

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Applying Health Impact Assessment to Address Health and Equity – Case Studies

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HIP is dedicated to increasing the consideration of health in decision making.

We raise awareness of and collaboratively use innovative data, processes and tools that evaluate health impacts and inequities in order to transform the policies, institutions and places people need to live healthy lives.

→ Completed over 12 HIAs & are involved in over 10 currently

Through training and mentorship we build the capacity of impacted communities and their advocates, workers, public agencies, and elected officials to conduct health-based analyses and use them to take action.

→ Provided 10 two-day HIA trainings & are providing TA on 4 HIAs

Through Analysis and Reporting:

- Judge health effects of a proposed project, policy or policy
- Provide recommendations
- Shape public decisions & discourse
- Analyze health disparities
- Make health impacts more explicit



Through the HIA Process:

- Engage community
- Build consensus
- Build relationships & collaborations
- Provide forum for discussion of lived experience

A Rapid Health Impact Assessment of the Jack London Gateway Development

The Decision to Incorporate HIA into the I-710 Expansion EIR

HIA Scoping for Expansions of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach

A Rapid Health Impact Assessment of the Jack London Gateway Development

Proposal

Build 55 units of low-income senior housing and retail near JLG shopping mall in West Oakland

Project sponsor

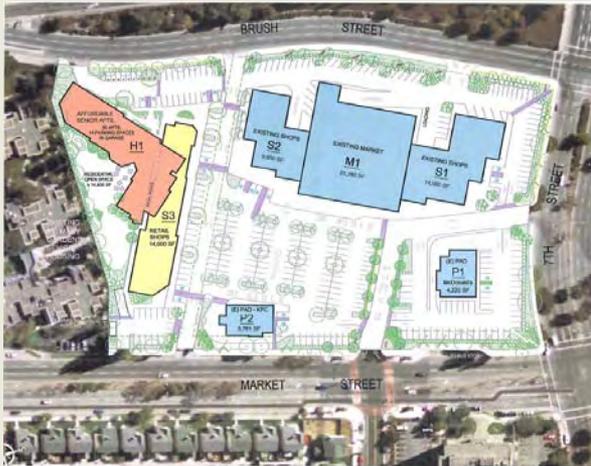
East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC), a non-profit developer

Project site

Borders Freeway 980, near Port of Oakland



Members of West Oakland Toxics Reduction Collaborative interested in using the project as a case study for HIA



Community health-related concerns included:

Air quality - respiratory disease

Noise - sleep disturbance, social cohesion

Retail - fresh produce, pharmacy

Safety - pedestrian, crime

In 4 meetings over 3 months, the community

Selected the project (Screening)

Engaged EBALDC in discussions

Scoped and prioritized concerns about project (Scoping)

Conducted research and found evidence supporting concerns (Assessment)

Developed suggested mitigations

Wrote letter to EBALDC and Planning Commission (Reporting)

Oakland Planning Commission asked EBALDC to work with community and implement mitigations

EBALDC made many concessions

Installing filtered air systems in common space and residential units

Placing bay windows instead of balconies on the freeway side of building

Changing main entrance from highway side to neighborhood side

Building opened on September 2, 2009

The Decision to Incorporate HIA into the I-710 Expansion EIR

I-710 freeway links Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to Southern California and beyond

Widening proposed where freeway passes through 15 cities and unincorporated areas

Close proximity to residences, schools, day care centers, senior centers, and hospitals, and vulnerable communities

Current and potential health impacts of great concern to local communities

In January 2009, over 30 people attended a 2-day HIA training focused on the I-710

How to conduct an HIA

How to use a HIA process and findings

How to get started

Attendees included:

Community, EJ, and environmental advocates

Academics

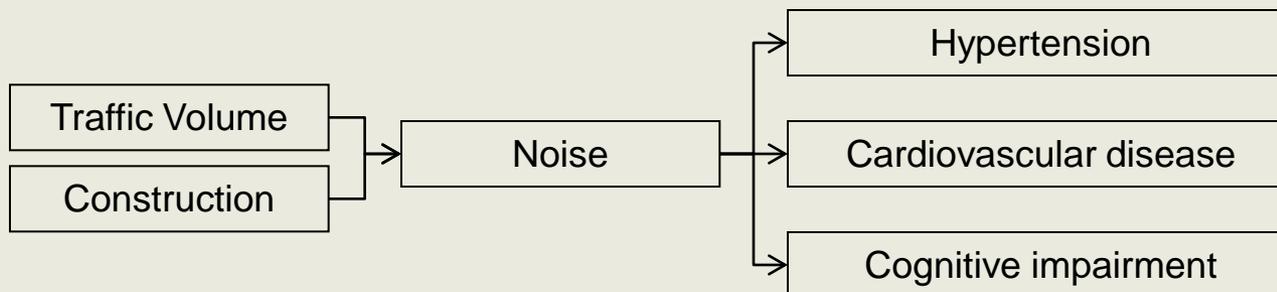
Public health agencies and other local
regulatory agencies

EPA Region IX

Post-training, stakeholders collaborated to develop pathway diagrams and research questions about health impacts that could be addressed in an HIA

Issue areas:

Traffic, Air Quality, Noise, Pedestrian Injury
Displacement
Loss of Community Resources
Segregation, Isolation, Loss of Political Power
Access to Parks, Schools
Local Economy and Jobs



Using the Scope through several channels, including presentations at public meetings, stakeholders asked CalTrans and other decision-makers to include an HIA in the EIR/EIS

LACDPH became a cooperating agency on the project EIR/EIS

In January, decision-makers voted to include an HIA as part of the I-710 EIR/EIS

HIA Scoping for Expansions of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach

Ports of LA and LB increasing capacity

Health impacts of expansion projects are of great concern to communities near Ports and transportation corridors

In comments on EIRs/EISs, EPA Region IX recommended that Ports conduct HIAs

To increase understanding of what an HIA would offer and to build support for HIA, EPA hired HIP to develop a model scope for an HIA of proposed Port projects

Public meeting to explain HIA, scoping process, and get feedback about scope. Participants included EPA, Ports, rail, industry, ILWU, community and EJ groups

Drafted FAQ about integrating HIA into EIA

Draft scope being reviewed by EPA, issues covered: air quality, noise, water quality, traffic and rail, displacement, economic effects, neighborhood livability, and Port revenue and funding - will be released for public review

May conduct an HIA training for stakeholders to increase understanding and build relationships

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