

Update and Summary of Input Received from the Community on Draft Scope of Health Study

Feb 12, 2018

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Outline

- Summary of input received
- Follow up on some questions from Dec 2017 community meeting
- Next steps

Health Study Technical Advisory Group (HSTAG)

The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council has selected the following community members to serve on the HSTAG:

- Dr. Jeffrey Nordella
- Dr. Issam Najm

Purpose of the HSTAG:

- To provide input to SCAQMD staff regarding an appropriate scope of the \$1M health study, prioritize study elements, ensure scientific validity of approach, conduct technical review of study progress and findings, address community questions and provide updates to community and feedback to researchers.
- Input from the HSTAG will be used to write the Request for Proposal (RFP) or sole-source contracts, as applicable

Sources of Input Received

- Worksheets received at Dec 2017 meeting (24 worksheets) and by email (3 worksheets)
- One email received between 12/14/2017-01/31/2018 with suggestions for the health study scope
- Input given verbally at Dec 2017 meeting

SUMMARY OF WORKSHEETS RECEIVED (INCLUDING THE EMAILED ONES)

NOTE: Several worksheets mentioned more than one response for each question, so they are counted in multiple categories. Therefore, the total number of responses is greater than the total number of worksheets.

Q1: Geographic area defined as primary “affected community”

Location	# of Worksheets
Porter Ranch, min 3-5 mi rad, closest area to facility	13
Other parts of SFV (Granada Hills, Northridge, Chatsworth, communities surrounding PR, Reseda, Sherman Oaks, Northern SFV)	12
9-12 mile distance (10-12 miles, 12x12mi, source to LA river)	5
Greater distances (20 miles, all of So. Cal.)	2
Other (path of gas leak)	1

Q2: Proposed studies ranked by priority

Priority	Response	#of Worksheets
1 st Priority	Option 1	10
	Option 2	0
	Other	13
2 nd Priority	Option 1	1
	Option 2	8
	Other	8

OPTION 1: Clinical assessment survey of highly affected individuals

OPTION 2: Data integration and exposure modeling

Q2: Other proposed study ideas

Study idea	#of Worksheets
Larger cohort/Randomized cohort/Long-term study	8
Study emission composition/toxicity	6
Screening	6
Radiation study	3
Review of previous local studies	3
Cancer registry/health registry	2
Survey health problems	1
Hair testing, blood testing	1
Heavy metal testing	1
Focus on air monitoring only	1

Q2: Other responses

Response	# of Worksheets
Obtain additional funding	9
Transparency	3
Shut down SCG	1
Spend every cent	1
Move people	1
Study pipeline sources	1
Give money to Dr. Nordella	1
Themselves	1

Q3: Most important health problems to evaluate (Slide 1 of 3)

Health Problem	# of Worksheets
Cancers (type unspecified or leukemia)	12
Nosebleeds	12
Asthma/allergies/exacerbations	12
Headache	9
Nausea, Abdominal pains/digestive issues	9
Rashes/Itching	8
Coughing	7
Dizziness, fainting/blackouts	7

Q3: Most important health problems to evaluate (Slide 2 of 3)

Health Problem	# of Worksheets
Eye/Vision issues, Conjunctivitis	6
Cardiovascular problems, Changes in blood pressure	4
Tiredness/weakness	3
Sleep disturbances/insomnia	3
Pulmonary/Respiratory problems, shortness of breath	3
Hair loss	3
Mental health related problems	2
Memory loss	2
Weight loss	3

Q3: Most important health problems to evaluate (Slide 3 of 3)

Health Problem	# of Worksheets
Seizures	1
Muscle aching	1
Kidney/bladder problems	1
Joint problems	1
Gum bleeding	1
Dry mouth	1
Cold like symptoms	1
Changes in sugar levels	1
Bronchitis	1
“Too many to list”	1
Other	3

Q4: Specific groups of people (for clinical assessment)

Response	# Worksheets indicating highest priority	Total # Worksheets mentioning this response
Children	10	17
People with symptoms/diseases	7	9
Elderly	5	14
Adults	0	9
Residents closest to facility	0	4
People who relocated	0	2
Pregnant women	0	2

Q5: Concerns/Suggestions for proposed study components outside of \$1M

Responses mentioned on 2-5 worksheets:

Suggestions:

Work with NIH/GuLF/Sister Study protocols

Work with Dr. Nordella and his previous data

More outreach and community involvement

Remove LADPH from efforts

Concerned about cancer

Provide test kits to affected individuals

Study components: community engagement, records-based epidemiologic study using public data, toxicity screening assays

Q5: Concerns/Suggestions for proposed study components outside of \$1M

Responses mentioned on 1 worksheet each:

Suggestions:

Close schools

Work with Water Board

Work with Universities

Firefighters got cancer

Detox efforts in community

Less pressure in SCG storage

Study health effects of mercaptans

Concerned about health effects

Communities decide who gets to do the study

**INPUT RECEIVED VERBALLY FROM
DEC 2017 COMMUNITY MEETING**

Input on Geographic Area of Study

- 12 mile radius
- 50 mile radius
- SFV or portions of SFV

Input on Health Conditions

- Nosebleeds
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Blood pressure
- Headache
- Rashes
- Cancers
- Mortality (deaths)

Input on Key Populations to Study

- School children
- School teachers

Input on Study Size

- 100 is too small
- Long-term epidemiological study

Input on Chemicals of Interest

- Mercaptans
 - Don't just limit to mercaptans
- Radiation
- Hexavalent chromium
- Benzene
- Fracking chemicals
- Unknown chemicals from SCG

Input on Study Approach/Data

DATA SOURCES:

- List of chemicals from SCG wells, facility, operations, and Termo
- Doctors visits (incl. private MD's)
- Wind data, dispersion modeling
- Retest environmental samples
- Mobile app health tracker
- SCAQMD Complaints data
- School absences data – excused/unexcused
- Veterinary offices
- SCG and CARB gas data

APPROACH:

- Synergistic effects
- Use a comparison group/control group
- Toxicology
- Screening tests: chest X-ray, blood test, cancer screening

Input on How to Conduct the Study

- Give community \$1M
- Not LAC DPH
- Work with other agencies – NIH, Water Board, OEHHA
- Community members participate in proposal review
- Give to Dr. Nordella – (commenter noted that he pledged not to take the money, but he can hire a consultant)
- Better air monitoring (?)

FOLLOW UP ON SOME QUESTIONS FROM DEC 2017 COMMUNITY MEETING

1. How to get NIH involved?
2. Status of UCLA research conducted by Dr. Jerrett?
3. Follow up with other experts?

How to get NIH involved?

- Researchers (and community) can apply for extramural grants (<https://grants.nih.gov>)
- Community can talk to NIH intramural program researchers about possibilities of NIH starting a project (<https://irp.nih.gov/about-us>)

What's the status of the UCLA research conducted by Dr. Jerrett?

- SCAQMD staff reached out to Dr. Mike Jerrett:
- For the LAC Public Health/UCLA study – final report is currently being reviewed by LAC Public Health
- For the other work being done by UCLA, the analysis is still in progress

Follow-up with other experts

- Plan is to convene HSTAG
- In contact with U.S. EPA RE: radiation concerns
- In contact with State Water Board drinking water division RE: water contamination concerns

Next Steps

- Share this information with the HSTAG
- Convene HSTAG to discuss and prioritize scope for health study