Genuinely meet, figure out a way to get there and focus on increasing the benefits from our federal investment, to many of the communities that we're working with.

And so again, you know, just, for many of you who don't know me before I joined EPA a decade ago, I manage, both the clean water and drinking water SRF for the state of Maryland.

And so I want to specifically emphasize, and I say that just to emphasize the role of partnerships that the state programs play in achieve and the larger vision of, you know, get into
environmental justice and equity, which is central to what we're doing in EPA office of water.

So let me pass it over to you, to my colleague and the office of groundwater and drinking water, but I'm excited to be a part of this conversation to the end.

Look forward to your input as we go forward.

Thank you, Andrew.

Hi everyone.
My name is [redacted] and I'm the deputy office director and the office of groundwater and drinking water.

I too am very excited to be here with our colleagues in the office of environmental justice and others in the office of water.

want to really first thank you for taking the time to join us today for the first national environmental justice community stakeholder engagement call on office of waters pilot program.

as Andrew alluded to before we have, uh, three pilots and two of them are, office of
groundwater and drinking waters, program.

So we're really looking forward to hearing from you about the drinking water state revolving fund program, as well as the water infrastructure improvement for the nation's act reduction of led, via drinking water exposure brands.

I understand that there's about 700 people registered for today's call today.

So there is definitely a high interest and what we have to talk about.
I won’t reiterate a lot of the things that Andrew talk about.

we know that justice 40 is a critical part of this administration's whole of government approach to advancing environmental justice, with really a primary focus to improve the overall benefits to absurdity of our federal investment in flow to disadvantaged communities.

So we here in the office of groundwater, drinking water are committed to ensuring that addresses 40 drinking water pilot programs are successfully implemented and benefit disadvantaged communities.
So we look forward to your input today, uh, during the listening session and the dialogue that we will have, after today's presentation.

Thank you.

I think now I'm going to turn it over to Michael Dean.

I'm Michael Dean I'm chief of the clean water state revolving fund program, NDP headquarters, and, joined Andrew and muting and welcoming you and expressing our
gratitude for the interaction engagement.

00:02:47,415 --> 00:02:52,605

We're going to partake in this afternoon, as well as going forward for this very important program.

00:02:53,385 --> 00:02:56,445

what we're going to do today.

00:02:56,445 --> 00:02:58,125

And can we go to the next slide please?

00:03:01,835 --> 00:03:05,225

So today, we're going to talk about the state revolving fund program.

00:03:05,225 --> 00:03:11,045

We understand that, we have a very large group of individuals and organizations joining us today.

00:03:11,045 --> 00:03:15,035

Some of whom are probably quite familiar with the clean water and drinking
water state revolving fund program.

Many of you perhaps are not.

And as pilot programs for justice and the two largest, infrastructure financing programs, at the agency, um, we've built this very important that, uh,

that a broad range of stakeholders really understand, how the SRS, work.

What they're intended to do, how we intend to, move forward justice 40.
So in order to do that, we want to spend some time just describing the programs.

he has a lot of, grant programs.

This is quite different in the sense that we give capitalization grants to states, as you'll see.

And our, and states are really important partners in this federal state partnership.

And we want to kind of lay out how that works.

So we'll go through the STEMI evolving funds.
As Tim mentioned, we'll also go through the water infrastructure improvement for the nation programs on a level of exposure.

And we're going to talk about the approach that we're taking for justice 40 and kind of program benefits that we're going to try to capture, um, and ensure a crew to the communities that are targeted for this very important program.

we're going to talk about stakeholder engagement opportunities going forward,
time for Q and a, and that focus engagement

that Victoria alluded to earlier on.

So, next slide, Victoria.

Right?

So for those of you who are not water geeks, like, many of us here are just a really

quick, I'm not going to go through all this, but take a look at the layout of what the

water sector is, the water utility sector of drinking water and wastewater in the country.
So there's 148,000 public water systems in the United States, 50,000 of which are community water system.

and I'm not going to go through the details of what non-transient on community water systems are and non-community transient water systems, many very small, but again, it's just a very, very diverse range of utilities.

And the wastewater side, we have a smaller number.
There's about 16,000 wastewater treatment plants serving 238 million people in the country.

as you see, about 20% of Americans rely on septic systems, that is going to be a central part of our looking at, justice, me as well, obviously, septic systems can work very well, but we have some communities where failing septic systems really do cause up public health, environmental, and economic problems as well.

So be targeting those, this, the role of the state revolving funds is to
increase access to low cost financing for public health and environmental needs.

And just to put in some perspective, while the programs are quite big at about $48 billion invested across the country last 2019, that's just the year for us.

Excuse me, $9 billion was invested across the country.

So while we're significant and $9 billion, it's important to realize that there's a lot of other sources of financing out there, communities using, retained earnings cash, going to
municipal bond market and importantly other state and federal, assistance programs as well.

Next slide, please.

So, as I mentioned, the state revolving funds are critically a federal state partnership, and they're designed to create each state perpetual source of financing for water and wastewater.

and it's, it's really important and quite different from a lot of programs that are not just based on one-time appropriations.
They're structured as you will see to, to provide continuing assistance because of going out as loans that are repaid into a fund, and they had to stay in that, in those funds and word, right, continuing assistance.

again, the mission is to provide, to reduce the costs of critical public health, environmental infrastructure.

it's important to realize that the states implement an operative programs, EPA, provides a lot of assistance guidance, technical
assistance and program oversight, and both

the federal level and in the states, there's
a lot of flexibility that these fund provide

and the types of assistance, not just loans,
we're going to be talking about something called

additional subsidization, which is Graham like
assistance that can provide loan guarantees and

other credit enhancements to communities as well.

And particularly the drinking water program,
some set-asides and technical assistance,

which we'll hear more about as well.
So, with that, we’ll move on to the next slide, please.

So it was just a diagram, a little bit quickly of how it funds the state SRF.

On the left, you see the federal capitalization and the state matching capitalization going into the fund on an annual basis based on appropriation by Congress.

In some cases states where the leverage in the bond market, where they rather than lend those dollars out directly go to the bond market.
and excess additional capital so that there's,

00:08:07,995 --> 00:08:10,725
they are able to provide more assistance.

00:08:11,115 --> 00:08:14,655
And in the right, you see the goddess, low interest loans or additional substation in

00:08:14,655 --> 00:08:20,235
those loan repayments returned to the SRF in perpetuity, and, and so draws with

00:08:20,235 --> 00:08:22,065
interest earnings and payments coming back.

00:08:22,065 --> 00:08:27,855
These funds have been growing over the years, such that, at this time, most of these systems

00:08:27,855 --> 00:08:35,025
going out is based on those, revolving dollars rather than the appropriations dollars.
Next slide, please.

So want to briefly go through the roles and responsibilities broken out between EPA and our state partners.

So EPA at the, at the headquarters levels helps guidance, based on the statutory authority would provided by Congress regarding the eligibility, the allotments of annual appropriations, or we talk about agency priorities that we'd like to work with on the states.
we provide a lot of state training
and guidance on financial analysis.

These are very complex
financial programs in, in this.

And we spend a lot of time and effort to
make sure that, that, all of our
partners, are, are fully capable of
running these very, very complex programs.

we do have a fiduciary oversight of
across, across the country and reporting
requirements, and, and then headquarters.
We make sure that this very consistent and complete, across all of our 10 regions, and the 10 regions working with the states, next place.

So our regions are critically important.

This as well as, as you all know, we have 10 regions.

They're actually the, the entities within EPA that award and manage the capitalization grants every year to the states.
they review the intended use plans, which
would go into more the next slide, a little

bit, reviewing the projects the way that
states intend to use their funds, to ensure

And that all the programmatic requirements from a
statutory and regulatory level are, are, are met

by, by the states running these programs.

They provide the programmatic oversight
and reviews and performance reports
annually and provide technical assistance
to states, on a regular basis as well.

Thank you.

So the states again, important, and as we’re, as
we’re implementing justice 40, we wouldn’t

be spending a lot of time with our states
listening and learning and helping them with.

To ensure that the objective justice 40, um,
can be achieved and, realized, in the

states and the communities that they are they're
providing assistance to, through this program.
So the states based on their project priority systems develop their intended use plans, the projects that they intend to fund on an annual basis, they solicit those projects and make the funding decisions, which is including sending the loan terms.

What the interest rate is, the extent there's additional substance station provided.

They manage the day-to-day operations of, of the loan portfolio, all the repayments coming
in and the interest earnings, and they're responsible for the longterm planning and

financial health of the SRF skin, statutory needs are tended to be in perpetuity.

And in addition, the funds that are appropriate and a new basis need to be used in a timely and expeditious manner, as well as the funds that return as well.

These are very large programs and moving a lot of money, and it's important that we continue to work with the states to make sure that communities are continuing, receiving
the assistance that is really needed.

and as part of the finisher responsibility, every S up does

undergo an annual audit as well.

Next slide, the Victoria.

just one quick moment.

Michael, if you could speak up a little bit louder because you’re the one.

Okay.
Okay.

Thank you.

It's time for, for Howard.

So I'll speak up more loudly when I returned in a few minutes.

Thank you, Michael.

my name's Howard Rubin.

I'm the acting associate chief for a, our infrastructure branch, where the DWS RF is.
How has I'll go through a little bit more detail about the DWS RF.

both programs have very similar structures, but here you could see some, some detailed narrower to the DWS ref about, the performance over the last 23 years.

the DWR CRF was built, on the success of the clean water SRF, which was, came before, that the drinking water program, but seeing the, the need for infrastructure and investment in, in drinking water,
the drinking water SRF was established.

Victoria, next slide.

DWS RF eligible entities.

we fund a public or a private community water systems, but they do need to be a community water system.

That's, it's, not a program set up, for example, for individual well owners, or other entities, and not a program, a program that can help nonprofit
non-community water systems, such as schools, campgrounds, churches, et cetera, but not a program that was set up for, for profit.

non-community water systems.

Next slide.

this is a list of some of the types of projects, the DWS RF, does, um,

treatment, transmission, distribution, storage, and sole source consolidation, creation
of new systems and planning and design.

basically we do work to return systems to compliance, when they're out of compliance or maintain compliance.

if something has simply reached the end of its life expectancy, we're not a program for ongoing operations and maintenance, but for, investment in, drinking water capital needs, Victoria, next slide please.

This gives you a sense of the distribution.
some, you know, the types of work being
done by the drinking water SRF, as you can see

there's, today, over the course of
the program, a plurality of the funding goes to

transmission and distribution, and maybe more
in lay terms, you might think of that as, um,

pipes pumps, water towers, et cetera.

a very significant portion of it also goes
to treatment over the life of the program.

You know, we saw an early, early heavier
investment in treatment and a slow change to more
investment and transmission and distribution, is simply where the need we're seeing,
in, in the drinking water community.

Victoria, next slide please.

from here, I'm going to hand things off to Yvonne Gonzalez to talk more about the wind ramp.

Thank you.

Hard.

Good afternoon, everyone.
My name is Yvonne Gonzalez and I am the team lead for the drinking water grants in the office of grand end drinking water, specifically the grant programs that will be piloted under the justice 40 initiative in 2016, Congress enacted the water infrastructure improvements of the nation act otherwise known as the women act under the primary objective of the win act.

There was a focus on addressing improvements to America's drinking water infrastructure, specifically the
grant programs that were introduced to.

Emphasize reaching and supporting communities within the investments to do several things, such as increased, separate drinking, water quality, reduce exposure to lead in drinking water, meet drinking, water compliance requirements.

And of course, improve aging infrastructure through the win act.

Three grants programs were introduced and in 2018 funding was made available to develop the
programs, to direct funding, to address these concerns and keeping in step with the statutory language of the, that grant funding would prioritize supporting projects and or activities in disadvantaged communities, underserved communities, small communities, communities, and their respective public water systems that were more likely to be of higher risk of lead exposure through drinking water or needing assistance with the appliance at the public water system. Those that were a focus for the grant programs.
And as you can tell, there are a number of groups that the program was anticipating to reach with this funding.

as I mentioned, disadvantaged, underserved, low income areas.

one of the grants also focused on schools and tiled care facilities, vulnerable populations

and, the tribal communities in Indian nations.

As I mentioned, the wind acted to do three grants, including reducing lead in drinking
water, lead testing in schools and childcare facilities and the assistance to small and disadvantaged communities grant in 2018 under America's water infrastructure act.

There was another grant that was initiated and that's the drinky water resiliency grant, which was introduced at this time.

It's under development as a competitive grant.

And to date, Congress has appropriated over $260 million for these programs.
For the sake of this presentation, the grants that are piloted under the Dustin's 40 initiative or the one step placed primary focus on reducing lead exposure.

The first grant is the reducing lead in drinking water grant.

It's a competitive grant focused on led reduction.

we're talking about lead service line replacements and fixture remediation in schools.

As an example in disadvantaged communities in fiscal year 20, the grant awarded over $40 million
projects that prioritize these types of actions or projects in 10 different areas of the country.

These projects are currently underway and will provide a significant impact of improvements in the communities they reach.

We anticipate announcing another cycle of funding for the same, for the same grant later this year, the second grant, under this initiative is the lead testing in schools and childcare facilities grant, and non-competitive grant with a focus on solely testing for lead in drinking
water in schools and childcare facilities.

It is funding that is coordinated through the states.

The states develop the implementation plans to coordinate outreach,

conduct testing, and communicate the results to the impacted communities.

The programs are developed using the EPA three T's guidance for training TA testing and taking action in led reduction in drinking water.
And while the program has awarded over 65 million in funding towards testing programs since 2018, it is only allowed to use the funding is only allowed for testing. It is not, it does not include remediation and replacement as an additional step or a project or activity under the grant. That that was part of the statutory language for this grant program. Nonetheless the testing program, the apologies, nonetheless, the testing programs
continue to take place in the states, um, and continue to move through and provide results for the most vulnerable populations.

While in 2020, the development of these pro programs was slow due to the pandemic. There is a steady increase now to continue implementation of the state programs taking place.

The grant program anticipates awarding more than $30 million in funding in the
next year to continue testing and setting up state programs for implementation.

Next slide please.

The last year has strengthened the great grant programs resolve to continue to amplify the for which allows us to communicate directly with the states and stakeholders.

To provide support and foster collaboration and communication and information.

As we move forward through the initiative, we will continue to strike then our
roles and responsibilities to bolster.

These efforts will work with partners, new and existing to build on creating short

and longterm milestones towards state for drinking water through grant funding.

Our priority will continue to be, to develop the grant programs with guidance and communication, to

conduct outreach, to collaborate with our partners and stakeholders, to increase the investments in

small disadvantaged and underserved communities.

And last but not least to ensure that the
grants are structured in a format that is transparent and prioritizes communities with the greatest need to provide safe drinking water.

next slide please.

And I think this is where hands-off back to Michael and the clean water SRF.

Thank you, Yvonne.

Yeah.

So the clean water SRF is, as Howard mentioned, started quit the
earlier than drinking water SRF.

It's been 33 years now.

And in that time, nearly 43,000 assistance agreements, loans have been signed over $130 billion has gone out to disbursements, uh, with, another 15 billion or so you'll see in the left-hand corner there ready.

we've provided since 2009 when it was available five and a half billion dollars
in Q1 of additional subsidization, which we'll talk about a little bit more and, uh,

point out too, that, five, 5 billion, more than 5 billion has gone to address non-point sources of pollution in addition to point sources through, wastewater utilities.

So next slide please.

Okay.

So the eligible entities for clean water SFS systems, they really vary based on the uses of the funds we'll get into more next year.
So government entities you'll see certain nonprofit entities, private for-profit groups as well, watershed groups, community groups, homeowners, associations, and individuals.

So let's move right onto the next slide.

So I can put that in some context.

So I'm not going to go through these.

This is a wide range of, project categories that are eligible for
assistance under this program.

The top one, centralized wastewater treatment publicly-owned treatment works.

What people typically see is wastewater treatment, plants and facilities, and all the,

collection systems that go along with that.

a lot of these others are some of those non-point sources that I mentioned in

the last slide, decentralized wastewater treatment, including the said remediation
of subject systems or, septic to
sewer projects, where you're bringing
decentralized into a more centralized,
A lot of water quality projects.

So again, not some agricultural non-point
source projects do forest management
and land conservation projects as well.

So large variety of things.

And we're really looking as part of the
justice sporty is to try to determine, you
know, what kind of benefits you can deliver
across the spectrum of eligible categories,

through this very important, uh, program to address water quality.

next slide please, Victoria.

So, as stress and equity, both the Sr programs, as I said,

upfront, having affordabilities is a goal and a purpose of the program.

All of the assistance is, is subsidized all these goddess, in low interest rate loans.

Typically about half of the market interest
rate is, and we both programs have the

statutorily provided additional subsidization
that can provide help to disadvantage

to our economic hardship communities.

both SRS is, was mentioned by Andrew in
front of justice, 40 pilot programs and the

states, as our partners and lead in blue
implementers of the SRF programs, are going
to be a partners implement justice 40 as well.

So they have their regulations and policies that
determined the drivers for how they fund projects.
and as we with them, pursue justice for the objectives, we'll be working, working

with them to determine, you know, any, any adjustments, how we can help support them giving funds to the targeted communities.

and we do have the opportunities to repay, to move the needle across all of these, under the SRS.

But as I said, the collaboration with the states and lots of other engagement, uh,
partners is going to be critical as well.

Next slide, please.

I think Howard, where you going to go through this now?

Certainly.

so to Nolan, what Michael just said, um, this, this slide show is, the, the SRF

loans historically versus market rate loans.

You can get a sense of the savings and benefits
of the loan itself over or the market rate.

and, you know, what the SRF borrowers are, are getting and the benefits they're getting from the SRF program.

Next slide, please.

So, you know, below market rates, obviously, themselves, uh, inherently a, a boon to the borrower.
	his is showing an example of some of the savings.
One gets from below market rates, a repayment of a 20 year loan versus, savings using a 1.5% rate in the comparison between the two, um, you know, from the previous slide, the average is the ref interest rate was 1.3 compared to 2.8. So the value of the lower interest rates, it's pretty significant to a borrower. states must, for additional subsidy states must provide an, a certain amount of federal
capitalization grants as additional subsidy.

their options include forgiving the principal of the loan, using negative interest or using a grant vehicle, for 2021, for the clean water SRF between 10 to 40% of their grants, uh,

were to be given a subsidy and for the drinking water SRF between 20 and 49%, their grants will be provided a subsidy either, are laid out in statute, for, you know, from one year to another, if there is appropriate patient subsidy, it can vary, but, the, the amounts, uh,
come from, law and appropriation language.

next slide please.

SRO benefits, I'm sorry, Michael, I'm stepping in your area, so I'll, I'll handle the slides back to you and that's his case.

So, yeah, so just kind of a summary of what we've been talking about here is, is the overall benefits of the state revolving fund program.

very low cost financing, is how.
flexibility and extended loan terms that can go up to 30 years, or up to 40 years, the drinking water state revolving fund program, repayments can begin after completion of construction.

So you don't have to start paying on a loan that isn't generating revenues and utility, yet, serves communities of all sizes and socioeconomic status, with a wide range of project dollars.
We've got, looking at the both programs for the history.

We've gone from loans as small as $8,000 to loans, of nearly half a billion dollars.

So, and every, every place in between there.

So, it can really be used by any community within the, within a state.

and again, we're gonna work with the states to make sure that any community has access to all of these funds as well.
There's the availability of technical assistance, including helping states prepare for and apply for, loans and other systems from their SRS and very important.

It can be paired with other resources, including with the other large infrastructure investment program, which is a direct loan program, from EPA as well as our colleagues at the USDA, rural development and for, resiliency projects and recovery projects, funding under the federal routine management agency, as well.
next slide.

00:30:06,515 -- 00:30:13,025
So bringing this back to justice 40 directly,
our approach is going to be sort of leverage

00:30:13,055 -- 00:30:18,605
the, a significant capacity as Andrew and muting,
mentioned to start off the capacity that we

00:30:18,605 -- 00:30:23,465
have in these very large financing programs with
our state partners, a lot of flexibility, a lot

00:30:23,465 -- 00:30:28,085
of really innovative things going on, in
the states with the communities that they serve.

00:30:28,835 -- 00:30:32,375
But it's very important that we go forward
and identify and address the structural

00:30:32,375 -- 00:30:38,495
biases and the funding barriers to providing assistance or for barriers for,

to communities, for applying for assistance.

it's going to be a real core part of this program and we'll be talking to, our state partners.

We'll be talking to, uh, NGOs, to some communities as well.

And we really look forward to hearing from you this afternoon and going forward with this.

So, we are here to ensure the progress
has made towards achieving the 40%, uh,

of overall benefits being accrued
to these communities and the residents.

and, next slide.

So it isn't, as I mentioned, our initial outreach
is going now, with, NGOs, soon an

academic research center, institutions.

We are creating what we call a subgroup
with all of our state partners.

We need to on a regular basis
with the stadi por group.
we have very interested in eager partners at the state level that want to work with us to implement justice 40.

And we are starting that as a matter of fact, as early as tomorrow.

And again, we'd like to have some direct engagement, disadvantaged communities.

We're not going to be out there as EPA, in the field completely, but I think it's going to be very important to learn some lessons from, actual communities that have, um,
achieved, benefits from their access to the SRF and those who have struggled to do so.

So, we look forward to the discussion to follow here and you'll see at the bottom of the slide, email address that we have set up for comments and questions.

Cause we know we're not gonna be able to address everything today.

just a heads up that, that email address may not quite be live.

We set it up today and as soon as it should
be hopefully, within hours or by tomorrow.

So, if you submit something, and bounces back, try again, cause we'll assume to live with that.

And we look forward to using that as a, as a, as an access tool, for two way communication.

thank you very much.

And next slide, please.

We'll leave this up here.
And of course, this presentation will be available online, which will make these hyperlinks more useful to all of you.

And please reach out anytime and, with questions and very importantly, with your ideas and your opportunities for us to work towards achieving these goals.

and I think that, is it Victoria, right?

Yes, I believe so.

let me go to the next slide so that
we can make sure, we're entering now

the listening session and dialogue portion related to this, related to the justice

40 and the, state revolving funds.

So if you'd like to participate in this portion of the dialogue, please post any comments and questions in the Q and a pod, if you'd like.

if you'd like to speak up, when you're prompted, please right now, raise your hand

so that we know you'd like to ask a question.
If you're on the phone, you still have a capability of being able to participate.

You can raise your hand by pressing star nine on your cell phone.

And that way we can know that you were interested in asking a question.

I, once again, please let me your questions or comments to one minute and Michael and team.

we do have a question that is posed by Jen or Tayga from EDF, and she asks, can someone explain how both SRS, both the clean water and the drinking water SRF programs, our justice 40 pilot.
Didn't SRS exist before the justice framework.

I can start with that.

So they're called pilot.

Yes.

Both programs existed as a separate.

And I think, it'd be 20 years now.

the pilot designation really comes out of
generally and looked across the government.

Again, this is government wide and looked across the government for programs that were ready to have a significant and immediate impact on, working towards these objectives.

So, these three programs, the drinking water SRF, clean water SRF, and the wind grants, our pilot projects for EPA.

there are other projects that are being considered other water projects and across the
agency as well, which will come kind of next.

So we're, we're, it's an accelerated version of it for me, justice 40 is what it is for do.

Michael, I'm going to also add them to that I'm now using.

So people understand that, but justice 40 initiative is not about creating new programs.

It's about how the federal government is, working to, ensure that the benefits of its investments of its of the programs, existing programs are actually
going to benefit disadvantaged communities.

So it's not about new programs.

And so, you'll see that of all the.

Programs that have been piloted under justice, 44 EPA, as well as other agencies, their long standing programs.

A lot of them are.

so I hope that answers.
I hope that addresses your question, Jen.

we, do we see if we have any other questions?

okay.

Julia and, Stasio asks or says, you are encouraging states to adopt justice 40 principals.

Will there be an expectation that the justice 40 principles also apply to the funds that have revolved back to the states?
I can take a stab at this one, I would say yes, absolutely.

We are encouraging states to adopt the justice 40 principles.

Have you probably all got from the slides we went through?

The funds are for the SRS.

The funds are not being given out directly to borrowers, by the EPA, but they're given to states, who are managing state, SRF programs.
as far as our, our, the expectations that
the justice 40 principles also applied to

funds that have revolved back to the states.

all of this I think is, you
know, part of our engagement, uh,

how best to, to account for benefits.

and so, you know, this w we, we, we, these
questions are helpful as well with any, uh,

any feedback and thoughts that you all have.
Thank you, Howard.

we do have one person who has their hand raised, Pamela Perez.

I'm going to ask you to unmute your online so that you can ask your.

Yes.

Hi, good afternoon, everybody.

My name is Dr. Pamela Perez and I come as a representative.
They've retired professor from Cal state

quickly, so I can get this what I, I fractured my left hip.

And so I have an artificial left hip replacement.

So I find myself and rather ordinary and unique if not painful circumstances.

However, I always relish the idea to do the op the opportunity and the idea to
participate in any venue, to get a very precise and rather shocking facts out.

And this fact, although it may not have fallen into this precise category of this EPA session of which I have been a member for many years, I just want to state facts please.

And I'm not doing it for any funding in particular.

It's just to get this message out.

And the message is, that eight, 15, sorry, an 18 hole golf course consumes
the same amount of water as a 15,000.

Urban, center or an urban population, you know, 15,000 urban population, 15,000,

and happens of an urban population.

Now, you know, if you want to take this into the realm of how much rainfall there is that occurs in these areas, you know, for example, the Mediterranean climates such as we have in Southern California, you can only imagine you can only imagine, you know, the crippling effect this has on water consumption on such a
very inefficient usage of both land and water.

Anyway, just very, and I wanted to say that if you want any further or more explicit information on this, there are shocking facts, you may consult my publication that has been published by a common ground scholar in 2018.

And it is entitled the tourism area lifestyle.

Colin is application to the cost of a soul.

And this particular study was done precise so on the center.
So I don't know if you're familiar with this particular area is the Southern, resort and, on the Lucia and Mala, perhaps than that province in which it is the dry Spain and within a small area of 1880 kilometers, there are, um, golf courses, 18 hole golf courses, and the city we already more linear consumption is so dire. So dire, because again, this is dry Spain, there's also emerged in climate. The situation study our managers of all forces.
They say, if this situation with the golf courses continues at this rate of their unbridled wider

pins, that we, the population of the course centers that will NY have enough wider, uh,

you know, cleaning, just simply drinking a glass of water and brushing your teeth.

You know, so this is a dire dire situation was made the, you know, applied to the area in which I live Southern California.

And that was basically what I wanted, what I want to mention here, because you know,
nobody, this is a very little known fact, you know, this simple fact of consumption and

absolutely, you know, it is unsustainable, if anything, so that is all I have to say.

And thank you for your time.

Thank you.

panela well, Mo anybody have a comment or should we go ahead

and move on to the next question,
Howard, Michael Yvonne, I'll go out to the next question.

Yes.

I'm gonna sh the question is, um, Rebecca Dube do bay or do, is asking.

I was wondering what barriers to funding those experiencing poor wallet quality faced, and if the justice 40 initiative or programs specifically, look to target those barriers.

I can take a step, a first stab at that.
And Michael I'd welcome your input.

Well, but I, I think that that is, you know, in many ways the million dollar question, you know, what the barriers are, you know, where, where is part of what these engagements are about.

you know, we, we have a long history with both programs, you know, for the drinking water program, there is a need to have the ability to receive funds either, you know, as a loan or a grant that the wherewithal to, to manage getting federal dollars.
but there also is funds available, to get people in towards that,

that, that circumstance improve their management, and, and, uh,

understanding of running their, their system.

but I think this is largely what we're looking for input on with our engagement.

Michael, I have actually, if you have other things that you'd like to add yeah.

very similar, clearly, you know, we're looking at barriers to particularly assist
getting assistance from the SRO programs, right?

I mean, there's a lot of barriers they face from a technology technological standpoint,

perhaps, you know, is it a matter of that?

He doesn't really know that the SRF is available for that particular project.

They did not have the.

the financial documentation, depending on the community to be able to apply for that, do they
apply for it, but never make it high enough on 
the, on the, on the priority list to get funded?

568
00:43:44,819 --> 00:43:47,669
those are the types of things we 
need to look at with our state partners.

569
00:43:48,029 --> 00:44:00,089
Do you determine, to the extent that 
the target communities are not benefiting 
from, these programs, what the 
barriers are to do so, and, and 

570
00:43:53,850 --> 00:44:00,089
try to work to, to improve the, the 
ability for them to access these programs.

571
00:44:00,310 --> 00:44:05,640
So, yes, that's, that's really 
the core of, this effort for us.
Thank you, Victoria.

I'll just chime in.

Cause I, I, again, thanks to the, um, the person who clearly asks this question

and to Howard's point, perhaps, you know, at the heart of what we're attempting to do, this is the question trying to figure out ways to prevent pollution, from impacting, our lower income communities.

And yes, we have, we have
started to have conversations about

what some of those barriers are.

And I think both Howard and Michael talked
a bit about, you know, what the barriers

could be wanting to get additional information
from you as to what you see as the barriers,

but Michael's point about assistance is a
really important one technical assistance.

We do believe many of the communities that are
experiencing significant pollution concerns.

Just don't have the, where I fall to actually
apply to, you know, the appropriate funding agencies to get the resources, to mitigate, some of the pollution issues.

So, yes, I think that the latter party Western, we are working to build that capacity, that technical assistance capacity to provide support to many of the communities across the country that will need our help.

So there's a part of a justice 4d initiative. And tying back to the president's infrastructure, investment and jobs act.
Our hope is that some of these resources will actually help us to get to many of those communities to mitigate, the important point that you just referenced here, addressing water quality issues across the country.

Thank you, Andrew.

I'm going to go to somebody who has their hand raised and that is Laron barber.

I hope I've pronounced your name, correct.
00:45:57,500 --> 00:45:59,120
go ahead and unmute your line.

599
00:46:01,399 --> 00:46:02,120
Can you hear me okay?

600
00:46:02,629 --> 00:46:02,810
Yeah.

601
00:46:02,830 --> 00:46:04,040
Speak a little bit louder, please.

602
00:46:04,680 --> 00:46:05,069
Okay.

603
00:46:05,100 --> 00:46:05,850
Thank you very much.

604
00:46:06,689 --> 00:46:06,990
Yeah.

605
00:46:07,020 --> 00:46:11,669
I want to go back to the statement that you made a little bit earlier in regards to the whole justice

40, initiative is for existing programs.

So for those of us who were, that's been a part of EPA, grant opportunities.

So as far as the justice 40 grant is or initiative.

So if we wanted to get into like, or develop job training, for, initiatives to address water issues in the low income and indigenous communities to the community members.
So you're saying we're not able to be a part of that or submit proposals, or if not, then are we

to align ourselves with existing organizations that we can be a part of, addressing and

to find those types of services to the low income communities or indigenous communities.

That's a good question, Aaron.

I'm going to have ask Charles Lee to respond to that question.

Yeah.

you know, we're trying to figure, I think
part of this conversation is to make sure all the

existing, programs, which, are more than
just those under the, dark discussed here

today are done in such a way, so that it'd be
easier for you to, be part of that process.

you know, it's, Andrew
talked a little bit about.

You know, some of the barriers and, you know,
one of the barriers, in this process

was of course, you know, the agencies that
are, that are closest to the communities
in terms of managing these funds, are, you know, are ones that we also need to be working with to make sure that, uh, you are getting the most access to that.

I think there are other things that Andrew talked about in terms of better, you know, better understanding the kind of barriers that you’re facing in terms of accessing those that are part of this conversation.

So the only thing I would add to your, point Charles and, I think YouTube might still
be on and again, Victoria, that's a really
good question in terms of workforce initiatives.

I think we do understand that there are capacity
issues there and just the ability to make sure

we have a workforce of the future, frankly, that
we'll be able to address, you know, environmental

justice issues or environmental concerns,
particularly in our low income communities.

And so EPA office of water.

And I suspect other parts of the agency,
but specifically in his office of water,
we recently, provided a grant
and we are, I think we selected about.

recipients across the country to do
exactly what, was just asked to work

with local organizations to build a capacity.

we expect to have additional
resources in future years.

We would like to expand the network of recipients, to build that effort out.

So we'd be happy to provide some details on that.

Grant opportunities would be happy to
provide additional details on a document.

that we have about building sort of the America's water workforce of the future.

So, to the extent that person could, you know, provide their information, Victoria will be happy to provide some additional information in terms of what we're doing in the water workforce space.

Thank you very much, Andrew.

and I've also, noted that, uh, for questions since EPA is not leading or driving, justice 40 initiative, it's
under the CEQ or the white house,

648
00:50:02,170 --> 00:50:04,420
CA council on environmental quality.

649
00:50:04,779 --> 00:50:11,590
I'm going to ask somebody to post in the Q and a pod, a link to, information about, the justice 40 under CQ.

650
00:50:11,590 --> 00:50:15,880
next question, is from Samantha beers, she asks, are there plans to discuss this with ni jacket and the, we Jack the knee Jack is the national environmental

652
00:50:25,870 --> 00:50:29,410
justice advisory council, which provides.
The EPA on environmental justice and the, we Jack is the white house, environmental justice advisory council that provides much broader scope and, and it provides advice and recommendations to the white house.

So let me, just speak to that.

yes, definitely.

there's going to be a conversation with the knee Jack.
you know, the knee Jack has,
is having a meeting on November 10th.

also the new Jack has a, a
work group focus around justice 40.

So there's an ongoing conversation there.

And the week Jack is also
discussing these, these issues.

Thank you, Charles.

next question is from Cathy Tucker
Vogel and she asks, most SRF
projects benefit, both non DACs and DACs.
How will EPA give credit for the DAC portion of a project?

Thanks, Victoria.

Actually just chatting online here, someone who's going to answer that, online, but I'd like to touch it, live here as well.

So really, really good question.

And, you know, we do realize that, uh, assistance goes out to, utilities
and to communities that have a broad range of neighborhoods and populations.

And, and there's a lot of good assistance that's benefiting, uh,

Populations and target communities.

So, we agree that that should be captured and we really welcome ideas, uh,

that, people have for, for how to do so.

So looking at our state partners, our community partners, our utility
partners in trying to identify that.

00:52:15,225 --> 00:52:18,765
So we do want to capture that, right.

00:52:18,795 --> 00:52:19,485
Thank you, Michael.

00:52:20,445 --> 00:52:20,745
Sorry.

00:52:20,745 --> 00:52:25,785
I, where I just going to add onto Michael's comment that, I think working with the

00:52:25,785 --> 00:52:28,365
states is going to be a key component to that.

00:52:28,395 --> 00:52:33,015
Just really want to emphasize that and knowing that the states have, different
definition for disadvantage community.

I think a key part of our success is to coordinate with the states and to really, get down to the identification of these communities.

Thank you.

You ting, right.

Just about three o'clock right now.

I'm going to go ahead and move to the, um, next, portion of the, of questions that the
office of water is interested in asking, please continue posting your questions

into the Q and A pod and, individuals will, we'll continue to answer them.

and some of these questions may actually be relevant to the, these upcoming, questions.

so I'll turn it over to I guess Michael.

Yeah.
How our Naval will take this.

So, yeah, I think it's very important to have a lot of really excellent questions in the Q and a, and, what I noted to colleagues here was, you know, we have some of the same questions on a few slides here as well.

So, we're reasonably engaging with all of you because we don't have all the answers.

We are eagerly seeking, input, and assistance in, in this, in this program.
through all of these, but there's three,

706
00:53:52,410 --> 00:53:55,140
there's three sets of questions here.

707
00:53:55,650 --> 00:54:00,560
And one of the reasons we set up the EPA,
the email address that you can, uh,

708
00:54:00,840 --> 00:54:06,510
contribute to is we'd like you to look at
these, think about them, provide input

709
00:54:06,510 --> 00:54:10,080
to us ideas, clarifying questions.

710
00:54:10,080 --> 00:54:14,820
But as you'll see, we are really looking at what
the barriers and constraints are to maximize

711
00:54:14,820 --> 00:54:16,410
the benefits to disadvantaged communities.
What are the opportunities meaning how can we overcome those barriers,

open, remove those barriers.

So can we get more flowable than applications from communities and

assistance going to the communities?

Andrew mentioned a, an emphasize critical as well with technical assistance.

What can we do to help communities reach out to their SRF programs?
and then, you know, obviously knows for a little bit, in the next slide

and Howard, why don't you kind of talk a little bit about what we're trying to reach, with the next set of questions?

Sure.

So here on this next side, you know, we have, what are the opportunities, what opportunities are available to maximize the benefits to disadvantaged communities, um,
how can the SRS better serve and increase
benefits to disadvantaged communities?

And what suggestions do you have on
how partnerships can increase our
outreach to disadvantaged communities?

you know, the, the, the challenges as
we've gone over through the questions you've,

you've asked and see the slides we put we've,
we've gone through, you know, they're,

they, they can be layered and, and that's
kind of what getting, getting to some of those
questions are, are the, the role we're sharing
with you all, you know, are, are some of

00:55:31,500 --> 00:55:36,360
the barriers, communication or some of the
barriers technical, or some of the barriers,

00:55:36,360 --> 00:55:43,770
financial, and, additionally for
the benefits or the benefits costs, are they

00:55:43,830 --> 00:55:46,380
health, and an environmental protection?

00:55:46,890 --> 00:55:51,660
and of course, all of this is, is
kind of in embedded in, you know,

00:55:51,660 --> 00:55:54,600
what can we get information about?

00:55:54,690 --> 00:55:58,590
what might we already have information
about what information is available to us,

and what information is available to us that doesn't also just turn into a burden on the very communities we're trying to assist.

And there's one more slide.

I think Victoria and, and Howard, I kind of touched on that and this is really critical in some of the questions in the Q and a is, you know, what are the benefits and what are the metrics, what there's some relatively easy, uh, metrics that we can do with just the amount of
assistance going to disadvantaged communities that are, that are targeted under justice, Gordy, the

monitor of systems, the, the, the priority upon which states, provide assistance.

but one of the, some of the other more difficult benefits that are not difficult,

but perhaps difficult to, benefit the public health benefits of the community, the

environmental benefits, the even the economic benefits, when you have better drinking

water, wastewater service, reliable, that
small businesses can form, people have

livelihoods impacted, you know, maybe it's a bit ambitious to capture all of that in

this program, but we have to realize that, you know, the, the output of dollars into

community is critical getting those investments made, but the benefits that are achieved by

those, investments are also something that really is that hard to what improves

people's lives and communities livelihoods.

So, really opened ideas on.
W what is the benefit?

Is there data to support it?

how can they be captured and report it?

So, again, I'm really looking forward to, ongoing dialogue with many, many of you to try to capture as much of that as possible.

And then also, again, there's this kind of first do no harm, right?
We need to make sure that, that part of environmental justice is making sure that underserved communities are served.

The others are making sure that, um, certain communities are not adversely impacted, in a disproportionate way by, by projects as well.

So we want to try to capture those as well.

And I think that’s it.
when the presentation is posted, those
are really things that, that we're.

We welcome all of your thoughts
on, thank you, Michael.

We've got a couple of questions, definitely
related to some of the things you've mentioned.

William Carr has asked what is considered
a benefit under justice, 40, the state

revolving opt for the F SRF programs?

I think that's what I alluded to.
William leads.

Again, we've got some that are relatively, upfront the system is going out to do, to communities, but that is, that's kind of a first order.

The second order again is, you know, what we, what those investments are.

In related benefits.

So, you know, we have certainly some ideas, uh, that we will be discussing with various groups
when we reach out to smaller groups as well.

but, but, you know, we're not presuming to have all the answers and which is why we are reaching out to all of you.

So, William, I look forward to your, your, your, your thoughts, either live or, online.

Alright, thank you.

Next question we have is from, Naira Sharif.

I apologize if I mispronounce your name, she
asked how do you plan on evaluating justice 40?

787
00:59:36,279 --> 00:59:38,890
So it will reach the intent of the framework.

788
00:59:45,265 --> 00:59:46,345
I can take a stab at this.

789
00:59:46,345 --> 00:59:51,775
I, you know, I think, this,
the justice 40 process we're going

790
00:59:51,955 --> 00:59:53,725
through, it has multiple steps.

791
00:59:53,755 --> 01:00:00,565
you know, we are, as you can see in, in
the engagement step now, how we'll ensure,

792
01:00:00,655 --> 01:00:05,605
that we, you know, we reached the goals
of justice 40 that we're reaching, the
groups intended to be reached by justice 40.

We'll be actually very much informed by the feedback and recommendations we get through this engagement session and other engagement sessions.

as we've gotten feedback, we'll then move on to, work on, on methodologies,

measuring, measuring, look at our data sources, and move forward with the information we've gotten from these engagements.
Thank you.

800
01:00:34,885 --> 01:00:35,485
Thank you, Howard.

801
01:00:36,115 --> 01:00:38,335
Any other comments or responses?

802
01:00:39,625 --> 01:00:40,015
Okay.

803
01:00:40,045 --> 01:00:42,835
We do have a question from Nate Saunders.

804
01:00:43,675 --> 01:00:49,495
He asks, how can I identify environmental justice areas in my state or in any state?

805
01:00:49,915 --> 01:00:50,875
Charles.

806
01:00:52,285 --> 01:00:52,595
Yeah.

And, so, you know, Chitra spoke to this before about, working with states to, get a, you know, a CA a consistent, definitions of disadvantaged communities.

But in the meantime, most states, or many states have, develop, uh,

policies around what are, EGA communities.

and, and you can go buy those, you know, these are states like Massachusetts or,

or on New Jersey or, Northern California,
you know, they go by different methodologies.

813
01:01:31,785 --> 01:01:36,525
you know, some, um,
some depend on demographics.

814
01:01:36,795 --> 01:01:43,275
Some are a combination of demographic and
environmental factors using, pretty

815
01:01:43,275 --> 01:01:48,825
well-developed screening tools, like how
viral swing or Washington states, um,

816
01:01:49,095 --> 01:01:51,525
environmental health disparities map.

817
01:01:51,944 --> 01:01:58,245
So it is very, very, is, there's
a lot of variation in this right now.

818
01:01:58,515 --> 01:02:04,995
but, you know, you can, you can,
you know, you can find that, you

know, with respect to us state specifically, if they have a policy and, we're

going to be working, but states to, you know, to become more consistent in this.

Thank you, Charles.

Okay.

looking for the next question.

Sarah book at.
What is the game plan to ensure that both urban and rural DAC and EGA communities are served and benefited the win led reduction grant last year, for example, almost solely served urban DACs, serving rural DACs is not easy, but it is needed.

Howard Michael Yvonne.

thank you, Victoria.

I can take this one for you.

Sarah, the, just for clarification, the windlass reduction grant last
year was a competitive grant.

and that said we had several applications that came in for, for this grant funding.

And, many of them happened to be, from the urban areas.

again, it was an initial set of funding.

what I can tell you is that after that first, launch of the program, we are going to, at least from the grant perspective, we are continuing to
build on our outreach to the rural community, the rural DCS, and continuing to see what we can do to help, pair them up with our federal partners so that they can, more support, through the grant funding as well as to, on how to develop their grant applications so that they can participate in the grant competition. there, isn't a great deal that we can do if it's a competition. if it's an EPA competition, so we, we have to stay, within the realms of the
competition guidelines, but I’m sure we could definitely provide more outreach, more, public education, surrounding what funding is available with the wind grants.

UT I don't, I don't know if there's anything else you wanted to add.

Thanks, Yvonne.

So the only thing I would add is that, if you have any suggestions, please let us know on how to, further really kind of reached the, areas that you are recommending.
we're definitely, that's again, part of why we're talking to other stakeholder

here is to also get some ideas about what other platforms and ideas that you may have.

Thank you.

Okay.

Yeah, I would like to just as a general matter, you know, we've been, very concerned

that, about, urban, rural divide and how, you know, we don't have the
tools yet that, really, really capture.

Kinds of impacts, and, uh, and, and concerns in rural areas.

Like for example, you know, EGA, we're thinking about ways in which the, EGA screening tool like EGA screen, all can be doing that better on looking at different ways in which, you know, we're looking at, uh, rural areas to compare to saying, other rural areas as opposed to just the urban areas.
So there's a lot of thinking around this, if I'm a general sense in the EGA perspective.

Thank you, Charles.

Thank you, Yvonne.

And you Ching, next question.

And then after this one, I'll go to a person who has their hand raised.

someone's asking, can you provide examples of potential structural biases in the loan programs that will be targeted?
I think Chitra wanted to speak to that, right?

yes.

Chicha you can, if you'd like, um, or, somebody from office of water.

Yeah.

Charles, if you don't mind, I'll just touch on this first.

so one example, and I think we talked, I think the team talked about this earlier,
so the way the programs are structured, you really need to understand what your needs are.

And so in community that is, you know, that has technically, they, they have, consultants at their disposal.

They have a lot of expertise on staff.

They can actually apply for a loan in January.

they're successful.

I mean, for a community that does not have, those resources,
oftentimes they're unable to, to apply.

So that's where that's one of the structural biases that we're trying to work on, get an additional support to those lower capacity community.

so they can actually get onto the state's intended use plan as the team talked about.

So that's just one example and you know, you'd be, we could provide a few more.

Thank you very much, Andrew.
anybody else responding to that before I move on to the next person?

Okay.

Brandy Crawford, go ahead and unmute yourself.

You're still muted.

My apologies.

Can you hear me?

Yes, we can.
Thank you, Brandy.

Hi, my name is Brandy Crawford science, and I'm an environmental justice activists from Michigan.

And, I am calling just to give some suggests

we've lost you

Brandy.

Can you mute, mute your line again?

We've lost you.
Okay.

we'll come back to her.

Yes, we will have to come back to.

let me see what other questions, we have

a question has EPA completed a review of available

data at the local state and federal level and

a gap analysis for data that is not currently

generated or available that would help to measure

benefits and identify disadvantaged communities?

If yes.
Where can this be accessed if no, please consider completing a study.

Yeah.

How would you want to go take, take that?

I guess I would say very broadly.

you know, I, I'm not aware of an EPA study.

I do know that EPA is constantly working to, to make full use of
all data sources available to it.

01:09:16,165 --> 01:09:20,814
It's constantly working to integrate, the data it has.

01:09:20,965 --> 01:09:27,415
I know there is, you know, there are tools such as, the EGA mapper, and you know,

01:09:27,444 --> 01:09:34,194
EPA is constantly looking at it, the data sources, to feed into in, in, into this information.

01:09:36,875 --> 01:09:37,024
Yeah.

01:09:37,024 --> 01:09:39,785
So I would just have add on to what Howard is talking about.

01:09:39,814 --> 01:09:46,175
so, so this is kind of the, initial
step in terms of our stakeholder engagement.

And part of the question as we see on this slide is kind of determining the.

So after we get the feedback from this session and other sessions that we plan to have,

partly it's just defining the benefit and then figuring out what data information we are going to need, in order to basically measure and, and, making sure that we're keeping ourselves accountable.

and is there opportunities once
we have the benefit defined, what are

some of the ways to maximize that?

And then along with a lot of things that, others have said about, if there

are barriers, how do we overcome that?

So I think we're kind of at initial step to figure out the benefit piece of it,

having this conversation so that we can, consider all the, ways that we can

measure the benefit and then figure out what information we're going to need to, to,
qualitatively or quantitatively assess that.

Thank you, team Howard and Charles, I believe we've got Brandy Crawford back on again.

Let me go ahead and ask her to unmute.

Go ahead, Brandy.

Sorry about that.

Yeah, I was just calling just to give some suggestions, like I said, I've been working with
region five EGA program for about 15 months now.

And, the thing is, I'm not sure if every region is dealing with us, but region five.

When they're considering, the state as a partner that they're going to have to make sure that, that the state is a good partner and, the state of Michigan right now, like we've had the Flint water crisis.

This now we're having another load placing crisis in Ben Harbor.

And then we have the Calamus air
crisis going on and you know, this.

A lot of this is happening because the lack of enforcement that the states have done.

I mean, for example, in Kalamazoo, you know, we've had a company that's been violating the clean air act and they known as graphic packaging for years.

And they've only had written violations from Eagle about 10, 10 written violations, but no fines, so no enforcement.

And even on top of all these violations and hundreds of air complaints, Eagle
has issued them a permit to expand right next to a frontline community.

So if you, you know, EPA needs to make sure that some of these people that are working at these state agencies are, are, you know, educated on environmental racism and frontline communities and that they are actually doing enforcement because of that.

If they're not doing it, then it's just only going to harm the frontline communities even more.

And that's why, you know, I hope that that's
money that's going towards these frontline communities will be used properly and.

And that people will get helped, but like, I totally, I suggest that, you know, we bring medical vans and for frontline communities that have an AHI score over 70% that we connect with local clinics with doctors, because some of these people do not have health insurance.

They don't know what kind of health issues they have or will have in the future.

Some of these communities are contaminated like
mine with PFAS and PCBs a lot along with the air contamination and should have their blood tested so that they can get proper healthcare.

And we need to start notifying the public.

When we know of contamination, if the EPA knows that it's a super fun site, if there's a brown field, if there's, you know, high priority violations for companies in these, in these areas, the public needs to know the public doesn't know about this.

I didn't know about the environmental justice
until I realized I was poisoned myself.

And so.

You know, pollution is place and we need maybe change that word from pollution to poison because that's really what it is.

Maybe people will take this seriously and educate themselves a little bit more and we need to go through the civil rights process.

EPA has a civil rights process we need to do with our local, or our state
Michigan department, civil rights, HUD.

if we have to wait, take funding away from these agencies that are not doing their job, then that's what it has to be done.

civil rights is important.

Also, if you have to use lawyers against the corporations that are, that are polluting.

I mean, the government can't pay for all these cleanup that these polluters have.
You know, they're the ones that made the mess.

They're the ones that should be cleaning it up.

It shouldn't be on the government to do that.

And the, I was like graphic packaging.

And then one of the biggest corporations in the world, they can afford to clean up their mess.

if they can afford a $600 million expansion.

So we need to go after these looters a lot more.
Thank you.

991
01:14:29,630 --> 01:14:30,769
Thank you very much, Brandy.

992
01:14:32,120 --> 01:14:35,719
we it's, we've got
about four minutes left.

993
01:14:35,870 --> 01:14:37,519
We have to move on to the next topic.

994
01:14:37,519 --> 01:14:45,019
We have a question that from Patrick
Bigsby, has EPA identified or considered

995
01:14:45,019 --> 01:14:47,300
identifying constitutional authority?

996
01:14:48,045 --> 01:14:53,894
Such as equal protection, et cetera, for EGA
initiatives, state agencies in states that are
politically hostile to EGA steps, which restrict regulated entities need as much black letter legal authority as possible to achieve these goals.

I think Chitra was wanting, looking at you Charles for if possible.

So, that's a great question.

Thanks for asking it.

And, I mean, one of the really important things that, this administration has done,
is really, give more importance to, civil rights compliance and enforcement.

so that is, an area where, the, external civil rights office at EPA is going to be really working with states to make sure they're in compliance and, do more work in terms of educating states around, you know, what it means to be in compliance with title six of the civil rights act.

So that's just the first of many things that are being contemplated.
Thank you very much, Charles.

I think we have one opportunity for one more question and this one is,

see if it's still on my screen.

no that one's already been answered.

So, do we have any concluding comments from, officer water

before we move onto the next topic?

I think there was one question, uh, Victoria, that I saw about a confusion
between a definition, oh, 40%.

So the way that, just sorted out and I know there's a lot of numbers and a lot of words being thrown around and not everything is fully set yet.

So, but, you know, the 40% of refers to, the percentage of federal, a set of federal resources, for wish.

the goal of 40% is in terms of benefits, flowing to disadvantaged communities, which are
defined, you know, we are, in the process
of being defined for the country as a whole.

1023
01:17:06,785 --> 01:17:14,495
but in, in the meantime, you know, many
of what EPA is doing is using existing tools, uh,

1024
01:17:14,525 --> 01:17:18,155
that, EPA has to identify these communities.

1025
01:17:20,394 --> 01:17:22,105
Alright, thank you very much, Charles.

1026
01:17:22,735 --> 01:17:24,054
all right.

1027
01:17:24,085 --> 01:17:25,405
I think it's time for you to move on.

1028
01:17:25,434 --> 01:17:31,434
any closing comments, you taking
Howard, Michael, before we move on.
Just saying thank you.

On behalf of all of us, and this has already been incredibly helpful, interesting.

And, and, engagement for the continuing.

And as a reminder, that you can submit your comments and questions about, these three,

just as 40 pilot programs that were discussed today, you can submit your comments

at SRF underscore justice, forty@epa.gov.
And, we appreciate everybody’s patience and interest in this topic.

We’re going to move on to the next item, continue posting questions into the Q and a pod, and we’ll, people will be able to answer those.

All right.

So I’m turning over to Charles for program updates.

Great.

Thank you, Victoria.
And let me just say also, thanks to the water, offers of water for doing this, really in-depth presentation and, going into these questions.

and we really appreciate your, participating in and giving us, you know, your thoughts, your suggestions, as well as things for us to think about because we're all learning.

About how to do this.
this is a pretty big endeavor.

so, so thank you for that.

I'm going to go through the next part of this, this session today, which is to really kind of do a recap of the, EPA strategic plan for FYI 20 Tuesday, 20, 20, 26.

and, and, and then open it up for questions.

So, this is the presentation where we're going to use, and I'm going
to go through this quickly, Victoria, I think we said about 10 minutes to do this.

1055
01:19:33,750 --> 01:19:37,680
And so if we are starting to run over, just let me know.

1056
01:19:38,070 --> 01:19:43,860
So, this slide is really meant to, uh, kind of make the point about, administrator

1057
01:19:43,860 --> 01:19:50,070
Regan's commitment to environmental justice and how, in, in the context of all

1058
01:19:50,070 --> 01:19:54,720
the things you been hearing about from the Biden Harris administration, with respect

1059
01:19:54,720 --> 01:20:02,910
to environmental justice on the strategic plan, for EPA, is, just a
really unprecedented opportunity, to serve overburden and, vulnerable communities.

like we keep saying, this is something that we want to get your feedback on.

I'm going to say a few words about why this is such a unprecedented opportunity.

Next slide, Victoria.

so next slide, I think.

Yeah.

So, so the, the, so this
is kind of like a snapshot of the EPA

strategic plan, for, FYI 22 to 2026.

and, this gives you kind of like the basic structure of this, the

EPA strategic plan in terms of is, it's, um, of course, mission and principles, and, some

of these we call core cross cutting strategies, and then the, the, strategic go air.

and, and, and the first thing I want to point out, and this is as how it's different from

before is that, you know, EPA used
to, hold to three basic principles

and, those are two, you know, follow
the science, you know, sound science, uh,

the rule of law, and being transparent.

And now for the first time, EPA has
expanded those principles to include a fourth

one, which is to advance justice and equity.

so, you know, going to the very core
of what, of, of EPA mission, this
is what we’re talking about when we say that, you know, EPA wants to center environmental justice, in all of our work.

the cross cutting strategies is we're not going to go through this a lot of detail because, just to say what those are, those are important areas across the agency.

We want to focus on, in terms of things like sound science or, or, partnerships with tribes and, states and local governments.
what I, so, but I would really want to focus on is, the,

the, the strategic goal area.

and for the first time, in terms of these strategic go areas, we have one on, on climate change or the climate crisis and one on environmental justice and civil rights.

and these now sit alongside the, what used to traditionally be, strategic goal areas, in terms of, enforcement or, the environment on me, media
like, water air or, or land.

and so this go to is, what we're gonna really, concentrate on today.

and you noticed, that a go to is take strategic, take decisive action to advance environmental justice and civil rights.

So another new thing, that is, a part of, thinking that EPA and this strategic plan is we're talking about environmental justice and civil rights together.
And we, we see them as being, very complimentary part of advancing on the
mission of protecting human health and environment for, the most, uh,
overburdened and underserved communities.

thank you.

So, why don’t we go to the next slide?

So go to, I said, take home.

We have some, background.
So, go to is taking decisive action to advanced environmental justice and civil rights.

there are three areas, three objectives in this.

one is, promoting, UJA and civil rights at, uh,

at the tribal state and local levels.

and, this is really about on doing our work Inc outside of EPA,

where the impact in communities.
the second goal, second objective
there area 2.2 is embedding civil

1111
01:24:43,140 --> 01:24:44,90
rights and environmental justice.

1112
01:24:45,060 --> 01:24:48,660
EPA has own programs, policies, and activities.

1113
01:24:49,080 --> 01:24:56,490
And this, is, is, is,
is talking about what EPA does

1114
01:24:56,550 --> 01:25:01,320
internally integrate environmental justice
and civil rights into everything we do.

1115
01:25:01,680 --> 01:25:07,830
And the last objective area, focuses
on the federal civil rights program, um,

1116
01:25:07,920 --> 01:25:10,740
itself in terms of its specific activities.
And there are a number of activities that the civil rights program is mandated by law to carry out in terms of, carrying out the civil rights act. 

so, or civil rights laws. 

so, the next one. 

we're not going to go through all of these things. 

I kind of spoke to some of this already, but, the thing we want you to focus on as, as
part of, your review and feedback are these things called long-term performance goals.

And these are the after measures, in terms of quantifiable outcomes and accomplishments that we want to accomplish over the next four years.

this is the basic mechanism by which EPA holds itself accountable.

and this is per, you know, the government, results, performance act.

and, and, and, and the significance of the strategic plan, in all this, in
terms of all the things that you're going
to hear about as far as new initiatives,
is that this is a mechanism to, to make
sure that we're carrying out, what we
say we're going to do in a way that is a
transparent and accountable and measurable.

So next slide.

So 2.2, like I said, it's talking about,
partnerships with, federal state and
local, tribal state and local levels.
We're talking about, first of all, building the capacity of underserved and overburdened communities.

so, we'll want to talk about where we're, we're doing that directly, working in communities.

We're doing that through our partnerships with other governmental agencies at the state, federal state and local levels.
and, we're talking about that in terms of our responsibilities under, you know,

our, our trust responsibilities, to carry out environmental programs, implementation of federal environmental programs in Indian country.

Next slide.

So, and these are some of the long-term performance goals and kind of match up to that.

I am not going to go through these in detail.

I think, you know, you can read the strategic plan.
I see those words itself, however, you know, uh, want to point out one or two of these things.

so for example, you know, one of the things we want to do is to make sure that in our work with, states and tribes, in terms of written commitments, that, that all of them will have our commitments that address this disproportionate impacts, and, and that's just one example of this, where you see some of these exits, where are ones where we have not, I'll come to a
particular landed on a particular kind of measure.

1154
01:28:33,885 --> 01:28:39,825
but, you know, we want your
feedback and trying to what you think are,

1155
01:28:39,855 --> 01:28:47,835
is a good, combination of being, um,
ambitious, as, as you know, plan really

1156
01:28:47,835 --> 01:28:50,685
is trying to be as well as being practical.

1157
01:28:50,955 --> 01:28:57,645
so for example, the number of implementation,
direct implementation, actions that,

1158
01:28:57,675 --> 01:29:03,705
EPA tastes in Indian country,
how many of those do you think, is

1159
01:29:03,735 --> 01:29:07,185
both ambitious and practical next slide.
So this is the objective that focuses on.

environmental justice, integrating
environmental justice into our own programs,

environmental justice, and so a rice.

And we say that, together because, you
know, the, the idea here is that every program

at EPA has his own responsibilities for making
sure, that, consideration of civil

rights is a part of carrying out their programs.
so that was the last, uh, kind of major point here.

we want to make sure that, and this is probably the most important long-term commitment that we're making is that, uh, we're making commitments, I'm measurable environmental and public health outcomes in, in overburden and vulnerable communities.

we want to make sure that EPA incorporates decision, community involvement in a really meaningful way and analyzes all for disproportionate
impacts, and that we're giving support.

and this was, you know, work at EPA has been doing for a while now, in terms of, supporting kind of driven community driven approaches to building healthy and, uh,
sustainable and climate resilient communities.

So the, the, long-term performance goals that reflect that are some of these are here
for that very first one, about public health
out environmental and public health outcomes.

1179
01:30:44,610 --> 01:30:51,030
We want EPA by 2026, to identify
at least 10 such commitments.

1180
01:30:51,300 --> 01:30:57,000
in terms of say for example, you
know, improvements in terms of, drinking

1181
01:30:57,000 --> 01:31:05,940
water or quality or improvements in terms of,
reduction in, exposure to, uh,

1182
01:31:06,090 --> 01:31:10,020
say that pollution, lead poisoning.

1183
01:31:10,290 --> 01:31:14,730
and, and now there's very
specific environmental outcomes.

1184
01:31:15,660 --> 01:31:23,700
we want a specific number of significant EPA actions to have clear
demonstrations of the environmental consideration and of the environmental justice.

we want to have X number of programs that work in communities, do so

in a way that is, like I said, a community driven and coordinated and collaborative.

And, and then, you know, we think that all, EPA programs should achieve civil rights compliance in their own work.
next week, So the last, objective
here has to do with civil rights enforcement.

And like I said before, they, there's
a very discreet set of obligations

that all federal agencies have in terms
of enforcement and civil rights laws.

next slide.

And these are some specific, long-term
performance goals with respect to say, getting

in a kind of, compliance review, number
of compliance reviews, the number of audits,
the number of trainings and information sessions, and, one around, uh,

01:32:30,070 -- 01:32:38,230
informal, resolution agreements and the title six, which is still under development.

01:32:38,769 -- 01:32:40,570
So, next lie.

01:32:42,250 -- 01:32:49,420
So these are days that you should keep in mind as you're reviewing, the, strategic plan.

01:32:49,660 -- 01:32:57,070
you have until, November 12th, to provide public comments on this is done via that

01:32:57,070 -- 01:33:04,150
public register notice when you can, you know, get online, provide your comments, between

01:33:04,150 -- 01:33:12,010
now and then, we're going to do a number of engagements, including, engagements,

like these on the dark national community calls, the new tribal or tribal meetings

we're going to do engagement with, with the national environmental justice advisory council.

And then, you know, EPA is going to review these and in February of 2022 is going to issue, the, VPA strategic plan.

So, Victoria, I think that's the last slide.

I'll stop there.
Thank you, Charles.

So I think we're going to open up for question that's correct.

And while we wait for people to post questions and to raise their hands, we do have a question it's, it's directed to you, but I think it really belongs is directly to somebody like Howard or Michael.

dthey said with respect to the, to the, SRF programs, if a project is
funded by state funds, not federal funds, would it still need to comply with EGA?

And if so, please explain how right now executive order 12,8,9,8 is listed as a cross cutter, which only applies to fully federally funded projects.

This is expected to change question mark.

So, Howard, Michael Yvonne, you're on.
Go ahead.

1222
01:34:32,330 --> 01:34:35,830
Your hi, this is Michael.

1223
01:34:35,890 --> 01:34:42,670
yeah, I was looking for the question
and to read it, can you, can you repeat it

1224
01:34:42,670 --> 01:34:44,140
just to make sure I captured it correctly?

1225
01:34:44,140 --> 01:34:44,470
Yes.

1226
01:34:44,680 --> 01:34:50,590
With respect to the SRF program, if a project
is funded by state funds, not federal.

1227
01:34:51,464 --> 01:34:53,804
Would it still need to comply with EGA?
And if so, please explain how right now, executive order 12, 8, 9, 8 is listed as a cross cutter, which only applies to fully federally funded projects. This is expected to change his questions from Liz Ellis.

Okay.

I understand it.

So if you're talking about justice, sporty, you know, there are no requirements per se, right?
We have an objective of SRF assistance, 40% of the benefits of best rep assistance being realized

1235
01:35:22,905 --> 01:35:25,785
in accrued in, in disadvantaged communities.

1236
01:35:26,115 --> 01:35:27,855
And you're looking at all of this rep assistance, right?

1237
01:35:27,855 --> 01:35:29,264
It's not just appropriated dollars.

1238
01:35:29,264 --> 01:35:34,514
It's how much of the assistance is going out from, from an SRF, is going to those

1239
01:35:34,514 --> 01:35:38,924
disadvantaged communities, the reference to environmental justice requirements,

1240
01:35:38,924 --> 01:35:40,514
particularly the executive order.
honestly, I'm not as clear on, but it's, it's, for justice 40, we do want to capture all assistance going out.

And again, there's no requirement on that.

We're just working with our state partners and communities to get that money moving towards and investing in those communities.

Thank you, Michael, any other responses?
You know, one of those things that was in that strategic plan, a commitment around, uh,

written agreements, with, with states, you know, does apply to funding.

And so we're going to be exploring.

Of course, you know, on that of course has to do with federal funds, not,

not, funds, which are appropriated and, by the states themselves.

All right.

Thank you very much, Charles.
we do have a question from Noah RC.

Can you provide information for the October 28th tribal meetings?

I don't think I've received any emails or notifications of it.

I'm not sure if you have that information Charles or who can we direct them to?

I see.

I mean, we can definitely, directly to the American Indian environmental office,
which are running those, one on way, have, Noah, contact us

and then we can get him to direct contact.

Sounds like a winner.

Noah will reach out to you if you reach out to us, to, you can reach out

to me or Victoria, whichever one, all of a sudden my email is ele.Charles@epa.gov

and I'm Robinson dot victoria@epa.gov.
And then we'll direct you with, um, to the appropriate person, who's organizing and managing those meetings.

Okay.

do we have any other questions?

That people may have, or any kind of, uh, comments about the direction that EPA is moving on, that strategic plan, the goal to have about environmental justice and civil rights, feel free to raise your hands, in virtually.
And we'll call on you if, we have a couple of minutes, if anyone has any feedback right now, in terms of where you're finding industry, choose your plan, or, you know, or just the idea that we're going in this direction, in terms of the kind of, uh, putting environmental justice and civil rights.

So front and center in such a, uh, kind of, into integrated way.

you know, that would be great too.
Thank you.

as we wait for any more questions, we do have another, quick update that, um,

Tomas Carbonell, is wanting to give about, his, program in his, in his office.

So I'm going to go ahead and move on to that, Charles, and then we can all open it back up for questions.

Let me go to that slide there.

Alright.
Tomas, are you.

Have you been moved over yet?

Hi, Victoria.

Can you hear me?

Yes, we can.

Thank you.

Great.
Well, hi everyone.

And thanks so much for letting me take a few minutes on today's call, on Tomas Carbonell.

I'm the deputy assistant administrator for stationary sources in the office of air and radiation, and really just wanted to provide a quick update and look ahead on our work to develop a proposed rule under the clean air act, to address methane and other harmful air pollutants from the oil and natural gas sector.
as many of you probably know, EPA staff have been working hard on a proposal to expand and strengthen standards that are currently on the books, for new oil and gas sources, and to require regulation of methane from existing sources nationwide for the first time. and that proposal has been undergoing inter-agency review at the white house, since early September. and as you may have seen in recent news stories, we expect to be releasing
it, very soon for public comment.

we think the proposal represents a real opportunity to reduce harmful pollution and to protect public health.

Particularly for people who live and work near oil and gas facilities and for communities that are affected every day by air pollution from this sector, um, because the proposal is still under review. I, I can't go into any details today.
but I did want to, first, uh, thank you all for engaging with us, as we were developing the proposal. And also provide a bit of a preview for the types of engagement opportunities. That we're planning for after the proposal is released. Um, you know, first, you know, we met with many of you during our pre-proposal outreach, and we're just deeply grateful to all of you.
who took precious time to share your perspectives and concerns with us.

whether it was through meetings like this one,

through the training that we conducted back in may,

or through the public listening sessions that we held in June.

once we have the proposal out, we really want to, continue to hear from you and

and to engage with you
during the public comment process,

01:41:07,608 --> 01:41:09,552
and want to make
sure that we're providing

01:41:09,576 --> 01:41:11,864
all the information
and resources that you need,

01:41:11,888 --> 01:41:14,295
to provide feedback and engage.

01:41:14,835 --> 01:41:18,762
Certainly, you know, we'd be happy
to work with Rosemary to set up a call with you,

01:41:18,787 --> 01:41:21,435
so that we can give you an
overview of the proposal once it's out.

01:41:22,125 --> 01:41:25,248
In addition, we're working to
conduct a training,

to help communities, and tribes prepare for submitting comments.

and actually we have a, we have a planning group that's been working with us for several weeks, on this training, and it includes folks like Hilton Kelly, Wilma Sue brown, uh, Andy Bessler, who are helping us develop an agenda to meet community and tribal needs.
The plan for the training is that it'll include

an overview of the oil and gas industry,

and overview of the proposal.

An information on how to participate during the public comment process.

It also will feature a panel with members of grassroots organizations and tribes.

And will provide an opportunity for community members and members of tribal nations
to have a group discussion without EPA,

to share thoughts and views with one another

on the information covered during the training.

In addition to the training,

of course we'll be planning to hold a public hearing.

And as we did for the public listening
sessions,

1348
01:42:20,975 --> 01:42:24,210
the plan for the public hearing is
to have it on a virtual format.

1349
01:42:24,599 --> 01:42:26,592
we'd love to hear
from you all in person, of course,

1350
01:42:26,616 --> 01:42:28,110
but because of COVID,

1351
01:42:28,559 --> 01:42:30,240
we think virtual is the way to go.

1352
01:42:30,719 --> 01:42:33,496
And also think that format
has certain advantages

1353
01:42:33,520 --> 01:42:34,389
in terms of allowing,
folks from any community in the country to participate.

So, that's a bit of a preview of what's planned for after the proposal was out.

We hope you'll join us for these engagement opportunities, and we're really looking forward to hearing your thoughts and input on the proposal.
And that's really, what I wanted to share with you all today.

Once again, thanks for your time.

If we have time for questions and if folks do have questions, I'd be happy to take them. Of course, yes.

Yes, Tomas, we do have a question.

Ummm, when is the training and hearings?
Yeah, so, I'm afraid in part because the timing of the actual announcement is a bit of a moving target. I'm not able to provide a specific date right now. The intent for the training is to have a relatively soon after the proposal comes out. so with, to provide plenty of time for
people participating in that training,

01:43:25,968 --> 01:43:28,632
um, to get ready for the public comment period and to engage,

01:43:28,656 --> 01:43:31,554
but we also want to provide enough space,

01:43:31,579 --> 01:43:32,936
you know, after the proposal is out,

01:43:32,960 --> 01:43:35,171
to provide time for folks to register in

01:43:35,196 --> 01:43:37,350
and work this into their schedules.

01:43:37,852 --> 01:43:40,732
So I think we'll be able to share,
you know, more about the timing of,
of the training, relatively soon.

But, but in part it kind of hinges on the exact timing of our announcement.

All right.

Thank you, Tomas.

We had another question from NOAA.

Tomas, is this proposed rule supposed to be every version
from the 2019 EPA's amendment to national oil and natural gas federal implementation plan

or, and, or the EPA 2019 rule change for the oil and natural gas sectors, emission standards

for new reconstructed and modified sources.

Yeah.

So, as I, as I mentioned, I'm afraid I can't share
details about the proposal today,

but what I can tell you is that this rule-making, rule-making effort,

responds to,

the president's, day one executive order,

um, which gave EPA a clear mandate,

to address climate change,
to protect public health,
to elevate environmental justice

01:44:32,962 --> 01:44:37,486
and included, um, reviewing
the prior administrations actions

01:44:37,905 --> 01:44:39,604
on the oil and gas sector

01:44:39,689 --> 01:44:42,830
and considering a proposal for both
new and existing sources,

01:44:43,006 --> 01:44:48,196
as a specific to-do item, um,
consistent with that directive to us.

01:44:48,705 --> 01:44:52,823
So, you know, the
work that's been involved in,

01:44:52,848 --> 01:44:56,952
preparing this proposal
has of course involved looking back at

the previous administration’s actions.

But we’re also looking ahead.

And, and, you know, as I, as I sort of shared earlier,

The intent really is to look across the oil and gas sector,

to look at both new and existing sources,

and to craft a proposal that achieves ambitious reductions,
in methane, that also reduces the other harmful pollutants,

like goes on precursors and air toxics that are associated with methane.

And, and that is as ambitious as, the law and the science, you know, permits us to be.

I hope that's somewhat helpful.

And of course, once the proposal is out,
we'd love to share more detail with you and,

and to engage with you on, on the substance.

Thank you very much to Moss.

I do not see any other questions at this time related to, oil and gas.

Oh, I have, I do have a question hand raised, Rams bottoms.

go ahead and ask your question.
You need to unmute yourself.

Rams Bottom?

I didn't, I didn't intend to raise my hand.

I didn't mean to sorry.

Okay.

No problem.

No problem.
Does anybody else have any other questions either about, the oil and natural gas rule or about the EPA strategic plan?

Or even the, the presentations on justice 40 and the state revolving funds?

We do have a question from an anonymous attendee.

We feel that there is a gap in inclusion for rural communities that have now been included in metropolitan statistical areas in Virginia.
Our communities experience an undue burden and deinvestment in water and sanitation.

Is there an EGA opportunity for rural populations that we may not be aware?

Charles, Michael?

Sorry, just.

Go ahead, Michael.

Oops.
Problems with my camera here.

1447
01:47:20,104 --> 01:47:22,961
There's certainly an EGA
opportunity in rural populations.

1448
01:47:22,986 --> 01:47:28,830
It's, you know, the specifics of, you
know, the metropolitan statistical area.

1449
01:47:29,490 --> 01:47:31,476
Um, you know, the skills...

1450
01:47:32,475 --> 01:47:36,727
It's a two issues, I guess, one of which,
as we alluded to earlier as

1451
01:47:36,752 --> 01:47:42,896
assistants goingout to a larger entity or a
utility that covers large areas, perhaps

1452
01:47:42,921 --> 01:47:47,685
that has populations that need to be
accounted for in this and addressed.

1453
01:47:48,315 --> 01:47:51,291
That's something we're going to be looking at, as well.

1454
01:47:51,354 --> 01:47:53,055
But just, more generally in rural population.

1455
01:47:53,100 --> 01:47:53,310
Yeah.

1456
01:47:53,335 --> 01:47:55,965
I had mentioned early on the decentralized.

1457
01:47:55,965 --> 01:47:59,741
So I think, it's not just decentralized from rural areas

1458
01:47:59,766 --> 01:48:01,806
because there's lots of small utilities

1459
where environmental justice issues exist.

Where justice effort to target assistance to them,

is appropriate and will be looked at.

And in also for some of these rural areas where

there's up in smaller rural communities that have

significant failing septic systems as an issues,
is something we'll
be looking at it as well.

So yes, there is an opportunity, right.

And as, as we've
been repeating all afternoon long,

on your thoughts and ideas of how to capture

those benefits, how to measure
them and report them, we'll be very welcome.

So yeah, I mean, I do add to what Michael said.

I, like I said before, you know, um,
we're very, very aware of the need
to have to focus on rural areas.

That's, an area that has been truly underserved.

and, you know, we're looking for opportunities,

to do that through our awareness programs,

especially our environmental justice grants programs,

and also, you know, in the ways that we are,
kind of, upgrading our,

our screening tools or screening and mapping tools
to make sure we're capturing, um, the, the role of role, rural issues.

Umm ..

okay.

Thank you, Charles.

I'm going to, hear a
question from Denise B

1485
01:49:31,105 --> 01:49:33,425
Excuse me, that the
wind is blowing, sorry.

1486
01:49:33,705 --> 01:49:35,655
Umm.. from Denise B.

1487
01:49:35,735 --> 01:49:39,635
So I'm going to ask you to unmute your line.

1488
01:49:39,635 --> 01:49:40,925
Go ahead and ask you a question.

1489
01:49:46,165 --> 01:49:49,525
Denise B are you able to unmute?

1490
01:49:53,905 --> 01:49:54,745
Okay.

1491
01:49:56,335 --> 01:49:56,845
All right.

1492
01:49:56,905 -- 01:49:59,875
apparently, she still muted.

1493
01:50:02,450 -- 01:50:06,909
There's another question from Carolyn White in Suffolk, Virginia.

1494
01:50:07,405 -- 01:50:11,005
She says our community pays for storm water management, but has none.

1495
01:50:11,575 -- 01:50:13,315
We have reached out to DEQ.

1496
01:50:14,159 -- 01:50:16,787
Regarding the water turning color in our ditches

1497
01:50:16,819 -- 01:50:19,267
that the city refuses to close with piping.
We also have communities with septic tanks backups in their home pipelines.

And my community is comprised of two cities.

The cities receive all funding for the urban work yet they receive funds from rural, suburban, and urban.

The disadvantaged communities are suffering and need the funds monitored as these communities never get any funds.
that are provided when the city receives it.

Thanks.

So that again is directed to, I think the, folks in, in water,

I will try to enter that.

So clearly we, you know, w we were facing environmental justice issue as far as when communities receive assistance, where that, where that assistance, which,
parts of the service area received,

uh, you know, improvements, upgrades to that.

it's very relevant to the justice 40 effort to make sure that communities,

populations within utilities and service areas receive those benefits as well.

So I don't have a particular

answer to that particular issue around,

it sounds like you've worked with the DQ,
which is critically important.

And you know, if you want to provide further information, that email address,

you know, we can have our regional office, perhaps,

look into it a little bit more closely

to determine what the, what the situation is.

Thank you.

And,
Michael, is there a point of contact that we should refer Carolyn to, in regionally perhaps?

Well, well, I've got not the top of my head, but we'll put it in into the Q and A, okay.

We'll get to get, get that in there.

Okay.

Thank you very much.

That'd be great.
And, let's try Denise B again,

are you able to unmute your line, Denise?

Okay.

Apparently have, must be having difficulties.

We'll, turn again to Laren barber.

You have a question?

Go ahead, Laren.
Are you able...
There you go.

Yes.

Yes.

Can you hear me okay now?

Correct, Yes.

Okay.

Thank you.
So as it relates, just want to go back a little bit,

where we talked about ambitious goals,

as a community technology training organization.

When it comes to, um,

opportunities where we could actually,

uh, submit maybe like open proposals as it relates to,
technological solutions that we see

that we're able to leverage funds and deliver.

But even around, as, around, uh, being able to collect specific data.

Is there an opportunity or a place where we can actually submit open proposals under the justice 40 initiative?

Ummm..
As a really good question.

I don't know, we have a full answer to that yet.

You know, the way that, um, that audit works works through in terms of federal funding and state and local government is, you know, at the point where the services are delivered,
you know, what is the interface
with the affected community?

That's where, you know, a lot of these questions,
are we really need to focus around.

So, at the same time, I, there are
many other organizations,

that are looking to help support
building community capacity,

just like we are, in the sense,

in the sense that you're talking about in other, in other ways.

So, these are questions that are really
on top of everyone's minds and, and, um,

1569
01:54:23,464 -- 01:54:25,535
we're gonna continue to look for them.

1570
01:54:25,565 -- 01:54:30,905
So, you know, continue the conversation with you and others around it would be great.

1571
01:54:34,684 -- 01:54:36,094
Thank you very much, Charles.

1572
01:54:36,297 -- 01:54:40,943
We do have a question now from Cappy angler.

1573
01:54:41,492 -- 01:54:42,559
Umm...

1574
01:54:44,657 -- 01:54:49,215
Kathy, if you want to go ahead and unmute your line.

1575
01:54:50,790 -- 01:54:52,079
Hello! Can you hear me?

Yes, we had, go ahead Kathy.

Thank you so much for the EPA with the new environmental justice, by weekly.

We are robo, we are remote and we are surrounded on three sides by waterways here.

So I see your update for oil and gas rule,

which here in Coastal Virginia.
We have a complexity of issues

because we have the sea level rise,

coastal resiliency, capacity building.

And, what has been used in many, many terms, explosive development.

Umm, we're so shot through, with waterways.

Unfortunately Virginia over 20 years

lost $46 million in a hundred jobs

in our DEQ department.
So as we face things like, first the defeat of the Atlantic coast pipeline, fortunately,

which would have disrupted our L a river here, we now have a before army Corps of engineers,

as well as DEQ water control board here at the state level, deeply rural, rural areas that are being impacted across multiple watersheds.

And we just feel like we don't have the direct knowing yet as these webinars are rolling out.

And again, we appreciate them to create those alliances and conversations so that we can
understand our process as we're real peoples of the waterways here around the Chesapeake bay watershed and enjoying, at least a preservation act, but for what's happening on the, deeper portions of the state, those were world people with, not valley pipeline and who they can reach to, very similar. we have poor broadband, you know, Things are coming to help with as far as communication wise and education wise.
But if we could, where you already PA environmental justice, to here in our rural communities who are still waiting for broadband, waiting for opportunities to spread this kind of knowledge, to folks who don't even have an email address, it's just really that remediated in some instances to advocates such as myself and it's Kelly Hinkler. I have a sister Kathy, I'm a physician assistant and to put a pin in it, the public health issues are becoming so overwhelmed.
Even with 30 years of skills.

And I'm also a veteran, in trying to connect those processes to allow the direct on the ground communities, to connect and have the education is really, a huge barrier.

So as those who are so much more, I would say educated and skilled who are working with, opportunities right now to reach communities, to empower themselves.

I would, please implore you, not just the coastal regions, but anything
within, impact of, of both water.

and our capacity building needs to look to those communities.

Carol White.

I know her, she spoke earlier.

there's just pockets of communities that are, at impact when they brought storm

water, EPA storm water to Virginia.

right now, since 2005 Virginia, hadn't offered information back up
to FEMA and EPA since that time.

So we're kind of in a time warp time capsule, where funding is given time and time again, for the stormwater, which.

Impacts our communities, but the work isn't getting done as we're in this capacity building, as you say, bringing in onboarding new construction, into very, very old areas.

and these homes are being flooded.
there's places that do not have sanitation
places that do not have stormwater, facilities

to move the water just off of their, their land.

and, so if you could look to those
pockets, and leave that, in your notes

today to look for maybe those communities that are
in the gaps, who would like, we're very hungry

for this information on how we can do our part,
here in Virginia, to help our EPA with

environmental justice, in our communities.
I thank you so much.

Thank you, Kelly.

Yeah, those are great.

continents, Kelly, and, I think, you know, something that we all take to heart, you know, these are not easy challenges as you point out, but it's something we really are taking to heart.

All right.
Thank you, Charles.

And, we're over at 4 0 6.

I'm gonna try, Denise one more time to see if she can unmute her line.

Otherwise we'll go ahead and conclude the call.

Denise, are you able to, to unmute your.

Okay.

It looks like, she's unable to, so Charles, we're going to go ahead and move on to, um,
the Le the concluding slide, our closing.

Go ahead, Charles.

Great.

Thank you.

And thanks.

Thank you everyone again for participating and taking your time out of your schedules to really engage with us.
I think, all these, for as much as people say, there are learning and gaining information, we're learning more, and we're learning with, with an eye toward trying to make these programs better.

you know, the, the things that we talked about, representative and precedent or opportunity that we are, really working hard to, take advantage of.

And so we want to do that, and that only happens best if we're doing
it in partnership with all of you.

So thank you very much, for, um, for, participating on this call.

we are going to have another call in, on November, November, nicest arrived, Victoria, the next one.

yes, correct.

And, and then, and Victoria, do you know what the particular topic it's going to be?
Yes.

On November 9th, the topic will be the Superfund remedial program on the folk justice, 44.

Great.

So also stay tuned for that.

And that's going to be, you know, really interesting one and one that affects many, many people.

the, I did want to answer it, Charles, let me go back.
That registration is currently available for that call.

If you go to our EPA, um, the EGA community engagement call website,

which is, you can see here, on the thing, you can go ahead and register for, that particular November 9th.

so two things I want to point out before we, we close out one is that you should use a community engagement clause on the national level of our, meant to
be the springboard for continued community engagement, by the ease of the program.

So, the three programs that clean water, state rock robbing fund, a drinking water state revolving fund, and reducing that and drinking water programs or, developing stakeholder engagement, community engagement efforts, to, delve more deeply into the kind of questions that they have.

So, stay tuned for that.
and the other is a reminder that, um, you know, for all of you to look at the

EPA strategic plan, for, FYI 20, 22 to 2026, and, and to the extent

that you are, or you want to, or able to, we would love to get your comments.

Those comments are going to be really important for, you know, for finalizing on this plan.

Something which, you know, can have really I'll play a really important role in, kind of hurrying a shipper around as far as environmental justice at UPA.
So with that, Victoria, I think, you know, we can close it.

Yes, I believe so.

And I appreciate thank everybody, for their participation and their patients.

again, please submit, whatever questions or comments you have to the various, things we will be posting the slide deck, with the links will be posted probably tomorrow,

Thursday onto our website, and recording.
Once we get the recording, it will be posted, and, and then a transcript as well, which will be translated in Spanish and then posted.

So one last thing, Victoria, I forgot to make sure we always have to do this.

Thank you.

and to the, all the, all the staff, all the DJs were, conducted, put together,

conducted, it's called to, the clean water program on that, you know, provided
a presentations on justice, 40, to Tomas,
for his update and, and everyone else,

1703
02:04:32,780 --> 02:04:35,660
and especially to our translators Nestor.

1704
02:04:35,990 --> 02:04:44,180
And, Xiomara, we have to make sure that,
you know, we are, we're thanking them.

1705
02:04:44,180 --> 02:04:49,100
They're, you know, I have the thankless
job of keeping up with this for, you know,

1706
02:04:49,100 --> 02:04:51,200
long stretches of time without a break.

1707
02:04:51,590 --> 02:04:53,720
So, you know, want to make sure that we do that.

1708
02:04:54,680 --> 02:04:55,040
Thank you.
All right.

Take care of your work.

Ready.