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| Docket Number: | 17-IEPR-09 |
| Project Title: | Climate Adaptation and Resiliency |
| TN #: | 220881-6 |
| Document Title: | Consideration of Disadvantaged Communities in Climate Adaptation Projects on Energy Issues |
| Description: | 8.29.2017: Presentation by Sonya Ziaja of CEC |
| Filer: | Raquel Kravitz |
| Organization: | California Energy Commission |
| Submitter Role: | Commission Staff |
| Submission Date: | 8/25/2017 10:23:20 AM |
| Docketed Date: | 8/25/2017 |



CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Consideration of Disadvantaged Communities in Climate Adaptation Projects on Energy Issues

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IEPR Workshop on Adaptation and Resilience for the Energy System
Sacramento, California
August 29, 2017



Outline

- Policy Drivers
- Problem Definition
- Lessons from Prior Workshops
- Climate Impacts, Energy Sector, and Equity Connections
- How Can Energy Research Address Adaptation and Equity?
- Examples of Research Underway
- Testing New Approaches for Research



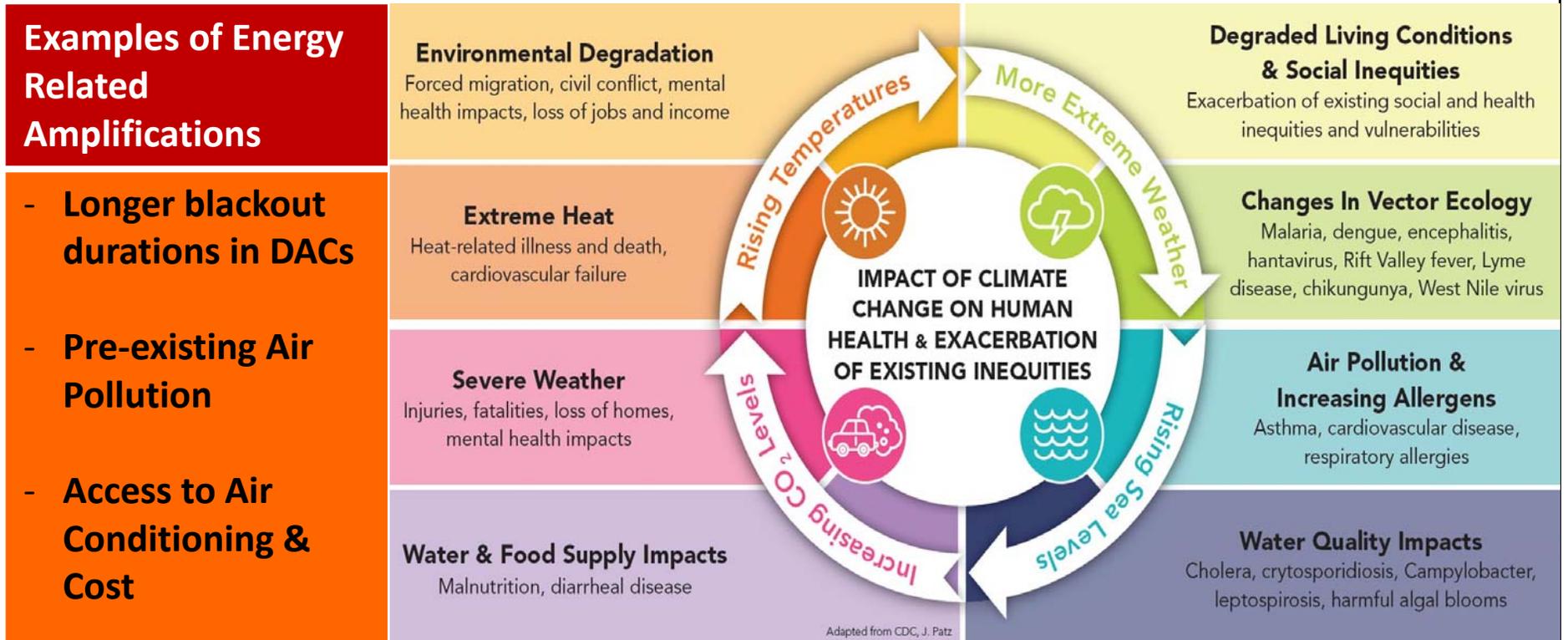
Policy Drivers

- EO B-30-15: Guidance for Climate-Related Planning & Investment
 - “climate change will disproportionately affect the state’s most vulnerable citizens”, thus “State agencies’ planning and investment shall...**protect the state’s most vulnerable populations.**”
- SB 350
 - Barriers Report & Implementation Plan
 - Increase distributed renewable generation in Disadvantaged Communities (defined by CalEnviroscreen)
 - Directs Energy Commission to prioritize Research and Development projects that benefit Disadvantaged Communities



Background: Climate Adaptation & Equity

Uneven distribution of climate impacts can be amplified by preexisting inequities.





Lessons from Prior Adaptation/Equity/Energy Workshops

- Climate Adaptation processes need to allow disadvantaged communities to withstand the impacts of climate change while **simultaneously addressing existing inequality** (co-benefits).*
- Communities need to be involved early in energy decision-making and research. Processes need to be structured to support **meaningful partnerships**, in which community members are reimbursed for time and expertise.**
- **Research needed** on sensitivity of DACs to power outages and surges, advanced energy storage in DACs, identification of key infrastructure in need of reliable electricity (e.g., food banks, shelters) and of aging energy infrastructure that may pose health and safety hazards, as well as more case studies.*
- **Adaptation metrics and cost benefit analyses** for adaptation should include equity components.*



Climate Impacts, Energy Sector, and Equity Connections

High heat → Need for cooling center reliability; reliable energy service for critical community infrastructure; reduce black out duration

Indoor Air quality → Building efficiency and filtration (LEED paradox)



How can energy research better consider adaptation and equity?

| Equity Tenets* | Evaluative | Normative | Tools for Research | What Can Research Do? |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| Distributional | Where are the inequities? | How should we solve them? | 25% EPIC Demonstrations in DACs | Convene Collaborate & Coproduce Build Capacity |
| Recognition | Who is impacted? Do they have access? | How should we recognize? | CalEnviroScreen | |
| Procedural | Is there effective process? | Which new processes? | Project include inclusive budgets; Scoring for Community Participation; Encouraging Partnering Agreements | |

*Adapted from Jenkins et al. 2017



Examples of Research Underway

Microgrids for Critical Facilities in Disadvantaged Communities

Advanced Energy Communities* demonstrations

Smart Ventilation (EPC 15-037) technologies to efficiently improve indoor air quality

* Aug. 1, IEPR Workshop



Testing New Approaches for Research

- Example: Local Urban Energy Scenarios*
(GFO 16-311, Group 2)
 - Community participation required
 - Community helps define benefits
 - Inclusive budget
 - Partnering agreements encouraged
 - Results intended to inform future demonstrations in the communities studied

*Air Quality and Climate Benefits of Targeted Retrofit Buildings and Renewable Distributed Generation (DG) in Dense Urban Areas Including Disadvantaged Communities
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/GFO-16-311/>



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Thank you!

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