Matthew Tejada: All right, hey everyone, thank you all so much for joining.

The second of the relaunch of our EPA National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Calls.

My name is Matthew Tejada, I'm the Director of the Environmental Justice Program here at the United States Environmental Protection Agency in Washington DC Headquarters.

I'm really happy to have a lot of folks joining us today for this call,
very happy that we're going to have some colleagues giving some more in-depth updates on the call today and that is partially in response to some of the feedback we heard on the first call that we did back in February. So just wanted to go over a few of the reasons why we're holding these calls. First of all as I said these are a relaunch, these are not the first time we've done these, we've done these in previous years and then took several years off,
but we wanted to relaunch these in 2021 because we do see these serving several valuable purposes.

First of all, it's a great way for us at EPA to just hear from community members and community leaders across the United States on what are their priority issues, what are their concerns, what are their questions,
how can we collaborate,

00:01:30,680 --> 00:01:39,000

how can we support, so just hearing from those community perspectives is really important.

00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:44,920

We also see these as a really meaningful and hopefully useful way

00:01:44,920 --> 00:01:50,040

of sharing information back out to communities and organizations and leaders

00:01:50,040 --> 00:01:54,968

throughout the United States so that can be done in simple ways like we'll do today

00:01:54,992 --> 00:01:57,399

with just some quick program updates

00:01:57,399 --> 00:01:59,847
or some more substantive ones like we're going to hear from our colleagues

25
00:01:59,871 --> 00:02:03,400
in the External Civil Rights Compliance Office today.

26
00:02:03,400 --> 00:02:07,868
And then the third reason we have these is, we really see these as a way

27
00:02:07,892 --> 00:02:13,959
of just holding ourselves in EPA accountable to constantly updating

28
00:02:13,959 --> 00:02:17,319
and keeping that relationship and that line of communication open

29
00:02:17,319 --> 00:02:20,128
and making sure that we're hearing what the priorities are

30
and that we're being responsive to those.

So we're very glad for all of you that have joined the call today.

I believe I'm going to pass it over to my colleague from within the Office of Environmental Justice Victoria Robinson,

who's going to go through some housekeeping items and then we're going to get on with the content.
Victoria Robinson: Thank you, Matthew, yes hi welcome everybody.

Basic housekeeping is very simple we have a slide up here

because of the nature of Zoom calls, we're asking that you either joined by phone or computer but not both, if possible please join by computer because you're able to participate in our Q&A pod by posting questions, raising your hand and possibly being have an opportunity to be able to speak
verbally with a question.

Everybody who has entered in is on mute and so that's where we're asking people to enter any kind of comments or questions into the Q&A pod. And those who are on the phone I'm sorry that's not an option at this stage with Zoom platform.
Now if you are selected to give a comment we're going to ask that you limit your question or comment to one minute so that will allow as many people as possible to be able to interact during our listening session and dialogue. And then we will be providing meeting notes-- will be available online in the future, those meeting notes will be a combination of items such as
the recording of this engagement call, transcript of the call

a summary of our the Q&A pod questions and answers

as well as a few other documents.

We do have Spanish language interpretation available for those who prefer to listen in Spanish.

For those of you who are on a computer, you'll notice that you have in your little task bar,
your Zoom task bar there's a
globe that says interpretation,

you can click on that and choose
what language you would like
to which audio channel you want
to have either English or Spanish.

Very simple of how to switch on to
it you just click on that little icon.

You can also add questions you can write
your questions in Spanish into the Q&A pod,

we do have an individual who will respond
to your questions in Spanish in return.
And then we're also making available any other the meeting materials the presentation

that kind of stuff will be translated into Spanish and made available when we post the other documents.

So, I believe that is it and I know you already covered this Matthew, so we'll go ahead.

And go to the next one, thank you.

Matthew Tejada: Thanks Victoria.
Yeah, so folks who need interpretation, please do switch over.

I want to thank our two interpreters today Jackie and Nestor,

ey have been with us especially Jackie I think has been with us for almost every public meeting the EJ Program has done for the last couple of months,

they do a great job for us and we want to make sure that we are being inclusive and accessible for all folks that want to join us on these calls.
so we're really happy to have a Spanish interpretation today.

Yeah so just real quickly what we're gonna go through so we've already done the welcome and housekeeping, I'm gonna offer a few leadership updates and then a little bit later on we're gonna have one of our political appointees Rosemary Enobakhare, who is our Associate Administrator for Public Engagement she'll be joining us a little later in this meeting to offer some more updates
about what is going on within the administration

and with Administrator Michael Regan currently.

Then we're going to switch to our featured topic of today

my good friend and colleague Lillian Dorka who is the Director of the External Civil Rights Compliance Office is going to give a more substantive update on strengthening civil rights enforcement and we're going to have a little Q&A period
after that specific to the stuff that Lillian is going to be sharing with folks, then we're going to have some more just kind of brief quick hit EPA Program Updates, some stuff from the EJ Program and around the rest of EPA, some engagement opportunities coming up and then we'll just have the broader kind of listening session and dialogue where folks can ask questions and we'll be
responsive as we can in this session,

and if folks ask stuff that we have to track down or follow up on

that'll be something that we continue to do coming out of this meeting.

A lot of follow-up has occurred just from the first meeting that we had back in February

we're tracking every comment, we're tracking every question

and making sure that we are responsive onto everything we're hearing
and receiving in these sessions.

And then we'll have some closing remarks and we'll wrap up right around

4 o'clock, Eastern Time.

Whatever o'clock that is wherever you are, we do try to have these later in the afternoon so that all folks across the United States have the opportunity to join in that,

it's not too early for anybody including our colleagues and friends out in Hawaii and the
Pacific Islands hopefully.

So with that we'll go on and I'll offer a few leadership updates Victoria.

From where we are within EPA, there's a lot of activity obviously going on right now across all of the federal government and it really is important to note that President Biden and Vice President Harris they came in as they assumed this administration with a very clear philosophy of advancing equity and justice
across the United States, takes
a whole of government approach

and that has been true with everything
we've been working on since January 20th

it is very much a whole of
government approach at the federal level

in terms of addressing and advancing
equity and justice priorities.

There's been two main kind of
universes of work on equity and justice

across the government
over these past few months
and those are obviously related to the two big executive orders that President Biden signed in his first day, and in his first week in office, that's Executive Order 13985, that's the executive order on racial equity and that executive order did something that we're all very involved in at EPA right now. It established a real mandate to look at everything across what an agency does and all agencies across the federal government are doing this right now.
At EPA we're looking at everything we do in EPA and trying to determine what are the barriers to advancing equity within that piece of our business and really, it's all parts of our business, we have work groups that are looking at policy, looking at grants, looking at procurement, looking at data. So really looking across the spectrum of everything that EPA does, what are the barriers
to advancing equity in what we do
and once we identify those barriers

which is the phase we're in right now, how do
we actually start busting through those barriers

and implementing and
advancing more equitable practices

across everything we do at EPA.

Again, every federal agency
right now has a similar effort

supporting this executive order implementing
Executive Order 13985 right now.
Then on the other side, we have another executive order that maybe more folks in the EJ community are kind of paying attention to, that’s Executive Order 14008, the executive order on tackling the climate crisis at home and abroad. That executive order does several important things, one, it established a new federal advisory committee that I’m hopeful that a lot of folks who are on the phone
today have probably been tuning into

they've been having

a lot of meetings,

that's the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, WHEJAC.

It's been meeting to go over

a number of the different items

that are contained

in that executive order

such as providing some

recommendations on additional updates
to the original EJ Executive Order 12898 from 1994,

so we just last week finalized their recommendations back to the Council on Environmental Quality and the President on enhancements or changes to EO 12898.

They’re also looking at different elements for the implementation of Executive Order 14008,

so particularly looking at some elements of the Justice40 initiative.
That's the initiative that the President has mandated in that executive order which is going to take 40 percent of federal resources for climate change and ensure that 40 percent of those resources benefit disadvantaged communities.

Now, there's several elements in there that--

folks that have been working on this, of course know there's a lot of work to just kind of unpack and define and delineate
with those different parts of just that sentence mean, right?

What are the resources that we're going to look at?

What does it mean to benefit communities and what are those disadvantaged communities?

And then at the end of all that, the executive order also mandates that there's a scorecard across the federal government for how well we're implementing environmental justice and this Justice40 initiative at every agency and department.
So a lot of thinking is going into that right now.

A lot of work by members of the WHEJAC,

A lot of work by other federal partners on the interagency council for environmental justice.

And that is the evolved version of the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice that has been around since the signing of Executive Order 12898.

So just a lot of activity across the board right now both at EPA.
and across the rest of the federal government on implementing those executive orders.

We also of course received an EPA 100 million dollars through the American Rescue Plan that was the Biden-Harris COVID release bill that was passed through congress in the first couple of months of this administration.

We're still working through kind of a proposal for how to potentially spend those 100 million dollars and within that
100 million that EPA received, 50 million

of it is for air quality and air monitoring purposes

and then 50 million of it was for environmental justice purposes.

We're still working through kind of the process on how to propose to spend that

we're hopeful we'll have some ability here in the next couple of weeks

or next month or so to start sharing our thoughts around that more publicly.
And also start moving some of that money out especially in some of the most obvious ways

00:13:31,572 --> 00:13:36,978

that we could actually start getting that money out on the street to support communities

00:13:37,002 --> 00:13:42,036

and to support other partners at dealing with the ongoing ramifications

00:13:42,060 --> 00:13:45,720

of the COVID pandemic and the ways in which EPA can help support

00:13:45,720 --> 00:13:50,760

that through improving air quality, improving access to safe drinking water

00:13:50,760 --> 00:13:55,339

remediating sites, on supporting economic development and redevelopment
but more details on that hopefully pretty soon.

Again, we're still working through kind of some of the final approval of the proposed plan on how EPA is going to spend that money.

So again lots of activity across the board on policy fronts, on regulatory fronts on just nuts and bolts fiscal budgetary fronts, so I'm going to stop there for now.
As I said, Rosemary Enobakhare is going to be joining us a little bit later on the call, she'll be able to give some more insight and kind of updates on some of the other things that Administrator Regan has going on.

Some of the recent meetings that they've been going through recently, but at this point I would like to pause, I know we have some questions to answer, we'll get to the question and answer here in a minute,
but I wanted to go ahead now
and pass it over to my very--

my very good friend and colleague Lilian
Dorka who is the Director of the Office
of External Civil Rights Compliance
within the Office of our General Council

here in headquarters at EPA.

And Lillian is going to give
folks a more substantive update
on where we are with
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.
Go ahead Lilian.

Lilian Dorka: Thanks so much Matt, and thank you to all my colleagues all my EJ colleagues, not just an OEJ but throughout our regional offices and our program offices and to all of you for joining today.

I know this is an issue that is extremely important, not just out there in the advocacy world but here at EPA.
And before I-- and thank you Victoria for sharing the slide about strengthening civil rights enforcement.

Before I go there, I just want to say that obviously we're all seeing this administration's commitment to environmental justice and to integrating environmental justice throughout everything we do.

Certainly here at EPA, Administrator Regan has more than shown that commitment.
and a commitment to civil rights enforcement as well as environmental enforcement as well,

but the civil rights laws do carry a priority here at EPA and thank goodness, right?

We've been waiting for this time, it is an unprecedented time for us,

it's also an unprecedented time for us to continue the job that

that Matt, and I, and Charles and others have been doing sort of behind the scenes

to really, really strengthen and
continue the commitment to deepen

the alignment and collaboration between civil
rights and environmental justice programs.

We recognize fully that we need
to go beyond the general principles

and the general procedural
relationship that we established

back when we did EJ 2020
and that action agenda.

This goes far beyond that, this is a much
more substantive commitment to work together
because we fully realize that advancing environmental justice

and Title VI enforcement go hand in hand.

We need only have listened in on the WHEJAC deliberations and the thoughts of the EO 12898 working group to know that several times, that partnership was referenced when they talked about environmental justice is about civil rights and Title VI enforcement
and something else that I wrote down was environmental justice issues

must be handled as civil rights and Title VI issues,

I mean we fully recognize that not only are they interdependent, but that they leverage each other and so we have been working to develop an action strategy so that both offices, both programs can continue to work together to make sure that we leverage both programs whether it's they are in EJ issues
that come up through the EJ actions that also have a reference point in Title VI enforcement

or the issues that come up through Title VI compliance and enforcement

that we need to make sure are referenced in our EJ actions as well in the actions of EPA as a whole.

What we see here on this slide is an attempt to put into words the overarching commitment that exists within EPA
with respect to enforcement of Title VI and civil rights as an EPA priority.

We are committed certainly in our office in ECRCO to strengthening civil rights enforcement and addressing these issues of health and environmental disparities and to of course ensure that the mission and the promise of EPA's mission is a reality for all persons in the United States. And that the protection of human
health and the environment is a reality

for all persons in the United States, not just for some.

We have articulated sort of five general principles that you see here, that are largely guiding our work, we are working on something like an--

like a strategic plan of course but we knew that, we needed to hit the ground running

and as our new Deputy General Counsel Marianne Engelman Lado
is fond of saying sometimes
we're building this plane as we fly it,

but it's imperative that we
hit the ground running.

So we are continuing to articulate all
of these principles and all of these goals

and all of these actions
into a more cohesive strategic plan

and we are strategic-- we are
engaging in strategic planning

but we wanted to write off really
in keeping with the administration
and Administrator Regan's commitment articulate these five principles.

and I want to put a little meat on these bones as we go through them.

As you can see, the proactive civil rights compliance activities, including affirmative compliance reviews in environmentally overburdened and disadvantaged communities is clearly a priority, we know that we need to do this, we need to really revamp and reinvigorate
this work, this Title VI work, as well as with respect to persons with disabilities and other authorities that we have within ECRCO.

We are currently in the process of doing more comprehensive planning on what we call an affirmative compliance review docket to design that process to make sure that we are really identifying the right areas where that we want to tackle, the right areas or the areas that are plaguing
overburdened disadvantaged communities
and that we do it in a productive

and well-reasoned way, but we
are, in the meantime, we are considering

the initiation of at least one compliance
review by the end of this fiscal year.

If we can we will do more, but at the
very least we are committed in 2021
to initiating one or more reviews.

What would be the focus of that review
is something that is currently under consideration, we are taking into consideration all of the great information, suggestions, recommendations that have been provided to us by the communities, the advocacy communities. the other communities with whom we've worked during our complaint investigations and other engagements that we have as well as through Matt and other-- the EJ work that's being done in all of our regional offices and we are considering for example,
issues that are very critical in overburdened communities such as the high mortality and morbidity rates due to COVID that might coincide with exceedances, and PM 2.5 and other pollution exceedances,

so we're very carefully, we're looking at that to make sure that we identify not just the issue area but the communities where we should
be launching this first.

295
00:23:32,953 --> 00:23:39,159
We're also looking at other issues
such as water infrastructure, for example,

296
00:23:39,159 --> 00:23:45,468
that we have, we know based on our experience
and we know based on the information

297
00:23:45,492 --> 00:23:50,840
that's been communicated to
us are issues of great importance

298
00:23:50,840 --> 00:23:55,159
in overburdened and
disadvantaged communities.

299
00:23:55,159 --> 00:24:01,880
And we are looking to engage more
like through this particular engagement
and others to engage more with our stakeholders

to receive that type of really valuable information

and I might say and this is critically important, making full use of all

of the great insight and great expertise that we have right here in EPA

whether it's with gathering of data and data analysis

and thinking on other types of environmental issues,
but please make sure that everyone understands

we will be addressing these from a civil rights perspective.

And we will make full use of the civil rights authorities

that we have available to us.

The second big area there is the commitment to take concrete steps to ensure of course the integration of civil rights and environmental justice
and programmatic action, into programmatic actions across EPA,

and Matt talked a little bit about the equity assessment groups that we have here at EPA and that is just tremendously vigorous and engaged.

I am lucky enough to serve on a couple of those equity groups and I am just really privileged to be able to serve on those with the best
and brightest minds in EPA, it's really heartening to see the commitment throughout.

And of course, it's through Administrator Regan's commitment and very, very vocal commitment to his entire team, his entire leadership to take those immediate and affirmative steps to incorporate environmental justice considerations in our work, and the civil rights enforcement issues and priorities into consideration.
as we continue our work.

We are also of course integrating EJ principles into civil rights enforcement through collaboration across the agency and to make sure that we incorporate analyses including disproportionate impacts and cumulative impacts in our decision making. Certainly these are incredibly important issues, within this priority area.
we are very much considering what guidances will be necessary for us to issue in the short term as law as well as in the long term to bring us to a place to bring this program to a place where we could truly say that we're strengthening civil rights enforcement.

So for example by the end of this fiscal year we hope to launch and issue more comprehensive guidance for recipients
on the non-discrimination program requirements that are reflected in our regulations,

but that so many recipients still do not have in place,

things like grievance procedures and coordination from a recipient agency level to ensure that communities that have discrimination issues can bring it at the local level as well as the federal level.
Not only that but we are also going to clarify the responsibilities and obligations of recipients with respect to the pre-award process and make very clear what our expectations—what EPA's expectations are before recipients, before applicants receive money from EPA. What is expected of them and a more vigorous pre-award review process that we anticipate.
As I said, we anticipate issuing some of that guidance before the end of the fiscal year, and then additional points as we implement this comprehensive non-discrimination program effort. Along with that and very importantly, of course, includes the additional guidance regarding civil rights legal standards guidance that would complement the
guidance that we've already issued

known as the chapter one of the toolkit

to really supplement that guidance

with helpful insight about disparate impact and the disparate impact standard,

as well as the different treatment analysis and additional guidance to our staff

how to complete those analyses as well as to recipients and communities,

so that everyone is on the same page that we fully intend to use all
of the tools in our authorities
as a Civil Rights Office.

And of course, we plan to issue
additional guidance that would
also address cumulative impacts
within the civil rights context

how do we view cumulative impacts that are
affecting overburdened disadvantaged communities,

how do we evaluate those
adversities, those harms

that so many-- those multiple harms
that so many communities face.
So in FY22, we fully anticipate that we will be looking at those additional guidances.

Next, this concept of extremely, extremely important coordination, communication and engagement with overburdened and disadvantaged stakeholders and communities to make sure that not just through affirmative initiatives such as affirmative compliance reviews, and technical assistance deliveries and other engagements.
But also through our complaint investigations and our complaint resolutions we are looking at ways to expand the involvement of stakeholders and especially stakeholders that either represent or are in the disadvantaged and overburdened communities, so we definitely consider that a priority.

And finally leadership, no self-respecting civil rights agency
can be one, unless it really commits
to and exemplifies leadership across
the federal government on
inter-agency collaboration
across the federal government
to enforce civil rights laws
whether it’s through collaboration
in affirmative compliance reviews,
through collaboration
in complaint investigations,
and very importantly collaboration
through guidance and policy making.

383
00:31:39,945 --> 00:31:43,033
We very, very much believe in this,

384
00:31:43,057 --> 00:31:48,120
I personally believe
in this I so look forward

385
00:31:48,120 --> 00:31:54,187
to more fully engaging with my colleagues
many of whom I've known for many, many years,

386
00:31:54,211 --> 00:32:00,440
many of whom like us have
been waiting with baited breath

387
00:32:00,440 --> 00:32:07,320
to get back into this work
that we so fully value,

388
00:32:07,320 --> 00:32:14,200
we fully anticipate being a critical
player and playing a critical role.

00:32:14,200 -- 00:32:19,559
We meaning, I and my colleagues in
the External Civil Rights Office

00:32:19,559 -- 00:32:26,360
as well as Marianne as our
Deputy General Counsel in the work

00:32:26,360 -- 00:32:31,765
of the EJ Interagency Working
Group, the Title VI Committee.

00:32:31,789 -- 00:32:34,739
And we've already
started that work.

00:32:34,763 -- 00:32:39,152
Many of you know that
there will be a similar panel

00:32:39,176 -- 00:32:44,508
to this tomorrow, tomorrow
morning at 10 Eastern Time

395
00:32:44,532 --> 00:32:50,290
that is being moderated by DOJ
and I look forward to serving

396
00:32:50,414 --> 00:32:55,799
with a number of my colleagues from
other federal agencies on that panel

397
00:32:55,799 --> 00:33:00,972
as we all talk about how we're
strengthening civil rights enforcement.

398
00:33:00,996 --> 00:33:05,640
I'm going to pause there because
I know that there will be some

399
00:33:05,640 --> 00:33:08,840
really, really great
questions coming our way
and I will turn it back
to you Victoria or Matt.

Matthew Tejada: Thank you
so much, Lillian, that's great,

so we're gonna now have a little question
and answer session just with Lillian

since we have her on and then we can
release her for the remainder of this call.

So I will ask folks now attendees
that are able to [CLEARING THROAT]

I don't believe you can if
you called in by the phone,
but I see that the vast majority of the folks that are on Zoom not through a phone,

so if you would use-- I think what we're going to do Victoria is if folks will raise your hand to ask a question and you can-- I believe raise your hand if you open up the participants list at the very bottom you'll see a raise hand function,

I believe that's where it's located in Zoom.
So if folks want to ask a question of Lillian about the External Civil Rights Compliance Program and our plans with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act at present, please raise your hand now.

Victoria Robinson: And while we're doing that why don't we quickly have Christina give us maybe the first question out of the pod while we're waiting for folks to raise their hands.

Christina Motilall: Yeah
thanks so much for that.

Yes, I wanted to hold that up so the first question that we had coming in for Lillian says, could Lillian please talk briefly about prospects and plans for providing guidance to recipients addressing substantive as well as procedural Title VI requirements?

Example, what recipients should do in permitting planning etc,
to ensure that they do not result in disparate impacts? Thank you.

Lilian Dorka: Yeah, thank you for that.

I may have touched on this briefly during my opening remarks.

that is something that we absolutely have been planning on

we are issuing, as I said, hopefully by the end of this fiscal year

we've committed to issue some comprehensive guidance
for the non-discrimination program principles
and of course that goes hand in hand

with a more vigorous review,
a pre-award review process

that it truly, truly sets out
a very bottom line message

for those who've received money from EPA
that they must have program requirements

that are articulated in
our regulation in place.

And we will start by issuing that clarifying
guidance-- we're also working on a video
that we plan to have on our website that not only recipients,

but members of the public, anyone can access,

it would be a video that presents all of these programmatic non-discrimination requirements and lays them out in a way for folks to understand, including sort of the bottom line on how to best serve persons with limited English proficiency
persons with disabilities and other non-discrimination program requirements.

Beyond that, we are absolutely working on guidance that we hope to release in FY22 that will go, will supplement the guidance that we've already issued on the civil rights legal standards.

well we are looking forward to expanding on our guidance
to more fully articulate how we will use all of these tools that are available to us as we carry out civil rights enforcement under-- using disparate impact analysis as well as different treatment analyses that we will fully explore and lay out, and that of course will necessarily include some articulation about how we will use the concept and how we will
explore the concept of cumulative impacts

within the permitting process
itself from a civil rights perspective,

how we are going to view
the cumulative impacts

that are so common
to overburden communities,

how we are going to look at
and evaluate and investigate

all of those adversities
that face overburdened communities,
and particularly within the permitting structure, we know that is an issue that is very commonly raised in many of the civil rights complaints, the Title VI complaints that we receive, so most certainly the guidance that we're gonna-- we're working on and that we hope to issue in FY22 we'll explore those principles.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you.

Matthew for some reason we do
not have any folks raising their hands,

but it could be a glitch
that I'm trying to check into

so we'll go ahead and have Christina
go ahead and read the next question.

Matthew Tejada: Yeah, I'm not
for folks as Christina gets ready,

Christina Motilall: Yeah.

Matthew Tejada: We were-- we
use a government license for Zoom

and we use a webinar government
license for Zoom and we were seeing--

00:38:58,839 --> 00:39:01,708
we were having some problems
making sure that everything turned on,

00:39:01,732 --> 00:39:04,359
including the hand raised function.

00:39:04,359 --> 00:39:08,920
We had intended for folks to be able
to raise your hands and ask the question

00:39:08,920 --> 00:39:14,159
verbally, vocally, until we get that sorted
out or if we don't get that sorted out,

00:39:14,183 --> 00:39:17,320
please go to the Q&A
pod, that is working,

00:39:17,320 --> 00:39:22,599
and we have staff in there fielding
those questions in the Q&A pod.

477
00:39:22,599 --> 00:39:25,640
So Christina, do you want to
go ahead with our next one?

478
00:39:25,640 --> 00:39:29,880
Christina Motilall: Yes, the
next one is a two-part question.

479
00:39:29,880 --> 00:39:35,560
The first part is does EPA address
overburdened communities or must be both

480
00:39:35,560 --> 00:39:37,800
overburdened and disadvantaged?

481
00:39:37,800 --> 00:39:42,839
In part two, does EPA include the
aviation noise and health impacts

482
00:39:42,839 --> 00:39:45,577
in its environmental scope?
Lilian Dorka: So from the civil rights perspective,

we tend to use overburdened and disadvantaged interchangeably,

but you're absolutely right if you see a difference between them

and certainly there is not one over the other.

As we enforce Title VI of the Civil Rights Act,

what we do is address discrimination
on the basis of race, color, national origin

we also of course enforce a few other federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, on the basis of sex, some basis of age, but most certainly the majority of the cases that we receive a -- on Title VI which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race color, national origin, including limited English proficiency.
So as we address the community as we find them,

I mean the discrimination complaints that we receive,

basically allege that an action or inaction on the part of an agency funded through EPA has resulted in treating people differently on the basis of race, color, national origin or has resulted in a disparate impact on the basis of race, color, national origin.
So whether we say disadvantaged or overburdened,

it's really not the civil rights question that we would explore

and of course we would end up addressing

whatever the issue is that's brought to us the discrimination issue,

hopefully that answers the question.

The second part of that question could you remind me Christina what that was?
Christina Motilall: Sure, let me pull it up really quick.

The second part is does EPA include the aviation noise and health impacts in its environmental scope?

Lilian Dorka: So as I said before, I think when we talk about addressing the cumulative impacts we would address all the impacts, all of the harms, all of the adversities.
that are encountered depending on the discrimination scenario

that's been raised through the complaint that we've received

or the compliance review that we've initiated,

so it's both health and environmental adversities that we would address.

So for example, not only would we be addressing in certain cases,

the health adversities that are being alleged are being complained about resulting
from actions or inactions on the part of these recipients, these agencies,

but we would also be addressing non-health adversities whether it's noise or whether it's other quality of life type of adversities being faced by persons, so I would say all of the above.

Christina Motilall: Do we have room for another?

Matthew Tejada: Yeah, yeah, let's go for another.
Christina Motilall: Great.

This one says, how do you plan to guard against the negative aspects of gentrification as Justice40 moves forward?

Matthew Tejada: That's a mean question, I think,

Christina Motilall: Oh yeah, it says for Lillian--

Matthew Tejada: [LAUGHS]
Christina Motilall: I wanted--

Matthew Tejada: --Take a first crack at it or do you want me to--[LAUGHS]

Lilian Dorka: I would pivot to my colleague Matt on that one because I do think that's more question to be best answered through an environmental justice lens.

Matthew Tejada: Thanks, thanks Lillian, thanks Christina.

I will say that is top of mind not only for us career folks who work on civil rights
and environmental justice, but the folks who have come in as political appointees in this administration, they have also been very clear and keyed in on the fact that there's a few things that we have to be really mindful of as the Biden-Harris Administration reorients the way that the federal government governs and advances equity and justice considerations across the board in terms of everything, right?
Like I was saying before policy, regulations and very importantly allocation of resources and we know from experience that there are unintended consequences as the NEJAC once termed it of things such as improving an environment in a certain area in a place-based setting whether that be an air quality improvement or a contamination improvement or bringing in more things such as transit and transportation options or access to health care, or access to food
that there can be unintended consequences of those things.

So that is something that is very much front of mind for a lot of folks not just at EPA, we've obviously already been reaching out and building relationships with old colleagues and new appointees and colleagues across the federal family hardly a day goes by that we aren't
getting together with somebody from HUD

00:45:52,040 --> 00:45:54,520
or United States
Department of Agriculture,

00:45:54,520 --> 00:45:57,896
or Department of
Transportation, or Commerce,

00:45:57,920 --> 00:46:02,498
and that is one of the
consistent first things discussed,

00:46:02,522 --> 00:46:08,520
not only the concern that as
the federal government looks at

00:46:08,520 --> 00:46:11,800
a different way of allocating
resources to make sure that
those resources go to the communities
most in need which could then result in,

great for 5 years or 10 years,
we allocate all these resources
to a community that just results in all the
people living in that community get displaced,

that's not something
that any of us want.

We also are aware that as we look at
something like reallocating resources,

you can't just turn on the spigot
and expect folks to be standing there
with buckets to fill up with all
the water, right? Some folks need a bucket

or some folks have a bucket but they
need a bigger one or they need one that
doesn't have a hole in it.

So there's a level
of capacity building,

not just for community members but for our
state partners and for our local partners

and for our tribal partners
and for other utilities or folks
that we need to be involved in seeking improvements in communities with environmental justice concern.

So there’s there are several kind of concern areas around this that folks are constantly reminding one another and ourselves of as we all pull in the direction of changing the way that the government does business, it's not all just this is great, this is positive, this is going to make things better.
There are with anything we do in EJ, there is the potential for unintended consequences.

there are the potential for things not to work out the way you want them to,

so that is something that we're all mindful of and we're always looking for,

especially, from folks on the ground if there are solutions or interventions, or types of support that people are innovating that can really help to make sure that something like displacement or gentrification does not occur.
that as the government operates in a more equitable way

that we really make sure that those resources

and activities touch ground and benefit and lift up the folks in the communities

for their communities for the long term.

We're always interested in and needing and looking for that sort of feedback,

that sort of advice, those sorts of examples and best practices
whether it comes from directly from the community
or from state, or tribal, or local partners

who are working with the community
and have figured something out,

we're always interested in hearing
about those and learning from them

and seeing where we can
replicate them and scale them up.

Lilian Dorka: And just my thoughts very
briefly to follow from what Matt is saying,

to the extent that those consequences
whether intended or not

that result from decisions made at local levels

with respect to community development, or for example the sighting of certain polluting facilities impact communities of color then that definitely becomes a civil rights issue.

And it would not be uncommon for us to deal with those very issues, particularly,
if perhaps what was happening

00:49:36,760 --> 00:49:44,280
was that one area was becoming
or being developed for certain purposes

00:49:44,280 --> 00:49:47,867
and not just people but
facilities were being displaced

00:49:47,891 --> 00:50:03,287
and there were decisions being made to
place those facilities in other communities

00:49:54,200 --> 00:49:56,888
some of which were
communities of color.

00:49:56,912 --> 00:50:03,287
So that's I think where we would come in
and we would most commonly see complaints,
civil rights complaints being raised, you're taking certain facilities out of X neighborhood which is becoming increasingly one color

and you're putting them in these other neighborhoods which are certainly racially identifiable and you are thereby increasing the burden for this other community of color.

Matthew Tejada: Great, well, thank you, thank you so much Lillian.
I really appreciate you taking the time to get together with us today to update the community and the folks who have joined us, and just for all of your efforts over in external civil rights past, present, and future.

Thanks so much.

Lilian Dorka: Thank you, Matt, and thanks colleagues and thank you all for joining us.

I really appreciate the time.
Matthew Tejada: All right, I think now Victoria we're ready to move on

and do some of our more kind of quick hit program updates.

So I believe we have first up our colleague Nena Shaw

from our ORCR office and she's going to tell you what that means

because I always get at least one of those elements of the acronym wrong,

but Nena is going to update folks on a National Recycling Strategy.
Nena Shaw: Thank you Matt.

Yes, it's the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery
and I'm the Acting Director of the Resource Conservation and Sustainability Division.

I'm super excited
I've got very little time,

but I wanted to tell you all
about a strategy that we have

that will hopefully come out soon, and while
it is titled a national recycling strategy,
we are looking to basically rethink municipal solid waste and waste management in this country and recycling is part of that. And for years it's been broken and in 2018, when China passed the Sword Act it was sort of an accelerating event, so we have spent the last couple of years thinking about how to improve recycling, but we have a lot of work still left to do
and what we want to make sure that this group of stakeholders recognizes is the opportunity
to engage with us as we move forward to think about what it means to incorporate policies, data and all of the implementation kind of strategies about making recycling better.

And that's where we're going to start the conversation, but we are really rethinking municipal solid waste management in my division.
One of the things that has been very clear in the actions of the end of the last congressional session and this one is that there is money to invest in a desire to invest money in infrastructure around municipal solid waste management, this includes organics and food waste so the addition of anaerobic digesters, or composting, or increased recycling things that divert waste and put them in their highest and best use.
So we have drafted a strategy it came out in October of 2020

in draft for public comment and identify some objectives and stakeholder-led actions to create a stronger more resilient and cost-effective municipal solid waste recycling system.

It reflects the connections to recycling improvements and environmental justice and acknowledges impact of recycling on climate change and the economy.
We are going to be going in front of the NEJAC next month on June 17th.

We're excited about that and we're really hoping to release it in the summer.

But we've got some--we've got an email address at the bottom here to the extent that you want to be kept informed.

I think Matt is going to get tired of hearing me speak because we hope to be frequent.
contributors to not only this call

but also NEJAC to the extent that people want to engage

in really rethinking what is an area that has been perhaps not thought about in a creative or innovative way for a long time.

So with that I'm gonna turn it over if anybody has any questions,

I'm happy to answer them, but really it is a plug to look out for this strategy and to engage
in any way that you would like.

Matthew Tejada: Awesome, thank you so much, Nena.

We won't get tired of hearing from you, it's great to have our colleagues in the awesome land in emergency management and in research -- oh I always get it wrong -- resource --

Nena Shaw: Resource, yes
Matthew Tejada: And renewal--

Nena Shaw: Absolutely and I will say we are working very hard on grants

and other language to ensure equity principles and EJ principles are incorporated

and we are very excited for the work of all of your staff

and participation of all of your staff and in that.

Matthew Tejada: All right, all right, well thank you so much.
I think we're gonna move on Victoria, oh yep, somebody have something?

Okay, I think we're gonna move on Victoria what do we have next.

Nena Shaw: Thank you.

Matthew Tejada: Thank you.

So one of the goals of these calls is to make sure as I said earlier that we have just that regular and consistent communication back and forth, but that we really see that at EPA.
and in the EJ Program,

not just as a good business practice
and something we should be doing

but has its own accountability mechanism
that when people take time out of their days
to talk to us to express your needs,
or your priorities, or your challenges

that we are responsive to those, not just
in terms of answering questions,

but actually taking
them inside of the agency
and seeking those bigger programmatic or policy-based ways

to make sure that the EPA overall is being responsive
to what we are hearing on these things.

So Victoria did you want to kind of talk through what we're offering here on enhanced transparency?

Victoria Robinson: Yes, thank you.

As we noted on here that
as part of this overall process

00:56:52,332 --> 00:56:57,721

and these engagement calls

are one-- just one example

00:56:57,845 --> 00:57:02,295

of how we are looking to enhance

transparency and build the engagement,

00:57:02,319 --> 00:57:06,928

and so we're looking at exploring options

for several more focus kind of conversations

00:57:06,952 --> 00:57:10,680

and these would be things

like a topic-focused dialogue.

00:57:10,680 --> 00:57:15,963

Sometimes there may be 30 minutes may not

be enough time during one of these calls
to actually focus on a specific topic so we may do a dialogue that might last an hour or more on a single topic,

working with various programs to see-- program offices and regions to see about doing maybe some listening sessions in coordinating with some of the webinars that you'll see-- we'll be listing several-- the upcoming webinars that are occurring.

And then also looking at the regions, at the last meeting in February, was suggested
by a couple people that these engagement calls

that we have, the community engagement calls

we might want to consider doing that on a regional level

so that the region can focus more on the issues that are unique to their region.

One of the other things is that we're making a commitment and it's something that it's taking a little while to get up and going
and I have to give my apologies
for not being as upon as I should be,

but we're working on making
sure that we are going to follow up

on the issues and questions raised
during these engagement calls.

Those things include distributing site-specific
questions to the regional EJ Coordinators,

so that they can then reach out to
the person who had the comment about

what's going on in their particular community.
Some of these things are also following up like we did with some questions that were raised about Title VI at the last call, we passed those on to Lillian in her office and we were blessed that she was able to come and participate and be the focused topic for this call.

So those are some of the ways we're looking at following up on these issues so that they are not
just in and then dropped,

00:58:52,641 --> 00:58:55,828
we want to make sure that we
are following up and getting answers

00:58:55,952 --> 00:58:57,720
and helping folk get answers.

00:58:57,720 --> 00:59:01,328
And also the last one is that working
to connect advocates of you guys

00:59:01,352 --> 00:59:04,767
who are listening in these calls to
the people in the relevant programs

00:59:04,791 --> 00:59:07,319
and I wrote this in a very
specific way.

00:59:07,319 --> 00:59:10,920
We want to talk about connecting to
people in the programs,

not necessarily connecting to the programs, it is important to have these relationships.

So you can understand what-- so that we can have a better understanding about what your needs and concerns are and viceversa,

so that is where the point of that.

So we're working on these things and I'm looking for any other suggestions

you may have on how you see that the agency
should move toward enhancing transparency,

I think and that's something we're moving on to it.

This page is not going.

And then part of that is also giving selected updates as to what was raised during a previous call or during a previous engagement meeting and for example, we had several questions about the federal interagency collaboration and coordination
and Matt did a good job of already speaking to how

the interagency environment EJ work--

always called EJ IWG, has been now transitioned to the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council and the CEQ does chair it and
CEQ and that Council are collectively leading environmental justice efforts across the agency.

That was a question that was like

"Okay, what's now going to happen with this collaboration?"

Will the agency still collaborate and coordinate?

And the answer is yes, and this is going to be through this--
So that you know that our office will continue to--

at EPA, the Office of Environmental Justice will continue to partner with federal agencies and be a resource for general environmental justice questions.

We see that as our role, it's been a role for a long time with us and we expect to continue that function.
And I already mentioned about meaningful engagement,

Administrator Regan had instructed EPA to take immediate affirmative steps to improve early more frequent engagement

and we're talking engagement not just simply outreach

but engagement that actually has a way for folks to participate

in these rule makings permitting and enforcement decisions and policies.
And one way we're trying to do this is making sure that we provide language access through all these engagement efforts across a broad spectrum of platforms whether it's virtual like this meeting, whether it's in person which once COVID restrictions are lifted we hope to go back to in-person meetings, a combination of both we're looking at making sure we have provided for language access
and part of that is that EPA has been working

to expand the number of languages available for interpretation,

I believe we have at least 9 right now

but they're also-- I know that when we do some face-to-face stuff

that there are some specialized languages that are called in for very site-specific things.
So that's something we wanted to make sure that-- let you guys know we are taking seriously what you guys have raised those concerns about engaging advocates at various levels and making sure that it's meaningful and that-- and we're continuing learning from the process and making sure and wanting to see how we can do it better.

So I'm asking you guys to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns,
Myself or to Matthew and then we'll address that, so that's one of the things.

Thank you.

I'm going to move on if you don't mind, Matthew

to quickly go through these upcoming engagement opportunities.

Now, I'm gonna go through it quickly and there's no sense in writing it down

because after this call I'm gonna be--
we'll be sending to all the attendees who registered
or whose emails are actually in the system,

we will be sending you
a two-pager that lists

these engagement
opportunities with actual links,

so that you'll be able to go in there
and click on to the link

to go to the appropriate
registration site.

So we do have our environmental justice webinar
series for tribes and indigenous peoples.
We have one in May 26 on our EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online and how its use in Indian Country and in Indigenous Communities. That webinar series also has--they have monthly webinars. So in late June they're looking at Meaningful Involvement in Environmental Programs and Examples of Tribal Approaches, and then in July, on July 21st an Overview of NEPA.
Again, the document we'll be setting up have the links to where to go--

how to register for these things.

Matthew mentioned earlier our Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series and on June 10th we have a focus on California's-- our Cal EPA's Pollution and Prejudice Project.

We also have-- moving outside of the arena
of a traditional EJ engagement training webinar,

this is another example of how other programs are integrating and trying to expand how they engage a variety of different stakeholders and particularly EJ stakeholders.

So the Upcoming Oil and Natural Gas Methane Rule, they have both training webinars as well as public listening sessions.
So EPA is going to have these in May in the next week, on one each day, they're going to hold training webinars for communities, tribes and small businesses to provide an overview of this industry and share information so people can effectively engage in the process. But they're also then-- that's the training how to-- improve the participation. The other listening sessions, basically a month later.
are actually virtual public listening sessions

where people can provide their views and input.

In addition to those public listening sessions, the agency has a non-rulemaking docket for people who want to provide their comments and perspectives in writing.

So that's looks like to be a wonderful opportunity to get involved and engaged early on in a rulemaking.
We also have our office that does TSCA, the Toxic Substance Control Act,

they have risk management rulemakings

and so they’re doing environmental justice consultations,

and so they are doing it on TCE and PCE in June 16th and July 6th

where they’re going to give an overview of TSCA risk management requirements,

findings from these final risk evaluations and various things related to TCE and PCE.
And it's also an opportunity not only for people to learn and provide their input and so is that but it's also an opportunity for EPA to get an understanding of how the concerns that the people on the ground have about these things as opposed to just one way, so that is an opportunity that's going to be in June and July. We have a couple of meetings-- oh quick reminder.
Those of you who are developing a grant proposal package for our upcoming EJ Small Grants and our Collaborative Problem-Solving grants,

reminder, your grant proposal packages are due June 1st.

June 1st, you must have it into the system,

if you have any questions you can reach out to Jacob Burney in our office

but that is a hard date.
We also have a couple other virtual meetings and webinars that were mentioned I think earlier.

One is the NEJAC meeting, it's a virtual public meeting, it's on June 17th.

And then the NEJC, tomorrow is actually having a virtual a workshop and it's a focus is on Federal Title VI and EJ Priorities and Lillian who just spoke, will be one of the presenters, a panelist in that conversation.
So that's it Matthew, do you have any other questions before I move it over to the housekeeping.

Matthew Tejada: I just want to thank you so much Victoria for those updates, I just want to emphasize especially to those community leaders folks working with or next to or in support of a community-based organization or a tribal government, we are likely-- we already have a record amount, a record volume of funds
to support our two grant programs this year.

There is the potential that we will have even more funding in the next couple of months for those grant programs, that extra grant funding is specific to proposals that will be for safe drinking water and clean air projects.

Please, please, please, look at the information online.

If folks had an idea about submitting
a proposal and haven't done it,

I strongly urge every community
based organization or tribal government

that is interested in these
grants to put in for them,

again, we already have and will likely
have even more funding for proposals

for community-based organizations
and tribal governments for these grants.

And also please do not wait until
June 1st to try to log into the system,
make sure you can
get in the system,

make sure you have all of your usernames
and passwords and credentials and numbers,

there are several elements you
have to have in order to submit a grant

through the portal, do not wait
until June 1st to get it all figured out,

log in today, make
sure everything is set up,

so that once you are ready, hopefully
before June 1st you can pop that proposal
into the system and get it into our hands.

So with that, we can move on-- I believe we're doing some program updates next,

yes?

Victoria Robinson: No, actually that was the one program--

Yes so we’re going to move into the listening session and dialogue.

And I will apologize, it turns out that one of the settings was not quite set
like it was supposed to
and I found it, fixed it

but I don't think it's going
to impact-- be able to

allow folks to raise their
hands like I wanted to.

So if anybody can raise
their hand, great, go for it

but I don't see that is
maybe not working,

but again, write any comments
or questions in the Q&A pod
Christina will read them out and if we can--if you can raise your hand, raise your hand

and we'll call on you to ask a question.

So I'll turn it over to Matthew and Christina on that.

Christina Motilall: Great, we have an incoming question that says,

how do you look for resources?

How can individuals/organizations share grassroots solutions with the EPA?
Matthew Tejada: So one of the best ways is--

that we're looking for are through those grant proposals,

and again hopefully a lot more of those grant proposals are going to be actual grant projects after this year because we're going to be able to fund so many of them.

That is one of the best ways of not only demonstrating what works at the community level
but then being able to share it.

Another way, if folks are not in touch with your regional environmental justice coordinators,

all 10 EPA Regions across the United States have dedicated environmental justice staff,

you can find their names on our website,

they are there, one of their main jobs-- and several of them,

I've seen are listening in today,

one of their main jobs is to engage with community leaders
community organizations out there to help them in navigating EPA,

to help them in navigating other parts of the federal government to the extent that we can

and also to look for opportunities to bring different community organizations together

so that communities can learn from other communities.

That's something that I know from my own experience leading a community organization in Houston,
that is one of, if not the most powerful ways

of lifting up community advocates and community leaders,

is to put them in touch with their colleagues in other communities that are maybe a little further down the road than they are, so that they can learn from one another.

I am hopeful that in this administration that we're likely to see, just like we're already seeing in terms of
grant funding, I'm hopeful that we will see

a new reality in terms of the sort of resources that not just the EJ program

but EPA overall has to support a lot more community engagement,

a lot deeper community engagement,
really working with community members

and there's already some nascent efforts out there underway

in anticipation of those greater resources.
Some things that some of our colleagues done in the Atlanta Southeast Office in Region 4 of EPA,

they are there initiating a community training, virtual training course tomorrow evening.

We've had colleagues up in Chicago in the upper Midwest and Great Lakes have been doing a similar thing working with some local partners and community partners in Ohio.

There have been previous attempts such as our colleagues in the Dallas Office
which is kind of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

really working in a concerted effort to engage community leaders in each state individually

and come up with state-based EJ plans and then bringing those together

for regional plans.

We have a lot of different practices out there from the history of the EJ program at EPA,

we're already resurfacing and lifting up some of those practices.
and we'll be looking to really both expand
the breadth and the depth of those practices,

01:13:34,124 --> 01:13:40,204
hopefully with some additional
resources in the next fiscal year.

01:13:43,964 --> 01:13:46,292
Christina Motilall: Great. Victoria
Robinson: Next question--

01:13:46,316 --> 01:13:47,084
Christina Motilall: Yep.

01:13:47,084 --> 01:13:48,572
So the next question we have is

01:13:48,596 --> 01:13:52,172
how do advocates find out what
communities pollution sources

01:13:52,196 --> 01:13:55,112
the EPA is currently looking at
for EJ enforcement?

01:13:55,136 --> 01:13:58,283
How can they share
sites in need of intervention?

01:13:58,283 --> 01:14:00,432
Matthew Tejada: Sure
so there's a few ways.

01:14:00,456 --> 01:14:03,958
One way is working with EJSCREEN,

01:14:03,982 --> 01:14:07,723
and if folks aren't already looking
at EJSCREEN to kind of see

01:14:07,723 --> 01:14:12,283
what are some of the data points
that we're looking at more broadly,

01:14:12,283 --> 01:14:16,888
EJSCREEN has a lot of the different
sites reporting to EPA,

01:14:16,912 --> 01:14:19,615
can be pulled up in that interface.

01:14:19,639 --> 01:14:26,124
There's another tool
called ECHO that is more specific
to the enforcement program, the
enforcement and compliance program,

01:14:26,124 --> 01:14:30,472
so it's where folks can actually
find in and around your neighborhood,

01:14:30,496 --> 01:14:38,080
your community, what are the actual
sites and what is their enforcement history

01:14:38,104 --> 01:14:45,992
and their current enforcement
and compliance status.

01:14:49,004 --> 01:14:54,887
And-- I can't remember as I said it, I'm not sure if ECHO is the internal facing version

01:14:54,911 --> 01:14:57,884
or the external facing version but one of those

01:14:57,884 --> 01:15:01,712
and we can put out more information of that when we do the follow-up to this meeting

01:15:01,736 --> 01:15:08,204
but there is an enforcement specific tool that anybody from the public can access

01:15:08,204 --> 01:15:12,364
to look up that enforcement and compliance information.
And then additionally, I want to make sure folks know that we in the EJ program we have a hotline specific for environmental justice issues, it is staffed full time by a very talented and committed individual named Vita Reed here in our Headquarters Office.

And Vita, whether it is by email or through the website or by telephone call she receives hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of calls constantly.
and emails and complaints.

And it doesn't even matter if the individual knows that it is an EPA issue or even if they don't even know if it's an environmental issue,

if you have an issue that you think is environmental,

that you think is affecting public health or the environment, you can call our EJ hotline and perhaps one of the OEJ folks-- I don't know the number off the top of my head.
but we can put that
maybe in the question and answer.

You can just look it up though,
EPA EJ Hotline, you can just Google it,

you can call that number and
Vita will help you navigate--

will navigate for you within EPA
to make sure that your concern

or your request or your
question finds the right place.

We don't just pass people off and
start passing citizens around the agency
until they accidentally find
the right resource,

we do the legwork and
the homework to make sure

that we connect folks to the place in
the EPA that will be able to help them,

and even if it's not EPA, if it winds
up that it's a local issue

or a state issue or perhaps a
different part of the government,

Vita will do the legwork and the homework
and then connect back in with that citizen
and say "Look here's what I understand about your issue

and here's the information for your local public health office

or here's the information for your state transportation department"

or whatever it is, she really helps folks to navigate in and around those EJ issues

because we appreciate that they can be complex

and the government does not make it easy for folks to navigate us,
so we have that standing resource our EJ Hotline.

Additionally, if folks suspect that there's an actual environmental crime happening,

there is a tips line and again, we can put that information up in the chat hopefully or you can just look it up but there is a Report a Violation, a dedicated line and a way of communicating into the agency to report if you suspect in your community
that there is an environmental crime

being committed or
has been committed.

A lot of our enforcement,
particularly our criminal enforcement

which does exist, there is an
environmental crimes section of EPA

with men and women of law enforcement
that wear badges and carry guns.

A lot of their work, a lot of their work
is actually driven by citizens calling in
suspected cases, calling
in suspected crimes,

999
01:18:37,084 -- 01:18:42,844
so please do not hesitate to
avail yourself of those resources.

1000
01:18:42,844 -- 01:18:46,604
If you need help with a question or if
you suspect something is going on,

1001
01:18:46,604 -- 01:18:52,124
do not delay, do not think
that well maybe you're not sure,

1002
01:18:52,124 -- 01:18:55,004
let us know, it's our
job to figure it out

1003
01:18:55,004 -- 01:18:59,171
and you are helping us by being
the eyes and the ears on the ground

1004
and letting us know what you are seeing, what you are smelling, what you are feeling what you were hearing, we need that information from you all.

And again, I'm hopeful that with some additional resources soon EPA will have the ability to have a much more comprehensive and user-friendly presence, not only to receive that information but then for us to share it around with broader communities.
So I'm hopeful that here pretty soon we'll have a whole new ability to communicate and to share information that is derived from actual members of impacted communities.

So I'll stop there Christina and we can do the next one.

Christina Motilall: Sounds great, thanks Matt.

This is in relation to EJSCREEN.
As many people know we try to do an annual update but we had two questions come in asking about when the 2020 and most recent census data will be added to EJSCREEN.

Matthew Tejada: Yeah we are already-- we're laying plans right now, we know the decennial census is a huge deal, so we are already working on getting that decennial census in and making some other updates and enhancements to EJSCREEN.
We have a long punch-out list of things that we want to do based upon feedback.

I actually-- oh my gosh is it here, it's not here.

I just saw the timeline,

I want to say we're shooting for December to have a new update,

let me-- I can actually pull it up if I can just vamp for a minute.

I believe we are shooting for December for the next big update to EJSCREEN.
I'm not sure if we are a hundred percent confident yet that the decennial census will be in there just because I don't think we've received the decennial census yet, but if we don't get the decennial census in there by December, we might do kind of an interim update then in 2022 to get that out as soon as possible but certainly by this time next year we'll have an update
that has the new census information
as well as a bunch of other enhancements

that we're planning.

And perhaps that's something
that we need to look at,

maybe having just some more
general focused calls, Victoria

maybe one or two this
summer just on EJSCREEN

and we can get Tai and Matthew
Lee and some other folks on
if folks want to just have a refresher and a conversation about what's going on with EJSCREEN.

Christina Motilall: Great.

Matthew Tejada: Okay I think Victoria is bad, go ahead Christina.

Christina Motilall: All right, sounds good.

What can EPA do to intervene with state agencies that are doing little
to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin?

1047
How EPA-- how is EPA going to collaborate with state agencies?

1048
So I know this is-- you met but also a little bit for Lillian

1049
but I wanted to make sure that question got read aloud.

1050
Matthew Tejada: This is actually much more Lillian, I'm not sure she's still on.

1051
Lilian Dorka: Yeah I'm still on [LAUGHS]
Matthew Tejada: You heard the question, Lillian?

Lilian Dorka: If you could repeat it I'd appreciate it, I'm doing tweets at once.

Christina Motilall: No problem, what can EPA do to intervene with state agencies that are doing little to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin?

How is EPA going to collaborate with the state agencies?

Lilian Dorka: Yeah, well certainly that is part of our strengthening civil rights enforcement
efforts, not only to get more comprehensive information out there about what we expect in terms of compliance with civil rights obligations for both state and local agencies that receive money from EPA. But then also more aggressive and reinvigorated enforcement efforts such as affirmative compliance reviews for following up and making sure that in fact they are complying with the civil rights laws
and training obviously, along with guidance comes training

that we would also provide including some of that online training

that I talked about before to make sure that everybody understands their obligations

but some of these obligations are new, they've been in place for quite some time,

some are much more subtle than others, some of the discrimination issues,

some are downright evident in
terms of the regulatory requirements.

So we would do all of those things, we would make sure that there's appropriate guidance out there to put everyone on notice in terms of what is expected and then we would conduct training and technical assistance for any state and local agencies that want to receive that and we would of course
have it available online

and we will then follow up with affirmative compliance reviews to determine whether in fact civil rights compliances is being carried out.

Christina Motilall: We have time for another?

Matthew Tejada: Oh yeah.

Christina Motilall: Okay.

This one says, will the EPA be setting up a complaint submission form
to monitor issues with facilities that may be permitted at a state level?

For example, if a facility was inappropriately granted an FESOP permit and is receiving substantial numbers of local complaints, it may warrant closer federal scrutiny despite the state being the primary regulator.

Matthew Tejada: Yeah I mean, that's getting into-- I'm not sure exactly what an FESOP is, I'm guessing it's a stand--
some sort of a standard operating permit

I'm not sure what FE references but at the end of the day EPA is the federal regulator

and if folks believe that there are infractions of environmental laws happening

regardless of who is the agency with the authority or is the main regulator,

as long as they are being regulated by federal statutes it is still EPA’s responsibility

to make sure that those environmental statutes are being adhered to
whether it's a state or a
tribe or a local government,

there are local governments across the United
States that will actually be implementers

So that is again if folks
feel like there is a concern

about a specific facility
or a set of facilities

please do not hesitate at contacting
your regional EJ coordinator,
contacting the EJ hotline or contacting the tips and complaints line of our Enforcement Office so that we can get that on our radar and start to interact with you if you so choose, these things can be done anonymously although it's very helpful if we can actually engage with folks at the local level so that we can really understand what's going on. And again, it's one of those-- I think some of the most effective times
when we've been able to really engage on those sorts of issues

is when we get the regional EJ coordinators involved in it

so that they can have that ongoing kind of conversation and understanding

what the community is experiencing and then working on the inside of EPA,

that's really the fundamental purpose or one of the fundamental purposes

of having an environmental justice program
is that then we can work inside of the agency

advocating and organizing and coordinating with our program colleagues
to be responsive to the realities that communities are facing on the ground.

And then I see one right here, I see Ms. Velma Campbell says,"It seems like one staff person is not sufficient for the hotline, or is she handing off the work quickly?"
I appreciate that Ms. Campbell,

I'm sure Vita would agree with you all day long, she does have a backup.

I will say Vita is an extraordinary talent and an extraordinary resource for folks.

And I'll also share-- we've had to move Vita a couple times just physically in our space from before the pandemic and since Vita is on the phone pretty much every hour she's in the building.
Every time we move her, within a week, everyone that has to sit around her will come to me complaining about "Oh my gosh, you've got to get Vita out of here, she talks all day long."

And then the week after that, everyone comes back to me and says "Oh my god, I have no idea, I had no idea how much work Vita does, she is so incredible and so amazing and I am learning so much just by sitting next to her"
and listening to her help other people, help citizens navigate public health and environmental issues all day long."

And that's happened-- I think she's moved three times in the last several years and each time it's first a complaint and then people come back to withdraw the complaint and lift up "What a great job she does for a lot of folks all over the United States."
So we'll see if we can get some more support for Vita as we look at different forms of support going forward.

I appreciate you being concerned about her though.

Do we have another question, Christina?

Christina Motilall: This one I think is a broader EJ question.

I did not hear low income as a potential basis for discrimination,
will that not be a part of the assessment for disparate impacts?

Matthew Tejada: That's another Lillian question.

Lilian Dorka: Yeah thank you and I think I actually responded online.

Christina Motilall: Yeah, you did but I just thought it would be good
to address it aloud.

Lilian Dorka: Absolutely, that's a very good question

because as there are many similarities between Title VI and the executive order there are some differences,

for example, whereas the order the environmental justice order does address low income as an issue, as an environmental justice issue,
the federal civil rights laws including Title VI do not.

So Title VI prohibits specifically discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin which includes limited English proficiency and if you look at the second--

I guess the second sheet on my Powerpoint presentation it has a list of authorities and what they cover,
and you'll see that the authorities
that we have the jurisdiction to cover,

the type of discrimination that
our office has the authority to cover,

prohibit discrimination on the basis of race,
color, national origin, disability, age and sex

but income, low income is not
one of the bases for discrimination

that are covered under
the federal civil rights laws,

so we would not have jurisdiction
in our office to address that.
Christina Motilall: All right we are-- you guys are doing a great job answering these questions, they're really hitting on a lot of the ones that we have so I'm actually kind of searching right now.

Another comment that came in from Ms. Campbell was, "I hope that hybrid in-person and Zoom meetings are considered post COVID because that significantly increases the participation options
for people in geographically racially and economically diverse areas,

is that a consideration in the decision?"

Matthew Tejada: Absolutely, I think just as everyone around the globe has learned some new realities about just how capable we can be in a more virtual platform,

I think a lot of the abilities that we have learned from other folks and some of the things that maybe we've been creative with.
have really vastly expanded our ability to engage and communicate and hear back from communities and other partners.

I actually think even though we want to have a NEJAC, a National Environmental Justice Advisory Council meeting in person as soon as we can, I think the way that we're doing those NEJAC meetings now virtually, are incredibly powerful and much more productive.
So there's some of these that we will go back to doing in person.

but yeah, at least speaking for the EJ program, we very much appreciate the power that these virtual platforms have provided which we had not been making full advantage of earlier.

I do want to go lift up alongside that, we are acutely aware of the persistence of a digital divide in our society, in
our country and outside of our country,

so we are always looking for as we enhance and expand different ways of communicating and engaging.

We are always looking out for and trying to make sure anywhere and everywhere we can that we are mitigating for or addressing or offering other opportunities for folks who are on the other side of that digital divide.

I see one here while you're
maybe looking for another one,

"Christina, can you briefly share any EPA EJ coordination activities occurring with CEQ, USDOT and HUD?"

Yeah on the one hand, as President Biden and Vice President Harris have instituted this all of government approach, that is very much put CEQ in the center of a lot of EJ activities across the entire government.
So everything that is happening in terms of the implementation of the Executive Order 14008 on tackling the climate crisis at home and abroad, that is being run out of CEQ, so we have extensive engagement and coordination and support for CEQ, they're very much leading the effort. EPA is now one of several of the federal agencies working with and supporting CEQ.
In previous years, the EPA was the leader amongst the federal family for a lot of those sorts of efforts that came out of Executive Order 12898, that has been elevated, I think very appropriately so [LAUGHS] not that my opinion was the one that decided it or anything but if you want to have the whole of government responding to environmental justice issues you really need the top of the government delivering the mandate
and really riding hurt on everyone.

So CEQ is doing that, so EPA has a lot of interaction with CEQ on that.

We're also through those forums, through those venues,

we are engaging and coordinating with folks like Department of Transportation,

like Housing Urban Development,

other agencies and departments through,

what CEQ is going on and then aside from that,
we still have our own bilateral or multilateral relationships with our colleagues

at those other federal agencies.

So again I said this earlier but hardly a day goes by

that there isn't some meeting, some convening whether it's a meet and greet

or we're starting to kind of hatch some plans on how we're going to collaborate

with transportation or HUD or agriculture or commerce or--
it is happening, that's one of the exciting things that happens in these early months

of a new administration, is a lot of new folks come in to--

all of the government has political appointees,

a lot of colleagues who maybe you didn't get to work with

and in the previous few years they're able to pop back up

and say "Hey let's get back together, let's
start doing some good work again together."

So that is definitely one of the very exciting and high energy parts of what is happening across all the government right now, is a lot of those collaborative efforts with other federal agencies.

Christina Motilall: Great, thanks Matt.

We have one that just came in, and I actually want to field it a little bit in the beginning
and then hand it over to you if that's okay.

It says, while working with communities and organizations what key EPA resources can I point to for a basic understanding of EJ and how they can engage with EJ principles?

So my name is Christina Motilall, I'm the Communications Lead for the Office of Environmental Justice,
so there are a few different resources that we have to be able to engage on EJ with us

1244
01:37:26,630 --> 01:37:30,663
and to learn more about how
EJ works within the agency

1245
01:37:30,687 --> 01:37:33,644
and how you can get more
involved and learn more about it.

1246
01:37:33,644 --> 01:37:38,672
So the main one is obviously our website, I'll
drop these resources as well into the chat.

1247
01:37:38,696 --> 01:37:40,835
We also have a listserv
that you can sign up,

1248
01:37:40,859 --> 01:37:45,232
for that will provide information
for different resources

1249
that we have coming out of the agency and different workshops, webinars, panels

tings that you can use to learn more about EJ

it hasn't-- we send out information for using our tools like EJSCREEN and ECHO

like Matt mentioned,

and then, as always, you can email us for any information.

So I will drop that information into the chat
and then Matt let me know
if I missed anything there.

Matthew Tejada: No,
that's great dive in thank you.

So I see a couple in chat-- I see
Ms. Campbell that she's clarifying

she's not just concerned about the
staff person but about the overall funding

and staffing of a hotline and just
the outreach and engagement

that we can provide to
impacted communities.
Absolutely, I agree with you Velma, not just the hotline but essentially everything that we have done historically in the EJ program has been done on a shoestring, EJSCREEN, our grants, any of the training or capacity building support or technical assistance, we have always done everything on a shoestring
in the Office of Environmental Justice.

And again, I'm very hopeful that here in a few months we're gonna get a new set of shoes and be able to really do this well.

And I see Helda Jacqueline Norris,

Vita, the senior environmental employee does show what anybody of any age is capable of doing if they have the passion
Vita has been a long-standing staff member of the Office of Environmental Justice.

so that is Helda Norris said that is-- who I was talking about.

All right what do you think, Christina?

Christina Motilall: I think that there's a great question that came in if we've got time still.

Matthew Tejada: Yeah, we're
Christina Motilall: All right here we go.

We talked that meaningful community engagement is a priority at EPA now and that you are taking efforts to strengthen this, what strategies are in place to evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts?

Matthew Tejada: Oh that's a good question. Yeah, I like that one.
place to see how effective the engagement is?

01:40:00,844 --> 01:40:06,072
So that's going to be something that I think we really start to see

01:40:06,096 --> 01:40:12,951
some substance take shape as we look at strategic planning at EPA

01:40:12,975 --> 01:40:16,763
and the strategic plan for environmental justice.

01:40:16,763 --> 01:40:22,604
We've been without a strategic plan for EJ for a number of years now.

01:40:22,604 --> 01:40:30,283
Despite a lot of efforts to get something going strategically
so I think as we look at a next multi-year strategic plan for the agency overall

and how potentially we incorporate environmental justice into that plan is going to be not only important but I think really telling in terms of

I will share that I was really heartened that Administrator Regan, the first memo he issued after he took office as the administrator of EPA,
it was a memorandum on his environmental justice priorities,

of really centering environmental justice and the mission of EPA

and he had four specific things that he really wanted folks to focus on

in terms of advancing environmental justice at EPA,

and one of those was meaningful engagement.

So I'm hopeful that not only will we see meaningful engagement of impacted communities
elevated to be at the same level
of the other pieces of our business,

one of the things that we're
we're talking a lot

about inside of the agency right now is
we wouldn't make a decision

without letting the scientists do the science,

we wouldn't make a decision without
letting the lawyers do their lawyering

or the engineers do their engineering,
in the same way, we should not make a
decision in the agency

01:42:04,755 --> 01:42:09,280
without having our engagement
folks engage the impacted communities

01:42:09,304 --> 01:42:13,803
and that should really not only be
amongst those most important things

01:42:13,803 --> 01:42:15,591
but should be the first thing.

01:42:15,615 --> 01:42:21,256
In my opinion that happens, so
that it can inform everything else

01:42:21,280 --> 01:42:22,844
that happens from it.

01:42:22,844 --> 01:42:25,539
So, that's one of the
things that we are hopeful for

and that we're advocating
for inside of the agency.

And at the same time
though, how effective is it,

if we don't actually start to see decisions--
decision-making at the agency change,

then all of it-- then meaningful
engagement can be as meaningful

as we think it is but if it doesn't
change anything it's not meaningful at all,
it's got to actually impact the way we do our business at EPA,

And again, I think we have some very hopeful signs that this administration has shown up with a new urgency and a new bravery to do the equity and justice work.

I'll point to just a couple of things that have happened recently
where Administrator Regan has set a marker way out there in front of the agency

both in terms of a letter he issued a couple weeks ago now

regarding a recycling facility, a metal recycling facility in Chicago

and also just last week, an emergency order to cease operations at a refinery.

Those are those are big decisions, those are decisions that happen in--

we're listening, we're listening to what the communities are saying,
we're listening to what the needs are, what the realities are on the ground

and I think we're already starting to see the agency

be more responsive to those things.

And I'm hopeful again as we look at strategic planning,

that we look at the commitments that the agency will make overall

that we're going to see a lot more creativity and a lot more big steps taken
across EPA’s activities in terms of how we want to show the meaningfulness

of the engagement and the integration of environmental justice

into the fundamental decision-making of the agency

and as we do that, to make those things clear, to make those commitments clear

to make them transparent.

And things like these calls or things like our NEJAC meetings
or the engagement that will hopefully be happening much more consistently and aggressively across the board for all of EPA's regions and programs.

that it's really you all, it's the public, it's the impacted community that is our own best accountability measure making sure that we are living up to the things.

that you all need to see happen on the ground.

So I'm very hopeful that we already have some really great direction.
from this administration and from Administrator Regan

and that he's already you know taking steps forward in delivering on that.

Christina Motilall: Great, okay. Thank you Matt.

That's great.

So we have a question that came in that our grants

Lee, Jacob Burney did answer in the Q&A pod
but we know not everyone can see the Q&A pod especially participants on the phone.

So I'm going to read this one aloud.

When you are reviewing grants proposals on how to prioritize proposals—

I'm so sorry.

When you are reviewing grant proposals how do you plan to prioritize proposals that seek to address racial disparities in environmental outcomes?
Jacob Burney: Hi thank you and thank everybody,

So all of our EJ grants especially this year FY21 with the EJ Small Grants and the EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Awards, all of our grants are tailored to address the needs of low-income communities and communities of colors and the disparate impacts.
that they're dealing with in terms of the environmental issues that are impacting them.

So this year in terms of prioritizing those needs especially for the small grants, we are setting aside half of the total funding for small non-profit organizations which are defined as 10 or fewer full-time employees on staff.

So this range of small organizations that have a handful of employees
are mostly volunteer, all of those organizations are having

half the total available funding set aside specifically for them.

So the other half of the funding is for those larger nonprofit organizations and tribal governments but this is the first time that the agency is setting aside half of the funding specifically for this target group of small nonprofit organizations
and we're really excited about that.

So again deadline date is June 1st, so coming up in a couple of weeks that's right after Memorial Day as Matt mentioned.

Please do try to log in to the grants.gov and sam.gov systems before June 1st, especially since that is going to be a holiday.

I'm not sure how their hotlines are going to be
in terms of how many technicians they'll have staffing those lines,

so if you can apply that Friday before the weekend

please at least do a test run then rather than waiting to

or until the Tuesday on June 1st when the applications are due.

So that would be my recommendation, thanks for the question.

Christina Motilall: Thank you so much Jacob, we have another question in.
What sort of guidance or requirements can state agencies expect for how to better integrate EJ into state programs policies and design of funding opportunities?

Matthew Tejada: Can you read that one more time?

It was about states and what support can we lend to states?

Christina Motilall: Yeah, what sort of guidance or requirements
can state agencies expect
for how to better integrate EJ into

their program's policies and--

Matthew Tejada: Yeah, so
that's one of the things again

that we have been--

that's one of the main, the three
main focus areas of the EJ program

for many years now, is supporting
not just states also tribal governments
and local governments, but states are obviously a huge part of that

and there is obviously also a lot of interest across the board,

I don't think there's a single state out there I could name right now that is just not doing anything or hasn't piped up in any way on environmental justice, it might not always be the way people think, it might always be the way folks want
but there is a lot of interest across the board from states and frankly some states don't need our help, they're way ahead of where EPA is.

In the most recent couple of years, one of the ways we've been trying to help states advance their understanding and integration of environmental justice has been through a series of very meticulously planned webinars
where not only have we highlighted
EPA's thinking

01:49:47,560 -- 01:50:11,723
about integration of environmental
justice into a number of different things,

everything from meaningful engagement
and public participation to use of tools,

to implementation of specific
policies such as NEPA,

but importantly that we haven't just been
sharing what EPA thinks is the best way

but that we've really featured for the majority
what other states and local governments
have been doing to integrate EJ so that states can learn from other states.

or local governments can learn from other local governments.

of those best practices.

So that has been one way of doing it.

I think however with the Biden-Harris Administration and the whole of government approach and just the overall maturation
of environmental justice as an issue in the United States,

we've reached this point where EJ is no longer just this thing that--

a small shop at EPA and a handful of collaborators across the United States seek to advance, it's a national issue, it's a national part of the environmental regulatory endeavor and we need to start treating it in the same way that we do other things
where we actually operate not just at EPA

but we look out at the rest of the environmental regulatory efforts across the United States and work collaboratively and in support of one another at advancing our mutual program of environmental justice.

And I'm excited that in the next couple of years we're going to start to be able to develop and to provide a lot more things just like program guidance or training.
or venues to come together opportunities to learn from one another, opportunities

to get down to you know the best practices

or the policies or the guidance or the guidelines

that we can develop collectively, collaboratively,

not just EPA-- gazing at our own [UNINTELLIGIBLE]

but really working in a much more open and broad-based way with our partners states
but also local and tribal governments.

And I believe my colleague Lillian would share that they're looking at the same sort of approach with implementation of the Civil Rights Act, it is a national effort and we have got to work with our states. I mean they-- I think Lillian and Title VI have a little bit of a different lookout on it.
since they have an actual statutory authority to implement

and to make sure is being implemented

but that we really see these efforts as needing a national response.

Victoria Robinson: Thank you Matthew, we've got like five minutes, so do we want to go ahead and move over to the closing remarks or do you want to take one more question?
Matthew Tejada: It's up to you and Christina.

Victoria Robinson: I was hoping that Rosemary would be able to join us but I think it's cutting it too close, I don't think she'll be able to make it.

Matthew Tejada: Yeah I'm sorry, I got an email that she thought she had some time at 3 o'clock but she's been pulled away.
Rosemary Enobakhare is--there are obviously a lot of communities and a lot of coalitions looking for attention and time from the administrator and from other political appointees and Rosemary right now in her shop, they might be the most--they might be the busiest part of the entire agency right now. So I'm sure Rosemary would have loved to have been here
but she gets pulled in a half dozen different directions constantly all day long

but I'll be following up with her along with Victoria and others tomorrow morning to share with her our conversation today,

I know that she'll want to be updated on it and show--

I'm sure she will want to be a part of the next one we do
in three some months time.

Victoria Robinson: Right why don't we just go ahead and take one more question

and then we'll just go ahead and do our closing from that, how's that sound?

Matthew Tejada: Sounds good.

Victoria Robinson: Oh and then I also want to recommend-- remind folks

that even though we're only taking one more question out loud

please go ahead and post your
questions or comments in the Q&A pod

01:54:21,675 --> 01:54:24,444
because we will follow up with them

01:54:24,444 --> 01:54:28,032
and try to get answers to some of
those questions that you may have

01:54:28,056 --> 01:54:30,672
that you haven't had an
opportunity to have read.

01:54:30,696 --> 01:54:32,283
Thank you.

01:54:32,283 --> 01:54:33,991
Go ahead, Christina.

01:54:34,015 --> 01:54:35,284
Christina Motilall: Thanks, Victoria.
Okay, so the last one we have says,

until 2013 I think, EPA maintained watch lists for the Clean Air Act,

Clean Water Act and RCRA.

The list tracked the enforcement process for high priority violations that hadn't been addressed by the state regulator for a lengthy period of time.

Many of the facilities that showed up on these lists are located in low income communities.
and communities of color.

Are there plans at EPA to begin using this tool again and if so would the list be made public?

Matthew Tejada: Hi yeah I saw that one Christina and Ms. Mary Evans sent that in.

I'm not sure and I came to EPA in 2013. I'm not sure exactly what those watch lists are or were,
if those were regionally based or enforcement based
and if they were broken out by those statutes or not.
That's something we can poke around and see.
I know that again going back to the administrator's Memorandum
on Environmental Justice that he issued within his first few weeks,
enforcement was one of the four specific things that he outlined in that memo
as being a priority.

I know our enforcement shop, the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance as it always has been, it has always been a leader of advancing environmental justice at EPA, not just because it was the longtime home of the Office of Environmental Justice but because enforcement is such a critical issue
for advancing environmental justice to the United States

and they are already out there again in front really setting the pace within the EPA

for making some new commitments on environmental justice,

looking at some new creative options and getting back to some ways of pursuing compliance across the United States and following that compliance up

with enforcement when there's non-compliance.
So Mary if you want to email one of us or email me directly, if you can recall or find some more specific information, we'll make sure to get you a better answer than that. And just for everyone on the phone a little hack, everyone at EPA, our emails are lastname.firstname@epa.gov so I'm just Tejada.matthew@epa.gov, so you can email us directly
and we will try to get you the best that we can.

So I think we're ready for closing up Victoria.

Victoria Robinson: Okay, yes so-- am I muted?

Matthew Tejada: No--

Victoria Robinson: Okay great, yes.

So our next steps just to make sure to remind everybody
we will be following up with posting copies of the recording online

once we get it down and get it processed properly along with the transcript.

We will be posting the Q&A pod, the summary of that will be posted as well,

so if you want to get back to looking at some of the answers
to the questions that were posed, that will be available

as well as the two-pager for upcoming EPA engagement opportunities
with the link so that you can actually take advantage of some of these things that are going on.

And we'll also be planning for our next call August 2021, our next National EJ Community Engagement Call. We'll be looking for some between one to two key topics that we want to focus on, if you've got a question please reach out to me a question.
that you think you'd like to see
a more detailed conversation

rather than just a program update,
reach out to me and we can talk about that.

Also as was mentioned several times,

to find that information part of
the engagement is to be on a way
to have access to information as is
coming out, particularly information

about funding opportunities,
events and webinars.
So we have, as you can see on the screen,

for those who are not already subscribing,

you can send a blank email to join-epa-ej@lists.EPA.gov

and again that will help--you'll get our periodic listservs.

We also have recently started backup on Facebook.

So if you go to US
you'll see posts about environmental justice,

in fact, this week thanks to Christina we are doing a daily environmental justice posts.

And so please go and take a look at that if you're on Facebook.

And if you have any follow-up questions or comments, the quickest and easy--
remember just one email

1563
01:59:33,163 -- 01:59:37,243
address do the
environmental-justice@epa.gov

1564
01:59:37,243 -- 01:59:41,324
because Ms. Vita Reed,
the other VR in the office,

1565
01:59:41,324 -- 01:59:45,372
she will make sure it gets either to
myself, to Christina, to Matthew

1566
01:59:45,396 -- 01:59:48,984
or appropriate to the
right people for follow-up.

1567
01:59:49,008 -- 01:59:51,328
So if you only need to
remember one, if you want to

1568
01:59:51,352 -- 01:59:53,931
that's the environmental-justice@epa.gov.

1569
01:59:53,955 -- 01:59:58,364
We do appreciate that
everybody was taking the time

to listen in and participate
and ask questions

and we will guarantee that next time
we'll-- the glitch about the hand raising

will be fixed, so that we can have a little
bit more of an interactive conversation

which is what our
ultimate goal is on this.
So do you have anything else to add, Matthew?

Matthew Tejada: Nope, thanks everyone for taking the time today.

Thanks Victoria for getting us organized and look forward to talking to everyone again in about three months.

Victoria Robinson: Yes, indeed. Thank you.

Matthew Tejada: And thanks to Jackie and Nestor again. Thank y'all.