



MARA FEENEY & ASSOCIATES
 Community Relations and Socioeconomic Analysis
 19 Beaver Street, San Francisco CA 94114
 Tel. (415) 863-8760 FAX (415) 863-5671
 e-mail: marafeeney@aol.com

FAX TO: Marilyn Underwood (510) 622-4505
 Mark Johnson (510) 622-2464
 Larry Mencin (216) 566-2730 and (216) 263-8604
 Mike Marsden (510) 652-2246
 Mara Feeney (415) 863-5671
 Ignacio Dayrit (510) 658-8095
 Barbara Cook (510) 540-3819
 Susan Hugo (510) 337-9335
 Jody Sparks (916) 341-7795
 Paul Germain (510) 655-2807
 Jay Grover (510) 923-7476
 Vera Nelson (650) 578-9131
 Peggy Peischl (925) 253-4985
 Wini Curley (925) 935-5368
 Robert Cave (415) 749-5030

FROM: Melissa Mednick

DATE: October 20, 1999

PAGES: 2

RE: Suggestions for the dust sampling community involvement strategy

Attached please find a memo that Mara and I drafted to Reber with some suggestions about anticipating community concerns regarding the dust sampling. It may be useful for the CWG to discuss the community involvement strategy at tomorrow's meeting. Thanks.



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FAX TO: Reber Brown/DHS (510) 622-4505
 FROM: Melissa Mednick
 DATE: October 20, 1999
 RE: Notification of Co-op dust sampling results
 cc: Marilyn Underwood/DHS
 Members of the Consultative Work Group

Reber,

As you probably remember, several members of the CWG expressed concern at the last meeting about the way in which residents will be notified about the results of the dust sampling. Both Mara and I are confident in DHS's ability to address the concerns of community members, but given the community's reaction to the Emergency Removal Action, it is probably prudent to put our heads together in advance to make sure we are anticipating community members concerns. Here are a few points to consider in developing your community involvement strategy:

Prior to mailing sampling results letters to residents:

- Numerous CWG members asked to review the screening levels for arsenic in dust set by DHS before results are sent to residents. CWG members will want to know the rationale behind the screening level, including how the level was selected and how it compares with background levels, PRGs and remediation levels used at other sites in the Co-op vicinity.
- It would be very helpful if DHS could determine whether any financial assistance is available from federal, state or county agencies for lead/arsenic remediation.
- Various members of the CWG have asked that copies of the results letters (without identifiers) be sent to the CWG members before they are distributed to residents. DHS will probably need to coordinate especially closely with Ignacio Dayrit and Jody Sparks because they will probably get calls from community members about the sampling results.
- Before the cover letter and report are sent out, it would be helpful for a DHS representative to contact residents by phone to explain the sampling results and to establish a good time for a community meeting.

Information to include in the results letter:

- The results letter should provide information on which agency will decide whether remediation is necessary or not.
- The letter should state what additional actions, if any, DHS is recommending that residents take (i.e. remediating the lead and/or arsenic contamination by painting or washing walls, residents should undergo health testing etc.)
- The letter should include information about any financial assistance available to residents for remediating the contamination, as well as resources for getting additional information.
- The letter should notify residents of the date for a community meeting to discuss the results and the recommended next steps.

Follow up with residents after the letters have been sent:

- If at all possible, make sure that you or another DHS staff person familiar with the project are available by phone during the first few days after the results are mailed.

I hope this is helpful. Feel free to call Mara or me if you have questions.