been waiting for a while.

1726

02:00:08,080 --> 02:00:09,568

John: Okay, can you can you hear me?

1727

02:00:09,592 --> 02:00:10,608

I can hear you, John.

1728

02:00:10,632 --> 02:00:13,760

John: Matt, it's good

to see you again [LAUGHS]

1729

02:00:13,760 --> 02:00:16,000

you're a champion, you're a real champion.

1730

02:00:16,880 --> 02:00:20,574

I'm just gonna say my final comment is

and I'll just read it,

1731

02:00:20,598 --> 02:00:24,308

is that fluoride has been

the most protected pollutant

1732

02:00:24,332 --> 02:00:28,639

ever since the public health

service approved it in 1950

1733

02:00:28,639 --> 02:00:33,920

and recommended its addition to tap  
water to help prevent childhood tooth decay.

1734

02:00:33,920 --> 02:00:40,560

That protection has created a very dense  
wall with high quality science on one side

1735

02:00:40,560 --> 02:00:47,280

and the powers that be insisting on maintaining  
its protective status on the other side.

1736

02:00:47,280 --> 02:00:51,040

That wall really needs  
to be taken down.

1737

02:00:51,040 --> 02:01:01,199

I'll interject here that lead was protected  
for decades but it finally got rejected [LAUGHS]

1738

02:01:01,199 --> 02:01:07,928

In any case, I'm optimistic that I and  
others are chipping away at that wall

1739

02:01:07,952 --> 02:01:10,800

but it's hard and it's

dense

1740

02:01:10,800 --> 02:01:15,668

and I'm gonna be attending the WHEJAC

meeting tomorrow also with comments

1741

02:01:15,692 --> 02:01:17,599

and I'll share those comments.

1742

02:01:17,599 --> 02:01:23,730

But NEJAC is and WHEJAC perhaps

are clearly the best organizations

1743

02:01:23,754 --> 02:01:25,440

to do what's needed.

1744

02:01:25,440 --> 02:01:29,395

So I'm just begging please do what you

can to tear down that wall.

1745

02:01:29,419 --> 02:01:37,199

It's there, it's brutal but we need to put  
fluoridation in the history books and get past it.

1746

02:01:37,199 --> 02:01:39,360

And now is the only time.

1747

02:01:39,360 --> 02:01:42,516

The Biden-Harris administration  
with the executive orders,

1748

02:01:42,540 --> 02:01:45,920

this is the perfect  
time to do this so.

1749

02:01:45,920 --> 02:01:49,438

I'll leave it at that Matt,  
I'll see you next time.

1750

02:01:49,462 --> 02:01:53,920

Thanks again for all you're doing  
and I really appreciate this opportunity.

1751

02:01:53,920 --> 02:01:57,308

Matthew Tejada: We appreciate  
you too, we'll follow up soon.

1752

02:01:57,332 --> 02:02:01,599

And Victoria, we have  
one more person, Anthony.

1753

02:02:02,719 --> 02:02:05,840

You want to try real quickly?

1754

02:02:07,280 --> 02:02:09,920

Victoria Robinson: I've given him permission to--

1755

02:02:09,920 --> 02:02:12,080

after we'll do the final slide.

1756

02:02:12,080 --> 02:02:13,076

Go ahead, Anthony.

1757

02:02:13,100 --> 02:02:14,320

Anthony: Hi, thank you everyone.

1758

02:02:14,320 --> 02:02:16,828

My name is Anthony [UNINTELLIGIBLE],  
him and his are my pronouns.

1759

02:02:16,852 --> 02:02:20,188

I am an environmental justice  
organizer from Michigan United

1760

02:02:20,212 --> 02:02:25,360

and a coalition member to stop  
Ajax air permit in Flint, Michigan.

1761

02:02:25,360 --> 02:02:30,508

I just gotta say one, I comment  
and I agree with what Brandy is saying.

1762

02:02:30,532 --> 02:02:35,688

We gotta do more as far as EJ air monitoring  
quality and cumulative impact reports.



1763

02:02:35,712 --> 02:02:40,240

We have sparse data that collects  
through EGLE throughout the state,

1764

02:02:40,264 --> 02:02:42,960

so we cannot get  
accurate information on that.

1765

02:02:42,960 --> 02:02:47,288

Secondly, I was just thrilled to hear  
that like there is satellite data

1766

02:02:47,312 --> 02:02:55,920

that we can be using for EPA and  
air monitoring and other monitoring.

1767

02:02:55,920 --> 02:03:00,045

The fact that we have this tech,  
we should be investing heavily into that

1768

02:03:00,069 --> 02:03:04,395

and leaning more into that data because

that data is what we so heavily rely on,

1769

02:03:04,419 --> 02:03:09,428

as the citizen scientists and activists  
to get this information up to you.

1770

02:03:09,452 --> 02:03:12,400

So I would love to see  
more of that happen at NASA.

1771

02:03:12,400 --> 02:03:15,685

Over joy to hear that  
NASA was on the call today.

1772

02:03:15,709 --> 02:03:20,800

Yeah we're continuing to  
apply for these air quality--

1773

02:03:20,800 --> 02:03:24,239

sorry, air quality  
monitoring grants ourselves

1774

02:03:24,239 --> 02:03:28,528

and we actually had a couple meetings on  
that regarding our coalition the other night.

1775

02:03:28,552 --> 02:03:31,408

We're looking to get them and  
we're doing the work right now

1776

02:03:31,432 --> 02:03:34,526

but this is just a lot of  
good work coming out of this

1777

02:03:34,550 --> 02:03:40,015

but yeah, EGLE is trash and it  
needs a lot more work done in it

1778

02:03:40,039 --> 02:03:45,760

to have a regulatory manner and to uphold  
it when it does violate these EJ issues.

1779

02:03:45,760 --> 02:03:47,360

Thank you very much.

1780

02:03:47,360 --> 02:03:48,537

Matthew Tejada: Thanks, Anthony.

1781

02:03:48,561 --> 02:03:51,840

And I would say that we  
all have a lot of work to do.

1782

02:03:51,840 --> 02:03:55,012

Every state and EPA  
together in lifting up EJ

1783

02:03:55,036 --> 02:04:00,468

throughout environmental and public  
health protection in the United States.

1784

02:04:00,492 --> 02:04:05,920

I also agree that now is the time to do it  
to what you and John and others have said.

1785

02:04:05,920 --> 02:04:08,800

Victoria, any closing out?

1786

02:04:08,800 --> 02:04:11,988

The only closing out is we  
have our final slide

1787

02:04:12,012 --> 02:04:16,544

about when our next national  
EJ community engagement call is.

1788

02:04:16,568 --> 02:04:22,628

It's scheduled for in a month, February  
22nd, same time Tuesday at 2 p.m eastern.

1789

02:04:22,652 --> 02:04:26,215

The topics on the  
agenda will be EJSCREEN 2.0.

1790

02:04:26,239 --> 02:04:29,767

What's new in EPA's  
environmental justice screening tool

1791

02:04:29,791 --> 02:04:33,368

as well as an update on EPA

strategies to incorporate EJ

1792

02:04:33,392 --> 02:04:36,567

into enforcement and  
compliance assurance work.

1793

02:04:36,591 --> 02:04:39,280

Two very good strong topics.

1794

02:04:39,280 --> 02:04:44,480

The slide has the link  
to where you can go to register.

1795

02:04:44,480 --> 02:04:49,727

Registration will open tomorrow  
afternoon for the February 22nd call.

1796

02:04:49,751 --> 02:04:53,687

So that's where we stand right now  
and again tomorrow there's the WHEJAC,

1797

02:04:53,711 --> 02:05:00,960

the White House Environmental  
Advisory Council has a meeting,

1798

02:05:00,960 --> 02:05:03,199

I think was it tomorrow the 26th.

1799

02:05:03,199 --> 02:05:04,508

Matthew Tejada: Tomorrow and Thursday yeah.

1800

02:05:04,532 --> 02:05:06,068

Victoria Robinson: Tomorrow and  
Thursday, correct.

1801

02:05:06,092 --> 02:05:09,287

So that takes care of it  
all, Matthew, at this time.

1802

02:05:09,311 --> 02:05:10,596

Matthew Tejada: All right, thanks everyone.

1803

02:05:10,620 --> 02:05:13,287

Thanks so much, thanks

Victoria and to the whole team.

1804

02:05:13,311 --> 02:05:15,280

Thanks to Nestor and Shamura again.

1805

02:05:15,280 --> 02:05:20,880

We will be releasing the EJSCREEN tool prior to this February 22nd call.

1806

02:05:20,880 --> 02:05:24,448

Sign up to our listserv, sign up to our Twitter to receive notification

1807

02:05:24,472 --> 02:05:28,968

for when that goes live and we'll see everyone hopefully again in February,

1808

02:05:28,992 --> 02:05:33,987

if not before then please take care, be safe and we'll talk soon.

1809

02:05:34,011 --> 02:05:34,639



Bye.

1810

02:05:34,639 --> 02:05:37,880

Victoria Robinson: Thank you