Post-Implementation & Reassessing in a Time of Crisis

Cindy Donis, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
AnMarie Mendoza, Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples
TABLE OF CONTENTS

01 ABOUT US

02 WATER AND OUR COLLECTIVE HISTORY

03 WATERTALKS

04 COVID-19 AND IT'S IMPACTS ON OUR COMMUNITY

05 KEY ISSUES

06 Q&A
02 Water and Our Collective History
Run Down the Runoff: Assessing the Impacts of Dry Weather Urban Runoff in Southeast and East Los Angeles By Iris Verduzco and Jocelyn Del Real Jimenez

Since organizing the first Southern California Tribal Water Forum in 2013, SPI has been working with Native Nations in Southern California to build the capacity of tribal community members to actively engage in watershed planning in their homelands.

Over the past two years we’ve conducted multiple Tribal Listening sessions in Orange County and Los Angeles County and distributed over 100 tribal water surveys to community members.
03 WaterTalks
1 in person Water Talks session in West Long Beach

2 in person Water Talks
Planning for the future of our Orit / Paayme Pxaayta
-Aquarium of the Pacific
-Los Palmas Park
COVID-19 AND ITS IMPACTS ON OUR COMMUNITY
Our community members are experiencing:

- Housing and food insecurity
- Reduced hours and loss of Employment
- Mental Health challenges with isolation and physical distancing
- Youth: challenges with virtual learning transition
- Elders: challenges and lack of access to technology
- COVID-19 and Race
  - racounts.org
- Mental health struggles
Community Sessions and Collaborations

- ELA, SELA, LB and Youth Membership Meetings
- Collaborative Film Screening and Discussion
- Focus on procuring resources for tribal community members
KEY ISSUES
Key Issues

### EYCEJ

- **Accessibility:**
  - Information on Water Agencies
  - Access to Water Quality Reports for tenants
  - Language/Interpretation
  - Understanding Water Quality Reports

- **Concerns:**
  - Water Quality, lack of trust
  - Industrial contamination to water system
  - Water cost and rates disparity

- **Areas of Interest:**
  - Community led water testing and water monitoring to build trust, transparency and accountability
  - Supporting and uplifting indigenous struggles in relation to water

### SPI

- **Accessibility:**
  - Information provided for Water Talks do not include Indigenous representation (History/maps)
  - Language doesn’t respect water as a life force

- **Concerns:**
  - Lack of trust with State/local water agencies
  - No respect for indigenous sovereignty, governance and decision making authority
  - Impact to health of homelands with new projects

- **Areas of Interest:**
  - Equal Representation for Tribes in Local Watershed Management Governance Structures and on all Decision-Making Bodies.
  - Recognition of local tribes as full partners in ideas, and programs, especially in stewardship programs Related to the Watershed
  - Prioritize Spaces for Tribal Cultural and Ceremonial Use Within and Along the Rivers. Plans for Open Space and Parks should consider and prioritize multiple types of access, including spaces where tribal community members can gather clean, safe, pesticide-free plant materials without fear of harassment from private security, local homeowners or police.

---

We are still in the midst of a pandemic. Genuine and meaningful engagement is difficult.
Thank you

Contact info:

Cindy Donis
cindyd.eycej@gmail.com

AnMarie Mendoza
anmarie@sacredplacesinstitute.org