



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL
& TRIBAL AFFAIRS

June 16, 2022

Ms. Marina M. Brock
Chair, U.S. Governmental Advisory Committee
Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment
P.O. Box 427
Barnstable County Complex
Barnstable MA 02630

Email: marina.brock2@verizon.net

Dear Ms. Brock:

On behalf of CEC Council member, Administrator Michael S. Regan, I thank you for the Governmental Advisory Committee's (GAC) letter of advice of May 31, 2022. We appreciate the GAC's dedication and commitment to undertaking your charge and providing us with your valuable advice. In particular, we appreciate the GAC's comprehensive advice on the draft project description on *Air Quality Improvement for Environmental Justice (AQIEJ)*, as well as how to best integrate the concepts of climate change and environmental justice into the work of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC).

GAC Recommendations on the AQIEJ Project

Thank you for your recommendations regarding the AQIEJ project. As you know, this project aims to build partnerships that respond to community-identified poor air quality conditions from exposures to high levels of black carbon (BC) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) emissions in communities that potentially experience disproportionate environmental harms and risk and/or have environmental justice concerns.

1. *General Comments.* We appreciate the wide variety of relevant projects that you provide as examples of potential collaboration. We will share these resources with the trilateral expert committee developing this project for their consideration.
2. *California Community Air Protection Program- Recommendation to Conduct Monitoring at the Same Time as an Emission Mitigation.* With respect to the California Community Air Protection Program and the recommendation to conduct monitoring at the same time as an emission mitigation, as part of the implementation phase of the AQIEJ project, we will consider pairing this project with ongoing emission mitigation efforts to assess the benefits of various approaches.

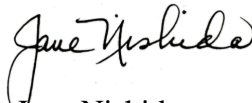
3. *U.S.-Texas International Port of Entry*. The resources provided in your letter, connecting with ongoing efforts and partnering with local universities, will be taken into consideration by the Parties as we discuss the next phase(s) of this project if we decide to focus implementation on the El Paso del Norte region.
4. *Recommendations on Potential Weak Spots Identified from Similar Projects and Recommendation on Wide-Range Collaborative Approaches*. These are valuable insights that we will share with the trilateral expert committee for their consideration in the implementation phase of the project.
5. *List of Communities with Vulnerable Populations and Environmental Justice Concerns*. We will share the provided list with the trilateral expert committee. This list is very helpful, and we will explore these candidate communities when we proceed to the implementation phase.

GAC Recommendations on Incorporating Climate Change and Environmental Justice into the CEC Work

We thank the GAC for your advice on integrating climate change and environmental justice into the CEC work, particularly under the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan priorities. We agree that there is a wide range of possibilities within most strategic priorities to address both topics. In particular, thank you for sharing important and diverse examples of the environmental issues confronted by environmental justice communities in the U.S., such as air pollution, water pollution, and pesticides, among others. We agree that we should partner, to the extent possible, with relevant stakeholders, such as state, local and tribal governments, and research institutions, among others, in order to leverage, identify gaps, and implement our future projects. We look forward to identifying specific opportunities for integration of these concepts and examples into projects and initiatives as we plan future CEC work.

Once again, we thank you for the GAC's strategic and comprehensive advice regarding the AQIEJ project and integrating climate change and environmental justice into the CEC projects and initiatives. We look forward to working together with Canada and Mexico to continue addressing environmental and trade issues of common interest and look forward to your future advice.

Sincerely,



Jane Nishida
Assistant Administrator