

Email From: Laura Leonelli <seacenter@sbcglobal.net> 4/20/2010 2:02 PM
To: Patrick Morris
Subject: Re: Delta MeHg TMDL/BPA: Late Revisions and Responses to Comments

Thank you for keeping me on the mailing list. Unfortunately I have a time conflict on Thursday and won't be able to appear since it looks like the public portion of the hearing will be in the morning.

I know that Patrick Morris was on the call for the meeting at Larry Walker Associates on April 13, which I attended. I hope that Patrick heard most of my comments about the ability of community organizations to participate in the stakeholder process. From our past experience organizing meetings with anglers from various ethnic groups, I believe that many people are concerned about the water quality of the rivers where they fish daily. There is a general perception that "the government" should initiate and fund cleanup efforts, but little understanding about how that actually happens. The need for capacity building is great, but the time frame for action is now. I sincerely hope that the lack of attendance at meetings does not convey the impression that community based organizations are not interested in participating as stakeholders in the TMDL/BPA planning process. There are many barriers which are probably familiar to you - time, technical knowledge/expertise, language skills, unfamiliarity with government agencies, limited ability to travel to meetings. Especially now, with funding at record low levels, community agencies (like ours) have to do much more with less. Please know that I support the testimony of Fraser Shilling, Sherri Norris, Andria Ventura and others who advocate for methylmercury standards based on a higher level of fish consumption. In any case, it is very helpful to continue to receive updates, so thanks for making that effort to connect.

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