

**2021 ASTSWMO Mid-Year Meeting
Federal Facilities Subcommittee Webinar – Environmental Justice
April 30, 2021**

Speaker Bios and Abstracts

What is Environmental Justice, 1:00 – 2:30 PM EDT

The Environmental Justice (EJ) movement emerged in the early 1980s due to the recognition of the presence and impacts of treatment, storage, and disposal facilities for toxic substances being disproportionately found in racial minority and high-poverty communities across the country. With this recognition came Executive Order 12898 in 1994, which established EJ offices in the U.S. EPA, Department of Justice, and other federal agencies. Many of the same issues brought to the forefront in the 1980s are still being faced in these communities. In this session, U.S. EPA will highlight their initiatives on EJ as well as EPA's general EJ programs, policies, and implementation within OLEM. Additionally, representatives from State agencies will highlight their agency's approaches to EJ and how they are being implemented within their agency's waste programs.

- **Matthew S. Tejada, PhD, US EPA**, joined EPA in March of 2013 as a career senior executive and director of the Office of Environmental Justice. As director, Matthew leads Environmental Justice Program's cross-cutting work throughout the EPA and federal government. This includes directly supporting communities and working with other EPA divisions, federal agencies, academic partners, business and industry, and state, local and tribal partners to further the mission of the EPA and its efforts to integrate environmental justice considerations in all policies, practices, and programs. Before his career at EPA, Matthew spent over five years in the non-profit world as executive director of the advocacy Air Alliance Houston, which focuses on environmental justice issues affecting the many overburdened communities in the Houston and Texas Gulf Coast area, particularly related to air pollution issues such as toxic hot spots and diesel particulate matter. Matthew was centrally involved in advocating for these justice issues in local, state and federal level legislative and policy arenas. Matthew received his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Oxford where he was a member of St. Antony's College. His research and dissertations largely focused on environmental and energy policy, international relations, politics and the development and role of civil society in a democracy. Matthew received a BA in English from the University of Texas at Austin, then served two years in the Peace Corps in Bulgaria as a high school teacher of English as a foreign language. Matthew is a native of Ft. Worth, Texas and the proud father of Nia Tejada.

This presentation, EJ 101 at EPA, will provide a brief history and definitions related to Environmental Justice from the perspective of the US EPA, including several notable EPA EJ achievements such as EJSCREEN and what we can do with such information and tools.

- **Keisha Long, South Carolina DHEC**, is the Environmental Justice Coordinator for the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). She is an advocate for vulnerable communities and is responsible for helping environmental justice communities build capacity, identify resources, and establish collaborative partnerships. Keisha has been with DHEC for over 20 years. Previously, Keisha worked as a DHEC Project Manager in the Superfund program and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act program (RCRA). Keisha holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Clemson University, is an active Toastmaster, and is a co-Chair on the advisory board of the ITRC (Interstate Technology Regulatory Council).

This presentation is titled “Fair Treatment and Meaningful Involvement.” This phrase is the first part of the definition of Environmental Justice. Ms. Long plans to discuss the basics of EJ, provide a pictorial view of an EJ community, provide case studies, and offer examples of how project managers can incorporate EJ principles into their work.

- **Ana Mascareñas, MPH, & Andres Martinez, California DTSC**

Ana serves as a Deputy Director and Tribal Liaison at the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. She was appointed as DTSC’s first Assistant Director for Environmental Justice in May 2015, and now leads the Department’s programs on EJ, Public Participation, and Tribal Affairs. Before joining DTSC, Ana was a membership coordinator and then the policy and communications director at Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles, where she promoted environmental health protections and fought for social and environmental justice in local, state, and national policy efforts. From 2006 to 2008, she served in the office of then-Congressman Xavier Becerra, directly assisting constituents in their claims and applications with federal agencies. She was a member of the East Los Angeles Residents Association board of directors from 2007 to 2015, where she organized alongside community, youth, and business leaders to improve social, educational, economic, and structural resources through advocacy and civic engagement. Ana graduated from Brown University with bachelor’s degrees in human biology and sociology and received a Master of Public Health in environmental health sciences from the Fielding School of Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles. Ana was born in Northern California and raised in New Mexico.

Andres joined DTSC in December of 2016 as an Environmental Scientist and now serves as the Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Manager. Since joining the Department, he has participated on the residential cleanup project around the former Exide facility to remove lead contaminated soil in neighborhoods in East Los Angeles. He transitioned into the role of Workforce for Environmental Restoration in Communities (WERC) program coordinator on the cleanup project and oversaw the training, certification, and employment of over 70 program participants to work on the project. In this capacity, he served as a liaison between community organizations, training partners, contractors, and local labor unions to facilitate communication with DTSC. Andres also led a multi-agency effort to reduce lead exposure and stabilize deteriorating lead-based paint in homes surrounding the former Exide facility. This work was supported in part through the implementation of a US EPA multipurpose grant. Andres earned his B.S. and M.S. from the University of California-Santa Cruz in Marine Biology and Ocean Sciences respectively. He earned his Doctoral degree from the University of California-Merced in Quantitative and Systems Biology.

This presentation, “Environmental Justice, Equity, and Outcomes” will share approaches from DTSC’s Environmental Justice program and perspectives from related California EJ efforts. Examples will include initiatives related to racial equity, workforce training, community engagement, and cumulative impact tools.

Incorporating Environmental Justice at Federal Facility Cleanups, 3:00 – 4:30 PM EDT

Building off of the first session on EJ, this session will focus on a more specific examination of EJ at federal facility cleanups. Representatives from the EPA OLEM, U.S. Department of Energy and State of Alaska will share information about successes and challenges in implementing EJ principles and policies at federal facilities. The session will end with a moderated discussion among participants to share recommendations on how to address EJ at federal facilities in the future.

- **Carlton Waterhouse, US EPA**, serves as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management after being appointed by the Biden Administration in February 2021. Carlton is an international expert on environmental law and environmental justice and has lectured globally on climate justice and group-based inequality. Carlton began his legal career as an attorney with the EPA, where he served in the Office of Regional Counsel in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Office of General Counsel in Washington, D.C. He served as the chief counsel for the agency in several significant cases and as a national and regional expert on environmental justice - earning three of the Agency's prestigious national awards. Before rejoining the EPA in 2021, he held an appointment as a Professor of Law at the Howard University School of Law where he was building the school's Environmental Justice Center. Prior to joining the Howard law faculty in 2019, he held an appointment as a Professor of Law at the Indiana University Robert McKinney School of Law where he directed the environment, energy, and natural resources law program.

This presentation will provide an overview of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to addressing Environmental Justice (EJ) and EPA's vision for building on current practices to advancing EJ in OLEM programs. Mr. Waterhouse will also lead a discussion on how EPA and other federal agencies can work together to conduct outreach, engagement, and analysis of environmental justice issues at Federal Facilities sites.

- **Melinda Downing, U.S. Department of Energy**, currently serves as the U.S. DOE's Environmental Justice Program Manager. She carries out her duties in the Office of Legacy Management (LM). Prior to transferring to LM, Ms. Downing carried out her duties in the Office of Intergovernmental and Public Accountability within the Office of Environmental Management at DOE Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Ms. Downing also represents the Department as a member of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (also known as the EJ IWG). Ms. Downing has managed and conducted Public Participation and Environmental Justice and tribal training at DOE Headquarters and Field offices across the nation. Ms. Downing has over 40+ years of Federal Service in various agencies. She has served on many committees, was employee of the Year in 1990. She has received numerous Awards of Excellence for her work in Public Participation; efforts to provide small towns with computers, technology training and technical assistance; Certificate of Award from the U.S. House of Representatives and Congressional Black Caucus for outstanding support of the National Environmental Policy Commission. Most recently she received an Honorary Doctorate from Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina, in recognition as a public servant throughout her federal career.

This presentation will provide an overview of the DOE's commitment to environmental justice including DOE's EJ Strategy and a summary of success stories. The DOE continues to identify new and innovative ways to implement and further the goals of EJ identified in Executive Order 12898. Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-

Income Populations. In addition, our new Executive Order 14008 Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, signed by President Biden, will further enhance the Department's commitment to EJ. For too long communities of color, low-income communities, American Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives have been the brunt of pollution from the air, water, and soil. President Biden's Justice40 Initiative is a plan to deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of climate investments to disadvantaged communities, in addition to including equitable research, development and deployment within the DOE and other Federal agencies.

In 2017, DOE issued its 3rd EJ strategy further demonstrating our Department-wide commitment to EO 12898 that included EJ commitments from both program and field offices. This Strategy provides a roadmap for our goals and objectives, highlights our major priorities for the next five years, and is reflected in individual program plans. DOE's 2017 EJ Strategy provides an overarching vision that is reflected in DOE's EJ goals. Success stories of the EJ commitment are evident through the Savannah River Site community involvement initiative and the Community Leaders Institutes across the country.

The relationship between EJ and DOE goals can be summed up as: commitment, fairness, and collaboration through educational and innovative initiatives. These priorities are critical to advancing the nation's energy and security goals, strengthening our economy, and providing a safe and healthy environment for minority populations and low-income populations, American Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives. Our overall goal is to achieve EJ and foster non-discrimination in programs that substantially affect human health and the environment.

- **Jennifer Currie, Alaska Department of Law**, is a Senior Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alaska in the Environmental Section. In this position, she represents the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation in both aid to agency and litigation roles. She specializes in handling sites in the State of Alaska contaminated by federal entities, whether those sites are still in federal hands or have been transferred out of federal hands. She has held this position since February of 2006. She previously worked in private practice in Boston, Massachusetts practicing environmental law at a small boutique firm representing both plaintiffs and defendants in environmental litigation and compliance. Prior to that, she practiced in Dallas, Texas when she specialized in litigating toxic tort cases. Ms. Currie moved to Alaska in 2005. She has a J.D. from Southern Methodist University School of Law and a B.A. from Colgate University.

Jenn Currie will discuss an Environmental Justice case involving federal facilities in the State of Alaska. Alaska Natives settled their land claims in the state in exchange for money and land. Unfortunately the federal government conveyed contaminated lands under the agreement. The Department of Environmental Conservation is attempting to move the process forward in getting these contaminated lands cleaned up.