

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Jerica Richardson, Environmental
Justice/Justice40 PgM
Sheila Warren, NAE SJ and EJ-40
Coordinator

Brandon Brummett, LRL Outreach
Coordinator

Eileen Takata & Cindy Tejada, SPD TOPPS,
Collaboration & EJ Program Managers

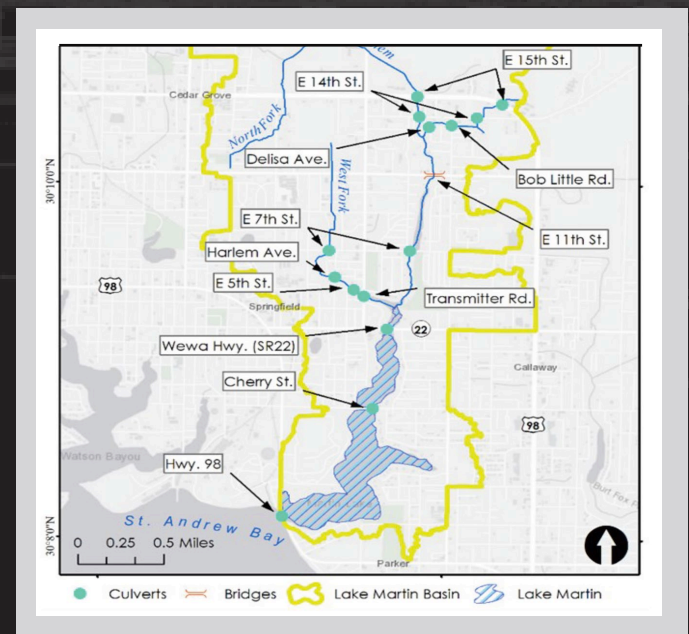
JULY 11, 2023
2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT



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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OUTREACH AT NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

NFRMP Technical Assistance Workshop
July 12, 2023

Sheila Warren
Silver Jackets Coordinator
EJ-40 Coordinator
New England District, USACE
Sheila.M.Warren@usace.army.mil



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New England District



OUTLINE

- NAE State Silver Jackets Teams
- Introduction to New England Federal Partners (NEFP)
 - EJ tool screening approach
- Planned Outreach
- Challenges
- Opportunities



NAE SILVER JACKETS TEAMS

Maine Team Lead:

- Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry including NFIP Program Manager

New Hampshire Team Lead:

- NH Department of Environmental Services

Massachusetts Team Lead:

- Mass Emergency Management Agency

Connecticut Team Lead:

- CT Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Rhode Island Team Lead:

- RI Emergency Management Agency including NFIP Program Manager

Vermont Team Lead:

- VT Emergency Management, VT Recovery and Mitigation Section Chief

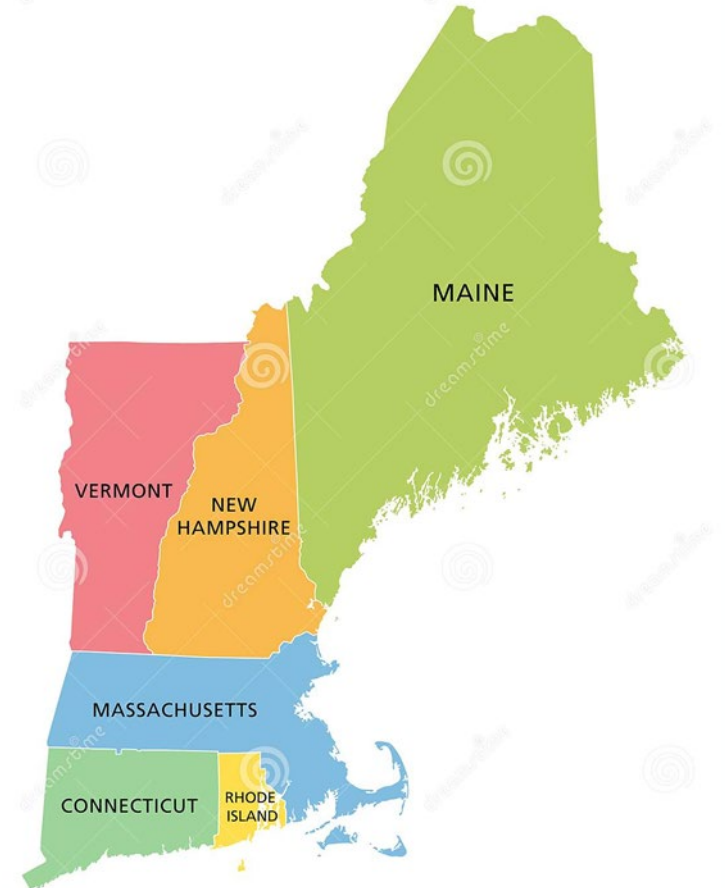




NEW ENGLAND FEDERAL PARTNERS

- The New England Federal Partners (NEFP) is a group of 17 federal agencies formed to work together on complex environmental issues.
- Through multiple agency cooperation, the NEFP's aim is to protect the natural environment and public health and support the needs of states, Tribes, and communities of New England.
- Focus areas for the partners over the last several years include coastal and ocean planning, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and resiliency planning.

NEW ENGLAND





NEFP AGENCIES

The group was officially recognized as a partnership by all participating agencies through a Statement of Common Purpose (PDF) in 2010, which established a framework for communication, cooperation, coordination, and collaboration.



U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency



National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office of Infrastructure Protection



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



U.S. General Services Administration



National Park Service



FEMA
Federal Emergency Management
Agency



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Bureau of Ocean Energy
Management



U.S. Forest Service



NEFP AGENCIES



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Northeast Climate Hub



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



North Atlantic Landscape Conservation
Cooperative



U.S. Coast Guard



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs



Northeast Climate Science Center



National Aeronautics and Space
Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center



Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention



U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration



U.S. Geological Survey



U.S. Geological Survey
Woods Hole Coastal and Marine
Science Center



U.S. Geological Survey
Water Science Center



U.S. Geological Survey
Leetown Science Center



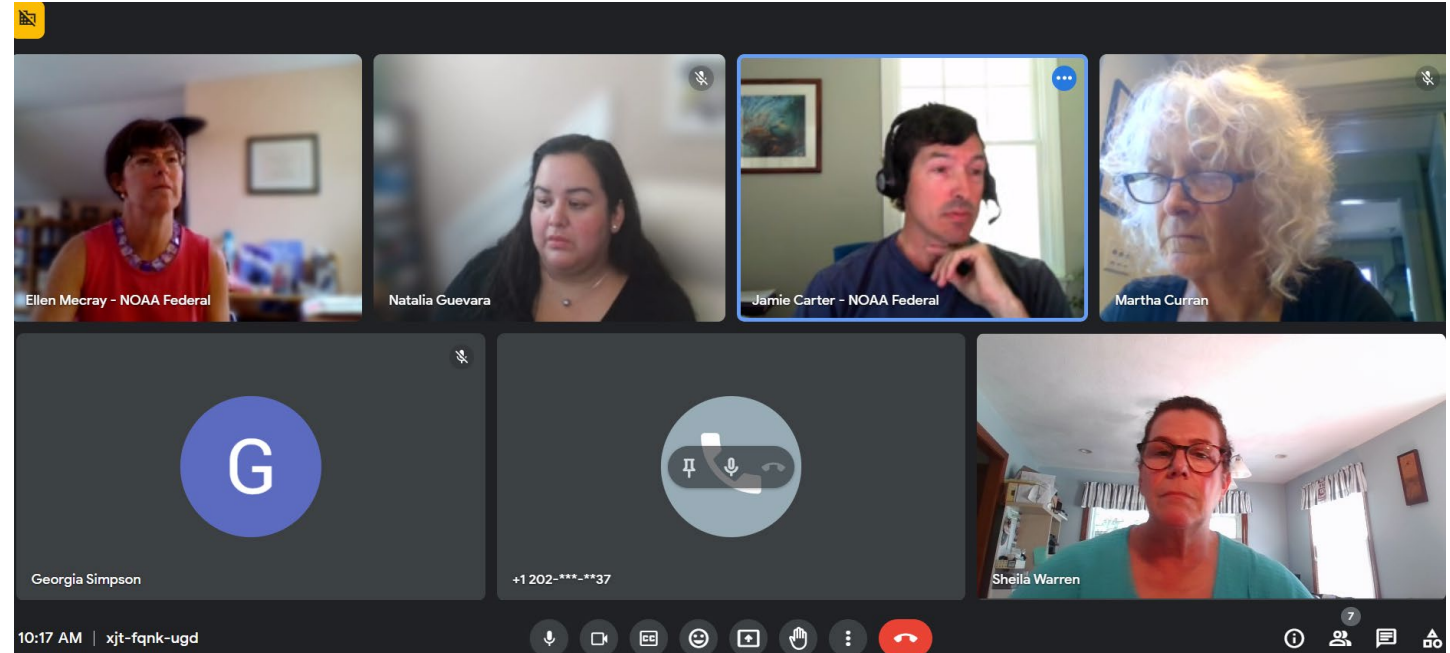
U.S. Geological Survey
Patuxent Wildlife Refuge Research Center



NEFP ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOCUS GROUP

Includes the following agencies:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Health and Human Services (HHS)
- US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- US Geological Survey (USGS)
- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)



This is preliminary information – NEFP is in the process of figuring out the best way to address issues within each agency’s mission and align with each state’s needs.



NEFP EJ INDICES AND METRICS

The indices and other metrics we have available include the following:

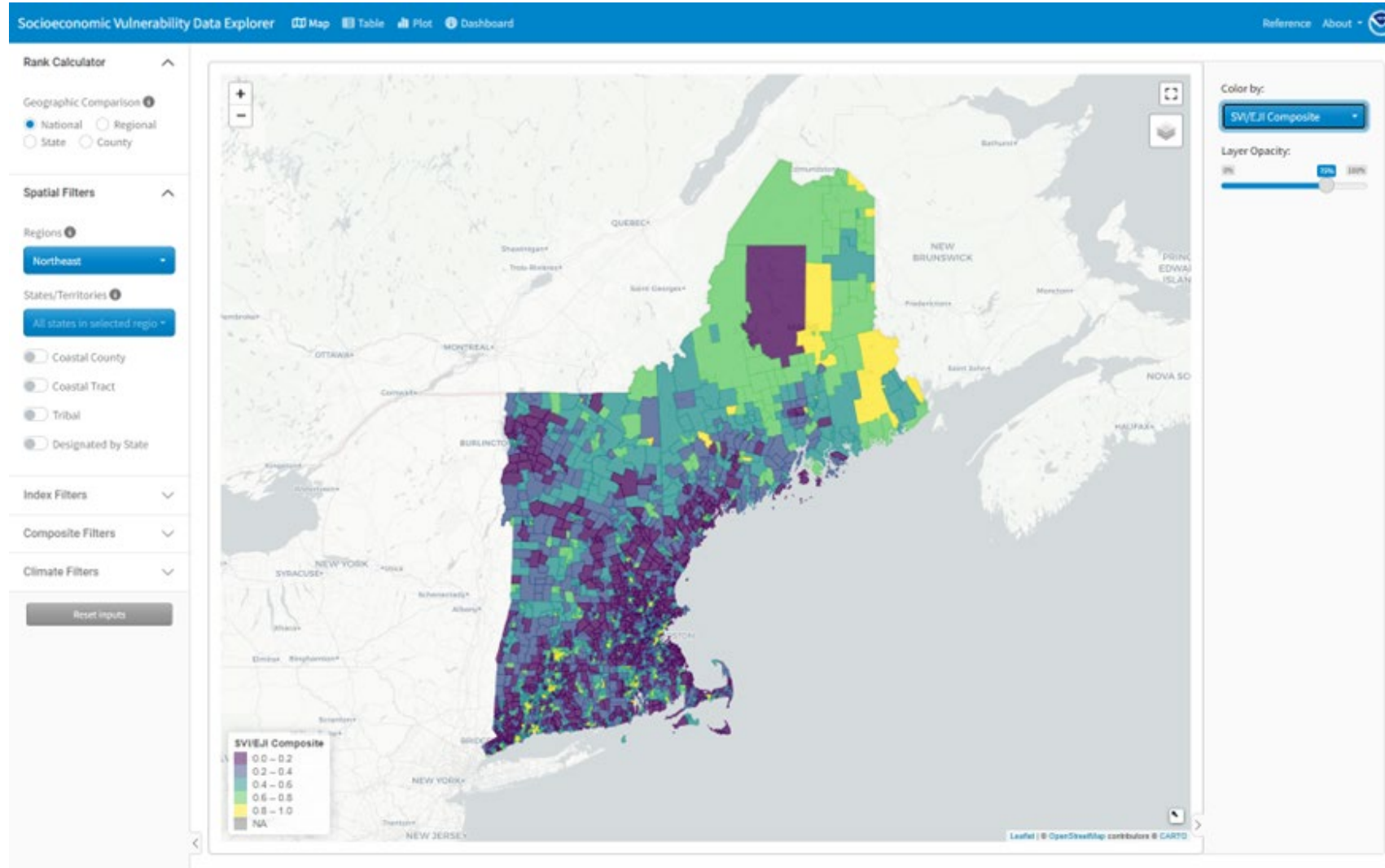
- CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)
- CDC EJI Social Vulnerability Module (SVM)
- CDC Environmental Justice Index (EJI)
- CDC Community Resilience Estimates (CRE)
- EPA EJScreen (EJS)
- FEMA National Risk Index - Expected Annual Loss (NRI/EAL)
- CEQ Justice 40 Communities (CEJST)
- National Climate Assessment Precipitation (NCA-Precip)
- National Climate Assessment Temperature (NCA-Temp)
- NOAA Coastal-Change Analysis Program Land Cover (C-CAP)

This is all based on the 2020 U.S. Census Tracts. Municipalities are identified using the 2020 U.S. Census County Subunits. There are also a variety of spatial filters that identify tribal tracts, coastal tracts, coastal counties, and whether States have designated communities as vulnerable or underserved.

The existing indices may have missing data and/or data that may not align. The goal is to combine where appropriate, avoid duplication, and ground truth with the states.



NEFP SOCIOECONOMIC VULNERABILITY DATA





NEXT STEPS

NAE NFRMP / FPMS:

- Continue Flood Risk Management engagement through Silver Jackets Teams
- Identify potential studies with each State Hazard Mitigation Officer
- Respond to requests from communities and states
- Listen to what the needs are

NEFP:

- Drill down further among the available data indices to identify data gaps
- Reach out to the six states to close data gaps
- Help the states with outreach to the vulnerable communities
- Listen to what the needs are



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges:

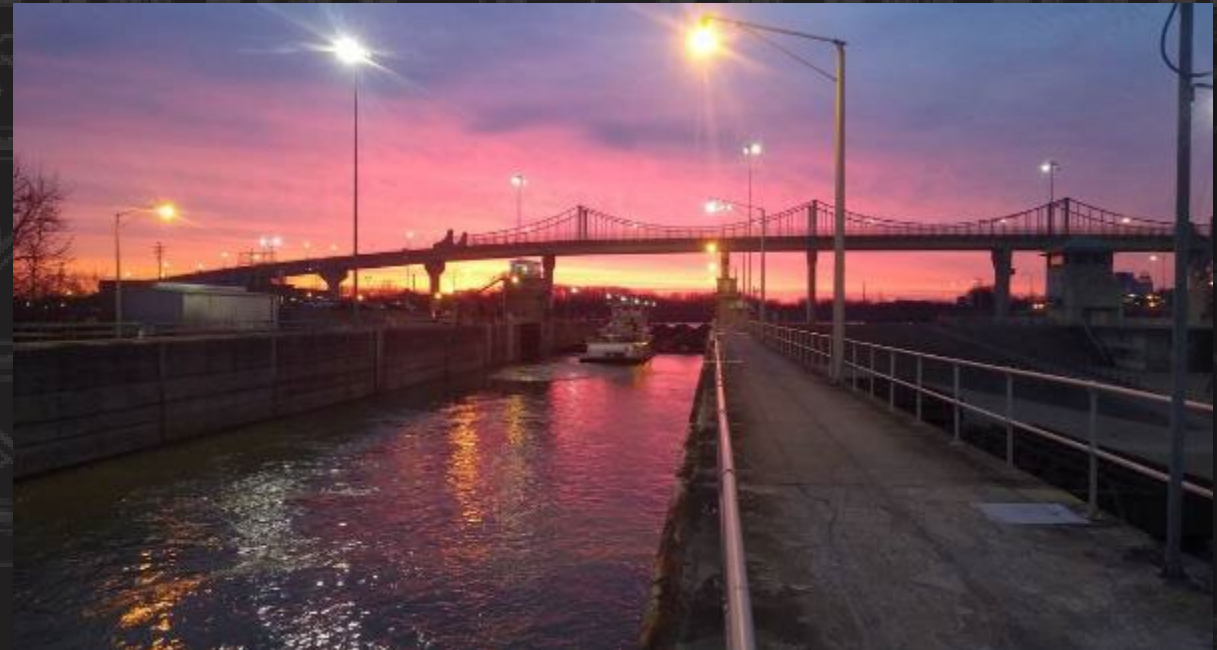
- Vulnerable communities do not have resources
- State personnel are stretched very thin (bandwidth issues)
- Each federal agency has different missions and authorizations
- Discussion...

Opportunities:

- Building relationships among agencies and communities creates trust, making it easier to engage with communities
- There's a synergy with what NEFP can bring to the effort
- Understanding each agency's different entrance point to the state and communities, use the positive relationships that already exist
- Discussion...

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Brandon Brummett, P.E., PMP
Outreach Coordinator



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OUTREACH STRATEGIES

- Congressional Interactions
- Current/Existing Stakeholders & Partners
- Communities with Repetitive Flooding
- Local Government Associations
- Floodplain Associations
- Silver Jackets
- Assistance in Response to Events
- Personal Relationships & Word of Mouth





ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Explore the map - Climate & Eco x +

screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#6.09/37.704/-86.046

_USACE Louisville District Louisville District In... Engagements - All... EJScreen Explore the map - C... Appropriations Req...

How to use the map:

Zoom in + , search 🔍 , or locate yourself 📍 and select to see information about any census tract.

Things to know:

The tool uses census tracts 🗺️ . Census tracts are a small unit of geography. They generally have populations 🧑 of between 1,200 - 8,000 people.

Communities that are disadvantaged live in tracts that experience burdens. These tracts are highlighted 🟦 on the map.

The tool ranks most of the burdens using percentiles 📊 . Percentiles show how much burden each tract experiences.

[Help improve the tool](#)



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ASSISTANCE IN RESPONSE TO EVENTS



February 2021 – Green River, KY

- Liberty FPMS
- Casey County PAS
- Muhlenberg County FPMS

March 2021, July 2022 – Eastern KY

- Estill County FPMS
- Breathitt County FPMS
- Powell County, KY FPMS
- Owsley County, FPMS
- * Eastern KY Regional PAS
- * Oneida, KY FPMS

June 2021 – Madison, IN

- Madison, IN PAS





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OTHER SUCCESS STORIES

41



- Burgin, KY FPMS – Congressional Interaction
 - Rural, low-income community (population <1,000)
 - Development of technical information to support FEMA BRIC application
- Silver Grove, KY FPMS – KAMM (KY ASFPM)
 - \$210K Study Effort
 - Examined hydraulics of Four Mile Creek Watershed
 - Local Sponsor is Silver Grove, KY
- Ledbetter, KY Section 14 – Congressional Interaction
 - \$~713K Estimated Stabilization project
 - Protects Riverview Drive from Ohio River erosion in Ledbetter, Livingston County, KY
 - Local Sponsor is Livingston County



PARTNERS!



SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION TRIBAL AND OTHER PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS (TOPPS) & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

OVERVIEW

Eileen Takata and Cindy Tejada, SPD

Planning and Policy

South Pacific Division

July 2023



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WHAT IS TOPPs?



Tribal & Other Partnership Programs...

...used exclusively within SPD!

- PAS
- FPMS
- Silver Jackets
- Tribal Partnership Program



*Bringing the alphabet soup of acronyms to the **TOP** of people's minds!*





MEET SPD'S TOPPs, COLLABORATION & EJ PROGRAM MANAGERS



Cindy Tejada

Watershed & Floodplain Program Manager

- Regional TOPPs (FPMS, PAS, TPP) Program Manager
- Regional Tribal Coordinator
- Regional Public Involvement Specialists Coordinator
- Watershed Planning SME
- Planning Associates Instructor – IWRM-Watershed Planning Course Owner
- Joined Corps in 1998, worked at SPN, SPD, SPK as a planner.
- Bachelor of Science in Conservation & Resource Studies (1998)
- Enjoys her family, dog, gardening, cooking, home improvements & outdoor adventures

IWRM Framework

- Identify/Define Problems at the Watershed Scale
- Work *with* Communities (not for them)
- Collaborate, Develop Partnerships
- Leverage Programs & Funding – Whole of Government
- Identify Best Solutions, Regardless of Who Implements



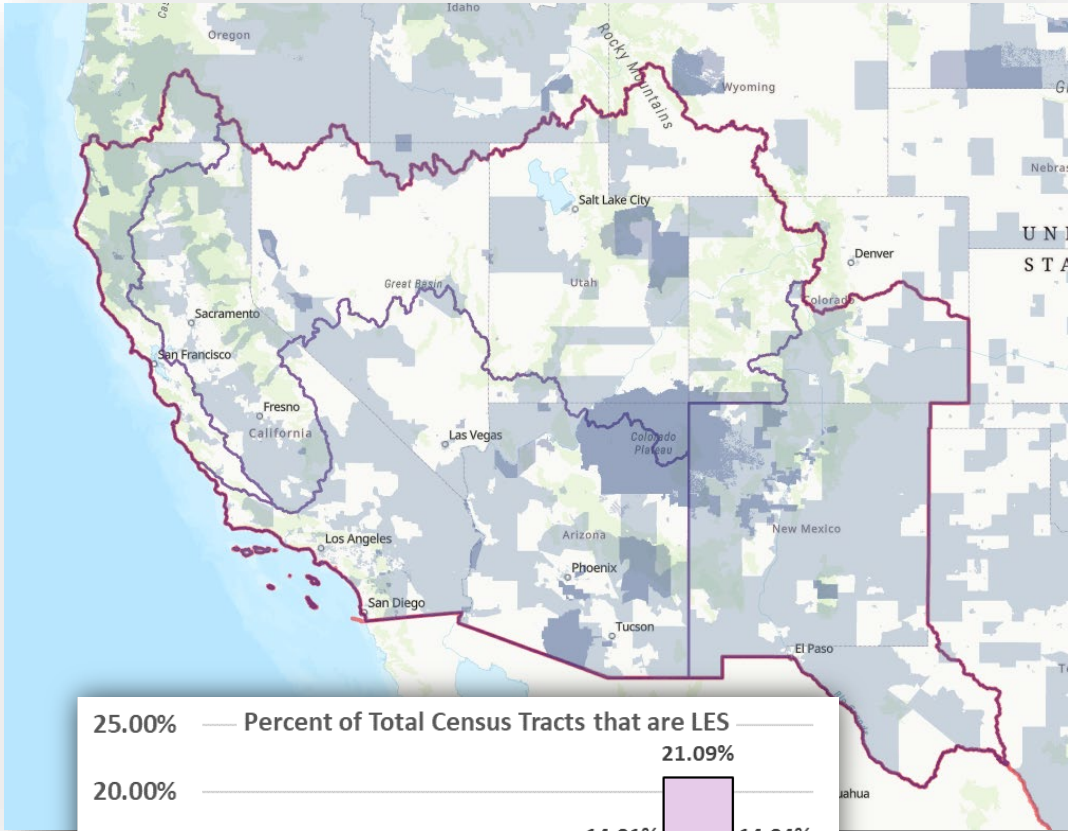
Eileen Takata

Environmental Manager

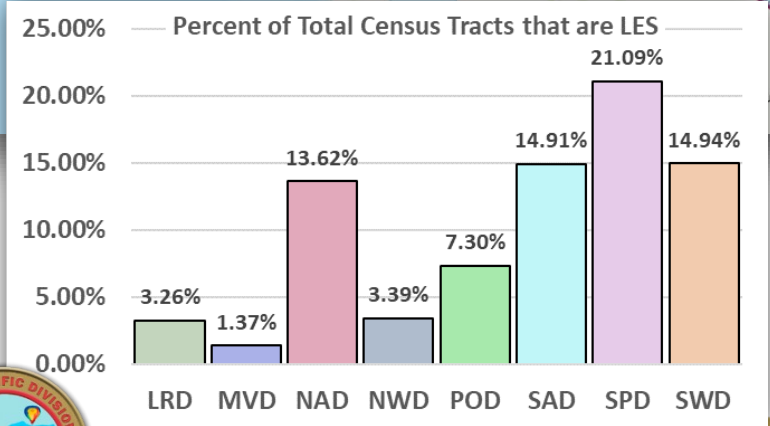
- Regional EJ & Cultural Resources Coordinator
- MSC Liaison to the Collaboration & Public Participation Center of Expertise
- Champion TOPPs, resilience efforts incl. EWN/NBS, drought
- Instruct Prospect “Public Involvement & Team Building” & PA IWRM-Watershed Planning Course
- Joined Corps in 2009 as a planner & PI Specialist
- Bachelor’s and Master’s in Landscape Architecture
- Enjoys her family, pets, walks, historic property, arts/crafts, speed puzzling & bible study



CHARACTERISTICS OF SPD AOR



- 170+ Federally Recognized Tribes & >60 Non-federally Recognized Tribes in CA
- Much of the US Southwest falls under the Economically Disadvantaged Communities definition
- Even census tracts that are not categorized as EDC have EDC communities within them
- Highest percentage of Limited English Speaking (LES) communities.
- In recent years, as much as 75% of SPD's TOPPs portfolio directly serves/benefits a Tribe and/or EDC





2022 SPD TOPPS VISIONING WORKSHOP



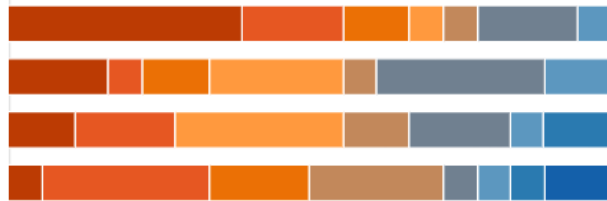
6. What are your top priorities for this workshop? (What do you hope to gain / leave with?)

[More Details](#)

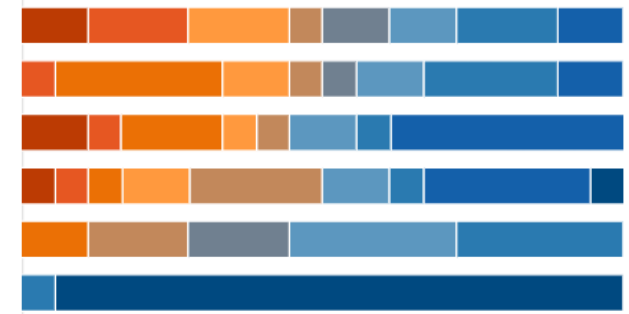
Rank Options

First choice [Color scale from red to blue] Last choice

- 1 team building / a stronger tea...
- 2 an improved outreach strateg...
- 3 easier, more streamlined proc...
- 3 a clear vision for my district or...



- 4 team building / a stronger tea...
- 5 clear goals for achieving Justic...
- 6 a clearer sense of my roles/res...
- 7 recommendations for policy i...
- 8 improved/more accessible out...
- 9 Other



TOPPs GOAL- SETTING 2022

Build Partnerships

Build relationships and trust with communities within the SPD area of responsibility.
Expand partnerships with tribes and historically marginalized communities.
Redefine partnerships to create interagency, co-decision-making networks, where the Corps isn't always the lead or the agency that will implement.

Maximize Programs

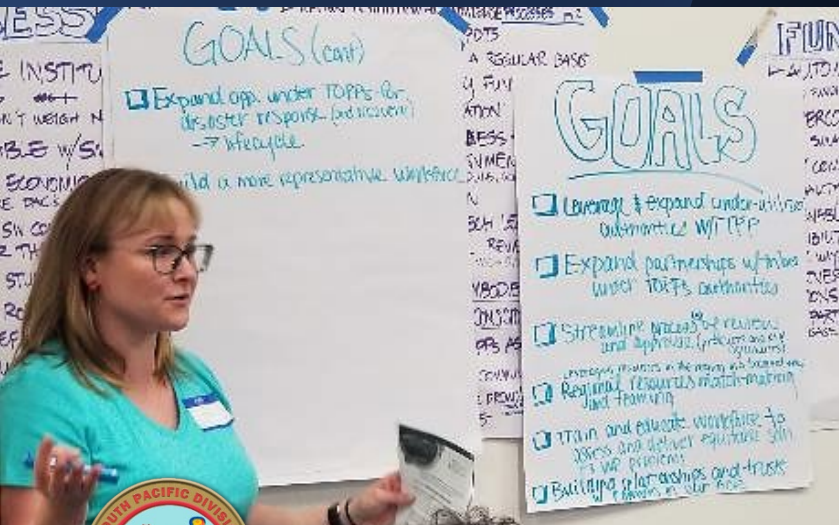
Maximize the application of PAS and FPMS and expand under-used authorities within TPP.
Expand opportunities under TOPPs through the FRM lifecycle, in particular for disaster response (and recovery)

Improve Processes

Overcome institutional barriers to execution and effective partnering.
Streamline processes for review and approval of products, agreements, etc. at the District & Division level.

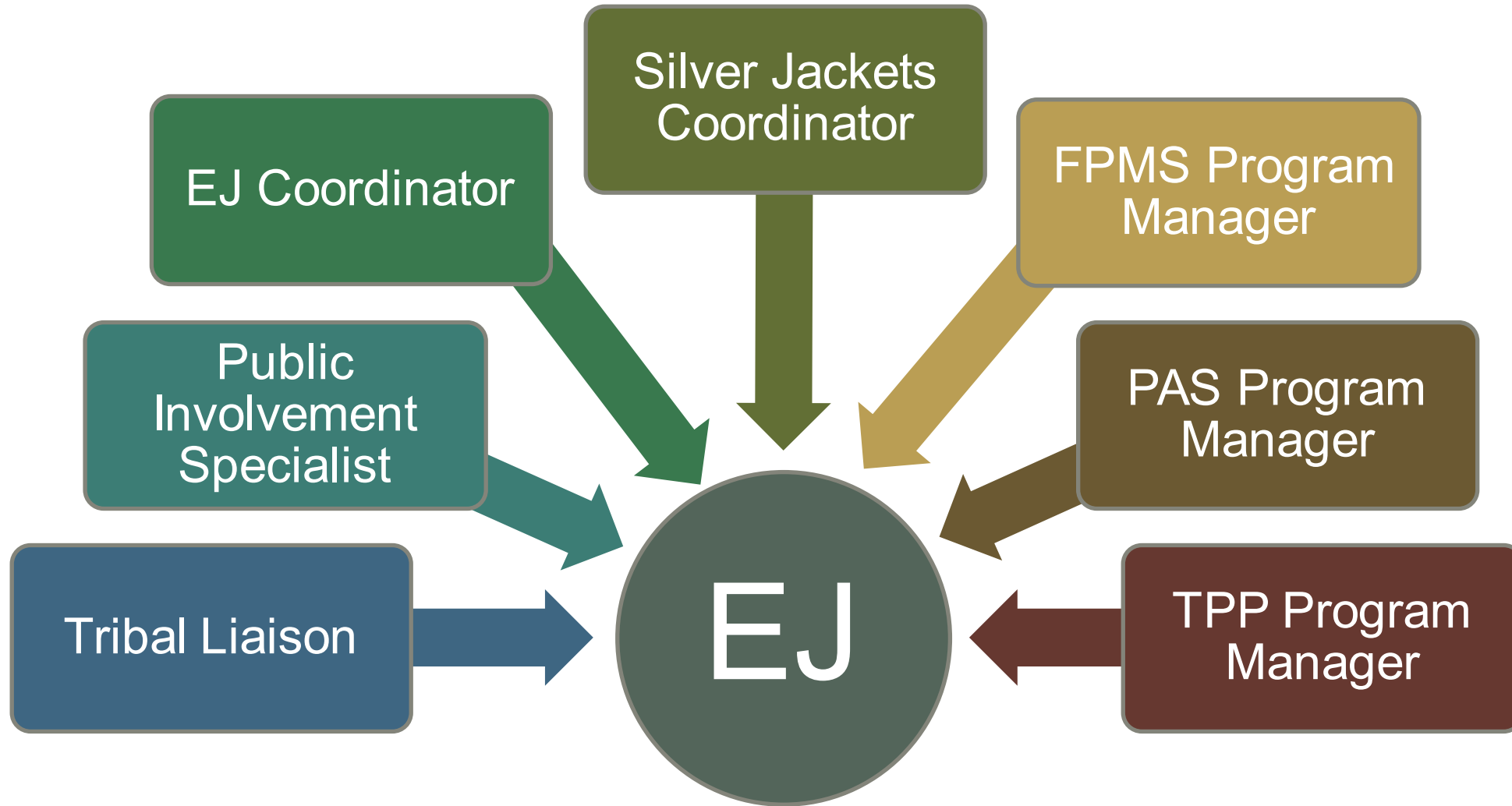
Develop Regional Team

Build a socially-conscious TOPPs Team that delivers equitable solutions and represents the lived experience of the communities we serve.
Leverage resources in the region and promote regional workload sharing.





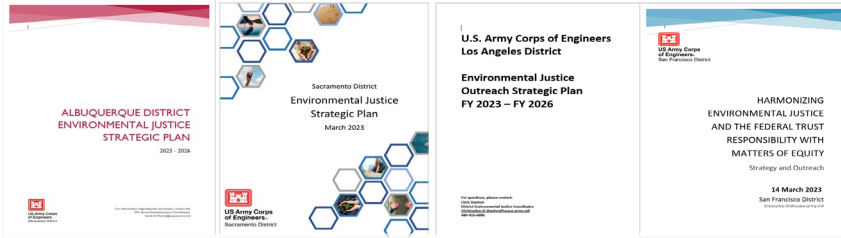
SPD TOPPs + EJ INTEGRATION





SPD ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS





District EJ Strategic Plans

Key Strategies

Focus on outreach to flooding/flood-after-fire risk areas, primary/secondary schools, unhoused populations, holistic outreach to tribes

Partner with NRM/OPS on 1-pg EJ Reports for each dam/reservoir for grants

Coordinate with Civil Works, MILCON & EEO/Diversity & Inclusion Council

EJ literacy training across disciplines, NFRMP, OPS, REG, PM, FUDS, PAO, etc.

Recruitment/retention of diverse workforce (Tribal & 1st generation college)

Include EJ session during New Employees Orientation

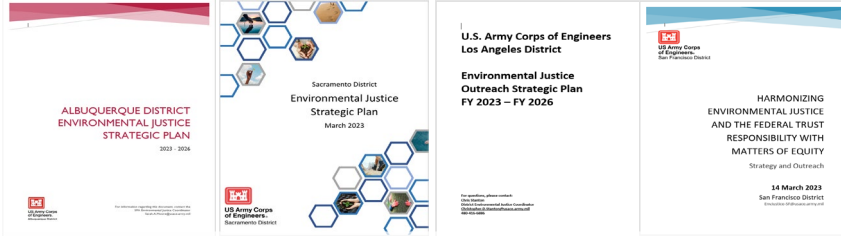
Develop EJ projects and communities GIS database

Develop SOPs for EJ compliance within CW activities

Develop Tribal Strategic Engagement Strategy and/or Tribal Task Force

Whole-of-government outreach





District EJ Strategic Plans Accomplish- ments

Lead monthly “Equity Lunches” w/national participation

Tribal Nations Listening Session & Panel Discussion (APR 2023)

Website with extensive EJ resources & EJ GIS mapping (SPN)

Integrate EWN/NBS with EJ regionally = resilient communities initiative

Participate in development of scoping, Communication/PI Plan, and other planning activities

“Plain language” outreach letters developed to engage local community groups

Workshops / tabletop exercises in J40 communities (CA, NV, UT)

Support Formation of Navajo Nation Silver Jackets Team (SPA, SPK, SPL)

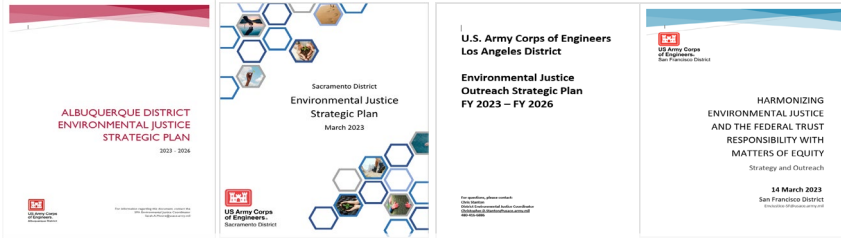
Post-flooding, meet face-to-face with affected community groups and ASA/CW to discuss partnering options

Modify IDIQ to include EJ, tribal and EWN capabilities

Present Comprehensive Benefits lessons learned and recommendations to ASA/CW

Whole of Government: Watershed U., Urban Waters Federal Partnership, CA Federal Drought Work Group, Silver Jackets





District EJ Strategic Plans
**Challenges,
Lessons
Learned**

10% time is a minimum - can be 100% time due to large numbers of J40 communities within AOR

Lack of adequate and sustainable funding source for EJ Coordinator

Many initiatives require significant internal communications, planning, collaboration & funding before taking concrete action

USACE lacks critical mass of staff with social science background

Include your District EJ Coordinator in scoping projects

Start EJ identification and analysis early on in study process

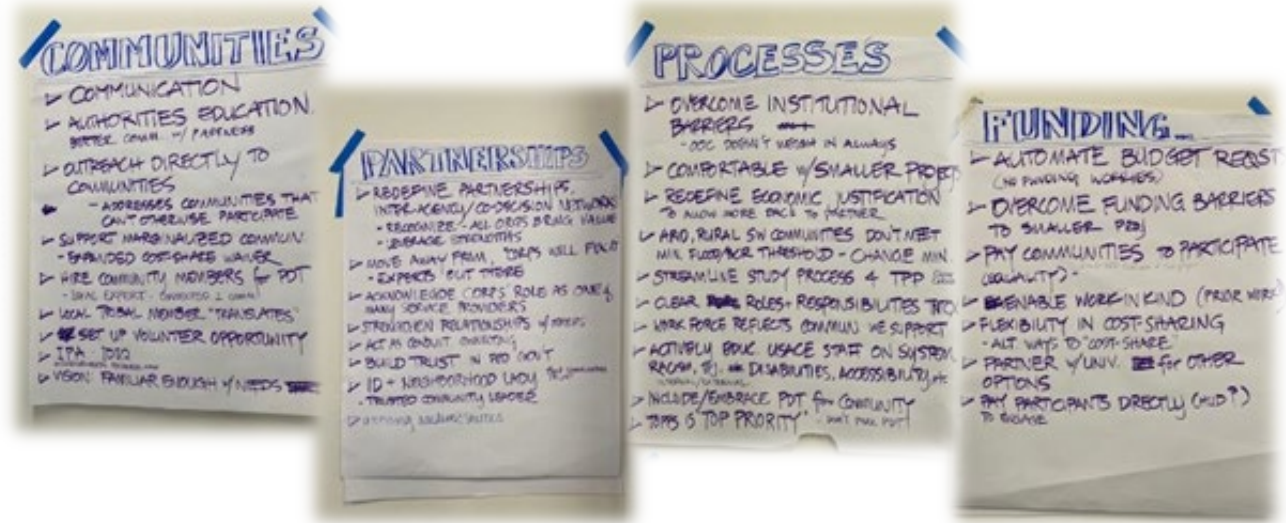
Having an EJ “Deputy” Coordinator eases the burden; redundancy ensure critical meetings are covered & tasks get done

Identify opportunities to integrate w/other initiatives, Comprehensive Benefits, EWN/NBS, NFRMP, Dam & Levee Safety, etc.





Next Steps



- Develop CA Statewide EJ Strategic Plan w/CA Dept. Water Resources
- Participate in IWR New Horizon’s Comprehensive Benefits Tools/Methods Pilot
- Bolster partnership w/TNTCX and Navajo Nation Community Resilience Program
- Hire for a more diverse workforce
- Continue to collaborate on regional EJ/EWN = Community Resilience initiative
- Address pressing problems of flood risk, drought/water supply reliability and other climate risks through whole-of-government approaches, and equitable green infrastructure approaches
- Continued internal training, funding identification, EJ Work Groups, learning
- Continued external engagement, meeting with communities face-to-face
- TOPPs logo in development (*stay tuned for the “reveal...”!*)



Thank You!



*Cindy Tejada & Eileen Takata,
On behalf of the SPD TOPPs Team!*

